

CANNY CONCERTS / MATTY GROOVES RECORDS:

Fairport Convention

THE FUTURE

Simon Nicol writes: It is an oft-used cliché but it is still true: in many Chinese languages the word for 'crisis' also translates directly as 'opportunity'. You will all be aware at some level or another of the crisis that has befallen Fairport this year: the ongoing divorce proceedings between Dave and Chris Pegg. Normally, this would be and would remain a private matter; at the most, worthy of a little private speculation and tittle-tattle. With their relationship overlapping into the organization of the Cropredy Festival and the running of Woodworm Records, I think I should voice some thoughts on behalf of the rest of the band.

Firstly, remember that much of what you may have heard about the future of the label, the festival and the band will have been ill-informed rumour, pure and simple. Without wishing people we know or don't know any harm, there is sometimes a tendency for us to believe the worst – bad news certainly travels faster than good! Everybody in these difficult times is doing their very best to pull together for all the things that Fairport has built up since 1967 and minimise the damage, and at the same time seize the opportunity to set in place some effective

Dave Pegg writes: Simon has said it all there. It's a new dawn and a new day for Fairport. In order to make it work for us we need your support in a big way. **If you wish to be on the Fairport Convention mailing list, please fill in and return the coupon below and in particular give us your e-mail address.**

improvements to the way we do things.

Christine is as proud as she should be of her festival. She has given ten months of each of the last twenty-five years of her astonishing logistical skills to creating something we're all humbly part of, and she is determined that 2004 is going to be the best yet.

Dave is setting up a brand new record company, Matty Grooves Records, to handle the release of this year's CD *'Over The Next Hill'* and has a lifetime of acquired experience to bring to bear on the project.

The redoubtable Rob Braviner, our sound man and tour manger of twenty years is further extending his duties (but only slightly) to cover all the aspects of Fairport's touring schedule and will be keeping us as busy on the road as we have been in the past decade.

So, in closing, please be assured that Fairport Convention, despite the inevitable sadness we share at the closing of this long chapter of continuity in all our lives, look forwards to the new era with confidence in our harmony (both musical and personal) and the certain knowledge that the band that means so much to us all has weathered many storms worse than this.

The new CD *'Over The Next Hill'* will be available **from us from JUNE 1st** and in good record shops on August 16th.

We also have the 'XXXV' CD for sale. CDs are £13.00 inc postage and packing worldwide.

Please make cheques payable to **Matty Grooves Records**, please see overleaf.

Please keep me up-to-date on future Fairport activities.

Name _____

Address _____

Postcode _____

Email _____

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