

WET



The ONLY OFFICIAL WET WET WET Magazine

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ISSUE NO.9

INTRO *duction*

This is the ninth edition of Splash, and another full colour edition, with a mixture of stories and exclusive pictures from the band's travels during 1990.

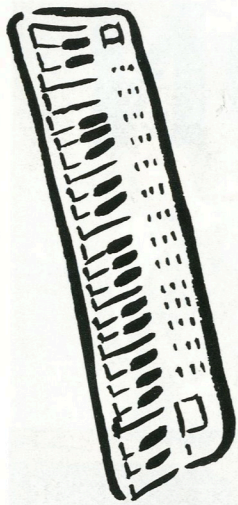
Stop off points in this issue include Pier Head in Liverpool where they took part in the John Lennon Tribute; Celtic Park in Glasgow where they performed at the opening ceremony of the European Special Olympics; the Ahoy in Rotterdam where they took part in the major 'Rock Over Europe' concert and finally the recording studio, where Tommy, Graeme, Neil and Marti have begun work towards their third proper album.

We also have a special question and answer section, with the four band members answering questions on just about everything, not to mention another fantastic Splash competition and lots of

penpals to write to.

This is also a good chance to remind you about the Wet Wet Wet phonenumber, which has been recently updated to include new interviews with Marti and Neil, tracks from 'The Big Day' cassette and news on what the band are doing. Unfortunately, the price of this service has recently gone up to 44p per minute (peak time) and 33p per minute (off peak), so if you are using someone else's phone please check with them first. The maximum duration of calls is 5 minutes.

Finally, the band would like to take this chance to thank every Splash member for their continued support during 1990 — it is much appreciated. They wish you all a Happy Christmas and good New Year, and hope that you get as much enjoyment from their music in 1991.



QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

Tommy Cunningham

FAVOURITE SCOTTISH PEOPLE IN HISTORY:

Billy Connolly, Jim Kerr, Rod Stewart (well, I don't think so)

BIG DAYS IN YOUR LIFE:

— In primary 1, getting a sweet for putting together a yellow block of wood (7) with red block of wood (3) to make 10.

— Doing an Elvis impression on stage at the Boys' Brigade Open Day, aged 9

— First drum solo, aged 14, in the Duntocher Hibs Social Club. I got a standing ovation and drunk on one lager.

— My first record deck, Christmas 1981. No one saw me for years after that as I learned to play guitar badly. Best present ever.

HOW GREEN ARE YOU?

Not green enough, I'm still being educated really. My car is lead free and I'm changing all my bulbs into the ones everyone has in their kitchens. These fluorescent bulbs use only one sixth of the power of ordinary ones. I think the government should pass laws to stop waste.

HAVE YOU PAID YOUR POLL TAX?

No. I've had the reminders dropping through my letter box, and one demand saying 14 days to pay or it goes to court, although that was months ago. I don't want to go to court, I just want it changed to a system that is fixed by household size and income. i.e. if you can afford to pay more then pay, if not — don't.

FAVOURITE BOOKS.

I never used to read, but since the band took off I have read to stop the boredom of travelling.

My favourites include:

"On Broadway" by Damon Runyon (very 50s)

"Papillon" by Henri Charriere (better than the movie)

"Stark" by Ben Elton

"Chuck Berry — the Autobiography" (he's wild)

"Steve McQueen" by Penina Spiegel (he was wild)

"The Pump House Gang" by Tom Wolfe (my current one)

BIGGEST CAREER MISTAKE

Giving up washing dishes in a Chinese restaurant.

EARLIEST MEMORY OF THE BAND.

When we were called Vanishing Youth. We drew influences from The Slits (Typical Girl), P.I.L. (anything), Scritti Politti (Songs to Remember), The Clash and The Jam. It was at that time I wrote my first song, "No Job." The lyrics went "No Job/Dad's down the pub/Mum's at the bingo and left me no grub/ I'm all alone in this big world/what am I to do, cause I've no job."

A classic that never saw the light of day! I was 17 and filled with the need to sing about my plight.

Neil Mitchell

FAVOURITE SCOTTISH PEOPLE IN HISTORY

The Bay City Rollers, Lena Zavaroni, Andy Stewart, Johnnie Beattie, Neil Reid, Kenneth McKellar and Moira Stewart.

BIG DAYS IN YOUR LIFE

Going to Memphis and recording with Willie Mitchell. Playing Hollywood Bowl and Madison Square Gardens. Signing off. Leaving home.

BIGGEST CAREER MISTAKE

Quite a few, but I'm saving them for the book, the play and the movie!!!

WHAT MAKES YOU DANCE?

Someone with a gun pointed at my feet!

WHO WOULD YOU MOST LIKE TO CHANGE PLACES WITH IN THE POP WORLD?

Big Fun. We've always wanted to dance like they do on Top of The Pops and in videos!!

WHAT IS YOUR GREATEST PLEASURE?

A roll and crisps followed by a Ripple bar and Pepsi

WHAT ANNOYS YOU THE MOST?

Waiting at traffic lights. The music in the charts at the moment. Ironing. Hard butter. Crap TV. programmes, Mayonnaise, Planes being delayed. When it constantly rains. Video directors, Record Producers, etc., etc.

WHAT DO YOU CONSIDER TO BE YOUR GREATEST STRENGTH?

Being able to eat lots of junk food and stay in such a beautiful shape.

Marti Pellow

FAVOURITE SCOTTISH PEOPLE IN HISTORY.

Robert The Bruce, because if you look at the Scottish Clydesdale Bank pound note you will see that I look like him. (or so they tell me).

WHY DIDN'T SCOTLAND WIN THE WORLD CUP?

The players are good individually, but I don't think they gel too well as a team. I think they should bring in a foreign trainer to change the style of play and bring them up to international standard. Once again we were unlucky. I think Ireland, and yes, I suppose, England did very well though.

BIG DAYS IN YOUR LIFE

Mandela Day.

Getting to number one.

Being voted Best Newcomers.

Meeting Willie Mitchell for the first time.

WHO ARE YOUR FAVOURITE SINGERS/MUSICIANS?

Al Green, Jerry Butler, Marvin Gaye, Van Morrison, David Hudson, Bobby Bland, Stevie Wonder, Lynne White ... God, there's so many, it just depends how you feel. Just go out and buy any record on the Hi label, and discover it, man!

IF YOU COULD BE SOMEONE ELSE (ALIVE OR DEAD) WHO WOULD IT BE?

Humphrey Bogart, so that I could have a long lasting and meaningful relationship with Ingrid Bergman.

WHO HAVE YOU SEEN LIVE RECENTLY?

Chaka Khan, Hall and Oates. Great.

WHAT IS YOUR GREATEST REGRET?

Not becoming a football hero.

WHAT'S YOUR FAVOURITE PHRASE?

"You've just broken the American charts and will never have to work again."



JOHN LENNON

TRIBUTE

John Lennon has always been one of the Wets' heroes, so when the chance arose to take part in a tribute concert celebrating his musical achievements, they did not need to be asked twice.

1990 should have marked Lennon's 50th birthday, instead it was a much sadder anniversary — ten years after his death — which was being commemorated in Liverpool.



Tommy, Graeme, Neil and Marti. Shortly before the show.

Put together with the co-operation of Lennon's widow, Yoko Ono, the John Lennon Tribute took place at a specially constructed and spectacular location in Liverpool, the Beatle's home town. The site was Pier Head, and the date Saturday 5th May 1990.

The idea was that the event would be an international TV. spectacular, with many of the biggest names in popular music, each performing their favourite John Lennon song. As things turned out, the day was not a huge success, the high ticket prices (£25) and the choice of

many American orientated acts, combining to leave the arena only half full.

Nevertheless, Wet Wet Wet's rendition of "I Feel Fine" was one of the highlights of a show which also featured outstanding contributions from Cyndi Lauper, Natalie Cole and Hall & Oates.

"I Feel Fine" was one of Lennon's earliest songs, which the Wets worked into a longer, blue feel: Marti explained their choice of song:

The title of the song was something in itself which we related to. Things had been going

well for the band and we had had enormous success, then we were asked to do the John Lennon Tribute — it just seemed like the right choice. We wanted to do a completely different interpretation of the song — very r&b, very bluesey. The highlight of the day was when Yoko Ono came up to us and said that she thought John would have been very impressed by our version of the song, because he was a great blues fan. Whether or not she said that to every act on the bill, I don't know, but it was still good for us to hear that."

"It was just quite a privilege to be involved in that kind of



◀ The Wets, with some of the other stars, meet Yoko Ono and Sean Lennon.

event,” added Neil. “It is good to be in the company of artists like Hall and Oates and Cyndi Lauper, and know that you are considered good enough to be able to perform on the same bill as them.”

However, all the band members had reservations about the Tribute event, despite being justifiably pleased with their own contribution.

“I can categorically say that if John were alive today, he would have hated the whole thing. The most disappointing thing about the whole day is that it was £25 a ticket and it was based in Liverpool. We all know what the job situation is like there — I don’t think the real people, the Scousers actually got to see it — and that was a shame.”

“Not only that, there was only one Liverpool band on the bill, The Christians, and the whole thing was aimed at America. I think John Lennon was lost a lot to America because he was made larger than life, in the same way that The Beatles and The Stones and a lot of other things were. The show was geared to a US t.v. audience and not the community in Liverpool which John had a very great love for — it was an anti-climax, not helped by the fact that the rest of the Beatles weren’t involved. I think they saw it for what it was, and looked for other ways to contribute to the trust”.

In spite of its many shortcomings, the John Lennon Tribute was the scene of one of the best Wet Wet Wet performances of 1990, and a memorial to one of the greatest songwriters of all time.

▼ Neil just before going on stage.

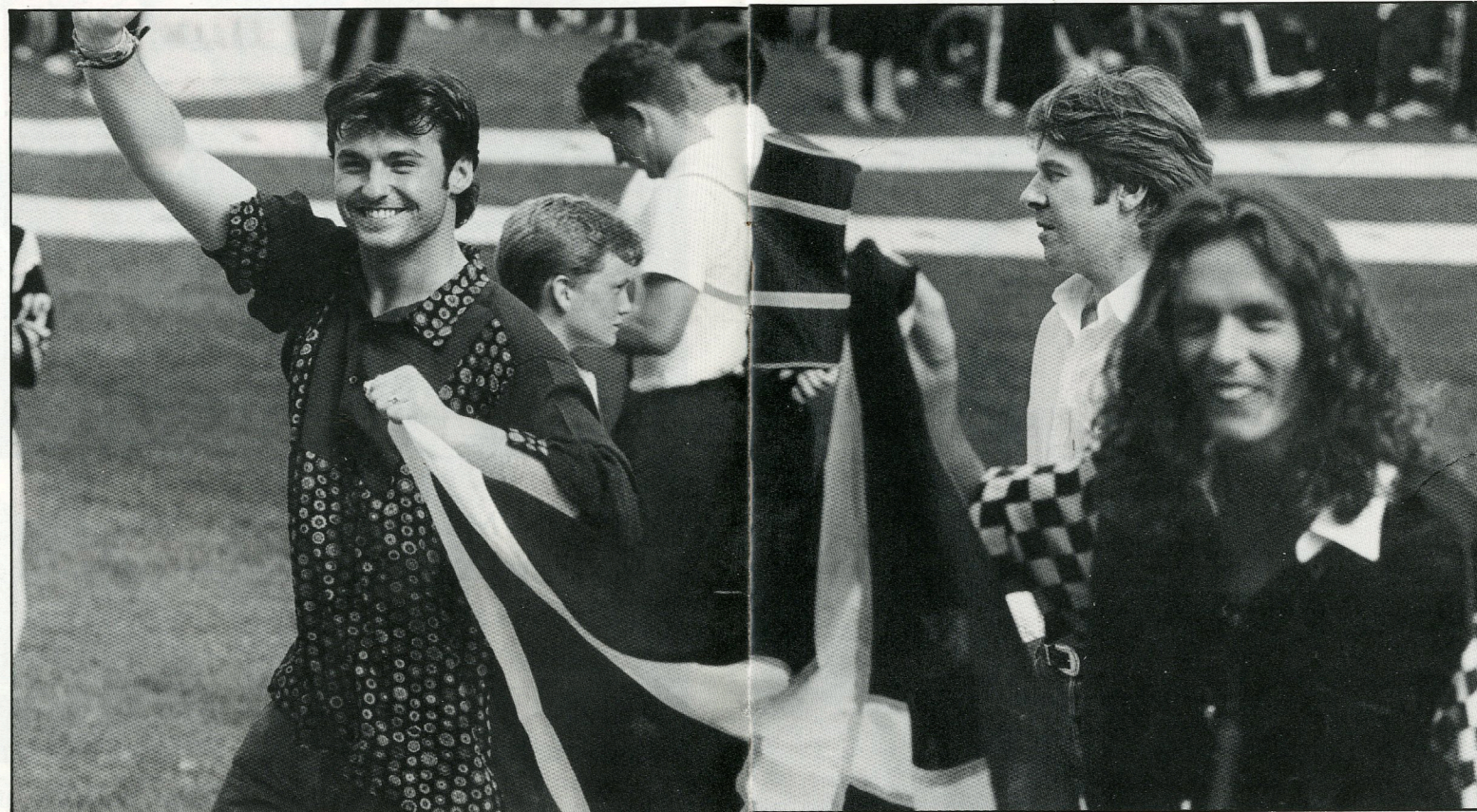


EUROPEAN SPECIAL OLYMPIC GAMES

July 21st was a very special day for Glasgow, marking the opening of the 1990 European Special Olympics, one of the least published and most prestigious events of Glasgow's reign as European City of Culture.

The event is based on a similar American gathering, where mentally and physically disabled athletes get together to compete for the honours in a show of sporting excellence. The U.S. event has had the backing of major stars like Arnold Schwarzeneger, Melanie Griffith and Don Johnson, the latter pair also attending the opening of the Glasgow event, which took place on one of the hottest days of the year in front of a capacity crowd of over 50,000 at Celtic Park. Tickets had been distributed free via the local newspapers, and it was an event which Marti was particularly proud to have been associated with.

"The Special Olympics was a great day for Wet Wet Wet," he recalled, "It was up there with the Nelson Mandela Concert, and to lead out the Scottish team of handicapped athletes was a great



thrill. These people, in their own fields, be it the javelin or the long jump or whatever are true champions, when you consider their problems and what they have to deal with."

"For us to be involved in such an event was just fantastic. It didn't get the publicity it justly deserved, but if we can get involved with charities like that, it makes us feel better as people and gives us a chance to give something back."

Indeed, the Wets were not alone in lending their support to

the event, and other celebrities were involved in leading out the various national teams. Eire and Celtic goalkeeper, Pat Bonner, fresh from his heroics in the World Cup lead out the Irish team while there were also a wide range of musical participants. The Wets performed 2 songs, "Stay With Me Heartache" and "Hold Back The River," and were ably assisted by the other acts taking part — Lisa Stansfield (from England), Taylor Dayne and Patti Austin (from USA) and Roxette (from Sweden).

The Special Olympics are not the only good cause the Wets have supported in 1990, although the number of charity requests they get makes it totally impossible for them to help everyone who asks for their support. With the exception of Childline and a few major charity concerts like The Princes Trust, the band like to keep their charitable contributions low key, as the point of the exercise not being self-publicity but to help the causes in question.

Among those organisations that

the Wets work with on an ongoing basis are Dreams Come True, The Starlight Foundation, Childline, Children In Need and Cash For Kids — but how do the band choose which projects to become involved with? Marti:

"What makes you decide is very much a band thing — and that's the way we have gone about our whole career. If 2 people want to do something and 2 don't, then we usually do it — but we tend to look for charities that all 4 of us agree

upon and decide 'That's the One; Obviously, you cannot be involved with everything. We became involved with Childline because they needed someone with a high media profile to get the thing off the ground. We gladly did it: we got a number 1 single out of it, and Childline made a lot of money from it.'

"On the other hand, you may do something for a small local home for children or something. Then you can see results straight away — it will go towards buying beds, clothes, toys or something whereas Live Aid type events take time to have an effect."

While the band have always, and will continue to be involved in charities and good causes, Marti has one final thought on the whole issue:

"We wouldn't like to be remembered as a big charity band," he concluded, "or have people thinking what great guys we are, but it is nice to give something back, and we are in a great position to be able to do that."





FESTIVE SEASON

WITH

WET WET WET

Being in a pop band is not one of the best ways of ensuring that you have a quiet and peaceful festive season. Over the past five years, Wet Wet Wet have not had a great deal of time to go Christmas shopping!

1986 The year before the Wets made it into the public eye, they played their first gig since returning from Memphis at Glasgow College of Technology on 12th December. The band were still in rehearsal over Christmas as they prepared for one of their first major gigs at The Barrowland, where they were supporting King on Hogmanay (New Year's Eve). This show was being recorded for one of their earliest television appearances on "Reporting Scotland".

1987 Another dramatic festive season, with two brilliant homecoming shows at the S.E.C.C. In Glasgow on 21st/22nd December were followed by Marti being admitted to hospital on Christmas Eve to have his tonsils removed. No visitors on Christmas Day!!

1988 After a year of solid touring, much of it in America with Elton John, the band returned from the States and went straight into the recording studio to start work on "Holding Back The River". Also an appearance on the Christmas Day "Top of the Pops" to mark "With A Little Help From My Friends" being one of the year's biggest singles. In the end the band had one week at home before Christmas, and were soon back in the studio after New Year.

1989 Two shows in Ireland the week before Christmas, culminated at Belfast King's Hall on 22nd December. Home on the 23rd, and just enough time to recover for the start of the European dates in January.

1990 Again, the band are in the studio in the run up to Christmas, and Graeme vows: "We will make a determined effort to have a bit of a break at Christmas this year. We all stay at home over Christmas as it is a great time to be with your family and friends, and this year won't be any exception."



// IN TH

Work has begun on the follow up to "Holding Back The River," after a year of touring and promotion, in which hardly any new songs have been written, the band are as you read this probably holed up in some recording studio turning their new ideas into songs.

"We usually start working at home" says Neil explaining the writing process. "I'll come up with a keyboard line or idea, or Graeme will come up with something on the guitar or bass, and then we'll swap ideas. Graeme has a studio in his house, and things will be developed there with Marti and Tommy. Sometimes they will come up with the first ideas — it is very much an equal process."

"In terms of this album, it's at a very early stage to talk about," adds Marti. "It's all in demo form, ideas are floating around, and we are getting back to old ideas which haven't really been developed and have been lying around for a while."

As to how the album will sound, Neil and Marti are both cautious predicting how it will turn out. Neil hints that there may be a leaning back towards the songs on the first album coupled with the sophistication of the second, while Marti reckons it will be completely different from either.

"I feel it will be a very strange direction for Wet Wet Wet. We don't set out to make a particular kind of album, we never have, and I don't think we ever will. I think this album will be another shocker. Right now, we are only three albums down the line. We are still feeling around for our kind of music, and I just haven't a clue how it will sound. Thankfully."

THE STUDIO''

One thing that is not in doubt, is that this time around the band will not be producing the album entirely on their own. Marti:

“We are really excited about various other producers at this moment in time. We have contacted some people, and they seem very much up for working with us, which is good, so we are looking forward to getting down to some serious meetings with producers and then just getting on with it!”

In the meantime, the band have taken their latest recordings to a studio in Glasgow for some work, before moving on to Lincolnshire where they are currently working, with a view to completing some demos before Christmas. When any new material sees the light of day is subject to a number of factors, but, assuming things go well, there should be something out in the Spring/early summer of 1991.





On 4th October 1990, the two Graemes, Neil and Marti did a special acoustic session for the 'Fast Forward' show on Radio Clyde.

In the Radio Clyde studio they performed spirited live versions of Jenny Butler's 'Western Union Man', Van Morrison's 'And It Stoned Me' and their own song 'Blue For You'.

After performing, the band were interviewed and asked to choose some of their favourite music. Graeme Clark went for 'Tinseltown In The Rain' by The Blue Nile, to remind him of their recent gigs; Marti chose 'Warm Love' by Van Morrison (a perennial favourite); and the next, somewhat unexpected choice was 'You Shook Me All Night Long' by AC/DC, which Marti and Graeme explained by saying that it reminded them of driving across Australia. The sequence was rounded off by an Earth, Wind & Fire song, selected by Graeme Duffin.

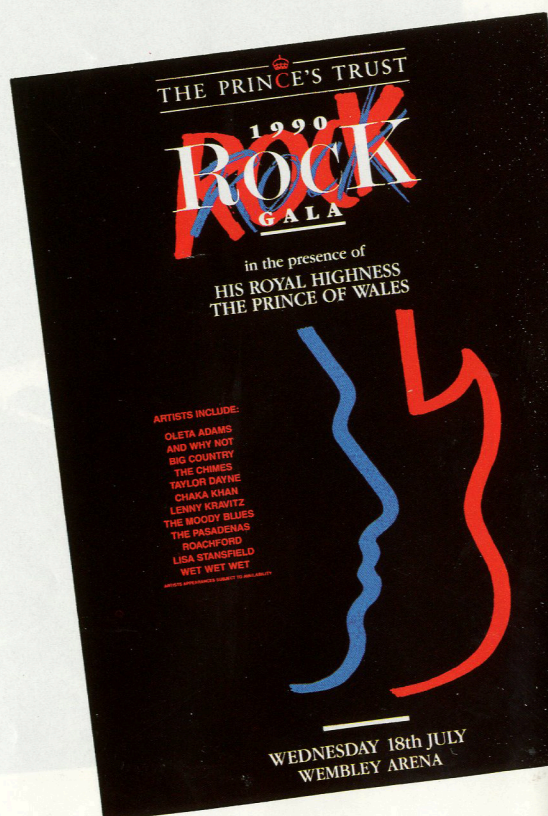


THE PRINCE'S TRUST

After appearing as part of the 1988 Prince's Trust concert when the Wets appeared along with Joe Cocker for a rousing version of 'With A Little Help From My Friends', the band were delighted to be able to take part in this worthwhile annual event again this year. Held at Wembley Arena on 18th July, Wet Wet Wet were one of three bands to perform totally live on the bill, while various others performed with the house band of session musicians.



▲ Tommy, Graeme, Neil and Marti, Graeme Duffin, Steve Gregory, Neil and Steve Sidwell, Paul Spong, and Brendan Hyland with Gary Layton.



◀ Neil getting his own back on the Splash photographer.

The show was not broadcast on Channel 4 as it has been in previous years, although it has been repeated a couple of times on BSB's 'Power Station' channel in the months since the event. Last time round, the Wets got to meet Prince Charles, and received a personal letter from him thanking them for contributing. Unfortunately, this time round the Prince was hospitalised after his riding accident. Maybe he will be fit to attend next year, at what is growing into a prestigious annual event.

ROCK OVER EUROPE

Rock Over Europe' in Rotterdam was the last gig the Wets did with a full band in 1990, and it was one of the most successful. Appearing on a bill with other acts who were doing well in Holland, the concert was broadcast throughout Europe on T.V. although unfortunately this magnificent performance has never seen its way on to British TV screens (even via satellite).

The show was special for the band for a number of reasons, as Marti explained to Splash.

"That was a great chance for us. We have a great admiration for Holland, because it was the second place, after Britain, where we had mega success. And to see our friends out there and have a chance to play our songs again in Rotterdam was a fantastic opportunity. We have a lot of Dutch friends, and we like to hang out there and go on holiday to Holland, so we weren't going to refuse the chance to play that sort of gig."

SPECIAL OFFER FOR THE BIG DAY

WET WET WET release a cassette only album, of songs recorded at **The Big Day on the 3rd June 1990** at George Square Glasgow, this will be available exclusively through Splash.

The cassette will feature 11 songs, 8 of which are cover versions including I Feel Fine, Get Ready and Second Hand News, and 3 of the bands own favourites, Wishing I Was Lucky, HTHDTGH. and Sweet Little Mystery.

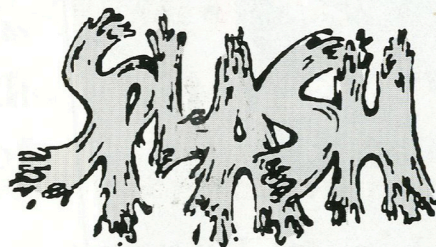
The cassette will cost **£3.50 for the UK only** (please quote your membership number). Please make cheques/postal orders payable to Precious Objects, to Big Day Offer, **24 Gairbraid Avenue, Glasgow G20 8YE.**

If you live **outside the UK** the cassette will cost **£4.50** (please quote your membership number). Please make International Money Orders payable to: **Precious Objects, to Big Day Offer, 24 Gairbraid Avenue, Glasgow G20 8YE Scotland.**

If you are not a member of Splash, but would like to take advantage of this terrific offer send a cheque/postal order for £4.50 made payable to Precious Objects, to Big Day Offer, 24 Gairbraid Avenue, Glasgow G20 8YE.

Due to the delays in bank clearing, we will process your order more quickly if you sent us a Postal Order.

FIONA'S PUT IN A SPIN WITH HER WIN!



◀ *Fiona Cummings of Co. Antrim is presented with a platinum disc by the Wets, before their show in Belfast last year.*

COMPETITION

... WIN ... WIN ... WIN ... WIN ... WIN ...

WIN

**AN ORIGINAL
LEVIS
TEMPTATION
TOUR
DENIM JACKET**

Hidden in this word grid are a number of songs recorded by Wet Wet Wet - some of them cover versions, some their own songs, - how many can you find?
Send a list of the song titles you found to



24 Gairbraid Avenue,
Maryhill, Glasgow G20 8YE
before 28/2/91. The winner
will be the person who finds
the most titles.

W	I	T	H	H	O	L	D	B	A	C	K	T	H	E	R	I	V	E	R
A	H	E	A	V	E	N	H	E	L	P	U	S	A	L	L	W	M	I	O
S	W	H	N	O	D	A	Y	R	E	B	M	E	M	E	R	I	D	R	X
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E	O	A	C	R	G	C	I	Y	V	R	D	A	N	E	E	A	J	G	M
R	N	T	Y	A	B	L	U	E	F	O	R	Y	O	U	W	R	I	N	B
F	S	S	M	P	T	E	R	A	U	O	Y	R	O	F	S	O	B	E	Y

**TO WIN ► ► ► RARE, PROMOTIONAL ONLY,
“HOLDING BACK THE RIVER”
LONG SLEEVED T/SHIRT**

- 1) Name one other Scottish artist that performed at the John Lennon Tribute Concert?
- 2) Where in Glasgow were the Special Olympics held?
- 3) How many Beatles songs were performed at the Big Day Concert?

Answers on a postcard/sealed envelope to



at 24 Gairbraid Avenue, Glasgow G20 8YE before 28/2/91.

