



THE HORSES MOUTH

7th May The Amazing Mr Smith

The Amazing Mr. Smith has been described as Monty Python's answer to John Williams. His combination of mad inventions and brilliant acoustic guitar playing make him one of the funniest and most original entertainers around. The cardboard tube double bass, the musical shoelaces, the nutcracker played on the tu-tu xylophone, the blue Danube on the condom harp and his 3-minute rendition of river-dance have to be seen to be believed. As well as being on the comedy circuit for at least 10 years, he has made people laugh in every conceivable type of venue in the UK, performed on local and national TV and toured the USA five times (also Holland, Germany, Norway and Jordan). Although his act is very visual, he was recently asked to play some of his bizarre instruments on Ned Sherrin's 'Loose Ends'. "...Mr Smith is absolutely mesmerizing to watch and side-splittingly funny. He can make music from anything, including contraceptives, and the dueling banjo's was a great idea. Mr Smith quite rightly got applause after applause and two well-deserved encores..." part of a review at www.xsmalarkey.co.uk (Manchester 12/3/02) He has previously performed at the club and the Canalside Folk Festival having audiences splitting their sides at the antics he gets up to. We are really looking forward to seeing him at the club again. Apart from being a fantastic comedian, he is an awesome musician as well". For more information about him look up his website: www.the-amazing-mr-smith.co.uk Tickets are £8 on the door (£7 advance 01295 709881) Concessions £5 (£4 advance)

14th May The Harvesters

From Harbury in Warwickshire, Ian and Sue Hartland are renowned for producing a right song and dance wherever they perform. Specialising in their own witty and incisive compositions, played on a wide variety of instruments, they also include some great percussive accompaniment to some of their numbers with impressive demonstrations of Appalachian flat-footing and precision clogging dance styles. Their brand of gentle humour and wry observations on life, love and the rituals of 'Middle England' have made them a popular draw at festivals and concerts across the UK and overseas.

21st May P.S.

P.S. are Phil and Sophie Thurman. Sophie, a multi-genre performer, is probably best known in the folk world as singer / cellist with Oxford group Magpie Lane. In P.S. Sophie also plays whistles and guitar. Phil has been a regular on the Oxford folk scene for a good many years, and hosted the famous Fir Tree sessions. Phil also sings, and plays guitar, 12-string, and bouzouki. They met through folk music, got together, got married, and then realised that they could *play music together too!!!!* – It was almost an afterthought, hence the name P.S.!

28th May "Flower of Gloster" by Neil Gore plus support by Pete Doonan

Neil Gore first performed this one man play in the early days of the club. A chance reminiscence conversation with early folk club members at the 9th birthday party reminded me of it and the wonderful evening we had prompted me to contact Neil and he was delighted to be asked to do it again. 'The Flower Of Gloster' was about four youngsters who crew a narrow-boat from North Wales to London and their adventures on Britain's inland waterways. The tales being a mixture of plotted storylines, natural history and improvisation. The plot involved a boatyard owner from Wales who is unable to deliver a new barge to London when he breaks his leg in an accident. So his son takes the helm and is accompanied by his sister. They are soon joined by their young brother and their friend and for 13 weeks they traverse the waterways of west England, including the Oxford Canal, passing towns, cities and villages. To support the evening, Pete Doonan, who has often sang at the club and appeared at last year's Folk Festival, will start the evening off by singing and playing from his great repertoire of popular songs.