



*Where  
but for  
Caravan  
Would  
I?*

**INTERVIEW WITH  
Jan Schelhaas**

**Newsletter**

**Issue No.12**

**November 2000**



# FOREWORD

As I sit writing this introduction to 'Where But For...?' Number 12, I am surrounded by evidence of a band in resurgence. First there was the Canterbury Music Festival held on a glorious sunny Sunday in July: a day to cherish - especially that performance by the legendary Arthur Brown. Caravan had all the fates against them: a horrendously delayed start due to the other bands overrunning, gremlins in the sound system, water dropping down on Dave Sinclair's keyboard and a set curtailed due to the delayed start of the set. Still 2,000 festival goers were united in their admiration of a day 'well done' and their joy at seeing Caravan up there playing and going for it against all the odds. On a personal

note I would like to thank all those involved - I don't know many of them, but Mark Powell (freelance journalist), Glenn Povey (promoter) were two notables. In addition Pye Hastings and his wife Cathy's firm of solicitors put up some of the money - a real financial risk for them which fortunately turned out to be fine.

On top of that we have the excellent release, the Anthology 'Where But For Caravan Would I?' on Universal with its different versions and the unreleased gem, 'A Day in the Life of Maurice Haylett' Classic Rock Magazine (an excellent publication by the way) was particularly exuberant in its praise of the album, but even the normally lukewarm 'Q' Magazine described it as 'just the job' and gave it four stars.

I say it myself, but the web site has really given a lift to the fan base, judging by the e-mail I've received as well as the number of 'unique' visitors (2,700!) to date and the total number of visits (7,000!) I will keep adding bits to the web site, but obviously will continue with the fanzine. Don't forget to log in to [www.caravan-info.co.uk](http://www.caravan-info.co.uk) or e-mail me: [ralph@caravan-info.co.uk](mailto:ralph@caravan-info.co.uk)

Added to all of this we had the tour to look forward to and a date in France to which I hope you'll be going: I'll definitely be there. Mark Davenport ([m.davenport@htclondon.co.uk](mailto:m.davenport@htclondon.co.uk)) is keen to co-ordinate a trip if interest is there (I'll pass on any requests or e-mail him direct). The other gig is of course at the Chiddingfold Club in Surrey on 17th November. This sounds a particularly interesting venue in that it has a reputation for attracting the most unlikely of acts. Wishbone Ash played there recently and Gary Brooker, ex Procal Harum put on a charity gig with loads of familiar musicians, such as Eric Clapton, Dave Gilmore and Bill Wyman. Rather like the Park Hotel at Diss its 'out of the way' situation and its limited capacity (around 300) make it worth the trip out of curiosity alone. Chiddingfold (a 'chocolate box' village) is situated out of Guildford off the A283. Ring 01428 682949 for tickets and further details.

Finally we have the release/remastered versions of the Decca albums and what a mouthwatering prospect that lot is!

The fanzine includes the usual sprinkling of news and views, but I am particularly pleased to have 'nailed down' Jan Schelhaas who I met backstage at Canterbury and with whom I have completed an interview contained herein.

Happy reading! See you at the gigs.



## GEOFFREY RICHARDSON

Geoffrey has been less active of late on the live front, but has been working on projects related to the Penguin Cafe' Orchestra, "I've written a history of the albums of the Penguin Cafe' web site; revealing my literary side! I've also been involved in the recent P.C.O. album release at the Penguin Cafe' Headquarters, doing a bit of engineering, though Steve Nye is doing the production'. He also told me of the proposal to do a P.C.O. concert possibly in London, with each former member choosing their two favourite tracks. He'd like to involve Jim Leverton in that. With regard to the gig in Paris at the Bataclan Theatre, it is a case of déjà vu for Geoffrey as he has played there in the past on a number of occasions, for example with Caravan, the Penguin Cafe' Orchestra and Elsa, a French female singer.



## DAVE SINCLAIR

Dave continues to write songs at home and has at present three songs he is working on - no lyrics yet - and he has a local girl singer in mind who he would like to use when putting demos together. Dave's son goes to St Edmunds School in Canterbury and Dave is hoping to do a song with the cathedral choir - a seven minute piece. Brian Hopper has shown an interest in working on the project. You may recall that Caravan were hoping to preview a new song by Dave at the Canterbury Festival but rehearsal time was insufficient to bring it up to scratch. "I still hope we'll do it for the next Caravan album as it's actually about Old Canterbury - Tiler Hill, rather than the Festival itself. It's weird really because a few weeks



ago Channel 4 Time Team thing (with Tony Robinson) was filmed doing a dig at that very place I wrote the song about.

I asked him if he was in touch at all with Jan Schelhaas with whom he shared keyboards with on Camel's 'Breathless' Tour in the 1970's. "Actually my son Luke is learning to drive and when his instructor was away I rang up Jan who came round and gave him a lesson. He popped in for a chat afterwards." Dave reminded me that in 1974 he actually played with Jan in Caravan on an English and European tour: "Pye fancied the idea of two keyboards: Jan and I got on well."

As you may know Camel toured Europe and England recently: you probably didn't know that Dave was asked if he'd like to play on the tour but family and business commitments made it impractical: 'I'd have been away for months, although of course I would have liked to do it in principle.'

## JIM LEVERTON

Jim is concentrating on the album he has done with Geoffrey Richardson - "Poor Man" planned for November release on Voiceprint. "We're planning a short tour with the addition of Dave Sinclair on keyboards and Luce Langridge on drums. " The sole date fully confirmed is the Arden Theatre, Faversham on 3rd November. Dates to be confirmed are Assembly Rooms, Whitstable and gigs at Maidstone, Dover and Deal. Jim is likely to appear in a Steve Marriott tribute in London on 20th April 2001.



## CONCERT DATES

**Chiddingfold Club  
17th November**

**Bataclan Theatre, Paris  
25th November**

# THE UNIVERSAL RE-RELEASES

where but for caravan would i



Following on the heels of the Caravan Anthology 'Where But For Caravan Would I?' plans are well advanced for the re-release of the Decca series of albums. As stated previously, this is an exciting phase since we will have the pleasure of hearing re-mastered materials as well as tracks that have been unearthed on the original tapes. The first three Decca albums - If I Could, Grey & Pink and Waterloo Lily were originally lined up for simultaneous October release, but this has been shelved until the New Year, as the build up to Christmas is not seen as the right time to release material by bands like Caravan. The wealth of information below was kindly supplied by Mark Powell who is doing a wonderful job in collating the whole project. He is bringing a dedication to the whole thing which is so pleasing for all of us out here.

## IF I COULD DO IT ALL OVER AGAIN, I'D DO IT ALL OVER YOU

The original album will be augmented by 'A Day in the Life of Maurice Haylett' plus different versions of original tracks recorded as demos in September 1969 at Tangerine Studios. They are 'And I Wish I Were Stoned', 'I Feel I Die' and 'Clipping the Eighth' with much improvised talking, making it very different to the original.

## THE LAND OF GREY & PINK

The album with the original versions and tracks will include a whole variety of extra material. There is a different take of 'Land of Grey & Pink', recorded four months before the actual sessions. A version of Winter Wine has a different introduction with humming in place of lyrics. In addition there is a version of Aristocracy (which ended up on Waterloo Lily) with vocals by Dave Sinclair. Mark in fact says, 'This is a much better version in my opinion.' If that lot hasn't wetted your appetite there's a track called 'I Don't Know Its Name (Alias The Word)' which is seven minutes long with Richard Sinclair and Pye sharing vocals, described by Mark Powell as, 'a Winter Wine type track'. Finally there's part of 9 Feet Underground included with a different version of Disassociation and 100% proof. The only sad thing is that the CD is so long (obviously!) that it was not

possible to include a different version of the whole of 9 Feet Underground which Julian Hastings spent time remixing in the hope that it could go somewhere. Let's hope more 'bits and pieces' are discovered so that another album of material could be pieced together including that version.

## **WATERLOO LILY**

Added to the original tracks are songs found on the original tapes. These are :- 'Pye's June Thing' on which Pye plays acoustically. 'Ferdinand' is another song and at the end Pye starts to play some riffs which were eventually, to surface as 'Be Alright/Chance of a Lifetime', Another track is 7 minutes long with a full brass section: and this is an example of song and riffs which were remodelled eventually to surface as 'Wendy Wants a 9" mole' from the Battle of Hastings.

## **CARAVAN & THE NEW SYMPHONIA**

The album begins with the band warming up before the live audience playing Memory Lain Hugh, Headloss, The Dog the Dog and Hoedown. This is followed by the order as on the original album with the addition of A Hunting We Shall Go with the orchestra.

## **FOR GIRLS THAT GROW PLUMP IN THE NIGHT**

Included on the album will be some

material recorded for the Chipping Norton sessions with the line up of Derek Austin on keyboards and Stu Evans on bass. These tracks never saw the light of day and were re-recorded by the band with Dave Sinclair and John Perry on bass. They are instrumental versions of Chance of a Lifetime, Memory Lain Hugh, Headloss and Derek's Long Thing (originally on the Canterbury collection CD as 'Austin Cambridge').

## **CUNNING STUNTS**

Included on the album will be an untitled track which is an early version of 'Behind You' (from the album 'Better By Far') but with different lyrics. Also included is the Live version of For Richard recorded at Fairfield Hall which originally appeared on the Decca compilation Canterbury Tales: this was the only CD with room left on it and it does feature the line up which recorded Cunning Stunts.

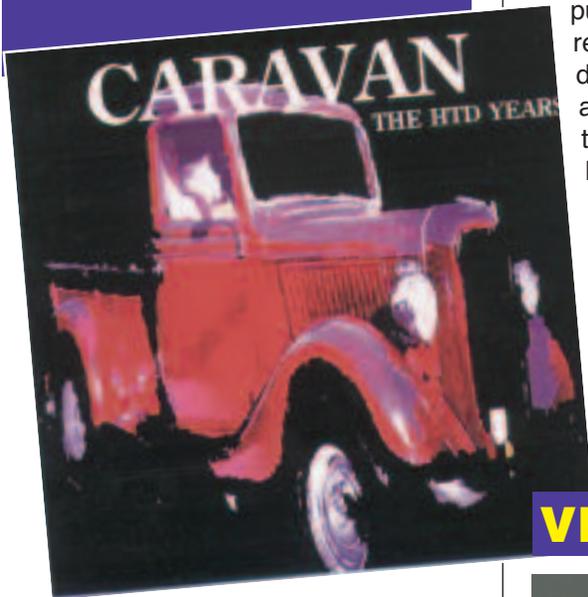
## **1ST ALBUM**

This is expected to come out later than the others with the mono version and stereo versions together.

## **BEST OF CARAVAN LIVE**

The rights to this are owned by Universal in the U.K. but to Terry King in France and Benelux. There are hopes that this will surface eventually.

## MORE RE-RELEASES TO COME?



HTD Records have released a compilation called the 'HTD years': I'm proud to admit I have helped draw up the song list, so I hope you approve. It includes at least two unreleased tracks from the Live at the Astoria sessions plus a bootleg version of L'Auberge du Sangher. They've also sewn up the rights to the Kingdom releases: The Album (1980) and 'Back to Front' (1983). Lets hope it's 'Never to Late' be put on the former; When released in 1980 the 'B' side of the single 'Heartbreaker'.



## HOW CAN YOU HELP?

Mark Powell who is painstakingly putting together the Universal/Decca remasters of the original albums is desperate for your help. Is there anyone out there who has a copy of the US single release of 'The World Is Yours' b/w 'Memory Lane' Hugh/Headloss (edit) on London records 20080? This is required to put on the re-issue of 'For Girls....' as the master tape is missing. In return you would receive full credit on the album re-release, as well as knowing you had added to the track listing.

## VIDEO RELEASE



I still have no further details concerning the Canterbury Festival Video, beyond that already posted on the web site. The video, which will include documentary material, interviews plus live footage from the Festival at a cost of £15.00 plus £2.50 postage. Contact Peter Carlton direct:- [peter.carlton@monopoly-tv.com](mailto:peter.carlton@monopoly-tv.com) please mention your point of contact (i.e. this fanzine/web site) when getting in touch with Peter.



## Jan Schelhaas

### *interview*

I'm sure you'll all be fully 'au fait' with Jan Schelhaas' part in Caravan as keyboard player on *Blind Dog*, *Better By Far* and *Cool Water*. I had obviously seen Jan play live - both with Caravan and Camel - and always enjoyed his style of playing. I was therefore very pleased to get the opportunity to meet up with him and find out the musical past to the man, as well as his hopes for the future. I found him to be a real wit, throwing out quips all the time, with a warm and open personality. I hope you will enjoy reading the article as much as I enjoyed collating it. - *Ralph*

Q. *Do you come from a musical background*

A. Not especially, though my grandparents played the piano and as a lad brought up in Liverpool, the family would sit around the piano and sing along. My dad was Dutch and he met up with my mum in the war.

Q. *What was it like growing up in Liverpool during the early 60's.*

A. Obviously it was the time of the Beatles and the music scene was enormous. If you were not in a band you weren't anything. My first instrument was bass in a band called *Pride and Joy*: our lead singer was Bernie Wenton who actually won the 'Star in Your Eyes' heat as Nat King Cole last year!

Q. *Was the band successful?*

A. We were a soul outfit with a brass section. We eventually ended up with a recording contract with Deram so we couldn't have been that bad. I was 16 when the band relocated to London and we returned to Liverpool at the time of our first single release in 1968; a Sam and Dave number called 'Don't Knock it'. It was number one - in Liverpool!

Q. *So when did this all come to an end?*

A. Well in 1969 the progressive scene was developing and so we disbanded and two of us linked up with a bass player and drummer. I therefore had to play a different instrument which happened to be keyboards: in those days you just wanted a gig so if necessary you'd change instruments! I'd fiddled with keyboards when I was younger so it wasn't completely new, but I am self-taught. The band was called *The Business*. We started out gigging playing in Liverpool pubs and so on. At



the time the 'Liverpool Scene' was developing with the mixture of poetry and music. We were playing in O'Connors pub and the Scaffold were there, saw us playing and asked us if they'd be interested in supporting them.

Q. *Were you happy with this link developing?*

A. It was fine. We did loads of sessions for them: I can't remember the album title but I recall a session for EMI doing 'My Liverpool Home'. The money was good - we usually got handed the fee in a large brown envelope! The gigs were very varied: at some it was the students' scene, doing sketches along with Roger McGough's poetry with us adding musical accompaniment. On the other hand we'd be doing gigs playing 'Lily The Pink'. It was like being in two different bands.

Q. *What happened when this was over?*

A. It came to a natural finish and our band 'The Business' decided to move down to London. There we met Mike Hart - a Liverpool poet and singer - and did an album with him on John Peel's Dandelion label. In fact I remember spending a night sleeping on John Peel's floor!

Q. *Did you feel you were going to make it?*

A. We were certainly busy and we were spotted by the Mighty Mole Management team. It was the days of hype - you remember Brinsley Schwartz - and the management company had a name - National Head Band - and wanted a group to fit it (no pun intended). We were signed by Warner Brothers

who insisted on having a second drummer, who turned out to be Lee Kerlake from Uriah Heep. Heavy

was not the word - we were immovable! We went into the studio with Eddie Offord who had had spectacular success with the "Yes Album". Unfortunately he was going through a messy divorce and so didn't really have his heart in it. It's fair to say that we were all disappointed by the outcome of the sessions. Nevertheless 'Albert One' was released (remember these were the days of Stanley Unwin, hence this meant it was our 'first album'). We gigged a lot, but in 1972 Lee Kerlake returned to Uriah Heep.

Q. *Did that signal the end of National Head Band?*

A. Things had more or less come to a full stop and the management had been taken over by Clifford Davies who managed Fleetwood Mac and Skid Row. Clifford asked me if I wanted to be part of the Gary Moore Band. I was into his music, so agreed to take part in the sessions. We made the album, 'The Gary Moore Band' which went out on CBS. In those days the management team more or less ran the band completely and they decided the group should go out on the road as a 3 piece. I did what I was told so that was me out of it.

Q. *So that left you in somewhat precarious position?*

# Jan Schelhaas

A. Well three of us were out of the Gary Moore Band and we decided to have a crack at working in Ireland. We went over and linked up with some other musicians who were rather disillusioned with the showband scene. Unfortunately nothing else existed in Ireland, so there we were, writing our own stuff playing Steely Dan type material. We were living in a beautiful house just outside Dublin but with no furniture and no money. Things were absolutely desperate. I had a Hammond split organ at the time: you can't just pick that up and carry it onto the ferry! Fortunately we had a stroke of luck. Ray Clegg, a roadie for Mungo Jerry, responded to our call for help by saying, 'There's room on my horse for two' and off to England we went in the back of Ray's van.

Q. *Was this the turning point for you - surely you'd have to have better luck?*

A. Yes and no! Back in London I met up with Phil Lynott from Thin Lizzy and he asked me to join the band. For the next three to four weeks we rehearsed solidly in preparation for going out on the road. In those days you see it was not unusual for musicians to move from band to band. Phil said, 'This is the band that's going on the stage'. When we listened to the rehearsal tapes we all agreed, 'This isn't the band that's going on stage! It just didn't sound right with the keyboard - it needed to be a two guitar band, so I left.

Q. *So how did the link with Caravan come about?*

A. I saw an ad in Melody Maker: I had no

idea it was Caravan. I'd been doing bits and pieces of session work but felt it was time to be part of a band again. I went along to the audition, held somewhere in London. It was a jam thing and I was told to play as I liked. This was my first chance to lock horns with Coughlan. He said, 'He's alright, he's got a shoulder bag'. (Richard had one as well). I think my 'tour perm' helped as well!

Q. *Were you accepted by the band and fans straight away?*

A. Oh yes, no problem. Pye said, 'Get



# Jan Schelhaas

your clothes, you're doing it, and off we were on tour. The Cunning Stunts album was already done. I must admit I didn't really know their music, other than an awareness of the stuff from Grey and Pink. I liked the music and felt they had a definitive sound which I tried to get into. There was no pressure or suggestion that I should copy the existing sound. To me the right organ, fuzz box sound was the same as on the New Symphonia album.

Q. *What brought your stint with Caravan to an end?*

A. Well as you probably know we broke up after the Better By Far album because of the financial position we were in. Miles Copeland our manager had not handled things well for us and we didn't realise that every gig left us further and further in debt to the VAT man. I then joined up with Camel for the Breathless tour and had a great time playing with Dave Sinclair who was on the other keyboard. That band had a good chemistry. After that I left the music business. I had to earn regular money - my son was born in 1979. I got a degree in music and philosophy and ended up in a partnership running Greenhills Studio in Herne

Bay. We also ran a small record company - Heatwave were on the label. Unfortunately we had a bit of bad luck and decided to sell up.

Q. *So was that the end of your links with the music business?*

A. Certainly for a number of years. First of all I got a job as a cabby, but couldn't stand that: people kept being sick in the back of my cab! In 1990 I jumped at the chance of becoming a driving instructor with BSM, It was supposed to be a temporary job, but I'm still there!

Q. *So are things coming full circle?*

A. Well yes they are. My lad is 21 now and I can think about music again. I'm a bit rusty musically but I'm sure I can get my gear together and give it a go, though I don't know exactly what that will be. I can write material as well.

Q. *Do you envisage ever playing with Caravan again?*

A. Who knows? Dave Sinclair and I get on well and indeed we played together in Caravan for one tour just before the Camel gig came along. I'd fancy having a crack at For Richard or Love in Your Eye, which are my favourite tracks.



Geoff Richardson Dek Messecar

Richard Coughlan

Pye Hastings

Jan Schelhaas

# YOUR LETTERS

**Phil England, Istock** - A chance purchase of Mojo Mag. gave us the chance of a very enjoyable July Sunday afternoon at the Canterbury Festival in Kent. What a surprise! Last time I saw Caravan was 72 in Braintree, prior to that 1970 Plumpton Racecourse - what a year that was!

**Peter Smock, Pennsylvania, USA** - I have been listening to Caravan for the last 27 years, so I must be really old by now, but my enthusiasm for music remains undiminished. I have just returned from the Canterbury Festival, and it was an absolutely fabulous weekend. Three of my all time favourites on the same bill (the other being Gong, and Man). Even Boyle practising his Satriani licks all through the set didn't spoil my enjoyment. The weekend was made all the more memorable by meeting Pye Hastings, and Chas Andrews in the Pub on Saturday night (and he bought me a Pint!) Pity I was too Starstuck to do anything but mumble incoherently.

**Jason Hartopp, Willenhall** - Great to see Caravan coming to the Midlands: we'll be there on the 12th October in Wolverhampton. If you're there, we'll probably stick out like a sore thumb, people may think we've got the wrong night or some crazy idea, but we'll be there supporting the whole Caravan scene, so hopefully people won't be put off by a big group of 'teenagers' 'young men,' and we don't have to go on the grand tour of Britain in our mini-bus as we're just around the corner from Wolves. Not complaining, those Diss gigs were brilliant and please pass on our appreciation for all the work Lord and Lady Keenes put into the shows; hopefully we'll be able to make it three on the trot at Diss next year.

Thanks from all of us for the music the band have made, the coverage that's available to us through you and the Fanzine and the ability to appreciate life with Caravan.

Please pass on the thanks to the band and all involved and hopefully they'll keep surprising us with their music and keep the desire to play intimate gigs such as the Park Hotel. And see you at the Wulfum Hall Thursday night. Love the live extended version of Golf Girl, all time classic's Nine Feet Under, Magic Man, Place of My Own, Don't Worry, The list goes on and on and on.

**Keith Rule, Tonbridge** - I was of course delighted that some of the tracks I put forward as deserving a return to live performance did indeed reappear in the latest set, and on A.O.Y.2. I don't kid myself that my letter which you printed had any great effect itself (I know my place, govnor!) in achieving this, but was delighted to find my

thoughts were so much in time with the bands (Pye's) own! May I endorse the list put forward by one Graham Witcher in the last Newsletter. Oh well, I'm back to listening to 'Spock's Beard' and 'Parallel or 90°' now, two bands Caravan fans should be aware of - but probably aren't due to the dreadful state of decay our music media is in.

**Richard Hennessy** sent me an article written by Jeremy Clarkson from the Sunday Times just to prove Caravan still get a mention from time to time!



**Stuart Cottam** - I've just had a quick look at the website. It is excellent: let's hope it brings a few more fans to the Concerts and sells a few more CDs.

**Terry Westhead, Blackpool** - has sent in a few snippets and reminiscences for you all to share:

I have found some of the more recent material a bit too M.O.R. for my liking especially A.O.Y.2. Let's hope that they keep the more "rocky" stuff going. I also read each

# YOUR LETTERS

newsletter cover to cover and I think you're doing a marvellous job with it. I know how busy you are with the school etc. I don't know how you manage it, juggling the job, family and Caravan Newsletter/Website. Please keep the hard-copy Newsletter going, since I'm not yet hooked up to the internet at home.

When I got married in July 1998, I made sure the DJ played a Caravan medley tape while guests helped themselves to the buffet.

Two years on and my wife Jo was expecting a baby. She was putting together a cassette tape to play up at the hospital whilst she was in labour. Since I was going to be present at the birth, she said that I could have just ONE track on the tape. So I popped "Nine Fee Underground" on it - all 18 minutes of it. Now she's furious. With a bit of luck, the first thing our baby will hear when it comes out is Dave Sinclair's super keyboard playing.

Because of other priorities, I was not able to attend either Diss concerts in 1998 and 1999 and I was a bit choked to read that they had re-jigged their set and done, amongst other "new" old tracks "C'thlu, C'thlu." etc. since I've never seen them play those songs. Of course, I will be attending the Manchester University gig in October and doing my damned hardest to get as many people as I can to attend. Eeh my hat! Caravan travelling North of Watford? A one-hour drive to see a Caravan gig? Well, I'll go t' the foot of our stairs! You'd better tell them when you see them - it's grim up here you know. The food is mostly lard and the weather is bloody awful!

The news regarding digital re-mastering of the old albums plus the digging up of some unheard of little gems (Maurice Haylett etc.) sounds fantastic - extra tracks included on "For Girls Who Grow Plump..." and extended piccolo in the original "Golf Girl" seem almost too good to believe.

**Michael Birch, Oxford** - Just received the Fanzine today, (thanks) and found out about the Caravan (your) website. It's great that they now have one. Keep up the good work. I (we) appreciate it.

**Dave Wilson, Sunderland** - Just a short message from a fellow fan to say how much I enjoyed the new site. Please pass on my very best wishes to Pye and the lads and thank them for 30 years of musical highs! - Keep up your great work on the site!

**Bruce Millington, USA** - So glad to see a website dedicated to Caravan. I have been a devoted fan since 1971, and saw them do a benefit concert in Philadelphia in 1975. I have two questions I wish you could help me out with (1). Where is Richard Sinclair, and is he still playing music? RSVP was an amazing CD! (2). is Caravan ever going to play in the US again? There are a lot of fans in the Philadelphia area wondering if this will ever happen. I would really appreciate any information you could give me. Thank you for your time, and I look forward to hearing from you.

**Aymeric Leroy, France** - I came back from a 3 week holiday in the States and found the latest Caravan Newsletter in my mailbox. Congratulations for the well-designed website, which will take some load off my shoulders as far as keeping up to date with Caravan activities is concerned. Website: [calyx@club-internet.fr](mailto:calyx@club-internet.fr)

**Doug Kerr, Sheffield** - Got the Newsletter and surfed straight into the new website maaaaann! What can I say? How about "Where but for the continuing efforts of Ralph Cross would Caravan now be"? There looks to be a lot of activity, jolly good... looking forward to the live dates and the re-issues. What about a new studio CD? Keep your tongue out!

**Chris Lindsley, California** - Thanks for the great Caravan site. As usual, I am hopeful for a short tour by the band in the colonies. It seems like yesterday I saw the band perform at the Whiskey a Go Go on Sunset Boulevard whilst promoting the 'Plump in the Night' LP. Any chance of a Stateside visit?



Photos: Jason Hartopp

# YOUR LETTERS

**David Mann, Australia** - Maybe Caravan could make a triumphant return to Melbourne. Yes, they were here once before... on a treble bill with Lindisfarne and Slade(!) I believe. Unfortunately the gig was about a year before I started scouring shops for Grey & Pink, All Over, Plump and the MGM debut album. As well as Dingley Dell, Fog on the Tyne (Lindisfarne).

**Dave Rogers** - Congratulations on the website and the Fanzine! I was beginning to think I was alone out here - so pleased I'm not!

**Ray Judd** - Issue No.11 of "Where But For..." arrived today and answered all the questions I raised in my recent conventional letter to you! I visited the new website for the first time a few minutes ago - well done, it will be one of the most frequently visited. Many thanks for all your efforts on the Caravan News front.

**Andrew King** - Fantastic site, I have been looking for this site for years! Now I have it. I remember the days when I used to see Caravan play at 'home' in Canterbury, oh what wonderful times they were. You can be sure I will be checking out the site regularly from now, you never know I may get to see them again... I now live in Aldershot so somewhere local would be nice. Keep up the good work, long overdue.

**Gary Weare** - Great event yesterday at the Canterbury Festival. I'm going next year! It will be nice to know when the video's coming out. Any idea?

**Mike Johnson, Wokingham** - Please pass my thanks on to the band and everyone who made yesterday at Mt. Ephraim such a wonderful day! Perhaps one of the greatest gigs of all time. Looking forward to the video and next years gig.

**Martin Davenport** - I was stunned by their fantastic performance last night at the Canterbury Festival even though there were a few technical problems and no encores: it was one of the most powerful performances I've seen them do.

**Phil Driscoll** - Frustrating or what? Having spent 5 hours waiting for Caravan to come on and what do we get, 50 minutes and then told "come back next year." Absolute bollocks. Doesn't anyone organising these events have a watch, why don't these people understand that the majority had come to see Caravan and not their supports, as good as some were. We ran out of time at Diss, at the Astoria (to let in the gays) and again yesterday. All the supporting acts got their allotted time, so why do we have to be short changed again. Just when the boys were warmed up, bang "sorry you lot go home." They put on another super show, I still fail to understand why they are not huge, I thought that Nine Feet Underground was amazing, probably the best live version I've heard, Dougie Boyle has certainly added another dimension to their live playing. The climax to the Medley was excellent, too, but just when I'm ready to fly, they shot me down.

**Maggie and Steve** - Hi we've just got back home in Birmingham from Canterbury. What a great day out: congratulations on a superb location and a truly wonderful line up. Hope to see you again next year. Our only gripe was we couldn't get anything decent to eat. We would be definitely interested in purchasing a video.

**Bruce Henderson** - Well done that man! At last, an official, and hopefully accurate Caravan website, just when I was wondering if everyone had forgotten these guys. I believe someone wrote a book about Caravan and/or the Canterbury scene - perhaps some reference to it on the website would help folks like me (ie not many) who missed it, and don't even know what it was called. Otherwise, apart from the continuing non-issue of a CD versions of 'Better By Far', I can't find much to complain about, which is unusual. Please keep this going.



# YOUR LETTERS

**Paul** - Great website! Doubtless you were at Canterbury 2000 - wasn't it a blinding show from Caravan (and Mr. Brown).

**KT Sandersen, Norway** - It was very nice meeting you at the Canterbury Sound Festival. It turned out to be the greatest festival I've ever been to and there have been quite a few over the years.

**Paul Tizard** - Great to see you at the festival the other week. All the bands were good, particularly Man, Coliseum and A. Brown was v. amusing. Personally I thought Gong were garbage and played too long and thus reduced the length of the Caravan set. After all Caravan were top of the bill and should have been preferred. Complaints - the length of time to set Caravan up, couldn't hear Geoffrey, the real ale running out so early and more food outlets needed. But we still had a brilliant day and exceptional value for money. We have a couple of words with Jim and Geoff last year at Diss but would like to do a bit of fan worship with Pye and the rest. The new compilation is excellent, particularly the first CD - Magic in the car! See you in Paris? Keep up the good work.

**Andrew Marshall** - Just found your website... it's good to see that there is one out there and that there is a lot of support for them!

The first gig I went to was to see Caravan back in 1976, when Blind Dog/Canterbury Tales were released. I soon found copies of all their albums to date and followed them through to around 1980, seeing them live on both the Better By Far and The Album tours. I recently saw the advert for the new CD Anthology 'Where But For Caravan Would I' with (wait for it) unreleased tracks. After a quick trip to the local CD shop I listened to it and it rekindled my interest in the

group again. It's also nice to see that they are touring again... so I will probably be off to the Manchester gig.

**Peter Kirkham, Australia** - Just a small thank you for the site. I sometimes enter the names of favourite bands from my dim and distant past into a search engine to see what it brings up. Of course, I sadly only entered the names of 'mainstream' bands, not thinking that there were actually people out there in etherland with the style to like 'real' bands. Then one night I thought sod it and entered Caravan, Stackridge, and Man. Imagine my surprise when up popped your wonderful site. (I can also recommend the Stackridge site which is run by a relative (wife I think) of one of the original and still members). Here in the Antipodes I am starved of the opportunity to see Caravan live again, and I cried real tears when I read the ad for the Canterbury Festival in the MOJO Magazine. I last saw Caravan live about 1975 before being invited abroad the 'convict ship' and emigrating to Australia. To celebrate the finding of your site. I played 'Nine Feet Underground' at window melting level on Saturday, and merrily threw myself around my living room.

If you get the chance, can you ask Pye whether he remembers a small myopic drunken Liverpudlian accosting him at what I think was an all nighter at the LSE in about 1972, he showed supreme composure and taste and ignored me completely. I also vaguely remember Lol Coxhill telling me to 'piss-off' and threatening to do something rather rude with his saxophone and a certain part of my anatomy... Ahhh Sweet Memories.

**Johnny Gutierrez, USA** - How about some tour dates in California soon. Thank you much and may God bless Caravan for its beautiful music that has given us many good introspectives of our lives.



# CARAVAN ON TOUR - *The Review*

*Many thanks to my old mate Eric Gray for this review of the gig in Glasgow. As you may/may not be aware, Eric bears a heavy responsibility for getting Caravan re-rolling, through his query in 'Q' Magazine in 1990 asking, "Where Are They Now?" Which had a part to play in the reformation of the band.*

## **CARAVAN AT THE RENFREW FERRY, GLASGOW: 14th OCTOBER 2000**

**Set:** Oik, Memory Lain Hugh/Headloss, The Dog, Travellin Ways, Nightmare, I know Why You're Laughing, Somewhere In Your Heart, Medley from Anthology CD (including Hunting, Caroline), Liar, 9 Feet Underground

**Encores:** Golf Girl, If I Could Do It Again...

**Rating:** \*\*\*\*\* Outstanding.

### **INTRODUCTION**

When Ralph Cross told me that Caravan were undertaking a short tour of the UK, with the penultimate gig in Glasgow, my reaction was one of disbelief, excitement and trepidation. I, of course, had witnessed the band at most of their London concerts and their occasional forays to Old Buckenham etc. But I found it hard to believe that they were actually undertaking a proper tour with a concert in Glasgow. As it had been such a long time since they had visited Scotland I somewhat cynically started to wonder whether there would be much interest and whether the gig would eventually be cancelled. I'm please to say that my worries were totally unfounded and I and others who attended were privileged to be present at what I consider to be one of their finest performances.

### **THE VENUE**

The Renfrew Ferry is, surprise surprise, an old roll-on, roll-off ferry which was previously used to carry passengers and cars along the river Clyde. It is now moored on the river Clyde in the centre of Glasgow and used for gigs and various functions. Entry is via a steep gangway which caused some difficulty in getting the band's equipment on board and sadly prevented Dave Sinclair from using his trusty Hammond (a real shame). The stage area is in the hold of the boat with a balcony upstairs providing an alternative viewing area.

### **THE GIG**

Having arrived early, I managed to have a few words with the band before they started preparing for the night's performance. They seemed in very good spirits despite being housed in a dressing room that would have had a battery hen complaining. And it seemed that the previous concerts had gone well.

By the time that Jackie Leven had completed his enjoyable set a crowd had built up and was nicely warmed up. And as an old anorak, what surprised me most was the large number of youngsters who were present. As soon as the band took the stage it was clear that both the audience and Caravan were well up for the gig. As soon as they began singing it became quite apparent that it was not only we oldies who knew all the words to the songs.

Headloss and the Dog. The young group of headbangers at the front of the stage and the older air guitarists on the balcony seemed in awe of Doug Boyle's mastery of the guitar. It's a long time since I've seen people so transfixed during a performance. I have to confess that it was the first time I have seen Doug playing live: his playing gives the band a harder edge, provides an extra dimension to the sound and allows Pye to concentrate on the rhythm and leading the band. Material from the Battle of Hastings was prominent and received a great reaction from the audience. Pye then introduced a medley from the Anthology CD. This was not just well crafted, it was brilliant as the band, directed by Pye, moved seamlessly through the various timechanges linking the numbers. Especially poignant were Doug's vocals on Caroline. A storming rendition of Hunting saw some stunning interplay between Geoffrey and Doug underpinned by the solid drumming of Richard.

The last number of the main set was to feature Dave extensively. You've guessed it a barnstorming versions of 9 Feet Underground. By the end of this number the crowd was going ballistic, each member of the band was given a great reception when introduced. An encore was not only inevitable, it was a question of how long would they have to play before the crowd would let them go south for the Cambridge gig. A rousing version of Golf Girl, featuring Geoffrey on electric spoons, even had the suited side of the balcony on their feet. This was quickly followed by If I Could... which took audience participation to new extremes with the port side trying to out sing the starboard side. This completed a blinding set by the band, and left the crowd on a high clamouring for more.

As Ali G might say, and if the younger members of the audience will forgive me, respect to the audience: you were great, particularly the youngsters at the front for all your enthusiasm. To Maurice: for the sound and the loan of the pen. To the band: Pye, Richard "the timelord," Simon, Jim Geoffrey, David and Doug - thanks for making it such a brilliant night which will abide in the memory for a long, long time.

Hope you all had an uneventful journey to Carlisle, the first pit stop on the road to Cambridge

*Eric Gray*

# FINALLY

**Jasper Smit** Continental Caravan Campaign\* and European Information Services. Kleingouw 34A, 1619 CB Andijk Tel: 0031-228 59 35 25 - Fax: 0031-299 42 99 85 (copies of the double CD Back On The Tracks - Live in Holland are available by contacting Jasper)



**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:**  
[calyx@club-international.fr](mailto:calyx@club-international.fr)

*I get lots of people saying how difficult it is to find Caravan's material in the shops. The fact is that you can get almost every album on CD (Better By Far will be available eventually) but only through specialist mail order outlets (HTD are hoping to get the rights to 'Back To Front' shortly). Try the following:*

**Piccadilly Records** of Manchester. Tel: 0161 839 8008

**GFT** of Surbiton Tel: 0181 339 9965

[www.kelkoo.com](http://www.kelkoo.com) An excellent source for material supposedly unavailable elsewhere: in addition this web site searches out the cheapest copies from a variety of suppliers.

Many thanks to Jill and Codge Barber who are now helping compile their 9th 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 3-11 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).*

## RALPH CROSS

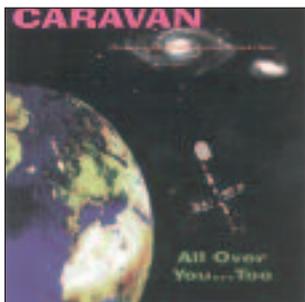
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