

# The Worn Fret

November 2012

A totally over-the-top cod-piece of the NI  
Shadows Club

(A bit like the Stewed prunes that Gran said would be the making  
of you – “JUST EAT UP AND QUIT YER WHINGEING” )

Report on the Nov 2012 gathering from chief fantasist and  
story teller, Ed Banger, the guy with more duff valves than  
your local Plumbers' Merchant.

## November – Gun Powder, Treason & Rock

The ghouls of Halloween having slipped under the  
thresholds and been consumed by the fires of turnipland it  
was time for the die-hard rock n'rollers of Shadowdom to  
emerge from below their stony protective carapaces, don  
their *Stratovariuses*, roam the planet and bring harmony to  
the world. This meeting saw a few returning faces after  
various breaks/trips/family reunions so expectations were  
high that the usual ropey performances would ensue.



“Personally I'm never without my handy extinguisher stand”

## Ollie top billing/Boal 'follows on' 2 behind

First up to the lead rostrum was Oliver with '*Chinwag*' &  
'*Golden Street, Find Me A*' backed by David on bass &  
Mike on strums, following which Eric gave us '*Dance On*' &  
'*It's Been a Blue Day*' with David continuing on the 4  
strings and Simon working three times as hard on 12.



“Dance-On, y'all !”

## Growl On

Simon then leapt cross-stage, grabbing the *Growler* en  
route, to perform '*The Lost City*' and '*Shazzzzam*', Eric  
providing rhythm and Terry his bass vibes – I think the  
programme makers should think about putting *Genie &  
Shazam* in the same set some time in the future – it has a  
completeness about it that appeals to this little mind.



Shazam-agic

## Rumble of the frightened Alamo city

Next was 'Dinger' Burns-Bell with a fancy foursome of '*The  
Frightened City*', '*The Miracle*', '*Return to The Alamo*'  
and '*The Rumble*' with Mike on rhythm & Terry on bass.  
(Editor's suggestion : do we need an agreed tempo for  
*Rumble* as, not for the first time, it lacked the pace of the  
version on CD? All comments welcome, to the letters page  
or wherever).

## Bern's Turn

Bernardo then took over the pedestal with a quartet of  
numbers : '*1861*', '*Theme From Shane*', '*Foot-tapper*' and  
'*FBI*' with rhythm duties split between Eric and Philip and  
bass duties split between Terry & Terry.



Bernard in foreground, amp tech. behind

### Jim Bluestar/Phil-The Stranger

Following this the Portadown contingent took over with Jim Bennett leading on **'Blue Star'** and **'Midnight'** with 'The Prof' on strums and DT on bass following which gown & mortar-board were donned for a treatise by Prof on **'Geronimo'** and **'The Stranger'**, complete with differential equations and algebraic wizardry. Wiping the blackboard for teacher was JB while collecting the milk-bottles was David – that was what the script said but my little margin-scribbblings noted that Turner Junior bunked-off early and Terence had to face 'The Stranger' armed only with a Burns bass (or was it a 'Precision')? Send for Inspector Clouseau to unravel this mystery, or that buffoon, Hercule Poirot.



Jim at Midnight

### New Boys Done Well

We then had a threesome of numbers performed by recent intake to the School of Shudders, namely Alan and Jack, the former giving us **'Apache'**, Philip & David backing, while the latter lead on **'Atlantis'** & **'Cavatina'** with the same backing band, apart from Alex taking over strums on Cava.



Jack and 'Tina

### Crumbs of Comfort

After a busy opening half the assembled company adjourned to the kitchen to partake of the few crumbs not already scooped by the encircling flock of pterodactyls who haunt the YFC once a month looking for easy pickings. We were also able to welcome back after injury, Uncle Des, and fresh from the physio's bench, Jim **'Apache Man'** Tully – good to see you, guys!



Hope they haven't nicked all the Jammy Dodgers!

Last Man sitting

### Stan's Our Man

A 'stranger' in the form of Stanley then appeared to play the **'TBC'** on the programme. Allegedly recorded on the same session as **'FBI'** but lacking that fine organisation's proneness to buffoonery, "TBC" never made it off the cutting room floor. Stanley luckily solved this problem with his renditions of **'True Love Ways'**, **'Guitar Boogie'** and **'Midnight'** with Mr Bennett on rhythm and Mr McNeill making a welcome return to bass duties.



Stanley & Desmac working, amp tech. posing

### Corlett & Clarke (again)

Mr Corlett then donned the Strat for **'Mustang'** followed by his Garrison acoustic for **'Guitar Tango'** with Mike on rhythm and Terry bass. Mr Clarke then donned electric for leads on **'A Place in The Sun'**, **'Santa Ana'** and **'Wonderful Land'** with Eric on strums, David on bass & Simon on his customary PITS 2<sup>nd</sup> lead.

### Ollie's back/Jimbee and Philipo

Ollie returned to the podium for '*Ghost Riders*' and '*Gonzales*' with Eric & Terry on backing duties before the Jim & Phil show re-hit the airwaves with '*Spring is Nearly Here*' and '*Genie WTLBL*': Jim/Phil and '*Nivram*' and '*Peacepipe*': Phil/Jim – Mr McNeill & Mr Hodges shared bass duties.



(Sigh) ...".My old man hasn't picked me up for months".....

"You should be so lucky, dearie – mine won't keep his hands off. Men.....".

### A pair of old-timers chew the cud

### Mark Up

Mark then rushed the stage to perform '*Apache*', '*Theme For Young Lovers*' and '*Wonderful Land*' with Mike & David in attendance.

### Bern's for the road....and so is 'Fingers'

Housekeeping was provide by Mr O'Hara on lead with his trademark '*Going Home*', preceded by '*Perfidia*'. Strums were provided by Jim B and bass by Terry.



### "Taxi for Johnston, please"

### Facts & Stats.

**33** No renditions of 31 No '*Shadows*' numbers were performed over the afternoon by 12 No lead, 6 No rhythm and 3 No bass guitarists.

### Thank Youse

Guitarists' thanks as ever to Chris for Keys and Hall for Drums over the afternoon. Likewise to the Ladies' Committee for the sarnies, cakes and biccies.

### More Prof Wizardry

Spotted by a passing drone was this piece of Professorial gadgetry under development in the garden shed. Replacing clumsy hard-copy rhythm crib-sheets, & unsightly binders, with modern *Apple* gizmos electronically linked to a page-changing footpad you may now play all afternoon without Uncle Des knowing that you haven't the faintest idea about the chord sequence. A boon for all budding rhythm guitarists who dread receipt of the UB-Hank email listing 15 tunes to be mugged up by the following club-day.



### I Player (hands-free kit)

Philip is currently working on a Mk 2 version that will play his tunes while he 'Skypes' in from his countless Iberian pool-side getaways planned monthly from May 2013. **Get your orders in now!**

\*\*\*\*\*

**Next gathering : Sun 2<sup>nd</sup> December 2012**

**All requests, please, to Uncle Des asap for onward transmission to the Selection Committee.**

© mrc Nov 2012