

OH HOW I hate Christmas! Well I like it really but it doesn't half mess me about. Regular readers will know how I thrive on chaos, but this year jolly old Xmas has combined with my natural untidiness and inability to keep my mind and thoughts straight to help me into complete and utter chaos.

As I am unable to carry on with a proper column for this ish, I'm going to combine an attempt to catch up on some of my mail with the quiz which I originally wrote for the last ish, but which was held up for lack of space.

Write on ...

Pat Brady writes from Ilkley (where the Moor comes from) with info about a Northern night at the Buffs Club, Keighley (RAOB to you) on Monday nights, 7.30 pm to 11.30 pm, admission 30p. **Alan, Gaz,** and **Terry** are the regular jocks with Pat himself guesting for them every week (which makes him a regular doesn't it?).

The accent is on oldies as opposed to the newer style dancers played by **Graham** and **Gary** on the well-known Friday night scene at the same club. Pat is also working at the Sheffield Baileys and Doncaster Baileys All-dayers spinning oldies and helping out **Paul Rowan** once a fortnight at Paul's successful Wakefield Intercon (formerly Racquels).

I don't usually take any notice of anonymous letters but "three Soulful ladies" don't half write nicely and as it is such a change from the usual scruffy scrawl that a lot of you use I will make this exception. They write to praise the Union Cellar Bar in Colne, near Burnley (and Nelson) where **Kieron** (Thursdays) and **Deryck and Michael** (Wednesdays) play Funk, Northern and Commercial Sounds old and new. No mention of times or prices I'm afraid.

David Sheldrake, of Surrey was talking to someone who was talking to me and gained the impression that I thought the Shades at Camberley had closed. David is writing to say that it hasn't, it was just redecorated and such.

Friday is the night except on the first Friday in the month (Wigan Oldies night) when most of the crowd head north. I've been trying for a visit to this place for some time and it looks as though it might become a reality real soon. The Shades, being in the South is well spoken of by Northern fans throughout the country.

Terry from the RAOB club Keighley writes (shows how my files are messed up... files, what files?) to say that jocks are himself, **Allan** and **Linz** (not Gaz) as well as **Pat** (Paddy). Terry sent his top ten

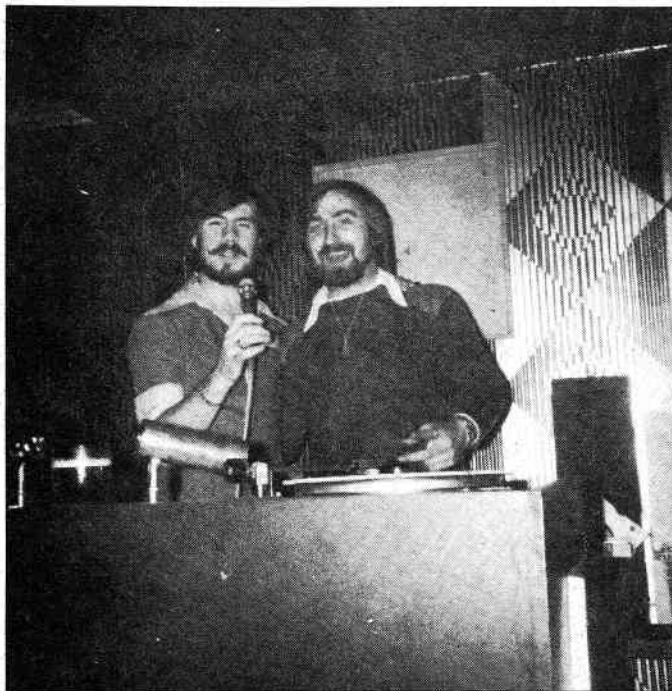
CHECKIN' IT OUT



Frank Elson's weekly
Soul tonic

oldies so look out for that in a future oldies section.

Don't forget all of you that occasionally I intend to turn the



Pic shows Johan Paul Dee on the left, jock at Chrystals in Bury where Thursday night's Soul Train has become one of my most popular resting places. The other extremely ugly guy is John Lees, Northern promotion manager of CBS, who is included in the picture to show that I'm not proud — I'll talk to anybody (as well as Bob Killbourn!).

oldies section over to your lists... but *ten only* please. I've already had one list of two hundred and thirty titles!

Paul Rudzitis, well-known Leicester deejay featured in these pages long ago writes to say that the Saracens Head Scene at Loughborough is no more but there is a chance of getting it back soon so hang on in there Leicester fans. Meanwhile Paul mentions **Rob Lythall** playing Northern at Tiffany's in Leicester Market Place on Wednesdays, 8-12 admission 35p but take your jeans off before you go in!

Next in the pile is a letter from Rob himself about the self same scene. He mentions that **Pete Shirley** does it with him and the manager is friendly and very much pro-Northern Soul (which is nice). Apparently the scene is doing well with people from all over the Midlands trucking over on a Wednesday night. Rob says that admission is 30p which is less than Paul says.

Could it be that the After 8 Club in Camberley used to be known as the Shades? Sounds like it from **Mick Webb's** description. On the main drag, 249, London Road, Camberley with a bar until 2 am and recently celebrated six years of Northern Soul... one of the longest running in the country... must get down there.

Gordon Stewart, writes about a scene in Lancaster. Wednesday nights at the Number 12 club, Parliament Street, Lancaster is the day and place. Gordon and some mates run it from 8.30 pm to "about" 1 am and it costs only 40p in. Mainly Northern and they need more support. (Haven't I mentioned something about this scene before?).

One of those four nutters that run the Norfolk Arms scene at Glossop writes to say that they've got another scene going, at Chrystals in the same town (village?)... I've got relations there by the way... it's on Sunday nights admission 30pees and room for a lot more. The Norfolk Arms is still doing well by the way. Nice scene that, perhaps the Sunday night one will be as good.

Elson's quiz

FOLLOWING the success of my almanac last year (anyone notice how little of it came true, thank goodness) and in anticipation of others getting in on the act I thought I'd try something different.

It's a simple quiz to test your knowledge of Soul music and accompanying subjects but it's in the prizes that we really score.

First prize is no less than a signed life size twelve foot high statue of Bob Killbourn's Mother-in-law's, sister's auntie's friend. Second Prize is a collection of blue-editing pencils used by Jeff Tarry when stubbing my column (naturally completely unused); Third prize a "History of Gracious Living and Table Manners" written by our own

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Peter Harding; and there are countless consolation prizes like the John E. Abbey guide to men's fashions (reprinted in two languages — Flemish and Welsh); and the Goff Abbey guide for Teetotallers.

All completed quizzes should be copied out on the back of a five pound note and sent to me C/O the Make Frank Elson a Millionaire Fund, Cell 3, Holloway Prison.

You can take as long as you like on each question but completed fivers must be received by last post on December 26th 1977. I am unable to enter into correspondence with any entrants.

The beginning:-

1. Spell either a) Esoteric or B) explain the 1934 Children's and young persons (female and male) Employment Act, as defined by the Appeal Judges in the case of Gaddafi V. Amin. with reference to all-nighter's in not less than three and not more than five words (one of which must not be a four letter word).
2. Define Chris Hill giving complete reasons why.
3. Describe the hole in the middle of a single or a) Imports and b) British releases with particular regard to colour, texture and taste. It is understood the Northern and Funk fans may see this question from differing viewpoints and full consideration will be given to this fact during marking.
4. Explain why, in your opinion

Tony Blackburn is Britain's premier Soul Radio deejay and, if you can answer this question, take a walk and play hopscotch on the nearest motorway.

5. Complete the following statements, "I like Soul music because ..." in not more than three words. (One of which may be a four letter word).
6. Write an essay of at least three sides of foolscap on the reasons why The Sex Pistols, The Bay City Rollers and Edward Heath are responsible for, and directly related to the rise in popularity of Soul music during the past year. (This essay must include generous use of four letter words).
7. Explain, in letter form (anonymous if desired) just why you are still reading these questions. (All satisfactorily completed answers to this question will be forwarded to the nearest doctor).
8. Using the first finger of your left hand, standing on a table with no more than three legs and whistling Annie Laurie up your trouser leg explain, with drawings, the meaning of life. (Note this is *not* a trick question).
9. Which is the odd man out! Esther Phillips, George Benson, Stevie Wonder, Jimmy James, G.C. Cameron or James Brown.
10. Which is the odd record title? "Mr Melody", "Rubberband Man", "Bertha Butt Boogie", or "Good Time Charlie".
11. Complete the following song titles:- "Dance Your ... Off"; "Face

to ..."; "What Did You Do With Your ..."; "..."; (All answers will be ... with ... and then ...).

12. Which club owners might use the following song titles as their theme tune? "Give Me What You've Got"; "I Who Have Nothing"; "Get The Funk Outa My Face".
13. Supply the correct name to the following well known Northern Soul nicknames of deejays — Foxy-Baldy; Cowbag; The Grinning Wheel; Sweetheart; Womble-Face; and "Sailor".
14. Rearrange the jumbled up words into names of well known Soul artists:- EENMJASERG; EVENIDOWSW; DNDSUINIFNA;

Ending bits

RIGHT, you lot, get out your Christmas B&S, turn to my column and turn to number 19 of my favourites for 1976... anyone spot the not-so-deliberate mistake? I hope you all did. For "Morning Glory" substitute, "I'm Your Puppet", only excuse I can give is my mental state... last time I got done for speeding I pleaded insanity and got away with it! It was just one of those slips of the typewriter fingers. (Those of you who like to keep such things straight and tidy might like to actually cross out "Morning Glory" and write in the correct title — then your grandchildren will understand it!)

In losing my quiz for the last ish, we lost also my Christmas greetings to all my readers (did you hear about the Securicor van with a "Merry Xmas to all our Raiders" on the back?), plus the usual apology for no Xmas cards to anyone... I never send 'em — instead I send a cheque to charity.

A boxing day flying visit to the Ritz (sadly slipping in popularity it seems although no-one can give me a reason why) meant my first meeting with **Tony Petherbridge** for many a month. Tony has a sad tale of bankruptcy, mental breakdown and alcoholism to tell, although he's not dwelling on it. What it does do however is to underline the fact that while many people seem to think that promoters, club owners etc. are coining it in such a profession is fraught with problems and pitfalls. Tony is poor, but happy now and picking up the threads slowly with a few promotions including an all dayer at Whitchurch for the New Year Bank Holiday.

While I can think of a few people I'd rather see go to the wall than Tony, he tells me that Northern fans have been kind and helpful and he'd like to thank everyone who's helped him when he needed help. It seems that all too often it is the nice people on this scene who fall by the wayside while the not-so-nice go on.

However, I'm sure anyone who's ever been a part of the Northern Soul Club which Tony ran will join me in wishing him all the best for the future.