

COMMUNICATION 1 (June 1995)

Thanks very much for putting your name(s) on my mailing list.

I hope you will forgive my tardiness in sending this, the first communication. However, I do have a pretty good excuse; it's been a busy and fairly fruitful year - thank goodness.

1. Release of the 'Free Agent' album, to be honest, met mixed reviews. Fortunately, by and large, buyers were enthusiastic, often overly. The first year's sales have been better than that of any of my previous offerings. ('Too Far From She', 'Blodwen's Dream', and 'Out of Office'.) The best thing is that both my brothers like 'Free Agent'. That's unusual.

2. Three visits to Germany (totalling 9 weeks approx.). I couldn't believe the reaction of the Germans to my songs. It has been great enough that I already have four more visits planned. Hard to imagine (before you say it).

3. Another trip to USA. As always, America offered its varied venues, from folk clubs to house concerts. Not so enjoyable were the pubs. I've promised myself that I'll do them no more. An important step in my career. I will, hopefully, be wallpaper never again. (If only that were true.)

4. Celtic Connections, a huge Glaswegian festival, was a biggy for me in January '95. I played a concert with (supporting) Maura O'Connell. Such was my success that even my worst critic, my mum, gave me a hug after the show. That's unheard of; we're not a hugging family. It was the first time my brother, and ex-singing partner, had seen my solo act. His endorsement was very important to me. Thanks Fras.

5. A few radio slots have been very helpful. Annie Webster's show, BBC Radio Scotland, was subsequently taken off the air. I wonder if it was my fault. I did that show three times. Also on Radio Scotland, was 'Mr. Anderson's Fine Tunes', live from Glasgow's Royal Concert Hall.

Future slots are 'Folk on Two', on July 5th, and 'Heno', a Welsh news program on Channel 4. (August 17th)

6. The British folk scene has been very supportive. I've been all over the country doing festivals and clubs. Thanks to all the organisers and friends who have helped me so much.

7. Many people have been pushing me for an album without drums and session musicians. I've never had the confidence to do that but now I've done it. It's recorded. Twenty tracks of just me. (What a thought - you say.) It's 74 minutes long. Now that it's done, I'm glad to say I'm really proud of the result. No release details, as yet, but here's the track list.

- | |
|-----------------------------------|
| 1. Too Far from She |
| 2. Factory Life |
| 3. From a Distance |
| 4. Free Agent |
| 5. This Peaceful evening |
| 6. The Touch and The Go |
| 7. The Anchor Line |
| 8. Will There Be a Concert? |
| 9. The Nighttime Cowboys. |
| 10. Ghost of The Chair |
| 11. Hearts of Ohio |
| 12. Black Fog |
| 13. Top Hat 'n' Tails |
| 14. Find Out Who your Friends Are |
| 15. Blodwen's Dream |

16. Gone For The Day
17. The Dawn of a Brand New Day
18. All Roads Lead to Home
19. Child on The Green
20. Blue Denim Days

I'm still looking for a sponsor which would hasten its release. Have you any ideas?
(Maybe, if I had millions of pre-sales, I could do it. Hint! Hint! Hint!)

8. The most important thing, for me, has been passing my motorbike test. I've been driving (riding) a borrowed bike in Germany - thanks Uwe. I hope I can afford one next year. You never know.

Well, I think that's about everything. I hope to see you at some of the gigs on the accompanying sheet. It should fill up quite a bit, but if you have any suggestions, please forward them to me or my agents, John and Margaret, on 01764 679465.

Thanks for spending some time reading my blurb. I hope it was legible and of some interest to you.

Please keep well.

Yours

Ian M. Bruce

p.s. If you have a fax no., please let me know. That would be very co-operative and helpful.

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COMMUNICATION 2 (December 1995)

Hi there.

It's been a few months since the first letter, but that's fairly characteristic....sorry!

Anyway, now that I've grasped the pen, what can I tell you? Maybe I could start by telling those who don't already know about the broccoli and caterpillar meal I was served up by Jayne Webb, at Upton-on-Severn, but I know she gets mad about me mentioning it. So, instead, I'll recap on the last few months and tell you what's coming up in the next few.

As you know, I released 'The Naked Truth vol. 1' acoustic album. Thanks very much to all of you who supported my efforts by purchasing it. Comments and reviews, so far, have all been favourable. This is borne out by its sales which are exceeding the previous albums. I had a dozen, or so, orders from Radio Two listeners, after Jim Lloyd played it. That was a pleasant surprise.

I'm recording another album in March. It will have some new songs on it, but I won't know what form the backing will take until we're finished. I think it will be totally non-electric and no drums, on this occasion. I'm looking forward to hearing the results.

I'm feeling good about the songs. I've recently parted, amicably, from Carrick Music Agency. So, I'm now contacting people personally and anybody can reach me on my personal number. xxxx xxx xxxx If I'm away from home, you can contact my friend, Patricia Heywood, who has a note of any latest developments. Her number is xxxxx xxxxxx . She will also be making efforts to secure work for me.

Speaking of work, my good friend Heidi, worked really hard for me in Germany. Since my last correspondence, I've spent another eight weeks there. It's still very exciting and, thankfully, lucrative. It's quite nerve racking, putting yourself in front of a foreign audience. Nagging self-doubts flood in but, fortunately, the Germans are experts in making one feel valuable. After the concerts, they are very encouraging with their comments and, indeed, their album buying. I don't take that for granted. I'm glad to say that most of the venues rebook me, which is as much a reward to the hard-working Heidi. Therefore, I'm back out there again in February, April, August and November 1996.

I've looked back through my diary and would like to give special mention to the following clubs for hosting some memorable nights for me.

1. Chorley - Thanks Frank
2. Warwick -Thanks to the hilarious Scots lady in the audience.
3. Arundel - Thanks to Frank Register who shouted, on hearing that I sold my mother a CD, "What, you wouldn't give your mother one!?" That caused a giggle.Great club.
4. Knightwick - It's a bit like going home. the Hereford area has always been kind to me.
5. Wesham - Thanks Ann. A club with a difference. It runs in the corner of a bar whilst the rest of the pub watches the telly. Sounds awful...but it works.
6. Bromsgrove - Must be my very favourite night in a British folk club since I went solo. Only matched by a night I did with my brother at Balerno, near Edinburgh.
7. Maidenhead - Great to be in touch with Pearl and Tony again.
8. Oxford - A brilliant, brilliant club, and sorry I turned up so late. Fortunately, although I was late, or maybe because I was late, we had a great time there.
9. Kingswinford - Again that area. Another brilliant club.
10. Loughborough - Hi to Mary and Pete. I really loved this night.

Of course, Bollington, as ever, deserves a mention but who ever heard of a top eleven.

I've bought a motorbike!!! I thought I'd just blurt that out. A Yamaha 900 Diversion. I love it to bits. I intend to tour the clubs with it, where possible. That'll give the car a rest. (I do around 45000 miles a year.)

As to the future. On January 21st, I become 40 years old. Words of sympathy or comfort are welcome. As are any letters you may wish to send, as some of you do.

January 30th. I've been asked to do a couple of Burns' songs on a new various artistes CD. Thanks to Dr. Fred Freeman.

As well as the usual German and American visits, I intend to work in Australia in October. If you can help with any contacts for that, I would appreciate any help. My contacts, so far, might be a little tenuous.

Anyway. I've run out of space, So, I'll conclude by thanking you for all your support and I hope to meet you at some of the venues on the attached sheet. Please remind anybody who might need an album or tape, that they should phone immediately.(Always on the make, this guy.)

All the best, Ian M. Bruce

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COMMUNICATION 3 (June 1996)

Well, I swore that it would never happen to me but it has. I've gone and got computerised. Maybe now I'll hear less griping about my handwriting. I suppose, if you don't need proof that your favourite superstar is actually sitting down and writing to you personally, then that suits me fine.

First of all, may I welcome the new recipients of this twice yearly epistle. You probably thought I had forgotten you, but my 'old timers' would tell you that it's a fairly irregular mail out. I like to wait until there is something to tell....."Well?".....I hear you say. "What's the big news?"

IT'S NEW ALBUM TIME AGAIN!

Most of you probably knew that it was on the way, but I can now supply details. It's being released on "WILD GOOSE RECORDS", which is a small company, based in Wherwell, near Andover.

The studio's setting is idyllic. It's in the gardens of a fabulous big thatched cottage, overlooking the River Test. There just can't be a more conducive scenario to relaxed recording. Somehow, everything fitted together like a jigsaw.

I was working in these wonderful surroundings, in great weather and in great company. It's hardly surprising that the album has worked out so well. (At least everyone involved in its recording thinks so.) The atmosphere has, I feel, been captured in the music. It's light and airy, catchy, rhythmic and melodic without being dragged down by bass and drums. They've been left out this time.

The simplicity of the acoustic "THE NAKED TRUTH" has rubbed off. Another influence on the recording has been my involvement with the Robert Burns project. The traditional instrumentation has really bonded to the original songs even more convincingly than I had hoped. (Accordion, fiddle, oboe, percussion and me.) Of course, the only person who can really judge the album objectively is you. I hope you will enjoy it. I've named it "ALFRESCO" as fresh as the clean open air. (If you would like me to send you a copy, please complete the enclosed form.)

One of the things I'm a little tickled about is that the musicians, on the album, want to take the music 'on the road'. We'll go under the name 'THE IAN BRUCE BREEZEBAND'. I'd be keen to try out this new format with the festivals. I'm sure the music would suit. Also. Only tonight I had a meeting with Gordeanna McCulloch, a well respected traditional Scottish singer. (She used to live on Berwick Drive - my street) We're hoping to do some of the Scottish festivals as a duo in '97. Despite being a songwriter, I've always loved traditional music; especially when Gordeanna sings it. So, it will be a privilege and joy to sing with her.....Anybody out there want us????

I've just about sold out of the first thousand copies of "THE NAKED TRUTH". That maybe doesn't sound much but when it has no distribution and sold solely at my folkclub gigs, it's not too bad. It's approximately 8 or 9 albums per gig (including the older albums). So, thank you all for your support. You may know that a lot of my touring is done on the motorbike. I'm enjoying it thoroughly. I'm hooked on the bike. So much so that I've bought a new one. For those who want to know, it's a Yamaha Thunderace 1000cc. In a way it was a bit irresponsible because it's not as comfortable as the previous Diversion 900 on a long journey.

The new one, however, is much more exciting and I love it, love it, love it.

Things like that are paid for by the German tours etc. I'm really delighted by the way it's going over there. It's getting better and better (he says touching wood). I'm sitting typing this on Wednesday, July 17th and I go back, on Monday, to do another tour. Also, I'm doing a very busy and qualitative batch of gigs there in Oct/Nov finishing off with a

promising tour of Holland.....

Here's the question. Why do I have to go abroad to survive? I love working in the U.K. but, quite frankly it doesn't do much to support me. It's very frustrating to be kept down at heel when there are people, like you, around giving me encouragement. I know I'm not alone here. It seems that the Europeans, the Americans, etc. realise that the musician is away from home for long periods of time. They're willing to pay accordingly. Can you imagine the rewards given to an executive spending so much time away from home. Sure it's a great job and I feel privileged to make my living in this way, but the barriers, at times are a bit hard to endure. You can work your butt off to find doors slammed in your face. Can any body tell me, "What am I doing wrong?" You can see by my itinerary that there's not a lot of British stuff included. I'm sorry to moan so in what should be a NEWSLETTER, but I tend to get a little personal with the people who'll listen. Please feel free to give me your views. I want to do more festivals and quality clubs but I'm still getting the snubs. WHAT IS THE ANSWER??

Anyway, enough of my grumping. I'm really enjoying my way of life but, if you can talk your local club into fitting me in, that would be appreciated.

Thanks for reading the blurb.

IAN.

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COMMUNICATION 4 (December 1996)

I was nearly Ebenezer Bruce this year. "Bah! Humbug! I don't have time to send Christmas cards, or any of that kind of thing."

Fortunately, it has been an extremely busy year and never moreso than in the last few months. So I hope I can be forgiven for combining my mailing and Christmas card lists. Apart from anything else, I know a few people who regularly deal with Christmas in this way and I've enjoyed their letters in lieu of cards. So here goes.....

I've just read my last communication. What a miserable sod I was. I must have been in a horrible mood, or something. For those of you who didn't see it, I was bemoaning the British lack of enthusiasm for my work, compared with the continent. Well, looking back on this year, I've had my fair share; 80-odd gigs throughout Britain (including Towersey, Lichfield and Upton-on-Severn festivals), very enjoyable tours in U.S.A. (the best yet) and Holland.

I am assured, by the Dutch agent that I will be going back there. I look forward to that. (Hopefully, they won't break into my car next time. Luckily they didn't take any of the PA system. They took my bag and scattered its contents on the pavement. Taking only my glasses and the adaptor for the mobile phone. There were approximately 100 of my CDs in the car. They weren't touched either and that's hurtful.

The Dutch police reckon the "baddies" were frightened off by The Naked Truth's cover.) Germany continues to get better and better. I told of my new motorbike in the last epistle (Yamaha Thunderace 1000). I was so proud of that beast, but unfortunately it only lasted 4 weeks. Whilst on my way to Germany, I wrote it off by running into the back of a car on the M25. Not a good week. I wasn't hurt and eventually made Germany on a borrowed BMW.(Thanks to Keith and Joan Holloway.)

I've got another Thunderace now, so I'm still in love. I had to leave it in Germany due to bad weather conditions. Oh how I miss it. Sob! Sob!

Thanks to everyone who ordered my "A Kind And Gentle Nature" album and for the positive comments I've received, so far. No reviews yet, so, I'm still on tenterhooks. Once again I'm sorry it's release was delayed.

I've just been in the studio to record a four track CD. (No cassettes this time)There are three of my own songs (previously unreleased) and "Annie Laurie" (a song I'm really enjoying at the moment). For this E.P. (showing my age here) we're dropping my name and releasing it under "Breezeband".

We're attempting to attract some of the bigger labels and our producer, Mark Powell, assures us that there's a higher probability that a "short" CD will be listened to.

Mark has a fair old pedigree. He used to run Woodworm studios where he recorded such notables as Fairport Convention, Richard Thompson, Ralph McTell and many others. I was pleased that he approached us rather than the other way around.

Of course the bad news is that we're also hoping to sell our new demo. I'll include an order form with the letters that go to the mailing list. It looks like Gordeanna McCulloch and I are not going to find time to work together, in the near future, as I had hoped.

However, the idea is still afloat.

Soon, I have to discuss making my first traditional album with Dr. Fred Freeman(The producer of the Burns' CDs). It seems he was happy with my contribution to the Linn Records' project. I also hope to be on Vol. 3 but the series' future may be a little up-in-the-air , at present. Watch this space.

Anyway, thanks for taking the time to read these words. It only remains for me to wish you all the best for 1997. I'll print my New Year's itinerary overleaf in the hope you can make it along some night.

Cheers Ian

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COMMUNICATION 5 (June 1997)

Hi!

Here I am again with my 6 monthly update.

"Oh Good!" I hear you shout. Or is there one 'o' too many in there?

Thanks to those of you who ordered "Annie Laurie". I've scanned its cover and put it at the bottom of the page (See albums page), to prove to the sceptics that it does now exist. Why do these things always take so long?? Apologies for its late arrival and thanks for your patience.

As usual, we're hoping for a good response. So far....so good.

There are one or two bits of recording news.

THE THIRTY YEARS OF BROMYARD

This cd was released last month. I recorded Mick McConnell's "The Tinkerman's Daughter" for it. And there it is - track 15. Among such others as The Doonans, Vin Garbutt, Cosmotheke, Artisan, The Albion Dance Band, Les Barker.....the list goes on. If you are interested, they are being sold direct, by Annie Jones 01531 670249.

The complete Songs of Robert Burns vol 3.

This CD has now been recorded. Its release is imminent, honest!

Volume 2 was well received and I was very pleased with the comments regarding my contribution. Dr. Fred Freeman, the producer, is over the moon with Vol.3. Hopefully his enthusiasm is justified and rewarded for the sake of all concerned.

My own Traditional CD

Dr. Fred has agreed to produce this. I've had loads of people asking me to bring out such an album. It was, believe it or not, by public demand that I brought out 'The Naked Truth'. People stood by me, thankfully. I can only hope that they do again. We start recording in September.

No longer do I need to go into the studio; I've bought my own gear. It's absolutely fabulous. No more toing and froing between studios for remixes, etc. This stuff is good (digital and all that). In fact, The Tinkerman's Daughter was the first home effort. Other demos I've recorded are proving to be of supreme sound quality.

The career still seems to be flourishing. I'm at the Tonder Festival, Denmark this year. That's a biggy. If people enjoy me, it will do no harm. The Strib Festival (also Denmark) has rebooked me for next year. I've always wanted to work the Danish scene. The audience is so responsive. I'm crossing my fingers. The mailing list has now been extended to include USA. (Hello to all you new recipients. It's good to have you on board.) All your enthusiastic comments regarding my concerts with the percussionist Ian Murray were very satisfying. Unfortunately the audience numbers were disappointing. Hopefully, if you are willing, we can work together on that, for the future. We're coming back May 1998. Any help or suggestions would be most welcome.

Maybe you've noticed, I've changed my address. Please feel free to contact me anytime. (The e-mail is the best bit.)

The change of location did not change my bad luck with motorbikes. That's another one gone. (I'm almost too embarrassed to tell) It really wasn't my fault. I hit black ice, on Beattock summit (A74) in the middle of May. That's just ridiculous. I'm going to try again. I pick up another new one at the end of the week.. (20/6/97)

I'm really rushing through this. I'm just back from US. I had a short burst of time to sort out the mail, organise the new album.....blah! blah! blah!.....and.....off to Oxford tomorrow to practice with the Breezband. We have a German tour coming up in August. Good idea to know what we're doing.

I'll append the gig list. Please, please, please check with your local venue before you turn up. One or two dates were changed last year with little or no notice, for one reason or another. Apologies to those casualties.

Thanks a lot. See you around.

IAN

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COMMUNICATION 6 (December 1997)

HEEEEEEEEEELLPPPP! Someone just told me, "It's Christmas next week!" Well, they might have warned me, at least. So, here I am again combining my Christmas and mailing lists. Let's think - what news?

On the recordings front - The Songs of Robert Burns (Vol. 4) arrived yesterday. Its official release date will be the middle of January, sometime. Having just received my copy, I haven't had time to appraise it yet. Dr. Fred Freeman, though, is his usual ecstatic self about it. More often than not, reviewers concur with his, possibly, slightly biased opinion. Dr. Fred has also completed the production of my own latest effort. That one, I must confess, I have given a fair old listen. Big headed me is very pleased with its content and progress to date. I have good reasons to be proud of it; Catriona Macdonald, Ian Lowthian, Dougie Pincock, Malcolm Stitt (from Deaf Shepherd) and Greentrax's acceptance to release it, in early March. Also, it will be released on Fenn Records, in Germany, in January. (That's a bit of a tongue twister for me.)

I know I've told you before, but, the songs are mainly traditional and were suggested by Dr. Fred. We've kept the arrangements very simple. None of this trying to bring it into the modern day with electronics. That's not really necessary. These days, I believe more people of all ages are more willing to accept folk music in its slightly rarer state. For me, this album seems to sound automatically modern. It feels refreshing to me. I've exorcised an old ghost.

It was, as threatened, recorded on my own equipment, (the main cause of my current poverty). The resultant sound quality, I think, may surprise some of you. If you want to hear it, that is.

I'm in such a hurry to get this letter out that I can't think what to tell you. I suppose, I'd better point out that my e-mail address is different now. (For the Christmas card list, my whole address has changed since last year). I can now pick up e-mail and faxes when on the road. I can thoroughly recommend the Nokia 9000. It's a great road companion and nothing at all to do with yuppyism. The road can be very lonely at times, so it's good to have a life line. I wonder if Nokia would pay me for advertising?

Looking back on '97, I feel, in the main, pretty satisfied. The festivals were brilliant; Bromyard, Warwick, Cleckheaton, Upton on Severn, Nurnberger bardentreffe, Tonder and Strib (Denmark). At times I was made to feel quite special and can't thank you/everybody enough for your/their support.

Next year is shaping up nicely. Although, I'm not thinking of taking on Albert Hall yet. He's a rotten singer anyway. You'll see, from my itinerary, what's afoot. Unfortunately, the US tour will be shortened due to agents' lack of interest. I'm fed up with making no advance over there. I may sometimes look complacent, but I hate stagnating. Europe and Britain are blossoming much more positively. So, I'm not sure what to do about The States this year. I'd best make up my mind soon before May is upon us.

A few gigs were arranged by people who saw blank spaces in the diary. Many thanks to them and, of course, that would, again, be most welcome in the coming year; especially in America.

Especial thanks to Heidi and Oscar Music for keeping me fed and watered for another year. They've been terrific.

Well, I'm going to finish off now with my best wishes for Christmas and the coming year. There's plenty to tell, but what would we talk about when we meet up in '98? I hope we will. Keep well and happy.

IAN

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COMMUNICATION 7 (June 1998)

I often wonder what goes through people's minds when they open this letter and see my ugly mug in the top right hand corner. Maybe it's best that I don't know. Whatever, here is my six monthly report.

As usual, I've scanned my last communication to see where we left off. Burns vol. 4 was so brand new that I hadn't listened to it. Well, of course, now I have and I think it's brilliant. I'm only performing one track on it so I'm not being narcissistic when I make that judgement. It contains many great performances. Once again, I'm proud to have been included. I'm not on Volume 5, which is in the pipeline as I write, but Dr. Fred has promised that I will be back. Watch this space.

Since the last letter 'Hodden Grey' has hit the market. I can hardly believe the reaction it has stirred. Within 2 months of its release, which is good in itself, magazines and radio stations have given red hot reviews. The Living Tradition, Shreds and Patches, John O'Reagan (Ireland), Folk and Roots (Somerset Sound), Radio Sauvagine (France), Valley's Radio (Stroud) and most recently Folk Roots' Bob Walton, concluded a glowing review with, 'Who could ask for more?' Many other positive comments have reached me from both media and personal opinion.

According to Greentrax' Top Twenty it is, presently, their No. 3 best seller; above such notables as Deaf Shepherd, Shooglenifty, Ossian, The McCalmans, etc., etc. It would be nice if that could be maintained. I remain ever hopeful, but realistic.

The foray into traditional music has opened one or two previously-jammed-shut doors. I'm playing Killin festival next weekend. It's not very often I get to play Scottish festivals. I'm looking forward to it. It's such a beautiful place too.

The USA have invited me to play at two highland games in the autumn, Tennessee and Kentucky. They're treating me like royalty which, I must confess, I'm enjoying very much. They don't yet know that I neither wear the kilt nor go out haggis-bashing. I hope they won't be disappointed. (These American games are a wonder to behold.) We've managed to organise a pretty good tour around those engagements. 1998, then, is a two-USA- visit year. The first one turned out well, also.

Denmark, Austria and Holland was great. I go back in October, November and January respectively.

I've had some great German gigs this year, including two or three with Ivan Drever and Duncan Chisolm, of Wolfstone. They were a hoot. I return to Germany in August and October.

You'll see by the itinerary that I'll be in Italy in July. That promises to be hot in more than one way. The line up includes David Crosby, Deaf Shepherd, Oige, Tannahill Weavers, Allan and Barnaby Taylor, etc., etc. The final concert is Dervish, Amazing Blondel and yours truly.

So, all 'n' all, I think you'll agree that things are looking pretty good for 1998.

Enough of the music. It's time to report that I've replaced my motorbike. I've sold my Thunderace and now have a Honda Blackbird (1134cc - 160 h.p.). It's just fantastic. I'm looking forward to riding to Sidmouth Festival, weather and what/whoever permitting. You will probably recall that Communication 6 asked 'Do you wish to remain on my mailing list?' Thanks to all of you who returned the little slip. I thought that it was pretty clean cut that those who returned the slip were interested and the others not. Not so, that was too simple. I bumped into many people who said, 'Keep me on your mailing list. I keep forgetting to send the slip!' Therefore, once again I have sent out to the whole list. Please, please, this time contact Bob and Roseann at 0141 634 1095 tel/fax, or e-mail Oscarsfolk@aol.com if you wish to remain on the list.

Those who returned the slips need not reply again although it would be nice to hear from you, if you wished.

Well, it's time to sign off. You may have gathered that I'm in a quite good mood. I hope this finds you the same way and that we'll meet up pretty soon.

Thanks for your attention, IAN [Back to Index](#)

COMMUNICATION 8 (December 1998)

Well, I don't know about you, but, I can't believe 1998 is all but over. How was it for you (pardon the expression!) Good, I hope.

I have not evaluated my year. Wait till I have a little look at my diary.....

Okay.....here we go.

June 4th - A not very pleasant dental procedure. They'll assess its success on December 30th. I think it's o.k.

June 26th & 27th - Ashby de la Zouch festival. I managed to enjoy it very much despite the horrible weather. Lots of mud.

June 29th - As if the mud was not enough, I had a little go at SCUBA diving and really enjoyed it. So much so that I paid to go on a course. I've completed the written test and a couple of the pool sessions. Unfortunately, due to being away from home so much, I have been unable to find the time to do the rest. I still intend to complete the course.

July 6th & 7th - These days I don't get much chance to go to the North of Scotland. That's why these two days were so special to me. I played The Ceilidh Place, Ullapool and Balnain House, Inverness. The gigs went well, especially Balnain House. The best part, though, was the motorbike ride up through the heart of Scotland in perfect weather. It was brill'.

Still in July, I paid my first visit to Italy. I could have had no idea just how well that was going to work out. I played a concert with Amazing Blondel and Dervish. A pretty big open air, and open hearted, audience. Thanks Spilembergo. (By the way, David Crosby was on the previous evening. His music made me cry. He and his band were fantastic.)

Ely festival with Breezband. We enjoyed playing there an awful lot. I wish more people were willing to pay for the whole band.

Still July - I had to order yet another batch of The Naked Truth CDs. It's still selling. Thanks a lot!

October - Played USA for the second time this year. The Murfreesboro Highland games, which is an outdoor event, as you would expect, encountered the first Tennessee rain for over 2 months. It all came down in one day.

The clans threw their hammers, tossed their cabers, played their pipes and, of course, walked around with multifarious travelling rugs wrapped around them, but, the music tent was rained off due to lack of interest and walls.

Also, my bekilted Nashville TV slot was a source of anguish and embarrassment.

I went straight from USA to Germany, Denmark, back to Germany, to Austria (second time this year) then England before I got back to Scotland. I spent 3 days here before going off again to South Wales for a week. I was away for three months. I've just got back.....I'm absolutely knackered with a capital 'F'.

Hodden Grey continues to do well. Reviews are still coming out. They've all been glowing. I'm delighted.

Quite a few people who are just discovering me (where have I been all your life) have been asking me to list my backlog

of albums. At the risk of being a bore to the millions who have them all, here they are;-

Mrs. Bruce's Boys vol. 1 (1980) tape only
Veil of the Ages (1981) tape only
Mrs Bruce's Boys vol 2 (1985) tape only
Too Far From She (1988) L.P. and tape
Blodwen's Dream (1990) C.D. and tape
Out of Office (1992) C.D. and tape
Free Agent (1994) C.D. and tape
The Naked Truth (1995) C.D. and tape
A Kind and Gentle Nature (1996) C.D. and tape
Annie Laurie (1997) C.D. only
Hodden Grey (1998) C.D.Only

I'm going to spend Christmas helping my brother and sister-in-law in their pub. I'll be there 23rd and 24th December. It's The Mitre, 2 Mitre Road, Buckingham. I'll be working behind the bar, collecting glasses and being a general dog's body. And not getting paid for it - I must be mad.

If you happen to be in the area, it would be great to see you. Please drop in. Don't expect free booze, my brother is even tighter than me....and that's bad.

So, what of next year;-

In January I'm doing a German tour which will be essentially a Burns and Hodden Grey tour. My good friend, and fluent German speaker, Vic Besch will be doing the talking. If that works out, I'm hoping it will be a bit of a fixture for those bleak January days.

In April, I'm doing a German tour with Ian Lowthian (he's got 'ian' in his name twice). In case you don't know, he's one of the best accordion players in the country. The backings he's supplied me on The Burns series and Hodden Grey are, to my mind, nothing short of genius. I'm looking forward to working with him again.

A number of British festivals and clubs. I'm always glad to see that. More visits to USA (the news of the attack on Iraq has just this minute come on the telly. So, maybe not.), Austria and basically any where else that wants me.

I'd better sign off (before you all develop rigor mortis) with my gig list for the next while. We still expect more to come in although, I think you'll agree it's a pretty hectic schedule again.

Please remember to contact the venues before you leave the house. They, or I, may have vanished into thin air.

Also, as usual, any ideas for gigs in your area, please contact my various agents, to whom I am forever grateful.

Oscar Music 0141 634 1095 (U.K., Italy and U.S.A.)
Heidi Stagge 0049 4792 2729 (Germany and Denmark)
Doris Schimpl 0043 3162 53569 (Austria)
Liesbeth Peters 0031 1724 30082 (Holland)
A little friendly but serious note;

TO WHOM IT CONCERNS

Please restrict agent contact to business only. They are very busy and I don't want to burden them with personal stuff. I have instructed them not to give out accommodation or private details. It seems one doesn't have to be a superstar to encounter privacy invasion. Believe it or not, it happens quite regularly. Yes, even to an ugly auld bugger like me. Having said that, I obviously encourage contact but, sometimes it can get a little personal. So please keep it light.

Having stepped down from my soap box.....Thanks again for all your support.

Hope to see you somewhere in the following places.

Happy Christmas an a' that. Ian Bruce (thesingingbruce@aol.com) [Back to Index](#)

COMMUNICATION 9 (June 1999)

Well! Those of you who were paying attention were not caught out by my cunning plan to trick you. Some of you noticed that some of the last communication was headed 'The Ninth Communication'. You didn't let me down, nor, I hasten to add, did you let me off. Thank you, you pernickety bunch of.....

Here, in fact is The Ninth Communication and I find myself in good spirits (no not alcohol). So fear not. I think this is a contented letter! ALTHOUGH, when I think about it, I should be in a bloody foul mood. (You knew it was too good to last.) I am without motorbike. The poor thing has been sold, sniff! I was not using it quite as much as I used to and it wasn't enjoying its frequent overnights in the street. I have no garage. So, until I have a place to keep one, I'll probably be without. This situation will be rectified as soon as possible.

I see by my last contact that I went through the previous 6 months gigs and mentioned the ones that satisfied me most. I'm going to do it again; trusting that when I enjoy the gig, you lot do too. I can dream, can't I???

Now, let me see.....

January 99 - I know I'm always going on about how good Germany is, but really, it's been truly amazing this year. Heidi, my manager, thought it would be a good idea to do a show around the Burns songs I had recorded for Dr. Fred Freeman. She enlisted one of their local talents, Victor Besch. He was born in Chile, to a Chilean mother and, I think, a British father. So, quite naturally, his first language is Spanish. He was brought up in Wales speaking perfect English and, by all accounts, now speaks perfect German. Quite an asset. Unfortunately, though, he does insist on playing the pipes. Never mind. Oh, he sings and plays all kinds of other things too. Quite the little smartie pants. We played 10 gigs to packed houses. The show was a success. We were immediately fully booked for Jan 2000 and could be for the foreseeable future. I am releasing a Robert Burns album and recording a solo album for Vic within the next month. These are essentially to compliment the tour.

No, I'm not finished with Germany yet. I was back in April, touring with Ian Lowthian. Once more playing sell-outs. Ian is such a great musician and one of the nicest guys I've ever worked with. He's a gem. (We're in the middle of recording an album for him too.) Again, such was the success that we're doing it again next April. We plan to record an album together in December. It could be a little peculiar, so, watch out for that one.

I've just flicked through my British gigs and realised that I have had a very, very good 6 months. I'm not quite sure what's happened but something has and I like it. Thanks to every one who contributed to its success. Also, I've doubled my album sales in the last financial year. Happy bunny. (Could always be happier of course - please

keep supporting.) As you may have gathered, the studio side of things is working quite well now. I've recorded an album for Dr. Fred, called 'To Be The Nation Again'. It is to coincide with the opening of the new Scottish parliament. I'm singing five of the tracks...'Internal Exile', 'The Rovin' Dies Hard', 'Hermless', 'Jamie Raeburn' and 'The John MacLean March'. Don't worry, there's good stuff on it too. Joking aside, I will recommend this album it's a little cracker..I promise. It also features Tony McManus, Marc Duff, John Morran, Wendy Wetherby, Mick West, Frank McLaughlin, Pete Clark and Jim Malcolm. I hope you'll have one.

I mentioned that I've recorded a Robert Burns album. It's a 14 tracks; 9 lifted from the Linn series and another 5 songs recorded specially. So, the track list is;-

Ye Jacobites By Name, Lassie Wi' The Lintwhite Locks, Galloway Tam, Ye Banks and Braes, The Soldier's Return, Parcel o' Rogues, A Man's a Man, The Winter of Life, Craigieburn Wood, Auld Lang Syne (different tune), When She Cam Ben She Bobbed / Mally's Meek, Mally's Sweet, Now Westlin Winds, Ca' The Yowes and The Thames Flows Proudly To The Sea. When you see the list of contributing musicians I think you'll agree that it's really rather impressive. William Jackson, John Martin, Dougie Pincock, Ian Lowthian, Catriona MacDonald, Ian Anderson, Jack Evans, Tony McManus and Marc Duff (Apologies to any one I've missed out. I'm awfy chuffed about this album.

Incidentally, 'Ca' The Yowes' made it to William Jackson's 'Celtic Experience Vol 1' which, I'm told sold in tens of thousands. It was in the Britannia music catalogue, therefore, so was I. Wow!!!

Should you require any Ian Bruce music to add to your very tasty collection, (creepy!) then please send £12 per CD (+£0.50 per unit p+p, free on three or more.) to Bob & Roseann Gilchrist, 14 Inchmurrin Drive, Cathkin Mains, High Burnside, Glasgow G73 5RT. Remember you can order by e-mail ianbruce@dial.pipex.com

People are always asking to have a discography, so, here it is again;- Mrs. Bruce's Boys vol. 1 (1980) tape only Veil of the Ages (1981) tape only Mrs Bruce's Boys vol 2 (1985) tape only Too Far From She (1988) L.P. and tape Blodwen's Dream (1990) C.D. and tape Out of Office (1992) C.D. and tape Free Agent (1994) C.D. and tape The Naked Truth (1995) C.D. and tape A Kind and Gentle Nature (1996) C.D. and tape Annie Laurie (1997) C.D. only (Baby CD - only £3.00) The Complete Songs of Robert Burns* Vol2 C.D. and maybe tape The Complete Songs of Robert Burns* Vol3 C.D. and maybe tape The Complete Songs of Robert Burns* Vol4 C.D. and maybe tape Thirty Years of Bromyard (1997)* C.D.Only Hodden Grey (1998) C.D.Only To Be The Nation Again* (1999) C.D. Only Alloway Tales (Robert Burns One) (1999) C.D. Only

You'll see by the attached gig list that I have another busy time ahead. I hope you'll come along.. All the best. IAN [Back to Index](#)

COMMUNICATION 10 (December 1999)

Hello everyone. Here we go again. I can hardly believe that this is the TENTH communication. Time just flies by. I wonder if I should be having some kind of celebration!!??

Those of you who receive this by email will already know that I have upsticked to Germany. All my gear was painstakingly decanted, last week, in a rented and very overloaded Ford Transit Luton. ("Not recommended for long journeys!" said the rental company, on my return! Thanks a bunch!) Anyway, it's done, thanks to my band of helpers. Now I just have to get myself there on 19th December, and take delivery of some new furniture.

I'm quite excited by the whole thing.

There are many good reasons for the move. e.g. Being in Central Europe and therefore handier for the German, Austrian, Dutch, Danish and Polish gigs, living in a beautiful village, liking the German folks and them seeming to appreciate me (as I've said so often), the curtailment of foreigner tax, cheaper fuel (especially diesel - which my new car uses) but the biggest reason is.....I WANT TO!!!!

The next year may prove a little difficult since I have so many British gigs to fulfil.

I'll manage.

Everything I do from 2001 onwards will have to be in more condensed tours. I can't wait to do a SCOTTISH TOUR. The plan is that I can take some time off in between for writing, recording or....maybe a holiday. I haven't had a holiday for years.

The album with Ian Lowthian has been shelved. We've both been too busy. No complaints there.

Sometime next year I should be doing a CD with Brian McNeill at the helm. He approached me and my German record company director, Thomas Fenn, at Tønder festival. We agreed that it was a good idea. The 'Alloway Tales' album of Robert Burns songs seems to have slipped through the reviewers fingers. Those who have written about it have been very much in favour.

Although my traditional and Burns stuff has been well received, I look forward to doing what I like best. Early in the new year I hope to get another album of my own songs together. Who knows?

TOO FAR FROM SHE CD

Finally, I got around to releasing "Too Far" on CD. The master tapes are with the pressing plant and I expect take delivery by the end of January. Quite a number of folks have expressed interest in this project. That's why I did it!!! [Back to Index](#)

COMMUNICATION 11 (June 2000)

Well, here we are again. Thanks to all of you who have pointed out that you've been missed off the list. My apologies. I hope this one gets to everyone. Also, it has been pointed out on more than one occasion that this particular letter is LATE. You're right, another apology (this can't go on) but I have not had a minute. So, here I am with a minute.

This is what is, and has been, happening. Many of you are asking if I'm enjoying living in Germany. Truth is that I don't know. I've hardly been there. Any home of mine is just a base. I am still enjoying the concept and do love the flat, it's contents and surroundings. I'm very lucky.

JANUARY

I had another successful tour of Germany with Vic Besch. That was a Robert Burns tour.

FEBRUARY and MARCH

A fair few gigs in Britain. Very nice, but in future we have to compact these tours. I need to get home more. All this time on the road is tiring and not helped by days off in between. We're working on it. I need to record a new album but can't seem to get near my studio. I was particularly happy with the Kent bunch. I had a great week down there. I look forward to a return. Hint! Hint!

This was also the month that I picked up my new motorbike. Honda Blackbird XXY. Bright Blue. It's already had a few things happen to it. It was only one day old when my (dubious) friend who shall NOT remain nameless, Pete Gray of Sheffield, shunted it off its sidestand with his car. There was, thankfully, minimal damage. It's really a great bike though. I was over a year without one but could stand it no longer.

Although I enjoyed Kent, it was there my week old bike had a puncture. Nice start. £150 for a new tyre.

APRIL

It was back to Germany for a short tour with Ian Lowthian. I enjoyed that a lot. He'll probably get to read this, but I don't mind him knowing. He is probably one of the best guys in the business. He's a pleasure to work with and a brilliant player. I wish you all could have been there. I think you would have liked it. Yes, even with me there.

The 'Too Far From She' CD finally arrived and, I'm glad to say, folks are buying it. Thanks. It was always a personal favourite.

MAY / JUNE

America was very good this time. I'm doing more of these Highland Games come music festivals. Amazingly, they seem to like me. I'm glad to report that Bill and Karen Reid, the organizers, are keen to use me more. Long may that continue. They don't make me wear the kilt either. Although I suspect they're planning something with the Burns' stuff which would require that. That's fine in that context.

I do like wearing the kilt. (provided it's a leather one, of course)

The 'Alloway Tales' album of Burns songs has been very well received and, I'm glad to report, has been seen in many of the major stores in the States. I hope they're selling. Fingers crossed.

I enjoyed a few British gigs this month. Amongst them, Lichfield festival with Ian Lowthian, more of that please. Another apology coming up, to the Four in a Bar club near Burton on Trent. Due to extremely low attendance, I, mistakenly, thought it would be less uncomfortable for everybody if the night was abandoned. This also saved the club's bank balance considerably. I later discovered that this did not go down well. So, a public apology and I hope we can sort things out.

In Auchterarder post office, some b..... lifted my £100 cash, from the counter when I turned my back. Thanks to whatever lowlife did that. I really hope you needed it that badly.

JULY

This month shouldn't really be in this letter, so, I'll tell you about it next time...but if you happen to be in the Saltash area (near Plymouth) on 29th July, I shall be appearing with the Breezband at the Guildhall. Should be a good night! Ring Plym (01752) 224708 for details.

THE FUTURE

I'm looking forward to a short tour of Germany with Ian Lowthian and Iain Fraser . That will be in March. All rosy it seems.

I've been writing songs again. So far, they have received a lot of encouraging responses.

These days, these letters are distributed by my friend Elaine Hawkins. She is keen to make them a two way affair where you too can have an input. I would welcome this. Please feel free to contact her on editor@ianbruce.co.uk

Without the help of people like her, Bob and Roseann and Heidi, I just couldn't do this job. Thanks to them and please contact them regarding my music at any time. You can also email me direct at TheSingingbruce@aol.com.

It's been a good year, so far. I look forward to seeing you soon.

IAN BRUCE

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COMMUNICATION 12 (December 2000)

MERRY CHRISTMAS!!!

Well, it's the early hours of 23rd December 2000. Once more, the only person that received a christmas card from me was Mum. Apologies to all those I used to send to but, I just don't get around to it anymore. I promise that I do think of you AND I do have pangs AND yes, I am expecting the three Dickensian ghosts any minute. Also, many thanks to those who, despite my bachelorly lack of interest in things christmassy, took the trouble to send cards and emails to me. I do appreciate them. It keeps me in touch. Another thought....My Glasgow flat, which was on the market for two years, despite all its renovations, has just sold. The mail redirection ran out last month and I didn't bother to renew it. I bet there are some cards waiting around there. Woops!!! I wonder if there's any money in them?!

After all the fuss, where on earth did year 2000 go? It's been a very busy year for me, for one reason or another. Most of you will know that I now live in Germany, or....sort of. I had so much work on, that I have rarely seen the inside of these walls. There was no plan to move here, it just kinda happened. It meant a lot of to-ing and fro-ing back and forth to fulfil my British commitments. Also the American, German and Danish gigs kept me away from here. I had a good time this year. The whole of the summer I gigged with the motorbike. It was wonderful.

I brought out 'TOO FAR FROM SHE' on CD. I've wanted to do that since its first release. Now it's done.

For the first time I produced an album. Christina Harrison's, 'Lassie Wi' The Lintwhite Locks'. I'm very pleased with it. I hope it does well for her.

I had the best tour ever in America. Thanks Mike Dinsmore.

Unfortunately, he's given up his agency now. There's another fella called George Wood working his butt off on my behalf. If you'd like to help make his burden lighter, you can catch him at

Ggwood1@aol.com.

I gave the website a face-lift. (www.ianbruce.co.uk) It's neater and contains just about all the information there is to know about me. Incidentally, it has some mp3s in the background of some of the pages. That was a big mistake. Some folks think the page is not loading up properly. It's just that their computer is trying to download the mp3. I'll be rid of them when I get a minute.

The project which is taking up most of my time, at the moment, is the live CD, which was recorded at The Riverside, Glasgow on 6th December. The concert was well attended (thanks everyone) and I was extremely nervous. Usually, when you're in a studio with a bunch of new songs, you have the luxury of retakes and words in front of you. We (Ian Lowthian, Iain Fraser, Ian Murray and me - 'Ianiainian') tried without either one. It was a hell of a lot to take on, and in places we, or I, just crumbled. It's very difficult with so many onlookers. By the end I was thoroughly whacked. I'm very pleased with the recording and spending lots of time mixing it. It should be out in a couple of months. Thanks to those who have already

ordered it.

The deal is that it is £11 in advance, payable in advance, or £13 after its release. I'm trying to encourage pre-sales as I'm always broke at this time of year and am keen to see this project through. Well, it's now 03.24 German time and I'm kna....really needing my bed.

Once more thanks to everyone who has helped and encouraged me so much throughout the last twelve months. My agents, my mum and all the close friends who have stuck by me in the last, sometimes difficult, very tiring but rewarding, year.

Please keep in touch and remember to keep up with the web site. Have a great time over the holiday period.

See you in 2001 (details on the gig-guide.) I still have to put in a few dates e.g. Skagen Festival, Denmark. I'll catch up soon.

Thanks again.

Ian

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MARCH 2001 COMMUNICATION 13/3/01

Cough! (Clearing the throat)

Well the CD is out. Ian Lowthian and Iain Fraser are now home from the first promotional tour. It was very successful. Players like that just find it hard to put a finger wrong.

A satisfied public, I think, and hope.....er!

There was one slight, teensy weensy problem. I caught a nasty cold and was totally unable to sing. I did manage to croak a few songs at the last gig in Tønder. Somebody who had never heard me before commented that I was obviously greatly influenced by Bob Dylan. I didn't quite know what to say. I do rather like Bob Dylan but consider our sounds to be rather different....normally.

However, we did sell some CDs and, so far, we've had a very positive reaction to it.

I'm sitting at home in Germany and am almost ready to leave for my native Scotland tomorrow. I'm looking forward to it very much.

I think the voice is back and I have plenty of venues to try it and the new songs out.

Hope to see you sometime soon.

Ian

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APRIL 2001 COMMUNICATION 18/4/01

Well. Hello again.

Hope you all enjoyed rolling your Easter eggs.

I was at the Glenfarg Folk Feast at the Easter weekend and.....had a ball.

It's a great wee fest. They had me judging the 2001 Folk Oddity song competition on Saturday and a concert on Sunday night.

The song competition entries were, as usual, of varying standard, but great fun. I did manage to select a winner which may well have won a much more serious competition.

The Sunday concert seemed to go well and, certainly, for me, it was a thrill to do the spot with my old pal, and brilliant guitar player, Sandy Stanage.

Possibly a rekindling of interest there. We worked together many moons ago. I

hope we'll get around to writing together again.

I've really enjoyed doing all the gigs on this British tour. It's now all over save one fill in gig, at the brilliant Westhoughton Folk Club, on Friday 20th April.

I'm filling in for Dick Gaughan, who, asked to be excused from the gig to attend the funeral of one of his closest chums, Davy Steele, a great friend of the folk scene, who sadly died of cancer last week. We will all miss him. He was one of the good guys.

I took a quick trip over to Germany and took Mum with me. She's now seen my little abode. I'm glad to report her endorsement of the place. She'll now be able to visualise the place when she phones.

In my last letter, I told you about my throat infection. Well, this month has, again, been plagued by voice loss. This time, not mine but that of the opera singers whose CD I should have been recording this week.

Obviously,

we're all disappointed that it had to be postponed but, in a way, I derived some perverse satisfaction, from the knowledge that it can happen to those trained punters too. Rotten of me, I know!!!

The 'At The Riverside' CD has had received great reaction and I can now

confirm that Linn Records will be releasing it, therefore giving it worldwide distribution. I'm happy about that.

I suppose the next thing is to get ready for USA. I'll let you know about that next month.

I hope you're all having a great spring. I'm certainly a happy 'bunny' at the moment.

Thanks to you all for all the recent support. It's seems to be growing. Cheers.

Ian

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MAY 2001 COMMUNICATION

Early hours of May 30th.

I'm sitting on the edge of the guest bed in my friends' house in North East, Maryland.

I'm a satisfied bunny.

Tonight I played The Longwood Gardens in Pennsylvania. I'd been there before, but this was the first time I had performed amidst its extreme beauty. A very enjoyable experience. I think the audience liked it too.

I'm about halfway through this U.S. tour with only good feelings, so far. There would appear to be nothing looming up on the horizon to change that. I hope I'm right.

I've been singing in North Carolina, Virginia and New Jersey too. It's all been a gas.

Next week takes me up to Boston.

The new CD is being very well received. Its songs are catching a lot of attention. Of course, I'm very pleased about that.

I'm sure Linn Records will also be well contented by this as they have revamped its cover and given it a remix with a view to releasing it mid July.

It may be renamed as will our band. 'Ianiain' may be too tricky.

Watch this space!

It has been a good tour musically, but, this time, there has been time for leisure too. Terrific!

There was a cock up with Fredericksburg Highland Games. They cancelled, leaving me a big void at the end of the tour. A good excuse for a break. An acquaintance of 2 or 3 years has arranged 'buddy passes' for me. Thus

enabling me to visit him in San Francisco for a few days. I'm really looking forward to it. It'll be the first time I've been.

After that, back to Germany for a two or three week period. Not much doing there, at the moment. A couple of gigs, filling tax returns and preparing songs for the latest venture between myself and Dr. Fred Freeman. A bunch of songs by Alan Ramsay. We're doing some shows together in August and hope to have a CD of our efforts released soon. Not another one!!!???

I know, they seem to be popping up from everywhere. There's simply so much we want to do and so little time.

I'm enjoying life very much at the moment. I hope you are too.

Long may it continue.

Ian

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JUNE NEWSLETTER 22/6/01

Hello again,

I'm back in Germany. It's raining. Oh well, I guess it's on with the motorbike waterproofs or stay in and write my monthly communication. (The car is in Scotland, at the moment)

Not too fond of rain so, 'Hi!'

Last month I was going on about my wonderful American trip. Well, sadly, it's over now. I enjoyed every minute. There was, of course, the odd hiccup, but, hey, nothing's ever perfect.

My San Francisco visit was fabulous. If you've ever been to the west coast, you'll know what I mean. It was strange to gaze from Pier 39 to the Golden Gate Bridge and slurp a big American ice cream whilst the once sinister Alcatraz stared back at me. It's the first week's holiday I've had in many years. Went to the theatre and that kind of thing. Saw a show called 'Dirty Blonde' about Mae West. Totally different experience for me. The story line had me a little confused at times (easily done) but a few simple explanations after the show removed the 'DUH' factor. Very enjoyable.

So, I have a gig tonight in Syke, near Bremen. As usual, for this venue, it's a sell out. Nice feeling.

The Live CD should be out officially next month. I can't wait. Although the Ruglen Records version has been available since March, it's had no publicity as I knew Linn was to re release it. Perhaps now, it'll get some air time and reviews. I hope they're good!!

It is titled '**Jigs, Jives and Jacobites**' by the **Ian Bruce Band**. I have not seen the cover, but, I'm reliably informed that it looks good.

I have a couple of gigs in Germany, then, Denmark's Skagen Festival, where I'll happily wallow in the Tom Paxtons and Runrigs before returning to Scotland to make some recordings etc.

I hope, wherever you are that you're having a ball and that we meet soon.

All the very best

Ian

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NEWS OF IAN BRUCE - July 2001

Dear all,

Oor Ian is busy gigging around the country, so although this is no substitute for the "real thing" (July Newsletter), I am letting you know about some of the things that have got to my ears during the last month.

THE NEW CD

The new CD on the Linn record label "Jigs, Jives and Jacobites" was released on 30/7/01 under the name The Ian Bruce Band. There was a press launch in Auchterarder at the Festival on 28/7/01. It's being very well-received.

SKAGEN FESTIVAL (29th June to 1st July)

It was Ian's first appearance there. (Skagen is at the very top of Denmark.) The Danes took Ian M. Bruce to their hearts.

Ian invited 45 members of the Rolling Home Shanty Choir (from Sneek in Holland) on stage with him . They include "Too far from she" in their repertoire. They invited him onto a "gin palace" (luxurious motor-boat) not to motor off to sunny climes.....but to sing to the people in the Harbour.....the boat was tied up!

The Ceilidh saw most of the artists on stage at the same time, singing or accompanying each other's songs. Ian got to sing /play with some of HIS favourites !

SONGS OF ALLAN RAMSAY

Ian is working on this project with Dr Fred Freeman. According to my literature guide Allan Ramsay lived from 1686 -1758, was born in Leadhills, Lanarkshire and went to live in Edinburgh. As well as publishing collected Scots poems, ballads and songs, he also published his own poetry and a pastoral drama

called "The Gentle Shepherd" . The melodies of the songs are lovely. There is one song in particular called "Peggy" (it is in the Oxford Book of English Verse) which is just gorgeous, the words are innocently romantic..... The combination of the Bruce's voice, Dr Fred's input and production,

and those beautiful songs.....what a winner!

AUGUST

August sees Ian at Sidmouth and Malborough Festivals again. The last time Ian was at Sidmouth a seagull mewed (yes, that is the right word!)

as Ian was singing "From a Distance" and the words

had to be swiftly changed to "and the seagull takes to flight.....".

I hope that in his future encounters with seagulls miss the bike, it could get a bit messy!

At Malborough last year, children could have their faces painted. Ian had the back of his head painted with another face.....it melted on stage later that evening! What will he do to top that??

The forecast has given good weather for his ride down to the West Country!

For new readers the bike is a bright blue Honda Blackbird XXY. There are photos of it on the web-site.

PHOTOS PAGE

I have revamped the Photos and Communications page. It can be accessed by using the icon "my personal page". I am still after your photos for the web-site!

The bike photographs very well!

Doubtless, if there was something else Ian wanted to say, he will tell you next month!

Very best wishes,

Elaine Hawkins (editor@ianbruce.co.uk)

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NEWS OF IAN BRUCE FOR AUGUST 2001 -

Email to mailing list members 24/8/01

Dear all,

Thank you for all the emails regarding Ian's health following the cancellation of his appearance at the Malborough Festival and a few gigs in Scotland.

Ian had to spend a few days in hospital for tests and will be back on the road soon. The poor lad was exhausted... I don't know how he does it (at his age!)

Anyway, Ian has been busy recording other people in the Studio and has managed to cram a lot into a shortened working August.

The new CD "Jigs, Jives and Jacobites" is being received well.

Ian has collaborated with Dr Fred Freeman again, this time on the Alan Ramsay songs. They did some concerts as part of the Edinburgh Festival Fringe. The audience feedback was encouraging . Not surprising really as the melodies are very good, Dr Fred is very informative and Ian's voice is superb.

The CD should be a winner.

Sidmouth International Festival gave Ian the chance to put the bike through it's paces. He had a great ride down. He had the audiences in the palm of his hand, sometimes holding them spellbound and sometimes having them in stitches.

During one of his appearances in the Ham Marquee, he lost our (the audience's) attention . We could see four webbed feet through the Marquee roof! We were waiting for the gulls to join in the song.....just like during "From a Distance" at Sidmouth in 1998. He looked up as well, burst into giggles and abandoned the song.

One of the dafter moments at Sidmouth was "Wimmin's Night" in the Anchor Inn. To be eligible to sing, you had to be a woman or dressed as a woman. Ian sang ! Nuff said, see the web-site for the evidence ! Incidentally, first prize (nail varnish, I believe) was won by Chris Gorniak, you can judge for yourself , see www.ianbruce.co.uk and then click on the icon "my personal page" and then "sidmouth photos".

Ian had been greatly looking forward to coming down South again for Malborough, but fate intervened with the spell in Hospital. No sympathy from me.....too many late nights, junk food and beer! He has got the stamina of an ox, so it won't be long before he is at a gig near you !

Best wishes,

Elaine Hawkins (editor@ianbruce.co.uk)

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FROM EMAIL TO MAILING LIST MEMBERS 1/9/01

Dear All,

Thanks to every one who has sent "get well soon" messages for Ian. Following advice from his doctors, his gigs in September have had to be cancelled. They are Tyne and Wear, Baggeridge and the entire USA Tour.

I know that this will disappoint a lot of people, but I'm sure that you will appreciate that a period of recuperation will aid his recovery.

Ian is on the mend, and hopes to resume gigging in early October.

Best wishes,

Elaine Hawkins (editor@ianbruce.co.uk)

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SEPTEMBER NEWSLETTER 18/9/01

Hi Everyone,

It's been a strange month. Most of you will have heard that I was hospitalised for a few days with jaundice. That was nasty. As a result I lost loads of gigs in Great Britain, Germany and America. A financial disaster but, hey, this folk singing lark is known for that.

Well, without dwelling too much on the bad, I'd like to thank everyone for their well wishes, and, possibly, thanks to them I can now report a clean bill of health.

SO, watch out, I'll be back in your quarter to irritate you again very soon. Please watch this space.

Most of the gigs have been merely postponed rather than cancelled which means my recuperation period is simply a very welcome rest which commenced with a bit of a scare and has turned into an unpaid holiday. I'm enjoying it now.

Thanks and apologies to all the folks who were messed up by my condition.

1. My agents, who despite their toils and commission loss, gave me loads of moral support.
2. The organisers, who engaged me but were let down at the last minute. I'm sure they found wonderful substitutes. Actually....that worries me more than a little.
3. Elaine for her sterling effort, as usual. She's kept everybody posted and wrote to you all when I just could not muster up the energy to type these communications. She too was a great boost to the healing process.
4. Dr. Fred Freeman for all his caring and supportive calls. His encouragement was immense. Thanks Fred

The folks I'd like to thank most are my family.

Fraser and Maureen, my brother and sister-in-law were invaluable. They spoon fed me and housed me through the illness. At the moment, I have no home in Great Britain and without them I'd have been lost. Mum, despite her worry and impending 87th birthday has been an absolute tower of strength. Again, coping without her would have been very difficult.

Musical news is limited at this period due to the void in my calendar.

There are plans in the offing but, they're just a little bit secret at the moment. Sssshhh! (Finger vertically across the lips!)

Of course, at this time I should have been in America. Under the circumstances, it's maybe fortuitous, for me, that I could not go.

I would like to offer my sympathy to all who were directly affected by the NYC crisis. The indirect effect, I'm sure is felt by us all. Let's hope the best possible result will emerge from the nightmare.

Well, thanks again for reading my blurb and may I remind you to keep yourselves up to date by frequently visiting my website www.ianbruce.co.uk.

Ian

p.s. As a result of not gigging, sales of the new CD have probably been slow. Shame. I think it's my best so, come on you lovely people, please order it from the site. I like it a lot. (biased me)

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OCTOBER 2001 NEWSLETTER 23/10/01

OK. Here we go again. Another letter. I hope you are well. I'm feeling better all the time although still waiting for the body to do its last bit of recovery. Throwing out the virus. I hope it will. However, I am back on the road and indeed will be taking it back to Scotland to settle down in Dumfries. When I took ill, in August, I felt lucky that I was in my homeland. Near my family and amidst a medical system that I was familiar with. Everybody jumps down the throat of our National Health Service but I have to confess to never having been let down by it.

Lots of changes. Heidi Stagge has had to close her Songs and Tunes agency due to pressure from her other business which looks set to fly. I wish both she and Fritz, her husband, the best of luck. I also send my thanks for all they've done for me. They will always be two of my closest friends. I hope we won't drift too far apart on our separate roads. My new German agents are Manfred and Ingrid Buchwald. We've known each other for years and get on very well. I am confident that our working relationship will be as strong as our friendship. Here's to the future.

I may have already said but George Wood, who dealt with my American affairs on an interim basis, did a sterling job and I thank him, too, for all his efforts. My transition from Mike Dinsmore to Karen Reid, my new agent, was seamless due to him. Huge apologies due to him for the cancellation of the last US trip. Sorry George. You were great.

Before I go any further I would like to offer my sympathy to the family and friends of Derek Moffat, of the McCalmans. His death, on the 21st of October, has left a rather large gap in the folk scene. Many loved both he and his voice. He was certainly one of my main influences. Bye bye Derek. I'll miss you.

Please note a cancellation. I was to play The Woodman, Kingswinford, on 30th November. I have had to postpone it until late next year. Sorry for any inconvenience and thank you to Ian, the organiser for his understanding.

The reason for the cancellation is a concert at the Inverclyde Festival. We will be playing a concert of Allan Ramsay songs. This is a precursor to the recording of that CD, which we're hoping, will be released next spring. Another folk-star studded Dr. Fred Freeman production.

As usual, you can see a list of upcoming gigs at the end of this email. I hope you can come along to one or two. I'd like to give a special mention to 2nd December. (LUNCH TIME GIG) It's really not for the faint-walleted but good value is guaranteed..... I recently met the owners of The Plumed Horse Restaurant, Crossmichael, Nr. Castle Douglas, Kirkcudbrightshire. Within two years of opening it was awarded a Michelin star. A rare feat; it is one of only 7 Scottish restaurants to have one. It has recently been awarded "Best Newcomer Restaurant in Scotland" by The Good Food Guide 2002.

Check out their website on www.plumed-horse.co.uk
I have talked them into trying out folk music to a select bunch, hopefully, on a regular basis.

Their first date will be, of course, ME playing the music. Yes, there's always a drawback. The audience will be no more than 20 and seats will cost £35 each. I promise that it will be well worth the money. Their food is exquisite and I'm not all that bad....am I? Thanks....!

There will be a choice of two menus.

If you would fancy that please email me, or Elaine, immediately as we already have a few reservations. Prepayment would be appreciated as last minute cancellations would knock the whole thing up.

I'm not sure what more news there is at present, so, I'll sign off and start dismantling my flatpack furniture in readiness for the flit home.

Thanks to Germany for keeping me cosy for the last couple of years.

See you all soon.

Ian B.

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FROM EMAIL TO MAILING LIST MEMBERS 19/11/01

There is a chance to catch him with the Band doing songs and tunes from "Jigs, Jives and Jacobites" at the Edinburgh Folk Club on 28/11/01.

Or, if you want to hear the beautiful Allan Ramsay songs, there are the gigs on 30/11/01 (Greenock Town Hall) and 5/12/01 (Edinburgh Library). For the Greenock gig, the Town Hall is being transformed into an 18th century tavern . Ian will be joined by Marc Duff, Wendy Weatherby and Chris Stout. The MC will be Dr Fred Freeman. I hope the song "Peggy" is on the play-list!

GIG AT BUEDNEREI ARTS CENTRE

If Ian ever tells you that he can't speak German, do not believe him!! At the end of October, I had the opportunity to attend the concert in the Buednerai Arts Centre in Lehsten in Germany (former East). The gig should have been a Burns gig with Vic Besch. Vic was unable to do the gig as he was ill. As some of you know, Vic's German is excellent. Ian was apprehensive.

The Concert organiser was informed and a Scottish man who had lived in Germany for 10 years was on hand to translate, if needed. He wasn't !

Ian had the audience joining in the choruses, especially the Elvis-type bits (uh huh huhhs) of "My Martin and my motorbike" and the "sick-noises" of "Hungover Morning" !!

They loved it. They laughed, sang, tapped/stamped their feet in time.

He talked in a mixture of German and English. Zum Beispiel, "Dieses Lied compares Schottland und England, und Schottland wins". My gender was changed at one point! My correction from the back of the room caused a few giggles.

You could have heard a pin drop when he sang "From a distance" and "Dark Lochnagar".

Great entertainment! Sheer magic! Just shows that music is a universal language!

The after-gig music session was good too. There was a young trio called "Single malt and Co" (Klaus, Connie and Frank).....very nice people and a treat to hear.

Anyway, enough of my ramblings

Best wishes or Mit besten Gruessen,

Elaine (Hawkins)

editor@ianbruce.co.uk

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NOVEMBER NEWSLETTER 19/11/01

Hello everyone,

The Ian Bruce Band just got back from a mini-tour of Holland. It was great and the Dutch seemed to take to us. That's been confirmed in an email from our Dutch agent, Dave Tearney. We're going back next year. No complaints there.

I'm now living in Dumfries, Scotland. We've rented a cottage which is a load less binding than a bought place. Although, to be honest, the wandering minstrel thing is losing its appeal. I would like to be a bit more static. If everything continues to feel good here then we'll consider buying again.

Thanks to Elaine and my German friends for helping me so much with the flitting.

Gigs (listed on web-site) . Please come along.

It's funny what a bout of illness can do. I now realise just how precious time is. Spending so much of it on the road is no longer what I crave. I still love doing the gigs but staying away from home....yuch! Things may change a little soon.

I can't remember who said it, but, some famous blues guy said that he played the music for free but you have to pay him to travel. I understand that one.

Anyway, should this letter seem a little down then I have not written well. I am in good spirit and happier than I've ever been. Everything feels wonderful. I just shouldn't write these emails immediately before driving to London.

www.ianbruce.co.uk

Please have a look and contact my agents if you need info. Don't tell them I said to. They'll have me beheaded.

We're still looking for about 4 names for the special lunch in Crossmichael, Castle Douglas, 2nd Dec. Any more takers?

**Musical Sunday Lunch at the Plumed Horse,
with Special Guest IAN BRUCE.**

Plumed Horse Canapés

Crab & Saffron Risotto, Roasted Scallops, Caviar.

or

Duo of Foie Gras, Salad of Herbs, Two Sauces.

Roast Breast of Free-Range, Corn Fed Chicken,
Compote of Cabbage, Bacon & Black Chanterelles,
Carrots, Pomme Purée, Truffle Sauce.

or

Fillet of Salmon, Boudin of Salmon & Langoustines,
Tortellini of Caviar, Sauce Nantua.

Apricot Bread & Butter Pudding, Creme Anglaise,
Apricot & Cognac Ice Cream, Apricot Sorbet.

or

Milk Chocolate Tart, Coffee & Rum Ice Cream.

-oOo-

Coffee or Tea & Petit Four.

I hope that takes your fancy. It £35 a seat and I promise the quality is tops. Michelin Star etc. etc.

Anyway. I'll have a shower and get going.
Many thanks,

Ian

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IAN BRUCE NEWSLETTER

DECEMBER 2001

Hello everyone,



I hope the picture is not too much of a shock. Some of you already knew and I'm sure many more suspected that I was gay. Now that I live together with my partner, Tony Borthwick, I'm not willing to live the lie any longer. I need to be able to speak about 'us' without folks wondering what the hell I'm talking about. My thanks go to all the friends who have supported us. Especially Mum, my brother Fraser and his wife Mo. I hope not too many of you will find it necessary to turn away from us. Some may say I've changed; I haven't. They just didn't know how difficult it was to keeping all this inside since my teens.

My 'coming out' is not exhibitionism. After all, you know I would tell you if I'd got married.

Most of you will know that I like to write about the things that matter to me. My inner feelings curtailed my writing for 5 years. I knew folks would not want to listen to 'gay' songs. Worry not, I still won't be shouting about it. I just craved the freedom.

Anyway, that's that said. I won't be standing on any 'homosexual' soap boxes. All I ask is your understanding and continued friendship.

Tony is a great guy and incredible chef. He, and his business partner, own the acclaimed restaurant; The Plumed Horse in Crossmichael near Castle Douglas. I'm very proud of him.

I feel like enjoying Christmas this year. We have a little decorated tree, a new pussy cat (Maggie, short for Magpie) and a couple of teddy bears. People expect that of homosexuals.

So, all this puts me back in card sending mood and, once again, I'll be apologising for their tardiness. I haven't sent a single card for three years.

As usual, here is a list of gigs. I hope you'll come along in the new year.

We are very happy and hope you are too.

Have a great time over the festive season. We intend to.

Best Wishes,

Ian and Tony

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IAN BRUCE NEWSLETTER - JANUARY 2002

I hope you had a great Christmas and New Year.

It's January and I'm back in Germany touring with Vic Besch. (And using his computer - don't tell).

Another birthday slipped by, as it usually does in January. It came along amidst a great bundle of gigs. We're just over halfway through and so far, so good. Most of the venues are offering immediate return bookings for next year.

We call the tour "Robert Burns etc." The "etcetera" allows us to include my own songs and a few other things. The mixture works very well. Burns alone might prove just a little too heavy for the whole night. We plan to record a CD to sell at our German gigs next year.

Tony, my partner, flew over to Germany for the aforementioned birthday. The man's mad, but the surprise call to pick him up, in Bremen, in 5 minutes was much appreciated. A very nice time was had. He's now back home dealing with a huffy cat. She objects to being left alone for a day.

Also, thanks to Elaine for the chocolate motorbike.

It looks like being a pretty busy year. No complaints there. I have to make up for the loss of business during last year's illness. Now that I'm back on the road I'm really enjoying it again. I'm not travelling alone and that's what makes the difference.

I keep getting nice comments about the last CD, Jigs, Jives and Jacobites. That's great, a little boost to the ego is always appreciated. As is the odd play on Radio 3 that I've received recently. Thank you Andrew Marr.

Well, I'll go now and let Elaine distribute this wee letter along with the current gig list. I hope to see you soon.

Success to you all,

Bye fur noo,

Ian Bruce.

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IAN BRUCE NEWSLETTER – FEBRUARY 2002 28/2/02 (at 1pm)

Notes - Editor

..... I still wasn't grumpy, no matter what "The Bruce" says !

As well as Ian touring in the UK from mid March until May, look out for the Band gigs. They are in Germany from 8/3/02 to 16/3/02 and in Scotland at the Glenfarg Folk Fest in April and McLintock Hall in May. It would be great to see them down south, I suppose we could all get the ferry to Bremerhaven, it may just be for freight though!
Later in the year, Ian will be at the Warwick and Baggeridge Festivals.

Hi everyone,
How has February been for you? Well, for me, it's been low in gigs but very enjoyable. Four American dates proved reasonably successful. It was good to get back there. It's my first trip since my illness caused me to cancel last year's trip. I was dipping my toe back in the water. [plane must have been flying low----editor]

I'm in the middle of another batch of Robert Burns presentations. These are under the close scrutiny of Dr. Fred Freeman and generally aimed at 9, 10 and 11 year olds. I am very surprised by my fondness of the kids. They really are fabulous. Maybe it's just that I never really progressed much past that age myself. We have a lot in common.

We're still waiting to hear if we are to record the CD of Allan Ramsay material. It all hinges on an Arts Council grant. We should hear soon. I hope it will be out quite soon. I'm in the middle of trying to upgrade some studio equipment, in preparation for it.
Don't ask!! Just don't ask about the new computer! Well, since you asked, I'm going through hell at the moment. Cubase really needs a fast computer to work well and I asked PC World to build me one. It has Windows XP running and all my current software needed upgrading before anything would work. Sometimes it simply doesn't. I'm going off my head. I love them when they're working but..... I have heard so many folks saying that.

Anyway, that's my public grumping over. I'll go back to private grumblings and let you get on your way.
It would be nice if your way was to envelope a gig or two. In case it can, here's a list. I hope we meet soon.
This letter is a bit late. Sorry, but I had a load of grumpy reminders from Elaine. It took me so long to read them that.....Well, I suppose it was my fault. (He says sheepishly)
Bye for now.

Ian M. Bruce
www.ianbruce.co.uk
Ruglen Mobile Studios [Back to Index](#)

IAN BRUCE APRIL 2002

NEWSLETTER 23/4/02 5.30pm

Notes – Editor

Hope you are managing to get to some of Ian's gigs. I got to the Bristol gig, as did a lot of other people from the mailing list – good to know that the Newsletter has it's uses. If you live in Scotland there is a chance to see the Ian Bruce Band on 23/5/02 in Balfron.

Later in the year, Ian will be at the Warwick, Towersey and Baggeridge Festivals. If you are in Hampshire on Saturday, think about going along to the gig at Hambledon. The gigs there are always good fun (I saw Ian with the Breezband there) . This time Ian is ably supported by Emily Slade, who was at the Gosport and Fareham Folk Festival this year and is getting rave reviews .

Hello. What month is this? Ah yes, April. That's the very busy one. No wonder I'm not sure if I'm coming or going. Between England and Scotland several times.

Living in Dumfries now makes it feel just that bit easier than it did when I domiciled in Glasgow.

It's been a good month albeit expensive. I've upgraded the studio. Tascam digital soundboard, Pentium 4 - 1.9 GHz computer (yes I know there are already faster ones on the market) Valve mics....all sorts of things that should make folks want to use me. I hope they will.

I received the 'Low Main CD'. Potters Folk Club in Peggwood, near Morpeth, Arts council funded, commissioned me to record some of their local folk songs and performers, which included a few bunches of kids who were generally fabulous. One or two needed the sharper end of my tongue. Everyone seems happy with the outcome. I certainly am. Should you have any similar ideas for your own region, please keep me in mind. I like doing that stuff.

The private life just gets better and better. We are really enjoying our wee cottage on the outskirts here.

Last night we had our first Bar BQ beside the newly cut grass. Candle lit of course. Just Tony, myself and the two cats. Yes, two cats. We've tried to give Maggie a friend. Had we realised that she was so adamant about staying single we wouldn't have bothered. She used to be such a nice wee thing. She's horrible now. Davy, the other one, named after Mr. Crockett, due to his racoon like tail, is such a friendly big bugger, but then maybe she knows best. Mmmhahah!

Anyway, I'll get myself re-immersed in the bundles of paper that need sorted out before biking down to Maidenhead (weather permitting) tomorrow.

www.ianbruce.co.uk may be undergoing some changes soon. We'll see.

Here's some gigs. Please try to come along.
Have a great summer.

Ian Bruce

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IAN BRUCE NEWSLETTER 18/5/02

Notes – Editor

There is a chance to see the Band later this week at McLintock Hall in Balfron (Stirlingshire) on 25/5/02. According to Balfron's website, it is about 20 miles from Stirling and about 20 miles from Glasgow. If you are in the Morpeth area on 7th June, another gig has been added. It's in a place called Bedlington. For anyone who has a sense of direction as bad as mine, it is near Newcastle (Upon Tyne, not -under-Lyme!). During the Summer, Ian will be at the Warwick, Towersey and Baggeridge Festivals. (Baggeridge is near Dudley and the Festival is a free one in picturesque surroundings.) The web-sites are www.warfolk.demon.co.uk , www.mrscasey.co.uk/towersey and www.lmsmusic.co.uk .

Hello there you lot,

I was talking to my oldest brother the other day. He said that these letters that folks send out for Christmas etc. irritate him. Not personal enough and they are always full of the joys of spring. That makes him a little suspicious. I think that's a little cynical but I get his point. With that in mind....here goes.

I'm not at my best just now. An unplanned lack of work over the summer period is dragging me down and without the necessary readies to do all the things I need to in readiness for the restart in August.

OK. That's the moan over but a public apology to Tony for me being a grouch won't go amiss, I'm sure.

I will be trying to get a new batch of songs on the go. Victor Besch is coming over from Germany. We are continually asked for a CD of us together, so, here it comes. We're not sure what it will sound like or what kind of material it will contain but I'm looking forward to doing it. It will be very different from my usual sound. (No complaints there.) Also, there's a kind of rekindling of Breezband. We have a Danish tour in February and the intention of quite a bit more gigging. Another CD is planned for that. Watch this space.

I need some feedback. I had a great response from my Naked Truth CD. Quite frankly its generated revenue saw me through otherwise rough times. I am thinking of doing Volume 2. I have all the gear and it would be a simple operation to get it done, but....will it sell? If I was able to do it during this lean period, and folks were willing to buy by post or email it would help my cause quite a bit. Please let me know. I will take a lack of response as a 'no'.

Thanks for listening to the rambles and I hope to see you at these few gigs listed below. If you have any ideas for more of them, we're all ears. Anyway, not really at my best just now, but I'll get through. I hope you are in much finer fettle.

Cheers (huh)

Ian Bruce

p.s. My current mild hangover is not helping.

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IAN BRUCE JUNE 2002 NEWSLETTER 23/6/02

Notes – Editor

Mrs B had been very kind to me over the last few years, since I lost my Mum. I will miss her a lot. She was an independent lady with a great sense of humour and a lot of down-to-earth common sense. Yes, Ian certainly had a "good 'un" .



Mum and I

Hello everyone. It is with great sadness that I announce my mother's death. She died on 5th June 2002 after a very short illness. She was a very bright and colourful 87 years old. Many of you met her and certainly loads of you continually asked to be remembered to her. Thanks very much for that.

There is nothing like the love, friendship and support of a good mother, and, as far as I can tell, I had one of the best. We were very close and I'll miss her terribly.

Well, I know that my last letter was not particularly full of sunshine and this one starts off on a rather down note too. The summer continues quietly and the weather is not too uplifting. I am, however looking forward to Vic Besch's arrival tomorrow, from Germany. We'll be recording a new CD and I'm trying to get the material together at the moment. I think it will be quite different from any others I've done. I like that.

So, nothing much else to report but despite the way this and my last emails read. I'm doing ok and I'm quite safe to approach. So please do.

I hope your summer is going well, and that we meet at the few gigs listed below.

Ian Bruce [Back to Index](#)

IAN BRUCE JULY 2002

NEWSLETTER 22/7/02

Notes – Editor

30/11/02 is now Bedworth Folk Day. The Festival season is upon us. Ian is at Warwick this weekend, Towersey in August and Baggeridge in September. All these Festivals are very different . Warwick is based on a School site with a few venues in the beautiful town, details of location and prices are at 01926 614932 or at www.warfolk.demon.co.uk . Towersey describes itself as "the little village with the big ideas". It is near Thame which is quite near Oxford. It is a mainly marquee festival, with a few smaller venues. Their leaflet gives the information line number as 01629 760345 or see their website www.mrscasey.co.uk/towersey . Baggeridge Country Park Folk Festival takes place at Gospel End, nr Dudley, West Midlands . It is held in a lovely rural setting and is free. Details from 01902 785002 or their website www.lmsmusic.co.uk/baggeridge2002.htm .

Hi Everyone,
Thanks for all your messages of condolence on losing Mum. They helped a lot. Although I will, of course, always miss her, I realise now that life goes on.

And on it goes to a working season. Things start picking up again very soon.

I've had a favourite lady of mine in the studio recording her very first CD. Given that she's such a popular figure in the Scottish folk scene, it's amazing that she's never recorded before. She is Janet Weatherston, ballsy singer of traddy songs that were genuinely handed down from her parents and grandparents, etc. It's wonderful to work with her. I'm becoming a bit like Alfred Hitchcock, I make appearances on all the CDs I record for folks. Sorry. I hope I haven't ruined it. Whatever, I'll let you all know when it's available.

I'm really looking forward to Cockermonth this Thursday and then onto Warwick Festival, one of my very favourites. It's great to be playing there again. I hope I'll see some of you there.

We got some of the Me and Vic Besch CD recorded. The rest we'll do in November. I like what we've done so far but then, I could be a little biased!

So the letter is, as usual, brief. I am in good spirits and I hope you are too.

All the best,

Ian [Back to Index](#)

IAN BRUCE AUGUST 2002

NEWSLETTER 22/8/02

Notes - Editor

I went to Warwick Folk Festival at the end of July and it was brilliant - great artists, great weather, great sound systems and it was wonderfully organised.

Ian was on top form . He had three slots to do on Saturday -- a "meet the artist" at the Arts Centre, concert at the Bridgehouse Theatre and "an hour with" at the Arts Centre. The large audiences were very appreciative (even if we had to suffer those knees!)

When Ian arrived at Warwick, he was fully clothed. As the day wore on, his attire changed.

For those of you who weren't there, there is a photo at

<http://www.ianbruce.dial.pipex.com/warwick1.jpg> .

If you get the opportunity to speak to Ian, ask him how he cooled down at Warwick. At least it was from the Highlands!

Ian is at Towersey on Friday and Saturday. On 1/9/02, he is at Baggeridge Country Park Folk Festival at Gospel End, nr Dudley, West Midlands. It is held in a lovely rural setting and is free. For September and part of October, he is in the USA.

Ian's web-site address is www.ianbruce.co.uk . It has all sorts of things on it, lyrics, album details , photos and sound-bites.

Hello again,

Just back from Germany. It went very well. German island hopping in the North Sea, if you know what I mean.

Now I'm looking forward to the weekend. Towersey Festival and home on Sunday for a BBQ in the back garden. I hope the weather will hold out.

So, work is on the up and up, but it's the more personal side of life that I'm enjoying most. We're almost prepared for the USA. We fly out on the 10th September (Tony and I). He'll be there for three weeks and I'll stay on for a further week to get a couple more gigs under the belt.

To those who recognised me as an old grump, due to my previous two emails, CONGRATULATIONS but how come you've just noticed?

Seriously, thanks to everyone for being such good friends. I hope we will meet at the following concerts.

Best wishes and I hope you have a massive fall. (Autumn...get it?)

Ian.

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IAN BRUCE NEWSLETTER

SEPTEMBER 2002 (from USA 22/9/02)

Notes-Editor

Nice to see that the tour is going well and hear his good news.

One of the last Festivals that he did before he went to the USA was Towersey. I was there on the Saturday and saw the three concerts - he was on really good form. As well as the main concert tent, he sang in the church (for evidence - see www.ianbruce.dial.pipex.com/towersey.jpg !) and at the late night session. If you can think of a good caption for the photo let me know. Thanks to the people in the pub who looked after me when I got caught in that terrible downpour.

After the USA tour, Ian will be in Germany. There are two photos from earlier German tours on the site -- www.ianbruce.dial.pipex.com/ossypubhamburg.jpg taken by Harald Laake in January 2002 and www.ianbruce.dial.pipex.com/waldenau-nr-hamburg.jpg taken by Olaf Koester in March 2002. Thanks lads !

Hi Folk folks,
I'm emailing from some lovely fall weather here in Pennsylvania. So far this trip has been more holiday than work. It's been great. Two American sized meals a day does a great deal for the waistline. It's getting bigger by the day.

The work part starts about now and the usual long drives are inevitable.....Ooooh! That travelling!

Shawnee Mountain Festival was tainted by a rainy Sunday. Fortunately there is a large amount of indoor space which allowed the thing to continue. It's nice in the Poconos.

One of the highlights of this trip was the bedroom with it's own red heart shaped Jacuzzi, sauna and round double bed. Very romantic. Talking of such things, I now wear a wedding ring. Tony and I got 'married' in New Jersey. We're going up to Vermont where such things are legal. We want the official piece of paper. Our friend Rev. Gillian McAllister performed the ceremony. It was a really nice time and many thanks to her and all the folks who supported us.

I write this email on 22nd September. This would have been Mum's 88th birthday. I miss her terribly and hope that somewhere she's having a great time.

I'm hoping that another project is on the way. There's a great Irish singer living over here, Gerry Timlin. I've asked if we could record together next year and it looks like it's on. It will be promoted by The Reids at East of the Hebrides. I look forward to the whole thing. As I always say...."Watch this space"

Anyway, that's enough for now.

I hope to see you soon.
Ian B

IAN BRUCE OCTOBER NEWSLETTER

21/10/02

Well another month gone by and I'm back from the States.

I was often around the area of the Washington sniper and so, for that reason alone I'm glad to be home. The killings have, unfortunately, gone on since my departure but at least that takes the heat off me.

I've already done the first three gigs of my German tour. They went well. I'm in the middle of a four day break in the tour, for which I flew home. God bless Ryanair.

Somebody recently asked me when the Allan Ramsay CD was coming out. Maybe I forgot to say that the Scottish Arts Association rejected our funding application. I believe it may still happen one day but it's definitely been put on a back burner.

I return to Germany on Friday and will be bringing Vic Besch home with me. That should enable us to complete our CD. We're halfway through.

In my last letter, I mentioned our 'Civil Union' or marriage. I didn't expect everybody to take to the idea but generally folks have been very supportive and for that we are very grateful. The family don't quite know what to say but that's OK. For those who want a pic it is attached.



In the list of gigs that follows, some are marked (session). They have been arranged by the Dumfries and Galloway Arts Association and are intended to entice some keen players from beginners to the more experienced. Professionals to bedroom wizards. I'll be glad to do local work. I see myself in that role. I'd love to cut down the travelling. So, please, everyone come along and support the DGAA and me. We could have a really nice time, you never know.

Thanks again and see you soon.

Ian Bruce [Back to Index](#)

IAN BRUCE NOVEMBER NEWSLETTER

23/11/02

Hello again,

Today's weather easily outshines that of recent days. It's lovely out there. It's put me in the mood for writing to you.

Well, it's been hectic. I like that but get worried that I can't get everything finished by respective deadlines....AAAAGGGHHHH!

So, as usual, I'll be brief and just say that Vic Besch has returned to Germany after our recording session. We've recorded everything and now I'm left to clean it all up before the CDs, hopefully, imminent release. It's very simple. We've called in no other musicians; it's just Vic and me. Again it will be very different from anything else I've done. I like that, as you may know. It has four of my own songs and some traddy and one or two little surprises.

I'm in the midst of a few British gigs and enjoying them very much. I must try to get the audiences to enjoy them too. Maybe that's where I'm going wrong!

People say they never noticed it but I know they're just being kind. I'm referring to the bump I had on my head. Quite prominent on a baldy nut. Well, it's gone now. It was the second attempt to remove it. The unfortunate thing is that both surgeons cut it in different directions, so, just to warn you, on next shaving a cross shaped scar will be revealed. It's not a political or religious symbol, I promise.

Anyway, it's the run up to Christmas and I bet you're all ready for it!!! I know that Tony and I are not, but we're looking forward to a good time at my brother's place. It's the first without Mum and that'll hurt. Recently, just after every Christmas I'd quietly wonder if we'd see Mum at the next one well, this time she'll have to be there in spirit alone. It's been bad doing the one or two gigs, recently, that she would have attended had she been able. C'est la Vie.

Hopefully I'll see a few of you before then and I should be making contact once more before then but just in case....Have a great time.
See you soon.

Ian

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IAN BRUCE NEWSLETTER 23/12/02

Note from Editor(elaine hawkins - editor@ianbruce.co.uk)

I sent the paper copies of this Newsletter out last night with no comments at all (to save paper) -- but as electronic ink costs zilch, here are a few !

The Newsletters from Dec 2001 to November 2002 are now on the web-site - complete with photos. They are accessed by going to www.ianbruce.co.uk >>my personal page>> communications. So if you are a new reader, the older ones are there !

I was astonished to read that there was " no interest" in Ian or the Band in Denmark. I was at the Skagen Festival in July 2001 and he went down "a storm". I have also swapped emails with people from two folk clubs in Denmark where he/the Band are highly regarded (we agreed that the photo of the Band was not the most flattering - but that is another story.....)

This year the Ian Bruce Band have made 5 or 6 appearances in the UK, but all have been in Scotland. I went to see them at their Melrose gig on 14/12/02 and it was great. The combination works brilliantly - great voice, superb musicians, good songs and tunes and the humourous banter between them. It would be good to see them in ENGLAND - perhaps they could come South for a Tour in September if "The Bruce" remains USA agentless and a USA Tour doesn't materialise?

Ian mentions his studio. During the year he has worked with Janet Weatherston and members of the Potters Folk Club, Peggswood near Morpeth. I heard Janet recording some of the tracks and the final product is just like Janet's live set, sometimes with harmonies and the occasional accompaniment.

I 've had a sneak preview (or should that be sneak listen?) to the Ian and Vic Besch's CD. Ian said that there will be a few surprises - he wasn't kidding! My lip is buttoned, but you're gonna love it. Ian never ceases to amaze me - he has hidden depths and is a clever clogs on the quiet. I guess people in Germany already know, Vic is a multi-instrumentalist and he sings!

The CD of Allan Ramsey songs wasn't awarded any funding from the Scottish Arts Association. That is such a shame. The songs are wonderful and Ian's versions of them are innovative and refreshing.

I have coined a new nickname for Ian --- Scar-y Bruce (after Scary Spice from the Spice Girls). The scar left after the removal of the lump on his head is a cross.....it should have been a St Andrew's cross !

Anyway, as soon as I have sent these out, I have to do battle in the shops and find the CD that I bought for my niece and have misplaced!

I hope you all have a great Christmas and a wonderful 2003,

Cheers, Elaine (editor@ianbruce.co.uk) [Back to Index](#)

THE LETTER - 23/12/02

Hi everyone,

Are you all ready for the festivities? Of course you are. I've sent out my cards, late, as ever, and now look forward to a peaceful festive period.

You'll already know it's been an eventful year for me. A burst of work in the first few months and then a very slow summer.

In some ways, that was fortunate. I was at home to be with my mother when she became critically ill and sadly died three days later. It was always a fear, of hers and mine, that I would be away when the awful day arrived.

I thought the grieving was over but must confess that Christmas is difficult without her. I'm sure many of you know what I'm talking about.

And now to the happier news. Tony and I had our Civil Union in America. Firstly in New Jersey, and then, more officially, again in Vermont, where it's legal. We have a proper marriage certificate. It looks like, maybe soon, it will be recognised in Britain too. I know you'll have your own thoughts on that subject and if you objected at all, then your tongue-biting was appreciated. We have had so much heart warming support. Many thanks to you all.

So, the last few months were, thankfully hectic again. Both gigs and the recording studio keeping me busy. For those who care, the studio has been totally upgraded and, it is definitely somewhere that folks enjoy recording. Please keep me in mind if you are thinking about laying down your music.

The CD of Vic Besch and myself has been held up. We still hope that it will be out by mid January. We'll see.

I already have a few festival bookings next year. I love doing them. You'll see details below.

One or two bits of news that disappointed me were the cancellation of the Danish tour and the decision of my US agent to bow out due to other commitments.

Apparently, there was no interest, according to the Danish agent. That's hurtful. I find it a bit strange, to be honest. I always thought my work was well received there. I hope there will be interest in the future. It's a great country to perform in. Also, I hope someone, in America, will take up the reins. We'll see.

My touring days may be numbered anyway. Weeks away from home no longer appeals. Short bursts are fine and I certainly would love to localise a little. I've been involved with some of the local 'sessions' that Dumfries and Galloway Arts Association have set up. That kind of thing is very handy for me. Long may it continue.

Well now, I'll close off with the news that I'm a weight-watcher now and have lost about 11 pounds, officially, in the last three weeks. The sherry and beer points of the last couple of days may have countered some of that. We'll see. I've been able to get back into some of those leather trousers I like to wear. Just the overhanging bit of gut to deal with now. It's considerably less than it was. I'll try to keep it up. Sigh!

Special thanks to my various agents and Elaine. They've all worked so hard to keep me up and running.
Have a great 2003. See you there.

Ian M. Bruce
Ruglen Digital Recording Studio
Singer/songwriter
www.ianbruce.co.uk

IAN BRUCE NEWSLETTER 17/1/03

Note from Editor(elaine hawkins - editor@ianbruce.co.uk)

I said last month that I had had a "sneak listen" to Ian and Vic Besch's CD, well lucky girl that I am I have now heard all of it . It was so varied and surprising...and very, very good! As you can see from the track listing below, there are a few unexpected ones !

Their version of "Rowan Tree" is spine-tingling, and having recently heard Vic play the pipe-suite live, I can confirm that the recorded version captures it exactly. The CD includes their version of Ian McCalmans' song "The Smuggler". I'm embarrassed to say that I have never heard the McCalmans' version , but the Ian and Vic version is brilliant. (The words of the Smuggler are on the McCalmans' website at this link <http://www.mccalmans.co.uk/smuggler.htm>). The song sounds traditional and is very catchy, you will find yourself singing it days later, and Ian's voice is at it's best on it. If you can't get to Germany to see them, the CD gives a flavour of their "act". Shame that it can't include the banter and humour in between the songs and tunes, but it will leave you in no doubt that they leave their audiences happy. (The dates of their Tour follows.) The CD contains a version of a little story which Mrs Bruce used to tell.....it is charming. All in all, it's a great (certainly different!!) CD. They are two very talented guys!

I heard from a lady called Carole who was trying to get hold of "Veil of the Ages" by Fraser and Ian Bruce. We found out that KRL records have copies of "Veil of the Ages" and "Mrs Bruces Boys Vol 1" and " Vol 2". They can be contacted at KRL Records, 9 Watt Road, Hillington,Glasgow, Scotland, G52 4RY Telephone: +44 141 882 9986 - Fax: +44 141 883 3686 Email: krl@krl.co.uk

The Letter (received lunchtime on 15/1/03)

Hello,

It's January 2003 and I hope things are going fine for you.

I'm rushing around to get things together for the trip to Germany. I'm working from a 'todo' list and am not very far down it so....I won't detain you long, as usual.

Vic Besch has gone back to Germany now that we've completed the CD. Unfortunately, the masters only went away on Monday so we won't have them for the start of the German tour.

Drat! We'll see if we can muster up some advance orders. "That would be nice." he says, pleadingly.

It's real mixture of stuff.

MURRAY'S FANCY (8.18)

mark saul (Pipe suite)

THE SMUGGLER (4.24)

ian mccalman arr ian m.bruce

THE DAY OF THE ORANGE

(3.18)

ian m. bruce

AY WAUKIN' O (2.45)

robert burns arr. ian m. bruce

LOUDMOUTH (2.11)

ian m. bruce

THE SHEPHERD'S WIFE (2.40)

robert burns arr. ian.m.bruce

**THE BROOM O THE
COWDENKNOWES (3.22)**

trad arr. ian m. bruce

**THE DAY OF THE FAIR / THE
MERRY GO ROUND (3.35)**

ian m. bruce / victor c. besch

RANTIN' ROVIN' ROBIN (4.01)

robert burns arr. ian m. bruce

JEALOUS OF ME? (2.39)

ian m. bruce

THE ROWAN TREE (3.34)

trad arr. ian m. bruce

**ANOTHER SATURDAY NIGHT
(2.20)**

sam cooke

Again, it's very different from any CD I've made in the past. We hope you'll enjoy it, should you get to hear it.

The studio is busy in February. That's good and definitely the way I'd like to go. Cutting down on the travel does appeal, but then I've said all that before.

Talking of which, I must get going. Take care and I hope we meet soon.

Best wishes

Ian Bruce

IAN BRUCE NEWSLETTER – 24/2/03

Hello all,

February and all is well, almost.

Vic Besch and I had a great tour in Germany in January. It seemed that all the folks that booked us were well satisfied...and us with them. A good feeling about the whole thing. Next year's tour is already shaping up. Thank you Ingrid and Manfred.

The new CD arrived about halfway through the tour, which gave us a chance to get a few sold. Unfortunately, there was a mistake with the cover and we will need to send new ones to those who want/need replacements. After we got home we listened to the CD and there's a wee glitch in the first track. The whole thing is being re-pressed (not repressed) and we'll let you know when it's all resolved. Sorry to all those who are impatient to hear it!!!!

Gig wise, I've been very quiet this month due to the cancelled Danish tour, or the one that never really was. Huh! However, I've been busy in the studio. Janet Weatherston's CD is mixed and, a wee birdie tells me that it may be released by The Living Tradition, through their Tradition Bearers series. It's not confirmed but we're keeping our fingers crossed.

Lesley Hale and Charlie Milne have been recording too. I start mixing their CD today and, quite frankly, I can't wait to get on with it. All original material which successfully transcends the traditional folk/country boundary. (Did we ever know there was one?) Some of these songs are going to be sung throughout the folk scene and beyond. I, for one, may nick a couple of these songs. You will like it. Whip! Whip!

We have Sandy Brechin - Accordion Player extraordinaire, joining us for the German tour next month . I'm looking forward to it. Rehearsals started yesterday.

This year's shaping up. Quite a few festivals and club gigs. Dr. Fred Freeman and I are hoping to step up the Burns presentations. With the help of my brother Fraser, we hope to promote the whole thing and get it up and running. Again, I may be speaking too soon but I really hope it's going to happen. Dr. Fred has now completed his mammoth task of putting all Burns' songs onto CD. Quite a collection and advertisement for our proposed collaboration.

That's my news. What's yours. Let me know on my email address imbsongs@aol.com. Stay well and see you soon....I hope.

Ian M. Bruce
Ruglen Digital Recording Studio
Singer/songwriter
www.ianbruce.co.uk

IAN BRUCE NEWSLETTER MARCH 03

SENT OUT 30/3/03

NOTE FROM EDITOR (Elaine Hawkins - editor@ianbruce.co.uk)

Ian was cutting it fine this month --- there is late and then there's LATE. He is forgiven because I know how busy he has been and at least it's a good one with lots of news!

I managed to get to the gig in Birmingham last week. He was on top form and the gig was absolutely brilliant. A good mix of old and new songs. He sang the songs in the order that I wanted to hear them.....spooky! Each gig I have seen has been different . He is always so entertaining with that stunning voice and his jokes and anecdotes. I tried to retell a joke about the rainbow, but with an English accent it just didn't work.

There have been some changes to the gig-list since the last Newsletter - the Uddingston gig is now 6/4/03 and the Potteries gig has been postponed from 11/4/03 to 14/5/04 - both problems with the venue. Several gigs in September in Germany have been added. A couple with Vic Besch.

Talking of Ian and Vic.....my CD arrived last Thursday. I said in December that I had had a "sneak listen" to it and in January thought that I had heard all of itwell I was wrong ! Can't tell you any more, 'cos I'll get told off...just wait and see! They are two very talented and funny guys!Any of Ian's CDs can be ordered by sending a cheque made payable to Ian Bruce for £13.75 inc postage (13.75 pounds sterling) to Bob Gilchrist, Oscar Music Agency, 14 Inchmurrin Drive, High Burnside,Glasgow.
G73 5RT

PS It's nice to be 17 again ! (He is 19 mths older than me!)

PPS perhaps he will include the video footage of the Riverside concert (Dec 2000) on the DVD ! Hint ! Hint!

IAN BRUCE NEWSLETTER 5pm 29/3/03

Hello March people!

Yes, March already. I can't believe how the time flies. They say it gets faster the older you get. I'm glad I'm only 19. They say one starts to lie more as one progresses in years. Not me.

March has been a satisfying month for me. The band tour in Germany went down well. Yes, I know I would probably say that anyway, but it did....honest. Sandy Brechin filled in for Ian Lowthian, whose wife, Janey, is very heavily pregnant at the moment. (Maybe she's given birth already, I don't know.) It was great to work with him. A real good guy although he got me drunk a couple of times. All his fault. Great to work

with Iain Fraser again. As always, the gentleman, like myself.
The March solo gigs were good fun, for me, at any rate.

Studio things.

At last the Vic Besch / Ian Bruce CD has been sorted out and, although it's very simple, I'm pretty well pleased with it. I hope you'll like it. Those who bought the ones, with the original faulty covers, should receive their replacements soon. There's a book of addresses under a local paper mountain, on my immediate right. I'll get there sometime soon.

Janet Weatherston's CD has been accepted for release through The Living Tradition's Tradition Bearers series, and the new release from Lesley Hale and Charlie Milne has just arrived. I think it's great. The first release on Ruglen Records that is not mine. I feel very much a part of it though. I hope they don't mind me saying so.

The launch will be 11th April in The Pleasance Theatre Bar, Edinburgh. I look forward to that.

Agnes Wightman, a good friend, left the studio last night with a very contented smile on her face. Definitely nothing to do with her husband Tam. (A little joke) It's nice to be of service. She's made a very nice wee CD.

I'm hoping for quite a bit more work and will push for it when Tony and I move to our bigger house, which now seems very much on the cards.

So, all ok here, having just networked my computers, added two flat screens to the studio one and put a DVD burner in the other. So technical. That should mean that the next Naked Truth that I keep threatening could be a DVD. Scary or what? You can let me know.

It's Mother's Day tomorrow, and the first for me without mine. I'm missing her very much but getting by, very much due to my HUSBAND, Tony. I hope she'll have a great day wherever she is.

Anyway, I'll now hand over to my trusty friend and web site helper, Elaine, to tell you, and me, about where I'll be soon.

Keep well.

Ian M. Bruce
Ruglen Digital Recording Studio

IAN BRUCE NEWSLETTER APRIL 03 IAN'S SENT OUT 19/4/03

NOTE FROM EDITOR (Elaine Hawkins - editor@ianbruce.co.uk) Ian certainly has been updating the site. I had seen the previous updates, but I looked tonight and it's changed since Thursday! The address is www.ianbruce.co.uk. {Another Ian Bruce has ianbruce.com and ianbruce.net - how dare they !}

IAN'S NEWSLETTER 17/4/03

Hi All,

Very happy Easter to you all. I've put on 1.5 pounds in the last two weeks so, no chocolate eggs over the weekend for me.

I've just spent a load of time updating the website. Only current photos will be on there from now on and, there are a load of mp3s (sound files) should you want to hear some of what I've been up to over the last little while.

I've updated the Studio Page which was blank before but now it's chocker with info and bits of the CDs I've been recording for me and other folks. Give it a visit.

We'll be moving house over the next month so, it's perhaps fortuitous that I'm not very busy in May. I used to go to America in May but no agent at the moment. It's maybe also fortuitous, under the present circumstances.

Anyway, quiet for me, so, I'll look forward to the food parcels. Please remember that my diet is mainly fish and wine these days.

Have a good one.

Ian Bruce

Ian M. Bruce

Ruglen Digital Recording Studio [Back to Index](#)

IAN BRUCE NEWSLETTER MAY 03 SENT OUT 29/5/03

NOTE FROM EDITOR (Elaine Hawkins - editor@ianbruce.co.uk)

I was stewarding at Chippenham Folk Festival at the weekend and managed to see most of Ian's spots - he was on good form and looking very sylphlike. You can see the proof next time - if he hasn't broken the camera (joke!). The web-site has been revamped and there is now a guestbook -- www.ianbruce.co.uk.

IAN'S NEWSLETTER 27/5/03

Hi,
It's not that I don't want to bore you with a long email, it's just that there's not much to tell.

On the music side of things, I'm just back from an enjoyable Chippenham Festival, which in my opinion, underused me. I like to be very busy at these things. Anyway, I know you lot won't complain. The more acts there are, probably the greater your choice.

On the personal front, we are up to our eyes in stuff. We've moved out of a small three roomed cottage in Dumfries, to a huge farmhouse in Castle Douglas.

How the hell did we fit all this stuff into that wee house. It, along with some new stuff, it's fair to say, has stuffed this big place up. Anyway, no complaints. It's great and a wonderful place to have my studio. I hope I can encourage a lot of folks to use it.

Not much on at present have a nice summer and I hope we meet again soon.

Ian

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IAN BRUCE NEWSLETTER 25/6/03

Note from editor@ianbruce.co.uk -elaine hawkins

I went to see the Nailsea gig on Friday the 13th and thoroughly enjoyed it, as did the members of my family who were with me. Ian was on good form, as usual. He even got "Harried" at the end of the gig by the resident shanty crew, the Harry Browns. They are totally potty ! They also sing "The Smuggler", so the finale was a rendition of that by them and Ian! You had to be there ! Chaos ! The whole evening was full of fun, bon-homie and good music.

Last month, I meant to draw your attention to the website that has been set up to promote Ian's work with Dr Fred Freeman - the Burns' Presentation. It is <http://www.fraserbruce.co.uk> . It has a 20 minute audio demo that can be down-loaded of songs and information on the Burns' Presentation . Their approach is a more light-hearted one than some take - still very informative, but also entertaining.

THE LETTER

Hello again,
Well that's the longest day past and Christmas looming up. (Sorry!)

It was a very enjoyable long day and we made it about as long as we could by drinking wine up till 5 o'clock. Silly amounts. It's a long time since I've made myself sick with booze. I blame Cas and Malcolm of Pontardawe who were up staying with us. Of course my hands were tied behind my back whilst being force fed.
Even through the drunkenness we appreciated the sunrise over Loch Ken. We love this place.

The house is just about there now. Just one more piece of hall carpet, light shades and curtains. It's all in hand. Then it'll be the garden.
Anyone fancy a gardening party?

Anyway, still not great amounts to say about work. I've been working with kids from a couple of Dumfries primary schools. After school music clubs. This is my last week of eight. We'll be performing the Proclaimers' "500 Miles" at the school concert. I must remember to ask them all to bring a pair of specs.

So far I've enjoyed Chippenham and Middlewich festivals and, as you can see, I have a couple of more coming up.

5-6/07/03...CLECKHEATON FESTIVAL...01924 404346

18 - 20/07/03...FOLK AT THE EDGE FESTIVAL, WENLOCK EDGE,
SHROPSHIRE...01952 504882

I'm looking forward to them. Maybe I'll see you there.

I'll sign off and hope everything is going your way.

Best wishes
Ian

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IAN BRUCE NEWSLETTER 31/7/03

Hello everyone,

How's it goin'?

Me? Not too bad thanks for asking.

Just back from "Festival at the Edge" in Much Wenlock. A story tells festival with the odd singer. I was one of the odd singers. It was very laid back.

Not hard work at all. Sound ideal? Well not really. I prefer to be worked at

these things, as I've said before and it was strange that people generally

weren't too interested if the words were put to tunes. Also strange to hear folks

at breakfast telling stories to each other instead of good ol' spontaneous conversation, but Hey!, each to his/her own.

I've started working on the local Vocal Chords project. Working to teach four

groups of folks, some disabled and others not, some song arrangements which

will be performed sometime in Oct/Nov.

I'm enjoying the process so far. Long may it continue.

I'm also going to be helping with another project. Teaching adults and kids

to use modern recording equipment with a view to encouraging some self penned

performances which will possibly be aired on a local radio station specially

set up by the Dumfries and Galloway Arts group. I'm really looking forward to

that. Especially since it all runs from a bus which I get to drive. They've promised me a bus driver's cap.

Strange I should be working with a group called "Vocal Chords". The project's

coinciding with me having a few problems with my own. There's a roughness on

one side of the voice box which may not be treatable. They're going to put me

under anaesthetic and have a look. If nothing can be done, I'll just have to

put up with the fact the old voice doesn't do what it used to. Watch this space.

Also enjoying waiting at Tony's restaurant. The Brasserie is open and I'm

enjoying dealing with the folks. I love working with people. That's the best part

of the music career too.

So, if you fancy some decent grub served up by this folk singer chappy,

get
yourself along to The Plumed Horse in Crossmichael Nr. Castle
Douglas.

Soon going down to Malbrough, Devon for their fest. Should be fun. I
enjoyed
it last time. I just hope that no kids make my bike fall over this time.
(Yes
kids, I didn't believe it got hit by a car.) Actually, I hope the weather
down
there improves enough for me to take the bike.

So, things are feeling good here. Settling into the new house etc.
Be well and happy and we'll hopefully meet soon.
Best wishes

Ian Bruce.
p.s. I may be going off the AOL account so watch out for a new email
address
if it happens. Also, the website should soon be www.ianbruce.org. The
www.ianbruce.co.uk should still work too.
p.p.s. Soon www.plumedhorse.co.uk will be up and running too.

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IAN BRUCE NEWSLETTER 28/8/03

Note from editor@ianbruce.co.uk -elaine hawkins

Ian's website now has a different address - it is www.ianbruce.org - don't worry if you forget it, because the old address will redirect you there. A new feature on the web-site, is the Guest Book. If you have chance, please sign it , I know that Ian would love to catch up with your comments about concerts or the new CD etc.

My concert in Plymouth went very well. Ian was on brilliant form. It was great to see the people from Sidmouth and Penzance again. Nice venue and great atmosphere. It was like a big party, especially when the support band's sandwiches were passed around the room! I got told off by Ian for feeding people when they should have been singing !

I popped along the south Devon coast and caught his concerts at the festival at Malborough. They are made of strong stuff there - even when they have been at boozy bonfires on the campsite the night before, they still manage to be very noisy and appreciative the next day ! This year Ian had hair. Three years ago at the Malborough Festival, he had a face painted on the back of his shaved head . Luckily this year he didn't find any face-painters!

THE LETTER

Hello Folks,

Nearing the end of August already. Hard to believe. I hope you're all having a great summer. Seems there's been mixed weather but generally nothing to much to complain about. Damn!

Summer is usually fairly quiet for me and this year was no exception. It would be nice to have a festival every weekend but I've just never really been flavour of the month to the powers that be.

Anyway. The bits and pieces I have had, I've enjoyed very much. My Plymouth gig, Malborough Festival, which I bet Elaine has already told you about, my work on the Log-On bus (5 Mobile computerised recording stations) and the Vocal Chords Groups. All very satisfying.

One of the things I'm really happy about is - I've met up with a local musician called Shaun Blandford. Very impressive musician and we're hoping to do a bit of work together. Perhaps get a new CD together. I'll let you know.

All sorts of ideas are flooding my head - Naked Truth Vol 2, A best of... CD. Whether or not to re-record the songs for a best of, concentrate on a new one. I just don't know.

Well. That's about it. Next trip is Baggeridge festival. I look forward to that.

Germany next month and Tony is coming with me for a few days. So, we can make a little holiday of it too. That's long overdue.

Till we meet again.
Stay well and happy.

Ian M. Bruce
Ruglen Digital Recordings
www.ianbruce.org

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IAN BRUCE NEWSLETTER 30/9/03

We're into September 2003. Wow, am I getting old quickly? (Don't even think about answering that.)

It's been a good month all in.....A crazy drive all the way down to Baggeridge for a 45 minute set. It seemed to go OK and the weather and setting were both their usual wondrous selves. Very enjoyable. The folks who had the big inflatable chute allowed us (Tony, Elaine and I) on at £2.00 a go. I suppose fairly expensive but the painful bit was the guy taking one look at me and turning the pumps up full in order to support my bulk. Some people are soooooo hurtful.

The German tour was great. Only 6 gigs but I enjoyed them all. Tony joined me halfway through and we had a wee break in Berlin before going off to Wyk auf Foehr and then Bremen. What a gig that was. More like that please Manni u. Ingrid. It was a songwriters fest. We're talking about next year again.

My jobs with Dumfries and Galloway Arts Association, The LOG-ON bus and working with me old buddy Susie Kelly on the Vocal Chords project are both doing fine. As I said....all in all a good month.

Mum's birthday passed again. She would have been 89. I still miss her terribly but there's not a great deal I can do about that. It was great to hear from both my brothers. Anyway. I hope you're all fine and comfortable.

Please keep in touch.

Ian M. Bruce
Ruglen Digital Recordings
www.ianbruce.org

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IAN BRUCE NEWSLETTER 24/10/03

Hi Everyone,
Not huge amounts to report.

The Vocal Chords group have recorded their CD which should be out in time for the final concert in Easterbrook Hall, Dumfries on Friday 7th November. That'll be that project finished for a while. Hopefully it will happen again next year.

If there are any Ian Bruce completists out there, I'm afraid you'll need this CD. I put a version of "Lassie Wi The Lintwhite Locks" and Ian Walker's "Some Hae Meat" on it. I'm also singing harmony on Susie Kelly's "Auld Maid in a Garret". I'm very pleased with all three.

Only 3 gigs this month. (Must try harder) The Beehive near Sheffield. A long way for one gig but it was a good one. At least I thought so. Then there was the wee session in The Blue Bell, Annan. A bit of fun. Great pub.

The next gig is the Robert Burns do in Glasgow with Dr. Fred and then we're into November. Ouch!

I'm sure the ever faithful Elaine will be appending a list of gigs. Please come along. It'll be good to see you.

The first week in February is needing a bit of filling in Denmark. If anyone out there has ideas I'm all ears.

See you soon.
Many thanks,

Ian

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IAN BRUCE NEWSLETTER 21/11/03

Note from editor@ianbruce.co.uk -elaine hawkins

My gig went really well. The format was different than most concerts. The MC did a great job. We got to hear some of the stories behind the songs and we worked out that Ian has been involved in recording music for nearly 24 years! He doesn't look old enough - does he! We now know that he preferred to sketch colleagues rather than ships and that a few overheard words can end up as a song! Ian had the audience enthralled - laughing, sad and happy as they gained a better insight into him and his music. Thanks Ian for a great gig!

Please note that Ian changed his email address to ianbruce3@aol.com on 14/10/03 . If you sent anything to the old uk2.net address around that time it may not have got through!

THE LETTER

Hi Again,

November was not the busiest month I've ever had but DGAA (Dumfries and Galloway Arts Association) have kept me afloat. Just as well since the old voice is giving me a bit of trouble at present. The thickening of one side of the vocal chords. I'm getting put under anaesthetic in late February 2004. They will take a biopsy of my vocal chords (Ouch!). The surgeon said that if the voice box would benefit from a trim he'll do it but if it's gone too badly then he'll leave it alone and get me to rest it etc. Shit!

Anyway. I'm rushing because I'm doing a couple of schools songwriting workshops today. They're good fun.

I'll just quickly say how much I enjoyed doing the few November gigs. Paisley Arts Centre with Dr. Fred and Marc Duff. Everyone was very appreciative and put up with the odd faux pas. (It was our first full gig together). Thanks people.

The Ram Folk Club - Claygate. As always, so warm. We had a good laugh. They said they liked the music too. Strange people.

The Hyde Park, Plymouth. A kind of 'meet the artist' gig arranged by Elaine. Everything went quite smoothly. A chance for me to sing 'The tracks of my years' (Just like Ken Bruce's show.) I was a little wary of the Scots flag wavers but they were good enough to only giggle at the sad songs.

Must rush. I hope to see you all soon. By the time you reach this I'll have done Biddulph folk club which turned out really well last time. I'll keep my fingers crossed.

Bye for now.

Ian website: www.ianbruce.org

email : ianbruce3@aol.com [Back to Index](#)

IAN BRUCE 'S NEWSLETTER

20/12/03

Hi Everyone,
I'm just looking over the last year. I'd thought it quiet but.....

In **January** there was the release of "The Orange and The Rowan", with VIC BESCH, and our usual German tour. The CD only really sells when we tour and that, to be honest, is as it should be. It was never intended to be promoted at my solo gigs as a full blown release. We look forward to this January's tour and, hopefully selling a few more of it. It's a cheeky wee album but we like it.

In **February** I recorded CDs for Janet Weatherston and Lesley Hale and Charlie Milne.

Janet's had a great response. Scots magazine phoned her direct to applaud it and tell her to expect a rave review. That's no mean feat. Many of her loyal fans were also raving. (We've known that for a long time!!)

I haven't really kept my finger on the pulse as far as the Lesley and Charlie release is concerned, but I know I recently played it again and think it's fabulous. Now I'm very happy to be writing songs with Charlie. I like what we're getting. I hope that the general public will too - eventually.

Also noticed that on www.bbc.co.uk/radio2 message boards that someone was asking about Lesley Hale. I've told them about this CD. It is good!

In **March** we toured Germany as the band. Ian Lowthian couldn't make it due to his pregnancy. (Makes a change.) So, a load of rehearsing with Sandy Brechin who did an excellent job for us. Folks seemed to like us!!!

Ian and Janey had a wee boy called Robin. Their first born was Katy. One of each. Well done.

Then I recorded a CD for Agnes Wightman. Again a pleasurable project and a very nice result. Again I have not kept track of it. I hope her audience has been delighted.

APRIL was a quiet month which gave me time to get the website updated. Actually that's quite a job. It was a fairly major upheaval sorting out all the mp3s etc.

In **MAY** we moved house. Say no more except that it's been worth it. We're in a fabulous place and really enjoying it.

I started work with the Dumfries and Galloway Arts Association. Doing workshops in primary schools. The remit on the first sessions was way too wide and got us all confused. Some wanted to learn guitar, some percussion, some to sing, some to play whistles, etc. etc. We did what we could and generally things were OK.

In **JUNE** the school sessions continued.
About this time too, I was fed up nagging Tony to have the PLUMED

HORSE website updated. So, I did it. There has been a good response and definitely an upturn in business as a direct result. Things are good there. We look forward to a greater push of the new brasserie next year.

In **JULY** there was Festival at the Edge, Marlborough and Cleckheaton festivals. I've already reported back on them but my general recollection is favourable. I hope that's the same for the audience.

Again the DGAA employed me in their LOG ON BUS project. Teaching folks to record music using computers. I have a mixed feeling for that one. Some of the venues do not use it to the full and therefore it can be a waste of time. Where the project has been taken seriously it's been very rewarding. Long may it continue. I must admit to being disappointed that the re-road taxing of the bus has meant that I can't drive it anymore. I only have a regular driving licence. HUH! Anyway, there was no driver's cap supplied.

By now I was waiting in the restaurant on a regular basis. I love it. I am a people person and really enjoy the interaction. Hopefully not overdone. (Incase Tony's reading this!)

AUGUST

Website changed to www.ianbruce.org. I bought it from UK2.net and used the email address they supplied for a while. Their website advertises "Free Dial - Up". In my ignorance I thought that meant they paid the phone bill (like AOL do). I couldn't have been more wrong. The phone bill from connecting through UK2.net was about £300 more than normal. I was furious. Back to AOL. I find them to be fine. Also meant another change of email address. ianbruce3@aol.com.

Susie Kelly and I recorded some acapella three part harmony tracks to use as a CD tutor for the Vocal Chords Project. Some pretty decent stuff. Though I say it myself. Maybe it'll be released after my demise. We went on to enjoy 8 weeks of working with the various workshops. Trying to remember all the harmonies was a nightmare at times but we got there in the end.

SEPTEMBER

Baggeridge Festival was enjoyable. A beautiful day and a shot on the inflatable chute. Also won a yellow bear on the coconut shy. The German tour was fabulous. Nice to taste a wee bit of success again. It helps the ego you know. I had a fabulous review which compared me favourably to one or two German household names. (No they don't use DOMESTOS!!) Happy audience, agents, partner and me. Good for the CD sales too.

Tony and I had a really nice wee break in Berlin too.

OCTOBER brought the final VOCAL CHORDS concert and their CD. It was called "Nice Nice People" after one of my songs. It seemed appropriate.

It was in this month Dr. Fred Freeman and I did a Burns do in Glasgow. Very enjoyable. More of that stuff would be good.

Mr. Cathcart was there. He was my Geography teacher. It's not his fault I'm hopeless at Geog. I was born to be Geographically dim. I tend to only take that kind of stuff in if I visit in person. I digress. We used to know him as Bamber. Some kids seemed to think he looked like Mr.

Gasgoine. (I didn't agree) It was pointed out that he had been the first teacher to administer corporal punishment on me in secondary school. This was by means of a leather strap. He said he still had it and promised to send it to me as a memento. What a nice man he is. The studio was upgraded to latest version of CUBASE SX and MOTU 2408 Mk 3. If you didn't need to know that then please accept my apology. It's a great studio to work in. I just need to find more time.

NOVEMBER

Again, a job came in from DGAA. This time it was songwriting workshops in schools. Boy do I enjoy this one? We've written a song in each of the one hour classes. Again these are local primary schools. I appreciate too that word "Local". I get so drained by the travel these days. The more I can do within a 50 mile radius the better. I'm hoping for more of the DGAA work next year.

Bamber's belt arrived. A man of his word. It smells of old leather and chalk dust. The internet tells me that the company still manufactures and a genuine John J. Dick, Lochgelly XH can still be purchased. Nowadays it comes in a presentation case and costs £250. To think I got it for putting pepper up another boy's nose at school dinners. Who says crime doesn't pay. Incidentally, a very ginger slap to my cold palm reminded me just how painful an experience "getting the belt" had been. By the way, it was rare for me to take school dinners but now and then I wanted to. It probably was a welcome break for MUM too. I started taking piano lessons. Although I have a very good professional keyboard, I crave an upright piano. Does anybody have one that they don't want? I'm finding that I don't practice because of the palaver required with the electronics. I need an acoustic to sit staring me in the face in the living room.

So **DECEMBER** is here again. I had a couple of smashing gigs. Bollington and The Wynd theatre, Melrose. They both treat me like a king. Very enjoyable. We were visited by Fraser, my brother and Euan, my oldest nephew again very enjoyable. Sad news that Gavin Stevenson, co writer of "The Dawn of a Brand New Day" died. We're not too sure but the story goes that he took his own life. He was a great wee fella. His work should have been famous but he threw it all away a few months before his death. It's all very sad. So from that down note to anticipation of an enjoyable christmas. I'm really looking forward to it. I hope you all have a great time. I'm sorry that I've rambled so. You caught me on a bad day. Now to tidy the house up ready for the next couple of weeks.

Thanks to all who've helped me survive this year. Tony, Elaine, Roseann and Bob (British Agent) and Ingrid u. Manni (German Agent). (Glad to hear that Manni is making good progress after a rather scary and serious illness. Keep it up!) Victor Besch and I will be doing a gig at The Kenbridge Hotel, New Galloway after the bells. It would be great to see you there.

HAPPY NEW YEAR AND I HOPE TO SEE YOU IN IT!

www.ianbruce.org

ianbruce3@aol.com

editor@ianbruce.co.uk

Notes from editor@ianbruce.co.uk - Elaine Hawkins in lieu of January Newsletter

No letter from Ian as he was touring Germany

Dear all,

A very Happy and Healthy 2004 to you all. I hope you are coping with the weather! I live in the South West of England and even we have had snow.

I hope you celebrated New Year's Eve in style. Those of us who saw the Ian and Vic Besch gig at the Ken Bridge Hotel in New Galloway certainly did. It was not a good night to be a roadie though, as I found out, the weather was dreadful - driving cold rain and strong winds. The New Year was piped-in in style and we sang Auld Lang Sine. Vic often wears his kilt, but this time he didn't and we were treated to Ian wearing a black one, leather shirt, black socks and army boots. Someone promised to email me a photo for the web-site, but it hasn't materialised yet!

Talking of photos I have sent 4 from the Ian and Vic German tour to the web-site. The links are:-

burweg 15/1/04 - <http://www.ianbruce.org/BURWEG2.jpg>

visselhoevede 16-1-04 - <http://www.ianbruce.org/VISSEL.jpg>

heiligenhaus 17-1-04 - <http://www.ianbruce.org/HEILIG2.jpg>

duisburg 18-1-04 - <http://www.ianbruce.org/DUISBURG2.jpg>

By all accounts the gigs are going well - good crowds and craic. From the tour schedule, it looks as though they have three "non-gig" days in 20 days - the reason for the non-appearance of Ian's part of the monthly Newsletter!

There have been two important Birthdays this month, Robert Burns' and our Ian's. We may hear something of the latter one in the next Newsletter - unless he's decided that he is getting too old for birthdays!

The front page of the website has an advert for a rare occurrence - an

Ian and Fraser gig! It is on Tuesday 24/2/04 at Balerno Folk Club at the Balerno Bowling Club. Further details can be obtained from Anne O'Toole 0131 228 6479. Their gig at the Chapelton Folk Club was really good - the repartee between them had tears of laughter running down my face. Get there if you can.....

Hopefully, next month we will have a missive from himself !

All the best

Elaine Hawkins

editor@ianbruce.co.uk

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IAN BRUCE NEWSLETTER FOR FEBRUARY 04 27/2/04 22.35pm

Well,
The German/Danish tour has come and gone. It was great.

The BBC asked me to write a diary for their Celtic Roots website. I'm not sure if it's still posted it was a bit of fun to do. I hope it's still posted by the time this reaches you. This is the address.....

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/scotland/musicscotland/celticroots>

[/on the road/ian bruce/index.shtml](#)

The diary only covers the German part of the tour but the Danish part was great too. The highlight of that was the double bill with Allan Taylor. Seemed to me like we were both on form and the audience was/were kind enough to let us know.

No matter how enjoyable a tour is it's always good to be back home. The next month or two are quiet gigwise but some more workshops have come in from Dumfries and Galloway Arts Association. Good to know that travelling is minimal for a wee while.

I should be able to get on with some songwriting too. Charlie Milne has been down here and we are very happy with the stuff we're coming up with. I hope you will be when it is eventually recorded. This year sometime one hopes.

**A lot depends on the throat thing. I go into hospital in a couple of weeks. Fingers are crossed.
Another piece of website news is that my "Stan The Singer" song is now on the official Stan Rogers Website. Visit it at...**

<http://stevebriggs.superb.net/stanrogers/legacy.html>

I feel sure there's more news but I'm in a hurry to get this off to Elaine. Maybe she'll know what I've missed. She keeps me in check.

So I'll pass you over to her and hope that we meet again very soon. Be good.

Ian

email: ianbruce3@aol.com

website: www.ianbruce.org

Notes from editor@ianbruce.co.uk -elaine hawkins that accompanied

the February Newsletter

Dear All,

I have checked and the German Tour diary is still on the BBC website. If anyone has a slow computer I can send you just the text.

Unfortunately Fraser was ill on 24/2/04, so Ian did the Balerno gig solo. (Fraser is feeling a lot better now.) The club was packed and everyone had a great time. The floor spots were good and Ian played the "Touch and the Go" and "The Anchor Line" with Ian Walker. I'm sure most of you know that they toured together. It was good to see! For info, Ian B is on Ian W's albums "Flying High" and "Shadows in Time" - they have been released on a double CD called "Beats of the Heart". Details www.vangel.co.uk

Oor Ian will be on the radio - BBC Radio Scotland on 24/3/04. For those of us who do not live "north of the border", I think that it is possible to listen via the Internet at the time of broadcast and for a little while after that the programme should also be accessible via their web-site. When I find out a bit more detail and the web-site link address, I will let you know.

Ian has been working on Burns' Presentations with Dr Fred Freeman. Keep an eye on the gigs page of the website www.ianbruce.org/gigs.htm as when I know about any I will post them there.

The page about Ian's song "Stan the Singer" is very informative and has an mp3 of the song. The photo on <http://stevebriggs.superb.net/stanrogers/legacy/ianbruce.html> was taken by me!

Whilst surfing the net, I came across loads of photos of the German gig of 10/9/03 in Foehr

<http://www.erdbeerparadies-foehr.de/bilder/030910/index.html> .

These photos are a bit old.....if you have any more recent ones and would like them put on the web-site let me know.

Anyway must go, keep well and warm!

Best Wishes,

Elaine Hawkins

editor@ianbruce.co.uk

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IAN BRUCE NEWSLETTER FOR MARCH 04

Dear all,
It's taken me a while to getting around to writing this month. I hope you haven't all been too worried about me!!! Oh, I see.

Very few gigs and lots of school projects. It's keeping the wolf from the door and....I'm enjoying it.

The lack of concerts has me in the studio recording the apparently long awaited Naked Truth Vol 2. I won't divulge the track list at the moment. It is liable to chop and change a bit. I'm very pleased with it so far and look forward to getting it finished. I'm hoping it may generate some revenue in these quiet times. So, please if you are at all interested in ordering copies or a number of copies for your club I'd appreciate that.

I've kind of changed the rules a bit. Although everyone was so kind about volume one, it didn't really do much for me. It being me alone it bored me to listen. To some of these songs on Naked Vol 2 I've added a second and sometimes a third voice. Two tracks have a second guitar. It's still sparse and all me. For my money a wee bit more interesting than the last one.

The Ian Bruce Band has changed line up for the next German tour. Angus Lyon on accordion and Stewart Hardy on fiddle. We're doing a new CD too. New songs. Some of them the product of Charlie Milne and I. We like them and, of course hope you will.

Naked Truth Vol 2 should be out in about a month and the new band CD sometime in the summer.

Voice operation was postponed. It should be happening next month now. We'll see.

I really can't think of too much more news. If Elaine can think of something I'm sure she'll blab on about it. You know what these "youngsters" are.
Please keep well.

See you soon.

Ian

Direct email: ianbruce3@aol.com

website: www.ianbruce.org [Back to Index](#)

Notes from editor@ianbruce.co.uk -elaine hawkins that accompanied the March Newsletter

Dear all,

Well it was nice to see that my youth has been acknowledged for once. When I pointed this out, he spoilt it by saying "but I forget again so easily these days!!! "

I can only blab about what I know or what he may have forgotten!! So here goes.....

I mentioned a radio show in the last Newsletter - according to Nick Dempsey of the BBC "he appears on the last Songlines programme in the series, which goes out on Tuesday morning 30th March at 11.30am repeating on the following Sunday at 5. The programme looks at the story behind Auld Lang Syne, and the producer is Esme Kennedy"

Burns Presentation at the Lemon Tree, Aberdeen on 13th April and song or voice workshop the next morning. 6 Singers taking part.

Ian is becoming more like a cyberman everyday - false tooth, new contact lenses and his bluetooth phone attachment. Just needs to spray his leathers silver come on, you must remember the cybermen ! Dr Who?

Having seen the studio and its hi-tech equipment, I was surprised to find out about the latest proud addition.....an old record player with a Colaro multi-changer. My Dad had one very similar made by Pye and it had a Garrard deck - great sound for its time. Has Ian bought it to play his 78s? Not at all listen to "Up there with 'em" on "Kind and Gentle Nature" and you'll find out why !!

Anyway, hope you have a great Easter .

All the best,

Elaine Hawkins

editor@ianbruce.co.uk

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IAN BRUCE'S NEWSLETTER FOR APRIL 04

Hello Everyone,

Another short note which I hope finds you well.

I have a few gigs this month then a very quiet summer. A little scary to say the least. In a way it's good. I'm really enjoying home life these days and travel is definitely no longer something I cherish. The schools work has been great and it's kept Mr. Bad Wolf away from the door.

Glenfarg Folk Feast was its usual good self. It's always great to be up there.

The hospital episode went well. No singers' nodes, no cancer (I'd been told that anyway). Only a wee cyst which has been whipped off. I'm trying not to sing too much at the moment but first indications are that my voice is pretty much back.

The Naked Truth Volume 2 is finished. I recorded it when the voice was a little husky in places. Actually I quite like it. No pleasing me is there? I am working on the cover now. It should be with us soon. I'm trying hard to get everything done as the CD of new songs needs a little time spent on it.

Oh so much to do.

Anyway, I hope to see you all as soon as possible.

I'll hand you over to Elaine.
All the best.

Ian
Direct email: ianbruce3@aol.com
website: www.ianbruce.org

Notes from editor@ianbruce.co.uk -elaine hawkins that accompanied the April Newsletter

Hi again,

There is one gig that I haven't been able to give you much notice of - it's on 4th May in Leigh on Sea. If you are in the area - pop along . Please note that they have quite recently changed their venue to The Ship.

There has been a change for contact number re the Milkmaid FC, Bury St Edmunds on 17/9/04 - it is now 01284 702535.

Just checked . BBC Scotland still have Ian and Vic's German Tour Diary on their website

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/scotland/musicscotland/>

[celticroots/on the road/ian bruce](#)

Lots of laughs and some good photos. Good job that "smelli-vision" hasn't been invented yet.

Have a great May and enjoy it's two Bank Holidays,
Happy Listening,

Elaine
editor@ianbruce.co.uk

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IAN BRUCE'S NEWSLETTER FOR MAY 04

Allo there,

Hold on a sec. I'll just have a wee look at my calendar to remind me of what's been going on. It feels like a lot.

Girvan Folk Festival. It was just great to be back at that festival. It had been years since I had nearly frozen to death when it snowed around my tent which demonstrated the limitations of my open ended domestic sleeping bag.

I enjoyed having my voice back on the Friday and Saturday nights but unfortunately the smoky pub on the Sunday afternoon took it away for the Sunday evening concert. However the atmosphere was electric and that particular spot will go down as one of my favourite ever gigs. Thanks as well to my old buddy Sandy Stanage for joining me on stage. He's such a great player. Also, I enjoy the freedom to sing without playing. One can put so much more into the song. Maybe that speaks volumes about my guitar playing.

A wee batch English gigs.....Leigh on Sea, not great attendance but a pleasure, as always.

Hereford (Nightjar Music) I really enjoyed. Meeting up with loads of old friends. It's an area I'm well fond of and they seem to be faithful to me. Affy guid!

Tamworth too was an enjoyable revisit. They're a bunch of characters I can tell you. Once again a real pleasure. (I love this job!)

The Potteries....same thing! It was a great pleasure to see Lorna Davies' face when I let her hear a demo of her "Songbird" that I had recorded back in December. It was a relief that she liked it.

Wimborne Acoustic was a good 'un too. They are so into running that new club. I wish them every deserved success. Hospitality was exceptional too. Thanks to you all.

Folk on the Moor, Wotter. I'm always afraid to say too much about this club in case it sounds a little too gushing but it is one of the best in the country and I had a great time. It would be nice if the audience had had too. (I'm joking - I think!)

The Scottish folk club gigs were something else. Great to have such good gigs and local. Irvine, The Star (Glasgow) and Girvan for the second time in a month. I was able to get home from these ones within an hour and a half. More of that please. (Great gigs too.) The other stuff brought more pleasure.

The Channel 5 filming of the comparison between my live singing and

their amazing £150,000 system's playing of Westlin Winds was interesting. You may see it when it is shown. Watch this space. We may find out when it's being shown.

Naked Truth Volume Two is all done and ready to go. Just awaiting the licence from MCPS and it will be out. I'm very pleased with it. I hope it is enjoyed.

I have all my ideas for the songs for the other new CD. Just got to get them out to the players and we're away. I'm looking forward to that one.

The Studio has been particularly busy, the schools workshops have been plentiful, working in the restaurant a bit.....Gasp! Gasp!.....not much time for breathing. No complaints there.

There may be more I could tell but quite honestly....enough's enough isn't it. I don't want to bore you rigid. Oh! "Too late!" I hear you say.

Bye then. (You cheeky so....)

Ian.

p.s I have a gig at Mill on the Fleet, Gatehouse of Fleet on June 19th. Come along if you can. There's a barbecue too.

Email ianbruce3@aol.com ; website www.ianbruce.org

NOTE FROM EDITOR (Elaine Hawkins)

Dear all,

Hope you have all had a good Bank Holiday, and the rest of May of course.

During May my computer blew up and, unconnected with that, I also got a speeding ticket - watch out for the "Safety Cars" in Cumbria. There were also some good things, I managed to see quite a few of Ian's gigs.....

He says that he enjoyed them and we (the audience) certainly did as well ! His voice was superb and the feeling that he put into his songs stirred our emotions.

He has adapted the song from the musical Chess to "I know her so well" and it is just breath-taking. The new song called "Recovery" is a celebration of regained health, family and friends. Great chorus singing!
[Apologises to Moe B for ruining "Touch and the Go" by trying to save the historic venue of St Andrews in the Square, Glasgow from fire by using her ice-cubes to extinguish the out-of-control tee-light.]

It's great talking to people who have seen him for the first time - they always say what a brilliant voice he has and how the songs have moved them to laugh, cry, remember instances in their own lives or perhaps to see things from a different angle .

With his superb voice and friendly, amusing patter - at ALL of the gigs that I saw (seven) - he had the audience in the palm of his hand! He also had us joining in all the choruses.

I can't cook very well, but I love cook books.
There is a place in Kirkby Stephen, Cumbria called the Acoustic Cafe (at the Rattan and Rush) that combines food and music. Ian was there on 23/11/02 and will be there again on 20/08/05.
They have produced a book of their recipes, photos of artistes (including Ian) that have appeared there (with a free 15 track CD of artistes (inc Ian)) for £15.99 including postage.
Email acoustictearoom@aol.com for more details or see the advert on http://www.acoustictearoom.co.uk/stop_press1.htm

In August, Ian is appearing in a romantic castle as part of the Peebles Festival - see for yourself at these links
<http://www.caledoniancastles.co.uk/>

[castles/borders/neidpath.htm](http://www.caledoniancastles.co.uk/castles/borders/neidpath.htm)

and <http://www.maybole.org/history/castles/neidpath.htm>
The tickets are available from the Eastgate Theatre and Arts Centre Box Office on 01721 725777. Their web-site
<http://www.tweedtheatre.org.uk>

I have put the old Newsletters up on the site. I also have a few new photos - I will post them there when I have a moment.

Here's hoping the weather improves.....

Happy Listening

Elaine

editor@ianbruce.co.uk

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IAN BRUCE NEWSLETTER 20/6/04

Hi,

Very short one this time. Not much to tell.

Busy getting ready for the new CD recording. Only a couple of gigs and the rest of the work has been in the recording studio or in schools.

Dr. Fred Freeman and I have been doing Allan Ramsay workshops in Gordon and Leadhills Primary schools. We've technoed up a couple of Allan Ramsay songs and written a tribute to him along with the kids. We've recorded the whole thing and it's been a bit of a blast. These few kids will remember the name Allan Ramsay there's no doubting it. Now all we have to do is start working on the adults.

Have a great summer.

I'll speak to you next month.

Ian

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website www.ianbruce.org

Editor's Note

Did you get to see the Gadget Show with oor Ian in? The gadget show's website said:- "Ultimate Hi-Fi Challenge Can Jason tell the difference between an £1600 entry-level hi-fi system, a £100,000 grand hi-fi system and a live performance? Suzi garners the country's top hi-fi experts and one of Scotland favourite folk singers, Ian Bruce, to present the challenge. Meanwhile, Jason visits the state of the art factory of hi-fi manufacturers Linn to find out what goes into high fidelity sound reproduction and what you can do to optimise your system whatever it cost. "

The presenter Jason Bradbury was blindfolded then placed in front of three different sources of Ian's version of Westlin' Winds. First a CD through their "entry" system, then Live, then through their £100,000 system. It was shown on 14/6 and then repeated on 16/6 and 18/6.

On his own website http://www.jasonbradbury.com/jason_bradbury/

[2004/05/100000_for_a_hi.html](#) , Jason said :-"Back in the hot seat, blindfolded, I listened intently to the enchanting tones of the Gaelic singer before me. (In truth I had imagined a slight man in a bright red tartan kilt – he turned out to be a six foot butch leather biker – I'm not

kidding). "

Jason B was so impressed with Ian's voice that he wants him to sing at his wedding! (No - we can't gatecrash it !)

If you didn't see the show and you would like to see it, let me know - several copies were done for me by family and friends (I can't get Channel 5).....

The programme has brought Ian to the attention of "non-folkies" - they have left messages on Jason's website and in Ian's guestbook. Welcome to the Newsletter ! Ian's website is a good sort of information - www.ianbruce.org . I still have to reply to some of the questions asked - I will do that shortly.

UPDATE ON CDs

Naked Truth 2 is being pressed/copied - should be available VERY shortly.

Ian was recording with the Band on the weekend - they have managed to get 9 tracks done. Haven't been told which ones - but I've heard some of the demos of the songs and the new CD will be a treat . Some great new songs.....

In August, Ian is appearing in Neidpath Castle as part of the Peebles Festival. The tickets are available from the Eastgate Theatre and Arts Centre Box Office on 01721 725777. Their web-site <http://www.tweedtheatre.org.uk>

Anyway, Happy Listening and all the best for Independence Day,

Elaine Hawkins

editor@ianbruce.co.uk

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IAN BRUCE NEWSLETTER 15/7/04

Me again,

Well, it's been a little hectic of late. All these workshops for schools and youth groups.

I've been really busy in the studio too. Recording the latest CD with Stewart Hardy - fiddle, Angus Lyon - Accordion and Keyboards, Marc Duff - Whistle, recorder, bouzouki and Bodhran, Shaun Blandford - Bass and last but not least Gordon Gallacher on Drums. It's shaping up well but still a lot to do to it. I hope we'll be finished by the end of the month.

I've taken the time to update the website. Thanks to www.paypal.com I've been able to add an online purchasing facility. Just in time for the release of The Naked Truth Vol 2. I'm writing this on 15th July and I'm told the CDs will be with me tomorrow.

Quite a number have already ordered online. (Thank you.)

If you don't know about Paypal then it's time you did. It's an AOL endorsed, secure site which allows easy money transactions online. You just open an account and you're set up for all kinds of online buying, selling or trading.

As far as my site is concerned www.ianbruce.org you only have to go on to the ALBUMS Section and click on "Make payments with PayPal - it's fast, free and secure!" and you'll be taken to the checkout where you'll be asked to setup an account.

Honestly it's very safe. So don't worry about it.

It could be very useful for the future.

If you want to order now then click here <http://www.ianbruce.org/naked2.htm> to go to the relevant page.

Anyway, not too much more to report at this quiet time.

I hope to see you soon.

Ian Bruce
email ianbruce3@aol.com

website www.ianbruce.org

Editor's Note

I was curious about whether "drummer" on the new Band recording meant Djembe or a full drum kit - it is the latter. Can't wait to hear it - should be a very full sound!!

Check out the Guestbook.

Ian (and I) had already replied personally to most of the "posts", but he has now put replies on to the Guestbook.

There were several broken links to mp3s on the website. Ian has been fixing them.

I was really pleased to see that the ones on the IAN BRUCE PRESS RELEASE page (www.ianbruce.org/solopress.htm) had been reinstated. They are FULL and LIVE versions of the songs.
LIVE AT THE HAM MARQUEE, SIDMOUTH
Blodwen's Dream

From a Distance

LIVE IN SONTHOVEN (With Ian Lowthian)
Lonely Old Lady
Trumpet Sounds

Best Wishes and happy listening,

Elaine

editor@ianbruce.co.uk

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IAN BRUCE NEWSLETTER AUGUST 31/8/04

Hi,

I can hardly believe it's been a month since I last wrote....well, well, well!

Once again, it's a quick scribble in between all the bits and bobs that are going on.

I'm still working on the new CD, which I'm very pleased with. Thinking about my new position as one of three Dumfries and Galloway tutors for the "Burns and Rivers Project". It's all to be in the spirit of Robert Burns, if not always in the same style. I think the job is basically to encourage folks to look around and be inspired by what they see, read or hear and put their findings into song. Adapting existing works applies too. Burns and the likes did that kind of thing a great deal.

I've just finished moving the studio around. There was too much computer whirring going on and it's been a mammoth task to get the equipment arranged so that the computer and power supply can be in the ante room. I'm still disorientated (or disoriented if you're American).

I've only received positive comments re " The Naked Truth Volume 2 ". I'm glad so thanks a lot. It can be bought from the site via paypal <http://www.ianbruce.org/naked%202.htm>

Oh! Well. That's the hard sell done again for another month.

Tony and I are working in the restaurant tonight and then making the sojourn south to Sidmouth for a couple of days. I'm looking forward to showing him around. I love it. Unfortunately, I'm not performing there this year but, I'm hoping the festival continues (There is some doubt as I believe Mrs. Casey's music is pulling out. Maybe someone could confirm this?!!) and that I do have further bookings there.

I'd better go and get ready.

See you around.

Best wishes.

Ian Bruce

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website: www.ianbruce.org

Editor's note

I have been reading the messages on the website guestbook (very witty) and I was surprised that, as yet, no-one has made any comments about the new CD. I will have to rectify that !! "Naked Truth 2" is the best CD that Ian has done so far. It is a great selection of songs, mainly his own compositions (or collaborations) and three cracking songs from other songwriters. They are all performed wonderfully.

His voice is superb and he has put the same amount of feeling into each song as he would if he had an audience in front of him.

Just as in a live performance his renditions of the songs move you to laugh or cry, bring back our own memories or even see things from a different angle . There is a plus though - he doesn't break any strings!!

On "North West Passage" - Ian harmonises with himself four times and though he might not be able to reproduce it on stage (!) the effect is spine-tingling. It shows the range that his voice has.

ALL the tracks are great . I'm sure that you'll love it.

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IAN BRUCE NEWSLETTER FOR SEPTEMBER 2004

Dear All,

Sorry but no letter from Ian himself this month, he is like a "whirlwind" at the moment - never in one place for long. He has been taking part in loads of projects, doing gigs and trying to mix the next CD .

It's been a while since the last letter, but that was uncharacteristically early !

Ian has been busy working with Susie Kelly on the Vocal Chords Project - it is a community choir of a wide variety of people of all ages and backgrounds . They are doing 5 classes a week throughout Dumfries and Galloway. I went along to a few of the groups and they are very enjoyable for the participants, but a lot of work for Ian and Susie. They are so patient and well-organised! The aim is for the groups to get together at the end of the project and perform together at the Final Concert.

For the past six weeks or so, Ian and Ian Walker have been working on a project for the New Makars Trust. They have been singing and playing in old people's homes. The aim was to have the old folks talk about their past and then to incorporate their memories into new songs.

Talking of these two Ians - they have a concert on Saturday 16th October 2004 at 7.00pm Wardlawhill Parish Church, Rutherglen

Cost : £4.00 For tickets contact: Billy Stewart: tel: 01698 359326 or 07889 727254

Concert is being run by The New Makars Trust .

It will be great to see them on the stage together!

Another gig to get to, if you possibly can, is next Friday at the Bollington Folk Club. They are the most wonderful nutty people. A cracking night is guaranteed.

" The Naked Truth Volume 2 " is being very well-received. Please, if you see a review, get in touch - it would be good to see them on the web-site www.ianbruce.org .

Here is the track list - it is a great selection of songs and they are all performed wonderfully.

Labyrinth of Chance (Ian M. Bruce)	Lincoln and My Brothers (Ian M. Bruce)
Stan The Singer (Ian M. Bruce)	Yours For The Night (Ian M. Bruce/Sandy Stanage)
Northwest Passage (Stan Rogers)	Lonely Old Lady (Ian M. Bruce)
Bizzie Lizzie (Ian M. Bruce)	A Dollar a Dream (Ian M. Bruce)
Speakin' Free (Ian M. Bruce)	Love at The Five and Dime (Nanci Griffith)
Recovery (Ian M. Bruce)	Believe In Love (Ian M. Bruce/Ian Murray)
All or Nothing (Ian M. Bruce)	The Ladies Left Behind (Ian M. Bruce)
No Noise (Ian M. Bruce)	The Mind of a Child (Ian M. Bruce)
When The Bough Breaks (Ian M. Bruce/Ian J. Walker)	I Can't Sit Still (Ian M. Bruce)
Corners (Ian M. Bruce/Ian J. Walker)	My Eldorado (Graeme Miles)

If you are interested in buying a copy, there are a variety of ways to do so - from the "albums page" of the web-site using Paypal, or by post from the Plumed Horse Restaurant, or from Ian directly. His direct email is ianbruce3@aol.com .

Ian had a variety of gigs in August and September.

I saw Ian's gig as part of Peebles Arts Festival at Neidpath Castle - what a wonderful location! - great people, but they were a bit too shy to sing. They made up for it by clapping and tapping their feet in time.

On my birthday (3rd September), I saw the gig at Folk at the Manor, Monkton. It was wonderful! Everyone sang from the first song and the atmosphere was electric. What a great birthday present - even if I had to drive!

September also saw Ian at the Bromyard Festival. He said that it was great to meet up with loads of old friends. [Oi, not so old, thankyou!]. It's an area that he is fond of . He had a great time and the audience did too! Affy guid!

By all accounts the gig at the Milkmaid Folk Club, Bury St Edmunds was very enjoyable - but they forced him to eat cheesecake! I don't believe it ! Don't tempt him...he is my diet-buddy! Yes, he is on that diet again.....

Later on in October, there are gigs at two renowned Folk Clubs - Essex Singers in Bocking and the Black Diamond in Birmingham - don't miss them!

Check out the Guestbook on the website, there are some witty comments on it - if you feel like making one about the new CD, please do.

Anyway, must dash

Keep well

Elaine

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Website www.ianbruce.org

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IAN BRUCE NEWSLETTER - OCTOBER 2004

Dear All,

Hope you are well and that the weather isn't getting you down.

Sorry but no blurb directly from Ian this month. I was running out of time - I'm off to Germany for a week's holiday on Saturday, so I couldn't wait any longer for the written word. After tonight's successful Gourmet Evening at the Plumed Horse, I rang Ian and found out what has been happening.

Talk about lyrics reflecting life ! "Can't sit still!".....he has been doing so much! Never in one place for long and still trying to mix the last few tracks of the CD with the Band.

The Vocal Chords Project that Ian has been working on with Susie Kelly has come to its conclusion for this year. It is funded by the Dumfries and Galloway Arts Association. The 120 person strong community choir held its Concert in Easterbrook Hall last week. By all accounts, everyone seemed to enjoy it and as with last year's concert it as been recorded on CD.

Another project that he is working on for the DGAA is "The Rivers and Burns Project". Ian took the school children to the river along with an environmentalist. The idea was for the children to be inspired by their surroundings. It is working - several songs have already been written by the children. Ian is part of team of 4 songwriters who are helping the children to write songs.

Ian and Ian Walker had been working on a project for the New Makars Trust - singing and playing in old people's homes. Listening to the old folks stories and memories and the incorporating them into new songs. Their concert took place in a Rutherglen Church Hall (Glasgow) last Saturday. I had never seen them play a full concert together. [Very glad that I went – if you want to know about cheap flights from Exeter to Glasgow let me know.] They were both nervous at the start but that soon went. Harmonies were nice – songs were good. It would be great if they could do more concerts together. As this was Ian's old stomping ground, he met up with loads of people that he hadn't seen for ages.

The Bollington Folk Club gig was brilliant - they are the most wonderful nutty people. A cracking night! Not sure if I should say, but Lorna Davies and Arthur Wakefield got to hear mixes of their songs performed by Ian and the band. These tracks will be on the new album

Before I forget, the "albums page" of the web-site has been revamped.

The Gadget Show that had Ian singing "Westlin' Winds" has been repeated. It was a comparative test of range of Linn CD players and the

live performance.

Don't miss the next two gigs at two renowned Folk Clubs - Essex Singers in Bocking and the Black Diamond in Birmingham.

The Gig-Guide gives the dates of the German tour with the Band. More rehearsals this week!

Anyway, must dash

Keep well

Elaine

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Website www.ianbruce.org

IAN BRUCE NEWSLETTER

NOVEMBER 2004

Hi Everyone,

I'm sorry I have been AWOL in the last couple of newsletters. Things have been a little hectic. The kind of things that were nothing to tell. Thanks to Elaine for keeping up the newsletter (She too struggles for time....she did it though.)

Still working on getting that new CD out. Soon, honest! The tour, in Germany, with Stewart Hardy and Angus Lyon went down very well. They were great to work with and their stage presence was enormous.

I have to be a bighead and say, if you missed it, I believe you really missed something. It was a treat for me and, according to the responses, the audiences. Thanks to everyone who made it possible.

Incidentally, the band would be available for some British (or other) dates. You should try it!! You can tell I'm all abuzz about this batch of stuff.

I'm still very busy with the Dumfries and Galloway Schools workshops, and....enjoying them very much. I'm hoping though that the gigging is a little more intense this year. It's been a bit on the slide for one reason or another.

However, Bedworth Festival this Saturday and Sheffield on Sunday. Both favourite places of mine so I'm looking forward to it. Maybe I'll see some of you there. I hope so.

Please remember too that the website is there for gig lists, the guest book (should you want to be rude or nice to me) and, of course to buy CDs through your Paypal account.

So, it's time to get back to the mixing. I WILL GET THIS CD OUT.

All the best for now and hopefully I'll be speaking to you before Christmas.

Ian B.

www.ianbruce.org

email ianbruce3@aol.com

EDITOR'S NOTE

I have just realised that it is less than five weeks to Christmas -----

aggh I must be more organised this year -----

Naked Truth 2 would make a great present for musical friends!

Have you seen any reviews for it?

I saw this review in the December 2004 issue of fROOTS:-

Ian Bruce The Naked Truth - Volume 2 (Ruglen Records LUMS CD 0109)

Revisiting some more of his greatest favourites, the man with the huge voice does indulge in quite a few additional harmonies this time round. But this album is really just Bruce doing what he does best: singing his heart out and playing his guitar, without artifice or augmentation (or any need for it).

Have any of you seen any other reviews of Naked Truth2 ? - if you have, please let me know - it would be good to put them on the website

If you have looked at the Guest Book, you will have seen the comments about Ian and the Band's tour in Germany.

Maggie H sent me this note "Just thought you should know what a wonderful show we saw in Nurnberg when we went to see Ian's band on Saturday! It certainly lived up to our expectations and, with Ian, Stewart and Angus all gathered together in one band, it really was promising something special. Well, that's certainly what we got and, I feel sure, so did the rest of the audience. Now all we need is for them to perform over here so that others can enjoy the same."

From the Guest Book:

Oliver says "I have seen you in the 'Seefelder Mühle' this year in november. It was a brilliant concert"

Andrea and Herbert say " Thank you very much for the fantastic gig in Sonthofen. You are a really funny guy and your voice is breathtaking. Angus & Stewart also are incredible good musicians. We enjoyed this gig as much as your first one five years ago."

As much as I love Germany, why are all the Band gigs there?

I didn't see the Band this time, but I echo Maggie's sentiments - it would be good to have Band gigs in the UK !!

If anyone has a good photo from the Tour, please can we have it for the website. The photos from the recording session are on the website. There is something a bit spooky on www.ianbruce.org/tour1.jpg - can you see the orb of light? Trick of the light or of the digital camera? I wonder what the researchers from Loughborough University would make of it? Elaine (editor@ianbruce.co.uk) Back to Inde

IAN BRUCE NEWSLETTER

DECEMBER 2004

Well now.
It's Christmas again.

I'm looking forward to it. We'll be in Edinburgh. Our friend Janet Weatherston is putting up with us for the day before we go to annoy our relatives in the following couple of days.

All the schools projects are drawing to a close. All I have to do now is collate the audio files and present the CD of the songs we wrote together. Some real beauties in my opinion.

Gigs are still sparse and efforts will be made to counter that.

That's next year. There's still a very exciting part of this year to go and I hope you all enjoy it very much.

To those who bought the new CD in advance...I promise you I do still have the list of names and I'll send it to you as soon as it's around. I've been up to me t..s in work and had little time to work on it.

Anyway..be bad in a good way over the next wee while and I look forward to seeing you next year.

All the best.

Ian Bruce

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www.ianbruce.org

Editor's Note

A Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year to you all

I have just skimmed through the Newsletters for the last twelve months to give you a flavour of what has been going on as well as the folk club gigs and folk festivals.

The beginning of the year saw Ian and Vic Besch's tour of Germany and Denmark. Their tour diary was published on the BBC's Music Scotland - Celtic roots website. I will send a text version of the diary Ian up to Ian's website soon. He was also writing songs with Charlie Milne and doing Dumfries and Galloway workshops

In March and April, Ian was on the BBC Radio Scotland programme

called Songlines. The Schools projects and Burns Presentations continued and he was recording Naked Truth 2. The throat operation took place and it was found to be only a "wee cyst".

May saw Ian on the Gadget Programme on Channel 5 - taking part in a comparison of expensive hi-fi, good hi-fi and a live performance. He sang "Westlin' Winds" and the commentator chose Ian's "live" performance. In May and June, the studio was very busy and the Schools workshops continued including some Allan Ramsay ones with Dr Fred Freeman.

July and August saw the start of the recording of the next CD "Demons Danced" with Stewart Hardy, Angus Lyon, Marc Duff, Shaun Blandford and Gordon Gallacher. Ian became one of the tutors on the DGAA "Burns and rivers project".

September and October saw Ian working with Susie Kelly on the DGAA "Vocal Chords Project " to form a Community Choir and with Ian Walker on a New Makars Trust project to write songs from the reminiscences of old people. The Vocal Chords workshop attendees formed a 120 strong community choir for a concert in Easterbrook Hall and the two Ian's played a concert in Rutherglen, Glasgow.

November saw the German tour with Stewart Hardy and Angus Lyon. There was lots of good feedback including this comment from Andrea and Herbert on the guestbook of the website " Thank you very much for the fantastic gig in Sonthofen. You are a really funny guy and your voice is breathtaking. Angus & Stewart also are incredible good musicians. We enjoyed this gig as much as your first one five years ago."

The workshops with the DGAA continues and the mixing of the new CD is almost finished.

A busy man !

Don't forget Ian and Vic Besch's last gig of 2004 (or first gig of 2005!) at the Kenbridge Hotel.

Anyway, I must away and get busy as well.....last visit to the shops and then more wrapping.....and then delivering them.

Hope you all have a great time. Best wishes for 2005!

Elaine Hawkins

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IAN'S NEWSLETTER JANUARY 2005

Dear all,

A very Happy and Healthy 2005 to you all.

I hope you all had a lovely time at Christmas and celebrated New Year's Eve in style.

Those of us who saw the Ian and Vic Besch gig at the Ken Bridge Hotel in New Galloway certainly did. Great fun!

By all accounts the gigs are going well - good crowds and craic. From the German tour schedule, it looks as though they have only had four "non-gig" days in 18 days – the reason why Ian hasn't sent any blurb for the Newsletter!

Ian's partner Tony was in Germany for part of the tour and he said that he has come back home for a rest ! Running the restaurant (Plumed Horse in Cross Michael) is less tiring than all the travelling (and socializing!)

By the way, the latest copy of the THE MICHELIN GUIDE GREAT BRITAIN & IRELAND 2005 was issued this month and the results for Scotland can be seen at <http://www.michelin.co.uk/travel/scotland.htm>

The Plumed Horse is there in the MICHELIN GUIDE STAR HISTORY 1974-2005: SCOTLAND.

Did you celebrate Robert Burns' birthday on 25/1/05?

It was also Ian's birthday on the 21/1/05 and that coincided with the gig with Big Matten at Aerzen, Domänenburg – I'm sure a good time was had by all. We may hear something about it in the next Newsletter - unless he's decided that he is getting too old for birthdays!

It's an important big birthday for Ian next year, but I haven't told you that!

Genevieve Tudor's interview with Ian was broadcast on Sunday 23/1/05. The interview was about his 6 favourite folk tracks - those that influenced him - or ones he likes for a specific reason. It's called "6 of the Best - a bit like Desert Island Discs." His choices can be seen at http://www.bbc.co.uk/shropshire/music/folk/folk_playlist.shtml.

Hopefully, next month we will have a missive from himself !

All the best

Elaine Hawkins

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Ian's website is www.ianbruce.org

Ian's direct email address is ianbruce3@aol.com [Back to Index](#)

FEBRUARY - MARCH 2005

Hi Everyone,

I feel I haven't been in touch for a wee while now. Sorry and, once again, thanks to Elaine for keeping the letter on the go.

A few things.

1) I no longer have a British Agent. Oscar Music and I decided to part company. We're still friends (I hope). I just wanted to be a bit more in control of my affairs. If any of you fancy having me along to your local club or festival, I'd really appreciate a call. My number is.....

01556 670001 and Mobile 07736 807272.

I will be phoning around and my trusty friend Elaine will be helping me along. (01752 224708)

Incidentally, one of the reasons for my parting with the agency is the amount of isolated gigs. e.g. Norwich last month and Arundel next month. If anyone can come up with any helpful last minute gigs to surround Arundel, that would be great. I have a couple of possibilities already but more would be welcome (see postscript)

2) My Danish agent is also no longer. Again if anyone can help in this regard I'd be most grateful.

3) Very soon I will be updating the website. It will contain press information and full quality jpgs as downloads.

4) Did I tell you that I'd sold my motorbike? Sad but true. I will, hopefully buy another next year but will do without for the moment. It's gone to somebody that's going to take much more care of it than I did. I loved it but it was treated very much like a work tool. I'm sorry 'wee' bike!!

5) Did I tell you about the car accident? When the elderly lady (84) drove fast into my parked car in Crossmichael, just near our restaurant, which in turn, rammed me, sending me flying in the air and leaving me with a few nasty aches and pains? Well...She managed to write my car off. Not bad considering it was only 8 months old. They have to supply a new one under the terms of my insurance policy. It arrives at the end of this month. I hope it lasts a little longer than the last one.

6) Still not had quality time to finish the new CD but it will be soon. Once again, I apologise to all those who have pre-ordered.

7) I was at my nephew's wedding at the weekend. A great do, up in Dunkeld. Congratulations to Julie and Jamie.

That's about it from me I think. Hopefully I can fill the gig list a bit and then see you there.

Cheers.

Ian Bruce

direct email : ianbruce3@aol.com

www.ianbruce.org

EDITOR'S NOTES: since Ian wrote this Newsletter, Hamledon and Plymouth have been added around the Arundel gig, but If anyone can come up with any helpful last minute gigs to surround Claygate, Surrey on 3/6/05 that would be great. I wasn't sure where it was - apparently it is quite near London!

In the January Newsletter, I mentioned the interview with Genevieve Tudor that was broadcast on Radio Shropshire on 23/1/05. Please get in touch if you are interested in hearing the interview. Genevieve said that at present there isn't a "listen again" feature on the BBC website, but her programme is broadcast from 8 - 10 on a Sunday night - and it can be heard over the internet by going to www.bbc.co.uk/shropshire or www.bbc.co.uk/stoke or <http://www.bbc.co.uk/herefordandworcester>.

It's well worth a listen - check out the playlist on the www.bbc.co.uk/shropshire website - follow the links via music.

Happy listening and have a Happy Easter

Elaine editor@ianbruce.co.uk

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NEWSLETTER FOR APRIL 2005

Hello everyone.

It's nearing the end of April 2005. Hard to believe. Where does all the time go?

What can I tell you? Ah yes. The CD, my best one to date (without doubt) is finally at the printers. It'll be with me in about a week so all you folks who pre-ordered will receive your copy soon. Sorry about the delay. I hope you'll think the wait was worth it.

Dr. Fred Freeman and I have one or two things on the go.

1. We are going out as The Burns Unit and will be pushing to do presentations within and outwith the UK. We're part way through organizing an American tour and have taken/hired a couple of venues during the Edinburgh Festival Fringe (August). Knowing how it goes down both here and abroad, we're confident it should work out fine.

2. We're recording a CD of Allan Ramsay songs in July; Fred, Marc Duff, Angus Lyon and myself. It should be quite a CD. Those songs are great, as are those players and Fred's production.

3. We've even gone and bought ourselves a "dot com". Not cheap but we think it's worth it.

The website will be www.theburnsunit.com but it is empty at the moment. I'll be updating it (and www.ianbruce.org) quite soon.

The few gigs I've done recently have been very satisfying....Arundel, Plymouth, The Wee Folk Club (Edinburgh) and maybe a few others I have not discussed here.

I still enjoy this job and feel grateful that the reaction seems favourable. So...thank you.

I'll be recording Janet Weatherston's second CD in a month or so. It will probably be done live in a small venue somewhere up in Edinburgh. Watch this space. If it is done that way, we would encourage those who are willing to belt it out from the audience. (In reasonable tune)

Anyway, I've rambled on long enough.

Here's a pic of "The Demons' Dance" front cover. Please buy one (or two). I know you'll enjoy this one (big head).

I'm looking forward to Cleckheaton Festival.

Best wishes.

Ian Bruce

direct email ianbruce3@aol.com

website www.ianbruce.org

EDITOR'S NOTES

The new album willl shortly be available from the website at £10 + postage

It's always nice to get photos for the web-site or to hear how a gig went. Please tell me or perhaps write about it in the guestbook on the website.

The concert that I organised on 21/4/05 in Plymouth was absolutely brilliant. Ian was on great form and his voice was superb. New songs went down well and everyone joined in the choruses - we were in good voice too! I spoke to Chris Davis (club organiser) and he said that he couldn't speak highly enough about Ian's performance and the gig at the Famous Willows Folk Club - rousing choruses, loads of comments about Ian's amazing voice and his dynamic and entertaining performance. Good stuff! Spread the word !

Look after yourselves,

Elaine

editor@ianbruce.co.uk

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IAN BRUCE NEWSLETTER - MAY 05

Hello again,

Once again a little late in getting this to Elaine for her usual processing. I have been busy getting the new CDs sent out (yes it's finally here) and updating the website. Snowed under.

The reaction to this CD has been fantastic. I'm glad after all the hard work put in to it. Thanks to all of you who patiently awaited its release although you ordered it so long ago. You should have it by now and I hope you're enjoying it.

It looks like this...

[Please click the cover to purchase a copy via PAYPAL. \(You'll be able to hear soundbites too.\)](#)

Other news is that Dr. Fred Freeman and myself are actively seeking work in the field of Robert Burns and have taken the domain name www.theburnsunit.com and that site is also being worked on.

In the near future all promo pics and bumf will be available as downloads. It's so much easier for everyone that way.

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The Bawdy Ballads (Burns dirty stuff) at the Ayr Burns festival. That got a lot of media attention. I'm not sure if my mother would have approved but there we are.

Bollington Folk Club was its usual self. Very good.

Crocketford Festival, a local one for me was great. Lots of nostalgia working a proper gig with Ian Walker again. It was fabulous. Thanks for all the kind comments afterwards.

Well, I'm still rushing about doing this that and the next thing so, I'll hand you back to Elaine, who frankly has better things to do but she finds time to send out these letters. Thanks to her once more.

I hope to see some of you at the up and coming gigs.

All the best for now,

Ian

direct email address : ianbruce3@aol.com

website www.ianbruce.org

EDITOR'S NOTES

Dear all,

Hope you all had a great Bank Holiday and managed to include some live music in it. What a scorcher it was in the South!

Ian is getting forgetful in his old age. He forgot to tell you a wonderful piece of news.

Tony has been named Scottish Chef of the Year. An article from the Scotsman of Monday 9th May is at this link
<http://news.scotsman.com/index.cfm?id=497092005>

Headline was "Chef claims cooking's 'Oscar' after three times on shortlist "

First few lines of article by CRAIG BROWN are "A MICHELIN-starred cook from Dumfries and Galloway was named Scottish Chef of the Year last night at the culinary equivalent of the Oscars. Tony Borthwick of The Plumed Horse at Crossmichael was named winner of the coveted title at the Scottish Chef Awards, held in the Radisson Hotel, Glasgow. " Well done Tony ! A very well deserved award. Restaurant website is <http://www.plumedhorse.co.uk>

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It was called The Merry Muses of Caledonia and it was premiered at the Festival. It had an all-star cast featuring **Fred Freeman, Wendy Weatherby, Gillian McDonald, Tich Frier, Sandy Brechin, Marc Duff, Frank McLaughlin** and John Morran as well as Oor Ian. It would be good to see it touring the Scottish Folk Festivalsand the English ones as well!

Their website, and presumably the literature of the Festival, made it very clear that it was for " **Over 18's only - contains adult material** " [!http://www.burnsfestival.com/site2003/DOCS/](http://www.burnsfestival.com/site2003/DOCS/)

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Has anyone got a copy of the reviews?

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It's a brilliant album - all the tracks are great - Ian is on superb form and the musicians are just "CLASS".

A COOL or AWESOME CD - as my nieces would say !

It deserves exposure on national radio! Anybody got any contacts?

Heard great reports about the gigs in Bollington and Cocketford . I would have loved to have been at Bollington and seen the concerts with Ian Walker, but life isn't like a Harry Potter book and it isn't possible to be in two places at once! Can we have some more of the two Ian concerts please?

Anyway look after yourselves.

Come along to the Kingsbridge gig if you can - lovely part of the country! Nice people !

All the best

Elaine

editor@ianbruce.co.uk

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IAN BRUCE NEWSLETTER FOR JUNE 2005

Well Hello Again,

Sometimes I wonder if they get through or even if folks delete them before reading but nevertheless this is the 10 year anniversary of these newsletters. I might have given them up years ago had it not been for the gentle persistence of Elaine. Thank you Elaine.

Life's taken a few different twists and turns in that time both personally and musically.

The personal side has seen my moving from Scotland to Germany and back, my mother's passing, my coming out, finding my partner Tony and settling down into a home life that I still enjoy very much.

The music side has had me buy and constantly upgrade the studio, involve traditional and Robert Burns material where once I was just the stubborn singer/songwriter, find myself working on the continent on a very regular basis and latterly working closely with the Dumfries & Galloway Arts Association and Dumfries & Galloway Council within schools and disabled communities to great satisfaction. I've joined Oscar Music Agency and only recently left again.

Heidi retired from Agency work in Germany as did Mike Dinsmore in USA. Ingrid and Manfred Buchwald have taken up those German reins and done a great job for me.

Seem to have lost touch with Dave Tearney in Holland. Shame. Svend and Dorthe Larsen have taken up the Danish challenge recently – I'm looking forward to their results!

Any help in that regard could be very handy.

In fact, if I could encourage Folk Clubs to comment on my Guestbook then please do. I promise I won't edit out any bad stuff. Maybe star ratings (Suggest out of 5 might be a good or very very bad idea.)

PLEASE SIGN THE GUEST BOOK

Great times were had in Poland, Holland, Germany, Denmark, USA and all the countries in Great Britain. So many good musicians too. I'm not going to list them because sure as hell I'd miss one out.

I'm very lucky.

Quite a few CDs were released in that time. I'll make some personal comment on them but you can hear every track of all my CDs on www.ianbruce.org.

THE NAKED TRUTH Vol 1 - I couldn't believe the response that CD got and still gets. Its simplicity nearly persuaded me not to release it but I'm glad I did. Not only is it one of my best sellers but it gave me a little more confidence. "If that material with all its simplicity is being appreciated by folks who have control of the off button at home then maybe my live performance is worthwhile after all." I thought. Thanks to you all for the positive comments.

A KIND AND GENTLE NATURE - I really liked the songs on this CD and the different style due to the involvement of 'Belshazzar's Feast' with the violin and oboe of Paul Sartin and accordion style of Paul Hutchinson. His is very different from all the accordion players I've worked with. Not surprisingly he has a more English approach. It was a shock at first but I got to love it. (I do really like English folk music. Don't tell those hard nosed Scots.) When 'Up There With 'Em', the first track to be recorded, defaulted to a kletsmer style I nearly called the whole thing off. I'm glad I didn't. The songs contained within are personal favourites of my writings. It's a little rough around the edges but buyers frequently extol its virtues. Thanks to them.

ANNIE LAURIE - This is a four track release. It was intended as a BREEZEBAND demo. All the tracks are quite different. The title track, in my humble opinion, is a smashing version of that old song from South West Scotland. Its final track is the first song that I ever wrote and kept. The oboe on it is stunning. Had this been recorded in my own studio, there would have been a greater presence. Nevertheless it was well received.

HODDEN GREY - Traditional Scottish music produced by Dr. Fred Freeman and recorded by yours truly. I can't begin to thank every one for the nice comments and reviews. I'm very proud of this CD. It followed my work on 'The Complete Songs of Robert Burns' with Dr. Fred. (Linn Records) A natural transition. It's such a sweet CD I'd rather it spoke for itself. Give it a listen if you haven't already.

By the way....many folks say they can't listen to their own CDs. I think that's ridiculous. There's all that camaraderie and personal memory in each recording. It's wonderful. Further by the way...I do have a problem listening to My Naked Truth CDs. There's no

camaraderie there just me whom I hear every bloody night.)

ALLOWAY TALES - This is a compilation of the Robert Burns songs I recorded for The Linn Project. We recorded a further 5 tracks and two of those subsequently went onto the series. Very well received and sold quite well. I can say no more.

JIGS JIVES AND JACOBITES - Recorded live in Glasgow. It was originally released on my own label as 'By The Riverside' and our band was called 'IANIANIAN' simply because we were all called 'Ian' (Iain Fraser was the awkward one who has the two 'i's - the rest of us are cyclopeses.) Linn Records took a shine to the CD and released it as Jigs, Jives and Jacobites and changed our quite comical and memorable name to 'The Ian Bruce Band'. They gave it a real nice cover which actually gives no clue to the CD's content which is a little rough at times. I really like this CD myself. Again it was well received apart from the odd critic who can't understand the significance of the odd deceptively simple lyric. Huh!

THE ORANGE AND THE ROWAN - Working with Victor Besch was the brain child of Heidi Stagge, my ex German agent who did so much for me. He, although British with a Chilean mum speaks amazing German (and Spanish), plays bagpipes, accordion, recorder, guitar, piano and sings and is an all round good guy to work with. We do this tour of Germany every January which goes down a treat. The CD is simple and was always intended as a companion to the tour. Every now and then I give it a listen and grin. It's a little tongue in cheek but I like it a lot. (What a big head.)

THE NAKED TRUTH Vol 2 - Having had such success with THE NAKEDTRUTH VOL 1 and so many requests for a follow up. I did it.....9 years later! Since I had difficulty listening to Vol 1 personally, I thought the addition of harmonies and the odd extra guitar bit would help it along. It probably does but I still can't listen to something that's just me. Some folks may be shocked by the spoof on the Cerne Abbas Giant on the front and especially the one on the inside. I'll blame my friend Mark for that idea. I think it's funny.

THE DEMON'S DANCE - This one has just been released. There is no question in my mind that this is definitely the best CD I have ever made – I look forward to selling you a copy at a gig soon !!

Now we're about to record a batch of Allan Ramsay songs. That'll make 10 releases in ten years. That's pretty good I think.

There have been many smashing and friendly places I've played in that time and I'm very grateful to everyone for all the support given during these last ten years.

Elaine has taken over my bookings and I have confidence that she'll have me busying about the place in the not too distant future.

So, I'm still very much up for it and hope we'll meet many times in the next 10 years.

Cheers all

Ian
Email : ianbruce3@aol.com
Website: www.ianbruce.org

EDITOR'S RAMBLINGS

Hi there,
Hot enough for you? We had an incredible thunder storm this morning. June went in a flash, but I did get to see the gig in Kingsbridge which was very good. The people were so friendly and the new songs went down a storm.

Ian has gone back to school – wine school!! He has just attended a wine course in Glasgow run by the Wines and spirits Educational Trust (something to do with the Portman Group). Results in 4 weeks. On Monday he is doing a course on “wine pouring” – do you graduate to “wine drinking” ? Tee hee

Cleckheaton Festival next week - it's a good one!

On the business side of things, if you would like to book Ian or if you know of a likely club, please let me know. I'm very new to this, but very enthusiastic about Ian's music. Any help would be appreciated.

If you see any reviews or take any photos, it would be useful to have them.

Many thanks and happy listening,

Elaine

editor@ianbruce.co.uk

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Anyway look after yourselves.

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All the best

Elaine

editor@ianbruce.co.uk

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IAN BRUCE NEWSLETTER FOR JULY 2005

Hello everyone,

I'm down in Richmond at Tony's parents. There was a big birthday party last night and somebody must've poured a load of wine down my throat. Oooh! My head.

Not much to report this month but we have made a good start with the Allan Ramsay CD so hopefully we can complete it soon.

I enjoyed the Monmouth gig and played at a wedding for the first time. "Who was that strange man with the guitar?" was the main question that evening.

Anyway, rehearsing for the Burns' gigs at the Edinburgh Festival next month. I'm sure it will be fine but the squeamish should be aware that the concerts in The Spiegel Tent will contain very obscene language. Don't bring your children or your 'square' head.

Just bought a Fylde Cittern and it is marvellous. Marc Duff is quite green. Shame really but it pleases me a tinge. Sorry Marc.

More equipment keeps sneaking into the studio. TC Electronics Powercore this time. Wow. It's great.

What a short note! Is that it? I think so. Over to Elaine.

See you soon.

Ian.

direct email ianbruce3@aol.com

website www.ianbruce.org

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IAN BRUCE NEWSLETTER FOR OCTOBER

2005

Hello everyone,
It's been a wee while.

Things are good at the moment. The studio has been very busy. We've finished Robert Shields CD and quite brilliant it is. He lives in our village but he promises to be a whole lot more global than that. He won that Paul McCarney youth songwriting thingummybob last year etc. See the proper detail on his website www.robertshields.co.uk. We're looking forward to the CD launch on Sunday. (Lochside theatre) I'm doing a couple of songs too. I'm sure Paul McCartney will be very pleased to know that. (No I don't think he'll be there.)

In the middle of recording a local band called, wait for it, The Dangleberries. Loads of bagpipes and drums. It's really spirited stuff and they too are very popular.

Just recorded a band of 11 and 12 year old boys. Again local. I can't believe the sound. It's great. Loads of attitude and determination. Oh how I wish I'd started younger.

Also, Janet Weatherston's second CD is to be completed soon. I can't wait to get that one done. It sounds fantastic. Definitely for the traditionalists though.

Oh, and of course I've done a few gigs recently. Over in Germany. 8 Gigs and very well attended when not sold out. It's good for the soul and confidence when that stuff goes on.

The Allan Ramsay CD has taken a bit of a back seat due to workload but hopefully we'll be returning to that very soon.

One or two gigs coming up and I'm sure Elaine will put you in the picture there.

Please come along. I miss seeing quite so much of you of late.
Bye for now.

Ian

direct email ianbruce3@aol.com

Website www.ianbruce.org

EDITOR'S RAMBLINGS

Dear all,
Hope you are all well on this Halloween. Did you remember to put your clocks back yesterday?
Nights are drawing in and there is a nip in the air.

Sorry there hasn't been a Newsletter for the last couple of months, but Ian has been so busy and I figured that you didn't really want to hear from me! I have been busy contacting clubs and getting in touch with folk

magazines.

If you spot any new mags or if any new clubs have opened in your area, please let me know.

I've had a listen to Robert Shields CD - I was really impressed by it - the lyrics are so mature for a young man - and what a great voice! Ian has done a brilliant job at capturing the sound that Robert wanted. You can read more about the award at <http://www.makeitbreakit.org/winners.htm>

Talking of great albums - "The Demons' Dance " is receiving good reviews. I spotted this one <http://www.netrhythms.co.uk/reviewsb.html#ianbruce>. Also I have translated Mike Kamp's positive review that appeared in Sept/Oct edition of the German magazine Folker, but before I send it to the website, Mike is going to check it for me for any errors.

Anyway, keep safe on Bonfire Night (5/11). In the next Newsletter, I'll give you details of how the gigs for 2006 are shaping up.

Best wishes

Elaine Hawkins
editor@ianbruce.co.uk

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IAN BRUCE NEWSLETTER FOR DECEMBER 2005

Hello everybodeeee,

It's nearly christmas and I feel up for it. The house is decorated and folks are coming to stay with us over the season. I like that. This year it'll be Elaine, your newsletter editor and agent of yours truly, Victor Besch and his new lady friend and Christina Harrison is coming over early in the new year with her hubby to record a new CD. Life feels good, if not hectic.

I'm just finishing off The Dangl'berries CD (bagpipes and lots of drums). It's good. I look forward to its completion.

I have a few gigs coming up in December. I hope they go well. Again I feel up for it.

For those of you who are into guitars, I bought myself a new Martin OOO28 VS. It's really lovely. What a shame that within three weeks of having it a music stand fell on it and cracked the front. Split the wood and left a nasty dent. Ouch! It's in hospital (Jimmy Moon) as we 'speak'.

There's the usual upgrading of studio equipment still going on. DM3200 digital desk, Carillon dual processor computer loads of acoustic cladding (MAX WALL).

Are you still awake? I'll stop all that talk now. You're probably bored enough.

We're still in the middle of doing the Christmas cards so, some will be late. Sorry about that.

I have a concert coming up in March. It's an important one. It's my local theatre (THE LOCHSIDE). I'm going to have to keep plugging it. If this one doesn't work out I'm going to have to leave town. It's a beautiful theatre which holds 200 folks. I need people there or I can't walk back into the pub. I've decided to do it absolutely solo. I'm really quite scared to be honest. Please support me if you have the slightest possibility or inclination.

It's on the 4th March

2006 WWW.LOCHSIDETHEATRE.CO.UK BOOKINGS It's been a decent year for Tony and I. We hope for same or better next year. I wish that for all of you too. I'm sure Elaine will add her bit to the end of this. Best wishes. Ian

Bruce email ianbruce3@aol.com www.ianbruce.org

~~~~~  
FROM THE EDITOR

At this time of the year I normally skim through the Newsletters for

the last twelve months to give the new readers a flavour of what has been going on, sorry I have just run out of time. The old Newsletters are on the website at <http://www.ianbruce.org/pages/communicationsetc/comms.htm>

THE DEMONS' DANCE was released during the year - it has had great reviews - here are two <http://www.netrhythms.co.uk/reviewsb.html#ianbruce> and <http://www.folkmusic.net/htmlfiles/webrevs/lumscd0110.htm>

It would be great if the gig in Ian's home town was a sell-out. If you are interested in lift-sharing with others from your area let me know, I may be able to put you in touch with others.

Please contact me by email or phone re bookings for Ian

[editor@ianbruce.co.uk](mailto:editor@ianbruce.co.uk)

01752 224708 or Mobile 07834 439219

Best wishes for a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year

Elaine

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# IAN BRUCE NEWSLETTER FOR FEBRUARY 2006

Hi Everyone,

Without the slightest prompt from Elaine, I've remembered to write my 'monthly' newsletter.

It must've been a good month or something. Yes indeed, that's what it was!

But first....We had news that Victor Besch, my January music partner, was seriously ill. Cancer in the kidney. That scared us all. Despite that he came over to Scotland and we did the Kenbridge Hogmanay together. A good night seemed to be had by all. I certainly did. However, the German tour was different this year. As Vic had had his kidney removed on 10th Jan he was deemed unfit for work and the tour reduced to 'solo'. A few gigs were cancelled but in the it went well. Especially Steinfeld and Heiligenhaus.

Actually, Heiligenhaus took place on my 50th birthday (21st January). I hadn't really fancied the prospect of working on that grim anniversary but it is always a favourite gig of mine. Fortunately that one was no exception. Thanks to everyone there who helped me get over that traumatic day.

Tony was with me for 11 days. We had a great time together and, of course, I was pleased that he could be with me on the big birthday.

Having finished the German tour and been very pleased with it, and I think they me, the icing on the cake was that the doctors were pleased with Vic and the news is that the cancer was all contained within the kidney and that he's OK. The next check up is April but they're mighty confident. Big relief there.

So, all being well with us both, we'll be back on the road next January.

Well. Denmark followed Germany. It's the first time I'd worked with Dorthe, Svend and Jacob as agents. What great people. Also the tour was fabulous. Well done them. Again, all being well I'll be back over there in March 2007.

So, I'm back home now and my greatest concern is that in a couple of weeks I have my 'local' concert coming off (4/3/06). It's probably one of the most scary things I've ever done. Castle Douglas is a bit off the beaten track and the locals probably won't know who the hell Ian Bruce is nor care. We' ll see.

If you fancy coming along, which would be fabulous, it's at the LOCHSIDE THEATRE, Castle Douglas. It's a great venue. Holds 200 and I'm hoping for more than 10.

If you do fancy it, please book your tickets as soon as possible (£6.50)  
Phone 01556 504506.

So, I think that's it from me. I hope you are all well. I'm not too sure when you'll receive this but I either hope you will have or have had a great Valentine's day. Lots of red roses and good food/wine.

Best wishes

Ian  
email [ianbruce3@aol.com](mailto:ianbruce3@aol.com)  
[www.ianbruce.org](http://www.ianbruce.org)

~~~~~

Editor's Ramblings

Dear all

Sorry for not getting this out sooner - I received it on Monday morning - in time to send you Valentine's greetings!

Many apologies and all I can say is I hope you enjoy your pancakes on Shrove Tuesday 28/2 and Happy St David's Day to all you Welsh folk on 1/3/06

It would be great if the gig in Ian's home town on Saturday 4/3/06 was a sell-out. If you are interested in lift-sharing with others from your area let me know, I may be able to put you in touch with some others. Strange, Ian is used to playing large concert venues all over the world, but he's really quite nervous at the prospect of playing to a home audience!

Some of you may already know, but just in case you haven't caught up with it yet.....

The Spring Gourmet Evenings in Tony's Michelin starred restaurant "The Plumed Horse" in Crossmichael, near Castle Douglas are on Thursday and Friday, 2nd & 3rd March. The restaurant's website is <http://www.plumedhorse.co.uk/index.htm> .

Superb menu of 9 courses at £42.50 per person, with a matching wines option at £27.50 per person available if required.

On the Saturday 4th March, the restaurant will be doing a post-theatre supper for concert goers only - a simpler style of menu of 3 courses for £25.00.

So you could make a weekend of it ! Wonderful food from the Scottish Chef of the Year, wonderful music from Oor Ian and exploring the picturesque landscape of Dumfries and Galloway.

Tony has said that if anyone is thinking of making a mini-weekend of it, they can contact him by phone for local accomodation details - 01556 670333.

If you or you club are interested in booking Ian, please contact me by email or phone editor@ianbruce.co.uk 01752 224708 or Mobile 07834 439219 .

All best wishes

Elaine Hawkins

editor@ianbruce.co.uk

PS anyone volunteering to give Ian the belated bumps (50 !)?

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Ian Bruce NEWSLETTER JULY 2007

Hi everyone.

Have you missed me?

It's been a year of ups and downs, twists and turns. Since my last letter Tony and I have upped sticks and moved from the big farmhouse to a two bedroom flat on the banks of the water of Leith in Edinburgh. The studio has all been packed into the spare bedroom until I can find alternative accommodation for it.

There's been no hurry to do that or go searching for loads of gigs most of our energy has been focused on the new restaurant, our main reason for the dramatic move. We've opened The Plumed Horse in Henderson Street, Leith (0131 554 5556), experienced a few ups downs and ups again and now that it's well on the way it's time to focus a little more on my own business.

I'm starting to plan CDs and get a hold of folks to try to fill the itinerary again. On that score, if you've any ideas we'd be glad of them. I never really got around to promoting the last CD very much. Shame. I think it's one of my best.

I never got around to completing the DVD. Shame too but maybe I'll get around to it sometime.

The German and Danish tours have been working out well

Meanwhile, I'm back recording with Dr. Fred Freeman and contemplating some other bits and pieces with him. All a bit vague at the moment but it should all come together soon.

This year will see me doing a couple of concerts at the Edinburgh Fringe.

It's my local fest now you know. One wee solo at The Wee Folk Club on August 8th and another with my old pal and writing partner Ian Walker at the Acoustic Music Centre at St. Bride's Centre on August 11th.

I'm really looking forward to working with him again. I've called that show The Two Ians' Greatest Hits. A hit in folk music terms is if you've had it requested more than a couple of times so, it's a little tongue in cheek. Although we have had a bit of success with a song or two between us when I look back.

I hope folks will come along. We probably need 100 of an audience to make it feel right.

There are other things coming up too. It's all still on the website. I hope

to be sending to you again regularly so you will be updated.

Well. We're taking a short holiday. We're off to boiling hot Rhodes for a week. We just need to get away for a while. Everything has been taking it out of us. So a week of doing ...er.....as little as possible sounds just great.

I'm sure me ol' buddy Elaine will do her appendage here and fill you in with the wee bits and bobs I've forgotten.

It's time for some late night ironing.

Best wishes and I certainly hope the world is treating you all well. Tell me about it if you would like. Cheers for now.

Ian Bruce

Note from Editor

Dear all,

I hope you are all well.

I am sending this out on Friday 13th, good job I'm not superstitious!

I promise I have been nagging for the Newsletter over the last year.... better late than never.

I was pleased to see that Ian thinks my memory is better than his.....

Just a few weeks ago Ian was at the Teignmouth Festival. It's down here in Devon. The folks are friendly and despite the terrible weather, everyone had a great time. Ian had a stressful journey down - if you see Ian ask him if he has been to Southampton recently. That's a bit cryptic but it was a talking point all weekend. Nothing to do with his navigational skills I hastened to add!

Here are a few websites that you may like to check out:-

<http://www.plumedhorse.co.uk/index.htm> Ian has revamped the website

<http://www.acousticmusiccentre.co.uk/gigs/twoians.html> - it has directions to St Brides which is at 10 Orwell Terrace, Edinburgh

<http://www.ianbruce.org/pages/mainpages/albums.htm> - summer sale

Keep an eye on Ian's website for new gigs and their links.

Better go now.

Here's hoping that the weather improves.

Best wishes

Elaine Hawkins

editor@ianbruce.co.uk

NEWS OF IAN BRUCE 29/11/07

Dear all,

Hope you are all well.

Ian is under the weather at the moment. His symptoms sounding like "distemper" !

Hopefully he will be fully recovered soon!

Cas from Wales has passed on the following information.

Ian was in Pontardawe, Wales recently for a gig and whilst he was there he recorded an interview with Frank Hennessy for his Celtic Heartbeat radio programme.

It was broadcast on Saturday 24/11/07, but is available "on-line" via the "listen again facility for the next few days.

The link is <http://www.bbc.co.uk/radio/aod/mainframe.shtml?>

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/radio/aod/wales.shtml>

If that link doesn't work go to <http://www.bbc.co.uk/wales/radiowales/> and then click on the "listen again section" on the right hand side of the page.

This gives you a choice of programmes - choose "Celtic Heartbeat".

He sang "Then The Rain Came" live, and Frank played "Blue Denim Days" and "Westlin' Winds"

[Albums "The Demon's Dance", "Naked truth vol 1" and "Alloway

Tales"]

The interview was very amusing and well worth a listen.

If you are unable to hear it for any reason, let me know, I'll send you a copy.

I keep nagging about the Newsletters. I will have to get sterner. As next week is December, I'm sure there will be a Newsletter for Christmas/ New Year, so I've only included the next few gigs!

They are

1/12/07...Penicuik Folk Club, Craigiebiel House Hotel, Bog Road, Penicuik ...01968-678673

20/12/07...Rolling Hills Folk Club, The King's Arms, Melrose, Roxburghshire contact rolling.hills1@btinternet.com

Best Wishes

Elaine (Hawkins)

DECEMBER 2007

Hello and Merry "ho-ho" Christmas,

There you are! I can be jolly etc. What on earth was Elaine talking about when she said I have dis-temper. I think I'm quite a placid guy!

Now. With that awful pun out of the way; let's carry on with this.

I have indeed been pretty ill with a man-flu to beat 'em all. Tony had it too. We're still just coming out of it. (No pun intended.) Sorry to Quarter Folk club and to Newton Stewart for the last minute cancellations, but I was just hit like a sudden fall of bricks.

Also, for the last four months I've suffered a thing called plantar fasciitis. It's heel pain. Probably caused by suddenly walking a lot, in Rhodes, without properly supportive shoes. It's not helped by being on my feet a lot in the restaurant. Especially in the cellar where the floors are concrete. Ouch! I'm having ultra sound treatment but not convinced that it's doing much good.

The music's been taking a bit of a back seat but I'm still keen to gig a bit. There are a few things coming up that I'm really looking forward to. Obviously, the German tour, which I always enjoy is again in place this January, but, the ones I'm really looking forward to are the March and

April ones. They're all a wee bit special and places I have not played before.

"Music in the Castle" is set somewhere in beautiful Argyle. I think there are about 50-70 places and the idea is to be there all day, come to the gig and stay overnight. Sounds like a great party to me.

The others, I'm sure, Elaine can tell you more about. I've been over to one of them and it has a great feeling. Good scones too.

The restaurant is coming into its own now. 2008 Bodes well. We keep our fingers crossed too. It's strange having a salary again. Feels good. However, the gigs are still really important to me and we'll be making an effort to get a few in the diary this year. Please fill in the gaps if you can. Your friendly folk singer needs you.

I can't think of too much more to bore you with so I'll sign off and hope you all have a great time over the Festive Season. I'm looking forward to it. I'm even writing Christmas cards. I started two weeks ago and they're still here. Some will definitely arrive late but that's better than last year when even Tony's mum didn't get one due to the restaurant opening.

Oh! One more thing. Remember that my CDs do make great Christmas pressies. Or....if you prefer to pick you own tracks and make up your own CDs, everything is available as a download from my site.

<http://www.ianbruce.org/pages/albums/albums.htm>

Best wishes

Ian Bruce

ianbruce3@aol.com

www.ianbruce.org

Message from Editor

Dear all

I can't believe that it's only a matter a of days to Christmas. I'm slightly more organised than Ian, my cards are sent, but I think the European ones may arrive late. I have bought loads of presents, but have still to wrap them. I did say that I was going to give one small present to each recipient and buy a some goats for Africa, it may now be a much smaller herd.

In the gig list above, we have only shown the gigs to end of April 2008. Keep an eye on the website, when I have the details for the **April Tour of Denmark**, I'll post them there.

The venues of the next gigs are as follows –

23/3/08 (Easter Sunday) Music in the Castle, Benmore Centre, Argyll . An excellent weekend of Celtic music in an atmospheric castle set in the magnificent grounds of the Benmore Botanic Gardens in southern Argyll, with its giant redwood trees and 250 species of rhododendrons. The entire castle is taken over for musical and residential purposes. The event attracts overseas visitors and a large contingent from England. Inexpensive full-board accommodation is available in the castle. Weekend includes ceilidh dance, concert, workshops and informal music sessions

3/4/08 Otterton Mill, Devon Set beside the River Otter in one of Devon's most beautiful valleys - Ottertonmill has a watermill, a famous bakery and shop brim full of superb local produce, a fabulous restaurant and an art gallery. It promotes world class music . (This is the venue will the great scones)

4/4/08 The George at South Molton, N Devon great music venue

5/4/08 Blue Walnut Cafe, Torquay, Devon is a fully licensed Café, Live Music venue and Art Gallery. Contained within the Café is a unique cinema with just 24 seats where films from the early 1900s through to the present day can be seen. The food is good as well!

Later in the year, Ian will be at the Teesdale Restaurant, Denholm FC, Cramlington FC , Bollington FC , Belper FC (to name but a few), and at Sidmouth Folk Week. I will get around to sending them to the website over the next few days.

Froehliche Weihnachten, Joyeux Noel and a very Merry Christmas.

Best wishes for 2008!

Elaine Hawkins

editor@ianbruce.co.uk

PS if you want to email Ian directly with Christmas wishes, cures for heel pain, or birthday wishes in January – please do – his email address is ianbruce3@aol.com

PPS if you have any comments on gigs it would be lovely to see them on the guestbook of the website

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IAN'S NEWSLETTER MARCH 2008

Hello,

A little respite at 2.10 in the morning gives me a little time to put finger to keyboard. (I must admit, pen to paper always sounded better.)

Before any musicy things are written about I'll quickly say that I'm a little knackered because the restaurant is taking a lot out of me. But then, it's starting to give back. It's pretty difficult to get a table for Saturday's a month ahead. It's going in the right direction.

I'm glad too that I have not been totally forgotten in my role as singer songwriter. In fact there are a good few coming up.

23/03/08...Music in The Castle, Benmore Centre Argyll...01369-840404 is the first of them. <http://www.cultural-connections.co.uk/events.php>

I'm looking forward to it. It's run, or looked after by the Edinburgh Botanic Gardens. Very beautiful I'm told.

We need a few more takers. We have 40 booked and really we'd like to see quite a few more. It's such a beautiful area you should all consider coming along and staying over. It'd be like a big family party.

Elaine has organized a few others down around Devon and Cornwall. I know she'll know more about them than I do. They're mostly new to me and again, if you could show some support I'd love to see you come along.

I'm not sure if I have too much more to say but I would like to mention that I was shocked by John Wright's passing. I'm sure all of you would like to join with me in sending our condolences to his family and many many fans.

My friend, Bob Giles, from Yarrow Shipbuilders. who had long settled in Plymouth died suddenly too that week. Also the same week my friends Charlie and Yvonne lost their labrador of 16 years. It seemed for a while that many folks were losing best friends. One never knows the minute.

On that sombre note I'll finish with the hope that we will all meet again very soon. No promises though.

Scary!

Your mostly upbeat

Ian Bruce

Ianbruce3@aol.com<<mailto:Ianbruce3@aol.com>>

~~~~~

Ramblings from Editor

Hi all

Happy St Patrick's Day!

Thought you might find this interesting

In the Scotsman newspaper on Wednesday 23/1/08, there was a special Robert Burns pull-out and it lists 5 essential Burns recordings - no 1 is Rod Paterson (Songs From the Bottom Drawer) - No 2 is Ian Bruce "Alloway Tales".

It says "A fine singer of both traditional and contemporary material, Bruce is a long-standing folk-scene performer and songwriter. These grainy, gritty, yet sensitively sung and tastefully accompanied renditions come from a master of the genre"

And at no 4 in the list – it lists "The Complete Songs of Robert Burns " and says "Fred Freeman (producer) recruited some of the best traditional voices - of whom Bruce and Paterson etc are just a few"

Today The Independent Newspaper has a booklet in their 'The Great Poets' series on Robert Burns – well worth a read!

**3/4/08 Otterton Mill, Devon** Set beside the River Otter in one of Devon's most beautiful valleys - Ottertonmill has a watermill, a famous bakery and shop brim full of superb local produce, a fabulous restaurant and an art gallery. It promotes world class music . (This is the venue with the great scones)

4/4/08 **The George at South Molton, N Devon** great music venue

**5/4/08 Blue Walnut Cafe, Torquay, Devon** is a fully licensed Café, Live Music venue and Art Gallery. The food is good as well!

As the next gigs are down in my neck of the woods, if you see me, please say hello  
Best wishes

Elaine [editor@ianbruce.co.uk](mailto:editor@ianbruce.co.uk) [Back to Index](#)

## IAN'S NEWSLETTER JULY 08

Dear all

These newsletters are a little less frequent these days. Finding time between the juggling of gigs and the restaurant's severe demands is really difficult. Never a dull moment. However, I'm glad to report that although both ends of the candle seem to be burning brightly and fruitfully. I'll disregard the danger for the moment.

### RESTAURANT

We just had a very successful stint at the 'Taste of Edinburgh Festival'. The organizers told us we were the second busiest stall there. On the Saturday alone we sold 1400 dishes.

It put us firmly on the map for a while. Long may the spin off remain. Busy boys at the moment thank goodness. Tony continues to be constantly in the newspapers and doing cookery demonstrations here there and everywhere. Yep. Pretty good at the moment. There's good news too that I'm not allowed to share at the moment. Watch this space!

### THE MUSIC

I'm in the middle of recording a new Robert Burns CD. Produced again by Dr. Fred Freeman.

Hopefully it will receive some of the acclaim that Alloway Tales did. Next year is a significant year for the Burns bloke. 250th Anniversary of his birth on 25/1/1759. A Burns album out in that year, to me, seems imperative.

There are a few festivals coming up too. I'm really looking forward to the concert with Barbara Dickson at Stonehaven. She was always such a wonderful folk singer. I'm hoping she'll mix the folk in with some of her bigger pop numbers. Oh and I hope they like me too. Stonehaven usually treats me well.

I'm at Sidmouth this year. I can't wait. I love being down there. I feel I have so many friends there. (Am I deluded?)

Pickering and Shrewsbury are both new to me. That's always exciting.

Given that the recent gigs in the more familiar Cramlington and Denholm went well, according to audience size and follow up emails, then I feel up for it.

Victor Besch and I are in the middle of recording our next CD too. We're hoping to complete it in September. The 'Vic and Ian' tours in Germany are probably my most successful ventures. It's a very friendly affair. Vic's great to work with and a very good friend. A new CD is

again essential.

I have to apologize for the late cancellation of my gig at The King's Bistro, Barnard Castle.

It's the first time a major events from each of my hats collided so disastrously. It was again the 'Taste of Edinburgh Festival' that did it. I hope the organizers are not too angry with me. I'd love to do that gig sometime in the future.

Private life is good. We're off the county Cork for a few days in July and will be having a few days off in Edinburgh after that.

I hope that we meet up soon. Not doing so many gigs these days is a life choice. Home life is important and being on the road too much would ruin it. I still love to gig and hope that folks continue to want me to for some time to come

All the best for reading this.  
See you

Ian  
Direct email [ianbruce3@aol.com](mailto:ianbruce3@aol.com)  
Website [www.ianbruce.org](http://www.ianbruce.org)

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Ramblings from the Editor (Maybe that should be 'rumblings' at the moment as I'm hungry.)

Hope all is well with you.

This month's nagging has produced results - the Newsletter. The old Newsletters are finally all on the website <http://www.ianbruce.org/pages/communications/newsletters.htm>

Ian hasn't mentioned the Shanty Night. As part of the Leith Festival in a joint venture with the Plumed Horse Restaurant and a brilliant pub called "The Malt & Hops" – Ian and friends held a shanty night. Ian did his homework with help from Johnny Collins (he supplied CD and words). The restaurant had a special seafood menu and the beer at the pub was good. It was a great success by all accounts ! Where are the photos??

Following my ramblings is the gig guide.

Thinking that I always want to know what the Festivals are like I have checked the website links and this is what I have found out.

The concert that Ian is in at the Stonehaven Folk Festival is the Farewell concert on Sunday Evening and I'm afraid that it is sold out . No wonder -- the others on the concert bill are Rachel Unthank & the Winterset and Barbara Dickson.

Sidmouth Folk Week (2/8/08 to 4/8/08) are working him well with events in many types of venue from the Rugby Club to the Manor Pavilion and the Bedford Hotel. (3 events on Saturday , 2 on Sunday and a late concert on Monday.) If you are in Devon for the Festival – why not pop along to Teignmouth Folk Club on 31/7/08

He's at Pickering Folk Festival on the Saturday evening and the Sunday lunchtime. The concerts are being held in large marquees on Pickering showground.

Shrewsbury Folk Festival is a green field site, Ian is there on the Saturday

Ian is taking part in the Edinburgh Festival with his gig at the Royal Oak on 11/8/08 and Tony is one of the top Chefs appearing in the Chefs Theatre at 'Foodies at the Festival' The Sheraton Hotel and Festival Square, Edinburgh see <http://www.foodiesfestival.com/index.htm> The Foodies Festival is 23 and 24/8/08

I'm sure that I had something else to say, but it will have to keep for next time.  
Best wishes

Elaine [editor@ianbruce.co.uk](mailto:editor@ianbruce.co.uk) 07834 439219

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## IAN'S NEWSLETTER SEPTEMBER 2008

Hello,

It seems so hard to find moments to get things done these days. A lot of people, when they've reached their fifties have taken early retirement but I seem to be busier than ever.

The restaurant is doing well. It received 3 Rosettes from the AA. That was just last week so it remains to be seen if it will make a difference. I fancy that it will.

But on to the music which is the reason most of you are on my email list.

I feel like I'm back in amongst it again. I've had great fun with decent results, I think, at Stonehaven, Sidmouth and Shrewsbury festivals. I don't know why but I was nervous at Shrewsbury. I think I was staggered at the amount of folks who were at my shows. Some could not get in. Sorry to them. It was very gratifying to know that folks were so much on/at my side.

I thoroughly enjoyed my Wee Folk Club and Irvine Folk Club appearances.

At Irvine, I won the mystery prize in the raffle. It was a trick they played on me. I won a copy of Mrs Bruces' Boys Vol 1. The first LP I ever made with my brother Fraser. (1980) A wee bit of nostalgia there. Thanks to them for that.

We're nearing the end of recording my new CD, which is sponsored by our restaurant, The Plumed Horse. It'll be mixed next week. It's another Robert Burns CD. I'm hoping it will be as appreciated as my Alloway Tales CD was. I had great reaction from it.

This one is called "Rhythm and Burns" and is a result of Burns' preference for simplicity. It's unusual and quite honestly I'd be disappointed if it was ignored. It is such that folks will have comments one way or the other. I'll leave you with that thought.

I'm singing at a Spanish Folk Club next July. Costa Blanca. I'm looking forward to it very much.

I'm off to Germany again next week and then I'm doing some Village Halls down in Devon which Elaine can tell you more about. It's all happening.

There's talk of Breezband doing some more work together. I hope so. I love

that combo. We played together a little at Sidmouth. It felt so right. I hope those who heard enjoyed it. They said so.

So, back to the grind.

Please keep well and maybe we'll all meet very soon. That would be nice!!

Ian

Email address: [ianbruce3@aol.com](mailto:ianbruce3@aol.com)

Website [www.ianbruce.org](http://www.ianbruce.org)

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Ramblings from the Editor

Hi all

The above letter may say 'off to Germany next week' , but I'm afraid that I've had it for a few days and the tour actually starts tomorrow! Here are the details

#### GERMANY

details to follow 26/9/08 to 5/10/08

20-21.09.08 Schloss Machern, Highland Games - 0049 34292-72124

26.09.2008 - Amrum-Nebel, Haus des Gastes...04682-94030

27.09.2008 - Föhr-Wyk, Erdbeerparadies...04681-748475

28.09.08 - Bredsredt, Fiede's Krog - 0049 4671-2300

01.10.2008 - Heiligenhaus, Der Club - 02056-6483

02.10.2008 Schönberg, Bierbörse - phone 04344-301217

03.10.2008 - Oranienburg, Kulturkonsum tickets by e-mail ([info@kulturkonsum-ev.de](mailto:info@kulturkonsum-ev.de))

I managed to get to the Sidmouth and Shrewsbury Festivals . Lovely Festivals! Ian's concerts were great and went down well.

The weather at both was mixed – sunshine and showers .

The full-house sign was up for both the Shrewsbury venues and also the Rugby Club at Sidmouth, I did feel sorry for those who didn't get in.

Ian was interviewed by Lester Simpson at Sidmouth – part of a series finding out how songwriters write their songs -- what a lovely bloke!

The link-ups with the two Pauls from Belshazzar's Feast in Sidmouth were just magical. They are such brilliant musicians, and very witty.

My mind drifted back to the two Breezband concerts that I organised. Memories of Paul Sartin coming on to the stage in Ian's biking suit at the Tavistock gig and producing from inside it all sorts of things including plastic flowers, sponges and a pot(ted) plant. The Saltash gig saw the Pauls in dressing gowns and Tam O'Shanter hats. Lots of fun.

Thanks to Martyn for the gig at the Teignmouth Folk Club – it was a bit of a squeeze to get everybody in, but well worth the effort.

The bad weather meant that Pickering Folk Festival had to be cancelled in the interests of public safety. Their site was covered in standing water. It was raining on the Thursday and more heavy rain was forecast over the next three days. Sorry for anyone who was disappointed. I see from their website that it is going to take place in May next year – the weather will hopefully be better

I found this comment about Ian's appearance at the Stonehaven Festival

Ian Bruce then gave his usual brilliant stage show including an awesome unaccompanied, unamplified rendition of the Robert Burns song Westlin Winds.

If anyone has spotted reviews elsewhere, please let me (or Ian) have them for the website.

From 22/10/08 to 25/10/08, Ian will be touring some Village Halls in Devon through the 'Villages in Action' scheme

Their brochure says - Ian Bruce

A big man, big voice, big reputation and big songs to match. What makes Ian Bruce stand out from the crowd is a magnetic personality that seems to reach out and touch his audience. His warmth and humour is immediately engaging, even before he starts to sing. When he does, each song is a gem with a distinctive style and his rich voice underpins each one with emotional depth. Ian's huge stage presence has people singing, laughing and crying and when it's time to end it's like saying goodbye to an old, dear friend. He has a big following of enthusiastic fans and is a regular performer at Sidmouth Folk Festival. Four lucky village venues will welcome Ian in October.

Wednesday 22 October 7.30pm - Bigbury Memorial Hall - 01548 810373

Thursday 23 October 7.30pm - Branscombe Village Hall - 01297 680225

Friday 24 October 7.30pm - Highweek Village Hall (nr Newton Abbot or Teignmouth) – 01626 364268

Saturday 25 October 7.30pm - Clearbrook Village Hall (nr Plymouth) - 01822 852903

Later in the year there are gigs in Scotland

25-11-08 Quarter Folk Club, The Bully Inn, Quarter, nr Hamilton 01357 520528  
04.-12 -08...Falkirk Folk Club, Smiths Lounge, 23 Baxters Wynd, Falkirk, FK1  
1PF ..07971 830823

Hope you can get to some on them

Look after yourselves

All best

Elaine Hawkins Email : [editor@ianbruce.co.uk](mailto:editor@ianbruce.co.uk) [Back to Index](#)

## IAN'S NEWSLETTER DECEMBER 2008

Greetings all,

It's December tomorrow. Ouch! I'll need to get in gear and do the Christmas cards. Something like that shouldn't feel like a chore but it does. Nevertheless there's a huge feeling of satisfaction when they are eventually popped into the mailbox. So I'll get on with it and stop moaning. ( I wonder how many of you said "That'll be a first!")

We've finished the new CD. Rhythm & Burns and Linn records have expressed interest even after hearing it. I await their final decision. Fingers crossed. If they take it on it should be out about May 09 to coincide with some of the events they have planned for our good old Scottish homecoming next year. I hope it all works out. The CD is hard to ignore it'll certainly invite comment. Probably both positive and bewildered. I'm excited about that. I've had great reaction from Tony and friends and those outside my immediate family. My brothers can be like that! So there we have it. Also, Dr. Fred Freeman who knows a thing or two about recording a good CD loves it. So there we have it.

I'm in Denmark just now. I've been thrilled to come over to play for my friend Jean Haller's 60th birthday. It's not a bad job when you can meet old buddies, apparently please them with a drop of music and get paid for it. I'm very lucky sometimes. We met in Ullapool thirteen and a half years ago. Jean, Suzanne and their son, Rune and Lea their daughter made up half the audience in The Ceilidh Place. They've been great friends and a good contact for the Danish gigs. You just never know who's in the audience no matter how small it is.

I have another one night stand on the 12th December in Aerzen, Germany. That'll again be with friends Big Matten. Does all this make me a jet setter? I'm not too old yet. I've just been listening to Pete Seeger's new CD called "At 89". The man's an absolute wonder and inspiration. We could do with a few more like him on this planet.

I've had my lifelong love of The Strawbs rekindled too. They took me through my teens along with all the usual Cat Stevens, Gallacher & Lyle, Simon & Garf, Beatles, Stones, etc., etc..... Some of their new acoustic renditions of their old classics are stunning and Jean has been playing them for me. Good on ya but I can't afford the amount of Add to Baskets I've just clicked on Amazon!!!

The restaurant is looking like being pretty busy over the next month. That'll be very welcome too.

The big news for me is that Ingrid Buchwald, after many years of helping me out with my German gigs has given up her agency work. It was sad for me but I'm quite content knowing that our friendship will endure. She and Manfred are a wonderful couple and I have to thank them for everything they've done for me. Cheers you two. I'll send you one of the new CDs when it emerges.

Other big news is that my old pal Heidi is back on the scene. She is once again doing my German gigs. I'm so pleased that we're back together. I've missed her friendship and I look forward to our next meeting in January. Hello Heidi and Fritz.

Life is generally pretty good just now and you find me in positive mood.

We're starting to arrange my first USA trip for years. I'm hoping to be out there in November 2009. If anyone has a gig for me between 4th and 21st November we could maybe fit you in. That'd be nice. I'll let you know more about it when I know.

As always, I will have forgotten to report something. Elaine, I'm sure will put that right. (I'll see her next in Germany. She's coming over to the gig. (She's off her head thank god.)

All the best to all of you and I hope Christmas brings you what you want; nice presents, maybe better health or simply a bit of well earned peace.

Have a great time y'all.

See you next year.

Ian Bruce

Direct email [ianbruce3@aol.com](mailto:ianbruce3@aol.com)

websire [www.ianbruce.org](http://www.ianbruce.org)

Ramblings from the Editor

Dear all

As you can see from above, I've had this for a few days, very sorry for that.

There is one last gig in 2008 . I will be there in Germany ! please say 'Hallo'

12.12.08...IAN BRUCE, VICTOR BESCH with BIG MATTEN (die 10. Aerzener Folknacht) AERZEN, DOMAENENBURG

Die Karten zum Preis von je 10,00 Euros gibt es bei der Gemeindeverwaltung Aerzen, Kirchplatz 2, 31855 Aerzen. Sie koennen auch per mail oder Telefon bestellt und am Abend des Konzertes bezahlt werden. Das Konzert findet in der Domaenenburg Aerzen ab 20.00 Uhr statt.

The January tour of Germany with Vic Besch is shaping up nicely - keep an eye on the website

18.01 IRISH ROVER, HAMBURG

21.01 DER CLUB, HEILIGENHAUS  
22.01 TBC  
23.01 SCHLOSS MACHERN, MACHERN b. LEIPZIG  
24.01 RATHAUS STUHR, STUHR b. BREMEN  
27.01 FEUCHTE ECKE, SUHL  
28.01 TBC  
29.01 HELLINGST 59 , HOLSTE b. Osterholz-Scharmbeck  
30.01 HERMANN- JOSEF KOLLEG STEINFELD - HELLENTHAL  
31.01 PETRUS KIRCHE, BERLIN- LICHTERFELDE  
01.02 JAGDSCHLOSS , GELBENSANDE (Start 18:00)

I had a quick listen to some tracks of the new Burns CD in October - breathtaking and moving . It would have made a great present for Christmas....just have to wait.

I'm off to the German Markets soon - mulled wine, bratwurst and more Christmas Presents.

Froehliche Weihnachten, Joyeux Noel and a very Merry Christmas all best wishes for 2009

Look after yourselves

Elaine

[editor@ianbruce.co.uk](mailto:editor@ianbruce.co.uk)

Hello,

It seems so hard to find moments to get things done these days. A lot of people, when they've reached their fifties have taken early retirement but I seem to be busier than ever.

The restaurant is doing well. It received 3 Rosettes from the AA. That was just last week so it remains to be seen if it will make a difference. I fancy that it will.

But on to the music which is the reason most of you are on my email list.

I feel like I'm back in amongst it again. I've had great fun with decent results, I think, at Stonehaven, Sidmouth and Shrewsbury festivals. I don't know why but I was nervous at Shrewsbury. I think I was staggered at the amount of folks who were at my shows. Some could not get in. Sorry to them. It was very gratifying to know that folks were so much on/at my side.

I thoroughly enjoyed my Wee Folk Club and Irvine Folk Club appearances.

At Irvine, I won the mystery prize in the raffle. It was a trick they played on me. I won a copy of Mrs Bruces' Boys Vol 1. The first LP I ever made with my brother Fraser. (1980) A wee bit of nostalgia there. Thanks to them for that.

We're nearing the end of recording my new CD, which is sponsored by our restaurant, The Plumed Horse. It'll be mixed next week. It's another Robert Burns CD. I'm hoping it will be as appreciated as my Alloway Tales CD was. I had great reaction from it.

This one is called "Rhythm and Burns" and is a result of Burns' preference for simplicity. It's unusual and quite honestly I'd be disappointed if it was ignored. It is such that folks will have comments one way or the other. I'll leave you with that thought.

I singing at a Spanish Folk Club next July. Costa Blanca. I'm looking forward to it very much.

I'm off to Germany again next week and then I'm doing some Village Halls down in Devon which Elaine can tell you more about. It's all happening.

There's talk of Breezband doing some more work together. I hope so. I love that combo. We played together a little at Sidmouth. It felt so right. I hope those who heard enjoyed it. They said so.

So, back to the grind.

Please keep well and maybe we'll all meet very soon. That would be nice!!

Ian

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Website [www.ianbruce.org](http://www.ianbruce.org)

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Ramblings from the Editor

Hi all

The above letter may say 'off to Germany next week' , but I'm afraid that I've had it for a few days and the tour actually starts **tomorrow!** Here are the details

| <b>GERMANY</b>                       |                                                                                                                        |
|--------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| details to follow 26/9/08 to 5/10/08 |                                                                                                                        |
| 20-21.09.08                          | Schloss Machern, Highland Games - 0049 34292-72124                                                                     |
| 26.09.2008                           | - Amrum-Nebel, Haus des Gastes...04682-94030                                                                           |
| <u>27.09.2008</u>                    | <u>- Föhr-Wyk, Erdbeerparadies...04681-748475</u>                                                                      |
| 28.09.08                             | - Bredsredt, Fiede's Krog - 0049 4671-2300                                                                             |
| <u>01.10.2008</u>                    | <u>- Heiligenhaus, Der Club - 02056-6483</u>                                                                           |
| 02.10.2008                           | Schönberg, Bierbörse - phone 04344-301217                                                                              |
| 03.10.2008                           | - Oranienburg, Kulturkonsum tickets by e-mail ( <a href="mailto:info@kulturkonsum-ev.de">info@kulturkonsum-ev.de</a> ) |

I managed to get to the Sidmouth and Shrewsbury Festivals . Lovely Festivals! Ian's concerts were great and went down well.

The weather at both was mixed – sunshine and showers .

The full-house sign was up for both the Shrewsbury venues and also the Rugby Club at Sidmouth, I did feel sorry for those who didn't get in.

Ian was interviewed by Lester Simpson at Sidmouth – part of a series finding out how songwriters write their songs -- what a lovely bloke!

The link-ups with the two Pauls from Belshazzar's Feast in Sidmouth were just magical. They are such brilliant musicians, and very witty.

My mind drifted back to the two Breezband concerts that I organised. Memories of Paul Sartin coming on to the stage in Ian's biking suit at the Tavistock gig and producing from inside it all sorts of things including plastic flowers, sponges and a pot(ted) plant. The Saltash gig saw the Pauls in dressing gowns and Tam O'Shanter hats. Lots of fun.

Thanks to Martyn for the gig at the Teignmouth Folk Club – it was a bit of a squeeze to get everybody in, but well worth the effort.

The bad weather meant that Pickering Folk Festival had to be cancelled in the interests of public safety. Their site was covered in standing water. It was raining on

the Thursday and more heavy rain was forecast over the next three days. Sorry for anyone who was disappointed.

I see from their website that it is going to take place in May next year – the weather will hopefully be better

I found this comment about Ian's appearance at the Stonehaven Festival

*Ian Bruce then gave his usual brilliant stage show including an awesome unaccompanied, unamplified rendition of the Robert Burns song Westlin Winds.*

If anyone has spotted reviews elsewhere, please let me (or Ian) have them for the website.

From 22/10/08 to 25/10/08, Ian will be touring some Village Halls in Devon through the 'Villages in Action' scheme

Their brochure says - Ian Bruce

*A big man, big voice, big reputation and big songs to match. What makes Ian Bruce stand out from the crowd is a magnetic personality that seems to reach*

*out and touch his audience. His warmth and humour is immediately engaging, even before he starts to sing. When he does, each song is a gem with a*

*distinctive style and his rich voice underpins each one with emotional depth. Ian's huge stage presence has people singing, laughing and crying and*

*when it's time to end it's like saying goodbye to an old, dear friend. He has a big following of enthusiastic fans and is a regular performer at*

*Sidmouth Folk Festival. Four lucky village venues will welcome Ian in October.*

Wednesday 22 October 7.30pm - Bigbury Memorial Hall - 01548 810373

Thursday 23 October 7.30pm - Branscombe Village Hall - 01297 680225

Friday 24 October 7.30pm - Highweek Village Hall (nr Newton Abbot or Teignmouth) – 01626 364268

Saturday 25 October 7.30pm - Clearbrook Village Hall (nr Plymouth) - 01822 852903

Later in the year there are gigs in Scotland

|                                                                                 |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 25-11-08 Quarter Folk Club, The Bully Inn, Quarter, nr Hamilton<br>01357 520528 |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------|

|                                                                                                    |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 04.-12 -08...Falkirk Folk Club, Smiths Lounge, 23 Baxters Wynd,<br>Falkirk, FK1 1PF ..07971 830823 |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|

Hope you can get to some on them

Look after yourselves

All best

Elaine Hawkins

Email : [editor@ianbruce.co.uk](mailto:editor@ianbruce.co.uk)

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**IAN BRUCE NEWSLETTER 22<sup>nd</sup> January 2009**

Hi all

Happy New Year

Hope you are all well .

Ian is on tour in Germany touring with Vic Besch, but there is something on the newspaper called The Scotsman's website that I thought you might be interested in.

As you may know 25/1/09 is the 250<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the birth of Robert Burns.

There is going to be a free CD of 10 Robert Burns' songs in the Scotsman on Saturday 24/1/09. They will all be from The Complete Songs of Robert Burns 12 Volume Set published by Linn Records.

The newspaper is asking people to vote for their favourite Robert Burns song track. The Link to vote is at

<http://www.scotsman.com/CustomPages/CustomPage.aspx?PageID=77042>

Please tell as many people as possible .

To hear Ian's tracks on their website - here are the links for 'Soldier's return', 'Lassie with the Lintwhite Locks' and 'Parcel of Rogues'

<http://www.scotsman.com/14935/The-Soldier39s-Return.4847613.jp>

<http://www.scotsman.com/14935/Lassie-wi-the-lintwhite-locks.4847858.jp>

<http://www.scotsman.com/14935/Such-a-parcel-of-rogues.4847866.jp>

All best

Elaine  
editor@ianbruce.co.uk

PS congrats to Tony Borthwick (Ian's partner) for the 2009 Michelin star for his Restaurant 'The Plumed Horse'.

PPS old newsletters and gig list are on the website

~~~~~  
Date: 01 April 2009 20:12

Subject: Ian Bruce Newsletter April 2009

IAN BRUCE NEWSLETTER FOR APRIL 2009

Hi all.

I'm grabbing a few minutes that the Restaurant can ill afford. However, for you wonderful folks it's worth it. Ooh! I even made myself feel sick there.

It's going crazy since the return of the Michelin Star and gigging in between is becoming increasingly difficult.

The German tour in January was a blast. 10 Great gigs. Earning in Euros is good at the moment.

The Star Folk Club in Glasgow was fabulous. I had a very comfortable time on their stage. I was at home in Glasgow. Great to see so many old friends there that night.

Getting this Robert Burns CD out is proving problematic. Can't find enough hours in the day. I'll get it sorted. It's cost too much so far to ignore.

Also....I really like it.

I hear the Breezband is back together for a couple of dates but we're not allowed to call it that for some reason. I'm sure Elaine will elaborate.

To be honest, the foregoing sums up my life at present and therefore there's very little else to say except I hope this finds you all well and I hope to see you at some of the few concerts I have coming up. Please see below.

Greetings from a happy and seemingly healthy environment.

Ian Bruce

direct email: ianbruce3@aol.com

Website: www.ianbruce.org

~~~~~

Ramblings from the Editor

Dear all

Hope you are all well

As Ian says above, the Restaurant is really busy at the moment. Great. I'm looking forward to my meal on 2/4/09

The result of the reader's poll for the Favourite Burns song in the SCOTSMAN newspaper (mentioned in my email of 22/1/09) was Ae Fond Kiss. It looks like the links to the all the songs that were available to vote for are still there.

They can be accessed from

<http://www.scotsman.com/CustomPages/CustomPage.aspx?PageID=77042> The links go to pages with a version of the song and the words.

I'm sure that I'll get told off by Ian for telling you, but there is video evidence of the German Tour on youtube !! (Vic is minus the moustache!! ) There are 4 videos of Ian and Vic Besch at the following links

[http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=AzxF\\_0wNoo0&feature=related](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=AzxF_0wNoo0&feature=related) Moist-Corner in Suhl präsentiert Ian Bruce & Victor Besch - tune

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=sm9DmKuy-KU> Drusselstrasse Vic and Ian Adieu sweet lovely Nancy

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=XDJJoG0r30w&feature=related> Moist Corner präsentiert Ian Bruce From a Distance and Comin' Hame

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=G8uUzLMg8Vk> Moist-Corner präsentiert Ian Bruce & Victor Besch aus Schottland Im "Moist-Corner" in Suhl spielten am 27.01.09 das schottische Duo Ian Bruce & Victor Besch Soldiers Return and Ye Jacobites

There is also a video from Cleckheaton Festival in 2005

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zBwEusN-5qc> Last Watch on the Midland

Recently Ian has opened a page on Placebook

<http://www.placebookscotland.com/profile/IanBruce>. Check it out – the tracks of the new Burns album are there

Some of them will cause the hairs on the back of your neck to stand up. Stunning!

There are several gigs in April

Friday 3/4/09 Bollington Folk Club , Cheshire - great club - with Arthur hosting. Hope to see all regulars there - Dave, John G, Mark and Keith, Malcolm, Ursula and Dave, Arthur and Linda, Barry and Jackie

Saturday 4/4/09 Acorn Folk Club , Minehead , Somerset - I think this is new one to Ian. All reports say it's a friendly club .

Sunday 5/4/09 House concert , Callington, Cornwall - I'll let you know how this goes

The end of the month, sees the rest of the Devon Village Halls tour

Thursday 23/4/09 ...Lydford Nicholls Hall, DEVON ...01822 820345

Friday 24/4/09 ...Northleigh Village Hall, DEVON ...01404 831292 (near Sidmouth and Beer}

Saturday 25/4/09 ...see below

Sunday 26/4/09 ...Sandford Village Hall, DEVON ...01363 772691 near Crediton

On Saturday 25/4/09, I'm organising a concert at Clearbrook Village Hall near Plymouth which is going to be videoed.

If you feel like coming and singing along heartily and heckling gently please do - just let me know by ringing 07834 439219 - we need to have a rough idea of numbers. The downside is that there is no bar, but there is a pub 3 mins walk away.

Bring your own alcoholic drink or get drinks during the breaks from the pub. We will have soft drinks.

Advance Notice

Ten years ago, I organised a Breezband concert (Ian, Paul Hutchinson and Paul Sartin) at Tavistock Town Hall.

I thought it would be fun to do a 10th anniversary concert .

So on November 27th, we have two headlining acts for the price of one.....Belshazzar's Feast (the two Pauls) and Ian Bruce. (I'm sure there will be a few songs off the ' Kind and Gentle Nature' album too.) Further details later.

One of the concerts at the Swanage Festival in September has both Ian and Belshazzar's Feast in it - so I think that the Festival director John Butcher is hoping that there will be a few songs off the Kind and Gentle Nature album too.

I believe the American Tour is shaping up well, but if you can help out with any ideas, please get in touch.

Have a great Easter

All best

Elaine Hawkins [editor@ianbruce.co.uk](mailto:editor@ianbruce.co.uk) [Back to Index](#)

**IAN BRUCE NEWSLETTER FOR DECEMBER 2009**

MERRY CHRISTMAS.

Hi everyone.

It's been a kind of strange year for me but positive in so many ways.

Our restaurant The Plumed Horse, gained Michelin Star Status and AA Scottish Restaurant of The Year. That meant our little eatery which has 'devoured' so much of my music time has been even more demanding than ever. It's good to see its success even if high stress levels are directly proportional.

I've realized that my thinking has been a bit wrong of late. I'm working on a massive guilt factor. When I'm touring I feel guilty about not being around for the restaurant and when I'm deeply ensconced in the restaurant the pangs keep digging me about the CDs that are all recorded but still not out. AAAAAAGGGGHHHHH!

I have to adjust to lose the guilt and be positive about the job in hand.

However. There is light at the end of that tunnel. The Rhythm & Burns CD is to be released by Klub Records fairly soon. Also my triple disk "Hits & Pieces", a 30 year retrospective and DVD should follow in its footsteps. They both await me finding time to finalize covers etc. Wow. It's tough just now.

Once again we try to put time aside for Christmas card writing. Hopefully it will happen. We still have the cards and stamps from last year!! We felt really awful not having sent any....Well Tony's mum got one.

With all this going on who could find time to tour?

ME!

The second half of 2009 has been on the road a lot. Germany, Denmark and back to the U.S. after a 7 year absence. I thoroughly enjoyed it and hope to return this coming year. There will be no Danish tour this year so maybe I will be able to find the time.

There has been much pleasure gleaned from the British tours too. Devon a couple of times, one of those visits reforming with the two Pauls for a gig. A couple of fests. Too much for me to recall down here in my little wine cellar.

I have noticed that somehow there's a maturity in my performance these days. I think it comes from being altogether more relaxed about the person and performer I am. This feeling I get from the comments you are making. I thank you for this. You're all making me feel particularly worthwhile at the moment.

It's like a massive Christmas pressy which has been growing like a snowball

for 30 years and you've decided to hand it over recently. As you may have gathered I am in very happy mode and looking very much forward to the wee holiday.

Bought myself another wee Gibson in the States. It's a 1994 J30 and it is gorgeous. Sad to say that my Martin J40 suffered at the hands of the airline staff. It's been left in America for a major glueing back together. I'm confident it'll be fine but I could have done without that.

There. Even after that.....I'm still in a good mood.

I hope you are too. I look forward to meeting you again soon.

Ian

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Website: [www.ianbruce.org](http://www.ianbruce.org/)<<http://www.ianbruce.org/>>

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Ramblings from the Editor

Dear all

I can't believe it 8 months since a Newsletter was sent out. I will have to become a super nagger so that more are sent out next year!

Please note, the next one may be sent out from a different email address. I would be really grateful if you could confirm receipt of this one.

The Village Hall tour at the end of April was good .

We took advantage of Ian being in the west country to video a concert in Clearbrook . He was on superb form. Some of that footage along with some from Cramlington, Bollington and Ian's back garden at his old Dumfries and Galloway house will make up the DVD - part of the "Hits and Pieces" triple set.

(I helped with the editing!)

The Spanish gig went well, Ian met up with friends that he had known from folk clubs all over the UK. It's happening again in 2010, but a little earlier (25/5/10)

Regarding the USA tour, I got to speak to several folks who arranged concerts in America. Especially for them -- Happy Holidays!

Both Ian and Belshazzar's Feast appeared on the Swanage Festival bill in September.

There and at my concert in Tavistock Town Hall on 27/11/09, they played a few numbers together. (The Tavistock gig was an anniversary of the first concert I arranged - no one looked ten years older!)

Great combo - shame the opportunities to see them together are so rare!

I will put the latest gig list on the website as soon as I can.

I better finish now. I hope you are all well and able to enjoy a relaxing time over Christmas.

All good wishes for 2010

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