

# the Wurzels



# THE WURZELS

## 'Give Me England!'

NTS 138

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— AND DON'T FORGET... —

THE WURZELS  
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THE COMBINE  
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# the Wurzels Show

with Dave Butler

In accordance with the requirements of the local authority, the following conditions must be observed:—

1. The public may leave at the end of the performance by all exits and entrance doors and such doors must at that time be open.
2. All gangways, corridors staircases and external passageways intended for exit shall be kept entirely free from obstruction whether permanent or temporary.
3. Persons shall not be permitted to stand or sit in any of the gangways intersecting the seating or to sit in any of the other gangways or any unseated space in the Auditorium, unless standing in such space that has been specially allowed by the Watch Committee, as applicable. If standing be permitted in the gangways at the sides and rear of the seating it shall be limited to the numbers indicated in notices exhibited in those positions.
4. The safety curtain must be lowered and raised once immediately before the commencement of each performance, so as to ensure it being in proper working order.



**THE WURZELS** will sing a selection from the following songs, and more.

- Back on the Farm
- Blackbird
- Crab Apple Hill
- Drink, drink thy zider up!
- Nemphett Thrubwell
- Pheasant Plucker
- Sniff Up Thy Snuff
- Give Me England
- Drinking Mans Lament
- School Days
- Combine Harvester
- Who Needs Summer
- Morning Glory
- Somerset Crummet Horn
- I Am a Cider Drinker
- Farmer Bill's Cowman
- Little Darling



The West Country sound has arrived in the strange shape of the WURZELS. Pete Budd's catch phrase of barely suppressed lechery "Ooh Aaarh", has become a national catch phrase, and the West's image to the outside world has been confirmed. The Wurzels have done very nicely, thank you, by showing us cider-swilling, grasping creatures endowed with an idiot cunning, the super Country Bumpkins. Not that anyone minds—far from it; the Wurzels' rough ride to success has all the ingredients of Local-Lads-Made-Good, and their triumph gives a boost to their regional identity.

The Wurzels have been playing their brand of country rock for a decade, formerly under the leadership of Adge Cutler, who was killed in a car accident three years ago. As Pete Budd says, "When Adge was killed, it was so sudden we didn't know what to do. But we kept getting calls from people asking if we would be fulfilled booked gigs, so we thought we'd give it a try, and get an act together, and it turned out to be such a success we decided to keep it going. We never seriously considered giving up, but it was a terrible shock when Adge died, it was like losing a brother. He was such a character there was no way we could replace him, so we had to carry on as we were and do something a little different. Now we share the patter between us, and share the

singing, and there's a bit more musically about it now".

The Wurzels finally hit the jackpot with their hit, 'Combine Harvester'. As Tommy says, "We always make a record in the hope it will be a big success, but we're realistic! A chap in Ireland had put funny words to Melanie's 'Brand New Key', and we heard about it from our producer in London. Pete came up with some good ideas of his own and we released it. 'Combine Harvester' is about a country fella trying to get his hand on a wench's (wait for it) bit of land. Well, at least that's what the record implies. When we heard the demo of the record, we all fell off our chairs laughing". The familiarity of the tune and the jolly sound captured many folk's imaginations and sent the record up the charts. It made No. 1, and sold more than 380,000 copies in the UK alone—the B-side, 'Blackbird', was No. 1 in Canada.

Following up 'Combine Harvester' was a problem. The Wurzels were a bit worried about releasing another parody, but all agreed it would be the best thing. It was just a question of coming up with something funny with a recognisable tune. It happened in a single evening after the Wurzels had done a gig. The record company had sent down crates of champagne to celebrate the No. 1 with 'Combine Harvester'. They were kicking around with the tune

*(continued on page 12)*



## Pete Budd



Pete is known affectionately as 'Rose' (Budd), and is the newest member of the Wurzels. He is the only genuine West Countryman of the threesome, the band's guitar and banjo player. Although an accomplished musician who has been in the business for years, he only joined the Wurzels four years ago.

Pete is the only married member of the band, and he lives with his wife Christine and 12 year-old daughter Julie in a little village near Bristol.

## Tommy Banner



Tommy has been with the Wurzels for ten years—and is the accordian, piano and organ player. Tommy was born in Penicuik, Midlothian, and speaks with a broad Scottish accent. The boys call Tommy, “the Tom Jones of the group—he’s good looking and the gals go for ‘im . . .” Fortunately for the ‘gals’ Tommy is still a bachelor. He is a sports fanatic and insists on taking all his sports equipment with him on every trip, just in case he gets the chance to play golf, football or squash.

## Tony Baylis



Tony who was born in Hertford, lived in London, and now lives in Bristol, is the bass and sousaphone player of the band. He has been with the Wurzels for about eight years, and before that was a full time jazz musician. Although he seems to be the most serious member of the group, in fact he is the joker. Although, as Pete says, “most of his jokes are about 50 years old—as old as their clothes’”. Like Tommy, Tony is still a bachelor, and like Pete he enjoys fishing.

# THE WURZELS



of 'Una Paloma Blanca' when Pete just came out with 'When The Moon Shines On The Cowshed'—and it just went on from there. All three put bits in, and then recorded it straight away. 'Cider Drinker' rocketed up the charts, giving the group a No. 3 hit, and their second silver disc for sales over the 250,000 mark in a matter of weeks.

Their third single 'Morning Glory' sold 40,000 in the first week, just before Christmas. They were not going to release a single until early 1977, but the record company had so many demands from record shops for a Wurzels' Christmas song that they decided to go ahead. 'Morning Glory' is a change of mood for the Wurzels; however, it looks as though it is a popular mood.

The Wurzels really do drink cider, and they believe 'Zummerzet' is the only place to live. Although they have a real straw-in-the-hair image, don't be fooled into thinking they are country idiots. They are just as happy sipping chilled wine in the trendy wine bars of Bristol. However, Tommy Banner explains that he and Pete both come from "right out in the sticks", and identify strongly with the farming, yokel image that they've cultivated so strenuously. "Scrumpy and Western" is how they describe it, or "Drink up and fall down music, not too blue, but saucy and very silly, with the sousaphone player often going berserk, especially one

night when he had a bit too much cider!"

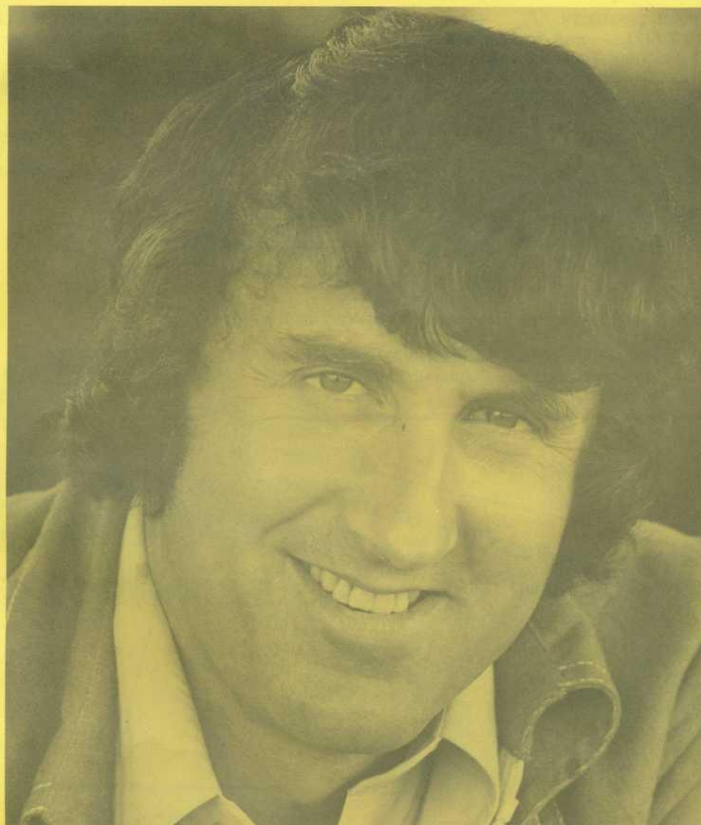
One thing that amazes the Wurzels is that they have become trendsetters with their outfits. On stage they carry pitch-forks instead of electric guitars, and dress in 'fab gear' consisting of Oxford shirts, waistcoats, red neckerchiefs, and corduroy trousers. They buy their neckerchiefs at 40 pence each from Bristol. They don't spend much money on their stage costumes. Most of their clothes came from a Bristol pawn shop—and no one can remember when they last bought any! Some of their gear is around 50 years old. When asked when they would be in glitter waistcoats, Pete replied "Ooh Aaah!"

For all their success, their totally down to earth attitude, looking at the world slightly tongue-in-cheek, endears the Wurzels to so many followers throughout the country. As Pete says, "We're just going to carry on and better ourselves. We want to branch out and establish ourselves in all the farmyards throughout the world. They turned us down for Princess Anne's wedding . . . said we weren't musical enough for the job. We don't get frustrated or feel confined by this country yokel thing. On our albums we do a few nice songs just to show that we're capable of doing other things. But once we put the Wurzels gear on, we feel part of it and get carried away in the mood of it all".

*Francesca Randell*



## Dave Butler



Dave Butler is probably best known from his appearances in the very popular TV series 'The Comedians', in which he was one of the regular cast. When the Comedians was transferred into a theatrical presentation, Dave was asked to take part in the British Tour. The show climaxed with a 5 month season at the London Palladium, where he appeared in the Royal Gala Variety Performance and was presented to Her Majesty the Queen.

Dave has appeared in summer seasons in Skegness, Clacton, Bognor Regis, Margate and Filey. Pantomime appearances have been in Chester, Ramsgate, Hull and Windsor.

He has also done several tours with Combined Services Entertainment, entertaining the troops in Cyprus, Malta, North Africa, The Persian Gulf, West Germany and Northern Ireland.

Although hailing from the West Country, Dave now lives in Blackpool where he is married with two small daughters.

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Regular letters, photographs and information will be  
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Hope to hear from you soon.  
Mary Witten

The stage properties used in  
the Wurzels Show are provided  
by courtesy of EMI Theatre  
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I wish to become a member of the WURZELS Fan Club, and  
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Signed \_\_\_\_\_

Age (if under 21) \_\_\_\_\_

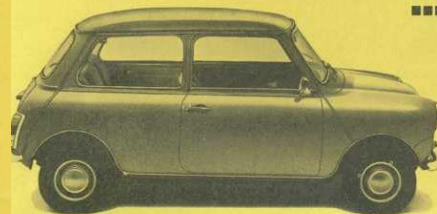
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