

The Sound of Fury Fan Club

Newsletter

Issue 7: January – March 2021



Hi there,
Welcome to the latest issue of the Sound of Fury Fan Club newsletter.

Firstly, Happy New Year to you all. I think we can all pretty much agree that we are glad to see the back of 2020! Although, the situation is still difficult, we at least can start to see things improving with the vaccine rollout and hope things do start to 'get back to normal' soon.

We'd also like to give a very big welcome to all the new Fanclub members who have joined in the last few months. Billy has fans all over the world and its great that many overseas fans are joining the Fanclub.

To contact us email - soundoffurysecretary@gmail.com or write to - The Sound of Fury Fan Club, P.O. Box 157, Frodsham, WA6 1BY

2021 Mill Hill Meetings

With the Covid-19 restrictions currently still in place at time of writing, the usual January Mill-Hill meeting is understandably cancelled. We cannot at this stage say if the April meeting will take place. We will confirm in the next newsletter, but please contact the Fanclub directly if you have any questions before then.

"New" Billy Interview!

Recently a previously broadcast radio interview appeared on YouTube of Billy from the early / mid 1970's.

Apparently several unedited reel to reel tapes of celebrity interviews scheduled for broadcast on Radio G were donated to St. Luke's Cheshire Hospice.

Thanks to BSV audio, these tapes have been directly copied and now uploaded to YouTube.

You can listen to the Billy one with this link -

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Nv3uqzUHjY&list=UU-fy3Ng0BJE_DKNogsb7doA

A voluntary donation is asked for the hospice, and there are lot's of other interviews, most notably with Marty Wilde, Helen Shapiro and Lonnie Donegan from a similar time frame.

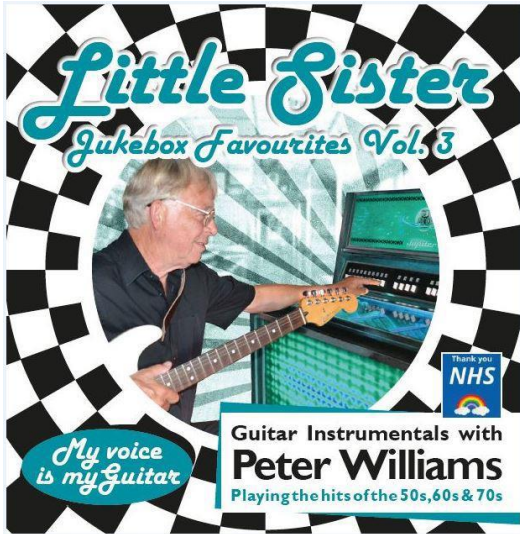
A New Billy Book!

Another SOF friend, Michael Parkinson (not that one!), has written another book about Billy. This is scheduled for release early in 2021. The concept is fans recollections of meeting or seeing Billy and what Billy means to them.

Michael produced the Billy Fury Dance Show and recently published a tribute book about Billy.

More details in the next newsletter.

New Peter Williams Album



Friend of the Fanclub and fellow Billy fan, Peter Williams has a highly enjoyable new instrumental album out now titled "Little Sister" on CD. The album contains 22 classic hits from the 50s, 60's and 70's.

You can order direct from Peter's brand new website: www.peterwilliamsguitar.co.uk or telephone: 077899981819.

Cost is £10.99 inc. P+P

Payment options are Paypal, credit card or cheque.

All previous CDs can be ordered including the 32 track instrumental tribute-Remembering Billy Fury (7 page booklet with classic photos).

Peter Williams	1	Little Sister	Doc Pomus / Mort Shuman	LRR23 PW CD023
		Elvis Presley 45 RPM (1961) c/w His Latest Flame		Made in UK
	2	Garden Party	.....Rick Nelson	
		Ricky Nelson & The Stone Canyon Band 45 RPM (1972)		
	3	Move Over Darling	.....Lubin / Kanter / Melcher (Doris Day's Son)	
		Doris Day & The Blossoms (Darlene Love (1963)		
	4	Then You Can Tell Him Goodbye	.....John D. Loudermilk	
		Johnny Nash 45 RPM (1964) / Don Cherry (1962)		
	5	Dirty Old Town	.....Ewan MacColl	
		The Dubliners 45 RPM (1968) Written in (1949) about Safford		
	6	Leaving On A Jet Plane	.....John Denver	
		John Denver 45 RPM (1966) / Peter, Paul & Mary		
	7	I Believe	.....Drake / Graham / Shirl / Stillman	
		Frankie Laine 45 RPM (1953) 18 weeks in the UK Charts		
	8	Stumbling In	.....Mike Chapman / Nicky Chinn	
		Cilla Norman & Stacy Quatro 45 RPM (1978)		
	9	Travelin' Man	.....Jerry Fuller	
		Ricky Nelson 45 RPM (1961) Double 'A' Side with 'Hello Mary Lou'		
	10	Handle With Care	.....Harrison / Lynne / Dylan / Orbison / Petty	
		Traveling Wilburys 45 RPM (1988) Debut Single		
	11	I Love How You Love Me	.....Barry Man / Larry Kolber	
		The Ronettes (1964) Produced by Phil Spector		
12	Born Too Late	.....Charles Strouse / Fred Tobias		
	The Ronettes - Tails 45 RPM (1958)			
13	Be My Baby	.....Jeff Barrie / Ellie Greenwich / Phil Spector		
	The Ronettes 45 RPM (1963)			
14	A Groovy Kind Of Love	.....Bayer Saga and Wine / Muzio Clementi		
	The Mambouras 45 RPM (1965)			
15	Like Sister And Brother	.....The Drifters		
	The Drifters			
16	Rhythm Of The Rain	.....John Claud Gummo		
	Thunderstorm Opening / The Cascades 45 RPM (1962)			
17	Peer Little Fool	.....Sharon Sheeley		
	Ricky Nelson 45 RPM (1958)			
18	Ginny Come Lately	.....Gary Geld / Peter Udell		
	Brian Hyland 45 RPM (1962)			
19	Venus In Blue Jeans	.....Howard Greenfield / Jack Keller		
	Mark Wynn 45 RPM (1962)			
20	Yesterday	.....Lennon / McCartney		
	The Beatles 45 RPM (1965)			
21	I Pretend	.....Barry Mason / Les Reed		
	Des O'Connor 45 RPM (1966) (Tribute to Des O'Connor)			
22	Over The Rainbow	.....Harold Arlen / Yip Harburg		
	Judy Garland (1939) / Eva Cassidy - Single (2001) (Tribute to Alice Williams & all our NHS Heroes)			



Joe Brown, Dickie Pride, Little Tony and Billy in 1960.



2021 Billy Weekenders....

At time of writing this in January, we are informed the planned Blackpool weekender in March is unlikely to go-ahead (at least not in March). There could be plans to reschedule at a later date in the year.

For more information contact – (01253) 722300

The Liverpool weekend in July is still planned to take place, with COVID-19 safety precautions if required.

Booking details and information below, but it is strongly advised you check with the organisers for updates. Contact details are on the flyer below.

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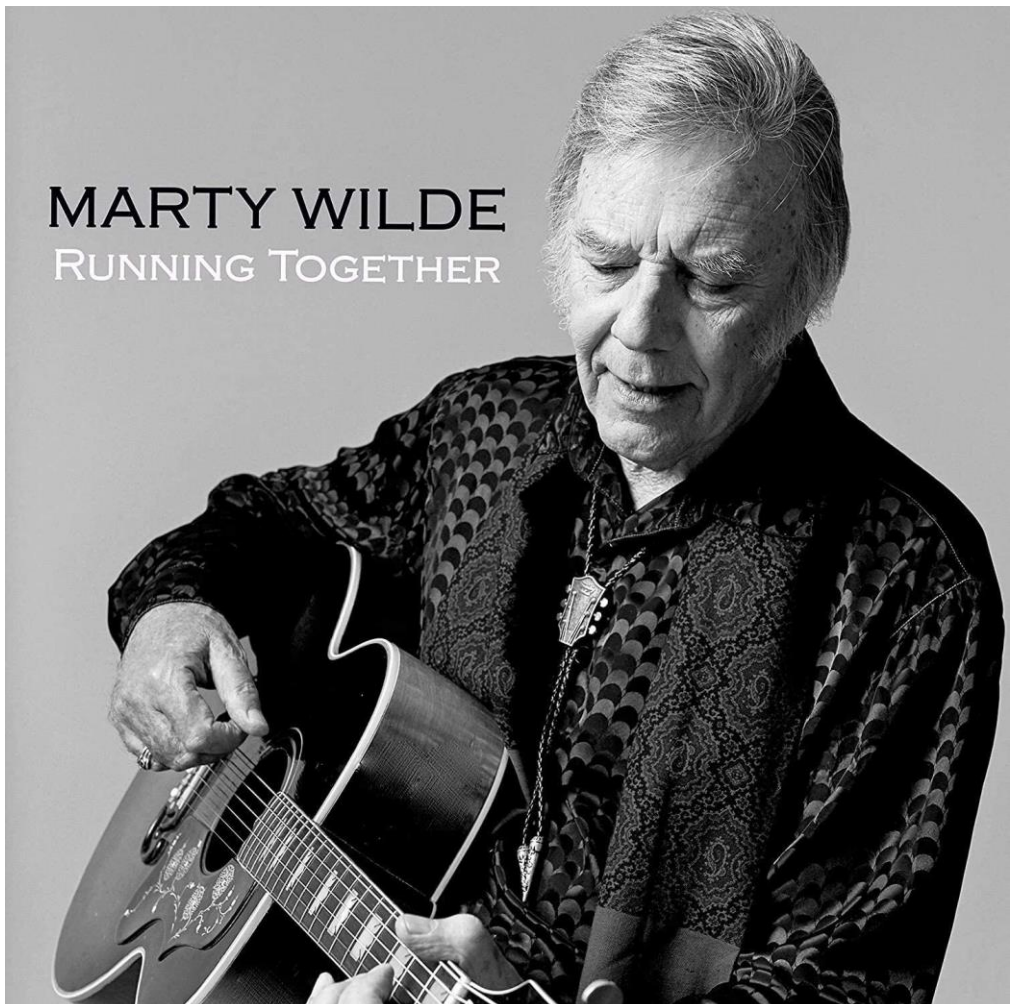
You Know It Makes Sense

FOR FULL DETAILS AND BOOKING FORM PLEASE SEE OVERLEAF

Marty Wilde-Running Together. PUSHKA 02CD

Congratulations to Marty and family for producing a very enjoyable 15 track album, all tracks penned by Marty or co-written-and actually on CD and not download, for which Marty's legion of fans, are grateful. In summary the cost of the album is worth it just for the atmospheric opener, Running Together, the definitive cut of Love Me, Love My Dog (could be a hit all over again),the evocative 60s World,(featuring Kim) and the Stray Cat strut of Rockabilly Dreams. To me the whole thing has a mixed 60s and 80s feel, the latter especially on Roxanne's When There's Loving All Over The World. Cambodia is a wistful, indeed sad track, and Eddie, Marty's tribute to Eddie Cochran is really warm and sincere, with Eddie's voice in interview with Marty being a nice touch. Marty is in great voice throughout, whether on his own, or joined by Kim. Roxanne's The Middle of Love is also rather lovely. You do need to play this album a couple of times and then it bites; an album full of wistful longing, of love - So Wide Awake (The Wedding Song) being for Joyce-the love of Marty's life (or so I would surmise). Hannibal is just a catchy bit of Abergenny type fun but the whole album demonstrates Marty's song-writing ability and a voice very much still intact. I know most of Billy's fans also love Marty-and so we should, a terrific rocker, great singer, songwriter and great friend of our Billy. It's so sad that Bill is not able to be here -"Why Take A Life That Has So Much More To Give" sings Marty, about the wonderful Eddie Cochran, but also so very true of the 42 year old Billy, who when we saw him perform in 1982 was so very much still on top of his game. Buy this album and play it over and over! The clips are on you-tube too. Thanks Marty (and family) and to my old mate Graham Hunter who gets a mention once more for his work.

Chris Eley.





Brian Hodgson (9th Sep 1944 - 15th May 2020) - Hogan's Heroes and so much more.



It was with great sadness that I discovered just before Christmas, and through old friend, musician Peter Williams, that Brian had passed away some time during 2020. No date was given on the information note found on the website for the excellent Albert Lee & Hogan's Heroes band-formed by Brian in about 1987 (and in which he played until his condition forced him to quit). He in fact passed away aged 75 on the above date from complications arising from Parkinson's disease. Regrettably Covid restrictions made it a very low key and not widely known occurrence. The first time I met Brian was at a Hogan's Heroes gig in Bognor Regis, sometime around 2014 I think (Brian was poorly then but had the courage to undertake the gig). The last time was I believe at the wake for Danny Rivers, (who rather typically was still alive and attending his own event!).

What I remember is the pleasant time spent chatting with Brian at the wake and subsequently several times on the phone.

The debilitating disease diagnosed back in 2007 sometimes made speech difficult and very faint, so it took a lot for him to do the initial telephone interview and even more so, the later catch-ups with me; but he was ever the gentleman and called back if he missed my call, despite his time being finite and therefore precious. He was always so positive about his condition and future treatments, never downcast, and we could even share a laugh. Knowing him was a privilege and his account of the time spent with the Roly Poly Band and in the studio with Billy Fury was highly informative and uplifting. The interview with Brian and the overview of working with Billy can be found in back copies of SOF magazine number 59.

Brian was far from being solely a guitarist and his credits overall for playing, recording, song-writing and music production in the studio and for TV are legion. They include; Sir Paul McCartney, Dave Edmunds, Shakin' Stevens, Lonnie Donegan, Sonny Curtis, Bruce Welch, Don Everly, Van Morrison, Mike Berry, Elton John, Matchbox, Kirsty McColl, Marty Wilde and rockabilly and great friend, Hayden Thompson. TV Music contributions have included, among others, many shows for Jeremy Clarkson and the spoof Rutland Weekend Show featuring the Rutles. For Billy Fury fans it will largely be the 1969/70 (Brian never did locate his diary) gigs with the Roly Poly band that they may have attended, such as the Cat Trap show, and the results of three recording sessions with Billy. The magic moment in the studio on November 13th 1970, when he played beside Billy during the hauntingly beautiful recording of Forget Him, he later described as being one of the outstanding moments of his life. He also recalled, "We had been recording for a while but when it came to Forget Him it gave me goosebumps!" Of course it's been doing just that for fans since 1983. As so often with my Billy friends, I deeply regret that after 2017 or so I failed to keep in touch with this immensely talented and generous man. Why does life so often get in the way? You were great to know Brian, and have left quite a mark on the musical world. I shall our calls. Brian's wife Sylvia, graciously responding to my recent call, recalled that Brian loved working with Billy, also that she attended several of the Roly Poly band gigs and thought that Billy was great! Thanks Sylvia, and our thoughts are with you (the couple were together 48 years) and your family and friends.

Chris Eley.

Brian 'Liquorice' Locking. (22nd Dec 1938 – 8th Oct 2020).

Although it has not been referred to in most obituaries it does seem that there may be a Billy Fury connection with Brian. He allegedly played behind Billy at some stage, whether on-stage or in the studio we don't know. Musicians from the era did go 'on loan' either for occasional gigs or sessions so we may assume a Billy Fury connection, no matter how tenuous. Brian is quoted in one local newspaper report as saying that after having backed Adam Faith and Marty Wilde "Then along came Eddie Cochran, Gene Vincent and Billy Fury". In 1953 he was a founder member of a duo, The Harmonica Vagabonds, who later lost the harmonica tag and became a skiffle trio with Vince Eager. Later Vince went solo and Brian played behind Terry Dene before joining Marty Wilde's Wildcats. From 1962-63 he was the bass player for the Shadows, (starring in The Young Ones), then became a Jehovah's Witness and left. He wrote and co-wrote songs, played great harmonica and performed behind the likes of Gene Vincent, Eddie Cochran,



Terry Dene, Adam Faith, Conway Twitty, Brenda Lee and Donovan. At one stage, before his stint with Marty Wilde, he formed part of Vince Taylor's Playboys, indeed making him a true rock'n'roll musician. His nickname came from his playing of the clarinet (which looked a bit like a liquorice stick), and after being announced with that sobriquet by Vince Eager one night-it stuck! RIP Liquorice and thanks for being behind some great music. Chris Eley.

PS. Our old friend Vince Eager and Sir Cliff turned 80 last year so a belated Happy 80th to them both from us all. Check out Cliff's new album-Cliff music..... the air that I breathe.



Johnny Nash (John Lester Nash Jnr). (8th Aug 1940- 6th Oct 2020).

The soulful voice of Johnny Nash was very popular in the UK from his first UK hit, Hold Me Tight in 1968 until the No.1 Hit Tears On My Pillow in 1975. He experienced six Top Ten Hits and two hit albums, managing to attain occasional Top 60 hits until 1989. Most people will remember Johnny for the above No.1 single, I Can See Clearly Now (No.5) and the excellent reggae-styled covers of the great Sam Cooke's Wonderful World, Cupid (No. 6) and of course the enjoyable cover of 'Halfway'. Such covers in reggae style in Jamaica were not unusual, with rock'n'roll, pop and even Doo Wop getting the Jamaican treatment-with varying results it must be said. All of the late 60s/70s reggae styled recordings that we know of can be found spread across two greatest hits CD collections; Johnny Nash- I Can See Clearly Now-The Best Of Johnny Nash 1989 on Epic ,and The Best of



Johnny Nash-1991 on Columbia. There may be newer, more comprehensive ones to be found when browsing, and downloads perhaps. The Billy Fury connection here is only, as far as I know, the recording of Halfway to Paradise and I'm Moving On-both good versions it must be said, the first being reggae styled, and from the late 60s/early to mid-70s, whilst the latter was recorded in 1962 and is featured on the 2020 issued CD mentioned below.

From around 1956 Johnny, also a guitar player and film and TV actor, recorded in the USA in the easy listening/hymnal/standards styles making many of his early albums/recordings an acquired choice. His voice was always soulful and quite good, but unlike Sam Cook not good enough to always transcend some of the more dire material that both had to endure. For me there are parallels with our own Danny Williams, also a great talent. From 1960/61 until about 1964 some of his recordings for singles turned out to be excellent pop and around 1965 Johnny went to Jamaica to record. The recent CD release on Jasmine JASCD 1094, The Very Best of Johnny Nash-1956-62, whilst worth a listen, cannot be recommended overall. I would say however that the cost of the CD is worth it just for Some of Your Loving, World Of Tears, the wonderfully dramatic I Lost My Baby, and the superb O'l Man River. The pity is that some later great tracks, it's No Good For Me (done so well by PJ Proby) and Town Of Lonely Hearts are regrettably not included here. I have no doubt but that Billy would have liked Johnny's later output in particular, because as we know, he appreciated Jamaican music and culture and recorded Blue Beat (Turn Your Lamp Down Low), surely one of his finest moments. Another very talented performer and fine voice lost to us.

Chris Eley.

Gerry (Gerard) Marsden MBE- (24th Sep 1942 – 3rd Jan 2021).

Gerry Marsden brought fun, joy and happiness to millions worldwide with his infectious and mostly uplifting 'Merseybeat' music, coupled with a personality to match-one which shone through his performances. The upbeat and humorous edge remained with him throughout his life, making his shows a joy to attend. Although personality was bound to be integral, it was mostly the combination of catchy melodies and a distinctive, soulful and rather good voice that gave him such chart success. It was his on-stage persona which got him voted above Billy Fury in the 1963 Most Requested Artist for Poll Concert (live performer) category—a considerable feat to say the least as Billy had held it for two years. Starting like most singers of the era, with skiffle, by 1960 he was appearing with his band, the Pacemakers (which he formed with his brother Fred) alongside the Beatles in Hamburg.



Later playing the Cavern he was signed up in 1962 by Brian Epstein. A vocalist and guitar player he also wrote some really good songs including major hits, some with band members, others solo. During 1963 in the UK he and the band were second only to the Beatles in popularity, achieving three No.1 hit singles with their first three releases for Columbia—a feat not repeated in the UK until the 1980s. There were two UK hit albums. In the USA they achieved five Billboard Top 20 hits—the highest reaching No.4. Most 60s music fans are familiar with the trio of No 1s,(How Do You Do It, I Like It, and the Liverpool FC Anthem of course, You'll Never Walk Alone), the equally good I'm The One (No.2),and of course the beautiful Ferry Across the Mersey (akin to the haunting Waterloo Sunset perhaps). How many however have heard the great versions of Where Have You Been All My Life?, Chills, Pretend, I'll Be There, It's Gonna Be Alright ,Walk Hand in Hand and others. The group could also play rock'n' roll with the best of them; Larry Williams classic Slow Down being just one example. The band broke up in 1966. Gerry's big heart and love for football caused him to release tribute singles following the Bradford fire and the Hillsborough disaster (where his efforts saw him awarded the MBE) and it's likely his anthem will be sung at Liverpool matches until there is no team! Around 1967 he moved into musicals and TV and also toured the world; only retiring a couple of years ago through heart related ill-health. Like Billy Fury he experience two heart operations. A young Linda Shaw saw him honour a pre-booking, despite his sudden chart success, at the Lowther Pavilion in Lytham in 1963 and Linda and I have seen him several times along the south coast over the years. The time before last he asked Linda to sit on his lap, kissed her and the final time we saw him off-stage-joked about it. There was a Billy Fury connection as he recalled when talking to Fury fan Roy Harvey just a few years ago. They spoke of football mostly (as Gerry did back in '73 in Brighton with an old friend of ours, Eddie Muir), but he recalled to Roy about performing in New Zealand with Billy's mum Jean in the audience (with Moya Gleave of the NZ Fan Club). He had to sing It's Only Make Believe for her it seems! In later years he recorded Give Me Your Word. He also spoke of living as a child across the way from Haliburton Street in Liverpool where a certain young Ronnie Wycherley lived. Apparently he regarded Billy as being a great performer. Roy arranged at Gerry's request—a chilled bottle of white wine in the hotel room for after the show. He drank the bottle and left an autograph! An original and great talent and by all accounts thoroughly decent and down to earth man—we will all miss him. Our thoughts are with his wife Pauline and daughters Yvette and Victoria. The EMI 4 x CD Box set featuring all recordings from Jan '63 to Nov '66 is the set you need but there are several compilations around. RIP Gerry and thanks for some of the very best of 60s music.

Chris Eley.

Pete Shelton – Blackpool Musician Died October 2020

I am Peter Davies a long standing member and Committee member of The Sound of Fury. My introduction to Pete was through my sister Valerie Hitchen who had met him at a Golden Wedding Function and informed him of my considerable interest over the years in Billy Fury.

I visited Pete at his Staining home a number of times and we discussed many things as Pete's life was so interesting. These included photography, music, football, the Picador Club, Chicago and his American touring years, the Buckingham Group, his wife/singer Bonnie Hermon and Marty Wilde's Wildcats among many other subjects.

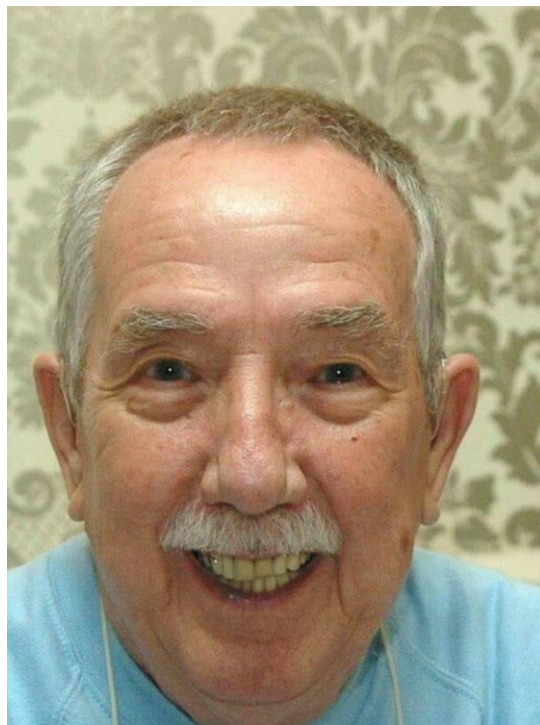
He returned from an American period to look after his ailing parents. On stopping at a motorway Service Station on the way home, by chance he met the Wildcats again and re-joined them as a bass guitarist. All of these interests mentioned always included an interesting story from Pete relating to each subject.

After a number of visits to see him he let me have a roll of film he had taken of Billy on stage at the De Montford Hall Leicester which were not in the public domain. Pete always made it clear that Marty was his first love.

Pete's funeral was held on 15th October at 10.00 a.m. Due to current COVID restrictions numbers present were considerably reduced, however the Service was relayed into the entrance hall and immediate exterior. Attendee Brian Street advises that to him it was a unique occasion for a funeral with Pete having written his own eulogy. The congregation actually applauding at the music choices and at the conclusion.

I wrote on the website to thank Pete for all of his super memories and it was also a most interesting life and I am eternally grateful for our friendship and passed on my thoughts and prayers to his family.

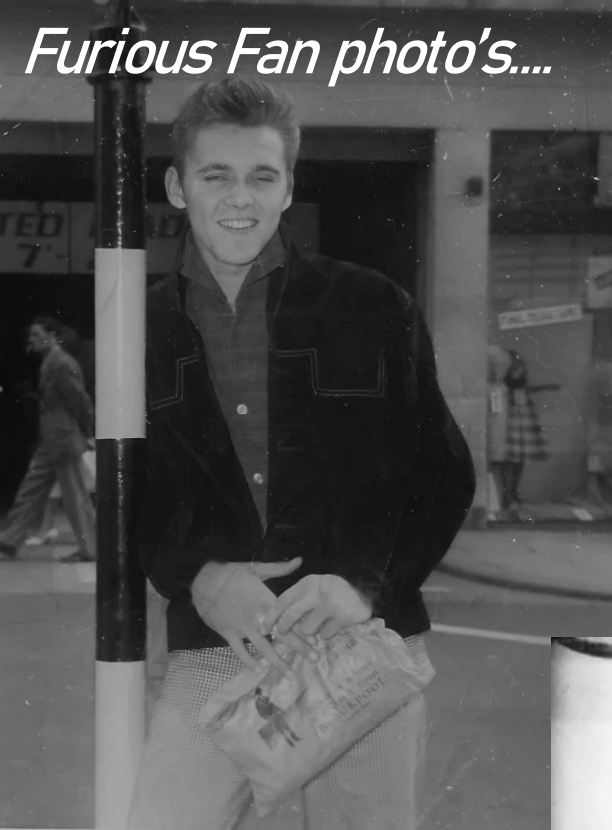
Peter Davies



We were so saddened to hear that Billy fan Steve Reynolds has recently passed away aged only 35. I remember him playing guitar instrumentals for us at a Mill Hill gathering and he gave me a CD of his work. A talented musician and nice bloke. Our thoughts are with his family and friends at this sad time.

Chris Eley and Team.

Furious Fan photo's....



Special thanks to Anita Anne Lunn, Wayne Cooksey, Laney Morton, Connie Doglio, Pam Varley Dacosta