

Miss October's 2007 UK Tour Report:



One Jukes Fan's Journey Across the Pond

Inspired by fans' tour reports of the past, here are some of the highlights of my trip to see the Jukes in the United Kingdom from November 3rd, 2007 through November 12th, 2007.

Saturday, November 3rd: Travel Day

After a hectic day doing laundry, buying luggage, packing and repacking, my road trip pal, Karen, and I left Newark for the flight to Gatwick. We'll arrive in the UK Sunday morning in plenty of time to make it up to Bilston for the show, but the trick will be to catch the one train all day that makes the trip to Wolverhampton without any changes. We travel light, but the idea of schlepping the luggage between 3 trains and through the London tube system was still enough to make us want to catch the non-stop. With 75 minutes between the scheduled landing at the North Terminal and the train departure from the South Terminal, it should be no problem, right?

Sunday, November 4th: Robin2, Bilston

We landed and ran like OJ through immigration, through baggage, through customs, to the monorail between terminals, to the ticket machine, down to the track and onto the train with plenty of time to spare. Three whole minutes.

We pulled into Wolverhampton a few hours before show time. A couple of hours of sleep would have been nice, but the EastEnders Omnibus was on, and it was a good one, too. Stacey and Bradley's wedding! (If you don't watch, it's addictive. Take my word for it!)

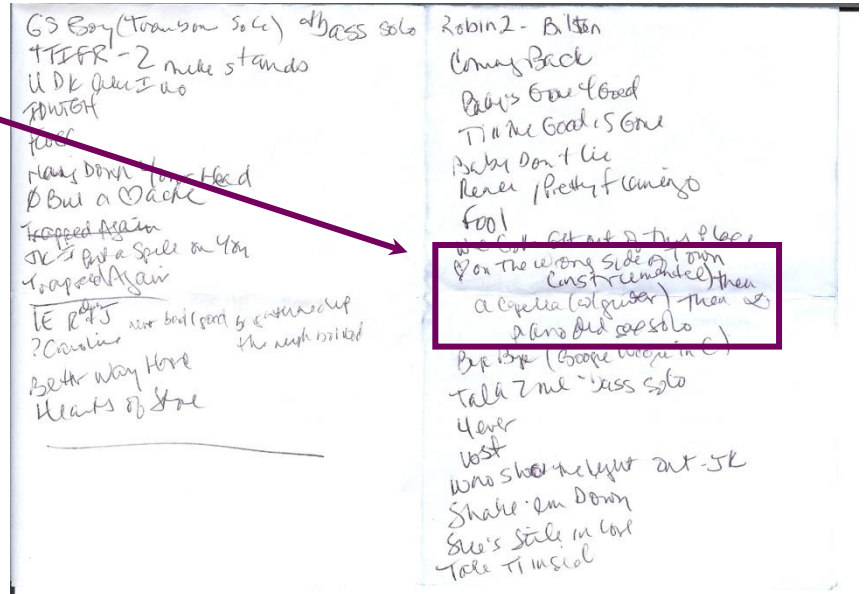
Karen and I got to the Robin2 and thankfully ran into Glasgow John, who knew where the pub was. Even through the fog that was rapidly descending on the town, John got us there and back in plenty of time for the show. I should have remembered the name of the pub, but all I could think of was "American



Werewolf in London' started like this." In the pub we ran into Norma, Mick, and Deb the Druidess, and then saw Karin and Liz and Chris and Paul back at the Robin2. Nothing like travelling halfway around the world and running into friendly faces in familiar t-shirts. Among the Bilston crowd, we counted shirts from at least 7 different past Jukes tours, including a vintage tour shirt from 1992!

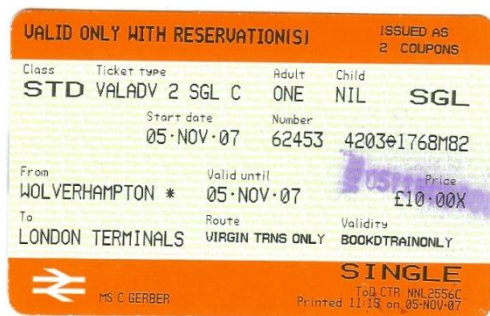
It was an interesting show; at one point, Johnny decided that a song should be all instrumental, then completely a capella, and then that the saxophone solo should be a piano solo.

I'm pretty sure that "Bye Bye" was written on the spot. Which probably means that's not what it's called, either, but if I'm doing the setlists, I get to make up names for the songs I don't know.



The fog was even thicker by the end of the night, but we got back to the hotel and finally, after 38 hours, got some sleep.

Monday, November 5th: No Show



I left Karen to explore Wolverhampton and headed down to London to catch up with good friend and long-time Jukes fan, Kirsten. Loved the Oyster Card for travelling around London! So convenient and so much cheaper than queuing up and buying single tickets. (Notice, please, in the previous sentence, the proper usage of the British term, "queuing", which I'm sure has too many vowels.)

I spent a lovely afternoon on Monday with the British crossword puzzle. If you've never tried the UK version of a crossword, it's pretty twisted. This one took me a week, and I know a bunch of it's wrong.

L D G A O H O M

THE PRIZE CROSSWORD

by Quixote
No 925, 4 November 2007

<p>ACROSS</p> <p>1 Sort of fly – I munch one accidentally (9)</p> <p>6 Snake, one caught in jelly (5) <i>0.5.9</i></p> <p>7 Irrate a chair; a fantastic device for someone with big health problem (10,5)</p> <p>10 Maiden perhaps meeting boy without love – it's too much to bear (8)</p> <p>11 Deliver claret? Latest from the wine firm (6)</p> <p>13 Maybe saw ill-gotten gains being returned (4)</p> <p>14 Official who has an eye on the enemy (10)</p> <p>17 Actress had a flutter – behind which lay a power (5,5)</p> <p>18 Article getting negative response in Paris – author unknown (4)</p>	<p>DOWN</p> <p>19 I had a little house somewhere in America (5)</p> <p>20 Belittle Beth? How nasty! It's unsporting and unfair (3,5,3,4)</p> <p>21 When agitated, fondle mask (6)</p> <p>22 Michael can work simply by force of habit (10)</p> <p>23 Traditional farm stock well organised (4)</p> <p>24 A little child that is very inadequate becomes a success (8)</p> <p>25 Formally write down obvious instruction to stylus user (5,4,6)</p> <p>26 Pet a fellow brought across a river in vessel (9)</p> <p>27 Writin' maybe about one group of substances that can stop bacterial growth (10)</p> <p>28 All taste goes funny with inclusion of black seasoning (5,4)</p> <p>29 Our present Queen is champion! (8)</p> <p>30 Female is getting hold of a firm that's a complete failure (6)</p>	<p>Last week's solution</p> <table border="1" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse; text-align: center;"> <tr><td>C</td><td>S</td><td>M</td><td>B</td><td>E</td><td>G</td><td>L</td><td>R</td></tr> <tr><td>A</td><td>R</td><td>C</td><td>H</td><td>E</td><td>N</td><td>E</td><td>M</td></tr> <tr><td>T</td><td>A</td><td>D</td><td>A</td><td>T</td><td>E</td><td>R</td><td>S</td></tr> <tr><td>D</td><td>A</td><td>R</td><td>L</td><td>I</td><td>N</td><td>G</td><td>C</td></tr> <tr><td>I</td><td>R</td><td>U</td><td>A</td><td>N</td><td>I</td><td></td><td></td></tr> <tr><td>D</td><td>E</td><td>I</td><td>S</td><td>M</td><td></td><td></td><td></td></tr> <tr><td>R</td><td>E</td><td>T</td><td>A</td><td>T</td><td>E</td><td>R</td><td>S</td></tr> <tr><td>A</td><td>N</td><td>G</td><td>M</td><td>E</td><td></td><td></td><td></td></tr> <tr><td>N</td><td>O</td><td>G</td><td>E</td><td>T</td><td>H</td><td>E</td><td></td></tr> <tr><td>E</td><td>H</td><td>I</td><td>E</td><td>E</td><td></td><td></td><td></td></tr> <tr><td>S</td><td>U</td><td>M</td><td>M</td><td>I</td><td>T</td><td>E</td><td>R</td></tr> <tr><td>S</td><td>A</td><td>L</td><td>O</td><td>N</td><td></td><td></td><td></td></tr> <tr><td>A</td><td>G</td><td>O</td><td>M</td><td>E</td><td></td><td></td><td></td></tr> <tr><td>O</td><td>N</td><td>T</td><td>I</td><td>C</td><td>K</td><td>E</td><td>N</td></tr> <tr><td>S</td><td>T</td><td>O</td><td>M</td><td>P</td><td>E</td><td>D</td><td></td></tr> <tr><td>O</td><td>G</td><td>E</td><td>E</td><td>I</td><td>K</td><td>O</td><td>I</td></tr> <tr><td>D</td><td>O</td><td>R</td><td>I</td><td>S</td><td>S</td><td>E</td><td>D</td></tr> <tr><td>A</td><td>E</td><td>I</td><td>S</td><td>E</td><td>S</td><td>T</td><td>I</td></tr> </table> <p>21 Dull doctor needing attention (5)</p> <p>22 Psychologist making name in prison (4)</p>	C	S	M	B	E	G	L	R	A	R	C	H	E	N	E	M	T	A	D	A	T	E	R	S	D	A	R	L	I	N	G	C	I	R	U	A	N	I			D	E	I	S	M				R	E	T	A	T	E	R	S	A	N	G	M	E				N	O	G	E	T	H	E		E	H	I	E	E				S	U	M	M	I	T	E	R	S	A	L	O	N				A	G	O	M	E				O	N	T	I	C	K	E	N	S	T	O	M	P	E	D		O	G	E	E	I	K	O	I	D	O	R	I	S	S	E	D	A	E	I	S	E	S	T	I
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How to enter: Write your name and address below, mark your envelope "DUP Sunday Prize Crossword" and send it to Independent on Sunday, Independent House, 191 Marsh Wall, London E14 9RS. The first correct entry to Quixote's cryptic puzzle (above) drawn from the sick on Wednesday will win a shelf of books from The Oxford University Press comprising: Concise Oxford Dictionary; Concise Oxford Thesaurus; Oxford Crossword Dictionary; Three-in-one Dictionary Thesaurus and Wordpower Guide; Oxford Dictionary of Etymology; Oxford Dictionary of English Grammar. The runners-up will win a copy of the Concise Oxford Dictionary. Please note there are no alternatives to the prizes offered. Last week's winner: Simon Tobin, Southport, Merseyside. Runners-up: M. Markus, Glasgow; Glyn Watkins, Bristol; EP Ryan, Bath; Jean Strathern, Kinrosswood, Kinross-shire; W Benham, Sydenhams, London.

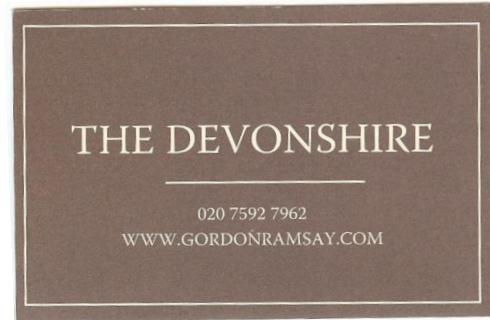
Tuesday, November 6th: Carling Academy, Oxford

I started off bright and early from London on Tuesday morning so I could see Oxford before the show, and I'm so glad I did. I'm a big fan of snooty colleges, and Oxford did not disappoint. Not only did I get to wander around an 800+-year old college, but I knocked off all my high street shopping errands, too. In Debenhams, Marks & Spencers, East, Monsoon, Jigsaw, Next and even Boots I found everything I could ever want or need, and all of it way too expensive with the exchange rate as it is for now (about \$2.10 to £1). Luckily, the second beer at Wagamama was free.

The Carling Academy show was a different kind of fun. I got to catch up with Andy from Leicester and Druid Mike, and I got called a "Norwegian fish cutter" from the stage, which you kind of had to be there to get. Then again, I was there and I'm not sure I got it. Johnny must have been talking about some other Carol from New Jersey.

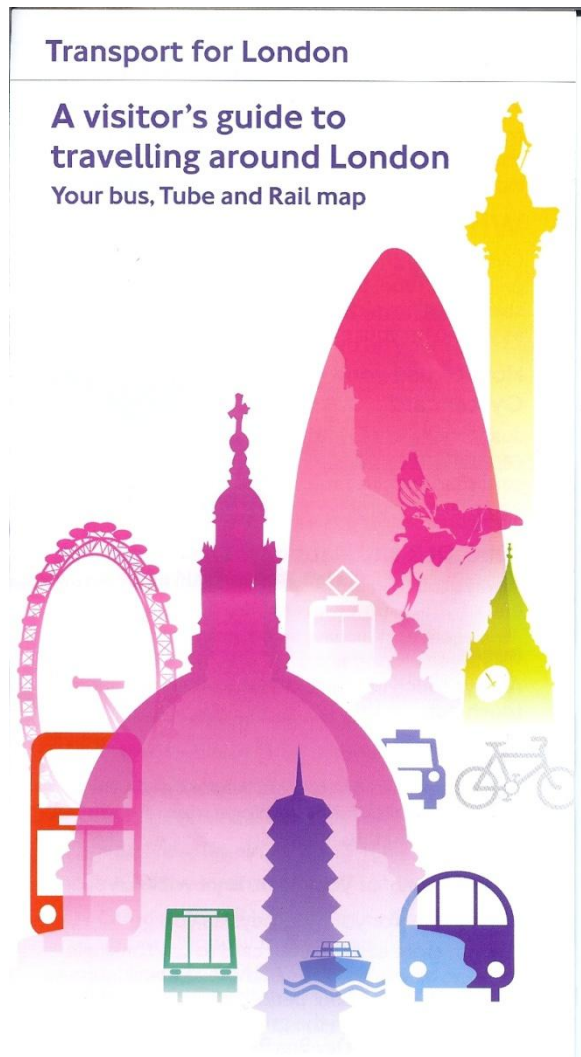
Wednesday, November 7th: No Show

On my day off in London, I indulged my inner food-snob and trekked to one of Gordon Ramsay's pubs, The Devonshire. Gordon wasn't there, but it was a really nice place to spend an afternoon. The fire was roaring, the comfy chairs were comfy, the food was really good and, best of all, whoever picked the soundtrack was heavy into Motown and Stax. Where else can you dine on pumpkin soup and beef in ale pie with "Across 110th Street" and "They Call Me Mr. Pitiful" playing in the background?



Transport for London

A visitor's guide to travelling around London
Your bus, Tube and Rail map

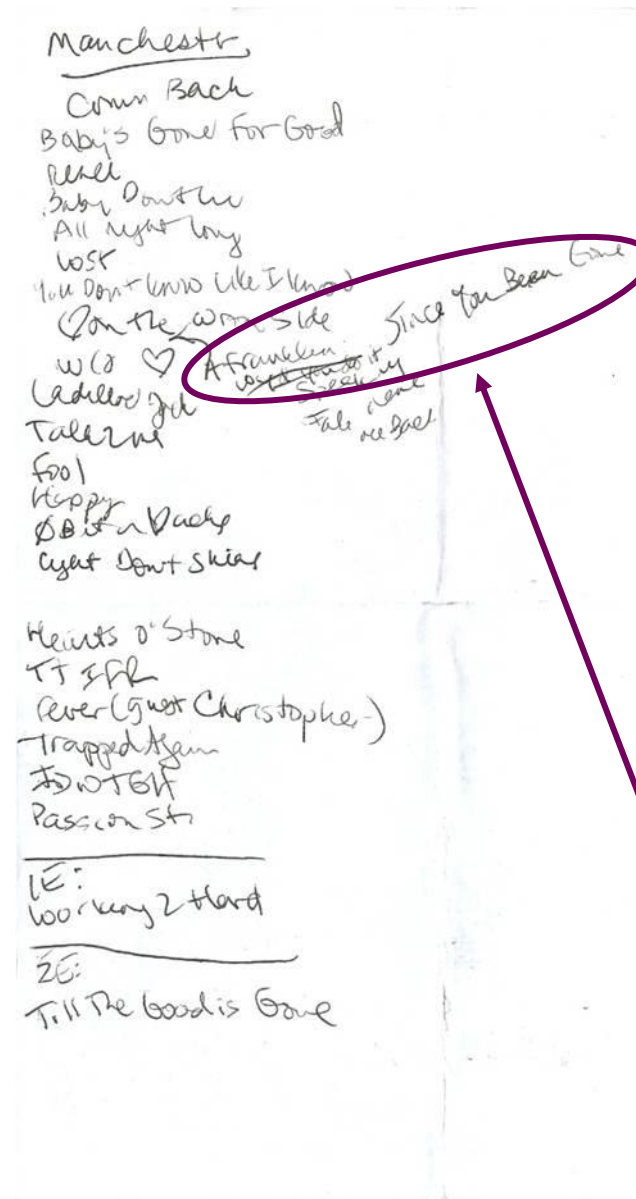


MAYOR OF LONDON

YOUR
Transport for London

More tubes, more buses, more walking around. Kensington High Street, Kensington Palace, Kensington Gardens, Hyde Park, Oxford Street, Oxford Circus. Did I mention the Oyster card? Huge improvement, can't say enough good things about it.

Thursday, November 8th: Academy 2, Manchester



After a quick train ride up to Manchester, I found my way to the Academy, in the Student Union at Manchester University. The city's holiday lights were turned on that night, which made it tough for some of the people trying to get to the gig, but they all got there by showtime.

As soon as the doors open, a father and son team ran in to claim spots up front. I hope they were still pleased with their decision when Johnny called the son (Chris) on stage to sing "The Fever" with him. If anyone's got photos, by the way, please send them to me. I've got the Dad's e-mail address and I'll pass them along.

We got another song I'd never heard the Jukes do before. I didn't even know what it was called, but, luckily, Jeff Kazee and John Conte were able to pull out a title for me.

Friday, November 9th: Shepherd's Bush Empire, London

Took the train back from Manchester Friday morning and caught up with Kirsten in time to head over to Shepherd's Bush for dinner and a pre-show drink at the pub on the corner. Every venue should have a pub on the corner – it makes it so easy for everyone to find each other. As we walked in to the pub we passed Mick, Norma and Druidess Deb coming out on their way to dinner, inside we caught up with Andy from Leicester and Druids Dave and Mike, finally got to meet fellow rock & roll globe-trotter Ashley, bumped into Chris and Paul at the bar, found Peter and Margaret from Cardiff and Karin and Rea from The Netherlands and Germany, and then, on the way out, ran back into Mick, Norma and Druidess Deb returning from dinner. It's enough to make your head spin.

The Empire is a great old venue, which reminds me a lot of the old Ritz downtown, or the Trocadero in Philly. Big open dance floor and 3 (count 'em) levels of balconies. The crowd was great, too. By the time the show started, people were packed in so tight on the floor that you couldn't even get to the bar and back. Only one of the three balconies was open, so it was pretty tight up there, too. Not only did the crowd shout for (and get) 4 encores, but Johnny and the band came out afterwards and signed stuff and took pictures for a lot of people. The Empire was a big improvement over being thrown out into the alley behind the Astoria, and I hope they get to go back there.

Saturday, November 10th: No Show

I must have been feeling homesick, but my day off in London started with Krispy Kremes and ended with Mexican food and margaritas! There was actually a little more to it than that.

Kirsten and I started out bright and early with a visit to the brand new St. Pancras train station. It's a really wonderful example of how cities can preserve their beautiful old buildings (apparently by turning them into posh condos) and also incorporate the new high-tech, high-speed, stainless steel and glass transport hubs of the future. Like a Jetsons movie made by Merchant Ivory. On our way from the station to Covent Garden, we innocently happened upon a Krispy Kreme shop just past Bloomsbury. They don't have the "HOT NOW" light, but they're still darn good.

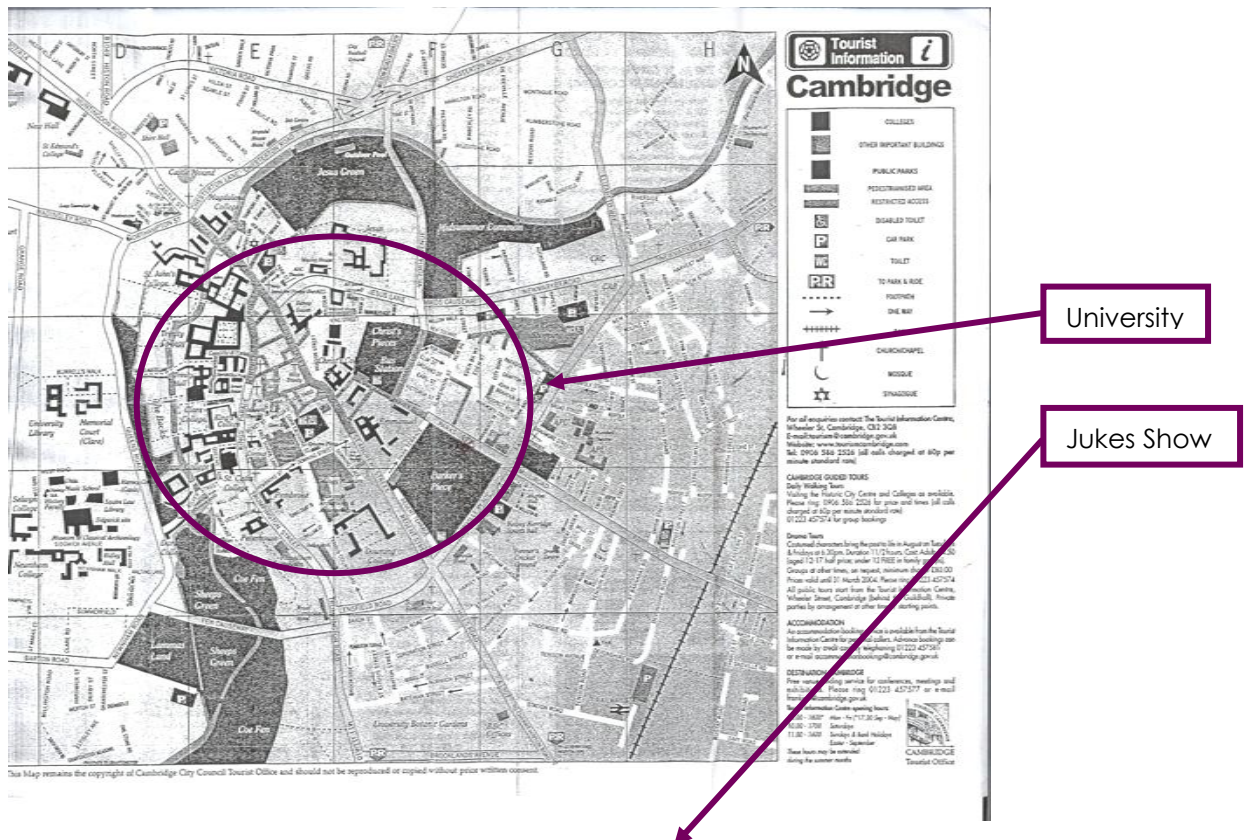


All progress from Covent Garden was stymied by the Lord Mayor's Show, the annual parade where the Mayor of London schleps across town with his retinue to pledge his allegiance to the Queen. It's a fun-filled day when they tell

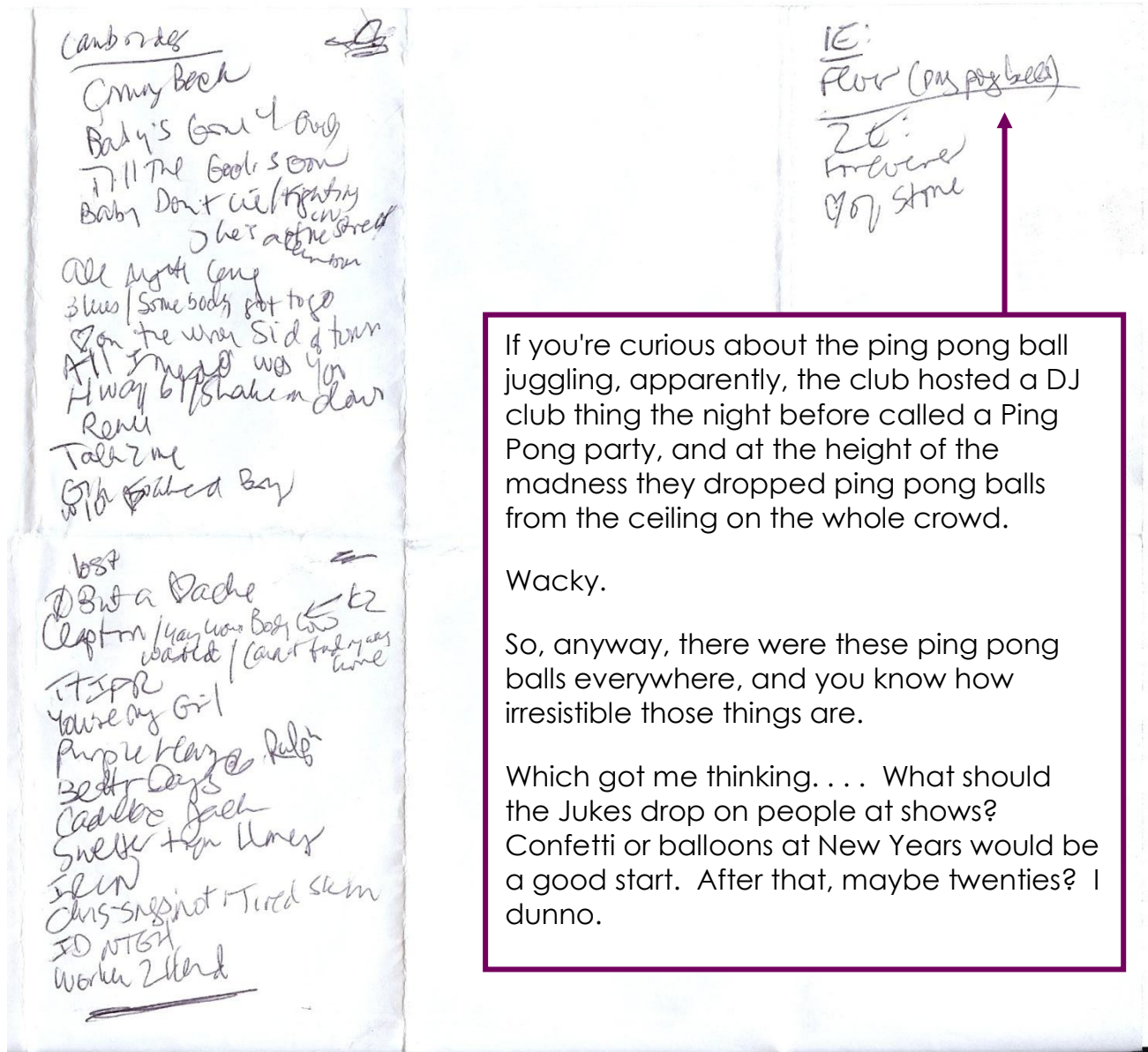
thousands of people to come into London for the show, and then they shut down all of the buses to clear the parade route. No worries, though. We made our way through Trafalgar Square, Piccadilly Circus and Oxford High Street before heading out to the suburbs for margaritas, salsa and enchiladas – typical British cuisine.

Sunday, November 11th: The Junction, Cambridge

After shaking off the tequila hangover with a quick trip to Costa Coffee, Kirsten and I headed out to Cambridge. Another beautiful college town, rich in history and culture. To tell you the truth, though, we didn't quite make it into town. The temperature had dropped a little bit and once we saw that the club and our hotel were part of a mini-complex with food, drinks, and lots of people we wanted to catch up with, we decided we didn't need to go into Cambridge after all. The gods of culture and higher learning will just have to cut us some slack on this one.



The show at the Junction was another fun one. All of the usual suspects made it to the show. Oddities included "Can't Find My Way Home" sung by Jeff Kazee and "Purple Haze" sung by Ralph Notaro. They even tried to get Chris to sing one, but he demurred.



After the show, we had a nice chat with the Druids and Mick and Norma at the hotel bar before they all sensibly went to sleep and Karen and I tried to kill a couple of hours before the bus left for Gatwick and our flight home.

Monday, November 12th: Fly Home

Have you heard the expression, "it seemed like a good idea at the time?" That would sum up the last few hours of our trip. Cambridge looked kind of close to London, and our flight wasn't until 11:30 AM, should be no problem to go to the show Sunday night and get to the airport Monday morning, right? Well, somehow it didn't quite work out that way. On the brighter side, the all-night bus ride and the pre-dawn check-in left us plenty of time for duty-free shopping. We also spent a few quid trying to figure out the slot machines at the airport. They were like big video games, but they were slot machines and they had the Simpsons on them. After about £3 we decided this was something we didn't need to learn after all.

The flight back to Newark was long and uneventful and I was happy to see my buddy Natalie at the airport for the ride home to the shore (thanks, Nat!). Luckily I'd had the foresight to bribe her with a jar of Marmite and some over-the-counter codeine from Boots.

In conclusion. . .

As always, I had a great time travelling through England following the Jukes. It's always so much fun catching up with the UK and European fans and meeting new faces to put with names on the message board. I know I've forgotten to mention people I met on the road, and I'm sorry about that. Please feel free to come to a US show and tell what a plank I am. Thanks again to everyone for helping us around the country, and we'll see you next year!