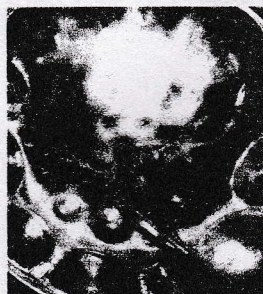


STEELBANDS NORTH

newsletter September 05



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Lots of goodies inside again this time. We still want all your contributions. Press date for Dec. issue is Nov. 24th.

Regional News

Steel Spring

It was great to see 9 local bands on the same day at the same venue in July. Our players rarely get a chance to see other bands and for this reason alone this annual event is really worthwhile.



There was a good feeling about this for weeks beforehand with everyone thinking 'great, about time we did this'. And there was something for everyone from the primary school bands up to the big community based bands. Although some bands couldn't make it this year due to prior commitments, all the players will benefit from hearing and meeting each other and it was a fantastic day. We've heard of at least one audience member who booked one of the bands there. Thanks TSG, looking forward to next year, the pan network meeting for planning next years Steel Spring is -

Mon 10th Oct. 5.30-8pm at TSG



- DON'T MISS IT!

Music For Youth

NTSB played at the major national festival in July for the third year in succession after being selected as one of the 10% of over 3,500 acts that entered regional heats back in March. This years week long festival was based on the 3 major concert halls in the centre of Birmingham. Again NTSB were the only Tyneside representatives in their section and did us proud, really wowing the crowd with their outdoor performance in Brindley Place, after the official stage one. There were also steelbands from London, Bedford and Birmingham playing.

Dudley Dickson spent over a week at TSG this summer **tuning nearly 100 pans** from at least 7 bands. Quite a chunk of n.e. pan hardware, but **the flip side is that over 200 pans in the region didn't get tuned**. Many people are playing pans that are not in good fettle, this can't be good for anybody. Those of you who look after your instruments and get them serviced regularly will appreciate what a difference it makes. Please try to spread the word to those who don't. Some out of tune pans are often played in public and this gives a really bad impression of the local pan scene, they don't sound good.

Toussaint Clarke will be up here tuning soon, so this is your chance. Thanks to TSG for organizing and hosting the tuning as a service to north east panners.

National News

BAS have appointed a consultant to look at ways of developing and supporting steelpan across the country. Rachel Gardiner, who has worked for Youth Music, is keen to hear your opinions on how to do this. A survey of member bands, tutors, and players is already well underway.

make your contribution on
ymrachel.gardiner@virgin.net.

North Stars Steel Orch. from Huddersfield are midway through a national tour with jazz trombone megastar **Dennis Rollings**; nearest gig to n.e. is WHITBY on Sun 16 Oct. Contact SN if you are interested in going, there could be a SN trip! Reviews are very positive so far.

Notting Hill Panorama on 27 August was won by Ebony this year, back to their winning ways. Media reports claim over 50 steelbands took part in the carnival, but BAS don't have 50 member bands. Are non member bands allowed to take part? This internationally renowned event is organized by the