

Friends of
BARCLAY JAMES HARVEST
NEWSLETTER NO: 23

P.O. Box 9
STOCKPORT SK2 6RG

December, 1982



Barclay James Harvest



J. Lees.

G. Campbell 'A1

Dear Friend:

Hello, and welcome to the Christmas issue of the **FOBJH** newsletter. You'll be pleased to note that it's an action packed issue, containing loads of **BJH** goodies so, without further ado, I'll get on!

COVER DESIGNS

This month's front cover was designed by M Lynch of Coventry and the sketch of **JOHN** (additionally included to co-incide with **JOHN**'s answers to your questions) was submitted by George Campbell of Scotland. Thanks to both those members for their contributions.

A PARIS AVEC LES BARCLEEEES!

Having just returned from the Mead-Gould trip to Paris (more of that later) I'm feeling particularly tired since I ended up acting in the capacity of official courier! I can't even find my way round Manchester, let alone Paris, but all things considered, a lot of fun was had by everybody! And I could make a few snide remarks about the poor sailors amongst you but I wont!!!

NEWS/PLANS

As I'm writing this the boys are in the middle of their Euro Tour and the response I am receiving is phenomenal! They are going down a storm.

Immediately they finish touring (Dec 3) they are back into the Frankfurt studios to resume work on the new album. From mid-December to the end of December they will be home for Christmas and thereafter return to Frankfurt to complete the album which takes us well into February.

JOHN's QUESTIONS

At long last after trailing all over Europe the answers you've been waiting for are here. Let's get on with them ...

1. How does it feel when you first arrive on stage to the cheers and applause and does it take long to relax when you are performing ?

I get a feeling of great elation. It really is wonderful to see all these people rooting for you. The second part of the question is more difficult - I think tension is often part of the performance. Of course, the adrenalin flows more slowly after the first couple of numbers but you still need it there to give you that bit of extra snap.

2. Which do you consider to be the **BJH**'s best album in the way of popular songs ?

Everytime we bring out an album, I think it's my favourite. Then we record a new LP and again I change my mind. It's something to do with conviction in our new material. But in every LP I have my favourite song.

3. Which song do you prefer performing live, and why ?

I think "Hymn" must be the one, because the audiences (especially in Germany) love it so much. You hear people calling for it throughout the set and when we play it, the whole audience will participate and lift the roof off the theatre. You can't help looking forward to playing a song that gives so much feeling.

4. When on tour do you have any favourite venues for concerts in terms of atmosphere and audience participation ?

Several. I loved playing the Royal Albert Hall - the place held such reverence for me as a child that to actually play there was a great achievement. The Wheeley Festival, our first big festival, was also magic and full of atmosphere. Then I remember in 1979 we played a festival at Loreley in Germany (you know the place where the sirens lured the sailors onto the rocks). We played in a natural amphitheatre on a warm, balmy evening at dusk and there were so many kids that they were even in the trees, like fruit. Incidentally, that was the first time that they all held up sparklers which is a German token of thanks. It was really wonderful the way the whole place lit up with them. Of course, Berlin was the apex of gigs so far as atmosphere and audience participation was concerned. It was truly magic.

5. Why did the butterfly become the BJH emblem ?

On our first LP "Barclay James Harvest", the cover had a stained glass window design and, in one corner of the window, there was a stained glass butterfly. On our next album, "Once Again", we enlarged that section and it's just developed from there. Butterflies = BJH.

6. What do you consider to be your finest song, both musically and lyrically and why ?

As of this moment, it's "How Do You Feel Now" from the "Turn of the Tide" LP. But I'm sure that this answer will change when we finish the new album we are recording - as it does with every new album.

7. Who is Philip John Ireland (Turn of the Tide) ?

My cousin, who was tragically killed on the roads in West Germany while I was recording the LP. It was a sad waste of a young and much loved person. He seemed to have a common ground with the young people who were killed in trying to make their escape from East to West Berlin.

8. Your lyrics sometimes seem like ballads, did you write poems ever. Is there any ancient lyricist, poet or author among your idols ?

Yes I did, and still do sometimes, write poems for my own pleasure. There is no particular person whom I admire but I do read a lot of poetry from all schools - Rossetti to Burns, Shakespeare to Owen - and generally I like it all, especially the early English ballads that are usually by unknown authors.

9. Does the atmosphere on stage have an influence on the character of your songs, especially on the instrumental parts ?

No, not really. I don't write a song or guitar solo thinking "that will sound good on stage". I just write my songs and if they work well, they are recorded and go into the stage act.

10. How do you communicate with Les and Mel during a concert ?

I honestly don't know. We've been together for 16 years and although it sounds strange, we always know what the other wants. Is it eye contact, body movement, the occasional word ? - who knows, but it seems to work.

11. Which part of a song first enters your mind - lyrics or music ?

I'm very much a lyrics man. I can be in the most obscure places when a "front line" will come into my head and I'll scribble it down to be worked on later. The only exception are rock and roll numbers like "Loving is Easy" when the musical riff is the important thing and the lyrics less important. I believe that writing songs is like any other art form and is an important medium of self-expression and should be treated with great respect.

12. How many hours per day do you have to practice playing guitar

I don't practice to a schedule of so many hours a day. Some days I may not pick up a guitar; other days I'll strum for 10 minutes; but other days I'll play all day. Before touring I usually do about four hours a day for four weeks just to get my fingers supple and the skin tough - otherwise it can be painful.

13. Have you ever considered recording BJH's interpretation of another band's or artist's song. Is there any particular song you think would benefit from a BJH sound ?

No, personally I haven't. BJH have such a wealth of material to draw from, when we go into the studio, that it's difficult for us to choose from all our own material. In fact, we often have to reject some excellent songs of our own. So I don't think, as a band, we've ever considered doing other people's material. But some of the members of OFBJH might remember that I did a solo cover of an Eagles' song "Best of My Love". I recorded this long before the Eagles put it out as a single and I thought it such a beautiful song that it was wasted as an album track. I'm very happy that I was proved right since it became one of the Eagles' biggest singles in America.

14. Which artists and bands of the present music scene impress you most and why ?

I like everything from Bach to the Boomtown Rats, Prokofiev to The Pretenders, Tchaikovsky to Talking Heads. In other words, I like music.

15. Are there any of your songs which you feel would benefit from being recorded by another artist or band? If so, which songs and why?

Yes, I really think that I was too personally involved with "How Do You Feel Now" to do the song justice vocally. I would like to hear someone do a cover version.

16. If you were chosen to appear on Desert Island Discs, which would be your 12 pieces of music to be washed ashore on your private island ?

White Noise	J Ferguson
Leila	Eric Clapton
Dock of the Bay	Otis Redding
Under the Boardwalk	The Drifters
Need Your Love So Bad	Fleetwood Mac
The Boxer	Simon & Garfunkel
Bridge over Troubled Waters	Simon & Garfunkel
Alright Now	Free
Once in a Lifetime	Talking Heads
Please be with Me	Eric Clapton
Take It Easy	The Eagles
The Whole (Of Forever) Changes	Love

17. How do you feel the art of writing has progressed during the time you've been professionally writing ?

Of course it's progressed - it has to with the passage of time. Lyrics are more direct these days than 16 years ago and people are allowed to say things, not just think them. However, I don't necessarily think this is a good trait. Some modern lyrics tell you the whole story in the first verse and explain the entire reason for the song in the lyric. I still like a bit of the unknown ... "Is he really saying that" ... a little of the "look but don't touch" syndrome. Musically, I don't think we've progressed too much. Of course, it's true that with the aid of electronics we've created some great new sounds. But a good melody and phrase are still a good melody and phrase. And that's the reason why many of today's songs are re-hashes of "oldies" - you just can't keep a good song down.

18. Are there any ambitions professionally you have for the future either within or outside the band ?

For the band - I want us to keep on producing good music and giving good performances which people can see, hear and enjoy. But I'm going to write a musical - it's always been one of my ambitions to combine perfectly a story with music. Maybe this year I'll have time to put together all my ideas. I also want to be happy. Once you stop being happy, you may as well give up.

19. Which do you feel is the best BJH album to date and why ?

This question is much the same as question 2 and my answer is the same - I always feel the newest is the best.

20. Who or what do the decisions depend on in which towns the band will play when a tour is organised ?

We have two managers - David Walker and Lindsay Brown - who are very experienced in the music world. With the way David and Lindsay split the many duties of management, it's Lindsay particularly who co-ordinates, books and plans our tours. Since David and Lindsay are the experts, we leave these decisions up to them.

21. What happens during a sound check ?

When all the lights and equipment are set up to the satisfaction of the road crew we come along and play a couple of numbers to get the feel of the hall and make sure our stage monitors are correctly positioned. Although we check for any obvious faults in the stage set, our road crew are far too professional to have anything wrong. The sound check is really for Ian Southerington, our key sound-mixer, to get levels and balances on his master monitor, and these levels help him to mix the music during the performance - hopefully to perfection.

22. Why do you think BJH have such a good following in Germany

I don't really know why it's like that in Germany and not the UK - although we were all delighted that the Berlin album got to number 15 in the British album charts. Coming back to Germany, it's important to remember that we did put in a lot of work there before we achieved success. It certainly didn't just happen, since we worked the small clubs and supported other bands just like everyone else. For some reason, we had the right sound at the right time and that, combined with the excellent work of our German promoters, Mama Concerts, and Lindsay Brown helped to produce our success in Germany.

Finally, I would just like to take this opportunity of thanking all the members of **FOBJH** for their loyal support through the years. Believe me, all three of us, and our management team, are very grateful to you all.

Love and best wishes from **Olwen, Esther and myself**

Thanks to **JOHN** for spending so much time giving such comprehensive answers - they were well worth the wait, don't you think ??

CROSSWORD SOLUTION

Across

1. Octoberon
6. Lady
7. Dr
8. Death
9. Violin
10. Water
15. Ursula
17. Little
19. Jesus
20. Said
21. Scream
22. Live
23. Night
30. Over You
31. Capricorn

Down

2. Cure
3. Breathless
4. Ball
5. Hymn
9. Vietnam
12. Mu
13. Blade
14. Classic
16. SOSF
18. Mine
19. John
24. ITSA
25. Hair
26. Avon
27. EMO
28. Sea
29. Sun

THE OFFICIAL FOBJH TOP 20

I feel we need a fanfare of trumpets or such like to announce the results - so eager have you been to have them. Well, here goes, any surprises or is it just as you imagined it would be ???

1. Hymn
2. Mockingbird
3. Poor Man's Moody Blues
4. Child of the Universe
5. Berlin
6. Suicide
7. Medicine Man
8. Play to the World
9. In Memory of the Martyrs
10. Loving is Easy
11. Nova Lepidoptera
12. For No-One
13. Life is for Living
14. The World Goes On
15. One Night
16. After the Day
17. Echoes & Shadows
18. She Said
19. Galadriel
20. Summer Soldier.

Amongst the ideas sent in response to my request in the September newsletter, several of you said you would like to see a top 20 album chart too. Also since you had such difficulty in choosing 5 tracks only, you would like to vote for 20. I'll bear this in mind next year. Another idea that came in from a **FOBJH** was a general **FOBJH** poll on the lines of the music press ones - ie not just on **BJH**. At first I thought it wasn't a good idea as this is **FOBJH** but then I considered that it would show the general tastes of members and might unite you even further (if that's possible) so that's what we'll do. I'll list below the categories and you vote by Friday 11 February 1983 - results to be published in the March newsletter.

CATEGORIES:

1. Fave BJH album
2. Fave BJH album track
3. Best album (excluding BJH)
4. Best single (excluding BJH)
5. Best live act
6. Best new band
7. Best vocalist
8. Best band (excluding BJH)
9. Best guitarist
10. Best bassist
11. Best keyboard player
12. Best drummer

Still on the subject of your ideas/criticism, quite a few good ideas came to light. A pen friend circle between here and Europe (which would undoubtedly help in obtaining records, etc). More personal info on BJH - families, football teams supported, record collections etc etc. Letters from BJH to FOBJH after a tour letting us know how they felt about it and any unusual incidents etc. A photo album of all FOBJH's. On the other side of the coin I'm pleased to say there was very little criticism of FOBJH. Most of you felt you were getting a good service - a few gripes about the length of time it takes me to reply to letters (I admit it! and will try to do better in future). Some of you wanted more frequent newsletters and all of you want the return of the song lyrics. OK you've got it - I promise faithfully that starting with the March 1983 newsletter I'll resume printing song lyrics. There just isn't any space in this issue. One complaint which I do take very seriously is that some of you feel you don't get your news far ahead enough of the press. This is a complicated procedure and not something I can readily rectify. You see by the time I've typed up a newsletter, had it in the printers, put it together, parcelled it up and posted it, the press invariably have the news. There really is nothing I can do about that - sorry. However giving you the chance to air your opinions was no bad thing from my point of view it gave me new ideas, put me right on a few wrongs and was altogether a healthy exercise which I will repeat next year.

To be fair though, I must have my go. I love working for and with you and BJH there's no doubt about that but you really must try and be a little more considerate. What I am trying clumsily to say is **please be more careful and thorough when you send things in.** For instance there is still a large number of you who just send a cheque - nothing else - no name, address, number or anything - then you complain when you don't hear from me. It is very important that you quote your membership number on everything - it makes life easier and faster. But, if that's all I have to moan about then we're not doing too badly are we?

FOBJH MAKES 2000.

Yes we've done it, enrolled our 2000th member. A big welcome to him - **DOUG PAVER** -

FOBJH GRAND RAFFLE RESULTS

- 1st Prizes (2)** - S Watson of Rochdale and M Melnyk of St Albans. Both will receive superb press presentations of the Berlin album
- 2nd Prize** - H Bak of Bradford will receive a complete set of FOBJH posters
- 3rd prize** - B Thielig of Germany will receive a set of copy press cuttings from the Berlin album
- 4th prize** - J Fox of Orpington will receive various original BJH photo's
- 5th prize** - S McGlynn of Reading will receive XII press kit
- 6th prize (5)** - J Miller (Spalding) ... H Richards (Edinburgh) ... D Stanford (Stockport) ... P McLuskey (Hamilton) ... D. Burnett (Sweden) will each receive a Berlin album press release.

We had a very good response and will hold another grand raffle late next year.

FOBJH CONVENTION

Steve Heap (there, I've mentioned him again!] who suggested the idea will be sad (as am I) to note that we only received a total of 43 votes. That means that, obviously, we cannot investigate the possibility any further but I am prepared to put up the idea again in the middle of next year and see if it works.

REJOINERS

December - These members should renew before the end of December 1982

367	David Smy	387	Michael Geske
390	Andrew Bunn	391	Paul Blincowe
872	M Nice	874	P Theocharides
875	S Bamford	888	A Harrington
904	M Smith	907	N R Godfrey
1118	B Gallagher	1382	P Einchcomb
1389	J Pickup	1676	M Challinor
1677	G Griffiths	1678	P Hazzard
1679	I Tushingham	1680	D Walsh
1681	S Banford	1682	G Napier
1683	R Hill		

January - These members should renew before the end of January 1983

411	A Reid	413	C Hurrell
416	S Simpson	422	P Smith
427	S Dean	437	C Naylor
922	E Robinson	941	K Broich
947	G Bauer	967	P Timms
1125	M Jamieson	1128	S Clarke
1151	K Sterry	1155	K Bishop
1167	K Strike	1170	F Cartmel
1180	R Wasilewski	1183	K Allen
1185	J. Alexander	1394	S Thauvin
1684	J Povlo	1685	S Poiner
1686	D Roycroft	1687	T Mapstone
1688	C Holmes	1689	R Lilloco
1690	I Harker	1691	G Percival
1692	F Griffin	1693	J King
1694	S Russell	1695	M Skellon
1696	K Mabbitt	1697	M Blood
1698	V Gorman	1699	P Green
1700	C Etherington	1702	J Burgess
1703	S Letts	1704	J H Smitt
1705	Glyn Banks	1706	P Hagen
1707	D Bolton	1708	P Burridge

February - These members should renew before the end of February 1983

450	R Dix	981	R Harris
989	A Cole	1195	D McDermott
1196	T Myhill	1198	M Norman
1201	E Sobecki	1202	J Shearer
1215	T Gregory	1218	M Stickells
1219	A Rumble	1234	D Stanford
1236	P Roberts	1240	R Haylor
1241	K Widdall	1253	R Murphy

1402 D Walker
1404 S Bowden
1709 B McGee
1711 M de Nett
1713 R Stapleford
1715 N Griffiths

1403 J Bolton
1407 W G S Cunningham
1710 P Vienne
1712 J Johnson
1714 K Durrenberger
1716 F McDonald

Fees: UK ... £3.00 - Europe ... £4.00 - Elsewhere ... £5.00

SWEATSHIRT TIME IS HERE AGAIN!

As older members of **FOBJH** will realise, December is the time when we have our sweatshirt offer. This year the sweatshirts are wine in colour with a small, discreet, white circular motif on the left "breast". Prices: **UK - £8.50 ... Europe - £9.50 ... Elsewhere £10.50.**

Prices include postage and packing and here's what to do. To order your sweatshirt(s) you should use the special order form enclosed with the newsletter. Please order as soon as possible but the closing date is **31st January 1983**. I will then order all the required sweatshirts and you should receive yours in February. As sweatshirts are an expensive item to stock I have to have your money first and only order specific numbers. **Sizes: small (s) medium (m) large (l)**

Since I am fast running out of space I'll have to postpone details of our weekend in Paris until March - sorry but I'll need Securicor to deliver these newsletters if I carry on much longer. Also postponed to next issue are the **FOBJH** ad's

Again, in an effort to save space, I'm running a sort of hot news column where small items of news will be condensed ...

BERLIN VIDEO - available in next 6/9 months - no further details *** **Berlin film & cinema showing (Europe)** - no information available *** **SOUVENIR concert tickets** -- **Paris** - My husband and I kept our tickets (which have a photo of the boys on) - the first 2 people to send sae marked Souvenir Ticket will have them (if you send in and don't get a reply - you've not been lucky).

ORIGIN OF NAME BARCLAY JAMES HARVEST

This has been covered in a very early newsletter but as it is a question which keeps cropping up now I'll deal with it again. No-one can remember exactly (and that includes **BJH**) how the name originated but in 1973 when a Melody Maker reporter asked them, this is the story they told ...

BARCLAY - because they had aspirations to make money

JAMES - because it's as good a name as ~~any~~ ^{any}

HARVEST - because they were living on a farm in Diggle, Oldham

Well that must shut me up this time. I've literally got loads left to tell you but it will all have to wait until the next issue. Remember to order your sweatshirts early, let me have your Poll votes and keep writing, designing and coming up with great ideas.

On behalf of **BARCLAY JAMES HARVEST** and their management and, of course, myself can I wish you all a **VERY MERRY CHRISTMAS AND A HAPPY NEW YEAR**. Thanks for being a Friend - you're extremely valuable and important to us and please stay with us in the New Year.

Regards
CHRISIE

P.S. I've got a nice Christmas present for the first 6 people who let me have sae marked 'Berlin album'. If you don't get a reply - you haven't been lucky

PRICE LIST (December 1982). This replaces all previous lists

DESCRIPTION	PRICE UK	PRICE EUROPE	PRICE ELSEWHERE
Club T-Shirt Circular BJH motif, 2 tone blue on white shirt (S.M.L.)	£3.25	£3.75	£4.75
XII T SHIRT silver printing, 2 sides black shirt (S.M.L.)	£3.50	£3.75	£4.75
WINGED WOMAN T SHIRT 3 colour BJH logo on white shirt (S.M.L.)	£3.50	£4.00	£4.75
UNIVERSE T SHIRT EOU album design on black shirt(small only)	£3.40	£3.80	£4.75
BERLIN T-SHIRT Burgundy/blue design on white shirt (Large only)	£2.50	£3.00	£3.50
XII BADGE	.50	.60	.80
OCTOBERON BADGE	.35	.50	.65
BJH BROOCH	£1.20	£1.30	£1.35
UNIVERSE METAL BROOCH	.75	.80	.85
FOBJH BADGE	.40	.50	.70
BERLIN BADGE	.40	.50	.70
SOLO PHOTO's (each)	.30	.40	.50
Or Pack of 3	.80	£1.10	£1.40
B/w CLUB POSTER	.85	£1.00	£1.40
XII POSTER/LYRICS	.20	Send 2 international reply coupons	
LYRICS POSTER	.70	.85	£1.20
SOLO POSTERS (each)	.70	.80	£1.20
Or pack of 3	£1.80	£2.10	£2.40
SOLO POSTCARDS (For 3)	.35	.45	.55
FOBJH PENS	.50	.65	.80
BLUE/WHITE STICKERS (For 5)	.55	.70	.85
SONG BOOKS (Gone to Earth/ XII)	£3.50	£4.20	£5.85
EOU PATCHES	.55	.65	.75
B/w STICKERS (For 5)	.55	.65	.75
B/w PATCHES	.45	.55	.75

Postage & Packing included in all prices ***** Goods to countries outside UK & Europe will be sent air mail ***** Please allow 28 days for delivery ***** Please make cheques/postal orders/international money orders payable to **Friends of Barclay James Harvest** ***** Please DO NOT enclose correspondence/renewal fees, or any other instructions with orders

N.B. Only t-shirts in stock at present are XII (small) and Universe (Small). We do not anticipate re-stocking until Spring 1983

NEWSLETTER NO 23

ORDER FORM

This order form should be returned to FOBJH, P.O. Box 9, Stockport SK4 1QL

Name

Address (including country, if abroad)

Membership No:

Please list items required and total price:

SWEATSHIRT ORDER FORM 1982/83

This form should be completed and returned to FOBJH, P.O. Box 9, Stockport, Cheshire, SK2 6RG, England, together with remittance for the full amount. The closing date for ordering is January 31 1982 and you should send the full remittance with this order form.

I would like to order (state number) _____ of sweatshirts. Size(s) _____

Name

Full address: _____

Membership No: _____ Signature _____

I enclose herewith my remittance of £ _____

