



nova lepidoptera

The Barclay James Harvest Magazine

Number 50, September 2000

50

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TOUR NEWS

JOHN LEES, WOOLLY WOLSTENHOLME and the *Revival* band hit the road again soon, with a European Tour agreed in principle for November and December. Around ten dates are already pencilled in for Germany in November, and the good news for UK fans is that the plan at the time of writing was to precede the Continental trip with the first UK dates by any members of Barclay James Harvest for over eight years.

If we get dates confirmed before this magazine is due to be sent out, we'll include them as a flyer - if not, we'll send a separate bulletin out as soon as we can to members in the countries where the concerts are booked. If you would like to know about concerts in other countries, please let us know and we will include you in any mail shots.

The line-up for the tour is likely to be the same as appears on the *Revival - Live 1999*, i.e. John Lees, Woolly Wolstenholme, Craig Fletcher, Kevin Whitehead and Jeff Leach.

Revival Special Edition

Eagle Records plan to release a special edition of the *Revival - Live 1999* CD in October. The limited pack will come with a bonus CD containing the four "missing" songs from the Spring 1999 set-list, i.e. "Suicide?", "Brother Thrush", "Mr. E" and "Hymn". We don't have any further information on the packaging or price as yet.

For those who have already bought the first issue of the *Revival* CD, we have been told that the fan club will be able to acquire copies of the bonus disc as a standalone item, and that it will probably also be available on tour. Watch this space!

T-Shirts and Songbook

Available soon: white T-shirts with the *Revival* design, cunningly amended to read "Live 2000"! These shirts will initially be available only through the club, following which a second batch will be produced with concert dates on the back for sale on tour. We're also hoping that the long-planned concert souvenir songbook (see NL45) will be ready in time for this tour! Rather than a standard tour programme, the idea is for a book with sheet music and lyrics for the "new" *Nexus* songs, interspersed with live, backstage and candid photos from the *Nexus* tour, including some which were considered "unsuitable" for the live CD inlay...

Update From Les - 14 New Songs

In response to the many enquiries that we are getting about Les Holroyd's forthcoming solo album, there's good news! In a long chat in July, Les brought us up to date with progress on writing, and revealed that he is currently working on a total of fourteen songs - all brand new. These are in addition to the radically different re-makes of old BJH classics which were mentioned in a previous issue of NL (#47, December 1999).

Whilst he is only too well aware of the impatience of fans to hear the new material, he explained that he was going through a particularly good creative patch where he is really in writing mode. As every writer will testify, one never knows when inspiration will strike, so Les wants to get all of his ideas down while the muse is with him, before beginning recording proper.

The original concept of the Barclay James Harvest sabbatical which was announced in March 1998 was for the band members to take two years out, so in fact Les has simply kept to that original timetable and used the time profitably to compose new material.

All of the songs are now musically complete and 80 to 90% of the arrangements are already written. Several have finished lyrics, whilst a number of the others have some words written.

The plan is to get eight songs finished before the family summer holiday in August, then to spend the remainder of September and perhaps October to record demo versions at his home of all the songs which are planned to go on the album.

The line-up of musicians will depend upon the songs themselves - certain tracks will need to be recorded as a band (presumably Mel would be an obvious candidate), but the majority will be true solo recordings, with Les on guitar, vocals and keyboards.

Intriguingly, Les described one or two of the new songs as being in a similar vein to "Yesterday's Heroes", his standout song from *River Of Dreams*. He wasn't entirely happy with the rendition of "Yesterday's Heroes" on that album, saying that it needed more "oomph" - a mouth-watering prospect for the new recording!

Finally, yes, we did ask him about the family holiday! The answer is that they will be driving the family Land Rover Discovery down to Chamonix in France for some mountain biking, as they are all "seriously into road and mountain biking"! From there it's on to Switzerland for the World Mountain Biking Championships. Apparently it's great fun as well as keeping you fit, but I think that we'll just take his word for it!

In any event, all that mountain air and exercise should leave him refreshed and full of energy for the album, so your patience will be rewarded before too long...

Nexus T-Shirts

Better late than never, we've finally managed to lay our hands on a small supply of T-shirts from the Spring 1999 *Nexus* tour of Germany and Switzerland.



The T-shirts are navy blue with the *Nexus* CD design printed in colour on the front and the tour dates on the back. We have a very limited supply in sizes large and extra-large, priced at £11.00 UK, £12.00 for the rest of Europe and £13.00 elsewhere. This offer is strictly limited to one per member. Please contact us first to reserve one, and state whether either size would be acceptable.



BJH Watches



The BJH watches based on the *XII* cover design went on sale in June, and were so successful that a second batch had to be made in July! The watches are still available from the club, priced at £15.00 UK, £16.00 in other European countries and £17.00 for the rest of the world. Special thanks again to Inny Kuhlmann for all her hard work.

Record Buyer BJH Article

The August 2000 issue of *Record Buyer and Music Collector* magazine included a very positive article on BJH, complete with glowing comments about the fan club! The writer was unnamed, but the magazine's Managing Editor is Michael Heatley, known to be a BJH fan. Thanks to Mike Adams for pointing us in the right direction.

The Beat Doesn't Go On: CDs Deleted

Beat Goes On have informed us that both of their two-on-one BJH CDs (*BJH/Once Again* and *Other Short Stories/Baby James Harvest*) have been deleted. EMI declined an application to extend the licensing period after the original license expired. The U.S. versions of these discs on One Way Records are already out of print, so, for the first time in many years, some original BJH studio albums are unavailable in any form. Swallowtail has already sold out completely of the *Barclay James Harvest/Once Again* disc, but we have enough copies of *Other Short Stories/Baby James Harvest* to keep us going for quite a while. Once they are gone, though, that's it.

We are endeavouring to track down any remaining supplies of the first CD (all help gratefully received) and there is one ray of hope - apparently, the reason given to BGO for refusing to extend their license was that EMI had "marketing plans". If we find out what those plans are, we'll let you know.

Pete Noons: An Apology

No, that's not us casting aspersions about a valued club member, but our way of making amends for a cock-up in the last issue. Pete wrote the excellent "Forever Yesterday - The Highland Clearances" article in NL49, but owing to my incompetence at typesetting and proof reading, his name disappeared from the end of the piece. Sorry, Pete!

Fanx Ta'Ra

We were shocked and deeply saddened to hear of the death of singer Paul Young on July 13th from a suspected heart attack. Not to be confused with his namesake who had a number of hits in the 1980s, Young was lead vocalist with the excellent Sad Café and, more recently, Mike And The Mechanics. Stalwarts of the Manchester music scene, Sad Café shared studios, producers and management with BJH at various times in the late seventies and eighties. Another connection was David Rohl's *Eye Of Wendor* album, where Paul sang "Silesandre". A great showman who will be sadly missed...

...other short stories...

... "controversial" broadcaster and columnist **Jeremy Clarkson** had a pop at seventies rock in general and BJH in particular in *The Sunday Times* (July 2nd). It could have been a lot worse for BJH's credibility - he could have said that he liked them...

... talking of credibility, **John Peel** was recently interviewed on radio about rock festivals, and said that the best he'd ever been to was Weeley, particularly BJH on stage with the orchestra...

... thanks to **Mike Zimmermann** for details of a couple more Various Artists collections with BJH songs: *The Power Of Love - Soul To Soul* (Time Life TL629/22, 1977) included "Hymn", whilst *Rock Festival* (Universal Insight 564 498/9 2) has "Rock 'N' Roll Star"...

Archive:

FRIENDS OF BARCLAY JAMES HARVEST

"NEWSLETTER" APRIL 1977

Firstly, let me say, "welcome to the Club!" I hope you'll find that it's been worth your while to join and I will endeavour to give the best possible service. One way in which you can help me to do this is to offer comment and criticism. I will always be pleased to receive your ideas about what you would like to see and what you don't like.

As you can imagine, things are still in a bit of turmoil at my end, but as soon as I can put everything into order, I hope to work on the following ideas:-

- a) Obtaining items for sale, such as T-Shirts, patches, posters, stickers etc.
- b) I hope to carry out a series of "free draws" for any items of interest that come my way.
- c) More tentatively, when tour time comes around again, it may be possible to offer a few free tickets to your local gigs, for which the recipients would also be selected on a random basis.

Anyway, remember to let me have your ideas!

I will also be able to continue to answer particular enquiries you may have about the band, which are not covered in the biography. If you do write, please enclose a stamped addressed envelope, as unfortunately, the membership fee won't stretch to extra postage!

For those of you who are interested, I can also obtain a full list of the band's equipment.

Before I get down to telling you what the band are up to lately, I'd like to make it clear that the information I give is as accurate as possible when it leaves me. Plans are changed often and rapidly and because I want to let you know the news before it becomes history (!), I sometimes have to work with vague plans. Of course, I will update the information whenever possible.

SINCE NOVEMBER

"I expect most of you will have heard about John's unfortunate illness which caused the cancellation of the European Tour in December. Anyway, you'll be pleased to hear that he is now fit and well.

the first ever FOBH newsletter

After Christmas there was a lull in group activity whilst songs were written for the new album.

Also at this time, Mel and Woolly spent a week at the Manor recording studios supervising the mixing of the 'live' album for America.

The live single "Rock 'n' Roll Star" backed with "Medicine Man" was released and given a fair amount of exposure on national and local radio stations, as well as "The Old Grey Whistle Test" and, (believe it or not) "Top Of The Pops". It just edged it's way into the Top 50 at Number 49.

WHAT'S HAPPENING NOW?

The next album is currently being made at Strawberry Studios in Stockport on a 24 track machine. So far, we are still working on the backing tracks which usually consist of guitar, bass and drums and occasionally, a keyboard. On some of these tracks we have done the preliminary instrument overdubs (i.e.: additional instruments laid on top of the basic tracks), but these are not necessarily the final additions, but are used as arrangement guides. As yet, there are only rough vocals.

The working titles of some of the tracks are:

"You're Taking Me So Much Higher" - Les, which is a slow, electronic-sounding number.

"Sea of Tranquility" - Woolly. This is a song with a quiet beginning which goes 'bang' in the middle.

"Poor Man's Moody Blues" - John, which is self-explanatory.

We still haven't 'discovered' the next single amongst the songs, but it's still early days".

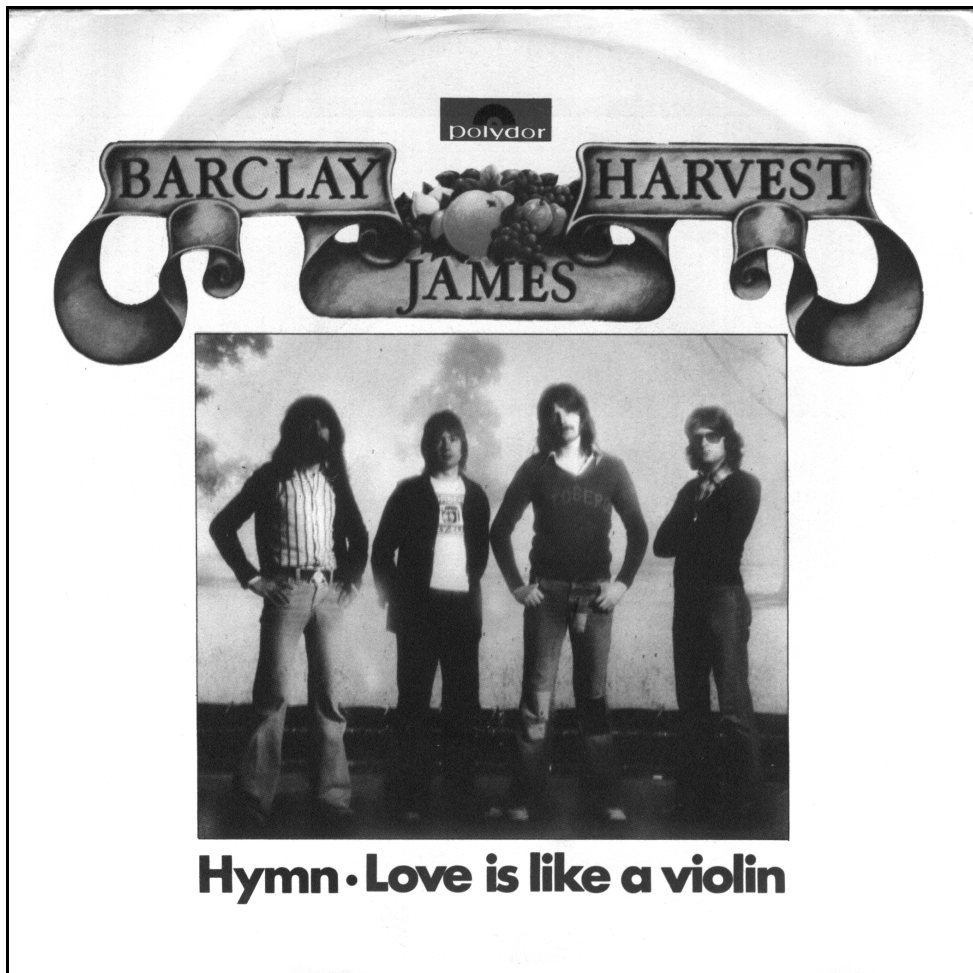
In previous years, the band has worked on the alternating system of album-tour-album-tour etc., but this year they will probably change that and perhaps record another album directly after this one, although some breathing space will be necessary. Therefore, as yet I have no news of tours but will keep you informed.

That appears to be all for now. Don't forget that your ideas and questions are always welcome. That's what I'm here for!!!

Regards,

JILL

The Singles Collection



Italian picture sleeve for the 1977 "Hymn" single (Polydor 2058 970)

Reviews



English translation:-

Even twenty years after their memorable concert at the Berlin Reichstag, Barclay James Harvest's stock is still high. John Lees and his old friend Woolly Wolstenholme build a bridge between their own past and the present on their new live album. The fifteen songs of *Revival - Live 1999* were recorded on the *Nexus* tour in Switzerland and Germany. The repertoire was compiled through the eyes of Lees, who has found a congenial mixture of old and new material. A must for all fans of art rock. BJH will be on tour again in May and June.

aktiv Musikmagazin, April 2000

[Thanks to Mike Zimmermann]

under the influence

*In NL47 we looked at some of the music and artists which influenced the way in which BJH's music developed, but what of those musicians who were, in turn, influenced by Barclay James Harvest? Evidence is not always easy to come by, as the media's disdain for the band is a powerful incentive for other artists **not** to quote them as a guiding light! In spite of that, some have been prepared to nail their colours to the mast, and here is a selection:-*

FISH/MARILLION

We're indebted to Internet mailing list member Grant Mason for the following recollection:-

"Fish was a neighbour of mine when I was young, and both he and his sister Laura would invite me over from time to time and we'd go up to his attic for some serious music appreciation. They had collected a vast amount of vinyl over the years, and amongst this was BJH. I saw the cover of *Gone To Earth* at Fish's place. He played me some of the album and I was hooked. I borrowed as many of his BJH albums to listen to after that, along with many of his Camel and Yes collection (along with other long-forgotten albums by Bad Company and other bands). As well as the albums, I also vividly remember being very impressed by an *Eyes Of The Universe* poster on the wall in the attic."

Matthias Oeschger also pointed out that "Some more evidence of Fish liking BJH can be found in the sleeve notes for the *Songs From The Mirror* remaster CD:

All my mates got into cars and girls. I was up in my attic hideaway dissecting Yes and Floyd lyrics, grooving to Wishbone Ash, Barclay James Harvest or the Faces, banging away to the Who or Deep Purple and generally losing touch with the opposite sex!!"

EURYTHMICS

Not the most obvious connection here between the music of our favourite classic rock band and the eighties pop band behind hits like "Sweet Dreams (Are Made Of This)" and "Love Is A Stranger". However, writer and guitarist Dave Stewart is on record as saying that BJH were favourites of his. This makes more sense when you look at Stewart's pre-Eurythmics CV, with new wave popsters The Tourists and, even further back, with seventies melodic pop/rock outfit Longdancer.

CUTTING CREW

English/Canadian band best known for "(I Just) Died In Your Arms Tonight", a U.S. #1 and Top 5 hit in most European countries, Cutting Crew also had a minor hit with "One For The Mockingbird" Songwriter Nick van Eede has said in an interview that it is indeed a tribute to a well-known song by Oldham's finest. The melody includes variations on themes from "Mockingbird", whilst the lyrics describe how "the band, they played one more song, one for the mockingbird..."

THE ENID

Given that Enid frontman Robert John Godfrey claimed in court to have co-written a number of early BJH songs and to have been badly treated by the band, you would hardly expect him to quote a member of the band as a major musical influence - there it is, though, on the sleeve of Robert's 1974 solo album, *Fall Of Hyperion*: 'My warmest appreciation goes to "Woolly Wolstenholme" of Barclay James Harvest. He has been my musical confessor and an endless source of inspiration'.

under the influence

FRANÇOISE HARDY

It's probably stretching a point to claim that BJH were a major musical influence on French chanteuse Françoise Hardy, as she was making hit singles when they were still at school. However, she did like Les's "Waiting For The Right Time" enough to be inspired to write French lyrics for it and issue it as a single and title track of her 1988 album, *Décalages*.

A newspaper clipping from December 1971 claimed that Hardy was recording "Galadriel" as a single for release in January 1972, but the single proved suspiciously hard to track down. We contacted Warren Gilbert, who runs the official Françoise Hardy web site, who wrote to Françoise herself, and this was her reply -

'I have never heard of the song "Galadriel", and the only Barclay James Harvest's song I have ever listened to is "Waiting For The Right Time". (I am not too happy with my adaptation).'

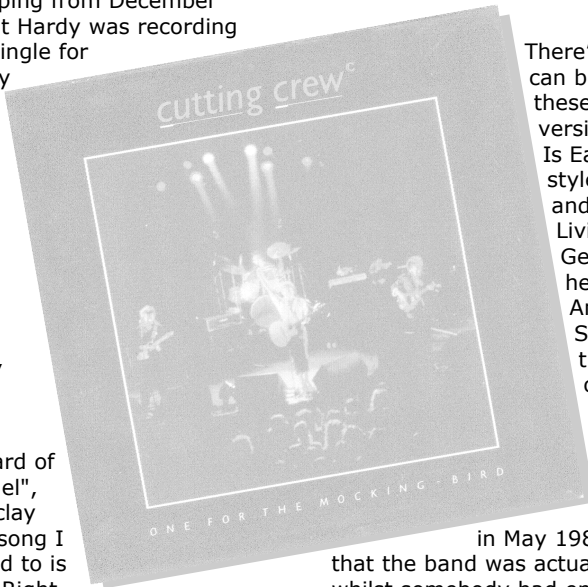
It seems, then, that if there was ever any intention of her recording the song, she wasn't aware of it, and it never happened.

THE FLYING CIRCUS

We've not been able to discover much about this Australian band, except for the fact that they had an Australian

number 5 hit with a song called "Hayride", the B-side of which was BJH's "Early Morning". How they came to know the song is a bit of a mystery, but the fact that they recorded an album for the Harvest label may have something to do with it. In any event, the hit single would have given BJH a few much-needed royalties early on in their career.

SCOTCH/ANDY ANDRES



There's not a lot which can be said about these appalling cover versions, of "Loving Is Easy" in a disco stylee by Scotch, and "Life Is For Living" sung in German as "Leben heißt Lieben" by Andy Andres. The Scotch track, like the Flying Circus one, was the B-side of a hit single ("Take Me Up"), which made the German Top 20

in May 1985. We believe that the band was actually Italian, and whilst somebody had enough taste to cover the song in the first place, BJH's talent did not, regrettably, rub off on the performers. Believed to be the only record which John Lees has ever refused to autograph! Likewise, the Andy Andres cover is not a patch on the original, and Les was amused but not impressed! Mercifully it wasn't a hit...

OK, that's all that we've been able to dig up, but if you know of any other megastars with BJH records hidden in their attics, let us know!

Feedback

Lives On-Line

Given that the majority of feedback which we receive now comes via e-mail, we thought that it might be interesting for those without access to the Internet to "eavesdrop" on the free BJH discussion group. The group recently topped 200 current members, most of whom also belong to the fan club, and any BJH-related topic is open to discussion, comment and questions. What follows is an edited selection of some postings to the list from June and July.

Track Of The Week

Ladies and Gentlemen,
It is with great delight (and Keith's blessing) that I present to you the first (of many I hope) Track of the Week. The idea is to focus our attentions a while on a particular song of our heroes. Hopefully, I will post a new track every week or two - depending on response I volunteered Keith to suggest the first track - and he has chosen "May Day" (from Octoberon) So it's over to you...

Tim Beckwith

Good idea this Tim, here goes;
"May Day" is from my favourite BJH period, they were at there most inventive and progressive at this point in their career. I see this as a dark song about the future , my take on it is this, the UK has been nuked by old USSR (this was cold war time remember) England is now a "rock", ruled by the Rusky's, questions like " is it night or day "? suggest nuclear war, also the fact that the Island is " sinking in the sand" He also cant see the bright side of the moon!

Kev Walker

John's Orwellian masterpiece from Octoberon, an excellent choice of song to kick off what could be a fascinating new series of debates. Lyrically it has

always made me picture Winston Smith as he wanders through the streets at the end of 1984, a broken man who recognises his loss without any answer to it. There is certainly an obvious connection with some of the images to the Soviet Union (the title is the obvious one), but it would be simplistic to see this as just an anti-Communist song. John's roots are deeply working class, he identifies with the day to day struggle of ordinary people, not to achieve political domination, but to live a decent life.

Yes in some senses it is about mental health, don't we all treat those who are so totally different - especially if "extremely old fashioned" - as being a little bit "loony". And there are certainly very heavy digs about totalitarian intolerance. The "state is going to pay your doctor's fee" is a clear reference to the treatment of Soviet dissidents as being insane. Most of all though this song is about loss. John is grieving for the loss of the "land he grew up in". That sad melancholic approach has stimulated John to some of his greatest efforts and this ranks right up there with Starbright, R.O.D. and Guitar Blues. At the end of the day whatever it is about, just stick on your headphones and enjoy it. Mid 70's music didn't come any better.

Pete Noons

Feedback

What a wonderful start with "May Day"
This week's song is suggested by the
Scotts (Dominic, Caroline and Kids) -
one of Woolly's - "Ursula (The Swansea
Song)".

Tim Beckwith

I've been a bit critical of some of
Woolly's compositions on the list before
now but "Ursula" is a great song, simple
and effective. The slightly embellished
three-chord arrangement in 'A' is fairly
typical of a lot of songs from that era.
The use of bongos instead of drums
suits the song really well and
contributes to the generally laid-back
feel. Question : why is it (The Swansea
Song)? Was Woolly looking out over
Swansea bay when he wrote the lyrics?
When 'she walks along the seashore' is
she walking along the Mumbles Mile?
Who knows. Anyway a nice Mellotron
moment from one of the classics.
Cheers.

Andy Long

I spoke to Woolly yesterday, and the
answer is that Ursula was a real
person, an early girlfriend of his who
lived in Saddleworth and was a
friend of Olwen, who later married John
(it's a small world up there!).
Ursula then went off to college in
Swansea, hence the title.

Keith Domone

Greetings! Another week, and another
song Thanks to everyone for their
responses and suggestions. This weeks
is from our Claire Powell (for it is she)
and is 'Spirit On The Water' by our Les
(for it is he) from the *Gone To Earth*
album.

Tim Beckwith

I like "Spirit on the Water". There is
more ambiguity in the lyrics. Personally,
I think it's more "Jesus" rock like BJH
were so noted for. "A sacrifice for the

coat he's wearing" smacks of scripture.
But who knows? It's true I'm not big on
that "Beach Boys" bit at the fadeout.
But I love Les' vocals (much superior to
John Lodge) and the very nice keyboard
arrangements by Woolly which elevate
this one far above mere "pop". As for
the Beach Boys thing, well it is called
"Spirit on the Water", so surf's up, I
reckon! "We carry the burden upon our
shoulder" could very well mean a SURF
BOARD. "Don't you care about the world
you're in"? could refer to the laid back
"party life" mentality of the beach bum
community as a whole. Yeah, it could
well be a tongue in cheek sendup
masking as one of them BJH "spiritual"
songs. Nice work. Great album. You just
can't pin these guys down to any one
thing. A song like this would be totally
beyond the Moodies. I've gotta admit
Les Holroyd has written and sang some
tremendous stuff.

Travis Gerbig

What I think Les is writing about is the
senseless culling of baby seals ("colour
him red upon the snow"), for the greed
of people who want fur coats to wear
("A sacrifice for the coat he's wearing, a
'paradise' for the lady who dares").
Lines like "we carry their lives in the
palm of our hands" refers to the power
we have over animals, and the way in
which we sometimes exploit them. His
plea "don't you care about the world
you're in - or don't you understand"
suggests that there are people who
think only of themselves and not about
the balance of nature and the beauty of
creatures which should not be killed just
to satisfy someone's need for a warm
coat. Well, I am just interpreting what I
think Les is saying here. A very
beautiful melody, and I think the song
works well, and it isn't until you listen
carefully to the words that you realise
the beauty of the melody hides a very
sad and unpleasant subject.

Janet Iles



BARCLAY JAMES HARVEST

Polydor

10/86

Marketplace

To advertise here for free, just send your wording to us at the usual address. All advertisements will also be included on the BJH Web Site unless we are instructed otherwise. The closing date for advertisements for NL51 is October 20th.

I WANT TO BUY (I will pay a very, very good price!!!) a **Platinum, Gold** or **Silver Disc** from Barclay James Harvest. I also have to sell or swap the LP *Gone To Earth* from Portugal.

If you are interested in live photos from different groups from A to Z, please tell me your favourite artists and I will help you. Contact:-

Mr GILLE Olivier
22/2 Bd Galliéni
89000 Auxerre
FRANCE

Tel: 00.33.3.86.46.74.29
e-mail: gilobjh@wanadoo.fr

All letters answered. Thanks in advance.

WANTED: original BJH videos. Alternatively, looking for somebody who is willing to copy any BJH videos for me. Please contact:

Bruno Ruiz
Töpfermarkt 1
37296 Ringgau / Renda
GERMANY
Tel. 00 49 5659 925027

WANTED: CD single of "Stand Up".
Please write to:

Sonja Schöpfer
Spitalstr. 31 (45)
CH-8952 Schlieren
SWITZERLAND

SALE/SWAP: large collection of BJH and Moody Blues items. Write for full list to:

Stewart Renwick
16 Sunart Gardens
Bishopbriggs
Glasgow
G64 1HW

WANTED: CDs of *The Best Of BJH, Volume 3* and *Mockingbird - The Early Years*. I can swap for other BJH items or pay in cash. Please write to:

Andreas Burkel
Syker Straße 114
28816 Stuhr
GERMANY

HELLO! Swedish fan would appreciate it if every club member could send him a picture postcard from their own home town. Please send them to:

Christer Malmberg
Carlsrovägen 1B
54152 Skövde
SWEDEN

Marketplace

INTERESTING ITEMS to sell or swap:

7"

- Hymn/Love Is Like A Violin (unique Italian PC)
- Life Is For Living (Spain)
- Just A Day Away (Spain)
- Loving Is Easy (Germany)
- Love On The Line (Germany)
- Loving Is Easy (blue vinyl)
- Victims (shaped picture disc)

12"

- Welcome To The Show (Germany)

CD

- Who Do We Think We Are (promo)

LP

- Early Morning Onwards (lilac sleeve)
- Collection (Belgium)
- Gone To Earth (New Zealand)
- Circulo de Cambios (Argentinian Ring Of Changes, promo)
- Time Honoured Ghosts (UK with gold promo stamp)
- Mocking Bird - The Early Years (German)
- Glasnost (German)

I'll trade for cost. Looking forward to helping other club members. Contact:

Andreas Gab
Hallplatz 2
66482 Zweibrücken
GERMANY

PEN PALS SOUGHT, especially female members in the UK and/or the U.S. Please write to:

Steve Finan
2062 62nd Street
Brooklyn
NY 11204
U.S.A.

WANTED:

1. Tour programme for the *Turn Of The Tide* Tour
 2. English promo CD with 4 songs from *Welcome To The Show*
 3. Maxi CD John L. Guitar (German)
 4. Maxi CD Panic
 5. Maxi CD Cheap The Bullet
 6. Stand Up with Alone, Life, Poor Man's as Maxi CD
- I have a promo *River Of Dreams* (with all songs) to swap. Alternatively I can pay for these or other items. Contact:

Uwe Strubbe
Dalandweg 31A
12167 Berlin
GERMANY

Coming Soon...

The next issue of NL will include the latest news on the *BJH Through The Eyes Of John Lees* tour and the forthcoming Les Holroyd solo album, plus a bibliography of selected books and periodicals which include articles about BJH.

NL51 will be available at the end of November, and the closing date for contributions, advertisements etc. is October 20th.

