

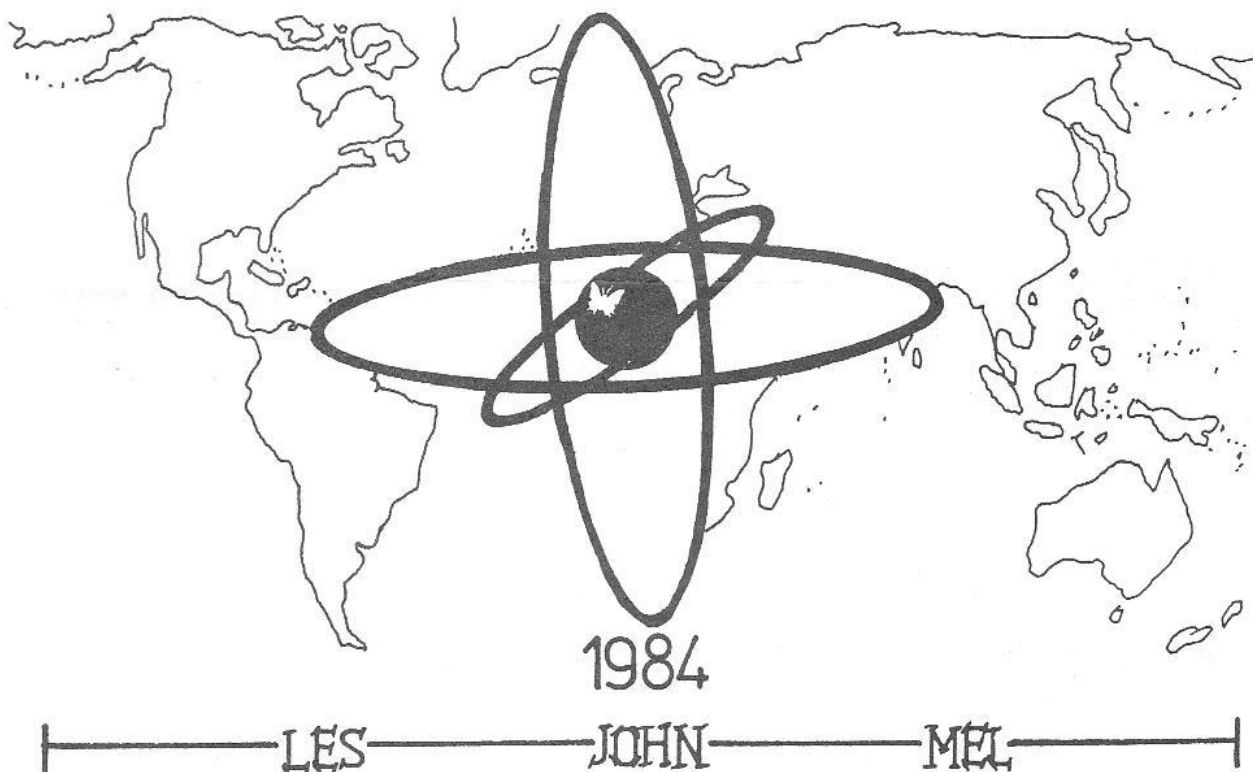
Friends of BARCLAY JAMES HARVEST

P.O. Box, 9
Stockport,
Cheshire SK2 6RG

NEWSLETTER NO : 28

MARCH 1984

Friends of BARCLAY JAMES HARVEST



Dear Friend :

How time flies! It doesn't seem a moment since I was typing up the copy for the Christmas Newsletter and here I am again rarin' to go. The boys are hard at it rehearsing for their forthcoming tour at the moment so there isn't much personal news but I can reveal the title and release dates for the new album and single ...

VICTIMS OF CIRCUMSTANCE

This is the title for both album and single. The single is to be issued on Friday 16th March in three formats - 7", 12" and picture disc. Both 7" and 12" will be in full colour picture bags.

The digitally recorded album will be released on April 6th and has again been produced by Pip Williams.

I shall look forward to hearing right away as to your feelings on the album and single.

BERLIN VIDEO

Having literally been inundated for the past months with letters from FOBJH's who are experiencing very real difficulties in getting hold of the video I have managed to come up with a solution. A shop in Stockport stocks it and is willing to send it mail order (they do not usually run a mail order service) providing they can obtain sufficient stocks. The address to write to is:

Ames Records & Tapes
20 Deanery Way
Stockport, Cheshire SK1 1NA
Telephone: 061 429 6934.

The price of the video is £24.99 PLUS POSTAGE.

BEAN CLUB DIRECTORY

This is a relatively new publication, aimed at fans of bands of all types and providing them with the official addresses of fan clubs. From time to time they feature particular clubs in detail and in the current issue they have featured us. It seems they are very impressed with the service we give, particularly the fact that we run in conjunction with management and record company, which they feel gives us solidarity. Anyone interested (Chris Hurrell who won the Frankfurt trip is mentioned in the article too) should send £5.00 for the next 3 issues to

YBA Music
York House
22 Frederick Street,
Birmingham B1 3HE

NEW NEW NEW NEW NEW
F.O.B.J.H. T-SHIRT

We now have a new club t-shirt. It's navy blue with silver F.O.B.J.H. motif across the chest. Sizes are small, medium and large and prices are as follows :-

£3.55 (UK) ... £4.00 (Europe) ... £5.65 (Elsewhere)

Remember, this price includes postage and packing and as I am expecting heavy orders on this item, please order early.

BJH GO DUTCH

Over the last several weeks I have been working closely with a Radio Station in Holland who are putting together an 8 hour Barclay James Harvest special. It is to include interviews with the band and the people working with them, music and the history of the band. It is being sold to several larger radio stations including Radio Unique and one in Belgium. The station concerned have promised to send me tapes of the entire programme and I shall, hopefully, be able to offer these as a prize in one of our forthcoming competitions/raffles.

BACK STAGE PASSES

Question: How does a fan club secretary know when touring time is here again ?

Answer: He/she receives thousands of requests for backstage passes.

STANDARD PERMITS are issued only to BJH staff and personal friends and families.

PASSES are not allowed to be issued otherwise. You see each theatre has its own rules and regulations against people wandering around backstage. So what advice can I offer you on how to meet Barclay James Harvest? All I can say is that the boys are usually very happy to have a chat with Friends after their concerts but it is not always possible. I can only suggest you enquire at the theatre on the night or wait near the stage door. Good luck!!

LILIAN FROM LEBANON

Since printing Lilian's moving letter last issue I am happy to say a considerable number of you have written to me to say how touched you were by her plight and that you will definitely be writing to her. That shows what lovely Friends you are - keep it up.

B.J.H. -
THE ROAD CREW

Continuing our series of articles on the boys' road crew, this time we feature IAN "BUCKO" BUXTON the lighting and special effects engineer. Over to Bucko ...

"I was still at college when I first saw BJH performing, possibly in 1972. I was impressed then, but even more so the next time I saw them when they were headlining a festival at Wheeley. On that occasion they had an orchestra backing them, the sound was fabulous.

Well, I went on to finish my education in textile design, not feeling cut out to be a studio designer and so I took various odd jobs until a friend invited me to do a short tour with a now defunct band called Caravan. I wasn't to be paid but the experience might help me to find more work in the music business. And so it did, my next tour was with Uriah Heep.

Following that, in 1976, I did my first tour with BJH and, being star struck (remember, I had last seen them playing before 35,000 people) I did the whole tour without actually talking to any of the band!

From then on I became more active in the business, touring with Status Quo, Joan Armatrading and others, but each year working with BJH on their annual tour.

It was in my third year with BJH that I became involved in designing their stage set which included a New York skyline and the original Saddleworth hills. The following year I was responsible for a huge fan structure (a rather dubious honour) and for the first time took over the desk operation. It was during this time that the first impression was being made in Europe. I can still recall the Beer Kellers and halls up ten flights of stairs!

Since those times BJH have come a long way and I am happily still involved. Here's hoping I shall still be involved in another ten years time.

IAN (BUCKO) BUXTON "

QUESTION TIME WITH IAN

1. How do you transport lights and gear from venue to venue without damaging them?

Generally the equipment used is made specifically for touring and is built to withstand the rigours. The trucks we use are fitted with air ride suspension which help to give it a smoother ride. However, problems do sometimes occur, in which case we rely on the competence of the crew/technicians to sort things out.

2. What sort of lights do you use ie spots or a combination of spots and others?

The standard item, typical of most touring shows, is a lamp known as a Par 64. On our last tour we had about 200 of these plus 100 effects lights. In addition, we used 4 spots, in the house they were Supertroopers and from stage Pani's.

3. How do you get power for the lights at each performance? Do you have to rely on the venue or do you have your own generators ?

Prior to any tour a list of our requirements is sent to all local promoters. Detailing our needs in electricity, dressing rooms, stage size etc. We typically use about 600 amps of which most venues have an adequate supply. However, on occasions we use generators and in fact when touring France we take one with us everywhere, because of the erratic nature of the supply there.

4. Can you give details of the winged woman neon emblem ie how did you produce the effect of the wings opening and shutting?

Basically we use three wing positions, which is the minimum number to produce the effect of movement. First an outer image of the wing is lit. Then a mid position and finally an inner position. Then back to the mid position then the outer and so on. The viewers brain does the rest. The brain translates what it sees into a flowing movement, because it decides that it what it is doing.

5. How many assistants do you have and how long does it take to assemble everything?

On the last two tours there has been a lighting crew of six men plus myself. The first man usually enters the hall at 9am and the bulk of the lighting needs to be in the air, off the stage that is, by 11.30am. It's then that they start to bring in the pa and stage gear. The rest of the day is spent attending to additional lighting on or about the stage and the special effects and focusing. We try to be finished in time for the sound check so that we can run a visual check and have a meal in time for the show. From the end of the show til we close the back doors of the truck takes about 3 hours.

6. What sort of lighting experience did you have prior to joining BJH ?

Not a lot. When I first worked with BJH which was 9 years ago, I was operating a spotlight as an apprentice. It was about three years later, having worked with a variety of bands including BJH that I had my opportunity of designing and operating a show for BJH.

7. How much say do BJH have in the selection of effects and how have their own ideas developed through the years? Having grown up with the band I credit all my ideas to BJH. Typically, when a new album is released, I listen to it constantly, making sketches of the pictures it creates in my mind. Then I confront the band and we sit down and discuss the possibilities trying to find the ideal which reflects their feelings and has visual potential. I believe the stage/lighting show has always been an extension of the music having developed through the years together.

8. Is there any idea which has been too ambitious to reproduce on stage on a BJH tour?

We have never chosen a design and not been able to achieve the desired effect. I think ideas have occurred which perhaps were technically impracticable, but for aesthetic reasons were shelved anyway. The practical limitations are never far from our minds such as stage size, trucking facilities etc. Possibly to some extent this controls our ideas. Without these limitations I would hate to imagine what we might get up to!

9. Who actually designs the light show?

I do, with help and advice from the band, the management and everybody else involved with us. It's a little like a family situation in that everybody contributes something and everybody has a pride in what they are involved with i.e. B.J.H.

10. Is there a set sequence of lights for each number performed? Do the sequences change during the course of a tour?

I usually allow about ten shows before settling down to a regular pattern. Allowing for rehearsals it usually means that we are pretty well organised from the start of a tour. However, the show continues to develop throughout the tour with variations on most nights. There is this peculiar situation of putting the lights up, seemingly identically, in different situations and getting different effects. The next tour we do, we may be using a computer control board, in theory that should enable us to create exactly the same show from night to night.

Well, thanks very much Ian for taking up so much of your valuable time answering the questions.

Due to forthcoming tour commitments and the fact that the entire BJH road show are heavily engaged in rehearsals, our articles will have to take a back seat for the next couple of issues. However, under pressure from you lot I am the next subject of question time so any questions you would like to ask me (not too personal - I'm shy) please let me have by mid-May and I'll do what I can.

FOBJH"s ADS

Paul Baker, 6 Carter Close, Caister on Sea, Great Yarmouth Norfolk is looking for any BJH music books besides the song book offered for sale here. Also he would like anyone in the Norfolk area interested in forming a band to play mainly BJH and Progressive Rock to contact him. He plays bass guitar. Tel; G Yarmouth 728394

Peter Key, 53 Greengate, Kendal, Cumbria LA9 5LT would like to buy A MAJOR FANCY? EMO and any early 12" or 7" single. Also would like someone to photocopy early newsletters. Is willing to pay good prices.

Dianne Walker, 81 Raby Road, Newton Hall, Durham DH1 5NQ wants to buy or exchange a copy of EMO.

Mike Whitehead, 1 Brookside, Meppershall, Shefford SG17 5SB says he has no trouble obtaining the Berlin Vido in his area and is happy to help anyone having difficulty.

Michaela Hoffman, Sudetenstr 19, 6252 Diez/Lahn, GERMANY IS TRYING TO OBTAIN THE YE OF THE WENDOR (Mandalaband).

C.A. Lusty, 28 Peverell Park Road, Plymouth, Devon is selling EMO, Time Honoured Tracks (Australian 12" EP £4.89 new), Poor Boys Blues/Crazy City Titles/Song for Your, Love on the Line/Alright Down Get Boogie (pic sleeve) Just a Day Away/Rock 'N' Roll ~~Skxx~~ Lady (live) Pic Sleeve. Also ProculHarems Greatest Hits, Out of this World, Moody Blues Blue World & Sitting on the Wheel 12" singles

Kai Bordemann, Kriegerstr 49, 5308 Rheinbach, Germany is selling a BJH 70 album and wants to find Life is For Living, Love on the Line, Hymn, Poor Boy Blues, Early Morning Onwards, Friend of Mine.

Steve Hibbar, 36 Carlton Green, Redhill, Surrey 24 year old would like to hear from other FOBJHs (girls especially) in his area. Also wants the following singles Early Morning/Mr Sunshine, Taking Some Time On/Iron Maiden, Mockingbird/Vanessa Simmons, Mockingbird/Galadriel, I'm Over You/Child of Man, Breathless/When the City Sleeps Rock & Roll Woman/The Joker, plus any other demo's or promo's foreign singles, eps or lps

Jan Lofstedt, Norumshojd 58, S417 45 Goteburg, Sweden wants a copy of A MAJOR FANCY. Also wants contact with other FOBJHs in Scandinavia.

Mike Pearce, 5 Adler Road Caversham Reading, Berks wants to hear from other FOBJH's in the area. Interests include Photography, music

Christine Conrozier, 9 Place des Jacobins, 69002 Lyon, France wants a penfriend. Interests are music football and tennis and she will be visiting England in April to see BJH.

REJOINERS.

The following members should rejoin before the end of March 1984
463 to 472 ...1260 to 1280 ...1717 to 1724 ...2086 to 2106.

The following members should rejoining before the end of April 1984
3 to 10 ...478 to 486 ...997 ...1295 to 1305 ...2108 to 2119

The folliwng members should renew before the end of May 1984
21 to 43 ...505 to 514 ... 1308 to 1320 ...1410 to 1494 ...

1725 to 1752 ...2120 to2127

Fees UK £4.00 ... Europe £5.00 ... Elsewhere £6.00

Well here I am again at the end of this newsletter.

Times will certainly be busy for us all over the next 3 months with the single, slbum and tour. Inevitably this will bring a large influx of new Friends to increase the size of our family.

One thing is for sure though, this typewriter and I are going to have to have a proper little chat to see if we can't form some sort of meaningful relationship. At present we definitely do not see eye to eye.

I'll leave you now with so much to enjoy.

Hope to see you soon.

Regards,

CHRISSIE

MUGSHOTS

L-R

Mike Pearce, Henryk Bak, Angelika Reichart
Tony Scruton, Elisa di Falco, Mike Melnuk

Thanks to Klaus Dieter Brandt for the cover.

