



SQUEEZE UP

THE JOHN KIRKPATRICK NEWSLETTER

Issue No.2

FREE

June

Welcome to SQUEEZE UP No. 2- only 18 months later than promised! There are pages of lame excuses coming up, but first I must just say I'm sorry, especially since your response to No. 1 has been so overwhelmingly enthusiastic. So, sorry!

The main reason is - I've moved. It started last May and will finish sometime after the Millennium, but for much of the last year I haven't really known where anything is - except for things like sandpaper and screwdrivers.

In fact, within a very short time last year I had my 50th birthday, moved house and got married, and if anyone has ever told you these can be stressful events, they were grossly underestimating the truth of it all!

Something else which interferes with my constant desire to become more efficient is the amount of time I spend in the car - 2½ hours per day on average. Given that a considerable whack of my days off is taken with looking for things, it's a miracle that anything gets done! Any way, that's the excuses over for now, folks. More coming up in Issue No. 3!

Thank you for all your letters, positive comments, suggestions - & envelopes. Here at Squeeze-Up Towers the office is a whirlwind of activity, with our hand-picked staff working round the clock to process all the ideas you've come up with and ensure that future Squeeze-Ups are what you want them to be. (How about punctual? - Ed)

Lots of you complained about having to cut off the 'Tick the Box' section, so we've scrapped it this time. If you have a change of name/address, a suggestion or you would like Squeeze-Up No.1; want to be taken off the list, or add a friend please write to the "Squeezer" address. A S.A.E would be appreciated. If you live beyond the reach of a British 2nd class stamp you may experience some difficulty in receiving Squeeze-Up unless you write pleadingly to "Squeezer". What ever you do, please do not send cheques in any currency other than Sterling.

Something that had not originally occurred to me is that the reason most artistes have a newsletter is not actually to tell their adoring public what's going on at all, but rather to use it as

a front for a heavy merchandising operation. With apologies for missing the point completely in Issue No.1, I proudly draw your attention to this month's free colour supplement - just the thing for those of you eager to get in touch with the consumer within.



Q What microphone pick-ups does John Kirkpatrick use on his Squeeze-boxes?

A For solo or acoustic work I prefer microphones on boom stands. The sound of the instruments is more natural if the mikes are a few inches away, rather than attached to the casing or placed inside somewhere.

For band work I use swan-necked miniature mikes on the concertina, attached by Velcro strips, with leads going into a specially made D.I. box. The system is made by Alan Hughes of Microvox, available from Westfield Music, Westfield Villa, Belgrave Mount, Wakefield, WF1 3SB. Tel/Fax 01924 361550 They make several different versions of pick-ups for all kinds of squeeze-boxes, as well as many other instruments.

I've used the Microvox "Limpet" system on my accordion too, but I've now had mikes built in under the grille on both sides of the instrument, with a custom made D.I. box by Jeff Dando, 27 The Pieces, Bampton, Oxon. Tel (evenings) 01993 850643. Jeff's design includes an output for an XLR lead in the body of the accordion, so you just plug in and off you go. He's done concertinas as well and he's open to offers.

Mention Squeeze-Up if you get in touch with either of these fine fellows.





John Kirkpatrick - Gig List

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Sat 28th No Fir Boig Festival, Vorselaar, Belgium.
Yves de Cuodder-0032 16 502009

Fri 10th Ceilidh with 'Mr Gubbin's Bicycle'
Fullerton House, Totnes.
Lewis Riley-01803 865864

Sat 11th Ceilidh with 'Mr Gubbin's Bicycle'
Dog + Fox, Wimbledon.
John Mannel-0181 3941127

Wed 15th Falmouth Arts Centre
Dominic Power-01326 317090

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Thurs 16th Main Stage, Port Pendenis,
Falmouth. 4pm.
Nick Green-01872 223527

Mon 20th Alma Arms, Highlands Road
Portsmouth.
Sooty Broughton-01243 377499

Fri 24th Ceilidh with 'Mr Gubbin's Bicycle'
Milton, Milford-on-Sea.
Nadine Fry-01425 619983

Sat 25th Rushbury Village Hall,
near Church Stretton, Shrops.
Peter Banfield-01694 723402

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Sat 15th Stamford in the Vale.
22nd - 28th Whitby Festival.
Malcolm Storey-01757 708424

Sat 29th Ceilidh with 'Mr Gubbin's Bicycle'
Bideford.
John Blackburn-01237 476632

Sun 30th Ceilidh with 'The Bumper Ceilidh
Band', Towersey.
Alan Bearman-0181 2921131

Mon 31st Towersey. Solo.
Alan Bearman-0181 2921131

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Sat 19th Cellar Upstairs, 291 Kentish
Town Road, Kentish Town.
Sheila Miller-0171 2817700

Fri 25th Salisbury Arts Centre.
Gary Richards-01722 421472

Sat 26th Salisbury Arts Centre.
Gary Richards-01722 421472

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Fri 2nd Ceilidh with 'The Bumper Ceilidh
Band', Clitheroe, Lancs.
Phil Brown-01254 397623



Recording.

A brand new solo C.D. will be coming out in the late summer on the Dutch Music & Words Label. "One man and his Box" was recorded as if live on all but two of the tracks, and is the closest representation yet available of what you get when you come to see John Kirkpatrick. Containing songs and tunes on button accordion, Anglo concertina and melodeon, the titles are as follows:-

The Windfall Polka/Haggling the toss; Go to a little more school; Here's adieu to old England; Half and half; Do me Ama; The fair maid on the shore; Young Edwin in the lowlands low; The blue Joak/ the Spanish gypsy; Sweet prospect; The Bristol sailorman/Will the waggoner; Annan side; Underneath your apron; Prince William of Gloucester's Waltz; Sweet and lovely/Jump at the sun; Bogie's bonny belle; Once I loved a maiden fair / The hole in the wall/Amaryllis; Fits and starts; Daughters of the revolution; The bells; The sleazy-beat three-step.



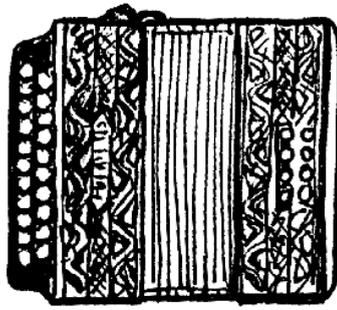
By the time you read this, "Blue Balloon", first seen as an L.P. of songs on Squeezer in 1987, will be available on C.D. on Music & Words.

The first Squeezer L.P. - "Three in a row - the English Melodeon" - first released in 1983, will be released on C.D. this autumn on Fledg'ling.

A complete up - to - date discography is available from "Squeezer", Price £1.00 in p. & p.

The John Kirkpatrick Band

Shortly after our tour in February 1997, we spent six unbelievably long and exhausting days recording and mixing our new studio album for Fledg'ling Records, "Welcome to Hell" - FLED 3011. This came out in May, just in time for a couple of festival appearances. We are all very pleased with it, and everyone put a great deal of effort into making it the very best we could possibly do. We were hoping that the reviews would generate a new influx of gigs and whip up a bit of interest- but it's desperately disappointing to have to report that despite all our hard work, we haven't had a single offer. So sadly, for the time being the J.K. Band is on ice.



geezer with an accordion. Each night there is a guest team of sword dancers, and a guest choir, who, as well as doing a short spot of their own, join us for a newly composed carol called "Chariots". Those of you who have asked for the music of "Chariots", please note that it will be available in a few weeks, from

"Squeezer".

We are repeating the tour for a third and final time this December. Full details in the October issue, or contact Speaking Volumes if you can't wait!

The Shropshire Bedlams

Despite the passing of years I still manage to totter around with the Shropshire Bedlams. As always, we are inseparable from Martha Rhoden's Tuppenny Dish, and although we have had to turn down loads of invitations away from home, we still get a good number turning out for Morris dancing around South Shropshire. You might deduce from the current folk directory that I am the contact for the team - well, I was for a while, but, as all readers of Squeeze-Up know only too well, my skills in the area of secretarial efficiency do leave just a little to be desired. The new joint secretaries, for bookings or information about the teams' activities are Mick Sanders and Marion Warburton, Tel/fax 01588 660513.

Brass Monkey

Our re-union tour at Easter 1997 seemed to go off quite well, once we'd remembered each other's names! We managed to learn quite a few new numbers, and originally planned to record them earlier this year and do another tour later on. Unfortunately, trumpeter Howard Evans decided to take a full-time job with the Musicians' Union, which ironically means that he can't play live music any more! Still, although the group will not be making any appearances in the foreseeable future, we have completed a record, as yet untitled, which will be released by Topic Records in the early autumn. Howard is hoping to persuade the M.U. to let him out next year.



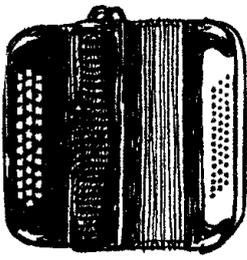
Wassail!

Last December saw a repeat run of the concert tour of traditional English song, music and custom associated with midwinter, first seen in 1995. It spawned two half-hour radio programmes called "Deep and crisp and even", broadcast in January 1997, and we made a record of the show in time for the Christmas just past. The specially assembled band comprises:- Rosie Cross, Georgina Lefaux, Jane Threlfall and Carl Hogsden, and Michael Gregory. Oh, and some

Sidmouth

Visitors to last year's Sidmouth Festival may have spotted a worried version of oneself running round with a stop-watch, shouting at dance-teams. The job of arena theatre director at Europe's biggest folk festival sounds impossibly daunting, but as it turned out to be the wettest Sidmouth Festival ever, the magnitude of the task was dwarfed by the constant battle against the elements. I'm giving it another go this year, in the hope of seeing some sunshine, then it'll be someone else's turn.





Over the Fence

I have to report the passing of a very special friend whose loss is still keenly felt. Last August, whilst in hospital for a routine check-up, my accordion was pronounced beyond repair. I bought the B/C/C# Casali in 1963 when I was 15, and it has been with me through thick and thin for 35 years. The reeds are still OK, but all the mechanical parts are thoroughly battle weary. I already had a spare, and bought another in November which I am tending to play more. Every end is a new beginning, and it's only a pile of metal & wood, but I have to admit that I wept buckets.

Cas Smith - Champion knee fetishist of South Wales and the proud possessor of some terrific blackmail material involving her nurse's uniform being ironed - came up with the idea of making an inflatable J.K. Naturally our marketing people saw this as a dead cert, and a prototype was produced in record time on our Shropshire rubber plantation. Unfortunately, in a misjudged piece of after-lunch tomfoolery, it fell into the hands of Richard Bronson, who immediately flew off around the world in it, only to discover, rather too quickly, that inflatable accordionists are not as aerodynamic as you might think. So, back to the drawing board on that one, Cas.

I am planning a melodeon tutor video for release next year. Please write in with all those specific queries you've never had answered, and any suggestions on how to make such a venture appeal as broadly as possible. As far as our expert research shows, video tutors are only available for Irish and Cajun styles, not for the more straightforward English approach. If you know otherwise, please do write in.

The house finally got sold - thank you for your concern.

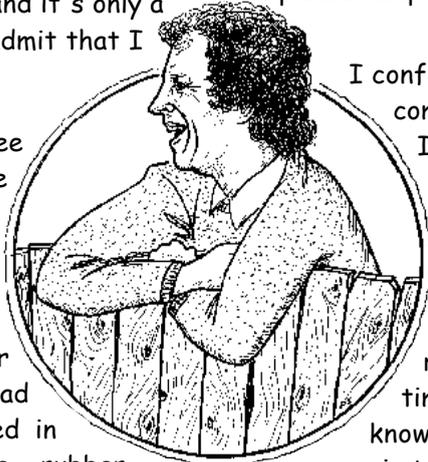
A book of songs by J.K. is currently being prepared by Mick Lynn, a folk enthusiast of infinite patience. More details in the October issue.

Some of the computer buffs amongst you have been kind enough to print out any relevant references that pop-up on the Internet. I'm always interested to see these, however disparaging, so please keep them rolling in.

I confess to being completely clueless with computers myself, and although I know I should try and love this technology, I can't avoid feeling that we'd all be better off splitting logs or walking on top of a windy hill. Still, if enough of you think it would be valuable, we could have a list of relevant web-sites & whatnot next time. Please write in with the ones you know about, preferably in a way that us organic types can understand!

From time to time I disappear from the public gaze to work on music, song or dancing for plays in the theatre. There is nothing on this line of business in the diary at the moment, but if anyone wants to know more about these brushes with the tinsel & glitter of showbiz, and various other projects including radio and TV work, an up-to-date list is available from "Squeezer". It runs to several pages, and costs £1.00 inc. p. & p.

By popular demand we were hoping to include a section entitled "Sally's Snippets - What's he like around the house?". Sadly there's not enough space left this time, so watch out for this new feature in our next issue.



For mail order, theatre projects, "Chariots", & all matters relating to Squeeze-Up, please write to:-
 "Squeezer",
 P.O.Box 531
 Craven Arms,
 Shropshire,
 SY9 5WB,

For bookings, enquiries, information, publicity, school appearances, house concerts & workshops please write to:-
 Speaking Volumes
 Huntingdon Hall,
 Crowngate,
 Worcester, WR1 3LD
 Tel 01905 611323 Fax 01905 619958

