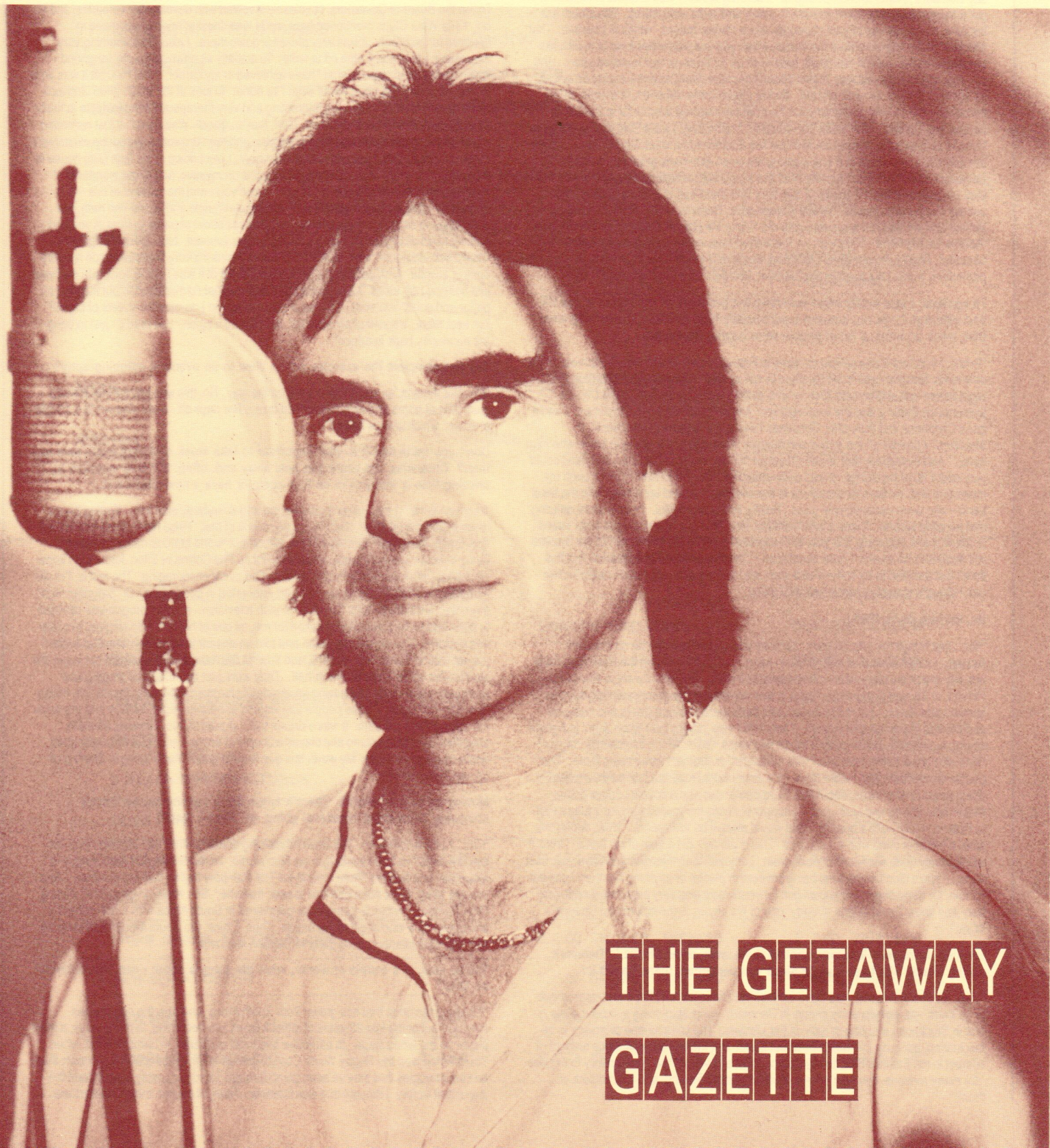


THE NEW *Chris de Burgh* CLUB

P.O. BOX 276 LONDON E2 7BW

MAY 1996



THE GETAWAY
GAZETTE

Hello, and welcome to the latest edition of the Gazette, our first since October, 1995. Hot news at the moment is the 'Beautiful Dreams' Summer Tour, which kicked off in Denmark during March, moved on to the Ukraine - where Chris performed his first shows ever - before heading out towards South Africa at the end of April. The South African leg of the tour lasts for most of the month of May but, as you should be aware by now, Chris will be performing in the UK on his return. Confirmed UK dates are as follows: **June 14 & 15 - Hampton Court Palace, London; July 6 - Blenheim Palace, Oxford; July 13 - Castle Howard, York.** Other dates are likely to follow - so check the Press and the C de B Hotline - but, in the meantime, any member requiring more information about the dates already announced should send a stamped, self-addressed envelope to the club P.O.Box, and we'll provide details. And now, without further ado, we'll hand you straight over to Chris himself. As ever, we caught up with his news (before he left for the tour) in a long, fact-packed interview - which we hope you will enjoy reading in its full, unedited and verbatim form...

When we last spoke, you were about to release 'Beautiful Dreams' - what happened next?

CHRIS: "Well, Beautiful Dreams was released in early November, 1995, and although I didn't expect it to be a huge chart success in terms of numbers - and when I say 'numbers', I refer to chart positions - it actually did very well in terms of exposure. It got a tremendous amount of television, press and radio advertising. The album has become, in the opinion of a lot of people, like a classic record - which is timeless. That was kind of the intention from the outset; when you use a timeless form of music, like orchestral music - which has really been with us for three or four hundred years - and you record it in a classic way, then it doesn't become dated anywhere near as quickly as some of the pop records around. So the album came out and I, of course, threw myself into the touring and promotion for it, which involved a lot of TV in the UK, in Ireland and Europe. One week, for example, I remember I went from northern Italy to Holland to Denmark...it was one of those five countries in a week kind of vibes. I don't actually even remember it; it's all a blur to me now! But it was great fun, actually, because I found that, having performed the songs live, everywhere I went - that's what they requested in the TV shows; it was very rare that I had to mime anything, and usually it was performance. Which is wonderful. Recently, I was up in the north of Ireland and we had a live quartet. We did 'Carry Me (Like A Fire In Your Heart)' and 'Always On My Mind'. That was on The Kelly Show, and it sounded absolutely beautiful. Really, the run up to Christmas was totally taken up with all sorts of promotion. I didn't get to go to the Far East, just did a lot of stuff around Europe."

I'll confess; I was avidly chart-watching the progress of the album in the UK and although it did not achieve a particularly high position, it was very clear that, week on week, a lot of people were buying the record.

"In fact, I was told it was selling as many in February as it was before Christmas. It has sold really steadily - and it will continue to sell as well. I ran into Jack Charlton the night before last and he said 'Ooh, you're getting a lot of radio play in the UK...' I presume on Radio 2 and the local stations. Anyway, moving on to Christmas! I had a good Christmas and then after Christmas I went, with a party of ten people, to Mauritius. I arrived on the island and thought 'Well, nobody is going to know who I am here...' And everybody did! It wasn't just for the one song, either; the hotel band could play about 30 of my songs. It was quite amazing. This band went right through my catalogue and, on several occasions in the evening, I wound up singing with the hotel band - who were exceptionally good. Really, really wonderful. People were dancing and jumping around. It was a great holiday, Mauritius is a beautiful spot and I intend to return there, hopefully, this year at Christmas. Previously, as readers of the Gazette will doubtless be aware, I have spent many Christmas breaks in Barbados, but this time I just decided to try somewhere else, somewhere different - and I really lucked out; I thought Mauritius was a beautiful place."

So, moving on to 1996...

"Yes...that brings me into January. January was a quiet month - oh no it wasn't! Actually, I might have it all written down here; now that we're into the New Year, I can actually check my diary, which shows what I've done. So, yes...I went to Warsaw, in Poland, at the end of January. Again, it was something of a surprise to find out how known I was there; I got to the airport and there were photographers and cameras and crowds of people everywhere. I was told I was 'bigger than Elton John' in Poland where, apparently, I have been a major star since 1982! Which astonished me, but there was great excitement that I was there and, of course, I loved being there. The people were charming. I went there on a promotional tour, but I worked very hard doing press conferences, about five TV appearances and a couple of days doing major radio shows and stuff. I was, I suppose, laying the foundations for a future visit to Poland to tour, with a quartet. That would always be the option... Now, during this time, a friend of mine who's a sculptor - David Winne - did a bust of my head! I think it will be ready quite soon, and it looks great. I enjoyed that; interesting to have your bust done...! No, it didn't involve me being covered in plaster or anything like that. I just sat for him, for three days. I've known him for years, so it was very pleasant. Londoners may well know David Winne already; one of his pieces is the dolphin on Cheyne Walk."

Looking down your itinerary, I notice there were some shows in Denmark during March. It's been a while since you performed there, hasn't it?

"Well, 'Beautiful Dreams' has done very well in Denmark, so I felt it was appropriate to go there. As well as some shows in Denmark, we're also doing a show in Oslo, one in Stockholm and one in Kiev, in the Ukraine. The Ukraine one promises to be fascinating, because I've never been out there. But there is a tremendous amount of interest in the Eastern Bloc for my music, and it's obviously the new territory to explore - for many reasons. I've now been to Bulgaria and to Poland, and I loved both of them."

Also, isn't it true to say that, as a result of the 'Beautiful Dreams' album, audiences in many countries are now embracing your music in a way which they previously had not - or, at least, in a way they had not done for some years?

"Yes. It's ironic that I'm acknowledged in some countries as a ballad artist, and in other countries as a rock 'n' roll artist or a 'rock star'. I would put Germany as the rock star thing - and the Germans didn't go helter skelter for this album; I think they thought it was a bit soft, compared to what they're used to from me. But other countries really opened up to 'Beautiful Dreams' like, strangely enough, Norway - which is a country that I was huge in in 1981, and fairly big in subsequently, during the 1980s. I guess it quietened down a bit there for me in the early '90s, but they've just gone big for this record again. I think in the Far East, as well, they love these ballads. It's just another string to the bow, I think, and it keeps me working and keeps me interested in doing what I'm doing."

Moving back to the diary. We've covered January - is there anything else in there to mention?

"Well, nothing really apart from home life and getting involved in the things I like to get involved in. You know; the usual stuff. A lot of involvement in my children's school. As I'm on the Board of Governors, I'm closely involved with development projects, and so on. I see Wine Clubs mentioned here, and I was down at my parents place in Wexford for half-term. It was very pleasant down there. I also did something very interesting; I took some time off to write. To actually sit down and write, longhand - which took a lot of paper - what I have achieved in my career. I just thought it was time to look back and feel good about what I've done. I went through the tough times and look at the great times. It was a very interesting and very therapeutic thing to do; to actually write it down, read it back and think 'God, that's...good! Well done!' It just reminded me of all the rough roads and the hard times, and then the success and the excitement of the success - and, basically, where I am now. I went down to my little farm house in the country for three or four days to do this, just on my own, and it was wonderful. I really enjoyed the experience, and I can assure you - and the readers of this newsletter - that if you are caught up in the regular hustle and bustle and rush, it is quite scary to sit, in complete silence, with a blank sheet of paper in front of you and nothing to do all day, apart from just looking after yourself. Now, people might say 'That's self-indulgent', well, on the other hand, I think it's very important to do it, every once in a while. And, certainly, what I achieved out of it was I came back with my head just buzzing with ideas. I also came back thinking that I'd managed to put the past on paper and could now start...moving ahead. What did I do with the sheets of paper? I've kept them. It's kind of private stuff, but I'll read it again - I do read it - just to bang the memories back in again."

Did you complete the exercise with a view to an eventual autobiography?

"No. But there is, as you know, a book on the way. No, this was just for me; it was a quiet time at home and I just thought I'd take a few days off - and I also wrote a couple of songs, which always helps!"

Don't you think that it is very important to take stock of things every now and then? Otherwise, the years just peel away and, often, the only measure of passing time is that you're on tour again or have a new album out...

"I kept on thinking that I wasn't growing old and everybody else was. Writing things down pulled me up short, and I had a good look at that. I also had a good look at just how things stand now, and how I have become a 'world famous name'. I haven't been, in terms of record sales, as successful as Phil Collins or Elton John - but I know I'm mentioned in the same breath, which I find...very encouraging. The fact is, I'm still interested in what I'm doing, and I'm still interested in performing. On Saturday night, there was a tribute to Jack Charlton on Irish television - a whole programme devoted to him - and he had specifically asked for me, as one of his favourite singers, to come and perform. So I played the piano and told an anecdote about the time that Ireland played Italy in Rome, and lost 1-0, and how 15,000 fans from Ireland did not leave the stadium for about an-hour-and-a-half. They were just cheering and singing and waving and shouting - and having an absolutely fantastic time, after the 60,000 Italian fans had well gone. These people just wanted to honour Jack Charlton and the team for...giving them a dream. It was a dream that I shared in, too. Anyway, after the anecdote, I sat at the piano and played a couple of songs...and I just felt really good about singing. I thought 'My word, this guy is quite good! Keep doing it. Don't give up, don't give up now...'"

Moving on to the present. There's some dates coming up, so there's obviously been some rehearsal going on...hasn't there?

"Erm...none whatsoever. I've been rehearsing drinking wine! No, actually, over the last few days I've been working in my little studio. I wrote a song... I met this guy in Mauritius, and he said 'Write a song for The Rainbow Nation and South Africa.' And I thought 'Well, that's not a bad little teaser, that one.' So I wrote a song called 'Riding On A Rainbow', which is going to be premiered in South Africa with a full orchestra and choir - as a kind of gift to the nation. Then, I think, the South African tour ends up with a private charity-raising party for Nelson Mandela."

You've said, in a couple of words, what the song is about - can you embellish on that?

"It's about the pride that has grown from South Africa, and how the country has emerged out of the last 20 years of difficult times into becoming, in many ways, a main player on the world stage. In particular and most obviously, in terms of sport, when South Africa won the Rugby World Cup, on behalf of all the people I know down there and the struggles that they've been going through, I had very misty eyes indeed the day of that victory. I thought that was fantastic. Then, of course, their cricketers are

really showing what they can do, and I really admire that and respect that in these people. So that's what this song is about, really; it's about pride in what they're doing there now. As for the South African tour, it's quite a lengthy one - three weeks or so - and we'll be visiting all of the major cities, like Durban, Johannesburg and Cape Town, plus a whole pile of very interesting places in between, including a game reserve, I think. There's a 100 people or something, performing in this game reserve. But Kenny (Thomson, Chris's manager) can tell you more about it. I'm usually the last person to know about these things, in any case!"

You last toured in South Africa during 1993. How are you looking forward to returning?

"Oh, I'm looking forward to it immensely. I know that, certainly in the music field, everything has changed in South Africa - and changed utterly, to be honest. Everybody has been going there to perform, and there's nothing really new about doing so any more. It's become common currency now; there's nothing new or exciting about going down there as a touring rock band. So this idea of going there with an orchestra in the big venues and a quartet in the smaller places has really set them on fire. And the idea of 'Riding On A Rainbow' is, apparently, going to be a major documentary; filming around the concert tour. The television people really like the concept."

In all seriousness now, what are you doing about rehearsals for the forthcoming shows?

"I'm obviously rehearsing all of the solo numbers I'm going to be performing, but when it comes to the quartet, we actually will be picking up a quartet in Denmark - and travelling with them - so I won't meet them until we get there."

You've not mentioned that familiar word yet - 'golf'...

"Well, I haven't been playing much, actually. I'm not madly keen about playing in the freezing cold, although I have been out a couple of times when the weather's been pleasant. That said, I've got my annual golf charity bash coming up, which I think is going to be the most spectacular yet. It's on April 29, and I'm hoping to raise £100,000 on the night. It's going to be at the Kildare Golf & Country Club - where the European Golf Tournament was held last year and will be held again this year. It's going to be a really rough ride for me; it's the only available date that I could really do - and the following day I fly to Johannesburg. I arrive in at dawn on the Wednesday, and go straight into rehearsals with a full orchestra, who are booked for that day - and the next day is the first full concert! So I'm going to be pretty knackered, particularly bearing in mind that Johannesburg is 6,000 feet above sea level and your breathing is very affected. There's 15% less oxygen around or something. So it's going to be tough on me, that little trip."

What else is on the agenda?

"I'm doing a Save The Children Fund event in Birmingham, with an orchestra, on Tuesday, June 11, and then I've got the UK dates - as advised at the beginning of this newsletter. That's about as far ahead as I can see for the year at the moment."

It always seems bizarre to ask this, since you have just released an album and are touring with it - but what for the future? Have you any idea at this stage what might be next for you?

"I've had an idea, which I'm not going to talk about at the moment but, basically, what it is is a concept idea of a story around which will be woven songs - and, hopefully, we will have a film made around it as well. Whether it's a 30-minute film or a 50-minute documentary drama, it will be made around the story, with music, and I've already written about three songs for this which would be very appropriate. The idea is an extraordinary one, and the three or four people that I've told it to have all gone 'Wow! That will make an absolutely fantastic short programme or short film.' Writing the songs for it has been interesting as well, because it relies on past memories and stuff. So that's probably the next plan; it's a completely different thing just making another ordinary rock record."

So, in other words, you're saying that there is yet another aspect of Chris de Burgh still to be revealed - that must be very exciting for you.

"It is really exciting. And, another thing; I got a call from the head of a major book publishing company in the UK, and he said 'I've just been thinking about this - why don't you write a book called The Lady In Red?' And I said 'That's a good idea. What'll it be about?' And he said 'Well, tell me about the song.' So I explained about the way I saw it, about the people having the argument and drifting apart, as couples do, and then they go to a party, and so on. And he said 'Well, there you are; that is the nucleus of your story.' So I thought, well, what I'd do then is build backwards to a couple who fall in love and get married. Maybe his job took him away from home, he became successful and saw a lot less of his wife. Maybe she became bored staying at home, maybe she wanted to go back to work... There's every single permutation available, but the critical thing is that the whole story ends on the moment that I wrote The Lady In Red for - which is people dancing, cheek to cheek, at the end of party when everybody has gone home, having discovered each other again, basically. And this guy, he said 'It's a wonderful idea...' And I just thought 'Well, maybe it is. Maybe that is something that I could get into...'"

So how does it feel, at this particular moment in time, to be you? How are you feeling about yourself generally? Over the years, members of the fan club will have been aware of your honesty, your downright sadness sometimes and, of course, those moments when you've felt really high about things. How are you feeling...right now?

"Erm...I feel pretty good right now, actually. I'm feeling apprehensive about the next

few months of touring, mainly because I've never done it like this before. I'm not scared, at all, that's not the right word; I'm actually looking forward to it, but I am apprehensive about it because I know that the hardest thing to do, in a concert performance, is get the running order straight. That is an absolute nightmare. I think I'll have less problems, for the reasons I spoke about earlier, with doing it with an orchestra, because once you've got them on stage, you have them on stage. The same applies to the choir that will be joining us. The solo and quartet stuff...that's going to be a bit of a nightmare, but I'm looking forward to it. And these two or three ideas, projects going around in my head, you know, they keep me busy and keep me interested. The fact is, I am still - I believe - a good songwriter and a good singer, so why not use these talents in as many different ways as possible?"

PERSON TO PERSON

In your last interview for the Gazette, concerning the 'Beautiful Dreams' album, you mentioned a couple of songs - like 'Girl' by The Beatles - which don't appear on the album. What happened to them? (Jayne Hill, Northampton).

CHRIS: "Every track we recorded made it on to the album, but 'Girl' is on the CD version only. Unfortunately, with the running order on cassette, the timing has to be pretty equal both sides. Otherwise, what happens is you finish one side, turn it over - and you're halfway through the next song. I'm always a stickler for stuff like that, and it just so happened that by removing 'Girl', which was 2 minutes and 56 seconds long, or something, the timing fell almost exactly - within three seconds - in line with what we required to make one side of the cassette equal the other. In the process of doing that, however, unfortunately 'Girl' was sacrificed."

Why aren't any of the latest Chris de Burgh albums being released in the USA? (Gail Haiderer, USA).

CHRIS: "What is happening in the US at the moment is that the live album has gone out, and it's doing really quite well, and now they're talking about releasing...maybe a kind of compilation of my albums; a taster. I'm not absolutely sure about the US, all I know is that I had a huge record with Lady In Red there - and it's still a huge record there. People are more familiar with the song than my name, ha-ha! If you say 'Chris de Burgh', they look blank. But if you say 'Lady In Red', they say 'Oh, yeah - I know that one.'"

Do you like the music of The Chieftains, and what do you think of the Riverdance show? (Stephanie Perks, Birmingham).

CHRIS: "I love the music of The Chieftains, and I've not seen the Riverdance show. I've heard some of the music, though, and I think it's absolutely phenomenal. I do intend to see the show, but I just haven't had a chance yet, basically."

A rumour says that Ian Kojima is quitting your band. Is this true? (Konni Risse, Germany).

CHRIS: "That is incorrect."

In the video for 'Making The Perfect Man', there's a man wearing a brown habit walking through the background. Is this man you? (Konni Risse, Germany).

CHRIS: "No, that is not me! That is an actor specially made to look like me wearing a brown habit and walking through the background! It was just an actor, looking goofy."

On which song from 'The Getaway' album is your wife, Diane, singing in the background? (Konni Risse, Germany).

CHRIS: "Wow...! I think it is 'Where Peaceful Waters Flow.'"

During the 'Flying Colours' tour in Japan, you had problems with a little stone in your salivary gland. Is this stone still inside, or has it been destroyed or removed? (Konni Risse, Germany).

CHRIS: "Ha-ha ha! Well, what happened was, I was in Australia and I had some discomfort in my face. I was getting on a plane, to fly from Sydney to Tokyo, and I had terrible pain in my face. I called a doctor, and he said 'Your wisdom tooth is coming through.' I started taking Panadol and, boy, I was eating those things - huge amounts of them - just to keep the pain at bay. It was very, very painful and I finally wound up in hospital, which was the only night I've ever spent in a hospital. I was just...yelling with pain. They had to give me an intra-venous morphine drip because one side of my face had basically swollen up to half the size again. It was absolute agony; because of a stone blocking the salivary gland, everything was then infected. However, that was drained off and I came out of hospital on, I think, a Thursday afternoon, and I was on stage the following night in Tokyo, doing the concert. I felt pretty rough, and then I flew home. And do you know? I can't even remember flying home from Tokyo... Subsequently, I went to see a consultant who x-rayed me and said 'The stone has gone. It's moved itself.' Otherwise I would've had to have an operation."

Do you have a sweet tooth and, if you have, which sort of sweets do you prefer? (Konni Risse, Germany).

CHRIS: "I don't have a sweet tooth at the moment, because I'm off chocolates and sweets for Lent, but I do like chocolate, I must admit - and white chocolate in particular."

Are you ticklish? (Konni Risse, Germany).

CHRIS: "Who isn't?!..."

When you're on TV or radio or being interviewed for the Gazette, you always seem so relaxed and in control. Is that the real you or are you a bag of nerves inside? (Sarah Hudson, Essex).

CHRIS: "Um...no, I'm not a bag of nerves inside, but when I'm on television, live television, part of you wants to scream! When I did The Lottery Show in the UK, singing live, without orchestra, in front of an estimated 18 million people, I just blanked that figure out of my head. Because it's everybody's nightmare to walk out down a podium and trip on the steps in front of that many people. So, you just kind of control your emotions and, after years of doing it, I suppose I can do it quite well. A lot depends on the interviewer, of course; some of them are very blank and wooden. The moment they ask you a question, they're looking down at the next one. There's no interaction. They're difficult, in which case I talk to the camera or I talk to the audience. But, yeah, I am a pretty relaxed person. I'm not exactly a bag of nerves, no."

How do you manage to keep so energetic and tuneful throughout your concerts and tours? (Sarah Hudson, Essex).

CHRIS: "Well, clean living, dear girl. I keep fit; I swim a lot, work out in the gym, walk, exercise my lungs, keep singing - and drink loads of water."

How do you feel when people are screaming, taking photos and reaching out to touch you at your concerts? I'm one of them, and sometimes I feel guilty in case you get fed up with it. (Sarah Hudson, Essex).

CHRIS: "Oh, you never get fed up with it. It's a tremendous boost to your ego, as long as you don't let it get to you too deeply. I always think of myself as two people; one of them is the person that lives at home - and I know him very well - and the other person gets on an aeroplane and flies off to be met by limousines, five star hotel treatment and all of that. That is a different person. And I think the secret is...not to bring that person back home again, because then you start believing in your own...stardom. On the stage, obviously, it's very flattering - particularly when you have pretty girls smiling at you and waving at you and throwing up their telephone numbers - but you can't take it too seriously, otherwise you can get lost in your own ego."

Would you ever record a message for the C de B Hotline? (Sarah Hudson, Essex).

CHRIS: "Yes - of course." (Editor's note: We shall take Chris up on the offer at some convenient future point.)

As an artist who has always been musically innovative, I would be interested to know if you have any plans to issue future releases on CD-ROM? (Jim Currie, Aberdeen).

CHRIS: "I have been asked, and the answer is 'Yes, I'd love to.' This new project I've spoken about would be perfect for CD-ROM."

What do you think about Barclay James Harvest and Imke & Hamilton - who supported you on 'The Getaway Tour'? (Stefan Lauer).

CHRIS: "That's going back a few years... Barclay James Harvest are an excellent band, and Inke & Hamilton were very nice and, in fact, they did quite a number of support shows for us. I presume they're still performing together."

When you're on tour and you're walking through a city, are you always surrounded by bodyguards - or is it possible to ask you for an autograph and to say 'hello' if people meet you? (Steffi Grober, Germany).

CHRIS: "Of course; I would be delighted. And, no, I never wander around with bodyguards. I might go out on my own, I might go out with just a friend, but I think if you go out with bodyguards then you're attracting attention to yourself. If I'm walking alone through the streets, then people just don't think it's me! They say 'Well, it can't be him - where's the bodyguards?'"

Remember, if you have a question you'd like to ask Chris, then send it along to the fan club address marked '**Person To Person**'. As you have just read, the purpose of this regular feature of the newsletter is for the club to put your questions - however weird, wonderful or just plain inquisitive they might be - direct to Chris each time we conduct an interview with him for the Gazette. Space allowing, we will print as many of his replies as possible. This is your opportunity to interview C de B - so use it...

COLLECTOR'S CORNER

For the information and benefit of any new members of the club, this occasional section of the newsletter is devoted to any among you wishing to buy, sell, swap or borrow various items of C de B memorabilia. Here's the latest batch of people looking for or offering items of interest:

Pam Legard, 37 Cardwell Street, Orangeville, Ontario, Canada, L9W 2V7, asks: "Are there any Canadian/American fans who can send me a collection of Chris's videos and/or exciting concerts? I will gladly supply a blank VHS tape and pay for postage."

Daniela Klein, Pommerstr. 67, 36251 Ludwigsau-Ersrode, Germany, asks: "I'm desperately looking for a copy of the film 'Circus Of The Moon' ('Mondcircus') in which Glenn Morrow and Ian Kojima - who also wrote the music for the film - appear as actors. I'd gladly pay for or swap for tapes, videos, articles or pictures of Chris."

Barabara Howard, 22 Coopers Lane, Brill Place, London, NW1 1HA, asks: "Has anybody got a tape of the 'High On Emotion' Radio 2 series about Chris. I have a video tape of Chris playing golf and interviews he did at TV-am. I would like to swap."

Juliet Wilkinson, 19 Providence Court, Charles Street, St. Helens, Merseyside,

WA10 1LZ, is: "Seeking a CD copy of the deleted album 'The Very Best Of Chris de Burgh', and also any taped recordings of interviews with Chris."

Anne Joslin, 27 Dover Close, Collier Row, Romford, Essex, RM5 3AX, says: "I am looking for a copy of the 'This Is Your Life' TV programme, the BBC Radio 2 series and 'Chris de Burgh - The Video'. I am willing to provide blank tapes and pay for postage, or buy."

Warren Morton, P.O.Box 136097, Alberton-North, 1456, South Africa, asks: "Is it possible for the fan club to send me a print-out or list of the South African members? I want to try and get some of them together so that when Chris comes here again, we can try and arrange a meeting with him and the members." (Editor's note: It is not club policy to give any addresses, other than those in our pen pal sections, out to members of the club. We have placed Warren's appeal in this section because, firstly, it's a nice idea and so that, secondly, anyone interested in contacting him can do so.)

If you are desperately seeking something C de B, or are able to help someone who is, then send your details into the club address - and we'll do the rest.

THE C de B HOTLINE

This is the premium rate phonenumber service set up by the club in addition to the one indicated on the reverse of your membership card. The service enables us to up-date information about Chris at a much faster rate than normal - but calls will be more expensive. The charges are **39p** per minute cheap rate, and **49p** per minute at all other times. Please ask permission from the person paying the phone bill before making the call! Unfortunately, the service cannot be accessed unless you are living in the UK - telecommunications technology has yet to master how to organise this - but we are maintaining our original line, purely for the benefit of members abroad. Messages will only be put on either service when relevant, and the date the message was recorded will always be mentioned first to enable callers who have already heard it to hang up immediately, should they choose. The number to call is:

0891 334 225

PEN PALS

We at the club were absolutely aghast to discover that the last time we featured our popular Pens Pals section (two marriages and counting!) was in the **April 1994 issue**. That's **two whole years ago!** We ourselves find this totally unacceptable - and apologise profusely for depriving members of the service for so long. The reason for its absence was, incidentally, down to a couple of mammoth interviews with Chris (concerning the 'This Way Up' and 'Beautiful Dreams' albums) but we are pleased now to revive it. After so long, we're only surprised that any members remembered it, but a very few did - and here they are:

Verity Wright, Flat 7, 46 Surrey Road, Westbourne, Bournemouth, Dorset, BH4 9HT. (26).

Mrs Jo Hardy, 20 Kingfisher Way, Bishop's Stortford, Herts, CM23 2AZ, England. (22).

Augustine Onwumelu, Chamberlain Bookshop, Box 111 Kumba, S.W.Province, Cameroon. (20).

NB: The numbers in brackets after an address 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 into the fan club P.O.Box. But if we can't understand your writing, we 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 in touch with one another - 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...

Once again, that brings to a close this issue of the Gazette. In the next edition, which should be with you during the summer, we'll have yet another exclusive interview with Chris - this time concerning the progress at that time of his 'Beautiful Dreams' Summer Tour, which by then will have travelled through South Africa and beyond. We'll also have more news about the new biography shortly to be published about Chris - unless it's published in the meantime! The book, which has been some two years in the writing, is based on regular, one-to-one interviews by the author with Chris - and it promises to be a fantastically personal and informative read. Certainly, it's an absolutely essential addition to any C de B fan's library.

So, until the next time, remember to send any comments, criticisms, Pen Pal addresses, questions for Person To Person or items for Collector's Corner to me, Mike, at: The New Chris de Burgh Fan Club, P.O.Box 276, London, E2 LBW.

As ever, thanks for your support. We all look forward to seeing you out there on tour!

STOP PRESS: The fan club, in conjunction with Chris's manager, Kenny Thomson, is exploring the idea of a limited edition run of high quality prints featuring the original painting on which the album cover of 'Beautiful Dreams' was based. The idea is for Chris to personally autograph each individual print. To help us gauge whether such a scheme would be worthwhile or wanted, could anyone potentially interested in purchasing a print please write to the club and let us know. Unfortunately, we are unable at this stage to give an indication of the price involved, but it would help us immensely just to have a rough idea of who might like to buy one. Do drop us a line!