



Issue No.1

FREE

January 1997

**W**elcome to SQUEEZE UP No. 1 - the first ever John Kirkpatrick newsletter.

If you're wondering why on earth you've received this, then it could be that at some time in your life you've ordered a recording from Squeezzer, or attended a melodeon workshop, or written in to 'Squeezing Round the World', or simply given me your address by mistake. If you don't want any future editions, please send off the slip saying so. Obviously, if you all do that then there won't be any future editions, so even if you find this a load of absolute tosh it might be worth hanging onto in case it becomes a collector's item.

Meanwhile, if we make it to issue No.2, perhaps you'd like to write in and say what you'd like to see in it: -

- questions about specific songs or tunes, technical squeezebox brain-teasers, episodes from the Kirkpatrick family history, gossip about professional colleagues, recipes, gardening tips, cures for boldness, or meditations on living across a muddy field . . . - our friendly and helpful staff guarantee to uphold the old showbiz tradition and leave you wanting more.

At the moment the plan is to issue this every 3 or 4 months, although there is no telling if the strain of meeting these kinds of deadlines might prove too much amidst the artistic turmoil in which our valiant hero apparently wallows, At least it's free, so if you want to copy SQUEEZE UP for a friend, please carry on. If you didn't receive this through the post, you won't get No. 2 either, unless you send in the slip on the back, or hand in your name and address at one of our gigs.



**Q**

John Kirkpatrick's name is obviously Celtic, so why does he insist on playing English music?  
What's the matter with the man?

**A** The blood of the Celts does indeed course through John's veins. The 'Kirkpatrick' bit comes from his grandfather, who came from Dumfries in Southwest Scotland. He married a girl from Kirkcudbright and moved to London, where John's father was born. John's mother's mother was from Dublin, and she came to London and married a man whose father had walked to London from Wales and married an English girl. John's parents met on the stairs at evening classes, and three and a half of his grandparents had come to London to seek their fortune.

Born in London himself, John plays English music because he has always lived in England, and feels English, cor blimey, strike a light!

For several years Phil Seaman (a melodeon player and morris dancer but a good bloke nevertheless) has been sending me his own hand drawn Christmas cards reflecting some aspect of my nefarious activities over the previous year. They make a wonderful collection. Phil designed the banner headline at the top of the page, so special thanks to him, and I can't wait to see next Christmas' effort...

## John Kirkpatrick - Solo appearances

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- Sat 1st The Hot House, Charlbury, Oxon. Sue Harmes - 01608 810987
- Sat 8th The Gate Arts Theatre, Goole, N.Humberside.  
Charlie Studdy - 01405 763652
- Fri 21st The Fo'c'sle Folk Club, The Duke of Wellington, Bugle St, Southampton.  
Trevor Gilson - 01703 456337
- Sun 23rd Hitchin Folk Club, Sun Hotel, Hitchin, Herts.  
Maureen Jones - 01462 711164
- Fri 28th Everyman Folk Club, White Horse, Westleton, Saxmundham, Suffolk.  
Mike Acott - 01473 743080

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- Thu 6th Lymm Folk Club, The Railway Inn, Heatley, Lymm, Warrington.  
Graham Sowerby 01925 265503
- Fri 7th Beacon Hotel Folk Club, Tutbury Rd, Burton-upon-Trent, Staffs.  
Carol Worker - 01283 760575
- Sun 9th Allsorts Community Centre, Alma Rd, St Albans, Herts.  
Alison MacFarlane - 01727 852111
- Sat 15th House Concert in Crediton, Devon.  
Pat Barker - 01363 773235

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- Sat 26th Essex Singers Club, East Anglian Railway Museum, Nr Colchester.  
Colin Cater - 01787 462731

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- Fri 9th Towers Arts Centre, Winchester, Hamps. Box Office - 01962 867986
- Sat 17th Hednesford Folk Club, Haziesiade Inn, Rugeley Rd, Hednesford, Staffs.

## Workshops

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Sat 15th Assembly Rms, Ludlow, Shrops 2.30-4.30pm  
Cindy Watson - 01584 878141  
Playing traditional English folk dance music -,any instrument.

Sun 16th Regent Centre, High St, Christchurch, Dorset  
2.30 - 4.30 pm. Alison Dunn -  
01202 479819 Traditional English folk dance music - any instrument

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Sun 9th Allsorts Community Arts Centre, Alma Rd, St Albans. 2.00 - 5.00pm.  
Alison MacFarlane - 01727 852111 Melodeon Workshop -instruments in D/G only. Music and tape available in advance from Alison.

I'm prepared to consider workshops in several legal activities, but the ones I do most often are those mentioned above. I have been known to do sessions on accordion left-hand, and on anglo concertina, but these latter tend to be rather cacophonous. I have even given private tuition from time to time - write in with your personal requirements and I may or may not respond.

Recently I've also done a few workshops on English Country Dances with stepping, and while I can't be cajoled into imparting the secrets of The Shropshire Bedlams, I might be persuaded to do a session on actual traditional Border Morris.



## Recording

I've played on albums recently by Christine Collister and Keith Christmas (both out now), and, unreleased as yet, Vikki Clayton and, most noticeably, Frankie Armstrong (on her new ballad record for Fellside). Fellside are also in the process of compiling an album of ballads along the same lines as their 'VOICES' of a few years ago, with one ballad each by loads of different people. My contribution is a snappy Robin Hood ballad which comes in at under ten minutes.

For those of you who may have bought an L.P. or cassette of either PLAIN CAPERS or BLUE BALLOON, I have a very limited supply of the original notes (PC) and word sheets (BB). Send a large SAE if you fancy having one or both of these fabulous items. For a complete John Kirkpatrick discography, please send 4 first class stamps, or 2 dollars, or 2 International Reply Coupons to:- Discography Eight, Fledg'ling Records, PO Box 547,

## Radio

The studio quest on FOLK ON TWO on Wed 5th Feb, with 5 songs and tunes and a bit of a chat, is a singer and squeezebox player probably reasonably well known to most SQUEEZE UP readers. A signed photo to the first correct name out of the traditional bin-liner. Entries must be in by the end of this week.

Seriously though, folks, some of you have been kind enough to have noticed, and in some cases actually listened to my efforts as a broadcaster. Regardless of whether you actually like what you've heard, don't forget that the Wednesday night folk music programmes are always hanging by a bit of a thread, and the more letters the BBC receive in their support, the more likely they are to continue and multiply. Enthusiastic calls to Radio 2's helpline, letters to Radio Times, The Controller of Radio 2, Anyone in the Specialist Music Dept at Pebble Mill, as well as to the makers of individual programmes - it all helps the cause, and each voice heard is regarded as representing many more who might feel the same way but can't be bothered to say so.

## The John Kirkpatrick Band

JK with Dave Berry (bass guitar, tuba), Paul Burgess (fiddle, recorders, keyboards), Michael Gregory (drums, nakers), Graeme Taylor (guitar, mandolin, banjo).

Thu 6th The Mill, Banbury, Oxon. Wendy Malpas - 01295 252050

Fri 7th Cheltenham Town Hall, Gloucs. Tim Hulse - 01242 521621

Sun 9th The Guildhall, Lichfield, Staffs. Brian Petty - 01543 262223

Mon 10th Nettlebed Folk Club, Berkshire. Mike Sanderson - 01628 36620

Tue 11th Huntingdon Hall, Crowngate, Worcs. Chris Jaeger - 01905 23428

Fri 14th West End Centre, Aldershot, Hamps. John Garnett - 01252 21158

Sat 15th The Assembly Rms, Ludlow, Shrops. Cindy Watson - 01584 878141

Sun 16th The Regent Centre, High St, - Christchurch, Dorset. Alison Dunn - 01202 479819

Sat 24th Cleethorpes Folk Festival (afternoon + evening) Sue Knevitt

Sun 25th Chester Folk Festival, The Morris Dancer, Kelsall, Chesh. Nick Mitchell - 01244 677212

The Band did quite a few festivals last year, and managed to achieve highest record sales of any artist on the record stall at Sidmouth, after our Saturday concert spot, with our new CD 'Force of Habit' on the Fledg'ling label.

**House for sale** - The Round House, Aston-on-Clun. An unusual detached dwelling of great character in an idyllic setting in rural Shropshire. The original C18 round stone cottage has a modern octagonal extension. 5 beds, 3 recs, kitchen, bathroom, downstairs WC, large garden bordered by stream. £89, 500

Enquiries to GA Property Services, Ludlow - 01584 875207

## Brass Monkey Tour - Easter 1997

JK, Martin Carthy (guitar, mandolin, vocals), Howard Evans (trumpet, flugelhorn), Richard Cheetham (trombone),  
Martin Brinsford (mouth-organ, saxophone, percussion).

We played together during the 1980's and made 2 L.P.'s, and had a one-off reunion concert and ceilidh at Sidmouth in 1994. We agreed then that we ought to do this more often, but it's taken us this long to get organised.

M a r c h	Thursday	20th	Derby
	Friday	21st	Leicester (tbc)
	Saturday	22nd	Barbican Foyer
	Sunday	23rd	Bridport
	Monday	24th	Nettlebed
	Tuesday	25th	Edinburgh
	Wednesday	26th	Whitehaven
	Thursday	27th	Manchester
Friday	28th	Gosport	
Saturday	29th	Shepton Mallet	

A p r i l	Wednesday	2nd	Gateshead
	Thursday	3rd	Worcester
	Friday	4th	Barnstaple
	Saturday	5th	Godalming
	(afternoon concert, evening ceilidh)		
	Sunday	6th	Sevenoaks
	Monday	7th	Gainsborough

Full details for all these venues from  
Mrs Casey Music - 01296 394411

### Ceilidhs

**The John Kirkpatrick Bumper Ceilidh Band** rears its ugly 5 heads at The Oxford Ceilidh on Sat 8th March at Exeter Hall, Kidlington, Oxford. JK Calling. Details - Annie Stockford -01993 868140. **Brass Monkey** are playing as a ceilidh band at Godalming on Sat 5th April. Details -Lawrence Heath - 01483 828452. Gordon Potts calling. As well as the Bumper Ceilidh Band I also have a smaller scale outfit where I also call the dances and play -**Mr Gubbins Bicycle**. All enquiries to Speaking Volumes.

### Squeezebox Trivia

The word **melodeon** as a name for a small button accordion is unique to Britain. In fact in Scotland and Ireland it usually refers only to a single row instrument, with anything bigger being called an accordion. It seems only in England do we have melodeons with 1,2 or 3 rows. The original Melodeon was a kind of American Organ (itself a kind of harmonium), and particularly the kind having a horizontal case on legs, rather than the vertical harmonium type.

A quite different instrument was the rocking melodeon, or elbow melodeon, which was a lap organ similar to something we now see in Indian music, with a keyboard played by one hand while the other works a bellows. You can see how the name of this might have transferred to an early accordion, but when this first happened is anyone's guess.

There are other instruments which, like all the above, appeared early in the C19 and used the principle of the free reed, but space prevents anything more than a mention of the Melodikon, the Melodion, the Melodina, or the Melodium.

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