

3-APR-08

The Pure Drop

by Tommy Fegan

A WEEKLY
ROUND UP OF
TRADITIONAL
IRISH MUSIC



FIDDLES FLYIN' AT THE RAILWAY

The Railway Bar attracts a steady coterie of good musicians every Thursday, and most weeks the seisiún gets a boost of new or occasional visiting musicians. Last Thursday night, the regular fiddle section (Dermot Mackin, Willie O'Hare, Charlie McGeown, Emmet Quinn etc) were augmented by Paul Bradley and Paula Rafferty.

Paula calls in occasionally, but Paul, visiting his Bessbrook home from his adopted Galway, was playing the Railway for the first time. Together they inspired the home team to a rousing blast of fiddle music of exceptional quality and energy. The relentless pace of tunes infected even the most casual observer, "in for the craic" who were silenced by the litany of reels, jigs, hornpipes mazurkas etc. Another first time visitor/singer, Danny Doran, also put his stamp on the evening with a couple of powerful ballads, allowing the instrumentalists time to come

up for breath!

Paula's brother Dermot added a pulsating addition on flute, including a very tight duet piece with the big sister. I'm still reeling from it!

Q: Why do so many fishermen own banjos?

A: They make great anchors!

FLEADH CHEOIL 2007

The first in a six part series on Fleadh Cheoil 2007, widely regarded as one of the best ever, gets underway this Friday at 7pm on RTE. An earlier programme on this Fleadh was very well received, so this should be one worth watching.

Q: What is the difference between an accordion and a chain saw?

A: You can turn off a chainsaw

TULA CEILÍ BAND, 60TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION

This is a very compelling recording, made in Bohan's Bar, Feakle, County Clare, recapturing the authenticity, energy and enthusiasm of one of the great Ceilí Bands of all time.

The central pieces are those in which the band are in full flight, but the bonus comes in a selection of tracks that enables us to get closer to the individual players, like the "Blackberry Blossom/Devaney's Goat" track featuring three flute players JJ Conway, Jenifer Lenihan and Martin Glynn. Musicians will find interesting versions of popular tunes like the phrasing on Dunphy's Hornpipe, dancers will be riveted to attention by the pulsating drive of piano and drums, and neither compromises

the other - another hallmark of this legendary band.

There are many great Ceilí Bands, and Ceol-Camloch will be shining a light on the great local bands soon, but no one can deny the very distinctive swing of the Tulla. So closely does this invoke the passion and sensations of the great Ceilí Mór that I'm sure they've sprayed doses of BO on the disk. The accompanying booklet is a treasure trove of information and photos and handsomely produced at a very reasonable price of €15 online from <http://www.claddaghrecords.com/www/product.asp?PID=2270&cID=22>

Email: tommyfegan@nsec.info if you would like to contribute in any way to the Pure Drop. More local information on www.ceolcamloch.co.uk



The Raymond Carroll Dancers in action in the Cobblestones at the recent Dublin launch of the South Armagh project. 08W14N141