



**The Yorkshire
Garland Group**

Yorkshire Folk Song at your fingertips



Honorary President : Norma Waterson

'York, Yo-ork for my mon-ey, .
Of all the ci-ties that ever I see'

YORKSHIRE GARLAND NEWSLETTER 04.09.09

Welcome

This is the first in a series of occasional newsletters to be sent by Yorkshire's own mode of communication: E(by gum)Mail. I hope this will become a two-way communication to which you will want to contribute. Your comments or suggestions, either good or bad, will be useful to us.

Our One-day seminar

Cor wot a stunner! I do hope everyone got as much out of it as we did. It was good to see how many people involved in education are taking an interest in these things.

We had well-received presentations from Sam Pirt, Sam Lee, Doc Rowe, Bryony Griffith, Jo Glover, Carol Hodson, Steve Gardham and Ray Padgett on a range of topics related to folk music in education.

In all there were around 50 people there and the whole event passed off without a hitch of any sort. I would like to take this opportunity to thank my fellow organisers and helpers for making it all work so efficiently.

From those who attended we have received some very positive comments in the feedback questionnaires they filled in for us. They also contained some interesting suggestions for our next seminar. Many requested practical sessions on the singing and learning of songs and clearly this is something we must strive to provide. Another request was for more networking time with people requesting contact details of their fellow attendees to keep in touch. Will anyone who attended please let us know if you would be happy for us to put you onto such a list.

We ended the day with a fine supper and singaround in the upstairs room of The Black Swan. This was a wonderful chance to hear each others' songs and I for one would love to have more social gatherings of this sort.

One thing which came up in almost every session I attended was the song-learning speed and tenacity of memory that children possess. Where better to sow the seeds if we wish to keep these songs alive. Cecil Sharp certainly understood this when he published his school song books. His teaching had a very strong affect on me - and before you ageists out there make comments; this was not at first-hand. The music teacher at our school taught us many songs from Cecil Sharp's collection. At various times in my life I have heard one of these for the first time in say, twenty or thirty years and been surprised to discover the tune and all or most of the words perfectly preserved in my memory. My lifelong love of folk music was first kindled by this man, and you too can do this. Your reward will be the knowledge that some day an adult will be thanking you as much as I still thank him.

MySpace

Have you seen our slot on My Space? It were Tony Morris wot dunnit. Our thanks to you Tony, it really looks good. If you haven't already seen it and want to have a look, follow this link <http://www.myspace.com/yorkshiregarland>

Website

Also on the subject of extra-terrestrial activity we have Michael Jary to thank for taking on the running of our website. Finding someone for this job was proving a real headache but now we can relax. We knew the job would be in safe hands from the moment he agreed to do this. I assume you are all fully aware of the site and its contents but just in case not here's the link: www.yorkshirefolksong.net/

Performers

A request to those of you who perform in any context: If you would be willing to mention us to your audiences we would be very grateful. Just point them towards the website and it should do the rest.

Illustrations needed

We are currently processing the next batch of songs to go onto the Yorkshire Garland website. If you look on the site at our first phase of songs you will see that each song has an illustration at the top of its text page. These were provided by Steve Gardham but for the phase 2 songs he does not have pictures that would be appropriate to all the subjects covered. Do you have anything suitable, or know anyone who does? The songs and a few suggestions of suitable subject illustrations follow. These are just loose suggestions, anything else you can think of that will do the job will be fine, be creative!

My Sky Sailor: Aeroplane disasters, US airman with girlfriend.

Various mining songs: Miners working, striking, disasters, pit-boy, miner's wife.

Super and the Snowman: Snowman, or one being built by men rather than children.

Devil in York: York Minster's West door, devil near a cathedral, Minster gargoyle.

The Last Great Showman: Fairgrounds, boxing match, caravan lifestyle.

Bunny Run: Pub crawls, boozing generally.

Farewell to the Wheatsheaf: Pub demolition, singers in a pub, a picture of the Wheatsheaf.

Oven Mitts: Door to door salesman, oven gloves.

Red and Gold: Steel works.

Ripon Sword Dancers' Song: Sword dancers.

Rose of York: First World War.

Rothwell Debtors' Prison Song: Prisons, prison life.

Spence Broughton: Highway robbery, execution on gibbet.

Grand Pubs of Yorkshire: The White Bear pub in Masham.

Jovial Heckler Boy: Young man chatting up a woman.

The Trip: Canal boats.

The Luckiest Sailor: Fishing boats.

The Visitor: Lifeboats in action.

Freeman's Waistcoat: Lifeboatman in cork waistcoat.

The Westwood Rows: Bulldozing of terrace houses.

Tobacco Song: Tobacco tins, smoking paraphernalia.

Wild Rover: Bar scenes, tipping coins onto the bar.

Keep That Wheel A-Turning: Man turning wheel, picture of a man on front page of the Daily Mail.

Young Banker: Handsome young man with “big” hair, flowing hair would look good.

Adieu to Derwent Village: Pretty village in valley, drowned village, reservoir.

Early Pearly: Lady in window looking down on beggar child.

Haley Paley: Lady in window looking down on sailor.

I’m a man that’s known trouble and sorrow: Tramp, woeful looking man.

Lament: Old man asleep.

Song searching

If you know of anyone out there with as yet undiscovered Yorkshire songs in their keeping we would love to hear from you. Many of the songs on our website have been tracked down by our own members. If you are aware of any songs out there please let us know. It could also be that you know of a song that has “escaped” and you may be in a position to bring it home. The writer of one forthcoming song on the website is now resident in America but a friend of his remembered the song and re-introduced it to its natural environment.

Finally

If you are still here thanks for reading so far and don’t worry too much about the length in future issues – my holidays will be over and I will have far less time to ramble on.

Ray Black