



<http://www.slipjig.co.uk>
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SLIDE are an acoustic band from Leeds (UK) playing a mixture of original material, traditional songs and tunes (Celtic/English/American) and the odd well known cover for good measure. The original songs are very much in the modern English folk tradition (*a la* Show of Hands, Fairport etc.) with a novel Irish/American influence often being seen in the arrangements. Many relate tall tales of the history of these isles and Tom's spiritual home, the Channel islands. The range of instruments speaks for itself, but SLIDE is not about eclecticism or virtuosity. It's about good Celtic roots music, filtered though 50 years of backbeat, and presented in a refreshing, accessible style that should delight non-folkies just as easily as it satisfies the die-hard trad. fan. SLIDE are equally at home unplugged in the intimate surroundings of an acoustic music or folk club, or on a festival stage with large P.A., and have a large selection of material to suit every scenario.

The Facts

Formed:

Late 1999 / Early 2000

Lineup:

Tom Bliss - Vocals, Guitar, Mandocello etc. etc.

Derek Magee - Fiddle, Mandolin, Low Whistle, Uilleann Pipes

Neil Whitaker - Vocals, Banjo, Guitar

John Layton - Bass Guitar

Rod Taylor – Fiddle, Guitar, Mandolin (now appearing at larger gigs)

Recordings:

Downhill all the Way (Slipjig Music SLIP007) June 2003

The Slippery Slope (Slipjig Music SLIP005) July 2001

Slide - 5 Track Demo May 2000

Keltika - Italian Compilation featuring 2 tracks from 'The Slippery Slope' 2002

The Slippery Slope has been played extensively in the USA, Italy, Australia, Portugal and the United Kingdom. One track was used by the BBC radio as the theme to the program 'A Sense of Place'



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What the press say:

‘displays a level of competence and accomplishment that is commendable.’

FOLK ROOTS

‘an invigorating collective drive tempered with an inviting mellowness of expression’

TRADITIONAL MUSIC MAKER

‘the band have achieved their objective of keeping it fresh and energetic’

STIRRINGS

To read these articles and more (including a 4 page article/interview in the Italian Folk Roots ‘Keltika’) visit our webpage at <http://www.slipjig.co.uk> and follow the ‘Press’ link.

Concert History

Some of the highlights of the last three years or so have been:

A Tour of the Channel Islands including Gurnsey, Alderney and Sark
Otley Folk Festival (Main Stage)
Cleckheaton Folk Festival (Main Stage, concert headliners)
Saddleworth Folk Festival (Main Stage)
Cherry Hinton Folk Festival, Cambridge (Headline Act)
Wath Folk Festival
Wombwell Folk Festival
Leeds Irish Centre (Supporting the Oysterband)
The George, Barford, Oxon (Home of many folk luminaries)
Driffield Live!
Otley / York / Friday the 13th (Harrogate) / Topic / Wortley etc. Folk Clubs
Rockingham Arms Folk Club, Wentworth
The Trades Club, Hebden Bridge
House of Plank Bluegrass Club, Helsby, Cheshire

Plus many, many more to numerous to mention.

slide



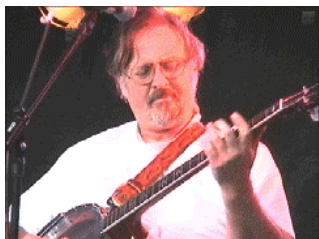
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Band Biogs



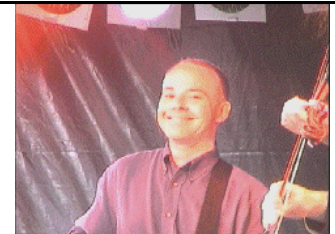
Tom is the lead vocalist with SLIDE and plays guitar, mandocello, whistles, harmonica and fiddle.. Formerly with The Friendly Visit, Behind the Wall, Pearl Divers, The Switch, Another Way, Agony Column, The Fireflies and many many others! He has also been seen recently in a duo with Tom Napper. Tom has a unique English voice, free of all obvious influence, soft enough for folk yet powerful enough for rock. Having started fronting acoustic rock bands in his teens his main claim to fame was a record deal with Pete "Pop Idol" Waterman in the early 80s. Now rediscovering his folk roots, his always melodic tune and song-writing is maturing nicely, while his instrumental skills come in handy for ringing the changes on tunes.

Derek plays fiddle, mandolin, low whistle and occasionally uilleann pipes. He learnt traditional music around the folk clubs and sessions of Cambridge playing regularly with members of Whiskey Before Breakfast and the Eliza Carthy Band. Derek is called upon to play in several ceili bands from time to time including Under the Weather, The Stair Heid Band and the Tuppenny Ceili Band.



Neil plays the 5 string banjo and guitar and also sings. At the tender age of seventeen Neil first started singing and playing guitar with bands on the French riviera. Initially playing with musicians from across Europe and America in the bars and restaurants of St Tropez playing and learning varied types and styles of music and progressing to play in villas and on the yachts of the rich and famous. Returning to England after several years he fronted leeds bands such as Frank Blanc and swamp rockers the Zimmer Brothers, eavouring to incorporate his folk roots within a rock and roll format. Now playing with SLIDE the wheel has turned full circle and here he is playing the music that was his first inspiration.

John is the son of a Leeds-based jazz musician and music college lecturer and has been playing the bass since the age of fourteen. John's musical career has seen him explore many contemporary music styles: musical theatre, experimental jazz, jazz-funk fusion (Voyeur, Larry & the Tree Gang), jazz-blues (Hipshakers), progressive pop-rock (58 Piece Orchestra), beat/grunge/garage/thrash (Sludgebucket), roots-rock (Fireflies and the Pearl Divers - two of Tom's previous ensembles), and, of course, folk (Behind the Wall, Belladonna and Slide!).



Rod is a fine fiddle player who has played with us as a guest over the last couple of years. From 2003 Rod will be joining us more regularly. Rod is a member of the successful latin group Charanga Del Norte and has played with Tom and John in the group Belladonna in the past. Rod also plays mandolin, guitar and percussion as well as singing backing vocals.



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The Deal

Slide provide music in a concert setting. This includes concert venues/halls, festivals, folk/acoustic clubs, music pubs and similar events. Slide do NOT provide incidental or background music for parties, events or pubs (however we may be able to put you in contact with people who do, so please ask). Slide can provide music for an evening (typically 2 to 2.5 hours including break) or for a concert spot (30mins to 1.5 hour).

Rates

Slide have no standard rate however our guideline rate for an evenings performance is 150-180 pounds including PA, soundman and lights suitable for a folk club type venue. This rate applies for gigs within 1.5 hours travel of Leeds. Please contact us for festival rates. Slide are negotiable on rates, and in particular a cut rate may be given when supporting a major artist, where the publicity and CD sales are likely to offset the lower fee. Slide are supporters of small non-profit making promoters such as folk/acoustic clubs and to this end are i) Willing to consider a reduced fee for a purely acoustic concert, ii) Enter into profit sharing / door take + raffle type arrangements. Please contact us for details.

PA

Slide enjoy playing acoustic concerts, however for those times when that's just not enough we have our own 1K 12 Channel Mackie PA rig and a selection of sound engineers to call upon. This is suitable for venues up to the size of a sizable village hall. When using another PA the minimum spec is: 3xMicrophone (SM58), 5 D.I. inputs (total 8 channels) for the 4 piece band, with an extra D.I. for the 5 piece band (9 channels). Ideally an extra channel (4 and 5 piece bands), plus an extra mic (for the 5 piece band) should be available.

Whatever the PA we prefer to bring our own engineer when playing amplified.

Setup / Changeover / Soundcheck

When using our own PA a minimum of 45 minutes setup+soundcheck time is required. When using an alternative PA a minimum of 15 minutes changeover is required. We request a soundcheck of 30 minutes prior to the concert commencing.