

Dave Connett (K71-73)

Dave was an Air Traffic Controller with the FAA, working at the Anchorage Air Route Traffic Control Center (ARTCC), but in May 2003 he accepted a position at the Los Angeles ARTCC and now lives in Palmdale California. He has since retired.

He has been a member of a band called Abandon, that have performing and recording since 1994 in both the UK and in the USA. The music is Rock & Pop.

"Delicious pop/rock with an alternative flavor." Maxine Wake of **Sublime Music Magazine**.

"Infectious hooks and melodies.." Tom Robinson of **CD Express**.

Currently released are the CD/EP **Wild Horse Road** and **Goodbye Baby** and the maxi-cassette single **The Lion Hunters**. They can be listened to at http://music.download.com/abandon/3600-8573_32-100415128.html?tag=MDL_listing_song_artist.



He has also released the following song on his own <http://www.youtube.com/profile?user=cazadorleon>

Phil Bower (G65-74)

He left the College before taking his A-levels and went into the MOD at Chilwell. He stayed there for about 4 years before deciding life had to be more interesting. So he chucked it in and went to work on the railway wagon repairer!

Later he moved into Nottingham and went to work for Dunlop selling before being made redundant during Maggie's economic revolution, whereupon he became a member of the great unwashed for about 4 years. During that time he discovered his talent for writing contemporary - i.e. rock and roll. Since then it's been his private passion but never to him a decent living.

He got out of being officially unemployed by taking part time telesales for the Bank of Scotland's finance company from where he progressed corporate credit management. He pursued a career in that, but got made redundant again and went temping for a while before securing a nice position with a company in Beeston, Nottingham and from there he emigrated to Australia. Naturally, he had to go temping again for a while before landing a peach of a job working for Chep. That lasted until about a 2004 when he found himself redundant yet again! Since then he's been temping and working for Lyreco, who made him redundant at the end of November 2005.

Since then he has been "back on the chain gang" again working whatever shows he can get into. Currently he's doing 3 nights of follow spots for Eric Clapton and recently did Roger Waters. Last year he worked a week on the Kylie show humping the various props etc during the shows. Also did U2, Rolling Stones, Billy Joel, Robbie Williams, Elton John, Dixie Chicks, Living End, INXS, Psychedelic Furs, Deep Purple, Diana Ross - it goes on and he lurves name dropping!! Basically, he says, it's the same boxes with the same stuff inside them. Doesn't matter who's using them this time round.....the show goes on.

Other recent shows include Scissor Sisters & spot ops for Il Divo (who kept them waiting for 30 mins at rehearsal - not terribly amusing when you're 30 metres up in a spot chair suspended from some scaffold tubes which in turn is suspended from a truss, which in turn is suspended from an I-beam grid which is suspended from the roof structure!!) Fortunately, the touring crew are the same guys who did Kylie so it wasn't all bad. Off to see Billy Crystal this afternoon - that's right, folks, roadies don't get free tix any more!!



His latest band is progressing well and should be ready to inflict some suffering on the listening public by the end of March. When available I'll put a link in. In the meantime, here are some recent pictures of him performing on 2 February 2007 in Sydney <http://users.tpg.com.au/adslxsxa/arnc.html>

He's also still shooting pictures wherever and whenever – see his own website at <http://www.shazbinkimages.com/01.html> . The following website also contains pictures Phil took of the Darkness concert in Australia in 2003 <http://www.thegaelicclub.com/Default.asp?Page=30>

Peter Macfarlane (Z73-81)

His interest in music first came to the fore at Oxford University in October 1982. when he took up Scottish Dancing (he had searched for a Morris side, inspired by **John Schofield's (Z78-81)** example at Southampton, but in vain). He found music infectious, having played violin at the College and started to pick out some of the tunes, and found to his surprise that he was enjoying playing again.

He soon played in a large Fiddlers' Rally in Aylesbury, one that he was later to organise and lead for several years, and later that year, when a fiddler was needed to stand in with one of the local dance bands, he was approached. He proceeded to play in several of the Scottish dance bands in the south of England over the next 15 years, playing most weekends, culminating in playing in a duo with a pianist for nearly six years and making a recording of some of their original tunes.

It was through this fiddling that he was invited in 1994 to teach a musicians' workshop at a summer camp in Massachusetts. It was then suggested that he visit a friend in Vermont, also a fiddler and playing at the same camp that he would be attending. Thus started a 9 year trans Atlantic romance that in 2003 resulted in him emigrating to Vermont, USA and marrying Viveka Fox.

He had been playing traditional music part-time with the band Atlantic Crossing while visiting the USA, and now plays full-time. The band comprises of Peter, Viveka and two other fiddlers. They're both self-employed as musicians, and each have other avenues of employment - Viveka is a fencing coach and he teaches people to play the fiddle and does a bit of science teaching with home-schoolers when he can get the work.



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Atlantic Crossing has so far issued 4 albums :-

- Wind Against the Tide (1998)
- Full and Away (2000)
- Groundswell (2003)
- Turning the Compass (2006). You can listen to this album at <http://www.cdbaby.com/cd/atlanticcrossing>

They are described as follows :-

They have performed songs and instrumental music of New England, Canada, and the British Isles, as well as original material inspired by these musical traditions, for over ten years. Featuring rich harmonies and driving rhythms, their arrangements show a deep love for the tradition along with a high level of creativity, emotional expression, and just plain fun. They are among a small group of Vermont musicians who are bringing to life the music of the Helen Hartness Flanders Collection of traditional New England songs, and they research, write and perform material related to Vermont history. They recently composed and arranged music for a critically acclaimed adaptation of the play Sea Marks.

Some quotes about them are as follows :-

"Twin fiddlers Viveka Fox and Peter Macfarlane and mandolin wizard Brian Perkins swoop and swarm like a flock of musical birds...Rhythm man Rick Klein lays out a rock-solid foundation. ...a step forward for an already seasoned band...sparkling sound and performances hint at even more to come." (Robert Resnik - Seven Days, 2006)

"Refreshing and unique take on traditional dance and vocal music...always driving, enthusiastic and expertly played." (Mark Sustic, founder Champlain Valley Folk Festival - Northern VT Folk Calendar, 2006)

"The diversity of pieces paints a living picture of the complex and interwoven history of New England culture and music, and the original pieces flow naturally from these roots, retaining a sophisticated, well-grounded and authentic feel." (Cindy Hill - CDReviews.com , 2006)

"Energetic, high spirited, and playful. Your toes will tap, and your spirits will soar. The musicians love Vermont and its history, and it comes through in many of the songs they play. Great fun." (Ron Morgan - President, Mount Independence Coalition, 2006)



In addition to his music, Peter has also done marathon kayaking, built a garage/workshop and is building a cedar strip canoe to his own specification.



Roger Last (S35-42)

He is an accomplished clarinetist and saxophonist, but despite a number of attempts I have failed to get him to write about this. He has, however, produced the following account of his experiences with Bomber Command

"In the last few months of the war 3 Group Lancasters were equipped with a radar system known as GH which could accurately guide navigators to distant targets, but only a few at any one time - normally for a bombing trip. There was one plane with the kit for every three who hadn't, hence his movements had to be duplicated which required daylight operational formation flying.

My first operation was on a synthetic oil plant on the Dortmund Ems canal with our squadron CO as captain and our pilot as second dicky (instead of flying with another crew as is the usual procedure for the inexperienced). I had flown with the CO on air tests before so wasn't too worried about the difference in ranks - after all I was "*the Navigator*".

Nearing the target I stood up to look out into the brilliant sky - 20,00 feet and very sunny. The lead plane of the squadron ahead of us had just been hit and was falling out of the sky. I turned back to my desk to get a fix

for my report but my eyes took so long to adjust to the gloom there that I determined not to do that again. Nevertheless I sorted myself out in time to let everybody know where we were (the CO had had a query on this point), so then we found the target and dropped our bombs and returned to base (Mildenhall).

Some nights later we were scheduled to attack Kiel. I got the plane there after the long journey over the sea (no formation flying). Overall the attack was a success despite our getting the attention of twin engine German night fighters. Apparently several important naval ships in the harbour were either sunk or severely damaged.

A few days later we were on the battle order for another daylight (on Bremen to help the army out). We had to fly down the river Weser from Bremerhaven, encountering heavy anti-aircraft fire from both banks of the river forcing us to climb out of it, as instructed by the bomb aimer. Our companion plane (on our starboard side) was hit on the way in. He lost his port outer engine and the wing to go with it so flying control was difficult for him. The crew had to bale out but the navigator landed in Bremen and became a POW, we found out later. The pilot was able to get back to Holland (this story is in a book called *Lancaster at War*) . We bombed visually as soon as the damaged plane was out of the way. These were three out of nine operations in which I flew.

That was the last bombing operation, what we did later was not hazardous. We took part in Operation Manna in which we dropped sacks of food from less than 200 feet to starving Dutch people at Rotterdam and Den Haag. In these cases there was a fair likelihood of flying into the clouds of food dropped by planes a few feet ahead of us. Some Germans disobeyed orders not to fire rifles at us on the earlier trips.

Picking up ex-POWs later were just straightforward flights with us as guides. People who had been in camps in Southern Germany (Bavaria) didn't seem to be thrilled to see the White Cliffs of Dover or even our dropping off points."