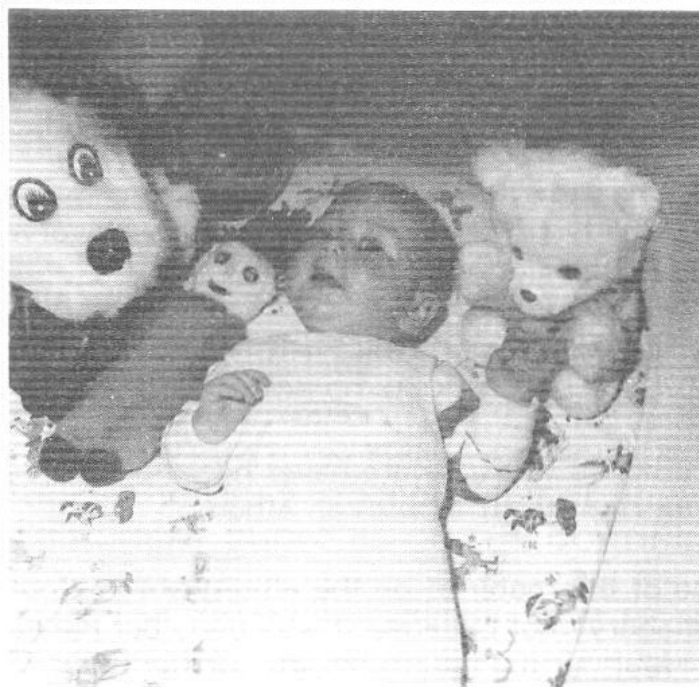

Dear Friend:

I thought our BABY JAMES HARVEST deserved pride of place on the cover of this issue and I'm sure you'll agree with me. May I present the latest addition to our company ... Esther Jane Lees born 28th July 1980 and weighing in at 6lbs 14ozs. Esther is quite a jet setter already - attended the Berlin concert! Reports have it that she thoroughly enjoyed herself too.

The top photo shows John & Esther at 4 weeks (Olwen makes a point of stressing that it's Esther who's 4 weeks!!!) and the bottom one shows her at 16 weeks. Isn't she bonny???



BJH FORTHCOMING PLANS & ACTIVITIES

The boys are currently still working on their new album although I have no further details as yet, except of course to say it's bound to be a good 'un!

David Walker and Lindsay Brown are currently flying round the world fixing up a BJH World Tour which it is hoped will take in Japan, Australia, the USA and Europe (including Britain). I don't have any dates at present but a good idea would be to send me a stamped self-addressed envelope marked in the top left hand corner 'TOUR DATES' and if they come in between newsletters I can let you have full details quickly.

LIVE TAPES has just gone gold in Germany and, at the time of writing LIFE IS FOR LIVING is number 6 there and RISING FAST!

Other than this, there is no further news so I'll get right on to LES and his answers to your questions :::

1) ARE YOU PLANNING ANY MORE FULL BRITISH TOURS (IE 20/30 GIGS)?

We are planning a tour this year and obviously we would like to play as many places as possible in the UK. But it is getting increasingly difficult to find the right kind of venues in which our music, lights, effects, etc can come across properly to the public. Having said that, I am sure that we will play in most of the major cities in our next British Tour, and I believe that the details will be announced to The Friends of Barclay James Harvest very soon.

2) DO YOU INTEND REMAINING A MEMBER OF BJH INDEFINITELY?

Although BJH has been around for some 13/14 years, my opinion is that "our time" is just beginning, so far as album sales and tours are concerned.

Personally - and I think that the rest of the band share this - I am really enjoying playing with BJH more than ever.

In this business, it doesn't pay to look too far into the future, but I suppose the band has quite a healthy future as far as performing goes; and I'm sure that, when that eventually finishes, we shall still be involved in some way - writing, producing and possibly directing.

3) HOW MANY SONGS ARE WRITTEN WHICH DON'T APPEAR ON ALBUMS, AND ARE THEY EVER RE-WORKED TO FORM THE BASIS OF ANOTHER SONG?

Probably 50% of the songs we write are never heard by people because the material is not quite right to fit in with an album.

For example, some of the material on the album which Woolly has recorded comes into this category, not because it was bad, but because it didn't really fit with the "feel" of the band's music at that time.

Sometimes riffs or hook-lines are saved but, personally, when I've been

writing for an LP, I immediately scrap all the old tapes when the album has been recorded.

4. HAVE YOU EVER THOUGHT OF, OR HAVE YOU ALREADY, RECORDED A SOLO ALBUM ?

I have thought of recording a solo album, and I must have had countless tracks in the past that I could have used. But, as a member of the band, I think those thoughts (for me anyway) are destructive and egotistical at this point in my career.

5. WHAT'S YOUR OWN FAVOURITE BJH TRACK ?

I don't really have any favourite track, since each particular one has its own merit. Most of my songs have a particular memory or occasion to recall.

6. ON THE FIRST TWO BJH ALBUMS, THE SINGING SEEMS TO HAVE BEEN DONE BY JOHN AND WOOLLY ALONE. IS THERE ANY REASON WHY YOU DID NOT SING THEN, OR IS IT THAT YOU DID SING AND SOUNDED LIKE THE OTHERS?

In the early days of BJH I tended to think of myself as a sort of "musical director" of the band. By that I mean that I found myself more on the arrangement side of things and doing the harmonies etc - although quite a lot of the songs were sung by me. Possibly we did all sound the same in the early days of recording, although it wasn't intentional.

7. HOW WELL DO YOU PLAY KEYBOARDS? DO YOU PLAN TO BE THE ONLY KEYBOARDS PLAYER ON STAGE WITH BJH IN THE FUTURE ?

I first learnt to play piano when I was about eight years old, before I picked up a guitar, and I can play keyboards as well as I can play guitar. Having said that I don't profess to play any instrument proficiently but I think I have a feel for certain things which, possibly some other musicians haven't got. BJH doesn't have "set instrumentation" - it will be a case of us playing whichever instrument we feel comfortable with on stage and for a particular number. I don't want to be classed as a singer, bassist, guitarist, pianist or whatever - and I think that goes for the rest of the band.

8. DO YOU MEET THE REST OF THE BAND SOCIALLY?

I meet the rest of the band quite frequently. As our social life is geared to our business, then it is natural to meet at least once a week with at least one other member of the band in some way.

9. WHEN WRITING A SONG DO THE LYRICS OR DOES THE MUSIC COME FIRST?

When I write a song, most of the time the music or riff comes first. I work on the principle of concerts. More often than not, you cannot hear the lyrics the first time you hear a song. So, initially, the music and melody are more important to me.

10. WHAT ARE YOUR THOUGHTS ON THE NUMEROUS BREAKDOWNS IN PROPOSED TOURS OF THE USA? DO YOU NOW CONSIDER USA LESS IMPORTANT AFTER RECENT SUCCESS ON THE CONTINENT?

America is a big place and, unless everything is right for an act when the tour, it can be soul-destroying. So we want to make sure that all conditions are right before we go there. This gives us more time to put our show and

business together since, for us, it would mean much more organisation than for most bands. Fortunately, we are not dependent on the American market at the moment, due to our success in Europe. But we are very aware that we have lots of fans in America who want to see us.

11. WHAT DO YOU CONSIDER THE BEST SONG, ARTISTICALLY, THAT YOU'VE WRITTEN SO FAR AND WHY?

My songs usually last about a week for me, before they get into the realms of production and recording and become totally abstract. But, as I said before, some songs have special significance and they keep their relevance to me throughout the years. I think possibly "Berlin" is one of these songs, because of what happened in August of last year, although the song was written two years earlier.

12. HAVE ANY ARTISTS OR GROUPS (APART FROM BJH) RECORDED OR PERFORMED ANY OF YOUR SONGS?

There are a number of bands who have performed our songs in the past. But I can only think of one band who has recorded one of our songs - "Early Morning" - and they had chart success with it in Australia in 1972.

13. HOW DO YOU SEE THE 80'S PROGRESSING FOR YOU PERSONALLY BOTH WITHIN THE FORMAT OF THE GROUP AND THROUGH PERSONAL ACTIVITIES?

The only ambition I have at the moment is to keep on performing to people and I never look too far into the future. I think I'm in the wrong business to do that. I have no personal ambitions because my life revolves around what I do with the band.

14. NOW THAT YOU'VE OVER A DOZEN ALBUMS UNDER YOUR BELT, DO YOU FEEL FUTURE BJH TOURS WILL SEE YOU PERFORMING LONGER CONCERTS?

In future, we would like to give at least two hour concerts. It is difficult knowing what numbers to play to people. We have quite a few to choose from and people do expect us to play their particular favourites. On the other hand, two or three hours is quite a long time to listen to one act and we don't want to get into a situation of being the most boring band on stage! We like to leave people wanting more.

15. DO YOU FEEL LET DOWN BY THE BRITISH PUBLIC?

We have never felt let down by the public - only by certain elements of the media. It must be difficult for people to respond to our music when the trade papers, in particular, usually rubbish us and it doesn't help that we are often ignored by radio and television. We aren't the only band in this situation in England and yet other bands, like us, are packing concert halls throughout Europe. So I feel that it isn't the public but the media that's at fault.

16. DO YOU FEEL THAT ROCK MEDIA AND RADIO GIVE THE BAND QUITE A ROUGH DEAL?

I think I've just answered this question.

17. PLEASE GIVE A DESCRIPTION OF YOUR MUSIC IE SYMPHONIC ROCK, CLASSIC ROCK

Our music is our music. I cannot define it. We write and arrange each song

as we see it. Some people class us as Symphonic Rock but I think this is more because of the instruments that we use than because of our songs.

18. DO YOU SEE THE MUSIC OF BJH CHANGING?

Everything changes, and, because songs are written about situations and experiences, our music will change. In addition, BJH is not limited to three or four or five people anymore; and new innovations in instruments also change recordings and concerts. So, although there are no deliberate policies to do this, I am sure that the music of Barclay James Harvest will change gradually - but only for the better, I'm sure.

I would just like to add two more things; hopefully, we can lose the image of being some sort of left-over "hippy cult" from the 1960's and early 70's. I don't think we deserve this label and it's happened because we were around at that time playing our music.

And the second thing I'd like to say is a big "THANKS" to all the members of FOBJH who have taken the trouble to write in and ask these questions. I hope that you're happy with the answers and I, personally, would like to thank every member of the FOBJH for all their support in the past.
LES.

Thanks to Les for his comprehensive answers. Please now send in your questions to MEL. I need them by April 11th please but I doubt if I'll be able to get them ready for the June issue.

AND NOW WITH A FANFARE OF TRUMPETS THE BJH TOP 5 ALBUMS

Number 1 ... Everyone Is Everybody else with 500 votes

Number 2 ... Gone To Earth with 420 votes

Number 3 ... XII with 390 votes

Number 4 ... Live Tapes with 380 votes

Number 5 ... Time Honoured Ghosts with 340 votes

Any surprises?

MEMBERS' ADS - Please send 25p to help cover printing costs.

Brian Turner of 26 Greenwood Road, Boylton, Port Talbot, West Glamorgan wants a copy of A MAJOR FANCY.

John Baille, 16 Lydiate Lane, Liverpool L25 9RZ has for sale two unplayed copies of EARLY MORNING ONWARDS at cost price (approx £3 each). If interested send no money yet. If oversubscribed names to be drawn from a hat.

Martin Ellis of Flat 2, 40 Ventnor Villas, Hove, Sussex is prepared to photocopy Newsletter No 3 (which is unavailable from FOBJH) for 50p per copy.

Christopher Johns of 38 St Davids Road Southsea Hants wants a copy of EARLY MORNING ONWARDS.

Keith Shailles, Belvedere, Shaw, Swindon, Wilts is selling A MAJOR FANCY in A1 condition. Only best offers or telephone 0793 770945.

Caren Hopkins 13 Pineway, Lees, Oldham, Lancashire would like people in her area to contact her.

EXPIRIES

March 1981

| | | | |
|------|---------------|------|--------------|
| 463 | R. Evans | 467 | K French |
| 470 | R Taylor | 492 | G Henderson |
| 993 | S Berry | 994 | N Blower |
| 997 | H Eichler | 1004 | N Pilkington |
| 1005 | S Trussell | 1007 | L Bell |
| 1008 | K Maben | 1016 | S Schrade |
| 1019 | P Bellingham | 1260 | T Hosie |
| 1261 | T Barry | 1262 | U Kunina |
| 1263 | P Myers | 1264 | M Vickers |
| 1265 | A Shorrock | 1266 | A Gallagher |
| 1267 | R Loukes | 1268 | R Hubert |
| 1269 | A Holmes | 1270 | R Colvin |
| 1271 | H Haizmann | 1271 | A Brown |
| 1273 | J Pruta | 1274 | L Cooper |
| 1275 | G Stockhausen | 1276 | M Jenkins |
| 1277 | K Herbener | 1278 | M Ludwig |
| 1279 | D Wright | 1280 | S Amos |
| 1281 | K Goodman | 1282 | J Rasmussen |
| 1283 | B Serll | 1284 | D W Wall |
| 1285 | S M Norris | 1286 | G. Houhailis |
| 1287 | A Meier | 1288 | A Cory |
| 1289 | R Anscombe | | |

These members should renew before the end of March 1981

April 1981

| | | | |
|------|-------------|------|--------------|
| 3. | J Herbert | 8 | A Taylor |
| 9 | A Eyre | 10 | D Whelpdale |
| 478 | A Saunders | 480 | A Bannon |
| 486 | A Barlow | 1023 | J Hawes |
| 1290 | P Etches | 1291 | R D Harold |
| 1292 | A Semiao | 1293 | M Greatrex |
| 1294 | E Gurney | 1296 | J Rajkoff |
| 1297 | A Bamford | 1298 | V Wainwright |
| 1299 | G Harley | 1300 | K Doyle |
| 1301 | P Damjancic | 1302 | M Sheath |
| 1303 | L Hermann | 1304 | A Dorflinger |
| 1305 | B Colognesi | 1306 | K Schmidt |

These members should renew before the end of April 1981 HOWEVER IT SHOULD BE NOTED THAT IF APRIL MEMBERS RENEW BEFORE APRIL THEY WILL EXPERIENCE DELAYS DUE TO THE FACT THAT NEW KITS ARE BEING PRODUCED

May 1981

| | | | |
|------|--------------|------|-------------|
| 15 | L Potter | 21 | R Wingfield |
| 22 | P Allen | 28 | P Southern |
| 33 | C Dixon | 490 | R Tapp |
| 504 | C Bramwich | 505 | S Curtis |
| 1031 | B Warner | 1037 | J Comish |
| 1038 | H Esenwein | 1042 | K Mahers |
| 1043 | S Marcussen | 1046 | K Young |
| 1047 | E Verstappen | 1307 | P Hecht |

1308 K Tindale
1310 D Mantirpp
1312 R Rookyard
1314 D Johnson
1316 R Aliyah
1318 T Warrington
1320 B Turner

1309 A Barcroft
1311 P Tasker
1313 S Gamble
1315 K Walsh
1317 T M Owens
1319 M Jeffrey

These members should renew before the end of May 1981 and again, the same applies regarding early renewal as for April

Fees:

UK £2.75 ... Europe £3.75 ... Elsewhere £4.75

NEW ITEMS FOR SALE

Large black and white poster. Members renewing between April 1980 and March 1981 will have automatically received this. It is now offered for general sale.

Also slightly larger than postcard photograph of BJH again used for last year's rejoiners

And FOBJH badge also used for last year's rejoiners.

We are now fully stocked up on t-shirts again ready for spring and summer.

ALL THESE ITEMS ARE LISTED ON OUR PRICE LIST.

Well that finished, we are now at the end of our newsletter. Quite full of goodies this time. I still want your t-shirt designs, covers, and ideas for merchandise so keep them coming in.

Until June
CHRISSIE

PRICE LIST (March 1981) This replaces all previous price lists

T-SHIRTS (Small medium, large unless otherwise stated)

1. CLUB (Circular BJH/Butterfly motif 2 tone blue, white shirt

UK £3.25 ... Europe £3.75 ... Elsewhere £4.75

2. XII. Silver printing 2 sides black shirt. UK £3.50 ... Europe £4.00 ...
Elsewhere £4.75

3. WINGED WOMAN. 3 colour BJH logo, white shirt. UK £3.50 ... Europe
£4.00 ... Elsewhere £4.75

30. UNIVERSE . EOU album design on black shirt (small only) UK £3.40 ...
Europe £3.80 ... Elsewhere £4.75

BADGES

4. XII UK 50p ... Europe 60p ... Elsewhere 80p

6. OCTOBERON . UK 35p ... Europe 50p ... Elsewhere 65p

21. BJH BROOCH UK £1.20 ... Europe £1.30 ... Elsewhere £1.35

31. UNIVERSE UK 75p ... Europe 80p ... Elsewhere 85p

(*) 33. FOBJH UK 40p ... Europe 50p ... Elsewhere 70p

PROGRAMMES

9. TIME HONOURED GHOSTS. UK 50p ... Europe 90p ... Elsewhere £1.65p

PIX & POSTERS

28. SOLO Each UK 30p ... Europe 40p ... Elsewhere 50p OR PACK OF 3
UK 80p ... Europe £1.10 ... Elsewhere £1.40

12. B & W CLUB POSTER UK 85p ... Europe £1.00 ... Elsewhere £1.40

14. XII POSTER/LYRICS Send 2 reply coupons of 20p

23. LYRICS POSTER UK 70p ... Europe 85p ... Elsewhere £1.20

29. SOLO POSTERS Each UK 70p ... Europe 80p ... Elsewhere £1.20 OR
SET OF 3 UK £1.80 ... Europe £2.10 ... Elsewhere £2.40

(*) 34. B & W GROUP POSTER UK 75p ... Europe £1.00 ... Elsewhere £1.40

(*) 35. POSTCARD PIC UK 15p ... Europe 25p ... Elsewhere 50p

MISCELLANY

17. PENS UK 50p ... Europe 65p ... Elsewhere 80p

18. STICKERS (Pack of 5) UK 55p ... Europe 70p ... Elsewhere 85p

19. NOTEPADS UK 55p ... Europe 70p ... Elsewhere £1.20p

25. SONG BOOKS (Gone to Earth/XII) UK £3.50p ... Europe £4.20p ...
Elsewhere £5.85p

32. EOU PATCHES UK 65p ... Europe 70p ... Elsewhere 75p

NEWSLETTERS (No's 1-16 (except no 3) UK 40p each, .. Europe 55p each
Elsewhere 60p each

Post & Packing is included in all prices *** Goods to countries outside UK will
be sent air mail *** Please allow 28 days for delivery *** Please make cheques/
postal orders/international money orders payable to FOBJH. PLEASE DON'T
ENCLOSE ANY CORRESPONDENCE/RENEWAL MONEY OR OTHER
INSTRUCTIONS WITH ORDERS. Thank you.

FOBJH PO Box 9, Stockport, Cheshire SK4 1QU, England

Newsletter no: 17

This order form should be returned to FOBJH PO Box 9 Stockport SK4 1QU

Name:

Full address (including country)

Membership No:

Please list items required and total price

----- detach here -----

Newsletter No: 17

This order form should be returned to FOBJH PO Box 9 Stockport SK4 1QU

Name

Full address (including country)

Membership no:

Please list items required and total price

STOP PRESS

Luckily, I have been able to obtain the BARCLAY JAMES HARVEST 1981 tour schedule in time for sending out with the newsletter. The schedule is as follows:

MAY 1981

| | |
|----|--------------------------|
| 11 | Liverpool Empire |
| 12 | Newcastle City Hall |
| 13 | Edinburgh Odeon |
| 15 | Manchester Apollo |
| 16 | Birmingham Odeon |
| 17 | Ipswich Gaumont |
| 18 | London Hammersmith |
| 19 | London Hammersmith |
| 21 | Bristol Coliseum |
| 22 | Southampton Gaumont |
| 23 | Leicester De Montfort |
| 28 | Hague Congressgebouw |
| 29 | Brussels Forest National |
| 30 | Genke Limburghal |
| 31 | Luxembourg |

JUNE 1981

| | |
|-------|--|
| 2 | Paris |
| 3 | Le Mans |
| 4 | Rennes |
| 5 | Quimper |
| 6 | Nante |
| 8 | Toulouse |
| 9 | Montperrier |
| 10 | Nice |
| 11 | Grenoble |
| 12 | Besancon |
| 13 | Epinard |
| 15 | Colmart |
| 16 | Metz |
| 18/23 | Italy - taking in Turin, Rome, Venice, Milan and Bologna |

It is hoped that they will do an outdoor show in Switzerland on 26 June but this has not yet been confirmed.