



*Where but
for Caravan
Would I?*



Newsletter

Issue No.13

April 2001

FOREWORD



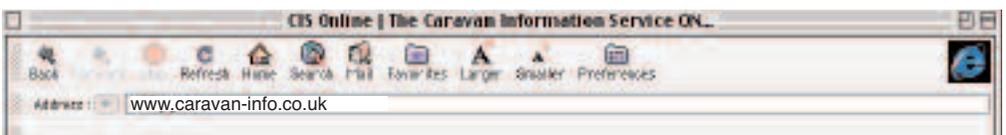
I hope you enjoy the current issue of *'Where But For Caravan Would I'* even though it does not include an interview with any band member past or present. I had intended to put together an article about Dek Messecar, Caravan bassist from 1978 to 1980 - he now resides in Camden - but other news made me realise I had to shelve that for the next edition otherwise this issue would have been many many pages long ('So What'? I hear you say) Included instead then is coverage of the gold disc presentation ceremony at the King's Head, Fulham High Street, thanks to Terry Westhead and Martin Davenport who have kindly supplied 'reviews' of the day; plus initial thoughts about the Universal Decca remasters.

Also within this magazine are a number of photos taken at the award ceremony. Of course there are the usual views and comments provided through letters and many many emails.

I would like to add my own thoughts on the wonderful 'day out' in Fulham. The whole event was a pleasure from start to finish, from the initial arrival in the pub and chatting with Geoffrey Richardson, seeing the other band members... and... disbelief, the arrival of Richard Sinclair original bassist who was not been on the same stage as the band since 1991.

It was also a pleasure to have the opportunity to meet with David Hitchcock, the producer who worked with the band on Land of Grey and Pink, Waterloo Lily, For Girls..., New Symphonia and Cunning Stunts as well as Blind Dog at St. Dunstons.

You will hear it many times but Mark Powell, has been the leading light in compiling the reissues and extra tracks, supporting the band at every opportunity and then ensuring that recognition has come (albeit 20 year late) for sales of Land of Grey and Pink, For Girls that Grow Plump and New Symphonia. The first of these achieved 100,000 LP sales in the UK by 1980 (gold disc status), with 47,000 CD copies since then around the world. The other two had sold 50,000 by this date in the UK, thereby qualifying for silver discs. At a time when record companies only seem interested in bands selling shiploads of albums, it is remarkable (no pun intended) that Mark has achieved all of this, as well as committing the record company to providing gold and silver discs for the band at a cost of £250 each!



NEWS update

The only confirmed dates for Caravan are the **Burg Herzberg Festival, Germany, Sunday 22nd July** (see website www.think-progressive.de for details) and the **Canterbury Sound Festival on Saturday 18th August** with a line up of Josiah, The Hamsters, Osibisa, Caravan, Porcupine Tree and Hawkwind.

Postal applications: **SECOND WAVE PROMOTIONS, PO BOX 385, UXBRIDGE, MIDDLESEX UB9 5DZ.** See the website for further ticket outlets. Gigs to be finalised should include a UK Autumn tour along with dates in France, Italy, Mexico (!) and possibly California.

The band members have been quiet of late and are not involved in other musical projects - in fact Doug Boyle has been supplementing his income with a bit of market research! What on earth is going on when a guitarist of his stature has insufficient work to be involved in music full-time? I was speaking with Pye's son Julian at the awards ceremony and he was telling me that although he's still involved in engineering/production, he's taken a job with

Apple Computers. He's also very aware of the need for Caravan to begin a new album and so will be doing his bit to push things along: he will of course be involved in the project. Dave Sinclair has a whole collection of songs to put forward for inclusion in a new album and Pye is keen to take advantage of this! Pye also understands the importance of new product to support future dates in the Autumn. I'm still on a promise (50th birthday gift from Pye) to play something on the new album - triangles? I'll keep you posted.

The publicity for Caravan has increased of late - John Peel's Home Truths, Saturday morning Radio 4 included a snippet about a guy whose life had been 'entwined' with Caravan through their music and talked about the fact that only recently he had seen them live for the first time.

Mojo magazine April edition included a section on Prog Rock with a page article on Land of Grey and Pink. Classic Rock and Record Collector have included details of the award ceremony and new releases in their current edition.

UNIVERSAL REISSUES: Extra Tracks

IF I COULD DO IT ALL OVER AGAIN, I'D DO IT ALL OVER YOU *Deram 8829682*

A Day in the Life of Maurice Haylett - This track originally surfaced as a live take on Top Gear with the title 'The Daily Routine of Maurice Haylett.' The master track has since disappeared but at least we are left with this gem which is also on the compilation 'Where But for Caravan Would I.

Why - This later surfaced as 'And I Wish I Were Stoned.' Pye sings on this version as opposed to Richard and the keyboard has a different sound: it also lacks the guitar solo which comes in at the end of the track that made the album.

Clipping the 8th - This demo became 'Hello Hello'. the vocals - by Richard Sinclair, are much sharper and clearer. The hedge clippers are much more to the fore as is Pye's 'Hello Hello' in the background. The end sound effect differs also from the final version.

As I Feel I Die - Pye's vocals have a live feel and Dave 'lets rip' on a keyboard solo towards the end. Other than that the track bears many similarities to the final version.

LAND OF GREY & PINK *Deram 8829832*

I Don't Know It's Name (Alias The Word) 6'12 - A song very much in the style of Winter Wine, with Richard Sinclair on vocals. I would think it must have

been a close call as to whether this or one of the other tracks was cut from the original album. It is a strong track punctuated by a Sinclair keyboard solo.

Aristocracy 3:42 - This version pre-dates the Waterloo Lily version by a year. Pye sings a high vocal - his voice seems to be straining somewhat - and it is a much slower version. It seems incomplete, as if further production was intended. Nevertheless it is a curiosity well worth listening to.

It's Likely To Have A Name Next Week 7:48 - This is an instrumental version of Winter wine, obviously an earlier recording before the lyrics and final arrangements were put together. As we would I am sure agree, 'Winter Wine' is a wonderful track and even this incomplete version shines through strongly, evidence of the songwriting talent of Richard Sinclair.

Group Girl 5:04 - A fascinating glimpse into the way a track eventually becomes the final version ie Golf Girl. Some words are the same, some are completely different: intriguing.

Disassociation/100% Proof 8:35 -

Although this begins very much like the original version on 9 Feet Underground it slowly takes on an identity of its own with additional flute from Jimmy Hastings, an alternative guitar solo by Pye and an electric piano part from Dave.



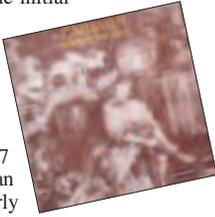
WATERLOO LILY *Deram 8829822*

Pye's June Thing 2:57 - This is an acoustic song - Pye and guitar - very much at the initial stages before input from other band members.

Ferdinand 2:57 - A very catchy acoustic number, again at the 'demo' stage, with Pye on guitar and vocal.

Looking Left, Looking Right 5:37 - A full band version plus brass; an interesting but not particularly memorable number, other than the fact that it contains the riff which later turned up on the 'Battle of Hastings' Album as 'Wendy Wants A 10" Mole.

Pye's Loop 1:21 - This seems like a bit missing from some or other track: again a full band number.



FOR GIRLS THAT GROW PLUMP IN THE NIGHT *Deram 8829802*

Memory Lain Hugh/Headloss 9:18 - The U.S. single features a different version of Dave Sinclair's keyboards and a different link between the 'two' songs.

No/Waffle 5:40 - These became 'Be Alright' and 'Chance of a Lifetime' with the addition of vocals. These are pleasant versions and Derek Austin on Hammond and Stu. Evans on bass complement the band successfully.

He Who Smelt It Dealt It (Instrumental) 4:43 - This later became Memory Lain Hugh. I rather like Derek Austins keyboards, his style is quite different from Dave Sinclair. Geoffrey Richardson gets the opportunity to really 'break out'.

Surprise Surprise 3:15 - As for the previous two tracks we have the Evans/Austin combination. Pye sings along with a 'do-de-do' style: added at this stage. Derek Austin accompanies Pye with a fine display on electric piano.

Derek's Long Thing 11:00 - This is a particularly intriguing track as it is almost identical to 'Austin Cambridge' a track which surfaced on 'Canterburied Volume 4' (Voiceprint VP204CD). This version however is slightly shorter and features electric piano in the early part (as opposed to Hammond) and a viola solo which has an 'echoey' feel and more up-front guitar from Pye than in Austin Cambridge. The question is which version was recorded first?



CARAVAN AND THE NEW SYMPHONIA *Deram 8829692*

Introduction 1:01, **Memory Lain, Hugh/Headloss** 9:57 - Alan Black does his bit. Unfortunately this causes confusion in the numbering as this is on the sleeve as a separate track: in fact it goes into Memory Lain and Headloss as Track 1.

Dave's keyboards at the start sound very like Derek Austin's version on 'He Who Smelt It Dealt It! This

version features the band alone without the New Symphonia.

The Dog, The Dog, He's At It Again 6:35

- At last Pye divulges the background to this track in his introduction! I don't see this as the definitive live version, lacking as it does a bit of urgency and punch. It includes a very different middle section - Dave Sinclair's keyboard doesn't take on its usual recognisable style.

Hoedown 3:55 - This is a strong version up with the best versions I've seen the band perform.

A Hunting We Shall Go 10:33 - This was the one track with orchestra that didn't make the original album. Pye's album sleeve notes make it clear that it very nearly didn't happen at all due to a revolt by the musicians who weren't used to doing encores - and certainly not for free! In all honesty the band don't need the orchestra - they manage quite nicely on their own! However the support comes in from the orchestra during 'Backwards' and continues to the end - *P.S. I love the ending.*



CUNNING STUNTS *Deram 8829812*

Stuck in a Hole (Single Version) 3:11 - This is a remix of the album version.

Keeping Back My Love 5:15 - This one sounds familiar! Here we have the tune for 'Behind You' from the album Better By Far with different lyrics - confusing or what? The song feels very similar apart from the fact that Geoffrey Richardson contributes a viola solo and Dave Sinclair's keyboard work is very different from the slant given by Jan Schelhaas on the version on Better By Far.

For Richard 18:33 - This live recording appeared on the Decca compilation from the 1970's entitled 'Canterbury Tales! At last, for those of us reluctant to buy the double album just for the one 'new' track, our chance has come to own it on this album.

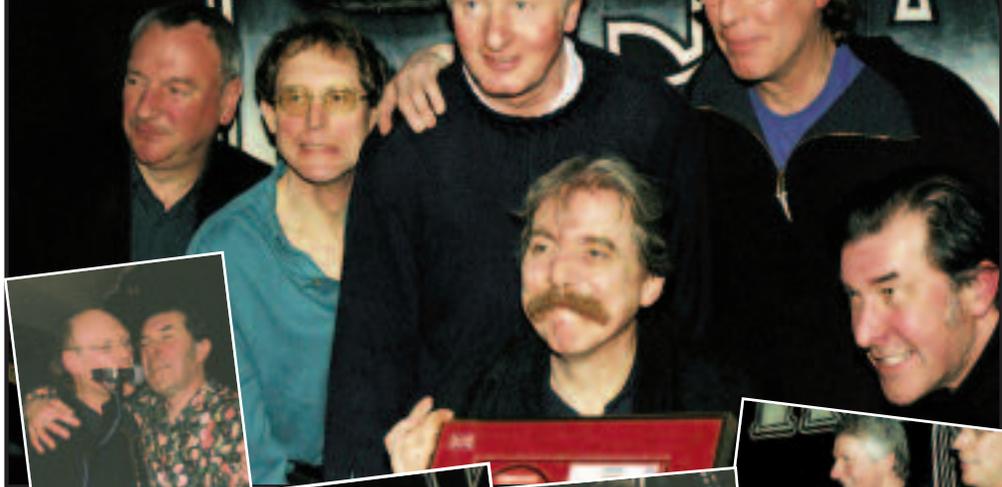


'If I Could...' and Land of Grey and Pink' have both been reviewed in the Saturday Times with very positive comments. (Q Magazine also spoke highly about the reissues).

All in all this is a fabulous collection of albums, beautifully, thoughtfully and above all caringly put together. For that we are grateful to Universal Records, to the band and to the 'master' engineer/producer, Pye's son Julian. There is no doubt whatsoever however that without the wonderful support by Mark Powell these albums would have seen the light of day as simple reissues. He has ensured that they have been remastered, repackaged, with comprehensive liner notes. By beaver away he has discovered these tracks that most certainly would not have seen the light of day. they are a real treat for Caravan fans, so if you haven't got all these reissues yet - why not?

GOLD & SILVER DISC PRESENTATION

L to R: David Hitchcock, Dave Sinclair, Pye Hastings, Richard Coughlan, Richard Sinclair, and new boy Geoff Richardson



Monday 26th February 2001

Those lucky enough to attend the Gold disc presentation on Monday witnessed an event which will not be forgotten for a very long time to come. About 50 fans together with many friends and family of the Caravan contingent gathered at the Kings Head in Fulham, London at 2.00. Everyone was very excited when they saw that the full stage gear had been set up ready for a short set which was to be broadcast on radio at a later date. After a few minutes the band took to the stage (minus Simon Bentall) and after a short introduction from Mark Powell they launched into Memory Lain Hugh/Headloss. The band were as tight as ever and the sound particularly good for such a small venue (thanks Maurice!). They couldn't celebrate In The Land Of Grey And Pink without playing their best song "Nine Feet Underground". This was played beautifully and sounds even better now with Doug Boyle's guitar sounds. Then everyone breathed in - who was that now getting on stage to sing his famous part - yes it was -

Richard Sinclair

himself after an absence from Caravan of almost 10 years. He seemed genuinely surprised at his reception: let's hope that he will be playing again in the UK very soon as he clearly still has a following here. After nine feet the band finished off with "Golfgirl" (what else) and "if I could....". With Richard Sinclair adding vocals. These songs have not aged in thirty years. After the set the band were presented with the gold discs for ITLOGAP

plus a silver disc for Geoffrey (the "new" Boy) for the New Sinfonia album. David Hitchcock who produced the first six Caravan Albums also received a much deserved gold disc. Afterwards the band remained to chat to friends and fans it was a really relaxed and happy atmosphere. A few of us also got our old album covers signed! All in all it was a memorable occasion. Many thanks to Mark Powell and all at Decca for giving this great band the recognition they deserve. Looking forward to the Canterbury sound Festival in August and until then we will have the remasters to listen to.

Martin Davenport

photos: cogde



GOLD DISC PRESENTATION

On Monday 26th February 2001. Caravan were being presented with a Gold Disc for "In the Land of Grey and Pink" plus a Silver Disc for "For Girls Who Grow Plump In The Night". To celebrate this and the re-issue of their early albums, digitally re-mastered with extra tracks, Caravan decided to make an afternoon of it. By using Caravan's web-site, the band put out an invite for fifty of their fans to join them at the King's Head in Fulham for an afternoon of music and beer. Members of the press were also invited for the all-important publicity. I managed to get an invite and quickly booked my hotel in Earls Court!

After doing some shopping in the West End during the morning of the 26th, I returned to my hotel for a quick sh*t, shower and shave, then jumped on the tube train to Putney Bridge. The King's Head is on Fulham High St., but despite the rather posh location, the pub was quite a flea pit - a typical small music venue. And no cask ales either. I could imagine Richard Coughlan curling his lip at that. Still, we weren't here for the beer, we were here to see Caravan, and meet them hopefully. The first recognisable face was Ralph Cross who was lamenting the complete lack of food available at the pub. He went out and got a dozen or so burgers from a place across the road, for himself and a few mates. I then bumped into Eric Gray who was one of the first people to get Caravan going again some eleven years previously, along with Ralph. There were one or two other familiar faces. Then I saw someone I recognised very well indeed. It was Richard Sinclair! More about Richard later.

I could hear the band in the main room warming up. They were to perform a "mini-gig" of around an hour. It needs pointing out that this is longer than a lot of today's bands' full concerts. After a short while, we were called into the concert room and waited around for proceedings to commence. Mark Powell, Caravan's manager, kicked off the afternoon, explaining the itinerary, and why we were all gathered. Then Caravan launched into "Memory Lain Hugh / Headloss" followed by "Nine Feet Underground". The line-up was Pye Hastings, Dave Sinclair, Richard Coughlan, Geoff Richardson, Doug Boyle and Jim Leverton. However, what a splendid moment it was in the middle of "Nine Feet Underground" when Richard Sinclair joined the band and sang in the

"There's a place where I can go....." section. Being a relative youngster, I had never seen Richard sing on stage before so this was a big deal for me personally. Needless to say, the cameras were clicking

furiously throughout all the songs, since it was easy to get a good photograph.

After the opening numbers, the band were presented with the Gold and Silver discs. Obviously Richard Sinclair did not receive anything for "For Girls Who Grow Plump..." since he'd departed from the band by then. After much applause and photographs, Caravan continued with "Golf Girl" and finished with "If I Could Do It All Over Again..." (Richard Sinclair on vocals for both numbers, with Pye harmonising). After they finished, the band spent quite some time being interviewed by the press and posing for photographs. I heard that both Mojo and Classic Rock magazine were there, along with others. After this, the band began mingling with the small audience. I had a brief chat with Geoff Richardson, admiring his spoon playing technique, but had longer conversations with Doug Boyle and Richard Sinclair. Doug is struggling for work at the moment between Caravan gigs. It is highly depressing that someone as highly talented as Doug is scratching around for work when manufactured boy and girl bands' earnings soar into the stratosphere. I heard that Geoff isn't over busy either. Hopefully their luck will change soon. Then, I collared Richard Sinclair as he passed by. "Any chance of the Hatfield's reforming?", I asked, half-jokingly. To my surprise, he said that he had been talking to a few of the band members and it was quite likely that something would happen. I might get to hear "Fitter Stoke Has a Bath" live after all! I asked him what he was doing, musically. He told me that he had quite a few ideas including an album of just himself with acoustic guitar. I'll look out for it. Richard was very friendly and forward throughout. After he wandered off across the room, I had a look around for Dave Sinclair and Pye. But they were pre-occupied with the press. However they still took time out to smile for a photo from any fan that requested it.

I then decided to have a few more jars and speak to some of the other Caravan nuts that had come along that afternoon. Soon it was tea-time and the event was over. We said our goodbyes and myself, Ralph, Eric, and a few others (sorry lads I forgot your names because I was half-pickled!) wandered back to Putney Bridge tube station in pouring rain. I got off the train at Earls Court to be greeted by hundreds of punters heading for the Brit Awards. Westlife? A1? Coldplay? You can keep it. I could be accused of living in the past but until the musical future looks brighter, that's where I'll stay.

Terry Westhead



*photos:
Chris Clark*

ED'S FINAL BIT

This is certainly for me a '*Special edition.*' Not only am I reporting on a significant event in the history of Caravan - the issue of gold and silver discs, but also the fact that this will be my last fanzine. I have been soldiering along since 1994, laterly with invaluable support from Codge Barber and his wife Jill who have done such a first rate job in deciphering my hand written scrawl and laying it out along with photographs as well as letters and articles provided by you the fans.

As you will know I also run the 'official' Caravan website: www.caravan-info.co.uk and this has really taken over my time which, as a full time headteacher, coupled with family commitments (including a very supportive wife albeit a 'non' appreciator of the wonders of Caravan) means I am stretching myself too thin. It is therefore time to concentrate on the website - with its (so far) 24,811 hits including 8,554 individual visitors. This is obviously the way things are moving but nevertheless there remains a vital role in the production of a fanzine for those who are not computer literate plus a sizeable number who regularly visit the web site but still like the 'extra' detail and the idea of owning a booklet. I can therefore tell you that the fanzine will continue under the excellent stewardship of Codge and Jill Barber with Eric Gray taking on my role as collator of information. I shall of course continue to provide any back-up that is required: my commitment to Caravan remains the same.

The changeover will be very straight forward. I will forward all of your envelopes and addresses to Eric. All future correspondence should be to: Eric Gray, 20 Greenbank Loan, Edinburgh. EH10 5SJ. The next fanzine will appear around October 2001 all being well! If you do *not* wish to have your details passed on to Eric (and I can't see any reason why not!) you must let me know ASAP.

CARAVAN-Live In Paris - C'est Magnifique!

By Martin Davenport

Bataclan Theatre Paris-25th November 2000

Set List: Oik/Bobbing Wide, Memory Lain Hugh/Headloss, The Dog, Travellin Ways, Nightmare, I know why you're Laughing, Somewhere in your heart, Medley including But for Caravan/Oh Caroline/The love in Your Eye/Hunting..., Liar, Nine feet underground, Encores-Golf Girl, If I could do it Again....



Caravan rounded off a fantastic year in style with a return to Paris after 20 years. A few made the trip across the channel for the occasion and we were rewarded by a storming set of old faves and newer songs played in the "new" Caravan sound. The 400 Parisians were very appreciative of this performance. The old Caravan sound has been enhanced by Percussion

and Doug Boyle's exceptional guitar. The band really seemed to be enjoying themselves none more so than the vibrant Geoffrey Richardson. He was obviously happy to be back in Paris again having played with a number of French musicians in the past, and he was everywhere (and his French was pretty good too!). It is difficult to name the highlights: there were so many, but one of the best was Nightmare a forgotten classic from the "Better By Far" album. Pye's vocals were spot on and very powerful on this number and Doug's guitar solo was fantastic - his interplay with Geoff's Viola at the end of this song was spinetingling. The Medley of old songs was particularly well received and deservedly so as it's really well put together and the rousing finale of Hunting left everyone breathless. After the timeless classic "Nine feet underground" the band rounded things off nicely with their two most popular encore numbers complete with Geoffrey's Spoon solo (using Rubber Gloves - for an even cleaner sound!). Suddenly it was all over and the Paris crowd cheered for a good ten minutes after the house lights came on to round off a triumphant night for the band.

The icing on the cake was a few of us going backstage afterwards to meet the band - they are just as friendly as you would imagine. I also chatted to a few of them in the bar next door where they partied to the early hours.

All in all it was a memorable night and a big thank you to Ralph and the band for making so many of us happy. I look forward to a 40 date European tour next spring!?

photos:

William Hayter



The year is 2000 and here am I. Out there in the popular music world, “Rock/Indie” music is beginning to turn full circle, using almost identical sounds to those created by the Prog Rock groups of the early seventies. The term “Prog Rock” is still a dirty work in the music press and “Jazz Rock” even dirtier. To a lot of people, mention either of these phrases and the image conjured up is of middle-aged ex-public school old farts playing endless guitar/keyboard/drum solos in pompous forty five minute long “Songs” utilising absurd time signatures. “Surely, that is why Punk Rock and New Wave happened,” people say. But the reality is a lot more complicated than that. In this article, I intend to give my version of the transition in musical styles, over the last twenty-five years (!) I also want to fight a case for Caravan, my favourite band, who as all newsletter readers are aware, have in the last nine years, become an operational unit again.

In 1977 I was living in Blackpool, 14 years old and listening to my older brother's rock albums by bands such as Yes, Pink Floyd, Black Sabbath and Led Zeppelin. However, all around me the Punk/New Wave explosion was happening. As, 1977 turned into 1978 and 79, I continued to listen to the older bands, whilst at school a lot of my more fashion/fad conscious friends began to abandon Yes and Pink Floyd for the likes of The Clash, X-Ray Specs and Sham 69. However, as a budding guitarist and music student, I found that most of the Punk/New Wave bands offered me no musical fulfilment either melodically or technically. So my own musical tastes developed on a different path and I found myself enjoying Caravan, Camel, Frank Zappa, Jethro Tull, Genesis and Brand X. Let's not mention Disco. 1980 was an awkward time because, not wanting to be the social outcast in the Lower Sixth year of my secondary school, I got a skin-head hair cut and bought a two-tone suit. The Ska music of Madness and The Specials was the big thing. One Spring evening in 1980, I remember going to see Madness at Blackpool Mecca (by the way, they were marvellous), coming home, taking off my pork pie hat and jacket and putting on Caravan's “Waterloo Lily”! The point I'm coming to is that I'm damned sure there were an awful lot of other people around who still enjoyed listening to the “Older” music with strong melody and musicianship but were to frightened to admit it.

What had shocked a lot of rock music fans was that one of the few people from the radio to play rock music,

John Peel, had also abandoned rock for Punk and New Wave. Caravan recorded several “Sessions” for Peel at various times. What had ‘turned him’ were himself and John Walters at an ELP concert in some stadium or other. They could hardly see the members of the group, they were so far away, plus they had a big orchestra with them that turned the gig into an almighty yawn. Shortly afterwards, John Peel heard The Undertones and the rest was history. Peel had a big influence on musical tastes, especially with college students who made up most of rock music's fan base and if he no longer played Yes, Pink Floyd etc. then they were “out” as far as a lot of students were concerned. In fact John Peel's change of direction shouldn't really have been a shock. Peel was always a fan of the “New” and “Alternative”. In the late sixties and early seventies, prog rock WAS “New” and “Underground”, getting very little airplay on radio or TV. Peel liked this and decided to support it. When prog rock music became mainstream, his interest began to wane. So it should not have been a surprise that the New Wave came along, he did the same thing, abandoning the established acts and championing the new sounds.

The fickle music press, more than any other form of media, sunk its teeth into the older rock bands. NME, Melody Maker and Sounds all contributed, all afraid of being seen as un-hip if they continued to support the likes of Floyd, Yes and Genesis etc. Amongst many wild attacks, the music press accused these bands of being pompous and snobby. Quite rich considering that many music journalists were ex-public school and had only got a position with a music paper because daddy had pulled strings. Also people like Tony Wilson at Factory records in Manchester were sneering at the older bands whilst promoting Joy Division/New Order - bands so breathtakingly pretentious and over-rated you couldn't believe that they were getting away with it.

For a lot of bands and musicians belonging to the earlier seventies groups at this time, it was a case of sink or swim. Some were lucky. The Police were one of the biggest and hippest groups at the time, but their roots were deep in prog/jazz rock, although the music press didn't highlight this. Stewart Copeland had previously played with Curved Air, Andy Summers played guitar with Soft Machine and The Police's manager, Miles Copeland was also Caravan's. Some bands such as Genesis were so huge that they rode the storm. Others had damaging break-ups and personnel changes (Pink Floyd, Yes, Jethro Tull, Led Zeppelin). Some of the old bands tried to modernise with poor results - Jethro Tull's “A” albums is a prime example. Information at this time regarding Caravan was, as usual, scant. I presumed that they had broken up and had no knowledge, for instance, of their “The Album” release. Amongst others, Caravan had tried to some extent to update their sound but it

wasn't working. Numerous personnel changes had dogged Caravan throughout their career and "The Album" was to be their last for a long time. Meanwhile New Wave and rock fans alike were all suffering from a dose of the New Romantics.

By the early eighties, Punk was no more, being viewed by the music press as not trendy and suffering the same kind of treatment as prog/jazz rock before it. On the "Indy" scene, there was an improvement in the quality of music that people were listening to. Bands such as U2, Echo and the Bunnymen, and The Smiths were all producing songs with better music and words. Commercially, the influence of American music derived from the urban ghettos was spreading with "Rap" and "Hip-Hop" on the increase. Come the late eighties, some of the older bands that had been sunk by the New Wave explosion had begun to re-surface. For instance, after worrying their fans with Abacab and Phil Collins singing Culture Club's "Karma Chameleon" during a Genesis encore on the Mama tour, Genesis returned in 1986 with "Invisible Touch", a stronger album all round. Jethro Tull produced "Crest of a Nave", an album much more in the style of their bigger successes from the seventies. Pink Floyd, without Roger Waters brought out "A Momentary Lapse of Reason", leaving the acrimony and monopoly of Waters' contribution behind for a much more accessible sound similar to that of their early seventies successes.

Into the 1990's, bands like Yes were back together with all the original members, King Crimson were producing records, Page and Plant were touring again, all with a loyal fan base. Something that couldn't be said for many of the New Wave bands, most of whose "fans" had moved onto the next trendy sound, and were truly dead and buried. So were Caravan, or so we thought. However, there were rumblings in Norwich after Ralph Cross and others persuaded them to have a re-union at the Old Buckenham High School. The rest is history for us Caravan fans. They have released several CD's in the last few years, most notably The Battle of Hastings, All Over You/Too, Songs For Oblivion Fishermen and very recently, the Double CD Anthology. In the land of "Hip", Primal Scream sing "Motorhead", bands like Korn and Limp Bizkit play "Nu-Metal" rather than call themselves "Heavy Metal", Alex James (Blur) name-checks Caravan and their vocals as an influence. Radiohead use mellotron and analogue synths. Gong get invited to Glastonbury 2000. Meanwhile on the almost totally defunct Top of the Pops, "Boy" and "Girl" dance bands reel out the latest seventies cover to the sound of a drum machine with some dick-head behind a record turntable waving his arms and blowing a whistle. Someone told me recently that you can get into the top twenty singles

chart by selling 5000 records. This low number shows the irrelevance of these dance and DJ acts. As with the 1970's, it is the album charts where bands requiring more thought are to be found.

It's been a weird and wonderful musical journey for me over the past thirty years. I've attended hundreds of gigs and seen bands playing a massive range of different musical styles. But I can quite honestly say that the best piece of rock music that I've heard in all that time is "Nine Feet Underground" by Caravan.

And... yet another article from the prolific pen of Terry Westhead

CARAVAN - MANCHESTER UNIVERSITY - FRIDAY 13TH OCTOBER 2000

It may have been Friday the 13th but it was certainly no horror show from Caravan. In fact it was the best gig I've seen them do, ever. And for the first time, I didn't have to travel across the country to see my favourite band. Ironically Kent (Caravan's base) had seen two inches of rain that day and Manchester was a dry as a bone, ho ho ho! Caravan were playing just 50 miles from my home in Blackpool and I was quite grateful. There had been some advertising. I noticed an advert in the back of "Select" magazine. They were also mentioned in Channel 4's Gig guide on Teletext. On the night, the numbers looked to be around 300 for the gig which was fine in quite an intimate concert hall.

What transformed this into a real night to remember was the set they played and the sound. I quickly realised that the sound at the Astoria in London had not been doing the band much justice. Not only was the band's music well mixed in Manchester but they were quite loud. This meant that the more rocky interludes had everybody bouncing in the hall!



photo: Alan Wood

I'd not seen them since 1998 so the change in the set was quite noticeable. I was amazed when they commenced with a super version of "Very Smelly Grubby Little Oik!" from "Blind Dog..." After that they returned to more familiar territory with "Memory Lain Hugh/Headloss". Geoff's viola was much more apparent than in the past and this really added to all these tracks. Caravan continued the "For Girls Who Grow Plump..." theme with "The Dog the Dog, He's at it Again" which again came across very well indeed. The band then ventured into more recent material with "Travelling Ways" and a really excellent versions of "Nightmare" from "All Over You Too" with superb guitar work from Doug Boyle (this highly impressed my 14 year old son, Jake!) Caravan went back to "For Girls Who Grow Plump..." and played "C'thlu Thlu" which I was hearing live for the first time. but what sent the gig into the stratosphere for me personally was the medley they put together, re-visiting some of their other older material which hadn't been aired for years. Pye mentioned that they'd put together the medley in recognition of the Anthology CD that had recently been released. Caravan then commenced the medley with "Wraiks and Ladders" - which isn't on the Anthology! Who cares, it was bloody marvellous. After a couple of smart transitions, Pye uttered the first few dulcet tones of "Love in Your Eye", another track I'd never personally heard live. Another old classic then reared its head - "Where But For Caravan Would I L...", but the climax to the medley blew me away. I never thought that they'd attempt "Pengola/Backwards..." from the end of "For Girls Who Grow Plump..." because of the logistics of having half an orchestra on stage! However I realised that they'd done an excellent "band" version on the "Songs for Oblivion Fishermen" CD but that was a long time ago. So when I heard the first few chords of Pengola, I was, to coin a footballing phrase, "Over the Moon!" After a very accurate rendition of the piece which reminded me, in some places, of Mike Ratledge's original version of the tune on Soft Machine's "Third" album, Caravan polished it off with a really exhilarating reprise of "A Hunting We Shall Go". Of course the band kept peaking, playing a much sharper versions of "Nine Feet Underground" than I'd heard at the Astoria. The band seemed to be much better rehearsed, the solos were more accomplished, especially from Dave Sinclair. To much applause, Caravan came back on stage with "Golf Girl" and "If I Could Do It All Over Again..." For the encores Geoff Richardson, who had been quite a wag all evening, did his usual stuff with the spoons. All in all, what a marvellous evening! My son Jake is now a fan for life. Many of the younger students at the concert were very impressed. Caravan should tour more often. You can be sure that all the people at the gig would have told their friends how good they were!

Greetings from Brazil, Francisco Silva - Brasil - This is what I'm hunting for years in the www, a really wonderful Caravan Site. My compliments for you to put out the most beautiful and informative one! There's another, but it's all in Japanese. You could see, by this message, that English is not own language; so, in English I cannot get everything, you could imagine I can get nothing in Japanese. Also, I live in Rio de Janeiro area, Brazil and for 5 years we have a Progressive Festival. We have already see some groups like Solaris, Banco del Mutuo Socorso, Balletto di Bronzo, Pendragon, Flower Kings, and others. We have already scheduled the great Camel for March 2001. We do want to have also Caravan. Do you think it will be possible?

Andrew King - I have been into Caravan on and off for 20+ years, just seen the gig at Chiddingfold and it was great to hear the band sound as good as ever. This was the first time I have seen them since the days of the old

Canterbury Odeon, (Remember that !!). Great new additions to the band, Doug and Simon, it's fantastic that great music transcends all age groups. Long live Caravan... long may they tour.

David Keable - Saw the band at Cambridge recently and they were brilliant. I'm ashamed to admit it's the first time I've seen them live, but it won't be the last. It's back catalogue buying time!

Mel Tullgren - Nice web site, glad to see the info about the reissues coming out in Feb. '01. Been a fan since '71. After all these years Caravan is still one of my all time 5 favourite bands.

Juan Carlos Araneda, Punto de Vanguardia, Radio Futuro-Chile - Hello everybody, this is Juan Carlos Araneda from Chile in South America. As I work in a classic rock station since 1989 I have been playing your music and all the canterburian bands, that I know, for all this time. Best regards.

Bob Hearne, Keep up the good work. Great night at Chiddingfold on Friday, the lads were on form. After being short changed at Canterbury Festival, great day but having travelled from Bristol, you will appreciate that less Gong and more Caravan would have been ideal. The change from the Astoria to Shepherds Bush is was also a great improvement. Blimey Caravan three times in one year I've never had it so good! Let's hope we can get Diss sorted for 2001. Regards.

Arnaud Toussaint (16 years old) - We (my parents and I) were in Paris at the BATACLAN yesterday and we really had a great time. I hope you will come back soon because I saw on the little paper in front of Geoff that you didn't have time to play all the songs! By the way, I also noticed terrific stickers on Dave's keyboards, I introduced "For girls who grow plump in the night" to my music school teacher. She really liked it and chose the last song (a hunting we shall go) to play with an electrified and an orchestral band at the end of the year! I'm already elated by this project. It will not take place at the Bataclan but in a theatre some where in the outskirts of Paris! Wish you all the best and again thanks for this wonderful evening!

Patrick Bommel - Thanks to CARAVAN for the exhibition done in PARIS at the BATACLAN. I saw CARAVAN at the same place 25 years ago! Caravan is one of the best group in the world A special congratulation to the new member of the band : the guitar "hero" DOUG BOYLE (the old one's were of course excellent as usual !!!) Many thanks to Geoffrey for son francais et son humour I only regret that it's difficult to find the CARAVAN CD's in FRANCE and that this concert was bad promoted: It's only by chance that I have heard that

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CARAVAN was in Paris , but I'm happy because now CARAVAN has 2 more fans : my wife & a best friend of mine LONG LIVE CARAVAN and Good TOUR

Mike Brown - Does anyone have any opinion on the recent Chiddingfold gig? I enjoyed the music very much (particularly the medley) but thought that the gig was poorly organised, namely: • confusion over start time (7.30 per this site or 8.30 per ticket) • very late start - I arrived for 7.30 but the music didn't start until 9.45 or so • what was the raffle all about? sheer nonsense - As I say, the music was good but I think that the fans were not treated properly & had to pay £12.50 for the privilege. Just my opinion - what's yours?

Ariane Naumovic - What a great moment, last Saturday in Paris with Caravan! The Bataclan doesn't give the best sound for rock music, but still what a pleasure! Geoffrey said it himself: we expected that for so long, about 20 years! I hope Caravan comes back to France soon, so that my lover could come and applause: he was at the hospital that day ! Keep going, all of you. Ariane, from Paris

Charles Flock - I have been a fan of this band since their 1st album. I was fortunate enough to actually see them in Hollywood at the Starwood Theatre, now torn down. Thanks for the cool site.

Steve - I thought the Caravan gig at chiddingfold was amazing, it was the BEST gig I've ever been to (apart from certain stoned waaaaankers in the audience. I always seem to end up next to them)

HI!MY NAME IS VAGELIS AND I COME FROM GREECE.I LIKE YOUR MUSIC BUT I GOT ONLY THE LAND OF GREY AND PINK LP! WONDER IF YOU EVER GONNA COME IN GREECE?PLEASE ANSWER ME!ANYWAY... I WISH YOURIDE LIKE THE WIND-MY FRIEND.....

William Hayter - Just wanted to register my total approval of the gig at the Bataclan, yet another fine performance, and seemingly getting better all the time. By the way, my dear girlfriend saw the band for the first time and is now a serious convert!! The drink in the bar afterwards was also fun, including staggering drunk to the cab rank with the English entourage afterwards.

Simon Knights, Canterbury - Great day at the Gold Disc presentation wasn't it! Super to see Richard Sinclair in action again too. Keep up the good work on the Caravan-info site. Cheers,

Bill Treen - Just visited the web site after seeing it in the November fanzine from Chris Coutts. Looks good! Tried surfing a few weeks ago, looking for anything with 'caravan' in it. What a joke, yes, you guessed it, all the sites had wheels on! Just a point of interest, I have a signed copy of the first album by the band at a gig at the Catacombs club in Wolverhampton sometime many years ago. Unfortunately, didn't get Maurice 'the hat' to add his sig though! Great anthology CD.

Andrew King, Aldershot - Caught the gig at Chiddingfold, excellent. Did not like the raffle as 'Warm Up' but some things are out of everyone's control! The band were as tight as ever and sounded in fine form... Can't wait to update my record collection from vinyl to CD. Pass on my congrats to the band, I met people from a wide geographic range, Shepperton in London to East Sussex... maybe another tour? Long live Caravan... long may they tour and record.

Ellie Nickson - Hey there, I'm so excited to finally find the Caravan website (I had problems with my computer before) It's been done really well, and is a fitting tribute to quite possibly the best band in the world - ever! Well done,

Eddy Segers - Greetings from a Caravan fan from Belgium. - Surfin on the web I found the official Caravan website. I'm quiet happy there is an official Caravan site. This mail is only to confirm that even in our small country there is still a very strong interest in Caravan music. I saw the band for the last time two years ago in Holland (Tivoli Utrecht) Great show! *Please, make sure the band continues making music.*

Donna Burton - Fantastic, we have actually found a site about Caravan, the group we constantly talk to other people about. About me, I am 33 years old and I first heard of you when my pal recorded you on a B side of a tape as a 'tape filler'. Consequently the B side got played more 'In the Land of Grey and Pink'. No-one I know has got a copy of any Caravan, but I managed to get a copy from Tower Records this Christmas. Thankyou thankyou for forming such a good band. By the way it is a special thing (Caravan) between me and my Love !!

Can't really think of much else to say, I feel like a girly teenager writing my first letter to my pop idols, actually, I guess that's what I am doing but I'm not so much a teenager. If Jimmy Saville still had his show I would be right on his case. All the very best

Victor G. Rivera, santa clara, ca - I'm so happy to find this web site. Caravan were/are still one of my favourite groups since my teenage high school days in the mid 70's. I saw caravan for the first/only time - August 30th, 1975. The concert was held in San Jose, California, at the San Jose Center for the Performing Arts. Bill Graham Presents booked the show, but unfortunately Caravan opened the show for a bay area band that was up/coming at the time "The Tubes". The correlation being the universal theme of "SEX, Dude, SEX..(the dog, the dog he's at it again..) - the Tubes-of course really pushed perversion to another level and were quite shocking to say the least for mid 70's standards anyway.

The Concert was completely sold out - (the venue holds 3,700) in advance. Roughly 2,700 or so in attendance were there strictly to see 'CARAVAN"! The band played for about 70-75 minutes or so. I think they were blown away by the rowdy - rock and roll party animal crowd that cheered them on as if they were the mighty Zeppelin themselves. Mike Wedgwood really worked the crowd like a veteran jazz rocker. They played one encore..and the crowd wanted another..but because of time restraints..that was it! The only negative being the departure of David Sinclair. All the kids had the new LP "Cunning Stunts" with "Show of our Lives" getting good airplay on the local FM Radio stations in both San Francisco and of course San Jose's rock station KOME 98.5FM. Jan Schellas could not be heard that evening (bad sound mix), and everyone complained the following Monday back in the local High School's - that the Keyboards really sucked! Tough but loving fans. American audiences have a way of making British Bands feel like a million dollars after the initial shock!

When the Tubes came on stage about 45 minutes later..they basically played to 1/3 of a house..There was also a superb review in the San Jose Mercury Newspaper about Caravans performance..(If I can find it - I'll send it to you).

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I recently discovered the "Live at the Astoria" CD. Man this shit kicks but - SERIOUS ROCK DUDE! I had no idea Doug Boyle played with Robert Plant - it makes sense now. I kind thought he was a "Holdsworth" jazz fusion cat..anyway this makes Caravan sound modern!! and contemporary!

It's too bad these guys are broke.. because here in the Bay Area (Northern California) - Silicon Valley (San Jose), Santa Cruz - San Francisco PROGRESSIVE ROCK still rules pretty much.. Any British prog or classic rock band that plays here SELLS OUT!! at premium concert prices..

LETS GET THE MEN OVER HERE FOR A LITTLE ROCK STAR WORSHIP... Good for the Soul/Ego man!! - Your rock and roll friend in California..

Mark Oakley - Just a note of congratulations on the website! Though I've been listening to the band since the early 70s (after first being spellbound by an appearance on the Old Grey Whistle Test)...I'm ashamed to confess the only live performance I've seen was at the Reading Festival (light years ago!). Having rectified another similar dreadful omission recently, by catching my first live Steely Dan performance - in Hamburg; I just hope I'm not too late to see the finest band of all in the flesh...and in good form! Waterloo Lily and Grey And Pink are without doubt the most-oft played albums in my entire music collection, by a long margin. In the last 18 months or so, however, I've acquired the Oblivion CD, the more acoustic "Do It Again" mid 90s album and latterly, the double CD anthology...all of which have further rekindled my enthusiasm for the band...not that much rekindling was required. I'll be a regular visitor to your site from here on - Thanks again.

Arnaud Toussaint - For information, the music school I attend in PARIS is preparing a concert on the seventeenth of march and we will play "l' auberge du sanglier, a hunting we shall go..." but only the first part, the fast tempo one (I am doing the lead guitar). a bientôt

Philippe, Toulon, France - It's been nearly two months since we've met at the end of the Caravan concert in Paris at "Le Bataclan". Do you remember, a young man with glasses who wanted to tell Dave Sinclair he tries to play his songs on the piano ? I was with my girlfriend Christine. We were glad to see you on the Net.

Like you Ralph, we're Caravan fans. Each year, we like to go to the mountainside in spring. And during all the week, we only listen to Caravan's music, because we think it's perfect for our holidays ! Actually, I could say, a kind of "Cool Water" in the mountainscapes ! (Our favourite CD is "The Canterbury Collection") We like Pye's voice and melodies very much, and we were very glad to see him on the stage for the first time.

We would like to congratulate you for your very interesting Caravan site! What I particularly like about your pages is that all is clear. So it's easy to find the information we're looking for. - and there are many ! It's a good idea to tell everyone to contribute. We think the Caravan site reflects your friendly personality.

So, still thank you to have made this little meeting with Dave possible. It was really kind of you. I recently learned on the web, that he's working with John Murphy in this moment. I hope we'll have a new album soon.

We keep affectedly your e-mail address! Long live to Caravan!

Andrew Collins - I am very pleased to have found this website at long last, having followed duff links for a while. I have been a fan of Caravan since the early 70's and Grey & Pink has continued to remain (from the time of its original release) my favourite album of any band and I listen to it with (to my wife) boring regularity. I didn't realise Caravan were still playing live and I was gutted to find out that I missed the Chiddingfold gig in November, particularly as I only live a few miles away. Still, I'm hoping for other opportunities to see them live this year with the release of the remastered catalogue hopefully generating new interest in the band

Kevin Maton - Like others it was the purchase of the first album (Girls who grow) and the way it changed my view of what rock music could sound like. I was 15 at the time and when at college saw them several times. But we all grow up and the chances to see them have been very limited. So if there is a UK tour and there is a visit to the Midlands I hope to be there. Great to get so much information on the site. I've just got the dble CD compilation which has been great listening (plus air drums and guitar! in the privacy of my own home).

Dave Hollett - I bought my first Caravan album in March 1969 and have been a fan ever since. I saw them in February 1970 in Reece's Cafe in Liverpool (with about 6 other people!) and had a chat with them and a good laugh. Maurice Haylet (the roadie) was with them then and we had a copy of Oz that gave us all a good laugh. I saw the band again in October 2000 at Manchester- I didn't recognise Pye as his hair had changed! Asked him about his old Rickenbacker guitar and he told us all the story of its dismemberment. Great to hear the re-issues. Keep up the good work - hope to see the band again this year.

Dejan Matekalo - I'm listening Caravan for ten years (and I'm 26) and still enjoy the harmonies and wonderful tunes of the group. My band plays some of their songs on many gigs in Belgrade and outside. I'm professional graphic designer and I'm also working as a sound engineer. My wish is to cooperate with Caravan in both ways and to bring them in Belgrade soon. Many people would like to see Caravan live here, not only on CD/record. They are a wonderful group (that really makes me enthusiastic). This site is great, Ralph go on, your Yugoslav friend wishes you good vibes. Hello Hello to all Caravan friends from Belgrade, Yugoslavia

Gerhard Wenzel - I'm so happy to see that you're still performing. I loved very much the "All over You"- versions and the "Battle of Hastings" and I hope you can go on this way having also some confidence on your creativity especially concerning the production of some new songs or music. By the time it gets boring doing again and again the old songs. I have each Album now, each version, each LP and CD. I'm a fan of your music since about 1976 when my brother made me listen to "in the land of grey and pink" (1971). I was on your last concert in Utrecht with my ancient girl-friend. Perhaps you remember, because there had been such a few people and after the concert we gave a photo of us sitting in Fogg's bar in Bexley Heath (on our holiday a year before), which all you band members were so kind, to sign. Thanks a lot for this unforgettable moment when I had the

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first time the opportunity to see you in concert after all these years with your music in my ears. Thank you for signing the fotos and making such a wonderful music of hands, heart and soul. Go on Caravan. Don't stop! Go on, as long as you can! very kind greetings, Gerhard from Cologne in Germany.

Terry Hilton, Exeter - I enclose a copy of band list for Plumpton 1970 - which included Caravan (There was a guy wrote in last Newsletter No.12 that he was there) I was there too, magic memories.

PROGRAMME

Friday 7th August

VILLAGE
Arena

8:00 - 9:00 D.J. Session

9:00 - 10:00 Dudley Longley
10:00 - 11:00 Pat
11:00 - 12:00 Dick Mulholland
12:00 - 1:00 AUDIENCE
1:00 - 2:00 D.J.
2:00 - 3:00 Rave Band
3:00 - 4:00 Pat Marney
4:00 - 5:00 G. S. G. G. G.
5:00 - 6:00 S. M. S. M. S. M.

Saturday 8th August

VILLAGE
Arena

12:00 - 12:45 Made in Sweden
12:45 - 1:30 G. S. G. G. G.
1:30 - 2:15 F. S. F. S. F. S. F.
2:15 - 3:00 Car Savers
3:00 - 4:00 M. G. M. G. M. G.
4:00 - 4:45 S. M. S. M. S. M.
4:45 - 5:30 S. M. S. M. S. M.
5:30 - 6:15 S. M. S. M. S. M.
6:15 - 7:00 S. M. S. M. S. M.
7:00 - 8:00 S. M. S. M. S. M.
8:00 - 9:00 S. M. S. M. S. M.
9:00 - 9:45 S. M. S. M. S. M.
9:45 - 10:30 S. M. S. M. S. M.
10:30 - 11:15 S. M. S. M. S. M.

Sunday 9th August

VILLAGE
Arena

12:00 - 12:45 S. M. S. M. S. M.
12:45 - 1:30 M. G. M. G. M. G.
1:30 - 2:15 T. S. T. S. T. S. T.
2:15 - 3:00 T. S. T. S. T. S. T.
3:00 - 3:45 T. S. T. S. T. S. T.
3:45 - 4:30 T. S. T. S. T. S. T.
4:30 - 5:15 T. S. T. S. T. S. T.
5:15 - 6:00 T. S. T. S. T. S. T.
6:00 - 6:45 T. S. T. S. T. S. T.
6:45 - 7:30 T. S. T. S. T. S. T.
7:30 - 8:15 T. S. T. S. T. S. T.
8:15 - 9:00 T. S. T. S. T. S. T.
9:00 - 9:45 T. S. T. S. T. S. T.
9:45 - 10:30 T. S. T. S. T. S. T.
10:30 - 11:15 T. S. T. S. T. S. T.

Simon and Joanna Bound - Just a quick "thankyou" for all the hard work that was obviously put into yesterdays presentation and gig in Fulham. My wife and I thoroughly enjoyed the afternoon - I guess made all the better by actually meeting band members and also the unexpected contribution by Richard Sinclair. Please pass on our thanks to the band. I really must get one of the "after gig" stickers next time! I bought the video and spent last night watching it once we got home (a real Caravan day!) and noted Pye's reluctance to tour. However "The Brook" in Southampton would be well worth checking out and I'm sure could be filled with half decent promotion. I have no part in their management or web -site but check out at your leisure to see the sort of bands that do play there. Till the next time ...

Stephen - Firstly, I would like to say a big WELL DONE for your excellent fanzine. It is extremely informative and well presented, and I am always in a good mood when I get another issue through the post... you should be getting the

rest of my SAEs very soon! Secondly. I just wondered if there was any way that I could write to the band. I saw them yesterday at Chiddingfold, and it was the best gig I have ever ever been to. There is no possible way to convey in words exactly how much their music means to me... all of my friends are into meaningless dance rubbish, and seeing them on stage was so surreal for me! It is because of Caravan (along with Frank Zappa!) that I picked up a guitar in the first place, and I am now (hopefully) in the process of getting a band together. I was hoping that I'd get the chance to congratulate them personally yesterday, but unfortunately this wasn't possible. Anyway, I hope I haven't disturbed you *too* much!

Derek Smith - Chiddingfold was the third Caravan gig I have been to, the others being Diss and Astoria last year. The latter were great and so it was really disappointing that Chiddingfold was for me spoilt by the dreadful sound quality. The obvious thing was the oppressive, excess volume level. I left with my ears ringing and quite unable to hear properly. The damage fortunately was only temporary but the experience was rather alarming and not at all enjoyable. I would not be surprised if the sound level was illegal. One of the things everyone likes about Caravan is their musicality and subtlety. This is hard to appreciate when your eardrums are being assaulted. Secondly there were unacceptable levels of feedback which made the high volume even more unpleasant of course. finally, I may be wrong, but to me the keyboard sounded decidedly out of tune with the rest of the band at times. Or maybe it was my damaged hearing playing tricks. I am sorry to be so critical when people are largely organising these events for the love of it, but in future I will stick to the CDs.

Eward Gilliar - Well, Ralph things look on the up for the boys in the band at the moment and don't they just deserve if, 1999/00 has been so much fun for me and I do not think it's over yet - 99 Diss what a great day but no encore! - 99 Astoria was also great but no encore!

2000 Mount Ephriam was a lovely long hot summers day, I am so glad the beer tent was busy, I think I would have been well drunk by the time the boys came on if it had not been for that queue, Guess what no encore, but we won't complain. Well we can't, can we just blame it on the other bands over running.

Well, Ralph that was July and I had a little think to myself, how about going to 3 gigs yes what a good Idea Eddy, Where do I get the tickets? I know I have a look on Ralph's web site. and there they were all the phone numbers I needed. I think I'll book a week's holiday from work, but the first gig's not till Wed 11th October I know I will decorate the bathroom on Monday and Tuesday that will keep the wife happy.

Ralph I needed 2 tickets for Shepherd's Bush 11th October, so I could take my youngest son it was his birthday on 10th October Very nice present dad, well, that's what I thought until he met a young lady at the Gig and spent most of the night down her throat, he did say to me on the way home that he liked the music ha, ha, son.

I also ordered 2 tickets for Wolverhampton and 2 tickets for Manchester so I could take the wife, Darling we will need a hotel to stay in Wolverhampton, have booked the Novatel she said, sounds nice to me love. How far is it from the gig, the



Wolverhampton 12th October

hotel said about 10 mins walk from the hall. We booked in at the hotel in Wolverhampton about 5 o'clock, had a great meal in the restaurant then we set off to the hall when we were 5 mins down the road and I saw the Britannia hotel, darling why didn't you book that hotel it's much closer, well I did phone that one but I did not like the sound of it oh OK love.

When we got to the hall and went in had a few drinks as you do, and who do you think I was? Mr. Haylett on stage with a finger up his nose and I can tell what he was doing with the other. He was trying to fix David's Hammond which by the way you told us in issue No.10 that it was dead. Well, Ralph I know it's dead, it was bad at Shepherd's Bush but it was very bad at Wolverhampton. Even after Maurice had a good grope at it, which by the way he seemed to enjoy far too much for his own good, but even after saying that Ralph the gigs were great, and David just used the other keyboards anyway what a star he is.

When we got back to the hotel we went to the bar for a nightcap, and who do you think walked in to the bar for drink's and sandwich/s Yes, Cheech & Chong or Malcolm & Barry of HTD, well, me being me I had to go over and have a chat, my son had spoken to both of them at Shepherd's Bush, and given them a hard time about there not being any tee-shirts for the gig's. Which they remembered, well we are not promoting the gig's. It's really down to the band they said, well that was Wednesday and this was Thursday so I just mentioned the London gig to them really to find out if the band had covered the costs. They told me that infact the promoter was about £2000 down, and also the same at Wolverhampton, I said to them lets hope it's better at Manchester tomorrow well Ralph I must tell you I was very upset that night it really got to me.

In the morning after breakfast my wife and I left the hotel and drove to Manchester, where we were going to stop the night with friends, our friends said that they would be home about 3 o'clock. It was the first time we had been to their house in Manchester so I did not know how long it would take to find it. Well, we got to their house at 1.30 but we could not get in until they got home but no problem to get in the pub over the road from where they live. We had a few drinks I don't know

what it is but the beer seems stronger up north, but not as strong as the lager Richard sells in the Sun Inn, the longer we sat the more I drank and later it was getting, it got to 4 o'clock and still no sign of our friends. At 4.30 my mobile phone rang it was our friend said he had been held up at work and he would be there when he could, by this time I had lost all sense of time he eventually arrived, ordered some more drinks then his wife arrived and we ordered even more drinks.

He asked me what time was the gig? I told him I would like to get their about 8.30, and he said I will order a taxi for you because it's 7.45, and it will take you about half hour to get there. We got there about 8.50 as the traffic was very heavy, my wife and I both ran into the hall and made our way to the front of the hall, I had a look at the gear on stage and guess what David's Hammond was missing, I suppose David and Maurice had come to the same conclusion as me about the London and Wolverhampton gig's and the sound would be so much better without it. Ralph could you please inform David from me the sound was great more crisp with the modern keyboards, I've only been a fan since 1970 so what do I know. Anyway back to the gig, I think it was about the 5th number Nightmare and Pye said this one is for the promoter he's not feeling very well today, and I just had to shout out what's wrong with him it's only 4 grand, well it took almost one minute before Pye and the rest of the band stopped laughing. Sorry Pye.

Well, Ralph that's about if from me 3 days in the life of A Caravan Fan or Caravanett.

Andrew Marshall, Huddersfield - Many thanks for the back issues of the Caravan Newsletter and the programmes. I did manage to catch them live at Manchester last week. They were brilliant and far exceeded my expectations. The last time I saw them was back in 1980 on The Album tour, and I have to confess I lost interest after that tour and album, and have been somewhat cautious about any new materials since. Anyway, although I still need to get used to the new songs, the band were on fine form with the 'old' ones. Let's hope it's not too long before they're out on the road again.

S. Shieh - I have seen the Caravan website which is also interesting and useful. Also: any chance of you interviewing Robert Wyatt, as he must have been a big influence on Caravan. Thanks for producing such an informative read, and reaching to a new generation of music enthusiasts.

Bil King, Herts - I went to the Shepherds Bush Empire gig on 11th October with a bunch of friends who all thoroughly enjoyed the concert and are ready for the next one. I just loved every minute of the gig, as usual. We thought that Geoff was particularly good that evening. If you have any contact with Pye, please could you ask him if we can have 'Chance of a Lifetime' back because it's got a great viola solo. I made it to the Canterbury Festival - just. I got there during the Colosseum set, can John Hiseman play the drums or what? I thought it was a great setting for an out-door concert. I had a walk round in between the sets and it was so relaxing. I had just returned from a week away camping with my youth group the previous evening, so I am sure you know what sort of state I was in. Canterbury was just like being in a time warp, we even got Hawkwind Master of the Universe and Julie Driscoll - Indian Rope Man over the PA. The time just fly by. I am a fan of Gong (they always have good drumming and sax)

YOUR LETTERS

so I enjoyed their set a great deal. Thanks very much to you and everyone else associate with the 'mag'.

Locatelli Miguel, France - Le Bataclan - 20h30pm - Saturday 25th November.

Caravan is on stage. A legend meets reality. I am afraid, and if... Two numbers later, no doubt, I see Caravan, a band I never seen live and which looks like what I hope. For the girls, Battle of Hastings and heaven: O Caroline (from first Matching Mole) and Backwards. Only one deception: Nine Feet Underground without Hammond is not Nine Feet Underground. I have discovered Geoff Richardson, a real frontman. His translations in French are as good as my English, so you can imagine the result on a French audience: Pye (to Geoffrey) - "How translate: we are going to play several extracts form old numbers?" Geoffrey - "Je crois que ça s'appelle... un medley". As I told you at the end of the gig, Friday 24th November I received "Where But For Caravan", Saturday I saw Caravan in Paris. It was really a nice week.

John Cook, London - I have just received the astonishing album Blind Dog at St. Albans' on CD and I am eagerly waiting for Universal Records remasters, especially 'If I Could, 'The New Symphonia' and 'Cunning Stunts'. I will probably check 'HTD Years' out. Thanks for Newsletters which adds to music itself a sense of occasions to be cherished.

Ivor Mills, Sussex - Brilliant gig last Sunday at Cambridge. Already looking forward to next years helping.

Martin Hull, Bucks - We really enjoyed Caravan at Chiddingfold last night 17th November. Nearly didn't make it due to the Friday night traffic on the M25 and an accident that clocked the A3 into Guildford. For Chris my wife and I it was a great trip down memory lane. Twenty one years ago we went to Surrey University in Guildford to see Caravan play. They used to play quite often in and around the area at that time. Well my wife Chris was heavily pregnant at the time and so someone gave here a seat to sit on, whilst everyone else was either dancing or rolling on the floor. It was a great gig and I remember buying her a blue Caravan T-shirt. The next morning we took here to hospital and our daughter Beccy was born! We really enjoy reading the Newsletter. Well done.

Dave Wilson - Just bought the newly-remastered 'Caravan and the New Symphonia' CD - absolutely terrific, particularly the previously unissued pre-orchestral set. Looking forward to getting the other reissues soon. Please guys, don't forget the north-east of England when you arrange your tour. It's been far too long since we last had the pleasure! Great website by the way - keep up the good work.

Michael Ivory - I first saw Caravan in a gig with Sandgate at Brunel University March 8, 1974 (I still have the ticket). A few months later I left England to see the world, finally settling down in Mexico. The reason for this mail is firstly to say hello to all Caravan fans and secondly I see mentioned in future gigs that Mexico is on the list for later this year and I would like to know if any dates have been settled. I also would like to remind those responsible that Mexico is much more than Mexico City including Guadalajara where I now reside.

Philippe, Toulon, France - It's been nearly two months since we've met at the end of the Caravan concert in Paris at "Le Bataclan". Do you remember, a young man with glasses

who wanted to tell Dave Sinclair he tries to play his songs on the piano ? I was with my girlfriend Christine. If you don't remember, you can look at the attached pictures ! We were glad to see you on the Net. Like you Ralph, we're Caravan fans. Each year, we like to go to the mountainside in spring. And during all the week, we only listen to Caravan's music, because we think it's perfect for our holidays ! Actually, I could say, a kind of "Cool Water" in the mountainscapes ! (Our favourite CD is "The Canterbury Collection") We like Pye's voice and melodies very much, and we were very glad to see him on the stage for the first time. We would like to wish you a happy new year, and to congratulate you for your very interesting Caravan site! What I particularly like about your pages is that all is clear. So it's easy to find the information we're looking for. - and there are many ! It's a good idea to tell everyone to contribute. We think the Caravan site reflects your friendly personality. So, still thank you to have made this little meeting with Dave possible. It was really kind of you. I recently learned on the web, that he's working with John Murphy in this moment. I hope we'll have a new album soon. We keep affectedly your e-mail address ! Long live to Caravan!

Dave Andrews - (April 7th will be the 30th Anniversary of my first purchase of a Caravan LP!) Currently enjoying the LOGAPink reissue. The Word is truly a lost gem. I've got the rest on order. Nice that LOGAP was in the shop anyway! 30years old and never been deleted!. I have many and distant memories of Caravan which I could share. I have some lovely crisp B&W photos of Caravan at the Reading Festival in 1975 if you have the the technology to put them on your site.

Chris Clark - I was lucky enough to go to the Caravan Gold Disc presentation Gig at the King's Head in Fulham, and it was great to get up close and personal with the group who were very accommodating with signing albums, CD Sleeves, memorabilia etc and posing for countless photos. Geoff Richardson was in particularly fine form and even got out his spoons for his traditional solo.

Takeo and Kayo Matsui Japan - We are back from the gold disc presentation in London on last Sunday. It was the greatest concert ever and we will not forget the wonderful moments with the greatest" Caravan". We also very much appreciate your kindness letting us in and the warm welcome. We really, really enjoyed it and cannot think of any words how thankful we are. I am sorry that I didn't say good-bye to you when we left King's Head. Please forgive us. But, we are looking forward to seeing you next time. Yes, indeed! Take care of yourself and please say hello to everybody at the concert for me. I love Caravan as much as you all do.

Gary Weehawken N.J. U.S.A. - Glad to finally find a live web site for Caravan. I owe my knowledge of the band to a DJ in Tampa, FL. In the early seventies there was a program on the college station WUSF, and one DJ played 9ft occasionally. I only had to hear it once, to go out and buy. Of course I had to special order it, and felt like a small miracle had happened to find such a gem of an album. There was lots of other things going on in those days, Allmans, Clapton- solo, Mountain, etc., but it was a pleasure to get this LP of tunes from another world.

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

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

Piccadilly Records of Manchester. Tel: 0161 839 8008

GFT of Surbiton Tel: 0181 339 9965

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 3-12 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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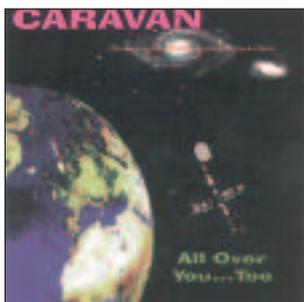
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