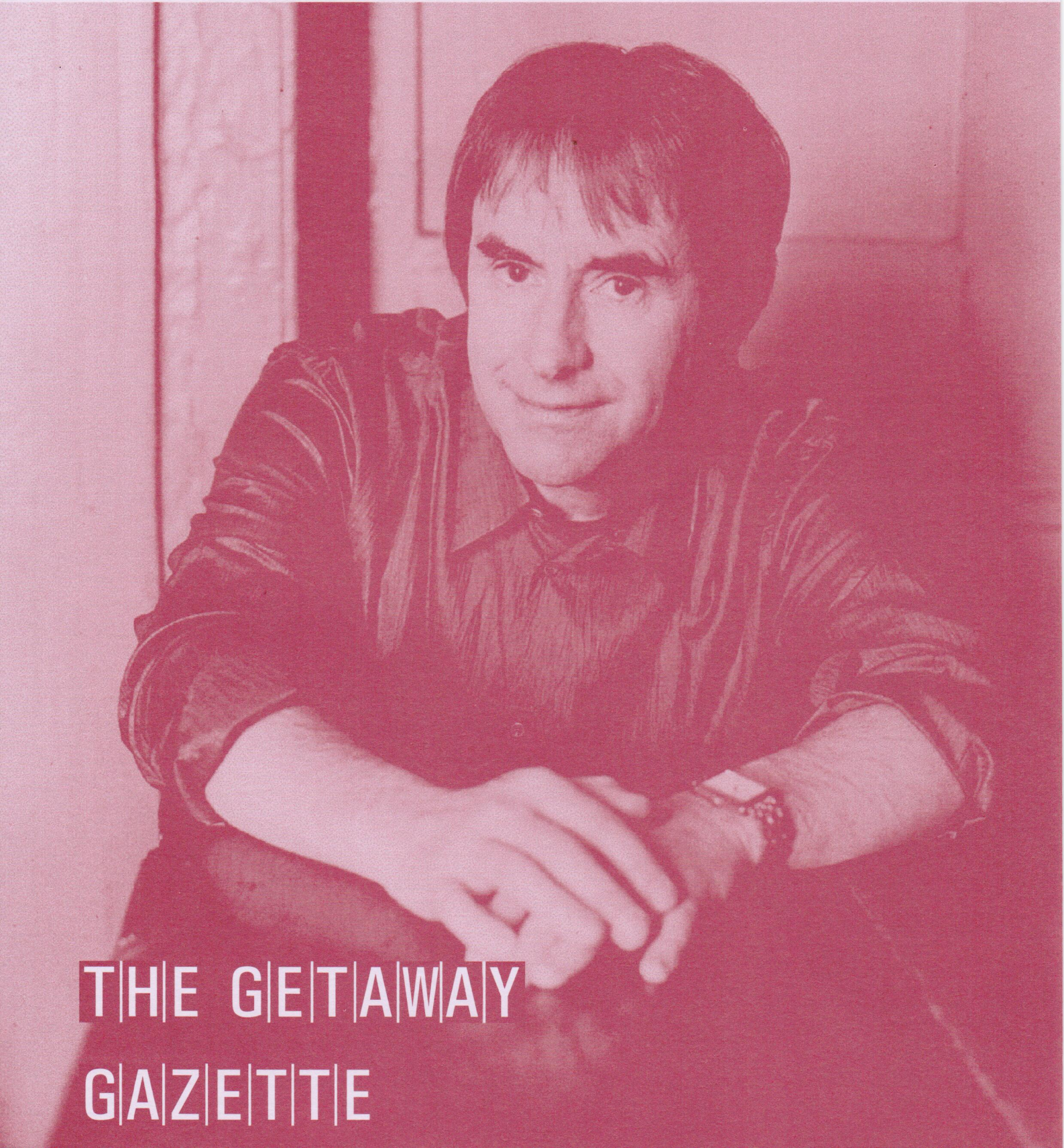


THE NEW *Chris de Burgh* CLUB

P. O. BOX 102, STANMORE, MIDDLESEX HA7 2PY

OCTOBER 2000



THE GETAWAY

GAZETTE

Hello, and welcome to another edition of the Getaway Gazette, our first since February, 2000. Please note the new fan club P.O Box address on the cover and, from now on, ensure that you send all correspondence to:

**THE NEW CHRIS DE BURGH CLUB
P.O. BOX 102, STANMORE, MIDDLESEX, HA7 2PY, ENGLAND**

That very important piece of information established, we'll pass you straight over to C de B himself – who, as ever, had diary in hand to recap on all of his news since you last heard from him... **CHRIS:** "So, we'll pick things up in December of last year, coming into the cold, pre-Christmas season and doing the UK tour - which was, again, like the prior one...terrific. Unfortunately, we couldn't get too many dates. The Albert Hall was completely, choc-a-bloc sold out. However, I was prepared to do a matinee performance there on the same day as the one night we were able to book, but I discovered that this would involve double over-time for everybody working at the place, so it made no sense to do it. The Albert Hall is one of those prestigious venues where it is economically very viable to perform. However, it *is* a prestigious place to play, and I thought the show there was terrific. Then we were into the run-up to Christmas, and I did several TV shows over in Europe just prior to Christmas. After that, we had the excitement of the Millennium which, I must admit, I was a little bit suspicious of. I took the view that the Millennium was going to be incredibly exciting and, probably, moving the half an hour before and the half an hour after the actual magical moment. But, you know, the world goes on and people wake up with hangovers! I know a lot of people stayed home over the Christmas period because of the Millennium and I also know that a lot of very greedy people in the hotel and airline industry thought that they were on to an absolute bonanza. So they kept their occupancies and bookings at 100% - and then, at the last minute, released availability at high prices. And it really back-fired on them because most people actually decided that what they wanted to do was be in close family groups with close friends and relatives and, basically, move through that magical moment in the company of those they loved the best; their nearest and dearest. That, in a way, was exactly what I did, although I did choose to go away to my favourite holiday destination, Mauritius. I was with my dearest friends and family – there was a good group of us down there – and a lot of people that I knew from the past visits that I have made there. On the stroke of midnight, four hours ahead of UK Greenwich Mean Time, we celebrated the moment with champagne on the beach and an incredible fireworks display lighting up Mauritius. Within, I think, about four minutes – or possibly less – of going through the midnight hour, it poured with rain for about 60 seconds. All the Mauritians were delighted, they said it was a real sign of good luck. It stopped raining, and then it was back on to the dance floor, where I stood up with the band and sang in the new Millennium. We did a concert for about an-hour-and-a-half, right there and then, and it was most memorable. We went to bed at about 5am, got up on New Year's Day, as the world woke up to that hangover, and watched the CNN TV coverage of celebrations from all over the globe, of the world going through the magical moment of its midnight hours. Of course, we saw the River Thames and the 'river of fire' in London, along with the fireworks display. That looked very impressive. I loved the one in Sydney. Saw the one in Paris, too – that was sensational. And it was great to know that here was one of those rare, rare moments in human history where the world came together. The first time it (the first Millennium) happened, the year zero, the birth of Christ – there or thereabouts - we weren't even aware of it happening. This time, it was the first time in human history, what with mass communications, that people were able to celebrate a moment in history all together. And, I must admit, I got very emotional for a short time there – and it wasn't fuelled by champagne, I can assure you, because I very rarely, if ever, drink anything before a concert and this was one of those occasions, again. So, woke up on New Year's Day, and it was back on to the beach in 32 degrees. Everything was wonderful. I stayed out in Mauritius for three weeks, and then came back, back to earth with a bump, and went straight into promotional stuff for the 'Quiet Revolution' album – which has really been the story of this year so far for me. One way or the other, pretty much everything I have done recently has been connected with the album. However, I can nip through the diary with you now to give more detail... Late January I went to Munich to do a TV show, I attended the launch of the new Jaguar Formula 1 motor car in London, and did another pile of promotional TV stuff in the UK...

Speaking of cars, you have traditionally always been a BMW man...

CHRIS: "Yes, I drive BMW but I'm a big supporter of Ferrari and Jordan. I went to the Jaguar launch because, number one, Eddie Irvine was moving to Jaguar and, also, because the Stewart family, who ran Stewart Ford and who then sold it to Jaguar, are good friends of mine and they invited me over for the launch. I was delighted to be there. OK, moving on...I did a TV show in Kiel, in Germany – and I then did a lot of filming with an ITN crew for what they originally told me was going to be for a programme about successful people. People who, it said on the blurb, had started with nothing and had created a great success for themselves. However, this thing finally came out as a TV programme in the UK called 'Britain's Richest People' and, I must admit, I was pretty embarrassed by the title. What I did for the programme, basically, was spend a lot of time going around things that really meant a lot to me. They didn't come anywhere near my home with their cameras and they didn't come anywhere near the new building that I'm doing out in Wicklow. They just concentrated on the school that I've been supporting for the last few years and things that I like doing, such as learning to fly a helicopter and playing golf. In all, this was condensed into a seven or eight-minute segment in the programme, and it was very nice. The programme was transmitted some months later. Otherwise...I went to a few rugby matches – Ireland v Scotland, for example – and I went to a tennis tournament in Dublin, with people like John McEnroe and Llie Nastase playing and, my God, they're so good still! These guys, even in their 30s and 40s – Nastase is older still – were *fantastic!* Absolutely fantastic. I really enjoyed that. My love of football continues unabated. You may remember that I supported the 2006 bid (to hold the football World Cup in England) by doing a concert for 45 people in Claridges Hotel – including most of England's 1966 winning World Cup team. I was very, very sorry to hear that England was not successful in that 2006 bid. As usual, the decision turned on the whim of politics and on the undercover phonecalls and pressure that comes to bear on the voters, as we found out subsequently. Anyway, I went to see England versus Argentina at Wembley. Argentina, of course, being my place of birth. It was a very interesting match, which ended in a draw as I recall. Rugby again...I went to see Ireland v Italy and took my boys and Rosanna, who are pretty interested in those things. My children have been in a chamber choir which has won trophies all over; the North of Ireland, all over Ireland. This choir is really good and I was asked, last year, would I be interested in writing a song for the chamber choir to sing at one of these competitions? Well, because I had been writing 15 new songs for 'Quiet Revolution', I never got around to it. However, I finally did write a song called 'Friends Forevermore' – I'm sort of jumping ahead now, but I see mention of the chamber choir here in my diary – and, in the early summer, I lured Chris Porter (the co-producer, with C de B, of 'Quiet Revolution') with the promise of a very, very good bottle of wine or two! Ironically, he wasn't very well at the time and couldn't drink – but we *will* get round to

it... Chris and I spent two days recording these children in the headmaster's office in the school. We've recorded ten tracks; the one I wrote, 'Friends Forevermore' and nine written by a lady called Roma Cassidy, who has written *wonderful* songs, a lot of them very humorous, for children. Indeed, some of her songs have won these competitions for the Aravon School Chamber Choir. All of the songs just sound wonderful and the CD will be available from the school, on a private charitable basis, later in the year. If people write to the School Secretary, Aravon School, Bray, County Wicklow, Ireland in, say, round about November, then they'll get me performing with the children, voice and piano – plus a few other...excitements. I'm very pleased with the song we did together. It's written from the standpoint of somebody going back to his old school. He hears all these echoes of what it used to be and as I reminisce about my echoes, then the children start singing. It's very moving, actually. I performed it at the end of term and there was a lot of tears from the people involved, like the families of those whose children were leaving. The song is about the last day of term, basically, and saying 'Whatever happens in the future we will be friends forevermore.' It was really nice. I enjoyed doing that. As I say, I suggest people write to the school for further information. We haven't actually manufactured the CD yet, or mixed it down, but it sounds absolutely lovely. I imagine it will be sold for around the £10 or £12 mark. Haven't a clue to whom payment should be made, but I'm sure the school will be able to tell people all of that detail. Of course, all money raised goes to charity."

OK, let's move back to the pages of your diary...

CHRIS: "Yes. Canada comes up here, just after Germany. Well, as you know, I've been really having a great love affair with Canada for a long time but – hold on – just prior to going there I was doing my old thing of watching Liverpool beating Newcastle 2-1... just checking through the diary here, obviously...I did a solo concert – well, with Peter Oxendale – at the Burlington Hotel in Dublin, the night before the Ireland v Wales rugby match. There must have been around 1200 people there and, God love them, by the time I hit the stage I would say that 70% of them were *so* drunk that they had no idea what was going on. This appears to be a very Irish way of celebrating and, I must admit, I had a really *dreadful* night of it. The event was in aid of raising funds for a poor lad of 23, I think, who broke his neck going for a tackle in a seniors rugby match – and he is completely paralysed now, he's quadriplegic. The idea was to raise as much money that night as possible. I think we raised in the order of more than £200,000 and my contribution was the performance – which I have to say, here and now, I really did not enjoy. Trying to get a pile of pretty drunk people interested at that time of night was difficult. I'm no slouch, and I'm very professional about what I do, and I got them in the end...but it was no fun. I've decided to stop doing that kind of thing, where there's a lot of alcohol involved. Anyway, the money was raised. Then...Canada! I went to Canada on Monday the 3rd of April, to Nova Scotia, which is a place I know well. We did the tour, and the Canadians were absolutely fantastic. I haven't done a full band tour of Canada for a long time – we figured maybe nine or ten years. I've done the orchestra tour, I've done the solo thing with the string quartet, but the full band thing with the full production...they just went *mad* for it. Of course, predictably again, in Montreal – with a full house of, what, 12,000 people or something – it was an absolutely *sensational* crowd. They kept me on the stage for three hours and 20 minutes, non-stop. It was a long show in Canada which, basically, was also the one I did in Europe."

It was snowing when you were over in Canada, wasn't it?

CHRIS: "It was. It was very cold, but I had an absolutely tremendous time. I don't know how many club members you have from Canada but, really, they were just terrific. They'll want to know when I'm next coming back? Well, you know, it's the old story; whenever I can. But the loyalty of the fans there – and the young fans! Golly almighty, it's just like what happened in Europe – a complete new generation of youngsters, and I'm not just talking about the little ones here, who come with their mums and dads. This is teenagers, early 20s, late 20s, early 30s. People who have really gone for the old stuff as well as the new stuff. The new album went down extremely well in Canada and, during this period, a French version of the song 'When I Think Of You' – called 'Quand Je Pense A Toi' – went to Number 1 in the French part of Canada. It was a *huge* hit in the French part of Canada. I've just recorded a French language version of 'A Woman's Heart' – 'La Couer D'Une Femme' – which we hope is going to do the same thing. It sounds really great, and I recorded that about six weeks ago. The bemused girls who did my backing vocals for me, I had to coach them in French so they could sing the chorus with me – but it sounds excellent."

It's wonderful to hear about that; yet another unexpected little road which has just suddenly opened up for you...

CHRIS: "It really is. As you know, I do speak French, but singing in French is a different problem completely. However, we cracked it and I did a lot of French TV and radio, talking in French on live television and radio and performing the song live, just with the guitar or with the band. It was great fun. So, Canada was a real brilliant place to be. And then, in early May, we started off in Germany, where we toured for the entire month. It was excellent, and the weather was absolutely stunning. Most of the time, we were talking about 25 to 28 degrees and whenever I got home, two or three times during that tour, everybody thought that I had been away on holiday. And I would say 'Well, sort of...I *have!*' The weather was gorgeous and the crowds were fantastic. Again, the album had done very well over there; 'When I Think Of You' and 'A Woman's Heart' were all over the radio. We had excellent crowds and a lot of young people, as well. I won't go through all of the dates individually, but we did several dates in the Eastern part of Germany and, don't forget, this was partly a tour playing in the secondary markets of Germany, places like Bayreuth, Aschaffenburg, Gelsenkirchen – not the big places like Hamburg or Berlin. So it was great fun. And the band and myself, we all get on so well. We miss each other like crazy; we'd keep ringing each other up and saying 'I wanna go back on the road!' We have such laughs together. We ended the German tour with a couple of shows in big marquees, including one private gala. While the tour was going on – actually on May 20th – I flew back to the UK to see the FA Cup Final, with three of the guys from the band. Then I nipped up to Manchester to do the TV programme 'Stars In Their Eyes' (in which members of the public imitate, with full make-overs, well-known singers). I sat in the rain in a car outside, waiting until my 'double' had gone on stage and was actually about to perform and then they slipped me in, on stage. I don't know if you saw it, but I came on and cut in when he was singing 'The Lady In Red' by singing 'There's nobody here' as an echo, just after he sang it. He was *really* surprised. And so many people came up to me, in subsequent weeks and months, and said that it was one of the best pieces of television they've ever seen. Trevor McDonald, the ITN newscaster, I saw him at a TV studio recently and he came over, shook my hand and said 'That was one of the nicest things I've ever seen on TV. It was such a surprise.' So, I was pleased to do that, and then I went back to Germany to continue the tour."

I hear that Ian Moor, your 'Stars In Their Eyes' impersonator, has recently signed a recording deal of his own...

CHRIS: "Yes. He's signed to RCA and he's just recorded his album – at the same studio I invited

him down to last year when I was working on mine. He has worked with an orchestra and, I believe, he is doing some shows in the autumn. Good luck to him. I hope he does well."

Back to the diary, then...

CHRIS: "I went to Poland in June and did a one-off concert for a TV company. I have great support in Poland, and I was thrilled to go back there. Then I went back to the UK to do a TV show at the Millennium Dome – and also an appearance for BBC TV's 'Watchdog' programme at the Brighton Dome. What an incredible palace that is. Inside the Brighton Dome; I can recommend it to anybody who's in the area to go and take a look. It's opulence beyond belief. This is the great thing about leaving treasures for future generations – which, I suppose, is exactly what I'm doing with the hard work and extremely expensive financial output that I'm in putting into this place I'm building in Wicklow, including old stone, local granite, to cover virtually all of the walls. We think at the moment that it's around 26,000 square feet. It's basically for future generations to say 'Well, isn't this great – somebody actually took the trouble.' As you know, I do a lot of helicopter flying and I look at beautiful houses that people have cared for down the years, and somebody – years ago – put the time and trouble into saying 'Let's get an architect involved, let's build, let's put the finance in it and let's leave it for future generations.' And that's what the Brighton Dome is. It's an extraordinary place."

Just to divert you briefly on the subject of your new home. I know how all-consuming the project has been for you, in terms of time, energy and money, but I seem to recall that you had planned to actually have moved in by now...

CHRIS: "One of the reasons why I didn't do any of the usual orchestral concerts during this summer, or like I did in Kensington Gardens last year on August 13th, is that I genuinely believed that I would be in my new home during June. We were planning to move house then and be in for the summer. But...we ran into severe problems with the original builder. This is a story I have heard so many places but we just...I have to choose my words very carefully here...it took legal action, unfortunately, to dissolve the contract with the original builder because I began to believe that his heart wasn't in it any more. So that was that. Then, of course, that hiatus cost us two months – first with the slowing down prior to the legal action and then the legal action itself. However, we've got a new builder in who has seen the vision that I have. He shares the vision. He says 'Yes, I understand the renovation you're into here and I understand your 200-year plan.' I don't actually genuinely believe that the first builder did share that vision. Ireland is going through an extraordinary economic upsurge at the moment and people are screaming out for builders, so the pressure on building firms and contractors to finish a job quickly and move on to others is enormous. I won't say any more than that."

So, when do you think you will actually, finally, move in – will it be this year?

CHRIS: "No. We are hoping the place will be ready by Christmas, although that's a dreadful time to move house. Apart from anything else, I'll be touring in the UK in December – which I'm looking forward to – so I think what I'll do is I'll leave it to probably spring of next year before moving in. I live in a very nice house anyway, and I won't be thanked for moving from it by my children – one of whom, my eldest son, Hubie, started at his secondary school in September. Rosanna, meanwhile, is preparing for the next two years for her Leaving Certificate finals. So, you know, as little disruption as possible to any of that the better, I think."

Once again, back to the diary. You haven't mentioned much golf yet...

CHRIS: "Well, on the 10th of July I went to the West of Ireland to play in a golf tournament! Now, I've hardly played golf at all for the last four years because of my building project. If I had any time free, I would go down to the building site. As it is, either Diane or myself go down there virtually every day, just to keep an eye on things. I know where very electrical cable is, every tap, every door handle – everything! It's just so much about our choices. Anyhow, I went and I played golf at this event, which involved teams of three amateurs plus a professional across two days. So you got to play with a different professional on each day. The first day, the professional was a guy called Thomas Bjorn, who came second in the British Open recently – a charming guy from Denmark – and, on the second day, it was Peter Mitchell, an English professional. We played golf, and the idea was to raise money, but the reason I'm telling you all of this is that the charities were those nominated, in the Limerick area, by a local man called J P McManus – who is actually a legend in his own lifetime because he has become incredibly wealthy. He's a very genuine man, loves horses and started as a bookmaker. Here in Ireland he is very much a legend. Anyway, at the dinner they offered auction prizes, as they do – and I'll give you an indication of the wealth involved; one of the early items offered was a round of golf with Tiger Woods – and Tiger Woods was there – and somebody paid £1,400,000 for a round of golf with him. Another guy gave a picture, a Yeats picture – which he subsequently bought back himself...for £1 million. A picture of Payne Stewart, who died in a tragic aircraft accident last year, just a portrait of him, was bought by Mrs McManus by £1,400,000 – and donated immediately back to Mrs Payne Stewart, who was there at the auction. It was incredible! And it wasn't just my jaw that was dropping; Tiger Woods' jaw was dropping, as well. We couldn't believe it. Anyway, they raised £10 million in a night. Unbelievable. So that was fun – and, actually, I played relatively good golf, particularly with large galleries around – which I hate. Something like 7,000 people on the golf course... OK, that brings us to July, during which time I went over to London and recorded... 'Patricia The Stripper'."

Beg pardon?

CHRIS: "Sitting in a bar somewhere during the German tour – could have been in a place called Kreuzlingen – and I was listening to Frank Sinatra doing 'New York, New York'. I thought 'That's really good. Like that...' And I thought to myself 'God, wouldn't it be great to do 'Patricia The Stripper' like that? With a big brass band, really kind of...vulgar, every cliché in the book. Like a Las Vegas sort of stripper show.' So we did exactly that with the song. We went in the studio with some of the best horn players in England, and we recorded it. And it sounds absolutely marvellous. I defy you not to want to rip off your clothes when you hear it or, indeed, to rip off somebody else's clothes."

What are the plans for this new version of the song?

CHRIS: "We're going to release it, in November. We're also hoping to do a video of the story, hopefully involving some of my 'celebrity' friends as the judge and the policeman, and so on, in the courtroom scene. That would be a lot of fun. Chris Porter was, again, the producer of the version, along with myself, and we spent a lot of time working on it. I went to his home, did the vocals, and I'm very pleased with the whole track. We've got girls singing on it, it goes half-time at the end...it's just a really in your face, fun track. I hope it will do well."

I've heard a very strange story lately about you and The Bloodhound Gang...

CHRIS: "Well, this is all as a result of a friend of ours from Germany turning up late to a meeting with another artist on his label – called The Bloodhound Gang. I knew nothing about this group but,

anyway, the guy turns up, says 'Sorry I'm late, I've been with Chris de Burgh' and they said 'What?? We're great fans of his!' This is a bunch of young Americans from New Jersey. Who are big fans! So, one thing and another, Kenny (Thomson – Chris's manager) contacted them, and they've agreed to do a re-mix of 'I Want It (And I Want It Now)' in the style of The Bloodhound Gang. I've listened to some of their music now, and they have some very suggestive lyrics, to say the least, but they haven't changed the lyrics of my song – just given it The Bloodhound Gang treatment. We haven't heard it yet – I have no idea what it's going to sound like – but I just thought it would be terrific idea; a new musical input. Who knows, at my age I suddenly might become young and cool again! Ha-ha!"

So, we're nearly up to date...

CHRIS: "Yes. What else?... Oh, I went to Berlin during August and did a solo concert, genuinely just me and a guitar and piano – in the biggest car showroom in Europe; 2500 people were there. It was a Mercedes Benz car showroom and it was absolutely awesome. It was a beautiful piece of architecture. It had a big stage, with a giant screen behind, and I did well over an hour, just solo. Initially, it was a tough call because there were a lot of banking people there – a fairly serious bunch – but half-way through they were leaping up and down and clapping. I had worked the old de Burgh magic on 'em! I went to the Hockenheim Ring for the German Grand Prix and met a lot of my pals again in the paddock; you know, all of the racing drivers and the team owners and the people who work for Ferrari, and so on. It was great to see so many old friends in the Jordan and McLaren camps because I'm a bit of a Formula 1 fan. And that does pretty much bring us up to date, other than to say that just recently we went up to see the Giants Causeway, a rock formation which is absolutely amazing, up there in the North of Ireland. We also visited a few of the local sites. Following that, I went out to the South of France, to St Tropez, to do another show with my friends from Mauritius in this smart hotel in the centre of the resort. The Mauritian band that I played with last year are came over, and we stayed for a week, just hanging out and enjoying ourselves."

What's in the diary for the immediate future?

CHRIS: "Well, by the time people read this, I will have done another three shows in Germany, which have been tagged on to the last German tour. During September I shall also be performing in Beirut – a place I have not been back to for years. I'm really looking forward to going again. I had a fantastic time when I was last there. I'll also be performing in Bucharest – a place I've never been to. Naturally, I'm looking forward to that, also. Then, in October, I'll be attending an event for an organisation out in America – it's basically the Irish Chamber Of Commerce over there – called the ICCUSA. For the past 11 years or so, they've had this very prestigious dinner in New York, which has been either attended by the current President of the United States and the vice-president or, indeed, they send best wishes or representatives along. Basically, the top businessmen in America who are of Irish origin get together, have this big bash and they honour three people every year who are from the field of Ireland or those with an Irish background who have achieved something. The number of people actually from Ireland is very small, however, it's mainly about people who have gone to America and become successful. Last year, for example, the honoured the head of Aer Lingus. This year, they are honouring a businessman from America, plus the head of the Allied Irish Bank – the biggest bank here in Ireland and also one of the biggest banks in Europe – and...yours truly! I don't know quite what the commendation is but it has something to do with, basically, being a sort of an ambassador for Ireland on an international scale over the last 26 years. It's a very prestigious thing, and I'm delighted to be going to New York – coming back, ironically, on my birthday. I will also be performing a number of times for an event called 'Art On Ice' in Zurich, where some of the world's top ice skaters skate in an arena with anything between 6 and 10,000 people watching and my band performing live, while they skate. I did this event about 18 months ago, and it was fantastic last time. I really loved it and I'm looking forward to doing that again. That will be at the end of November, early December – subsequently followed by the UK tour. This time, we've got a lot more dates – in Newcastle, Glasgow, Birmingham, London - London is already sold out. In fact, the ticket sales across all dates have been extremely good – Cardiff, Brighton, Bournemouth, Sheffield and Manchester. And then it's Christmas."

One thing we haven't yet discussed is that familiar topic – the question of yet another new album. Is this something you are even thinking about at the moment?

CHRIS: "It is and it isn't. I have to say, I know that I poured a lot of my best writing into 'Quiet Revolution' and the idea of doing it all over again...it's really quite difficult. Not that I'm shirking it, but coming up with that many really top quality tunes is a tall order and, I have to say it right now, I doubt if I can reach those heights with the next album because you just can't do it every time. You do your best, but it's a confluence of things; the way you're feeling, the way things are in the world, in the world of music...all sorts of things combine. And, even now, 'Quiet Revolution' is still doing extremely well. It's never been Number One on any chart but it's done very well and we're going to continue on with that album until the end of this year. However, I have been offered the chance of doing an album of my personal favourite songs (see 'Until The Next Time' at the end of this newsletter for further details), and I have taken up that offer. We'll just see how things pan out from there. The thing is, I'm enjoying myself and, at this stage of my career, I look around me and all my colleagues who aspired to long-term careers, a lot of them are sort of dropping off – not to sleep although, mind you, at their age they probably are. There are still some people there who I admire most highly. People like Elton John and Phil Collins – although I'm sad to see that Tina Turner has decided to hang up her dancing shoes. But, after 26 years, I'm still thoroughly enjoying what I do and I love the travelling. I feel blessed, basically. In fact, I would just like to finish up this part of our interview by saying how thrilled I am with the support, on a worldwide basis, for my career. It means an enormous amount to me – particularly when I sit down to write songs – to know that there are people who are still interested in what I'm doing, still interested in coming to see the concerts. I promise that I will never give up what I'm doing as long as I can sing to the quality that I believe I have been doing and as long as I can perform to the quality of performance that I have been bringing to people for all these years. You will never see me playing concerts in some little discotheque or bar on the third-rate circuit. I'm too proud to do that, and I still feel that I'm good enough to be occupying a spot somewhere, if not at the top of the tree, then certainly not so far off the top of the tree."

PERSON TO PERSON

It's been a couple of issues since we last included this occasional feature within the newsletter and so, for the benefit of any newer club members, we should explain that 'Person To Person' is your chance to interview Chris by sending your questions for him in to the fan club. Here are his latest answers:

Many people in the world know you, but it doesn't always mean that you know them. What



do you feel when people absolutely unknown to you act as if they are your friends? Are you annoyed by this? (Tanya Khromova, Russia).

CHRIS: "Never. I'm never annoyed by that because they feel they know me through my music and, as you must have discovered through the years, I put a lot of my own feelings into the songs. That said, and as I have also said in the past, I never put my *entire* beliefs into my songs. There's always a bit of a wall around my vulnerability, but I put a lot of myself into my music – and people do regard me as a friend. Perhaps they kind of feel that I am being genuine and honest in the songs and feel that they know me as a friend. I'm never offended by that."

How do your children handle the situation of having a famous Daddy? (Ellen Dichte, Germany).

CHRIS: "Well, it's always difficult when they're in school but my profile in Ireland, thankfully, is very low. The situation here in Ireland is an extraordinary one; the economy, as I've said, is booming and there's an entire new generation. As far as an awful lot of that new generation is concerned, they probably think that I have actually stopped completely doing the business in the music business. I've been very poorly supported by the media in Ireland for the last ten or 15 years – and I just feel that I am perfectly happy for that situation to continue because it means that I lead a fairly anonymous life here, except for the mass of TV and media stuff that comes in from the UK. So here, in Ireland, they handle it very well, the kids. There are some people in Ireland who turn up to every single social function; as we say they turn up to the opening of an envelope. I very rarely go out to those places with my wife. We just don't like being part of a rent-a-celebrity crowd. So our profile is pretty low here. That said, people in this country are still aware that I am a major international star because, when I do get mentioned, it's always 'Irish superstar' this and that. For the children, it's OK; I think that sometimes they find it a little bit difficult but, most of the time, there's no teasing – although that may change with 'Patricia The Stripper!'"

Is Peter Oxendale as zany in real life as he appears to be on stage? (Toni Jehan, Essex).

CHRIS: "Brief answer to that – yes!"

Are you interested in your own website – www.cdeb.com – and do you ever read the messages in its Guest Book? (Marion Bressel, Germany);

CHRIS: "I am frequently given these messages by my office, and I am absolutely delighted that people all over the world are interested in me and my website. The number of hits on the site is truly astounding, and I am highly aware of the value of the Internet. Although I have the whole computer set-up here and the children are really interested in computers, none of us are interested to spend hours and hours looking at a screen – so I'm actually not tied up to the Internet yet, not connected. And, some days, I walk by and say to myself 'Well, there's another day I haven't need the Internet'. You know, if I need information then I can get it from all sorts of other places. I don't want to sound like an old fuddy duddy here, though; it's inevitable that I will be connected to the Internet by the end of the year – probably even by the end of the month, actually. When that happens, I know that I will not be spending an awful lot of time staring at a computer screen because life is for living and I have so much to do. I'm a very active person, anyway, and I still keep very fit – I'm actually the same weight as I've been for the past 15 years. I love walking and all of the other things that people know I enjoy; keeping in trim, keeping in good form. So looking at a screen isn't my idea of fun, *necessarily*. When I do go on line, I will definitely spend a little time looking at all the information and stuff that is there about me and my career – because people out there know more about me than I do!"

We recently went to Dublin and liked the city very much – especially Bewleys (the famous old tea room) – what's your favourite place to go in Dublin? (Judith and Annie Sens, Holland);

CHRIS: "Hmmm...good question. Well, I rarely go into the centre of the city of Dublin and the brief reason for that is because the traffic is absolutely chaotic now. That, along with the economic boom... Something like 240,000 new cars were sold last year – and seven years ago, the figure was a tenth of that. So, the city cannot cope with the traffic. But what I like to do, when I do go into Dublin, is maybe go to the theatre. I like going up and down a street called Grafton Street, which is a shopping area. As you may know, Grafton Street also has a special place in my history because, in the very, very early days of my career, I used to sing and play guitar there in a restaurant called Captain Americas. In fact, I recently took my kids up there – and it's now one of those places on the 'rock trail' because that's where I started singing."

What's it like for you to go back there – and do you feel any 'echoes of the past' there?

CHRIS: "Very much. Seeing all these young people who've got their own lives now...we thought we were the cocks with the walk at the time – and now these young people think they are. They have their own social lives and it's glitzy and glamorous and fun, and there's a lot of money sloshing around. People are doing well and Ireland is *definitely* on the map whereas, ten years ago, it wasn't. It's a strange thing for me to be in Captain Americas nowadays, and I do hear my own echoes and I look back. I'll tell you a very funny thing which happened recently when I was down in my little farmhouse, down in the south of Ireland, by where my mother lives. My mother came in one day and she said 'Look, there's a talent competition down at the local pub – you should go along.' So I said 'I'll go down'. I went down with Diane, the talent competition started about an hour-and-a-half late, but people were so friendly and drinking pints and this and that – lots of smoke – a typical, lovely local pub atmosphere, so we were quite happy just to be there. Anyway, the talent competition started – I think there were 12 entries – and most of them were excellent, actually. One guy stood up, a local policeman, and he sang 'Don't Pay The Ferryman'. Which won the competition! I got up and sang a few songs as well. I thought 'I can't let this go by.' I wasn't part of the competition, though; I didn't want enter – just in case I lost! Sorry, this was apropos of something else you just asked me – what was it? The ghosts? The ghosts of Captain Americas... Well, having seen the talent competition, I said to the audience, 'D'you know, it is possible for somebody from this little, tiny village of a few hundred people to become world famous.' I said 'I did it.' I didn't say it as immodestly as that, actually. It was more along the lines of 'Maybe somebody from this talent competition tonight can do what I did.' And I was thinking about that. These days, the route to world fame is so slick now and so fast, with modern communications, that you can become 'world famous' or world-renowned very, very quickly – but, also, you can become obscure very, very quickly, as well. If the media no longer supports you, you can become very, very famous – like these boy bands, girl bands and stuff. But don't get me started on them! So, back to Dublin. Certainly, Bewleys would also be high on the list because that's where I used to hang out when I was a student at Trinity College."

With your exposure to pop memorabilia, and with the growing importance of it both historically and financially, have you collected any items worth mentioning over the years? (Steve Bennett, Oxford).

CHRIS: "When I left university and I wanted to pursue a musical career, I was completely broke and I worked for several months in a second-hand record store. What I would do is I would work

very hard there, take time off time to write songs, go back to work and so on. This went on for about six months but, during that time, I actually bought a lot of old vinyl records which people would drop in. They would be in the original wrapping and, quite often, DJ copies of, for example, early Beatles' albums – which had never been played. Some of them were even on unusual labels from America, like VJ. Now, I've got them all stashed away. I know *where* they are, but I'm not sure exactly what I've got. I'll have to take time to sort through them when I move house, but I do believe I've probably got quite a lot of interesting and valuable rare items there."

Remember, if you have a question for Chris – whether concerning his music, career or personal life, and regardless of how trivial the enquiry – then send it along to the NEW fan club P.O. Box address, marking your letter 'PERSON TO PERSON'. The purpose of this feature is for the fan club to ask Chris for answers to your questions, no matter how weird, wonderful or just plain nosey they might be – so USE IT!

PEN PALS

Stephanie Lucas, 10730, Du Plein Air, Mirabel, Quebec, J7J 2H4, Canada. (27).

Sylvia Glauser-Iten, Spitaladlerstr. 51, CH-3013 Berne, Switzerland.

Tanya Khromova, 11/1 – 31, Apsheronkaya, 354066 Sochi, Russia. (17).

Miss Anne-Marie Spencer, 20 Cameron Street, Wavertree, Liverpool, L7 0EW, England. (29).

Michelle Hardwick, 38 Sycamore Close, Podsmead, Gloucester, GL1 5TY, England. (17).

Jeri Neufeld, 9926 Mission Vega Road #4, Santee, CA 92071, USA.

Carrie Anderson, 8 Maitland Street, Dundee, Scotland, DD4 6RR. (17).

NB: Where there are numbers in brackets after an address above, these refer to the age of the Pen Pal.

If you would like your details included in a future list of Pen Pals, then please write your name and address **CLEARLY** and in **BLOCK CAPITAL LETTERS** – specifying your age only if you wish – and send them in to the **NEW fan club P.O. Box**. However, if we can't understand your writing, we obviously won't be able to pass your information on. Finally, just a brief note to point out that Pen Pals is an international service. We'd like to put as many people from as many different countries as possible in touch with one another as we can – and don't forget that you already have one major shared interest; a love of Chris de Burgh and his music. So, get writing!...

UNTIL THE NEXT TIME...

That's it for another issue of the Gazette but, before we go, do remember that Chris will be touring the UK during December as follows:

December 7 - **NEWCASTLE** Telewest Arena. Tkts: £25, £22.50, £18.50. Call: 0191 401 8000.

December 8 - **GLASGOW** Clyde Auditorium. Tkts: £25, £22.50, £18.50. Call: 0141 287 7777.

December 9 - **BIRMINGHAM** NEC. Tkts: £25, £22.50. Call: 0121 780 4133.

December 11 - **LONDON** Royal Albert Hall. Tkts: £27.50, £25, £22.50. Call: 0207 589 8212.

December 12 - **CARDIFF** CIA. Tkts: £25, £22.50, £18.50. Call: 01222 224 488.

December 14 - **BRIGHTON** Centre. Tkts: £25, £22.50. Call: 0870 900 9100.

December 15 - **BOURNEMOUTH** BIC. Tkts: £25, £22.50, £18.50. Call: 01202 456 456.

December 17 - **SHEFFIELD** Arena. Tkts: £25, £22.50, £18.50. Call: 0114 256 5656.

December 18 - **MANCHESTER** Evening News Arena. Tkts: £25, £22.50. Call: 0161 930 8000.

NATIONAL CREDIT CARD HOTLINE NUMBER: 0870 444 5556

Also note the details of the aforementioned forthcoming compilation album by Chris. The record, which has 15 C de B songs personally selected for inclusion by Chris himself, will only be available from the department store chain Marks & Spencer and only at its top 100 stores – although it can be ordered from any of them, if you quote the catalogue number MS 4820 and album title. Called 'Chris de Burgh – The Collection' it is due to be released in early November, at the time of going to print. Full track listing is as follows: 'Here Is Your Paradise', 'Missing You', 'Love Of The Heart Divine', 'The Same Sun', 'Sailing Away', 'The Lady In Red', 'Where We Will Be Going' (Power Of Ten album version), 'Separate Tables' (Love Songs album new recording), 'When I Think Of You', 'Up Here In Heaven', 'Fatal Hesitation', 'Don't Pay The Ferryman', 'A Spaceman Came Travelling' (Spark To A Flame version), 'The Simple Truth' and 'High On Emotion'.

Finally, make a note that the *next* edition of the Gazette will **not be published until next year**. However, when it arrives – all going well during late January/early February – it will feature more exclusive conversation with Chris about the UK Tour, any further information about his plans for a new album and, as ever, details from his diary. We will also bring you more 'Person To Person' answers – so, please, do send some questions for us to ask Chris!

Until the next time, don't forget to call The **C de B Hotline** to keep in touch with what Chris is up to during those frequently lengthy (!) gaps between newsletters. Also be aware that Chris has recently indicated a desire to leave occasional personal messages himself on the Hotline... Remember that the telephone number to call was **CHANGED** some time ago to:

090 63 63 33 40

NB: Calls cost 60p a minute at all times. Please ask permission of the person paying the phone bill before making a call. This service can only be accessed if you are living in the UK.

The reason for switching to this new number is purely because it allows us to up-date the phoneline remotely, via an automated 'prompt' system, whereas the previous number could only be changed if a human being (remember them?) was available to actually record a message using a real to real tape recorder (remember them?). In all other respects, **The C de B Hotline** remains exactly as before and, as such, is only up-dated when required – with each message always announcing the date of recording in the first few seconds of the call, to allow you to hang up immediately if you have already heard it. Listen out for any messages from Chris.

So, until the next time, don't forget to send any comments, criticisms, Pen Pal addresses or Person To Person questions to me, Mike, at the **NEW fan club address:**

**THE NEW CHRIS DE BURGH CLUB
P.O. BOX 102, STANMORE, MIDDLESEX, HA7 2PY, ENGLAND**

As always, many thanks for your continued support and legendary patience.

PS: If you are on-line, or have access to the Internet via any means, do check out Chris's OFFICIAL website at: www.cdeb.com