

An Botharín Dandy is my fourth solo recording. Most of the tracks have been recorded before on commercial recordings by myself and friends. However for this album I've included three live tracks which were recorded in the Church of St. Rauchus, Zirndorf, Nurnberg, Germany in October 2010 with German folk singer Andy Lang and his Folk Friends. The title track An Botharín Dandy is a newly composed self penned composition and I've also included new versions of Ned Jones' Toyota Car and The Bold Thady Quill.

An Botharín Dandy is a limited edition and only 400 copies are available at €10 (€15 P&P worldwide). I would again like to thank Peter 'DJ Cal Elvis' O Callaghan for his help in putting the compilation together and to Andy Lang and His Folk Friends for such a great few days recording together in Germany for Andy's 40th birthday bash and most especially to those wonderful friends and mighty musicianers who come to visit and help out when asked, namely, Stan O Sullivan, Eoin Jordan, Tosh O Sullivan, John Byrne, Geraldine O Callaghan, Timmy O Connor, Eibhlín Crosse, John Drew, Dan Curtin. Thanks a million also to my good friend in Cape Breton, J.P. Cormier for all his help and input in Crossing the Waves Side 1.

Mr. Michael Bowman a renowned local scholar of the early to mid 1900's had this to say about the meaning of An Botharín Dandy.

“This name is applied to that portion of the road which seperates Dromcommermore from Coolakesker. About fifteen yards from the road is a fort which was, at one time, strongly fortified by a a double rampart. Such a fortification was known as a Daingean. This fort was also known as the Black Fort; hence Bothairín Daingin Dhuide i.e. the Little Road of the Black Fort now known as the Bohereendandy”. (The Duhallow Journal No.2 July 1946 p.9).

This name the Bohereendandy or An Botharín Dandy (An bhothairín Dandy) has stuck out in my mind for many years and my mother used to like to walk there in days long gone bye.

Track Listings:

1. All Around my Hat

One of the highlights of the year in our house during my childhood was the annual holiday of our cousins the Corbett's from London who would visit us for a couple of weeks every summer. My first cousin Francis had an interesting music collection around that time and I remember him bringing albums of Steppenwolf and Steeleyespan. One melody I liked in particular was All Around My Hat and Steeleyes arrangement of it. I even heard them playing it live in the mid-1970's at a concert in the Savoy Theatre in Cork City where they were supported by the group Pumpkinhead.

Wikipedia tells us that the song "All Around my Hat" is of nineteenth century English origin. In an early version, dating from the 1820s, a top costermonger vowed to be true to his fiancée, who had been sentenced to seven years transportation to Australia for theft and to mourn his loss by wearing green willow sprigs in his hatband for "a twelve-month and a day," in a traditional symbol of mourning.

In Ireland, Peadar Kearney adapted the song to make it relate to a Republican girl whose lover has died in the Easter Rising, and who swears to wear the Irish tricolour in her hat in remembrance".

Peadair Kearney was a famous Irish Republican who wrote many other great songs including The Soldiers Song (The Irish National Anthem), Down by the Glenside (The Bold Fenian Men), The Foggy Dew, Érin Go Brágh. A Gaelic Leaguer and IRB man, Kearney was uncle to two other great Republican Songwriters, Dominic and Brendan Behan. I've been singing Kearney's version of the song using the Steeleye melody for many years and have a lifelong love for good Republican Ballads of which I've many in my repertoire. My interest in Irish History was encouraged mainly by my grandfather Tom Foley. I firmly believe that songs like Kearney's were in no small way, indeed one could say largely, responsible for creating a social, economic and political philosophy which we really need to try and comprehend fully in order to move into a brighter and more inclusive and understanding future.

Tim Browne, bouzouki and vocals

J.P. Cormier, guitars, bass, drums, percussion, fiddle, high strung guitar, roland workstation keyboards & backing vocals

2. The Old Banteer Branch Line

Th Old Banteer Branch Line - The Train Set - Jigs

See pages 185 in Stories in Song, Vol.1 for details.

This ballad was written in the early 1960's by Bill Cody following the demise, in February 1963, of the branch railway line which ran from Banteer to Newmarket. The melody offered here was composed by Tim Browne, Kanturk. The song is followed by three jigs, the first one is called An Ceannabhán Bán, learned from the playing of Newmarket banjo player, Davy Piggott. The second tune came out of the bouzouki, one bright morning in Klamath Falls, Oregon, USA following an arduous journey on the Coastal Starlight, a train which connects the two great American cities of Seattle and San Francisco via Portland, Oregon. The third jig was learned from the playing of Rockchapel accordion player, Timmy Carmody and J.P. Cormier tells me that it is a Cape Breton fiddle tune composed in relatively recent times, the name of which now escapes me.....

Tim Browne, vocals & bouzouki

Geraldine O'Callaghan, fiddle

Eoin Jordan, bouzouki

Eoin O'Sullivan, keyboards

3. The Blackbird and the Worm

This is a tune I made up from my imagination many years ago. One afternoon I was watching a blackbird playing with a worm in a garden and was fascinated by the ritualistic approach of the Blackbird as he played with the worm before settling down to devour it. The set dance the Blackbird is given a few whirls here and there and I've tried to introduce a worm dance into the melody to balance up the story. The Blackbird does a little dance while goading the worm and just before the kill the blackbird does a little crossed legged skip or little jump and then moves in for the kill.

Tim Browne - Sobell Bouzouki

Dan Curtin - fiddle

John Drew - Mandocello

4. The Banks of the Lee

This is a song I learned from the tradition and have heard many local singers singing it down through the years including Mary Mattie Angland from Ballydesmond and Siobhan Walsh from Doire near Listowel on her trips to visit her aunty Mona at the Alley Bar Kanturk where she often sang the song. She once told me that its a popular song in North Kerry. It has been recorded by many great singers including flute and fiddle virtuoso Johnny McCarthy of Four Star Trio fame and others.

This version was recorded live in the Church of St. Rauchus in Zirndorf near Nurnberg, Germany during a concert there in October 2010 with the German folk singer Andy Lang and a whole bunch of his folk friends. Andy recorded the entire concert and has released it as an album called Andy Lang and Folk Friends. That album is available from

Andy Langs Website

Tim Browne, lead vocals and bouzouki

Andy Lang, Harp and backing vocals

Volkier Riess, percussion

Jed Milroy, guitar, backing vocals

Lu Cozma, backing vocals

Janet Packard, backing vocals

Georg Hoffmann, 5 string acoustic bass

5. The Ballad of Ned Jones' Toyota

I first recorded this song on my debut solo album Mutiny in the County in 2003 and this is another version of it with me playing it on my own with just bouzouki accompaniment. The poem commemorates the winning of a new Toyota Starlet by Ned Jones, a legendary publican in Kanturk for many years at a carnival raffle in Kiskeam towards the end of the 1970's. Patrick Vaughan a well known poet and scribe wrote a great poem about the event and I learned it over many readings of it in the Alley Bar where it proudly hangs on

the wall. I used the well known Johnny Mickey Barry's Slide to influence the air and it has proven to be a great local success. I've also recorded other material from Patrick Vaughan aka Sonny Vaughan aka Bill Cody who died in the 1980's and who was the Kerryman/Corkman correspondent for the Dromtarriffe district for many years.

Tim Browne, bouzouki

6. Step it out Mary

See pages 165, 166 in Stories in Song, Vol.1 for details.

This song was written by Sean McCarthy from Finogue, North Kerry. It is a very popular song and has been widely recorded. The song was inspired from children playing a skipping game and singing a jingle on the streets of Kanturk during a fair some time in the late 1940's/early 1950's. This is a modern interpretation of the melody which came via the oral tradition.

Tim Browne, vocal & bouzouki
Eoin Jordan, bouzouki, backing vocals

7. The Pilgrims Waltz

Earlier this year (2009) I was on a short tour of Germany and played a number of gigs with Andy Lang who invited me over there to perform with him. It was a great time for me and the tour was a mighty success. One morning while staying in Andy's house I awoke with this tune or something very like it, in any case, in my head. I got up and played it several times and recorded it so that I wouldn't forget it. Over the next few days I played and played it and the version here is what I finally thought was what the tune in my dream sounded like. I've named the tune The Pilgrims Waltz in tribute to Andy Lang and his friends who are very interested in Spirituality and who make frequent visits to special places in Ireland and other locations. I've played the tune for several musician friends and none of those I played the tune for had heard it before so on that basis I am claiming that I composed it. One friend remarked it was something like you'd hear in a Wild West movie and another remarked it has nice time to dance to. Whatever the case may be, The Pilgrims Waltz it is now and whatever images it evokes or feelings it stimulates are for the listeners and hopefully, dancers.

Tim Browne - Bouzouki (Davy Stuart)
J.P. Cormier,- guitars,

8. The Kangaroo

This song is also well known under the title of The Good Ship Kangaroo and On Board the Kangaroo. It is a capstan sea shanty & the version offered here is my own interpretation of the ballad and influenced by the recordings of the song by Dan Cronin and Elizabeth Cronin. A reference on the worldwide web <http://www.contemplator.com/sea/kangaroo.html> tells us

"this capstan shanty was printed on broadsides during the mid to late 1800s. It is also known as Bristol Sea Shanty, but it was sung in Liverpool and was well-known in Ireland. Hugill states the tune is definitely Irish. The song is also known as On Board of the Kangaroo, Aboard the Kangaroo and The Good Ship Kangaroo. Notes from the Grieg-

Duncan Folksong Collection, Volume 6, indicate the song was composed by Harry Clifton (1824-1872), a music-hall performer, and published in 1856". The melody given on that thread is very different to the version given here. The song was popularised by Planxty in recent years and it is well known and sung globally.

Tim Browne - Bouzouki, lead vocals

J.P. Cormier,- guitars, bass, stand-up bass, drums, percussion, electric bass, fiddle, 5 string banjo, mandolin, high strung guitar, classical guitar, roland workstation keyboards

9. The Coast of Malabar

Wikipedia tells us that "The Malabar Coast is also known as the Malabarian Coast. It is the long and narrow south-western shore line of the mainland. The term "Malabar Coast" is also sometimes used in reference to the entire Indian coast from the western coast of Konkan to the tip of the subcontinent at Cape Comorin". Several versions of the song exist and the one given here is from memory. I've been going to Scullys regular Monday night session in Newmarket, Co. Cork since shortly following its foundation in 1973 & over the many years I often heard Denis Mac (McAuliffe) from Mountkeeffe sing a version of this song. It has been recorded by many artists including Tommy Makem, Sean Tyrrell, Ry Cooder & Jimmy Crowley to name but a few. I believe the song is a Victorian Lullaby and is a very popular song throughout Ireland and is well known especially amongst the older population.

Tim Browne - Bouzouki, lead vocals

J.P. Cormier,- guitars,, fiddle,, high strung guitar, classical guitar, roland workstation keyboards

10. The Star Above the Garter Set (3 reels)

The Galtee Rangers/The Glantaune/Callaghan's

These three tunes are very popular tunes in the repertoire of Sliabh Luachra musicians and have all been recorded in various formations over the years. The Galtee Rangers and The Glantaune were recorded on the classic album The Star above the Garter in that order in the 1960's. The final tune in this trio, set is called The Star Above the Garter Set for this collection, was recorded on the album The Star Above the Garter and named Callaghan's Reel and follows the tune The Lady on the Island. All three tunes were recorded on an album titled Sail Óg Rua by Dolores Keane & John Faulkner around 1983. The tunes are called on that record Galtee Ranger, Denis Murphy's, The Doon Reel. This trio of tunes is sometimes referred to as The Galtee Ranger Set.

Geraldine O'Callaghan - fiddle

Tim Browne - fiddle

11. The Banks of Brogeen

This song (also called The Banks of Brogeen) is a local Kanturk anthem and is known and sung in many other parts of the district (Duhallow). The lyric given here is a 'hybrid-version', a mix from memory of a version learned from the oral tradition, (the singing of Miah O'Mahony and others) and an almost identical version collected from Brian Feehan, Newmarket, who got it from his mother who is a very fine singer. I have altered the melody line slightly from the way I have heard it sung to suit the way I accompany and interpret the song and to make it my own as they say.....

Unfortunately the author remains unidentified but Timmy O'Mahony formerly of the Mill Road, Kanturk mentioned to me onetime over a few pints in the Alley Bar, Kanturk where we both drank at that time that he thought he heard somewhere that it was a Mullane man who composed it. In 1992 the Ballydesmond based singer Shelia Fitzgerald recorded a version of the song under the title The Pride of Brogeen on an album called For Our Friends in Ireland and Across the Sea,

*Tim Browne, vocals, bouzouki -
Eoin Jordan, Guitar, dobro, backing vocals -
John Byrne, Low Whistle -
Éibhlín Crosse, - backing vocals
Ttimmy Connors, backing vocals*

12. Down Erin's Lovely Lee

This song is a well known song on both sides of the Atlantic Ocean and has been sung and recorded by many down through the years. The celebrated Co. Clare piper, Willie Clancy recorded a version of it called Erin's Lovely Lee on the album Minstrel from Clare on the topic label in the mid 1960's.

Mick Daly, the Cork city musician and singer was recorded singing this song and I well remember seeing film footage of Mick singing the song in a programme about the great rock guitarist Rory Gallagher.

I heard accordion player Timmy O'Connor singing it some years ago at the annual Newmarket Senior Citizens Christmas party. Up to then I had only heard parts of it and I liked it so much I learned it straight away. The melody I now employ is jazzed up a bit and I don't now usually sing it the way I got it from Timmy which is the traditional version of the song. Some of the lyrics are also slightly different as is the order of the verses. I've also included a finishing chorus which isn't usually heard either in the traditional version. Dobro and banjo are employed liberally on this track in an attempt to musically Cross the Waves in earnest.....

*Tim Browne, vocals, bouzouki -
Eoin Jordan, bouzouki, dobro -
Michael O'Sullivan, banjo -
Eoin O'Sullivan, fiddle, harmonica*

13. Song for John Martin Murphy

to be continued.....

14. The Girl from Glashakeenleen (+ waltz)

See pages 120, 121 in Stories in Song, Vol.1 for details.

This is a well known poem in the Newmarket area and may also have been known as a song. The melody used here was composed by Tim Browne who based it on a waltz, Pull down the Blind, which comes from the playing of Timmy Connors, a box player from Tureendarby, Newmarket, Co. Cork and which follows the song. The poem was written by Dan Sheahan, most famous for writing a poem called A Pub Withour Beer which influenced and became the renowned song The Pub With No Beer and which Australian country singer Slim Dusty made a huge hit in the late 1950's. I am of the belief that Dan Sheahan wrote this song sometime after visiting Newmarket where he returned after he was stood down from the Australian Armed Forces having served with them as a machine gunner in the killing fields of France in the Great War (1914 - 1918).

*Tim Browne, vocals, bouzouki, mandolin,
Eoin Jordan, guitar*

15. An Botharín Dandy

Mr. Michael Bowman a renowned local scholar of the early to mid 1900's had this to say about the meaning of An Botharín Dandy.

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(The Duhallow Journal No.2 July 1946 p.9).

This lovely name, the Bohereendandy or An Botharín Dandy (An bhothairín Dandy), has stuck out in my mind for many years and my mother used to like to walk there in days long gone by. I made this tune up from my imagination some time ago and included it on this album as the title track.

Tim Browne, Bouzouki

16. The Bold Thady Quill

to be continued.....

17. Three Duhallow Polkas (3 polkas)

These three polkas are all relatively recent compositions (i.e. composed within the last 30 years). The first tune is a tune titled Sarah's Revenge which was composed by Newmarket flute player Paudy Scully. The second and third tunes are tunes composed by myself whilst working onboard ship around 20/25 years ago. They are called Johnny Leary's Pound Note (so named after the great Sliabh Luachra box player Johnny O Leary with whom I was good friends. Johnny came with several of his friends to Kanturk on the occasion of my 31st birthday - I didn't have a 21st birthday party so I decided to have a 31st one - and it was held in the Alley Bar, Kanturk and later on in my own house where Johnny presented me with a present of a one pound note laughing & saying "Timmy Browne that pound note'll bring you luck"). The Ouessant Polka (named after the Island of that name off the northwest coast of France) finishes off the set here named Three Duhallow Polkas and is another self penned tune which I put together while working onboard the ex-collier, the m.v. Sumburgh Head in 1988.

Tim Browne - fiddle

Dan Curtin - fiddle

John Drew - Mandocello

18. The Wild Mountain Thyme