

# ELECTRIC RENTBOOK

Kirsty MacColl Homage  
Issue 6 - December 2000



NEVER MIND  
THE  
BUZZ COCKS

## Electric Rentbook

Issue 6 - December 2000

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**Catherine Allton and Brandon and Sofi-Maria Scaife** for putting up with my Kirsty and Stranglers obsessions.

**You lot** for your impeccable musical taste.

## ANOTHER CHANCE TO BE A WINNER

**Y**es indeed, it's competition time once again. Electric Rentbook brings you another chance to get your hands on a rare Kirsty item.

The prize this time is a treat for all you vinyl junkies. What we have up for grabs is a 12 inch Italian white label promo featuring two remixes of *In These Shoes?* and it's **signed** by the lady herself - Kirsty's signed it boldly in black marker to make this another desirable prize.

For a chance to win simply answer the following question and either pop your entry on a postcard to the usual address or just send me your answer via e-mail.

**The question is - What was the last Kirsty MacColl album to get a release on vinyl format?**

Closing date for your entries is **Saturday 30th December** and the first correct entry drawn on that day wins the prize.

## Fancy contributing?

**H**ow would you like to have your review printed in the pages of Electric Rentbook?

Please send me your contributions, not just live and record reviews but your poems, drawings, stories about what being a Kirsty fan means to you. Anything Kirsty related really.

Electric Rentbook is the fans' (that's you) homage to Kirsty MacColl and I'd like to include as many of you as possible in these pages - so how about it?

Please send all correspondence to:

Electric Rentbook, 8 Ashville Terrace, Cross Hills,  
Keighley, BD20 7LQ.

or you can email me at  
[electric.rentbook@talk21.com](mailto:electric.rentbook@talk21.com)



# WHAT'S BEEN HAPPENING THEN...

## Never Mind The Buzzcocks . . .



Friday the thirteenth wasn't unlucky for Kirsty's UK fans. October 13th was when Kirsty appeared as a guest on BBC 2's **Never Mind The Buzzcocks** television programme.

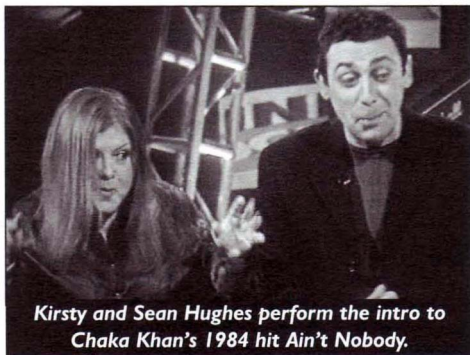
For those among us who are unfamiliar with the programme, *Never Mind The Buzzcocks* is a very light-hearted pop quiz. Question master Mark Lamarr tries to control two teams captained by Sean Hughes and Phill Jupitus. A much more relaxed and jokey programme than *A Question of Pop* which Kirsty guested on back in May.

Kirsty and *Toploader* singer Joe Washbourn made up Sean's team, while Phill was joined by comic Bob Mortimer and 19 year-old R&B performer Jamelia.

The **intros** round saw Sean and Kirsty vocally performing musical introductions to Joe. Chaka Khan's *Ain't Nobody*, The Lightning Seeds' *Pure* and the excellent 1979 XTC hit *Making Plans For Nigel* each got the vocal treatment from Sean and Kirsty. Kirsty's rendition of the opening bars of the XTC hit really should be committed to vinyl. The **ID Parade**, where the teams have to identify once famous pop and rock stars from a line-up of reprobates, had Sean's team trying to pick out *Dr Feelgood*'s drummer John Martin - they failed! Phill's team also failed in their quest to identify Dave Sharp, former guitarist with Welsh rockers *The Alarm*.

With the scores quite evenly poised at 5 points to 3, in Sean's favour, it was into the final round of **Next Lines** - where upon

Mark Lamarr gives the teams lines to certain songs and the players have to provide the next line. Kirsty correctly gave the next lines to *New England* and *In These Shoes*? Shouldn't have been too difficult, with them being songs performed by herself - you'd be surprised how many artists go on this show and are feed words from their own songs only for them to fail to provide the next line! During this final round Phill's team stormed into a 11 points to 9 lead and so it ended, as it did in May, with Kirsty on the losing team. Our cover picture this month shows Kirsty with Phill Jupitus. Showing that there's no hard feelings in defeat.



Kirsty and Sean Hughes perform the intro to Chaka Khan's 1984 hit *Ain't Nobody*.

## And in Scotland . . .

Scottish television programme **Boxed Set** broadcast a one hour Kirsty special on Monday 3rd October.

She talked about her trips to Cuba and Brazil plus a little about the band she was playing with at the moment. They performed a live ten song set, with stand-in drummer Bobby deputising for *Dave Ruffy*.

To my knowledge this programme was only broadcast in the Scottish television region and there are no plans for the other UK regional television channels to broadcast it.

## Janice Long gets her Kite out . . .

The week during 23rd - 27th October saw the *Kite* album featured on the '**Vital Vinyl**' slot of Janice Long's BBC Radio Two show.

Broadcast across the UK between the hours of midnight and 3.00 a.m. (Monday to Friday), Janice played a different track from the album each night:-

**Monday** - 15 minutes

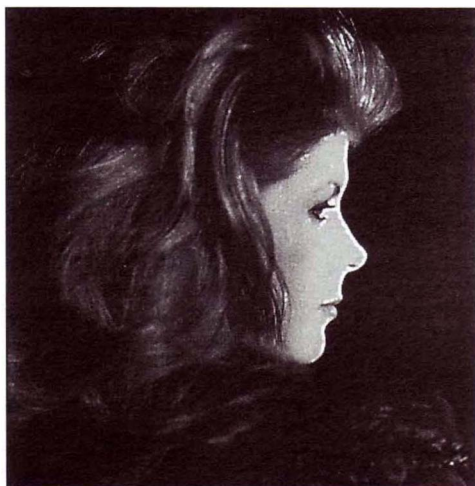
**Tuesday** - *Don't Come The Cowboy With Me*  
Sonny Jim

**Wednesday** - *You Just Haven't Earned It Yet*  
Baby

**Thursday** - *What Do Pretty Girls Do?*

**Friday** - *Free World*

Also on the Tuesday, Janice interviewed Kirsty over the phone (a full transcript of which appears in this issue of *Electric Rentbook*).



### **Ronan Keating covers Kirsty - and that's no fairytale . . .**

**F**ollowing the news in the last issue that Bette Midler had recorded a cover of *In These Shoes?*, comes the revelation that pop idol Ronan Keating has recorded his own version of *Fairytale Of New York* and he's included it as an extra track on his current single *The Way You Make Me Feel*.

Clannad's Maire Brennan sings Kirsty's part on the song which as had some of Shane MacGowan's earthiest original lyrics altered. Shane has approved Keating's lyric change and he's apparently so enthusiastic, he's writing a new song for him.

The Boyzone front man has also been performing the song on his recent UK tour and was joined on stage by *Mary Black* at his recent

concert at the Royal Albert to perform *Fairytale*.

At Kirsty's two gigs in October, she performed *Fairytale* as part of the encore with drummer Dave Ruffy duetting at Warwick and country singer, Sonny George, joining Kirsty at the Shepherd's Bush show (along with original Pogue member Spider Stacy).

### **Yet another Radio 2 appearance . . .**

**J**ools Holland was joined by his special guest, Kirsty MacColl, on his BBC Radio 2 show on the evening of Monday 13th November.

At Jools request Kirsty had taken in some records from her collection to play, these were the classical piece *Faure Requiem*, Iggy Pop's *Success* and *Midnight Rider* by Buddy Miles.

Jool's enquired how it was that Kirsty first got into music and she told how she'd constantly borrowed The Beach Boys *Good Vibrations* off her elder brother Hamish, so much so that Hamish got so fed-up with this he ended up giving his sister the record.

She also told how it was Neil Young's *Harvest* album which made her realise that she wanted to have a crack at the songwriting business. Kirsty also told about once having a dream that her mother went out with Iggy Pop!

Jool's finished the programme with *Celestine* and invited Kirsty to come back on the show at a later date.

Radio 2 have given us a feast of Kirsty just recently with her also appearing on Tom Robinson's programme, looking at the history of the protest song, where she spoke about "**Pop Protest**" along with K D Lang and Sting.

### **Live . . . .**

**K**irsty and her band played two UK dates, at the end of October, in Coventry (Warwick Arts Centre) and London. Both these shows are reviewed in this issue by Electric Tenants *Chris Winwood* and *Derek Parker*.

Good news could be coming the way of our readers in the United States with the release of *Tropical Brainstorm* looking likely over there and the possibility of Kirsty performing some gigs over in America sometime in the new year. I must add that nothing as been confirmed as yet but watch this space.

# GIG REVIEW

## Warwick Arts Centre- 27/10/2000

**F**irst impressions: amazing venue. a f'kin nightmare to get there. Because of hurricane weather, crap rail service and the M6 on a Friday night, we arrived at 8pm: doors opened at 7.30. Me making hysterical calls to the box office, eventually becalmed by finding she wasn't onstage till 8.20ish. We didn't bother with the support band: my posse, David and Suz, needed a stiff gin after the journey. No-one else seemed to bother with the support band, either. From what I overheard of them in the loo, they weren't overly melodic.

As soon as *Amazonians* began, a major problem became obvious: it being all-seated, the audience was very flat and unexcited. No jiggling around like at Wolverhampton, back in May. Great sound quality, but (as ever) Herself's voice was a bit lost in the mix. Later, she told us that some of the band liked the acoustics in the room. As a "proper" music hall, that stands to reason, but the music was showcased far more than Kirsty's fine voice. Not much audience response, apart from my posse jiggling about in our seats.

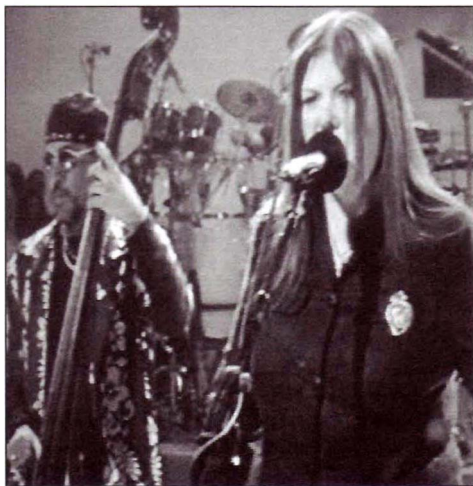
*Free World* got a rousing cheer. *Shoes* was introduced with "In These Shoes? Pete? Are we gonna do it in THESE shoes!?", and (a bit of) a cheer from the crowd.

Band on top form, especially some splendid guitar work from Pete Glenister and the usual arsing around from Chucho. He seemed to be having more fun than anyone I could see in the audience. Indeed, at one point, I leaned over and took the pulse of the bloke sat in front of me and was surprised to find he wasn't actually dead.

Didn't recognise *Autumn Girl Soup* immediately. *Head* sounds very Twin Peaksy when performed live. *Days* got the hugest cheer of the night, and lent itself quite well to the trumpets etc towards the end. Hadn't noticed that so much at Wolverhampton. After a wonderful, spectacular, dramatic beginning to *Cowboy*, she forgot the words halfway thru the first verse and had to start again, explaining she *loved the intro so much it distracted her from the rest of the song*.

I was impressed by *Walking Down Madison*, for a change. I've never been mad about it, and it definitely lacks something without the rap, but I enjoyed it far more than before.

After a quick fag break, *Insensitive*, just Kirsty and Michelle on guitar - "The boys couldn't stand the



*pace!*" I've been intrigued by this song for ages, and was pleased to hear it at last. It's an oldie, *Sinéad O'Connor* does it on her *Am I Not Your Girl?* album.

**(Ed - It's actually a song by Antonio Carlos Gobim).** *My Affair*, lasting an eternity with introduction of all the bandmembers in the middle.

Second fag break, a bit of chatter, then explaining they're nervous because the band has never performed this song live before. Kirsty explains Dave Ruffy (*drums*) will be doing the Shane MacGowan bit, and we should all join in. Gasps from around the room ... *Fairytale Of New York*.

Snow effects over the Tropical Brainstorm backdrop and a surprising version of the song, with the brass fitting in brilliantly.

Tumultuous applause. Even the corpse in front of me smiled, it may have been wind though. "Hmmm" Kirsty declared, "that was nerve-wracking, we'll do something easy now" ... and a cry from the audience of *Chipshop!!* "ah, the very thing", and a splendid, fast, rocky version of that old standard. and that was that.

Later, as Kirsty clambered into her car to head off to make the kids' breakfast and strut her stuff in Shepherd's Bush, we wandered back to the horror of the road system on the Warwick University campus, full of questions we should have asked her. Why no *Designer Life*? I'd gladly swap *Nao Esperando* for it. How long til the next album? Eh, Eh Kirsty, Eh?

Chris Winwood



# KIRSTY ANSWERS YOUR QUESTIONS

**B**ack in issue four of *Electric Rentbook* I asked you to send me your questions for me to put to Kirsty. Several of you sent questions and here are the ones which I put to her and her answers. Unfortunately, several questions arrived after I'd conducted the interview and so apologies to those of you whose questions were not put to Kirsty this time around.

**Chris Winwood from Worcester asks:- Who chose the tracks for the *Galore* album? Did you have much say on what songs went onto the album or was it the people at the record company who had the final say?**

I chose the tracks but obviously with a "greatest hits" package the emphasis is on singles. I wanted to pick the tracks I felt most represented the variety of styles I had tried over the years but there wasn't enough room for everything otherwise *Innocence* and *Soho Square* might have been included.

**Jonathan Oakley of St. Neots asks:- What have been the most satisfying and the most frustrating aspects of your career so far?**

The satisfying thing is that I still love music. Writing is always very satisfying, and so is working with terrific musicians. I have been lucky enough to work with really talented people since I started out pretty much. It's also very important that I have picked up a number of loyal fans over the years and every time I put out a new album I collect a few more. The most frustrating thing is that I've never had any long term support from a record company.

**Joe Morris of Ridgewood, New Jersey asks:- Was there any reason you chose *Days* to cover? Are you a fan of *The Kinks*? And what are you listening to at the moment?**

Yes, I'm a bit of a *Kinks* fan. *Ray Davies* is a brilliant writer. I chose *Days* because I used to listen to it a lot on a greatest hits album I had of theirs and I thought I could do it well. The whole point of doing a cover is choosing something you can put your own stamp on. I love *Waterloo Sunset* and many other of his songs too, but *Days* wasn't so well known. I

really related to the lyrics and I knew I could do it justice, without turning out a poor copy of the original. His version got to number twelve and had been out about twenty-one years before I did it. I think mine got to the same chart position. I figured that a lot of people younger than me would never have heard the original. It turned out that quite a lot of people my age hadn't heard it either. There is a lot to be said for having a brother nine years older! I got turned on to a lot of music via my bro.

It would take pages and pages to describe what I'm listening to right now, but I'll just say, *Fountains of Wayne*, *Chet Baker*, *Rufus Wainright*, *Steely Dan's* new album and some mad Cuban doo wop group from the 60's called *The Zafiros*. I'm afraid I rather like *Eminem* too, but I prefer his first album.

**Stephanie of New York City asks:- Will you ever be touring over in the States again? Stephanie promises you a pint (or two) at her local PJ Carney's (she thinks you're familiar with it).**

I really hope we will play some US dates next year. I think *Tropical Brainstorm* will be coming out there then and there are some possibilities in the pipeline. With a big band and no tour support it's very expensive to tour so I hope it happens. I miss Carney's big time!

**Steven Jones of Camborne, Cornwall, asks:- How do you view your father's song *The First Time Ever I Saw Your Face* - particularly the covers of it by others including *Roberta Flack* and *Celine Dion*? Would you consider recording the song yourself or would you be reluctant to perform one of your father's songs?**

I would never sing it. I liked *Roberta Flack's* version but luckily haven't heard *Celine Dion's*.



**Steven also asks:-** Do you ever find yourself singing one of your own songs to yourself (in the bath or whatever)? And he also would like to know whether you have any specific focus in your interest in the environment ie. are you interested in *Wetlands* (having had a reedbed in your garden)?

I'm always interested in the environment, I live in it. I don't find myself singing my own songs unless I'm on stage or very drunk. Even then it only tends to be songs I'm in the process of writing, not the finished thing!

**Ed Goodstein of Atherton, California asks:-** How much influence, if any, have *Sandy Denny/Fairport Convention*, *Pentangle* or *Steeleye Span* or other folk/rock groups of the 60's and 70's had on you?

Er, none. Sorry but all that stuff passed me by.

**Tom Oberhofer of Munchen, Germany asks:-** I heard the song *Moving Out* on the freeworld homepage and I really liked it. Is there any chance of a commercial release, maybe as a b-side?

None what so ever. It was a TV theme tune. It wasn't worthy of 3 minutes.

**Ben Pollard of London SE9 asks:-** Was *Caroline* written for the *Titanic Days* album? Are there any plans to release the wonderful *How Insensitive*?

**Kirsty MacColl the box set -** do you have a lot of recorded, unreleased material which could see the light of day on such a release?

I think I wrote *Caroline* around the same time as *Titanic Days* but thought it didn't fit in with the rest of the stuff on that. It made more sense to put it on *Galore*. The only time we

recorded *How Insensitive* was at the Jazz Cafe when I had tonsillitis. I was planning to do it years ago but then someone else covered it. There are probably a few tracks that haven't been released but I dare say one of my ex record companies will bung them out when I have another hit. Or should I say if...

**Ross McMichael of Slough asks:- What is your favourite of your own b-sides? (His is *Other People's Hearts*).**

I think *Clubland* and *Still Life* were particularly good, but then I really enjoy doing the b-sides! *Good For Me* from the *Shoes* single was damn fine I reckon.

**Finally, I'd like to ask Kirsty, as the year draws to a close, how as the year 2000 been for her? What have been the stand out memories of the past 12 months?**

**Where will you be spending Christmas and if I could offer you any gift at all for Santa to place under your tree, what would it be?**

The year 2000 has been possibly the best I can remember. I will be spending Christmas at home with my family. I've been very lucky this year and if Santa could arrange peace in the Middle East and an end to the ridiculous blockades of Cuba and Iraq that would enable millions of other people to enjoy their lives too. Oh, and don't forget to cancel the third world debt. *Thanks Santa.*

**And thanks Kirsty for answering the questions and thanks to you lot for sending them in.**



## GIG REVIEW

Shepherd's Bush Empire

28/10/2000



**K**irsty and her seven-piece band, looked to be really enjoying themselves before a packed, very mixed age range, audience consisting of more women than men. I overheard one woman explaining to a man that the reason she enjoyed Kirsty so much was "because she sang about things women understand". There was also a group of teenage girls who were chanting "ginger! ginger!" to Kirsty, which gave her a good laugh.

Kirsty told us "that because it was halloween". she "thought it would be appropriate" to dedicate a song to Margaret Thatcher (*Free World*) which Mrs T had inspired.

During the third encore Kirsty announced, to ironic cheers, that Ronan Keating was going to record a version of *Fairytale Of New York*; so she thought she'd better do hers, and announced a couple of special guests: *Spider Stacey*, the Pogues whistle player, and a man who looked like a refugee from *Rawhide*, dressed in a battered cowboy hat and boots, who's name I didn't hear because there was so much cheering. **(It was Sonny George - Ed).**

Shane and the piano were missed but Kirsty and Spider were brilliant! **(No mention of poor old Sonny, - Ed).**

Kirsty and all ended a marvellous value for money 1 hour and 40 minute set with, of course, *Chipshop*, which she said was a lot easier to do than *Fairytale*.

Derek Parker



# Kirsty's 'Long' interview

**E**arly in the morning on Tuesday 24th October, Janice Long did a telephone interview with Kirsty on her BBC Radio Two programme. This is that very interview.

**I think we've just woken someone up actually. Hi Kirsty MacColl...**

Oh, I know.....

**Well, you were in bed - were you asleep or in the throngs of passion...**

(Laughing) I was in bed, I wasn't actually in the throngs of passion.

**Come on, do something for your image Kirsty (laughing), So how are you anyway?**

I'm alright, yeah.....

**Did you have a mad summer, were you working like crazy?**

Yeah, actually, we spent a lot of time going to Italy.....

**Are you big in Italy then?**

Well, this Shoes record that I had out, that was really sort of big in Italy and it's a really nice place to keep going to work...

**Well, it's lovely isn't it.... Any excuse, oh, I must go to Italy again this weekend. Shoes was on an advert for Adidas wasn't it, did it actually make it onto the screens here or was it just in Europe and Australia?**

Well I didn't see it, not on terrestrial TV anyway, but somebody said they did... but that's still a little bit vague. Bette Midler's covered it now....

**Well so we hear....**

First of all I heard that she was doing it and then somebody said "Oh no, she's definitely not doing that" and then I kept hearing completely different news about it and the next thing I hear is that she definitely as...

**That must be great though, I suppose if you actually can't stand anybody can you actually say "no I don't want you to do it"?**

No, if you've already had something released anyone else can cover it but they're supposed to ask permission if they want to change anything.

**Presumably sales for Bette Midler are huge, so you'll be able to keep going back to Italy or Cuba.....**

Hey?

**Bette Midler sells millions doesn't she?**

She'd better (laughs).

**Otherwise it won't be Italy, it'd be Blackpool.... So, how was Tropical Brainstorm received in other countries apart from here?**

Really well actually, I don't think anybody in Italy had

actually heard of me before so I hadn't had any hits over there previous to this album and I think that's quite exciting really, becoming well known in a new territory after all this time. Portugal they like it, Greece. All these places where people don't buy records it was massive!

**It's incredible that isn't it? Sting was number one in Greece for about 17 weeks you know (laughs)..... So are you working on new stuff at the moment?**

Well I am, I'm trying to start writing again which is always sort of..... I don't know it's either I'm incredibly lazy or when things are going quite well I tend not to bother to write....

**You are talking nonsense, you are the least lazy person I know, you never stop. Are you going to keep that Latin feel or move on to something else?**

I don't want to do just that one approach, the whole point is everytime I do an album it's always pretty different from the last one. I don't want to do the same thing again but I had a lot of fun with that, but time to move on you know?

**What do you think about Ronan Keating doing a cover of Fairytale?**

(Laughs) It might be very funny - unintentionally...

**I'm really gonna put you on the spot here, we've literally just dragged you out of bed. Listeners are ringing in with their embarrassing stories, anything where you wished the ground had swallowed you up?**

Oh God, there are so many! Oh dear, I was going to see a gig.... I think I was going to see David Byrne playing a few years ago and I was late leaving the house and I was driving over the other end of town to get to where he was on.... and there was this guy driving in front of me and he was just so slow. He was, you know, one of those people who just drive at 20 miles an hour in the middle of the road. So I'm sort of just gesticulating, shall we say that (laughs). Anyway he must have seen me in his rear view mirror and I finally get to overtake him and I forget about him and I go to see the show and I go to the bar to buy a drink and this woman says.... "Oh, yes, I told you it was Kirsty MacColl" (laughs) and she looks at me and says "you're right, he is a complete..... you know what".

**Brilliant, brilliant. It's been a pleasure talking to you, as always and we want you to come in with the band and do the full thing for us as soon as possible....**

Brilliant, thanks Janice....

**Bye...**



## Electric Tenants have their say...

***Our UK readers will be familiar with the name Janice Long, BBC Radio 2 DJ and also an Electric Tenant.***

***Janice e-mailed me the following message:***

Dear Graham.....

Thank you so much for the latest Electric Rentbook. Do you manage to make any dosh from this or is it pure dedication?

I think it's great what you do and always look forward to the next edition.

I am using the key ring...I've put it on my car key!

Kirsty and I were introduced to each other way back in 1983 when I first started at Radio One and we are still big mates. My man and my kids love her too.

Keep on.....love Janice.

***Ed - It was a surprise that Janice took the time to contact Electric Rentbook and seeing that her man and kids love Kirsty too, I hope they'll be pleased to see there picture in Electric Rentbook.***



***David MacDonald of Bearsden, Glasgow wrote telling me about how he discovered the joys of listening to Kirsty MacColl:***

Unlike most people who read Electric Rentbook, I cannot state that I was a Kirsty MacColl fan from the date that I first heard her sing. As somebody who spent his teenage years in the 1960's, I considered that no female singer was in the class of Sandie Shaw.

However, in 1992, when I was going through a very sad time in my life, I heard *Fairytale*. The line that states "I could have been someone - well so could anyone" seemed to sum up the way my life was progressing. In fact for a short spell I used to play this record time after time.

I decided to buy all the CD's that Kirsty had issued and made a point of listening to her sing for at least one hour each night.

Happily my life has taken a turn for the better since I first became a fan of Kirsty, however I would hope that I will continue to be a fan for many, many years to come.

***Derek Parker of Cardiff wrote:***

Dear Graham,

Thanks very much for the Electric Rentbook fanzines, I thought they were excellent, particularly the interview in issue 3 - I agreed with everything Kirsty said about the "so called bands."

Your fanzine is a real boon to me as I have often found great difficulty in finding Kirsty info (no internet etc).

I'm going to see Kirsty's concert at Sheperd's Bush Empire on 28th October - it should be great.

***Ed - Thanks for your kind comments***

***Derek, hope you enjoyed the London gig - bet you did!***

**Kirsty MacColl on the web**

**[www.freeworld.demon.co.uk](http://www.freeworld.demon.co.uk)**

**Visit Alan Officer's excellent website  
for all the latest Kirsty info.**

# eGroups Diary

**Ross McMichael** tells us what's been discussed on his Kirsty MacColl e-mail discussion group.

The Shepherd's Bush and Warwick gigs took precedence in October. For the Warwick gig list members Jonathan, Chris and Jennie met up and even managed to meet Kirsty afterwards.

Jonathan remembered that Cowboy began : "Some boys with warm beds and cold, cold hearts. Can make you feel nothing at all. They'll - f\*\*\* I've forgotten the words...That's because it was about 1495 when I wrote it... Never mind, this way you get more brass for your money..."

Jennie: It was a pity that we couldn't dance about but the sound quality was brilliant and Kirsty was as engaging as ever, injecting real wit and fire into her performance. Meeting Chris, Jonathan and Graham was nice and I'm indebted to Chris for encouraging me to come to the stage door. Although this was the third time I'd seen Kirsty live this year she seemed to remember me from 1995 when I was thirteen (providing details which made me think she wasn't just being nice) which was really amazing.

The Shepherd's Bush brigade responded spectacularly with three of us all emailing gig reviews less than 2 hours after Kirsty had left the stage!

From Jess: After a brilliant *Us Amazonians*, most of *Tropical Brainstorm* follows, interrupted only by *Free World* - "as it's near Halloween", a song inspired by Margaret Thatcher - and KM shows what a wonderful performer she really is. *Autumngirl Soup* is a standout, Kirsty switching effortlessly between the beautifully sung choruses and venomous verses. She poses, struts and provocatively wiggles her way through a killer rendition of *In These Shoes*. *Treachery* is perfectly done too and her banter with the audience goes down great - especially when her 'That'll be lovely' says what we all think about Keating doing *Fairytale*! *Chipshop* closes the show and out on the street a group of women are singing *England 2 Colombia 0* - oh what a night...*Marry me*, *Divine Miss M*. (Blimey - go easy Jess - Ed).

Dawn added: Superb gig with Kirsty in fine form, and the first time ever I've stood on the balcony at Shepherd's Bush and people have actually shut their faces and listened to the music. Usually you can't hear over the yakking. *Fairytale* was definitely the highlight for me, but I wish she'd move *Us Amazonians* further down the set, it's wasted as the opener ...

I added: Kirsty pulls it off once again. My feet ache with dancing and my voice is croaky with singing

and cheering. Highlights for me were *Head* (this seems to be one of those tracks that translates far better live), *Wrong Again*, *Shoes*, *Cowboy* and, of course, *Fairytale*. This was a real treat wasn't it? I felt for *Sonny George* - not an easy performance to replace Mr MacGowan. As usual - didn't want it to end - it's always an anti climax going home.

Andrew had a brief Victor Meldrew moment when he observed: Shepherd's Bush was great fun except for the silly cow who thought that screaming at Chucho and every song (not many) that she recognised was obligatory. If she really wanted a nice long chat with her friend, why not stand at the bar and **not in the front row!** Some of us actually went to see her Kirstyness. Andrew also appeared to be suffering from delusion when he informed me that it was useless me admiring the rather handsome and talented new trumpeter *Ben Storey* as: "I've already stated my intention to marry him". Contrary to rumours there were no handbags at dawn!

The gay topic had come up earlier in the month when Andrew announced that for the London gig: "there will be at least eight gay hardcore Kirsty fans in my posse. You will know who we are cos we'll be singing the harmonies". Ed added his response: I for one am glad to hear there are at least nine gay KM fans, helping to explode those stereotypes which say they all listen only to Diana Ross, Madonna, Donna Summer, Judy Garland and opera. You'd think KM's wit would make her a natural with gays - but there I go, stereotyping myself!

I contributed it does fascinate me that Kirsty appears to have a bit of a gay following. She said as much herself recently. It's always really irritated me that people make assumptions about my musical taste just because I fancy blokes instead of girls. OK, I think Dusty Springfield is Britain's best ever female singer (sorry Kirsty) and that Abba made probably the best pop songs of the century but I'm equally a fan of Super Furry Animals, Smiths, Supergrass, Stereolab (and yes they are all S's!). **Great music is great music is it not?**

Richard remembered: a few years ago I read an article somewhere and I unfortunately can't remember whether it was Kirsty herself or the writer who said that while singing along with *They Don't Know*, the only ones who ever come in at exactly the right moment with the "BAY-BEEE!" are gay men. Turns out it was our very own Andrew who had made the original remark on his Kirsty web site.

More emails next issue. Why not come and join in the chat? Sign up at <http://www.egroups.com/group/kirstymaccoll>



# More Brimful of Kirsty on a 45!

