

kiss the blarney



kiss the blarney are a three piece band playing traditional Irish music with a contemporary edge, using mostly acoustic instruments but in modern arrangements and with an up to date approach.

John, Belfast born and raised, plays bass and guitar and sings a fair share of the songs. He was with Murphy's Marbles for 4 years, playing Tramore and Dungarvan Irish music festivals and the famous Cheltenham Irish Week in the "Guinness Village" at the racecourse for 3 years running. He also played in the backing band for Sean Cannon of the Dubliners when on tour. His warm vocals, superb bass playing and intricate guitar work play a major part in the band's success.

Ralph, originally from Yorkshire but now living in Staffordshire, is one of the driving forces of the band - his storming banjo and mandola playing feature heavily in the musical arrangements while his delicate guitar work counterpoints the strength of his singing and harmony work. He has played music all his life as well as building some of the instruments that he plays, serving his time in ceilidh and barn dance bands as well as featuring in bluegrass line-ups and, of course, the Blarney.

Arthur has finally settled in Macclesfield, having wandered round half the towns of England playing, singing and working as a caller for ceilidhs and barn dances. He's been involved in all kinds of music from cajun and zydeco to country and Irish. He plays fiddle, mandolin, melodeon, flute, harmonica, saxophone and anything else he can find that he thinks he can get a tune out of.

The music ranges from the old favourite chorus songs like Black Velvet Band or the Wild Rover to the more reflective songs of the Irish émigré such as Mountains of Mourne or Rare Auld Times. It encompasses the best of the old and the best of the new, including material by bands such as the Waterboys and the Saw Doctors. In between the songs, we play sets of foot-stomping jigs and reels as well the other side of the Irish coin, the gentle airs and waltzes that spring naturally from the quieter places and times.

All in all, it's a well balanced programme for an evening's entertainment: songs to sing along to, music to listen to, tunes to get up and dance to - whatever the occasion, from pub evenings to birthday parties, from wedding receptions to company dinners, from a general knees-up to formal

You can contact the band by calling Arthur on 01625 617655.

Alternatively you can email us on info@ktblarney.co.uk

www.ktblarney.co.uk