

Billy Fury

№1



THE SOUND OF FURY

Official Billy Fury Fan Club

BILLY FURY



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

Hello friends and Fury followers .

Welcome to "The Sound of Fury". On behalf of the syndicate I hope you enjoy the first magazine. We'd like your comments because this is your magazine so please tell us what you'd like to see in it.

The ongoing features which will appear in each magazine are:-

Installments of Billy's Discography; "Cross My Heart"; "This & That" and the "Wants" "Swaps" and "Penpals" so keep them coming.

Future magazines will include Billy's story in installments (specially requested by Dave Woodhouse), details of "Billy" merchandise you can purchase through the club and, hopefully, an article by Moya Gleave who runs a thriving fan club for Billy in New Zealand. We also intend to pick the brains of Billy's mum Jean for anecdotes of his childhood (but we haven't told her yet)! If there's anything else you want please tell us.

Apologies to everyone who attended Billy's anniversary re-union at Mill Hill this year for the lack of heating in the community hall. This was beyond our control. Hopefully it will be put right before the next re-union on 13th April. The matter is in Clare's very capable hands. There was also a misunderstanding about the time the January meeting was to close. We have the hall until 5 o'clock. At some time during the afternoon the syndicate members escape to another room to sort out fan club business. This does not signal the end of the meeting. We won't be gone long. The rest of you please continue to enjoy the food, music and company until we get thrown out.

Finally, on behalf of all former members of "The Fury Sound" I'd like to say a very big thank you to Alan and Carol Chapman for all their hard work on our behalf over the years. I know we all wish them well and the syndicate members would be delighted to hear from them.



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



1958

THE 'CATS' LOVED RONNIE

Dingle boy with a hot guitar

Two thousand screaming teenagers held up the programme at Larry Parnes' "Extravaganza"—which featured rock 'n' roll idol Marty Wilde—last Wednesday when an 18-years-old Dingle boy, Ronnie Wycherley, of 35 Hallburton Street, completed a three-minute spot in the star-studded programme.

Ex-tugman Ronnie, with a little apprehension, took the stage at the Essoldo Theatre, Birkenhead, after the compere of the show said: "Larry Parnes has given many breaks to young people in his time and tonight he has invited a young local boy to entertain you."

Wearing a two-tone Texan jacket and a guitar slung over his shoulder, Ronnie nervously walked on to the stage, and swung straight into the first number with an Elvis Presley inspired style.

His three minutes were constantly punctuated by screams and shouts from hundreds of teenage girls, which were intensified at the least move of his body.

SMILING BROADLY

Larry Parnes—manager of Marty Wilde, Tommy Steele and other top-line entertainers—came from the theatre dressing rooms and sat on the end of the eighth row smiling broadly as he chewed his cigar, weighing up the possibilities.

Afterwards in the dressing room, Ronnie sat on the corner of an arm chair and told the

Weekly News: "I was nervous, but it's only natural."

How did Ronnie get into the act? "I sent a tape recording to Larry Parnes a few weeks ago," he explained, "and I was asked to come here tonight."

Sure enough Ronnie went to the "Extravaganza" show on Wednesday evening and the first question manager Larry Parnes put to him was: "Have you got guts?"

Within 30 minutes Ronnie stood against the gold-coloured curtains of the theatre to make his first big public appearance.

DEPENDS ON LARRY

Last year he entered for the O.D.V.A. talent competition at Bootle but was not placed. He composes his own music and has written 25 rock 'n' roll tunes within two years.

He is a former pupil of Wellington Road Secondary Modern School, Dingle.

"What happens now depends on Larry Parnes," said Ronnie.

Also taking part in the show was 18-years-old Jimmy Tarbuck, of 78 Queens Drive,

Mossley Hill, who is gradually making a name for himself in different parts of the country.

BUSY WRITING

On Wednesday evening Jimmy substituted for Pat Laurence, at present suffering from a throat infection. By choice he is a rock 'n' roller and has had one long-player released. However, since he won first prize at a Beatles' talent contest—as a comedian—Jimmy is busy writing scripts for his next public appearance on the Pavilion in the near future.



ESSOLDO (RITZ)

BIRKENHEAD

ONE NIGHT ONLY - WED. OCT. 1st

At 6.30 - 1.45

LARRY PARNES Presents his

"Extravaganza"

Starring

HIS RECORDER OF ENDLESS SLEEP

MARTY WILDE

+ The JOHN BARRY Seven

RAE YOUNG
Ecclesiastic

VINCE EAGER
AND HIS ORCHESTRA

DAWN SCOTT

PAT LAURENCE

MIKE CONYNE

BOOK NOW

Birkenhead, Sea Office, Daily from 1.30. See 1-4

"BILLY NIGHT" IN LIVERPOOL

A Charity night, organized by Albert Wycherley was held at The Montrose Club in Liverpool on 4th December 1996 to raise funds for The Billy Fury Charity Appeal. Fans came from all over the country and the club, which holds approximately 500 people, was full.

The music was provided by Colin Paul and the Persuaders, The Dions, DJ Neil Hiley and Albert, who ended the evening with a set of Billy's songs. A local comedian did a spot (with a bit of competition from several unofficial local comedians in the audience) and the Master of Ceremonies was radio personality Frankie Connor.

The entertainment was of a very high standard. Albert received such an enthusiastic reception he did several encores and everyone sang along. The raffle was conducted by Frankie Connor and myself and we rounded up the evening by presenting the Wycherley ladies, Jean and Marie, with bouquets.

The dance floor was crowded throughout the evening and there was some pretty fancy footwork around. (Eat your heart out line dancers.) Everyone enjoyed themselves - the bar extension helped - and there was a real party atmosphere.

The proceeds, after all expenses had been paid, amounted to over £800. Albert shared this between The British Heart Foundation, Broadgreen Hospital Heart Unit and The Wavertree School for the Blind.

Many thanks to everyone who supported the event, especially Tony Philbin, Jacqui Gall, Bernadette Downes and Sue Taylor who sent very generous donations although they were unable to attend. Tony also kindly donated "The One and Only" CD to the raffle.

It was a memorable evening. Let's hope it won't be too long before the next one.

Maureen Bowden



Frankie Connor, Jackie Clark and Albert Wycherley.

MILL HILL GATHERINGS

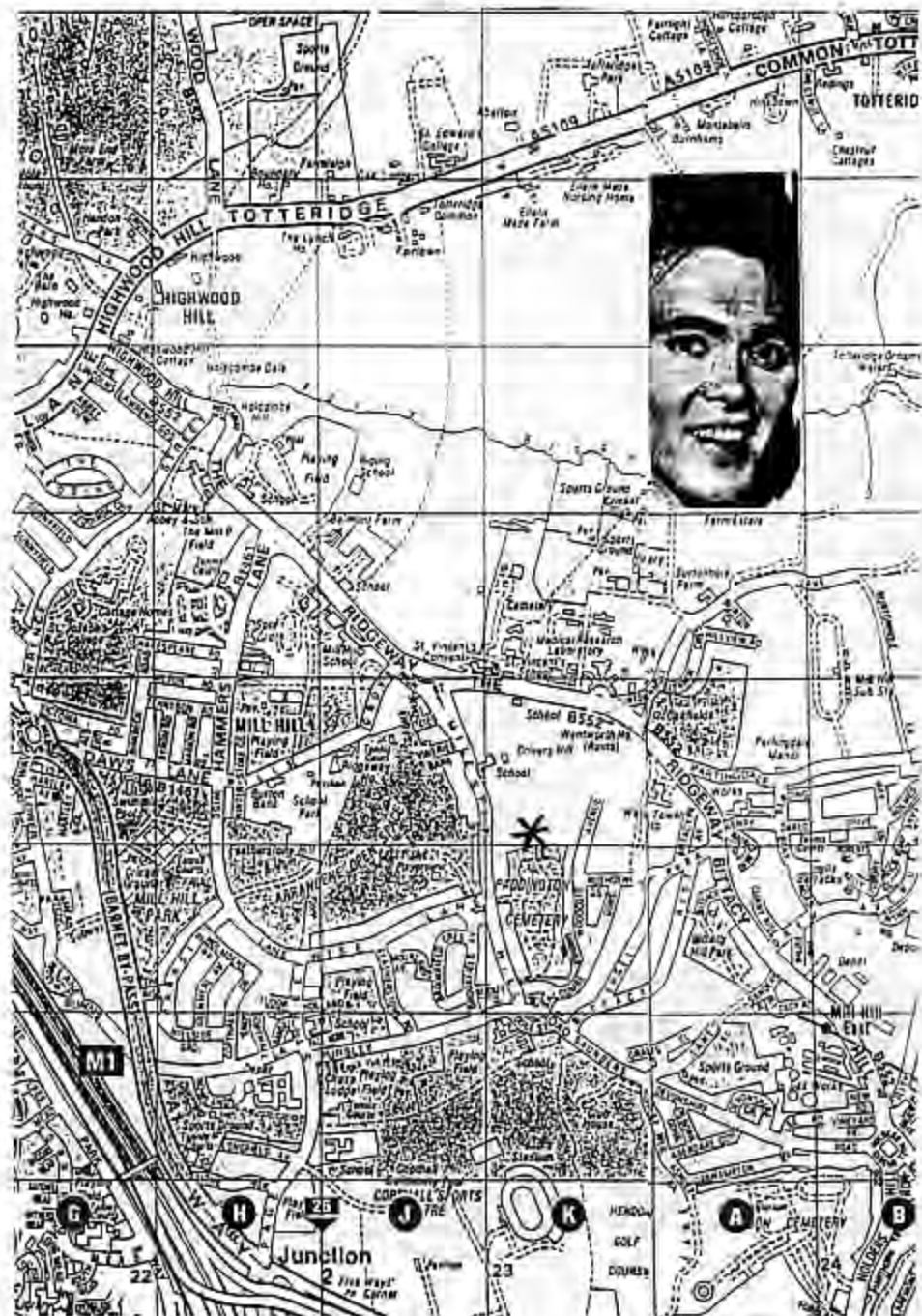
A number of people have been actively involved in "flying the flag for Billy" over the years, including regular attendance at the Mill Hill gatherings. We hope you choose to attend the regular gatherings which are always well supported and well run. We meet at his grave around 1.00pm on the Sunday nearest to his death (January 28th), the Sunday nearest to his birthday (April 17th) and once again in the autumn (end of September / early October). Any visitors to the grave are welcome to bring flowers and messages/cards to leave on Billy's grave. Charity raffles, Billy photos (and sometimes memorabilia) are usually available for the collector and about 40-50 genuine and very nice people just like to meet and talk about "their Billy". Except for extremely rare occasions, Billy's mum Jean Wycherley is always present and very approachable in terms of having her photograph taken, providing autographs and often anecdotes of Billy as well. Hal Carter, Billy's friend and Road Manager in the 50's and 60's and Danny Rivers, a rock and roll contemporary are often present and always like to talk about Billy.

Entrance cost to the hall is £1.50 per person and those attending usually bring finger snacks, cakes or biscuits for the buffet. Because this is a church hall, the conditions of the lease are quite strict, e.g. there is music (Billy of course!), but no dancing, it has to be vacated by 5.00pm, and recently a "no smoking" ban has been implemented by the keyholder of the hall. Obviously short breaks can be taken outside the entrance door, much as in the same way that workplaces require them to have them these days. Once again, whether you are an ardent Billy fan or just a 50's and 60's music lover who admires Billy and his music, along with many other of his contemporaries - thank you for your interest and we look forward to your continued support in the future and carry Billy's name into the Millenium.

DIRECTIONS TO MILL HILL

Come off the M1 at Junction 2 onto the Great North Way (A1). About a mile down the A1 take a left turn along Holders Hill Road (B552). About a mile down the B552 you'll come to a roundabout called Holders Hill Circus. At the roundabout take a left turn along Devonshire Road which leads to Pursley Road. Approx half a mile down Pursley Rd you'll see a school and a bus stop on your left and Milespit Hill on your right. Turn right into Milespit Hill. The Cemetery entrance gates are on your right about a quarter of a mile up Milespit Hill. When you go through the gates turn left and go to the top of the cemetery. The memorial bench is on the left, and Billy's grave is on the right. To get to the Hall - Turn left as you come out of the cemetery, turn left at the bottom of Milespit Hill, take the first turning on the left when your in the main road (Pursley Rd). The Church and Hall are on the right as you enter Salcombe Gardens.

THE SOUND OF FURY



NAME A STAR

Under the Universal Star Listing scheme we've named a star after Billy. For those of you with a knowledge of astronomy it's in the star cluster Delphinus. The co-ordinates are $20^{\circ} 24' 16'' + 7^{\circ} 54' 50''$. For those of you to whom this is total gibberish a photocopy of a chart showing how to locate it can be obtained from:-

Mrs Jackie Clark
2 Stanbridge Mansions
Stanbridge Road
Putney
London
SW15 1DU



These are free but PLEASE ENCLOSE A STAMPED ADDRESSED ENVELOPE.

Jackie was responsible for arranging the star naming on behalf of the fan club. It cost £39.

The following items are also available from Universal Star List:-

Original Registration Certificate (framed)	£59.95
Original Registration Certificate (unframed)	£39.95
Duplicate Certificate	£10.00

If you're interested in any of these, ask Jackie to send you an application form (don't forget the stamped addressed envelope). If you return your completed applications to her she'll send them all off together.



THE BILLY FURY BRONZE STATUE PROJECT

Liverpudlians and Billy Fury fans Peter and Lynda Keller came out of "The Sound of Fury" stage show last year with the conviction that, somehow, Billy had to be firmly put on the map at his birthplace. Other fans had, over the years, discussed the possibility of erecting a statue but it took the Kellers to "grasp the nettle". Roger Dove (City Centre Manager) and Phil Young (Press Manager-Liverpool Tourist Board) are supporting this project. Peter and Lynda have now put together information packages on Billy for issue to City Councillors.

The proposed full length Bronze Statue will cost many thousands of pounds and, subject to Planning Permission, could be located in any one of a number of proposed locations, possibly along the Albert Dock or inside a prominent building. Peter and Lynda have had a sketch drawn up, based on Billy "on stage" in 1960, and further sketches are planned, so that the fans may decide on the most appropriate pose. This is a difficult area given that everyone perceives Billy at his best in different ways and different times. Most people agree that the essence of on stage "Fury" must be captured in some way. Reputable sculptor James McLaughlin of the Blue Coat Chambers in Liverpool has been requested to create the Bronze. A number of photographs were loaned to James from the Fan Club to assist with the preliminary sketch and the general concept of Billy's image. Updates on this project will be included in the Fan Club magazine.

Jean Prosser has opened The Billy Fury Bronze Fund, with Frank Bull (the originator of the Liverpool Lectern Project and Stone Fund Trustee) as fellow trustee. Contributions already have been received from fans at Mill Hill who bought items auctioned from the personal collections of Frank Bull, Ian and Sheila Alexander, Mo Dossa (Bristol fan) and Chris Eley plus items donated to the raffle by Billy's mum, Jean. The address for donations is:-

The Billy Fury Bronze Fund
c/o Jean Prosser
16 Norton Crescent
BALDOCK
Herts
SG7 5BE

Please make cheques payable to THE BILLY FURY BRONZE FUND

on behalf of the syndicate

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





BILLY AT THE ROCK CIRCUS - (HALF PRICE FURY!)

by
Chris Eley

Billy Fury Fan young Sean Mitten (also an Eddie Cochran enthusiast) felt so strongly that Billy should be represented at the above prestigious Piccadilly Circus venue, that he collected a petition and wrote with his request to Rock Circus.

Shortly afterwards Sean and Frank Bull handed over a "Play It Cool" poster (US version) from Frank's personal collection for display at the London venue. On 27th January Frank, yours truly and Linda Shawley visited the Circus where two 16 x 20 black and white photos (Richi Howell originals 1961/62 - copyright Chris Eley by auction in 1989) were handed over to the charming Emma Owen, Press Officer, also for display somewhere in the venue.

Emma has graciously offered half price entrance, by voucher only, to the Rock Circus for members of the "Sound of Fury" Fan Club. It is hoped to distribute the vouchers with the September Fanzine (or earlier if possible).

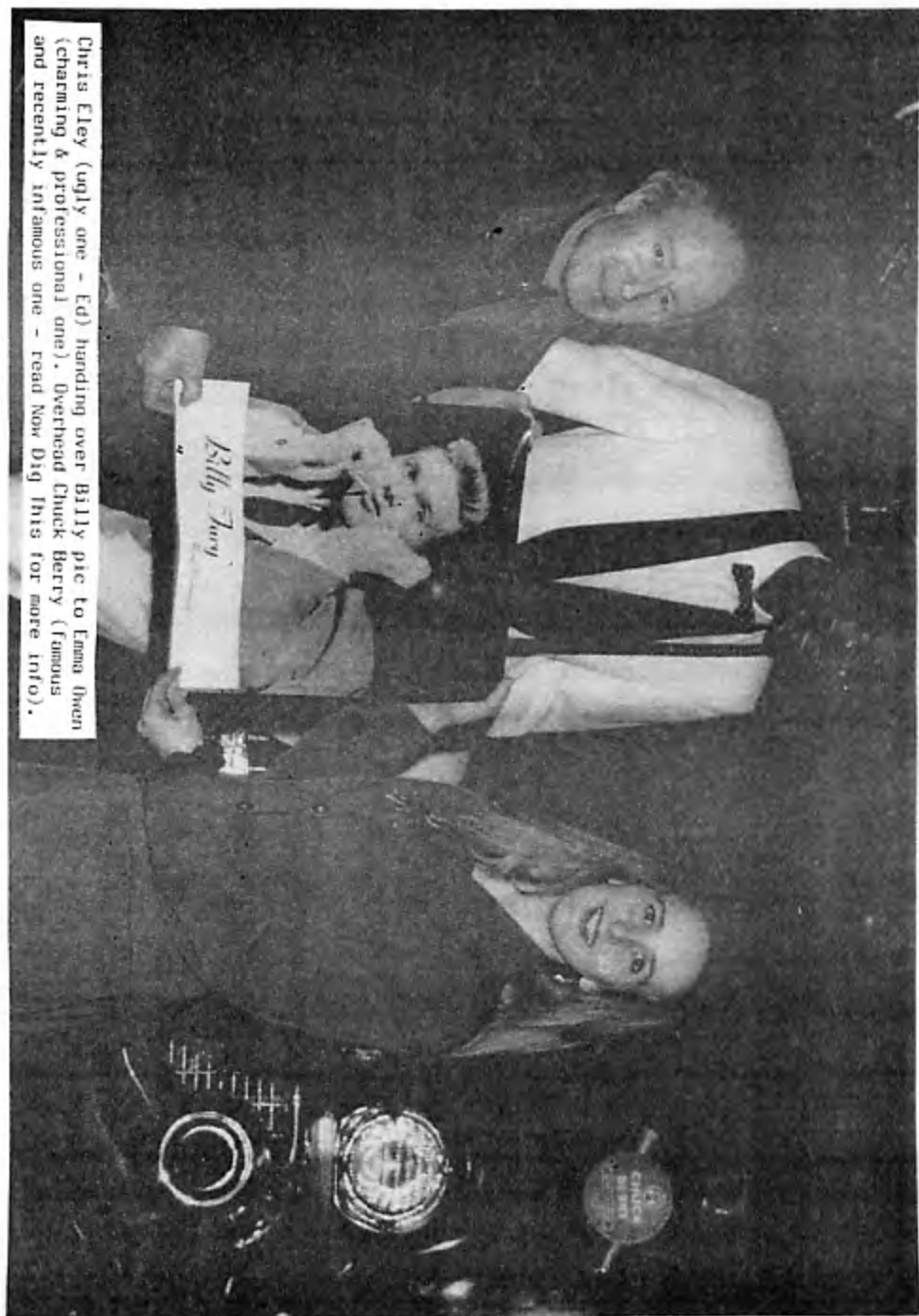
Considering the number of world famous artists not currently featured in the venue, it is an honour indeed that Billy should be considered. Many thanks Emma, and well done Sean and Frank!

COMING SOON - THE BILLY FURY STORY -

serialized by Chris Eley (and friends) from his
as yet unpublished 1983 Biography -
"LIKE I'VE NEVER BEEN GONE"

ALSO COMING SOON - BILLY FURY

- "Rare and unreleased" - information on
foreign issues, unreleased tracks and known memorabilia



Chris Eley (ugly one - Ed) handing over Billy pic to Emma Owen (charming & professional one). Overhead Chuck Berry (Famous and recently infamous one - read Now Dig This for more info).

"THE BILLY FURY EXPERIENCE"

COLIN GOLD - FURY'S TORNADOS

BECK THEATRE, HAYES, MIDDX - 14th FEBRUARY 1997

Review By Chris Eley

I attended The Beck with not a little skepticism and even more trepidation for, after all, for Billy fans (this is hallowed ground. Although I didn't get to Billy's Beck gig (I was at the Sunnyside on the 4th December) I knew how special a night this was to be for all the many people present. In the event, for the packed house, it turned out to be a memorable and poignant occasion especially for some who were visibly overcome by this genuine and affectionate tribute to Billy Fury by Colin Gold & Fury's Tornados.

RUNNING ORDER

Instrumental by Fury's Tornados - Walk Don't Run and possibly Perfidia (sorry lads I wasn't concentrating at this point - nice sound though). Just Like Eddie (vocal) - Intro only to Halfway to Paradise, then Like I've Never Been Gone (good version) - A Thousand Stars - Collette (both good) - Wondrous Place (nice arrangement with some good guitar touches) - That's Love (realistic vocal) - Maybe Tomorrow (great version) - Last Night Was Made For Love (nice) - I Will - That's Alright Mama (1973 style - great - could have done with more uptempo numbers such as Turn My Back on You) - Jealousy. This was a surprise (brought the house down - didn't think Colin would make it but he did - made the heart pound) - In Thoughts of You (nice version) - In Summer with audience participation (nice try, didn't quite come off. The flip side I'll Never Fall in Love Again would have gone down a treat here). Do You Really Love Me Too - I'd Never Find Another You (really nice version) - Halfway (worked well) - It's Only Make Believe and in closing Forget Him (nice, tremulous treatment - very Billy - 'nice one' Colin).

The narration, including some statements from Colin and The Band and part of the Official Programme, contained errors; some excusable, some not. The flow of the presentation was slightly marred by the continual, but planned, stage blackouts between certain numbers but all these things have been noted and hopefully will be rectified. It was the opening night and although Colin and The Band were nervous, they managed successfully to create 'A Fury Experience' without attempting to be a carbon copy. The sound was reminiscent of Billy on stage in 1982, a 60s feel but modern backing; even the vocals were very B2 Billy in places.

Visually Colin looked good enough to convey much of the presence of 60s Billy, especially on occasions with upturned collar, eyes cast heavenward, one arm clasped in classic Fury pose. Perhaps a little more hip and hand movement, including Billy's hand clapping over each shoulder, might have added to the effect. Overall, it seemed to work from the sounds of appreciation from those present and just as importantly off stage Colin turned out to be a really nice, approachable guy without pretension. It was obvious too just how close the band had been to Billy; they were his mates and loved him and, like the rest of us, miss him more than a little too. This really is an 'Experience' not to be missed by Billy fans and lovers of 60s music alike.

Be there at The Beck on 2nd November - and any gigs in-between in the name of Fury.

Special thanks from the Fan Club to all at ASL (promoters) and especially Colin and Fury's Tornados for keeping Billy's name alive in a sincere and heartfelt way.

Look out for the forthcoming Channel 4 documentary.

Please note that although the Official Billy Fury Fan Club is supportive of Colin Gold and Fury's Tornados as regards their musical tribute, it does not, at this time, necessarily endorse the accompanying acts, script, merchandising and souvenir programme. Neither is the Fan Club or any of its members gaining financially in any way with this venture.



Colin Gold & Frank Bull.

INTERVIEW WITH COLIN GOLD
FROM THE BILLY FURY EXPERIENCE
BECK THEATRE, HAYES ON 14TH FEBRUARY 1997

Interviewed by Alan Thompson from Radio Matters UK
Interview arranged by Jackie Clark

AT: Colin can I start by asking you how did you get involved in the role of Billy Fury?

CG: I applied to go on to Stars in Your Eyes. Never thought I'd have a chance. The auditions came back and I went up there and got the part and ever since then. Phone call from Chris ("CR" Raynor of The Band), went up and met the boys and it's all gone on from there.

AT: But when did you first get an interest in Billy's music? Obviously you didn't hear it first time round.

CG: No, when I was about 19 or 20 I used to like Elvis. I used to impersonate him as well you know, but the suit doesn't fit me any more. (Laughs) I've always sort of liked him. I used to compare the two. I've always had an interest but now I've sort of got to be his number one fan as they say (laughs).

AT: What did you think was special about Billy's music because obviously you must have heard a lot of it, and you say you were an Elvis fan as well but what was special about Billy's music?

CG: The range really. I mean we done a club a few weeks ago and a gentleman came up to me after. He said I never knew anything about Billy Fury he said and when I'm walking out I know everything about him now. So it's the songs, they change so much. One minute it's a rocker and then it's a ballad. It's like a good comedian, you can have then laughing and crying one minute.

AT: But when you go in on stage as Billy Fury is it like assuming somebody else's persona when you go out there you're being that person?

CG: When I put that jacket on and the collar turns up it's you know it's spooky in a way. We've done some bookings and we've walked out and they've been screaming, and I've thought Oooh, you know it's a bit hard to take in but tonight's going to be the one, this is the main one.

AT: When you've performed before as Billy Fury how do you find that people react because obviously older people remember Billy the first time round, younger ones are perhaps hearing his music for the first time; what's the reaction from the audience like?

CG: Well as soon as we play the second number 'A Thousand Stars' as soon as we play that we've got them. It's like all the memories come back and they're all cheering and from then on they start shouting out the songs they want to hear, which is mostly 'Halfway to Paradise' but we do that last. It's like going to the fairground, you have the bumpers at the back so all the kids have to walk through. We do 'Halfway to Paradise' last and we lock the doors so they can't get out anyway. (Laughs)

AT: Do you have any particular favourite Billy Fury track yourself?

CG: I like 'Like I've Never Been Gone' and the boys do a version of the Elvis Presley Mama (asks is it called Mama - a voice says 'That's Alright Mama') That's Alright Mama. Billy used to do that with them live and I like the way they do it. It's a different arrangement and you have to sing it like Billy did it and not like Elvis. It's good. They're all good numbers actually. The hour for me goes too quickly. It does go too quickly.

AT: The persona we were talking about, assuming the persona of somebody else, the movements and everything that goes with it, did you study Billy on video and film?

CG: When we were rehearsing Chris used to say Billy used to do that and I used to say "Do what?" Like drop my hand, I never knew that I was doing it and when I went to Stars in Your Eyes they videoed me but it's come a long way since then. I've had people send me video tapes and mostly it's the top half of his body that moves, which is the result anyway because I can't dance. But I like to think I've got him off to a fine art but you can never replace that man. I think I've got as good as I can get without tripping over. (Laughs)

AT: What would you like to do once The Billy Fury Experience has done the rounds so to speak, what would you like to do? Would you like to continue more Billy Fury work or a show like this in the future?

CG: I really think that this Billy Fury Experience on the scale that we're doing it, because no other band is doing it on this scale, there's a few tributes about you know that are small but the boys have put a lot of time and money into this as well, so have the promoters, but I think this will run for a good 4 to 5 years and even in America you know I'd like to see it go to America because he's got a big following over there as well.

AT: Colin thank you very much for taking the time to talk to us on this occasion.

CG: It's a pleasure, thank you very much.



IN MEMORY OF MARIE

Marie Wycherley, Albert's wife, passed away very suddenly on
4th February 1997 aged 52.

She was a lovely lady and a friend.

We'll miss you Marie.

God Bless.



FORTHCOMING IMPORTANT RELEASE

New CD track by Albert Wycherley

'I Know I Gotta Heart'

featuring Billy Kinsley on guitar.

Projected release - mid summer on the Cavern Days label.

If it's as plaintive as 'Helpless' it will be a great track.

More details to follow

Cross My Heart

By Maureen Bowden

I've been asked how my family re-act to "Billymania". I must admit they're surprisingly tolerant. My husband Dave came along to the two "Billy Weekends" held in Blackpool a few years ago and he loved every minute of them although he did threaten to turn up wearing a tee shirt printed "I'm Furious" on the front and "I'm Billious" on the back! I warned him that if he did he'd be taking the quick way down from the top of Blackpool Tower.

My daughter and son grew up more or less immune to their mother's minor eccentricities although my daughter Jo was once heard to admit that Billy was "cute" and my son David, during his spell as a bass guitarist with a Heavy Rock band called "Mutation Zoo", listened with approval to "Bye Bye" and announced "Yeah, I'd have him in my band". Praise indeed!

On another occasion, while I was playing "The Twist Kid", I sneaked up on David and one of his Neanderthal mates, doing the Twist in the hall. Their "street cred" was destroyed forever.

I now have a five year old foster daughter, Rebecca, who's obsessed by the telephone. She rushes to answer it before anyone else gets there first. When I go to Mill Hill for the Billy re-unions there are always a few phone calls from people wanting to confirm the time and place, etc. Rebecca confuses them as much as they confuse her. A year or so ago when I returned from a re-union she said "Mummy, while you were in London Billy Fury rang". I explained it would have been someone who likes Billy but she insisted it was definitely Billy. I asked for details of the phone call. She said "He said 'Is mummy there?' I said 'No'. He said 'Is daddy there?' I said 'No'. He said 'Who's there?' I said 'Only Rebecca.' Then he hung up." After further discussion she remained firmly convinced it was Billy so I said "If he rings again get his number and tell him I'll call him back."

She's much more sophisticated these days and she realises we can't make phone calls once we've shed this mortal coil but she's now making a list of phone numbers of everyone she knows. Billy's on the list. The entry reads "Billy Fury. Gon to Hevens. Not on the lone."

Rebecca's recently discovered my video of "I've Gotta Horse" and she's besotted. We're treated to an enthusiastic rendition of "I Like Animals" at least five times a day. What she lacks in tonal quality she makes up for in volume.

When my four year old granddaughter saw one of my Billy tee shirts she said "What's her name gwan? Is she a boy or a girl?" You'll learn babe. You'll learn!

Love & Fury

Maureen



THE STONE FUND

The Stone Fund was started by Jean Wycherley (Billy's mother), Hal Carter (Billy's manager), Frank Bull (in charge of Stone Fund) and Maureen Bowden and has been running over 10 years now and with you, the fans and money raised by people like Chris Eley and Jackie Clark and donations from all over the globe - we have spent over £3,000 pounds keeping Billy's name alive. We have had a marble surround added to the grave with a blessing. We have had photographs added. This work was done in Italy. Steps and chairs in memory of Billy in Liverpool Academy of Art and a music lectern in Liverpool's Anglican Cathedral with a choral service of dedication. Also two memorial services in the church next to the hall at Mill Hill.

With thanks to Jackie Clark we are having a star in the Sky with Billy's name and hopefully a plaque, if possible, in an Owl Sanctuary in the near future.

So thanks again for your support and generosity.

My address for donations and information is:

The Billy Fury Stone Fund
c/o Frank Bull
239a High Street
Waltham Cross
Herts EN8 7BE

P O Box 159
National Westminster Bank
97 High Street
Waltham Cross
Herts EN8 7XF

LECTERN IN LIVERPOOL CATHEDRAL

The Lectern was placed in Liverpool Anglican Cathedral in November 1993 by the Stone Fund and accepted by the Church Fabric Committee. There was a choral and dedication service and a melody of Billy Fury's hits were played on the magnificent organ in the Cathedral. Refreshments were served after the service to family, friends, fans and all present who helped donate money to help pay the £2,000 needed for a Lectern. £1,000 was donated by Decca Records in gratitude for his long and devoted association with them. The Lectern can be seen in the choir area of the cathedral. The name Billy Fury is carved on the top of it but it is not very clear. We are hoping to have it re-embossed in gold leaf or black letters so it can be seen more clearly.

ANOTHER ACHIEVEMENT FOR BILLY FURY FANS
A FINE TRIBUTE TO A 'SON OF LIVERPOOL'



This 'n' That



with Chris Eley

Welcome to the regular back pages column of information, opinion and general interest for Billy fans and lovers of 50s, 60s and associated music.

Nice to see Brian Lee (of Brian Lee and Leaders fame) at Mill Hill. Nice guy, takes his music seriously but with a sense of humour. Imagine Ral Donner singing Billy! Great sound but not a copy, and the same for his Elvis tribute, not a clone, but a great sound. Brian has graciously offered to donate ten per cent of his takings from the Billy Fury/Elvis Tribute at the London Palladium on 17th August 1997, to the Bronze Fund. This is subject, however, to sufficient support from Billy fans, so be there folks, for Billy! Listen to great live versions of 'Stand by Me', 'Love or Money', 'Give Me Your Word' and a host of others (the whole first half of the show). Tickets available round about June/July. Provisional gig fixed for 17th July - Regis Centre Bognor Regis.

Nice to see Hal Carter so regularly at Mill Hill these days, and Danny Rivers. Did anyone spot Hal in 'Play It Cool' on Channel 4 recently? Was that him twisting in the Lotus Room? My vote for Billy Fan No 1 - 'Scottish Dave' McMaster who travels from Clydesbank to Mill Hill for every gathering and straight back again. Doesn't say much but knows a lot about Billy.

Special thanks to Jean Prosser for organizing the Billy night at the 'Engine' pub, Baldock. Nice to see unfamiliar faces singing along to the least well-known Billy tracks. Many thanks also to Pauline Barker for contacting all the radio stations and helping to promote Billy and the Fan Club. Well done.

All the best to Lynne Appleby who works tirelessly for Billy and we hope things are a little better now after recent events.

A Joe Meek fan claims that he saw Billy recording with Joe Meek during 1966 - watch this space. Billy's version of 'A Thousand Stars' (written by Eugene Pearson of the Rivileers) superior to any other but check out the great (stereo) version by Arthur Alexander on his fine MCA CD "You Better Move On" MCD 30493. Great voice, influenced the Stones and Beatles, sadly passed away recently following the release of a fine country orientated CD. Original version, doo wop style, was by the Rivileers (if someone finds a copy in any form please contact yours truly, I've lost mine). Other available versions, Kathy Young with the Innocents (Ace CD The Golden Age of Rock n Roll CHCD289), Linda Scott - Best of Linda Scott - Stardust CD 1002 and (probably long deleted) Liverpool Group The Charts - EMI LP PCSP 1783293 (1983). Send to Bob Thomas Bim Bam Records Tel: 01703 600329 or Spinning Disc London Tel: 0181-994 4606 for lists of great CDs, mostly unavailable in normal CD stores. Also still available "The Rockin' and Boppin' Billy Fury" - 31 Decca tracks (+ Be Mine Tonight - thanks Frank!) - Marginal MAR 018.

Visiting Blackpool? Then stay with Billy Fans (and really nice folks) Ian and Sheila Alexander at the Allendale Hotel, 104 Albert Road - sample the 50s/60s bar with its Billy display! Billy's mum Jean intending to contribute, in Billy's name, to a Bird Sanctuary - more details to follow.

US Rock n Roll and country legend (and true gentleman - a rare breed!) Narvel Felts likes Billy's early recordings, praise indeed. If you like high voiced performers, and 'Country Soul', plus Rockabilly and some great 60s pop (Little Miss Blue/I Swear by the Stars Above) - check this guy out!

Great new book by Spencer Leigh and John Furlinger covering Britpop 1955-62 - nice section on Billy - ordering details elsewhere in the magazine - buy it - it's an easy and entertaining read (see review).

One of the greatest (and oft repeated) misconceptions, "before the Beatles there was nothing"; the other ridiculous one being "Elvis did nothing worthwhile after he joined the Army" - utter baboney, say I!

The Billy Fury Experience (two separate bands apparently) doing the rounds - one up North and one down this way (see review).

Let's hope "The Sound of Fury" gets back on the road to promote Billy and help with the Statue Fund (Are you listening Bill Kenright - the demand is there, the time is now, so please let's have it back!)

Billy picture CDs still available from Finnbar (01303 256266). 'Suzanne in the Mirror' available on another (compilation) picture disc - 25 hits Wisepack LECD 439 (trouble is guess where they've put the centre of the disc, yes, right through Billy's face. Typical!!)

Came across another compilation yesterday, seems to be part of a collection - Golden Hits of the 60s - Disc 1 Box D16P Pickwick. Billy's track is "Paradise" and there's a 1 x 1/2 inch 1963 shot on the front (Billy with white zip up woollen jerkin - remember them!!!)

Whatever happened to "Billy Fury at the Beeb"? Must find out.

"The Very Best of Billy Fury" (K Tel tracks on Soundwave CD SOW 709) appears to have been re-issued with a different (black and white) front cover - different lettering too.

Had a nice chatty letter from Moya Gleave of the New Zealand Billy Fury Fan Club offering support for the Bronze Fund - nice one Moya - thanks!

Congratulations to my old friend Gordon Watson for running the 'Yo Frankie' (Dion) Fan Club successfully for 6 years now, great little man and new double CD out now containing K and B version of "Johnny B Goode" (Billy's closing concert number of the 1980s) and "Too Much Monkey Business" (pity Billy didn't put that!). Gordon was kind enough to feature an article for me in 'Yo Frankie', comparing Billy to Dion - two greats.

Welcome to all fans, new and old, including Peter Baldia from Vienna who is being kind enough to allow me to contribute (and any other fans with rarities previously unknown about) to his International Discography on Billy. Information from Record Companies is sparse so it can only be built from the knowledge

THIS 'N' THAT

of which items are held by fans/collectors. All contributions of information gratefully accepted - please write to me c/o this column. Any contributions to this column always welcome. Linda & I will be in our new pad by the time you read this column.

Rock Star Records apparently have a tape of Billy 'live' on Boy Meets Girl singing "Turn My Back" & "Baby Let's Play House" (great Elvis number). Copyright problems (as usual) seem to be preventing its release at this time. Such a pity that all parties involved in situations such as this can't all compromise for the benefit of Billy and the fans. (No reflection on Rock Star who just want to put it out.) Surely as long as it's not sub-standard or, if it is, if it has historical merit, it should be released before we're all too old! If the Fan Club can help in some way to facilitate such releases, relevant parties are more than welcome to contact us at any time. It's our intention to make contact if possible. Sadly, in closing, all of us would like to offer our condolences to Albert and Jean and family at this time. Albert's Marie was a lovely Lady, always cheerful and warm, a joy to talk to, in person or on the phone. She will be missed.

Well, that's it until September. We all look forward to seeing the familiar, and new, faces at Mill Hill, during probably the most challenging and exciting 'Billy' time since his concert return in 1982. Nothing will ever come close to that, but we can make sure that he's never forgotten, in our lifetime or beyond. So long for now.



BOOK REVIEW

by

Maureen Bowden

"Halfway to Paradise" (Britpop 1955 - 1962)
by Spencer Leigh and John Firminger

The format of the book is partly a selection of cuttings from the musical press and partly extracts from interviews undertaken by Spencer over the years with a whole range of people who share their comments, opinions, memories and anecdotes with us.

It's informative, nostalgic without being sentimental and sometimes hilariously funny. Did you ever wonder what was the real reason Johnny Kidd wore an eye-patch or how David Whitfield hit those high notes? Believe that one if you dare!

There's a whole chapter devoted to Billy. The press cuttings contain the usual inaccuracies but we're used to that aren't we? Many of the interview quotes are very poignant, some bring back happy memories and one or two will make you want to hit the interviewee over the head with a blunt instrument!

The book captures the spirit of a unique period in British pop music. It should be as enjoyable to those of you who were a twinkle in some Teddy Boy's eye at the time as it is to those of us who lived through it all. The personalities who dominated our adolescent years come to life again in these pages. We'll never see their like again.

"Halfway to Paradise" can be obtained for £7.50 from:-

BBC Radio Merseyside
55 Paradise Street
LIVERPOOL
L1 3BP

or for £6.99 + £1 postage from:-

Finbarr International
16 Turketel Road
FOLKSTONE
Kent
CT20 2QQ



PENFRIENDS

Mrs Christine Wild 10 Pickup Road Rishton Blackburn Lancs BB1 4HP is looking for a penpal (female) who is interested in Billy, 60s music, countryside. She's 49, motorbike mad (belongs to Fellowship of Christian Motorcyclists).

Mick Jones 3 Stonebridge Orton Malborne Peterborough Cambs PE2 5NF is looking for a penpal (52+) who remembers Billy in his prime. He likes pop music, football, old films, nice people, lemon tea, fish n chips, Gt Yarmouth which is where he first saw Billy.

Richard Rees 12 Pemberton Ave Burry Port Carmarthenshire SA16 9AG Would like a penpal and would also like to hear from any of Billy's family and friends. He's late 40s runs a Home Improvement company with Janet. During the 60s he followed Billy around the local venues. His juke box is full of Billy's records - and in his younger days was a Billy lookalike.

Tony Noon 58 Hales Road Wednesbury W Midlands WS10 9BS is looking for Billy fan (female 40+) living in West Midlands area - with a view to meeting. His interests include motorbikes, DIY, gardening, music and Billy Fury.

Miss Kelly Warner 81 Melrose Ave Nerbury London SW16 4RU is looking for penpals with similar interests. She likes reading, animals, writing letters, Billy Fury & 60s music particularly The Searchers.

Miss Venetia Cattroll 11 Churchlands New Romney Kent TN28 8LB would like penpals

any age or sex. Interests are Billy Fury R & R music, Theatre and letter writing.

SWAPS

Tony Noon 58 Hales Rd Wednesbury W Midlands WS10 9BS will swap 7" vinyl Will The Real Man Please Stand Up for 7" vinyl I'll Be Your Sweetheart

WANTED

Jill Kiddle 109 Sheep St Devizes Wilts SN10 1DJ wants Billy T shirts, badges or info on his life.

Robert Thornton 23 Church Rd Old Felixstowe Suffolk IP11 9NF wants Suzanne in the Mirror, Beyond the Shadow of a Doubt, Phone Box, Lady, I Call for my Rose, All the way to the USA, Why are you Leaving, Paradise Alley, Will the Real Man Please Stand Up, Billy Fury Interview with Stuart Coleman, Maybe Tomorrow, Am I Blue, Billy & Gamblers EP, Ace of Clubs Billy, I've Gotta Horse.

Michelle Jane Grigg 28 Martin Close Millfields Bromsgrove Worcs B61 7BW wants Once Upon a Dream CD, pics/photos, Missing Years LP, I've Gotta Horse Video, The Golden Years LP, Memories LP.

Fiona Sutton 30 John Winter Crt Euston Rd Gt Yarmouth Norfolk NR30 1DU wants Billy CD Once Upon a Dream.

Mark Nowson Nats Cottage 4 New Road Aston Clinton, Aylesbury Bucks HP22 5JP wants Hippy Hippy Shake - Decca F40719 and Billy & Gamblers EP - Decca DFE 8641

Mr Mo Dossa 30 Bannerman Rd Easton Bristol BS5 ORR wants Decca Maybe Tomorrow /Gonna

Type a Letter F1102 round centre. My Xmas Prayer/Last Kiss F1189 OTC & 78rpm. Angel Face/Time Has Come F1158 78rpm. Collette/Baby How I Cried F11200 78rpm. Sheet Music for Collette, Don't Worry & Don't Let a Little Pride ...

Lionel Harrison 95 Grenville Rd Dines Green Worcester WR2 5RN wants LP The Missing Years on Red Bus BusLP1003

Pauline Steward Wynburg Hiddlezoy Bridgwater TA7 ONT wants Video of I've Gotta Horse.

Tony Noon 58 Hales Rd, Wednesbury W Midlands WS10 9BS wants The Missing Years LP BUSLP1003 or CD. I'll Be Your Sweetheart Warner K16402 Once Upon a Dream CD B20791-2

Trevor Roberts 7 Oast Way Rochford Essex SS4 1RE wants Billy sheet music & EPs

Julia Perry 26 Fernlea Close Cherry Hinton Cambs CB1 4LW wants original singles of Halfway to Paradise & A Thousand Stars

Richard Rees 12 Pemberton Ave Burry Port Carmarthen SA16 0AG wants Billy's Parlophone records, books, Stuart Coleman interview, photos and any EPs (not Play It Cool)

Mick Jones 3 Stonebridge Orton Malborne Peterborough Cambs PE2 5NF wants Billy photos & info on Billy

Mr D Lewis 1 Woodman Terrace Boothtown Halifax West Yorks HH3 6HD wants 1983 single Wondrous Place Dakota label

Venetia Cottroll 11 Churchlands New Rodney Kent TN28 8LB wants video I've Gotta Horse

Jean Gee 63 Westerland Ave Canvey Island Essex SS8 8JS wants Billy photos.

Tony Philbin 132 Marple Rd Offerton Stourport Cheshire SK2 5EN wants CD The Very Best Of Billy Fury PrestCD1001. Book Life With Billy Fury 1963 & Fury Monthly's

Ernest Sherman 5 Crescent Ave Ashton in Makerfield Nr Wigan Lancs WN4 9SG wants any VHS videos (not Billy's 3 films) of Billy plus books & photos.

FOR FANS EYES ONLY

Joe Boyle and Gary Waterman have kindly donated to the Fan Club a working copy of their play "THE SOUND OF FURY" which they have both signed. This is a really special Billy memento and one we're sure every fan will want. We have decided to auction it to MEMBERS OF THE FAN CLUB only. If you would like to bid for this copy of "The Sound of Fury" please send your name and address together with your offer (no payment at this stage please) to Jean Prosser, 16 Norton Crescent, Baldoek, Herts, SG7 5BE by 17 May 1997. It will go to the fan who sends in the highest bid. The proceeds will go to The Billy Fury Bronze Fund. Thank you Joe & Gary for this really special donation.

Joe has also asked if all Billy's fans would write to Bill Kenwright at 59 Shaftesbury Avenue, London, W1V 7AA asking him when he intends to put "The Sound of Fury" play on again. Please support Joe & Gary by writing to Bill Kenwright.

**DON'T MISS THE SHOW OF
THE YEAR!!**

THE 1963

BILLY FURY SHOW

Produced by "Fury Monthly"
at the

ROYAL ALBERT HALL

LONDON

on FRIDAY, MAY 31st

Doors Open 7 pm—Show 7.30 to 10 pm

★ STARRING ★

BILLY FURY

MARK WYNTER

THE TORNADOS

HEINZ BURT

★ **THE JAYWALKERS** ★

SHANE FENTON and THE FENTONES

Freddie and The Dreamers

The Echoes ★ **The Ramblers**

Daryl Guist ★ **Jan Burnette**

Compare: Graham Dean

Seats at 17/6, 15/-, 12/6, 10/6, 7/6
and Standing 5/-

Tickets can be obtained at the
Albert Hall up to the start of
the show

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Children 5/- & 2/-, Adult 5/- & 2/-, 1/-, 50c & 25c. Bookings at Advance.



THE SOUND OF FURY

The Official Billy Fury Fan Club

36 Manbey Grove, Stratford, London E15 1EX



Taken Back stage at the Beck Theatre
November 1982
Last photo taken with Billy & his Mother

THE SOUND OF FURY



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