

Shades of Simon

An outstanding 5-piece band presenting the story and authentic sound of the songs of Paul Simon

Introducing the new band



Colin Davies
Vocals, acoustic guitar,
keyboards



Paul Bleach
Vocals and
keyboards



John Austin
Electric guitar,
acoustic guitar



Kelvin Ward
Bass guitar



Dave Johns
Drums and
percussion



John White
Sound Engineer

The lifting of the COVID-19 lockdown is so welcome!

With the relaxation of Government regulations up to 6 people can meet indoors with effect from 17th May. So for the first time in very many months we will be able to get together as a band and we've already scheduled a rehearsal for Thursday of that week!

We haven't met together as a band for over a year, and there have been some changes in that time. We started rehearsals as a 6 piece band comprising Colin Davies with John Austin and Dave Johns from The Busketeers, combining with Kelvin Ward, and Dean & Gayna Taylor from the Wheres Spot Band. Sadly, Dean & Gayna have decided that they can't give the high level of commitment necessary to the band

and won't be going on this exciting journey with us. We'll certainly miss their awesome harmonies which helped make the Wheres Spot Band so popular!

But we have been really fortunate in being able to invite an old friend, Paul Bleach, to join us on keyboards and vocals. With Paul on keyboards this will enable Colin to concentrate on his guitar wizardry which will really help us achieve that authentic Paul Simon sound. Paul is a professional singer and keyboard player in his own right and a tremendous asset and we're really looking forward to working with him in the band.

You can read more about all the members of the band on our website.



We're on James Taylor's website

with Colin's lockdown cover version of the James Taylor song "Copperline"!



Paul Bleach joins the band

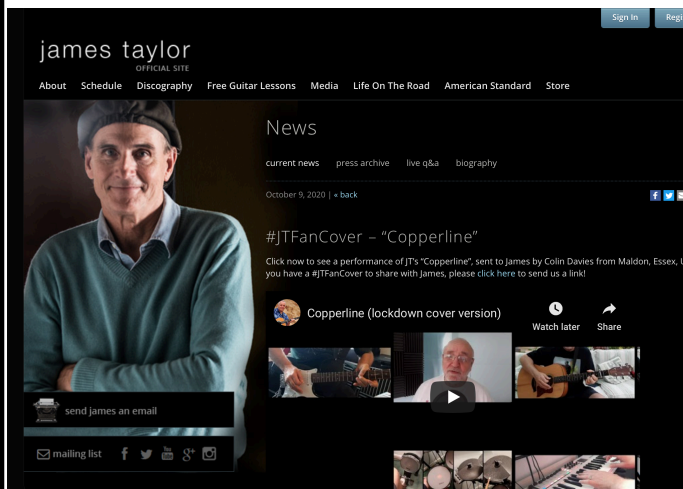
playing stage piano and sharing vocals!



Colin Davies

Listen to his solo version of Paul Simon's *American Tune* - [click here](#)

We're on James Taylor's website!



Colin is a great James Taylor fan and did a remote collaboration recording with John Austin and Bob Wilkinson, along with quite a bit of overdubbing on different instruments! But it achieved a great sound and even got featured on James Taylor's own website! It's a cover version of the James Taylor song "CopperLine" and proving very popular, world-wide!

[Click here](#) to take a listen...

Our 1st gig - 10th July

Like most other bands, all the gigs we had lined up were cancelled because of COVID-19. However, despite the ongoing uncertainties, promoters are now just beginning to book bands again and we have our first gig confirmed for Saturday 10th July 2021 at Great Notley. We will be performing on the music stage at the Great Notley fete which is held at the Community Centre and Village Green. We will be on stage at 6:20pm.

It's an ideal gig to start with as it will be held in the open air, so it's as COVID-19 safe as you can get! It's planned as a fun event running throughout the afternoon and evening from 1pm to 9pm with lots of things to see and do including a car show, food & drink and a bouncy castle for the youngsters, plus a full programme of music throughout from some great bands. Admission is free. We'd really love to see you there.

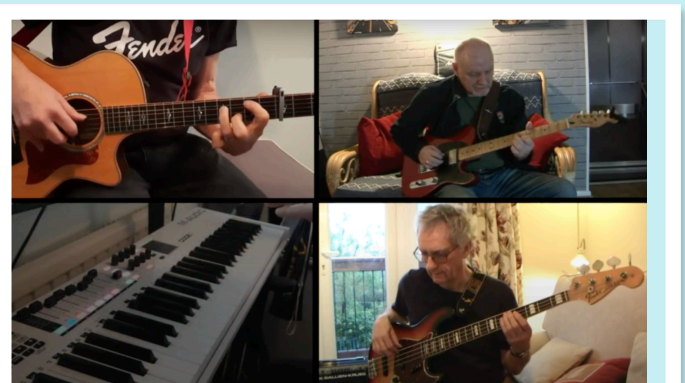
Theatre production

Our first gig will be in the open air so we won't be able to incorporate the visuals we have planned for our full theatre show. But we're hoping to be able to confirm the date of our first theatre production shortly, which will be a full evenings entertainment incorporating visuals to help illustrate our narrative of Paul Simon's amazing 60 year career as songwriter and performer.

LOCKDOWN INSTRUMENTAL NO.7

Although we haven't met as a band during lockdown, Colin has recorded one of his new self penned instrumentals as an on-line remote collaboration with Kelvin and John from the band. It is imaginatively named "Instrumental no. 7" and he will be including it as a track on his forthcoming solo album "In my mind's eye" due for release later this year.

[Click here](#) to take a listen...



HUNTER MUSKETT



A date for your diary!

We've been trying to organise a date to organise a joint concert with good friends of ours from the legendary *Hunter Muskett*. Those of you fortunate enough to have lived through the folk-rock decade in the mid 1960's to 70's may remember Hunter Muskett as one of the top bands of the time touring alongside the likes of Ralph McTell.

The band went their separate ways back in 1974 but have been getting together again once or twice a year now for a reunion tour. Unbelievably, the band still have the same original line up as in the 1960's - Terry Hiscock, Doug Morter, Chris George and Roger Trevitt.

We're really fortunate in having managed to agree Sat.9th Oct.2021 for a joint concert with them. It will be held at the Barnhall Social club in Wickford which has comfortable lounge bar seating and excellent acoustics. It's actually our 3rd attempt to organise this - each previous date got cancelled because of COVID-19! But we're pretty confident it will happen this time - 3rd time lucky!

[Click here](#) to read more about Hunter Muskett.

Hair today - but not tomorrow!

We set the website up over a year ago, and all our plans to put some demo recordings of ourselves performing Paul Simon songs on the website were thwarted by the COVID-19 pandemic, as were our rehearsals.

Similarly, our plans to take some publicity photos of us as a band met the same fate! But we haven't dared try taking any during lockdown, and promise not to until we've managed to visit the hairdressers! But we hope to have some new photos on the website very soon.

Our setlist!

We're planning to perform what we feel are the very best of Paul Simon's songs. This is the setlist we're working on at the moment. Some truly awesome songs; something for everybody!

50 ways to leave your lover
59th Street Bridge song
A hazy shade of winter
America
American tune
April come she will
Bookends/ Overs medley
Bridge over troubled water
Duncan
El condor pasa
Graceland
Homeward bound
I am a rock
Kathy's song
Kodachrome
Late in the evening
Me & Julio down by the schoolyard
Mother and child reunion
Mrs Robinson
Scarborough Fair/ Canticle
Slip sliding away
Sound of silence
Still crazy after all these years
The boxer
The dangling conversation
The only living boy in New York
Under African skies
Wednesday morning 3am
You can call me Al