

*Where
but for
Caravan
Would
I?*



**INTERVIEW WITH
Mark Powell**



FOREWORD

When I remarked, innocently, to Ralph Cross at the gold and silver awards that I had a little more time on my hands since moving back to Scotland, little did I know that I would end up co-ordinating issue 14 of the newsletter!

It speaks volumes of Ralph's hard work, dedication and commitment to Caravan that so many editions of "Where but for..." have been published, all of which have been of a consistently high standard. On behalf of the band, the readers and all the fans,

I'd like to record formally our appreciation of Ralph's contribution to the cause Caravan.

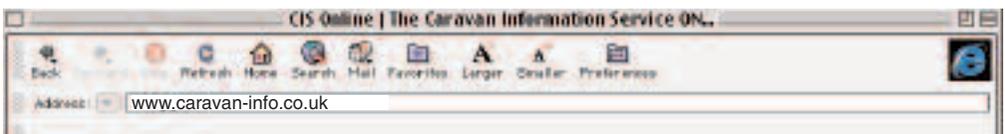
I'm happy also to reveal that Ralph will not be disappearing from the scene. He will be concentrating most of his efforts on developing his excellent Caravan website which has already achieved over 50,000 hits. And he will still retain a keen interest in and provide occasional contributions to the newsletter. Thanks Ralph.

The past few months have been a busy time for the band: the awards ceremony, festival appearances, recording and preparing for the forthcoming tour (details follow). It's also great to see such a renewed interest in the band witnessed by the excellent publicity and re-release sales figures. From the letters I have been receiving I detect a fair number of new young fans out there.

The current issue contains an interview with Mark Powell who was responsible for co-ordinating the re-release project. (Mark also tells me that, all going well, the first album and Fairfield Hall concert should be released in January 2002.) Also included are contributions by Simon and Doug on their musical influences (which I would like to follow-up with other band members in future editions), reviews of the Canterbury festival and a host of letters.

Like Ralph, I'm very grateful for the continuing and invaluable contribution of Codge and Jill Barber who put the whole thing together.

Finally a plea: we like to include in the newsletter photographs of the band, photos of old posters, ticket's etc. We are desperately short of these, so if you have any spare photographs etc which you think would be of interest, please send them to me at 20 Greenbank Loan, Edinburgh EH10 5SJ. Alternatively, for those of you who are digitally remastered, Codge would be pleased to receive contributions direct by e-mail at codge@btinternet.com *Thanks in anticipation and happy reading.*



Caravan Canterbury Sound Festival, Saturday 18 August 2001, Mount Ephraim Gardens - Martin Davenport

Line Up: Pye Hastings, Simon Bentall, Doug Boyle, Geoffrey Richardson, Richard Coughlan, Jim Leverton, *Plus* Richard Sinclair and Jan Schellas (encores)

Set List: Grubby Little Oik/Bobbing Wide, Memory Lain Hugh/Headloss, The Dog The Dog, Travelling Ways, Nightmare, Medley, Nine Feet Underground, Richard *encores* Golf Girl, If I could do It Again...

After enjoying very good sets from the Hampsters and Osibisa. Our old friend Arthur Brown introduced the rather subdued crowd to Caravan. After only one gig this year (at the German Festival) the band launched into the early numbers with amazing tightness. The sound was not dogged by the same problems that they experienced last year and although the light show was sparse they let the music speak for itself.

The set was very much the same as on last years Winter Tour with the exception of For Richard which made a welcome return to the set.

The highlights of the main set were the Intro to Memory Lain, Dougs and Geoff's solos on Nightmare, and the last section of the medley.

Under leaden skies the band came back for the encore and we were treated to two surprises

firstly Jan Schellas, the keyboard player during the 70's (before joining Camel) and Richard Sinclair sporting glasses and obviously loving every minute of this "reunion". Golf Girl was a pleasure with

Jan adding wonderful touches on the Hammond, the extra long intro gave Richard the chance to practice some unusual noises with his mouth and also imitate exactly the tuba intro on the original record. This was a great version of the song although we didn't have the usual Spoon Solo.

The band finished things off nicely, just after it started raining with "If I Could..." with the two keyboard players swapping instruments and Jan in particular displaying some great Honky Tonk Piano.

All in all an excellent set from a popular band I can't help feeling how lucky we are to have Doug on board as his talent keeps this band bang up to date... **now lads what about this new album!**



Festival Photos: Frode Jansen, Norway

INTERVIEW WITH MARK POWELL

As many of you will know, Mark Powell has been instrumental in getting the Decca albums re-released. As well as co-ordinating the re-releases, Mark wrote the sleeve notes which I am sure you will all agree are excellent. A man of many talents, Mark also found the time to help organise the Canterbury festival, puts in a lot of work behind the scenes in promoting and managing the band, and yet also finds the time to work on other projects.

I am sure that it is no coincidence that Mark is a great Caravan fan; and I am sure he will agree that special mention should be made of his wife Vicki who I know provides invaluable assistance on the various band projects. I caught up with Mark and obtained what I think is an interesting insight into the re-release project and the man himself.

How did you become involved in the music business?

My involvement began in my early 20's when I played in a band in the Bristol area. We played Progressive / Symphonic Rock and got interest from several labels / publishers. We were on the verge of signing a publishing deal and had signed with an agency when two members decided to leave the band two weeks before our first UK tour! The band fell apart and I drifted into radio. I did occasional journalism, which led me into contact with touring bands. After interviewing one band I was asked to become their press and PR person on their UK tour. Soon after I performed with two ex-members of Hawkwind, including a show at the 1992 Glastonbury Festival. We recorded a lot of live material for an album, which never materialised. With this behind me I went to work as a sound engineer in London and managed a London mastering studio for six years, also writing for various music publications in my spare time. I left the mastering studio in late 1999 to become a full time music consultant and writer.

How did your interest in Caravan develop?

I became a fan of Caravan later than most, just as

they split in 1982! A friend managed a second hand record shop in Bristol and introduced me to "For Girls Who Grow Plump In The Night". From there I became hooked!

I met Pye in 1998 when I interviewed him twice for a US publication called "Progression" magazine. Pye explained what he'd like to do with Caravan and where he'd like the band to go and I offered to help. Things developed from there.

How did your involvement with the anthology CD and re-issues come about?

Pye asked me to investigate Universal's intentions with the Caravan catalogue as they had just acquired PolyGram who owned Decca. Universal were keen to reissue the albums and asked me to get involved on a consultancy level. They gave me a free hand in directing the project and we extremely co-operative and receptive to my ideas.

Your excellent sleeve notes on the CDs provide Caravan fans with a great insight in relation to the band's development. How did you undertake the research?

Ah, that's my secret, it's my job! – Seriously, I went through old copies of "NME", "Melody Maker" etc. and spoke at length to Pye, trying to jog his memory. Decca archives also contained details on recording sessions that proved very useful.

Pye evidently has an archive of group memorabilia etc. Did you find him and the rest of the band co-operative about the project?

Pye was invaluable in preparing the reissues, although he wasn't too keen on listening to studio out-takes in case there were any embarrassing mistakes. He left that to me!

You obviously unearthed a lot of old tapes that demonstrate how the song writing process evolved on certain numbers. How did you manage to locate them?

The material was all in Decca's tape archive. Their archivist Jayne Byrne was a huge help in pointing me in the direction of any recordings. Also, it helped to know dates of key recordings such as The New Symphonia Concert. All I found on the tape boxes for that concert was the date of

recording. Putting two and two together it was obvious that they had been recorded at Drury Lane and so they were listened to as a priority.

The remastering appears to have been a great success in terms of sound production. Did you have any input into the choice of Julian and Pascal Byrne?

Pye and I wanted Julian to mix the previously unreleased multi-track recordings and Decca had no objections. Paschal was the choice of Decca, but proved to be a true professional. He's a great mastering engineer and I don't use anyone else on the projects I co-ordinate.

You must take a lot of credit for finding out about the album sales in the UK, which led to the band's gold and silver discs. How did you manage that? It would also seem to suggest that Caravan shifted

a lot of albums worldwide over the years?

Decca gave me the sales figures and I suggested that it would be a good promotional tool for the reissues if the band were presented with the outstanding Gold and Silver discs. They agreed and as a result the press Caravan received was excellent and Universal were happy! As the discs were awarded on sales up to 1980, it does appear that Caravan have shifted over 250,000 units on their Decca albums alone.

Universal has plans to re-issue the first album and Fairfield Hall concert. Do I take it they were pleased with the re-issues?

To date the total figures on all six albums amount to around 35,000 sales, which is super for back catalogue. I think that it took Universal by surprise, but they were very happy all the

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TICKETS

APPLICANTS PLEASE SEND S.A.E. WITH REMITTANCE. CHEQUES PAYABLE TO FAIRFIELD HALLS

Tickets Also from Usual Agents

Advert from the Melody Maker March 23rd, 1974

same! The first album was supposed to come out in February 2001, but the delays occurred due to missing paperwork etc. and swapping the release to a different label other than Verve. Also, we wanted to track down the original master, which was found in New York. This was flown to the UK and we worked from that. The finished result is fantastic and the artwork by Phil Smee is also great. I'm afraid that as the reissue has the Mono and Stereo mixes (which are very different) and they are taken from the original masters, the general package makes the HTD reissue redundant!

The Fairfield Hall masters were located in March this year and have been cleaned up. They contain a version of "Chance of a Lifetime", which although credited on the "Best of Caravan Live" album isn't actually on the original album. Also, we are planning a specially commissioned painting to grace the cover. It will be well worth waiting for!

Any chance of them being interested in the new material the band are recording?

Unfortunately, the average age of people in Universal's current catalogue department is 25! I don't think there is much chance of this happening! If the people in charge of back catalogue could also sign bands, it would be a different story, but alas that's the way it is!

There seems to be an interest in the band worldwide at the moment, and I was interested to learn that they are scheduled to play Japan early next year. How did that come about and are you going?

I think the reissues are the main reason for the interest in the band overseas at the moment. The Japanese concerts came about when a fan called Takeo Matsui flew from Tokyo with his wife to come to London for the Caravan Gold disc presentation in Fulham. After the gig he spoke with Pye and myself and asked if there was any chance of Caravan coming to Japan. I explained that the problem was getting a Japanese promoter interested, but the band would love to go. Within two weeks of him returning to Tokyo I got an email from a Japanese promoter offering the shows in January. Takeo had contacted them

and pressured them into arranging some Tokyo concerts! I am travelling with the band and I'm looking forward to it immensely! I think the fact that Universal in Japan have released the reissues is also helpful.

Are you working with any other bands at the moment?

I am working on lots of reissues for Universal at the moment and am working particularly closely with John Lees and Woolly Wolstenholme of Barclay James Harvest on reissuing all of their Polydor material next year. I am also working on reissues for and in conjunction with Camel, Davy Graham, Egg, Khan, Pink Fairies, John Mayall and Ten Years After.

In addition, I'm preparing the reissue of an album called "Introspection" by a band called The End. The album was recorded in 1967 at Olympic Studios when the Rolling Stones were recording "Satanic Majesties". The band were managed and produced by Bill Wyman and the record also features Charlie Watts. It's similar to the Small Faces "Ogden's" album and is great. The band's guitarist is now Bill Wyman's manager and I'll be working in consultation with him and with Bill on the project, which is something, I'm very excited about. Finally, I've just finished a 3CD set called "Legend of a Mind" for Decca, which is an anthology of their underground and progressive bands spanning the era 1967 – 1976. This includes the aforementioned acts and also features Thin Lizzy, The Moody Blues, Savoy Brown, T2, Mellow Candle, Curved Air, Darryl Way's Wolf, Pete Brown, The End and many more!

FUTURE PLANS?

To get a new Caravan album licensed to a good record company and to keep on doing more of the same! I would like to take the Canterbury Festival one stage forward by making it a two-day event next year with camping, but I'll have to see if I have the time to get involved! Also, I'd like to get Caravan to South America and to book more shows in the USA in 2002 in addition to NearFest on June 30th 2002.

Mainly I just want to keep well and keep on feeling very grateful to be lucky enough to do what I do!



CANTERBURY (Sound Festival) TALES

For someone, like me, living in Scotland, serious consideration needs to be given about whether to make the long journey to Canterbury to attend the annual sound festival. Promptings from Codge Barber, Ralph Cross and my long suffering wife who tells me that I live in the "planet Caravan" anyway, made the decision making process last no longer than a few seconds (if that).

Courtesy of GO airline, it was with pleasure that I linked up at Stansted on the Friday afternoon with Codge, Ralph and Ralph's friend John for the onward trip to Canterbury. Such were our discussions on route that we ended up in Dover. A quick trip back round the roundabout allowed us to reach by late afternoon our residence for the next two nights, the Wincheap Guesthouse, Canterbury.

Following a quick cup of tea and a wash, we were out of the traps and heading towards the local hostelry "the Blind Dog" for the start of the evening. I think we were all expecting the Blind Dog to be a typically quaint Kentish pub. Instead we found a fairly trendy wine bar/pub whose normal clientele is probably on average 20 years younger than each of us. However the Caravan theme is maintained there: the front panel on the cigarette machine is a blow up of the Blind Dog album cover. And we received a friendly welcome and great service from all of the staff. We also had the good fortune to bump into Jasper Smit, and long standing fans Mick Peterson and his wife.

By chance, some of the band and their entourage arrived at the pub mid evening. It has to be said that our leader looked fairly stressed out on entry, but this was hardly surprising given that he had been rehearsing the band, and at the same time trying to tie

up the organisational arrangements at the site. Everyone was quite sociable and it was therefore enjoyable chewing the fat with Cathy Hastings, Doug Boyle, Simon Bentall, Anne Marie (Jimmy's daughter) and all the others. Richard Sinclair also popped in towards the end of the evening. At chucking out time we headed back to the guesthouse where we had some difficulty getting the door key in the lock!



The next morning, following a good breakfast, we headed for the festival site. Situated just outside Faversham, the site is a natural amphitheatre in a very picturesque location. A quick hello to Mark and Vicki Powell (also suffering the stresses of organising the day) and we headed for our patch of grass. The day kicked off with the young three piece Josiah who probably produced the loudest set of the day. The Hamsters followed: although beset by sound difficulties they produced a thoroughly enjoyable set, particularly on Hendrix and ZZ Top numbers. To me one of the highlights of the day was Osibisa. It has been a good few years since I encountered them and despite a number of personnel changes (one of which was described graphically by Arthur Brown) over the years they produced an excellent funky set and got the sizeable crowd on their feet.

During Osibisa's set I bumped into three young lads from Glasgow: Malcolm, Chris and Gregor who had driven down for the event. They were some of the bunch who

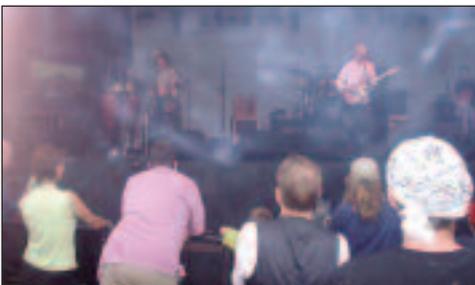




had given Caravan such a rousing reception at the Renfrew Ferry gig, last year. (Incidentally Pye and the rest of the lads, they are wondering when you will be repeating the event.) The boys were very pleased when Doug Boyle introduced himself, and they insisted he sign their autograph book!

Arthur Brown was an entertaining MC and introduced Caravan as one of the bands that had managed to live as long as him. The band were on top form and at around 4.45pm blasted into their familiar set: Oik was followed by Memory Laine/ Headloss

and the Dog. Travelling Ways was followed by one of the best versions of Nightmare I have ever heard. Geoffrey and Doug sparked off each other; and it has to be said that Geoffrey seemed to be on fire during the whole set. The band then went into the Medley, Nine Feet Underground where David was excellent, and a rousing version of For Richard with great percussion from Simon and Richard. The band went off to a marvellous reception and were called back for an encore. This is where the interesting bit happened. Two ex-members arrived on



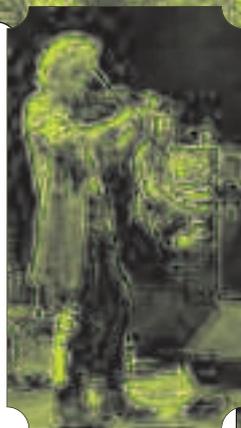
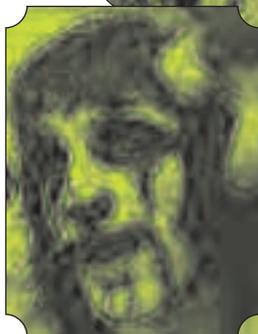
Festival Photos: Frode Jansen, Norway

stage: Jan Schelhaas to share keyboard duties with David, and the unexpected arrival (apparently also to some band members) of Richard Sinclair. Richard took lead vocals on a highly enjoyable *Golf Girl*, the band finishing off with "If I could" to a great audience reaction.

I had never heard Porcupine Tree before the festival, but Ralph assured me they were an excellent act. I hadn't realised that they included two ex-members of Japan. The band had certainly a sizeable and loyal following and certainly didn't disappoint with their sound and musicianship. By this time it was pouring down. We decided during Arthur Brown's rendition of *Fire* to head for the hills. Having read the Independent's review of the Festival, I think we may have missed one of the highlights, Hawkwind. Apologies. We headed subsequently for a quick pint at the Sun Inn, Faversham then back to Canterbury for a quick bite and early night.

Highlights: spotting the "Golf Girl" on Friday and Saturday, meeting a great bunch of Caravan fans (and some of the band); sharing a few pints with old acquaintances and being introduced to Maurice Haylett – a great character. The festival bill was also well put together and catered for the tastes of most people. Thanks.

Eric



BAND TRIVIA



Whilst it is quite obvious that we, the fans, have Caravan as one of our main musical influences, I have often wondered which artists and types of music have influenced the band. I'm also aware that some fans would like to know more about the equipment used by the band. Accordingly,

I'm very grateful to Simon Bentall for sharing with us the following:

What were the first and last records you purchased?

First: A Strangles single because I liked the picture (didn't like it)

Last: Al Green compilation

Which five albums would be your desert island discs?

1. Marvin Gaye – Here My Dear
2. Undisputed Truth – Higher than High
3. Van Morrison – Astral Weeks
4. Miles Davis – Bitches Brew
5. Love – Forever Changes

Who would be with you in your ultimate supergroup?

Bernard Purdie – Drums
James Jamerson – Bass
Melvin "Wah Wah" Watson – Rhythm Guitar
Jeff Beck – Lead Guitar
Herbie Hancock – Keyboards
Marvin Gaye – Vocals

Favourite band other than Caravan

Undisputed Truth

Most Memorable incident from your time in Caravan?

Geoffrey doing his spoon solo with pink marigolds on in Paris!

Details of equipment used on stage

PJ Congas Session Line
LP Generation II bongos
JCR Cowbells
Spring Drum
LP percussion rack



I'm also grateful to Doug Boyle for his contribution, although Doug has warned me that one of his entries is not entirely true. I wonder which?

What were the first and last records you purchased?

First: Jeepster – T. Rex

Last: 16 Men of Tain – Allan Holdsworth

Which five albums would be your desert island discs?

1. The Civil Surface - Egg
2. Believe It – New Tony Williams Lifetime
3. Bartok – Concerto for Orchestra (Fritz Reiner version)
4. The Royal Scam – Steely Dan
5. John Greaves/ Peter Blegvad – Kew Rhone

Who would be with you in your ultimate supergroup?

Steve Jordan – Drums
Anthony Jackson - Bass

Favourite band other than Caravan

Steely Dan

Most Memorable incident from your time in Caravan?

When Dave Sinclair caught his nose between two keys on his Hammond, emitting a low ominous hum through the entirety of "Le Chien, Le Chien....."

Details of equipment used on stage

Paul Reed Smith guitar or '91 Fender Strat. into:

Boss Limiter

Boss Dual overdrive

T.C. stereo chorus/ flanger

Ernie Ball volume pedal

Boss digital delay

Vox A.C. 30 top boost (re-issue)

YOUR LETTERS and Emails

Christopher Quinn

Serious Caravan fan here and can't wait to get to Canterbury for the festival in August which looks fantastic. I saw Caravan at the Renfrew Ferry gig in Glasgow last year and it rocked. We were the crazy kids down the front and I am sure Caravan remember us. We were so memorable actually that a gig review in the Glasgow Herald mocked us for being so young and into Caravan. I will continue to be bloody excited about the forthcoming festival in Canterbury. Keep it up.



Comment from Eric -

The band and those of us who had the privilege to be at the Renfrew Ferry gig, that memorable night, certainly won't forget Chris and his crew! They certainly got the place going, and received a very positive mention in my review which appeared in an earlier edition of "Where but..." . I've managed to find the Glasgow Herald review, penned by Rob Adams, to which Chris refers...

"The bassist used to work for Anita Harris, announces our emcee, more to underline veteran credentials than impress. Gracious, the kids at the front won't know Anita Harris from Bomber Harris.

Our emcee has some credentials himself, including once mesmerising Tim Buckley backstage with his guitar skills, although tonight he's "limiting" himself to viola, flute, mandolin, and Golf Girl's joyous return to horse-drawn Caravan days, spoons.

The youngsters may know Tim's son, Jeff. They certainly know their Caravan, conducting their heroes through time changes conceived, surely, before they were themselves.

Uncool though it may be, I have much affection for Caravan myself. Unlike my junior colleagues, however, I approached this with caution.

I last saw them in 1978 and they were well past their best. Here, though, with three quarters of the original line-up, including talismanic keyboardist Dave Sinclair, and four recruits gathered along the way, they played with notable vim.

It wasn't perfect. Sinclair's keyboards didn't always cut through and Pye Hastings, a Tomintoulian despite the "Canterbury Scene" connections, remains vocally rather lightweight, albeit likeable. He also has all the rock 'n' roll appearance of an off-duty Cabinet Minister. But he's writing strong riffs again, soliciting, alongside

the impressive Doug Boyle, many air guitar impersonators on more recent material such as the distinctly hummable Liar and I Know Why You're Laughing. Add the unexpected inclusion of Sinclair's classic contribution to the Robert Wyatt catalogue, the lovely O'Caroline and a booting If I Could Do It All Over Again, alongside their marathon masterpiece Nine Feet Underground and it's a surprisingly satisfying experience. Maybe not a full-scale revival but the Caravan is rolling again for sure."

David Ruffle - Originally got into Caravan through my love of Camel but the band is certainly no appendage. Bought the remastered CD's of Grey and Pink and plump yesterday...excellent and great value..if I ever get tired of listening to Memory Lain,Hugh/Headloss then I'll know I'm dead!!!

Kent Kaled - I've been a BIG "Caravan" fan ever since the 70's. I just spent the last year collecting almost every one of their releases on CD through auctions on ebay and buying over-priced imports at special-interest music stores. Now that I've pretty much completed my collection.....

THEY FINALLY RE-RELEASE ALL OF THEIR OLDER DECCA STUFF!!!

Not only that, they've been digitally remastered, include bonus tracks, and are reasonably priced, (compared to what I paid). I can't believe it. At least maybe I'll actually get to see them play live someday?

Scott Wilson - Hi Caravan fans and any members of the band who see this. I would just like to say that the album in the land of grey and pink has been played on my cd player more than any other cd i own. i don't know any other stuff apart from the first album which is ok. The album cover is great, straight out of lord of the rings which i am a big fan of. I will try and download more caravan stuff and would appreciate any suggestions. If any band member would like to email me i would be over the moon and pigs will fly.

Brindle Brown - Former Canterbury resident now in Tampa, Florida. Tell Pye Hastings & Geoff Richardson they both owe me a pint for scouring US CD stores for their albums! They'll definitely owe me two if I ever buy one!

Joe Beauchez, Australia - I've just returned from another holiday in Europe and was very pleased to pick up some Caravan CD's which I didn't have yet. The 2CD "Back on the tracks", All over you, Songs for oblivion fishermen, a few re-releases and some more obscure material. Absolutely brilliant stuff. You don't hear anything about Caravan at this side of the globe so it's great to have a Caravan Website to keep me in touch about what's happening with the band. Keep that Caravan rolling and if I could do it all over again, I would most certainly do so. Keep up the good work.



YOUR LETTERS and Emails

Derek Green - Hi there as a long term Caravan fan I was pleased to note that an 8 date UK tour is proposed for November, this year. I live in Nottingham and would love an opportunity to see Caravan again, without having to travel too far. Ironically, the last time I saw the band was actually in Nottingham when the original line-up came together to play at the Central - as it was then - TV studio for the Bedrock TV series of gigs. A very special moment for me. Before that it was a gig at Loughborough Uni in about 1975, or thereabouts, and their appearance at the 1975 reading Festival

Martin Davenport - Having listened to the remastered and complete new Symphonia concert can I suggest to the band that they do another gig with the Orchestra at say the Albert Hall?.I'm sure it would be a sellout. Did the set at the Kings head ever get broadcast and if so did anyone record it?

Richard Cory - A site like this about one of the greatest and most enduring bands of the progressive era is long overdue. I will be revisiting it from time to time. I would really like to catch up with the band again after all these years. I myself booked Caravan twice at Sheffield University, in the days of "Plump in the Night" and "Cunning Stunts" and they were always great favourites with the students of my era.

Steve Bullman - Excellent to see a good Caravan presence on the web - great timing to coincide with the remaster releases. I bet it was a lot of work, but from here it looks worth it! Aren't the remasters a peach? The extras are really great, too, and truly are a "bonus" for a change. Having a new track from LtLoG&P is quite a shock! There are also Caravan features in Classic Rock and Record Collector, with news on the LtLoG&P gold disc, so things are looking up.

Richard Cory - And I thought I was the world's only Caravan fan? Speaking as someone that once booked the band, Sheffield Uni. mid 70s, I have never quite lost my obsession with Caravan. In my record collection they rank alongside the Beatles, but then I am a bit strange. Just got some of the reissues, and I have to say that they are well worth the very reasonable purchase price. I would have bought all the reissues just to have a copy of the bonus track "I Don't Know its Name (alias The Word), what a gem. But I feel really pissed off that Decca has been sitting on this track for the last 30 years. In my book it ranks alongside the classic Richard Sinclair tracks from Grey and Pink and should have been issued in some form years ago. So we have all lost 30 years of listening to this track. But as they say, better late than never.

Larry Van Sanders - Greetings from America-Akron Ohio: A long overdue I am not worthy to all the offshutes of the mothership B and the Wilde Flowers. Your individual and collarorative songs and sings have made the atmosphere of our world a brighter place to live...Poer on boys!

Rick Chafen - Remember the only American at last year's Canterbury Fest? That was me. Yesterday, I decided to rearrange some wall space, and down came a flyer that's been on my walls for at least the eleven years I've lived here. It being so interesting and locked in its quaint time, I thought I'd send a copy to you.



Peter Gutsell - Just had to drop you a line after buying where but for caravan would I; this is my first cd purchase since owning many lp's Canterbury tales being all I finally own! This band is awesome I cannot believe what I have been missing out on for all these years, at the tender age of 40, I grew up on the bands early recordings up to about 1976. Having just reviewed your web pages on the band which is now saved to favourites. Looks like Friday 13th was a lucky day to get re-aquainted with the band? Thanks Caravan I haven't stopped listening and todays only Saturday, the wife's going to love me!!

Steven Ruckman - Greetings from the states. I just picked up the remaster of "If I Could..." sounds great!!!! I had the pleasure of meeting Richard Sinclair and Heather Kinnear in late 1992 when he did a solo tour of the US, and again in the spring of 1993 when he, Rick Biddulph and Andy Ward came through to do the Caravan of Dreams tour (I picked them up at Logan Airport, Boston. Richard was trying to convince customs officials that his visit was "pleasure," not business, whilst he and Rick had their guitars slung over their shoulders). They stayed with two of my best friends while they were in Boston. I found them all very nice people and remember that period of my life very fondly. Had a lot of fun helping put on the gigs. Andy was great fun!! I remember he and I went to the liquor store to buy a bottle of wine to have with dinner. He saw an Irish pub and, well, when we finally got back, I think everyone was a little upset with us and wanted to know what took so long (as dinner was ready and they were waiting for us to return with the wine!!). anyway, I'm glad to hear Richard's back in Canterbury



YOUR LETTERS and Emails

and is doing well. I'll have to try and call him. I haven't spoken to him or Heather in a few years now. if you happen to see him or Heather before I get in contact with them, give them a big HELLO for me. THANK!! be well and keep listening to the music!!!

Chris, USA - Hi, Chris Pantazis here in Manchester, New Hampshire, USA, the day I got my first Caravan CD (Blind Dog)... I've been reading about Caravan for many years, loved British rock of all types, and lived in Sussex for a year back in the mid-80's..This is actually the first time I'd come across a Caravan disc over here, and I gobbled it up at a used music store for the princely sum of \$4.99. I enjoyed it lots, and I'll grab more Caravan as I come across it on my musical hunts. God Bless and Caravan on. great website!

Jasper Smit - Dear Ralph and other Cisters! The Burg Herzberg-gig was in one word stunning. I was the first to notice the pure enthusiasm of the public as master of the ceremony of merchandise (Also selling the universal reissues): There was a run on my Dutch live CD, Back On The Tracks. Never sold so many CD's at once. Only 20 left now. Pye told me that 18th August is a key in the strategy of definitively establishing the Canterbury Sound festival and an essential step in re-conquering the audience.



Claudio Bonvecchio - Hello Pinkies and Lilies ! The web site is a must for every Caravan fan ! I'm Italian and I have to say that every Italian prog fan keeps a special place in his heart for Caravan and for all the Canterbury scene. We long to see the band performing in the Peninsula; make this dream come true ! CIAO

Keith Maddison - I have just bought all the CDs to replace all my old scratched albums, glad to see Caravan are still going. I first saw Caravan at the Middle Earth in 1968 or 69, I was tripping out my head, and they were singing "Who do you think you are". They blow my mind, after that they were my favourite and I saw them every time I could. Love and Peace, Keith.

William Hayter - Comment: What a great time we all had at Canterbury this weekend. Congratulations to all involved. The sound was also very good. I feel it is only right to point this out as I had some criticisms about last years sound. I thought Daves Hammond shone through wonderfully. Roll on next years event! P.S. If the organisers are reading this, how about Kevin Ayers or Soup Songs (Robert Wyatts band) for next year. Cheers!

Martyn Fallace - What a pleasant surprise to find this web site. I was browsing through the cd racks in HMV at the w/e when I stumbled across the "If I Could..." and "LoG&P" cds with the un-released material. All my old Ips, including the Caravan stuff, have been lying unplayed in the spare room for more years than I care to remember. It was so good to hear this excellent music again and to hear that they are still playing - I hope to catch them at the Astoria in Nov. Along with Mighty Baby, still my favourite Eng rock stuff from the late 60's early 70's. WOW.....

Manny - Wow caravan are great I just discovered them at 16 in 1995 from a friend who played golf girl to me. Unfortunately I was too young to appreciate them properly, but now I'm 22 I went out and bought in the land of grey and pink, and the next day I had to buy another (if i could do it all over again), then the next day I had to buy another. Man these guys rock. I am glad too see there still going, and hope they are glad that they have some young fans out here. anyway I'm rabetting on a bit. I think the grumly grimlys are coming: see you at Canterbury. peace and respect. Roll on caravan we're with you.

Sundeep Bhamra - I recently picked up a copy of 'Songs for Oblivion Fishermen' and was instantly amazed and moved by Caravan's epic works. To me this was progressive rock, no, in fact, music at its very best. As a young man of 24 I have been an avid and frustrated fan of progressive rock for the last three years. Frustrated in the sense that it is so hard to find progressive rock works and by the fact that it is given so little coverage. But what I find especially infuriating is that so much bad progressive rock seems to go rewarded and hailed as masterpieces, mentioning no names here, i.e. Genesis and Yes. And yet the brilliance of Caravan is totally unknown. Will the human race ever come to its senses?

Mathias Rapp, Germany - Dear folks at Caravan info. With a mixture of enthusiasm and frustration I have just read about the upcoming "Live at Croydon Fairfield Halls" CD. What a great concert with Caravan at their very peak! What an important, long overdue CD release! And what a great opportunity missed! Why? Because the concert also included a fantastic live version of "Cthlu Cthlu", with one of Dave Sinclair's best ever organ solos. (This time much clearer and more predominant than the one on "For Girls ..." studio album, which was drowned in the rather dodgy mix). How do I know this? Well, as a matter of fact I stayed with the Hastings family in Canterbury for a couple of days some 25 years ago, and there Pye let me listen to his reel to reel tape of the entire concert which is definitely longer than 82 minutes (as you stated). At the time I heard that tape, the double LP "Canterbury Tales" was about to be put together, and it was me who suggested to include one of the



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Croydon tracks. Pye agreed, and the live version of "For Richard" was chosen. That version is now included on the remastered "For Girls ..." CD. It would be rather stupid to put that track on yet another CD and leave out "Cthlu Cthlu", of which there aren't any other live versions available. Please think again.

John Heath - Listening to Caravan at Canterbury certainly certainly took me back to pleasure times. I thought the band sounded great and their talents coupled with modern production values was barnstorming. However, it would have been best if the band were second from the end playing from 7-9pm. One of my all-time top 5 bands alongside Wishbone Ash, Camel, Genesis from that era. I now have the good fortune to be subjected to my 17-year olds daughter's love of Indie such as Starsailor, Coldplay, Travis etc and I have to say they are great bands (Blur too). I can see where these bands got their influences from, even if they don't like to admit it. Further, I don't really think of caravan as prog rock having listened to them afresh. Rather a band that uses a number of influences. I let my daughter listen to Cunning Stunts the other day and she was quite impressed. So much so she wants to go to a Caravan gig with me come November. Well I went to the Astoria a couple of weeks ago to see Starsailor with her and thought they are a very good young and. So its quids pro quo. Good bands cross generations. Anyway keep up the excellent work and give my regards to the band. They were an essential part of my youth. Good vibes

David Miller - Have just discovered the website, and in fact have just re-discovered Caravan after a long gap. I saw them for the first time ever last year when they came to Glasgow, and they were excellent. If you have any influence over their touring schedule, please encourage them to venture north again. Keep up the good work.

Sterling - Great web site, very informative although I must admit I thought Caravan had long since stopped touring. However on a recent visit to Canterbury the billboards and posters let me know otherwise and then I found the web site. Having just bought all the remastered CD's.....and superb they are too, I must request that somehow the Band know that I would



1. Nine Feet Underground
2. For Richard (the live version on "Cunning Stunts" is the best that I have heard (Croydon)
3. Winter Wine
4. In The land Of Grey And Pink

Chris - Good to meet you at the Canterbury Sound Festival, look forward to doing it again soon (will you be at the Astoria?) Anyway, in response to your request for new or re-inclusions in the set list here goes in no particular order (I will also post them on the website to try to stimulate some comment/response)

Place of my own - Videos of Hollywood / Winter Wine (I presume Unlikely unless Richard makes another guest appearance)

Cthlu Thlu - Dabsong Conshirtoe / Love in Your Eye (to make a change from 9ft Underground and For Richard) - Show of our Lives - Hello Hello - Mirror for the day - Virgin on the Ridiculous - Cool Water - Nightmare - Last Unicorn (be good to see Geoff do this again) best regards

Phil Driscoll - I been giving this a lot of thought recently. The boys were on form again at the Canterbury Festival, and their performances over the last few years have been exceptional, but I just feel that the introduction of new or "new" old material is required to stop the band from becoming slightly stale. I completely understand that they have other priorities and that Caravan as a band is now their hobby as such. Obviously time is not available for them to rehearse new material to the level of standard, they currently perform at, but I just a little afraid that all the hard work done in promoting them over the last few years could be lost if a change is not made. It was really nice to hear For Richard at Canterbury and to get Richard Sinclair back on stage for the encore was a dream come true. For me the highlights were, and have been for the last few years, Nightmare, the Medley, and Nine feet underground. I believe that Nine feet underground has taken on a new lease of life since the first Canterbury festival whereupon David's playing was exceptional and the combination play of Geoff, David and Doug was mind blowing. I therefore think these numbers should stay on their set.

My set would be, not including new material, but please do:-

Smelly Oik - Cold as ice - Nine feet underground - Travelling ways - Ride (this is an outstanding track on the All over you too album) - Back to front - Liar - I know why your laughing - Love song (with or without flute) - The Medley - Nightmare

The Last unicorn (yes, that could work well with Dougie) - Place of my own - For Richard

John Heath - I have recently listened to the live CD of Caravan at the London Astoria. That CD was superb with three songs I had not heard before but I think the



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band have got even better i.e. a tighter unit since then through performing together if Canterbury is anything to go by. The whole band are working in great harmony again but I have to say Doug Boyle's guitar playing has added an edge of steel to the sound and that has added a heavier element whilst not losing sight of the beautiful, melodic passages that are caravan's hallmark - the ability to combine shades and textures, the soft and the hard rock elements that set Caravan apart and have made them a multi-dimensional band. Without wittering on and eulogising too much lol, here are my suggestions:

Retain - Memory Lain & Headloss, Nine Feet Underground (an all-time classic - wonderful), The Dog, The Dog, He's At It Again, Cold As Ice (a lovely ballad with a powerful guitar solo), Liar (poignant and evocative), For Richard (Caravan at their best - has everything, a lovely melody followed by a searing climax, not an orgasm lol although its the next best thing) and the fun song Golf Girl. Consider adding: Lover/No Backstage Pass or Welcome the Day from Cunning Stunts. The Dabsong Concerto is also worth considering because I think it would transfer itself well into the live format like Nine Feet Underground does. Please please please ask Pye to consider adding The Last Unicorn, Nightmare, Piano Player - all great songs in their different ways. And definitely Winter Wine. A good start to the set might be The Show of Our Lives or Behind You as one is a belting opening song song setting the scene and the other is an up tempo fun lyric rock song. A great anthem for an encore would be All The Way from Blind Dog At St Dunstons. This is an anthem and a great chorussy type song that I think would bring the house down. My daughter, Naomi who is 17 would love to meet the band - she is a cellist and pianist (more the former than the latter as she has played the latter for 8 years). I know this might be difficult but I would be grateful if you could ask Pye if this was possible. It intrigues me that kids who enjoy

Indie bands very much enjoy the old rock music of the late 60's, early 70's because in many ways they were the predecessors of modern music with its. The very first Caravan album I listened to was For Girls Who Grow Plump in the Night when I was 16, and the second was In The Land of Grey and Pink. These were seminal albums in my youth. I hope this gives Pye some idea of an intinery. I am very grateful to be given the chance to make suggestions to a band who are and always will be one of my favourite all-time bands (and I don't say that lightly).

Steve Kinder - Here's my set list for the Autumn tour. I'm assuming we will hear new material by then and have left time for this. I have also tried to change some of the older material. Although I love both Nine Feet Underground and For Richard I think it would be good to freshen the set up. Anyway I have heard Nine Feet twice and For Richard once in the last 12 months;), and would like to hear some more of my favourites. I have tried to balance old and new whilst trying not to go too long. I may have failed on the last point.

Main set Where but for Caravan would I be - Love in your eye - New Tracks (15 mins) - Liar - Travelling Ways - The dog, the dog, he's at it again - Virgin on the ridiculous - Winter Wine New Tracks (15 mins) - Dabsong conshirtoe

Encores Hoedown - Winter Wine

Other close runners Place of my own - Proper job/Back to front - L'auberge du sanglier ... - If I could do it again ... - Waterloo Lily

I reckon the main set would be about 100 mins, perhaps too long. However why not let the lads have a break half way and make it 2 hours? Having had a wonderful weekend at the Canterbury festival recently. Finally many thanks for the excellent web pages, keep up the good work. If you want any specific help just ask.



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03 LONDON Mean Fiddler (plus Club Boro)	16 MILTON KEYNES Stables

More dates tbc. Further info: www.caravan-info.co.uk
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PLEASE SEE WEBSITE TO CONFIRM THESE DATES



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The Tracks - Live in Holland are available by
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Manfred Bress publishes 'Canterbury Nachrichten' which covers the whole Canterbury scene. This can be obtained from Nikolaistr. 90, D-47055, Duisburg, Germany.

Calyx, Canterbury Website:
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I get lots of people saying how difficult it is to find Caravan's material in the shops. Try the following:

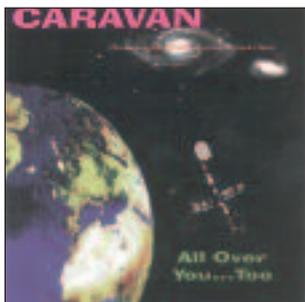
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Many thanks to Jill and Codge Barber who are now helping compile their 10th Issue of the Fanzine - I couldn't do this mag. without you.

The latest Newsletter remains FREE i.e. all that is required is an S.A.E. in a decent sized envelope or International Reply Coupon for Europe and The World (*any donations are welcome however, simply to defray costs of production which are down to Codge and myself*).

*Back copies i.e. combined issues 1/2 and issues 3-13 as well as the booklets for the 1990 and 1991 concerts at Old Buckenham can be obtained for 2 x 1st class stamps per issue **as well as** a stamped addressed envelope (2 x 1st).*

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