

Host of stars play at gig for Garry

Energetic sets from some of the area's finest bands

Jonesfest

South Street, Reading, Saturday, February 23

JONESFEST was a tribute to the late Reading musician Garry Jones and also a fund-raiser for the cancer centre at The Royal Berkshire Hospital.

Garry died last year of throat cancer after a 35-year musical career that started in Liverpool, before he graduated to Reading's mid-70s music scene.

Over the years he played with some of the area's finest bands, including Broad Street Rumour, El Seven, The Lost Weekend, Clayton and the Argonauts and, recently, Bidgie Reef & The Gas.

His versatility as a bassist even led him to back one of rock's greats, Chuck Berry.

The South Street concert celebrated Garry's skill as both composer and performer, and featured many of the musicians he collaborated with during his lifetime. Among many of the artists playing on Saturday were the legendary Clayton and the Argonauts, a lawless bunch fronted by the multi-talented Alan Clayton.

In the past, the band's act has been described as a 'travelling asylum' and it's no exaggeration to say that Alan is a key candidate for election in 'rock's lunatic fringe'.

The early stage act used to defy concise description and it was nice to see that Argonaut magic in evidence as they ended with a frenetic cover



The late Garry Jones (bassist and songwriter), for whom a tribute gig was recently held at South Street, Reading

of Pink Floyd's *Arnold Layne*.

All the bands that followed readily performed short, energetic sets and, as would be expected, some were more memorable than others.

Up there with the memorable were Bidgie Reef & The Gas, with Roger Winslet on vocals and Pete Brookes on keyboards, delivering a cracking short set.

In addition, Denny Mills (aka Mr Lordy Self-Righteous) from Scatman PX, regarded by some as Reading's most dazzling band of the mid-90s, powered through Joplin's *Piece of my Heart*.

And not one to be upstaged, there was some brilliant sax playing by Tim Hill, the improviser and band leader who has

worked both the streets and venues of Reading for many years.

Tim prolonged his set even though his band had left the stage and this solo performance, threading sweetly through the audience, encapsulated the anarchic nature of the evening, something that Garry Jones, I believe, would have appreciated.

If there were any gripes about the gig, I would have to say that it needed a bit more linking of bands, some explanation of who they were and a 'proper' ending to the evening.

There were no goodbyes – only a shuffling silent exit to what had, nevertheless, been a blinding evening.

DAVID STOCKTON

Dynamic duo wow crowds at latest show

A FULL house welcomed Devon Sproule and her husband Paul Curreri as they continued their short British tour to promote their current albums *Keep Your Silver Shined* and *The Velvet Rut*.

This small but intimate venue was the ideal setting for their singer and guitar-based performances.

Paul Curreri opened the evening with a set which comprised both vocal and instrumental pieces featuring his renowned finger-style playing and 'quirky' lyrics.

His relaxed manner and ability to intersperse the songs with stories and snippets of information about himself and his life, certainly helped him connect with the audience.

It was a short but enjoyable set with

Devon Sproule and Paul Curreri

South Street, Reading, Saturday, February 16

The Wasp being my particular favourite – all I can say is it certainly gave me a bit of a buzz.

Twenty-five-year-old Devon Sproule, who lives in Virginia, US, has visited our shores before and is now starting to get more exposure in the UK.

Her talent for combining folk, jazz and Appalachian influences are enhanced by a lovely vocal delivery, which has the ability to transport the listener to her front porch on a balmy summer's evening.

Songs *Let's Go Out, 1340 Chesapeake*

Street, Stop By Anytime and, my favourite, *Dress Sharp, Play Well, Be Modest* were all well received by the knowledgeable audience.

The last 20 minutes of the show were spent with the husband and wife team duetting on a batch of songs which were superbly presented and showed both voices to good effect.

They dovetailed beautifully on the traditional song *Green Rocky Road* and it was obvious that they enjoyed playing and singing together.

It was a delightfully relaxed evening of low-key entertainment by two individually-gifted performers who we'll certainly be hearing more about in the future.

KEN BOWMAN

Bookshelf

A weekly books column by Jane Meredith

An action-packed adventure

Roatan Odyssey by Anne Jennings Brown (Quicksilver Publications, £10)

FIRST we had the computer game. Now we have the real thing. That fact is stranger than fiction can find no better example than in the life and times of Anne Jennings Brown, which are chronicled in her book *Roatan Odyssey*.

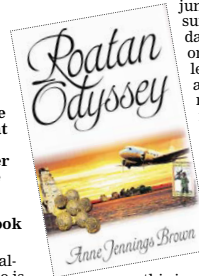
This tells the story of a real-life Lara Croft-figure – who is now in her 70s and living in Hamstead Marshall – from the time she met and married a veteran Texan war pilot and adventurer and went to live with him on an uninhabited corner of a remote Honduran island.

From then on, the book is packed full of almost picaresque action and adventure. There is the time they go treasure hunting in an Ecuadorian

jungle, for instance, surmounting no end of dangerous situations, any one of which would see off lesser mortals. Then there are drugs, smugglers, murder and other mayhem, not to mention all the ghostly goings-on of Caribbean pirates. Despite it all, Anne always manages a long skirt for dinner.

It may sound strange – and it is – but, for a self-published book, indeed for any book,

this is an exciting tale engagingly told with lashings of self-deprecating black humour. Beautifully illustrated by the author's own maps, pen drawings and photographs (a few more of the latter would have been nice for the curious, though), I can't wait for a sequel. Or even a film adaptation. Croft, eat your computer-generated heart out. CAROLE ELGUETA



BORDERS TOP 10 BOOKS

- 1 *A Thousand Splendid Suns* by Khaled Hosseini, £7.99
- 2 *Then We Came to the End* by Joshua Ferris, £7.99
- 3 *Notes from an Exhibition* by Patrick Gale, £7.99

- 4 *On Chesil Beach* by Ian McEwan, £7.99
- 5 *The Kite Runner* by Khaled Hosseini, £6.99
- 6 *Mister Pip* by Lloyd Jones, £7.99
- 7 *The Book Thief* by Markus Zusak, £7.99

- 8 *Affluenza* by Oliver James, £7.99
- 9 *No Country for Old Men* by Cormac McCarthy, £7.99
- 10 *The Good Husband of Zebra Drive* by Alexander McCall Smith, £6.99

A cautionary tale of moving abroad

The Eucalyptus Dance by Ken Barlow (Trafford Publishing, £11.50)

BASED on the real life story of a couple's move to Portugal, *The Eucalyptus Dance* is a fascinating tale of the trials and tribulations of packing up life in the UK and heading for the sun.

Former Newbury residents Ken Barlow and his partner Sue Cooper left the relative safety of their families and work to live in Portugal, after falling in love with the country while on holiday there.

What follows is the story of the couple's often frustrating, but equally amusing, time spent trying to build a house for themselves and an apartment block for holidaymakers on land in Alombada, a small village in the Beiras region of central Portugal. Aside from the obvious language barriers and a completely different planning system to our own, the

couple are at the mercy of local landowners, builders and other workmen, in an attempt to make their dream a reality.

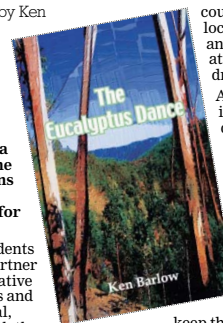
A host of characters are introduced with enough detail to allow the reader to make links between, for example, Portuguese builders and those most people have come across in the UK.

The reader can really empathise with the couple as they suffer setback after setback and in the end you are almost willing them to keep their resolve and continue with what sometimes appears to be an impossible dream.

The book is packed full of fascinating detail, from descriptions of the location to the people they met and the delicious food and drink they sampled.

A cautionary, but amusing tale that should be essential reading for anyone planning to take the plunge and move to another country.

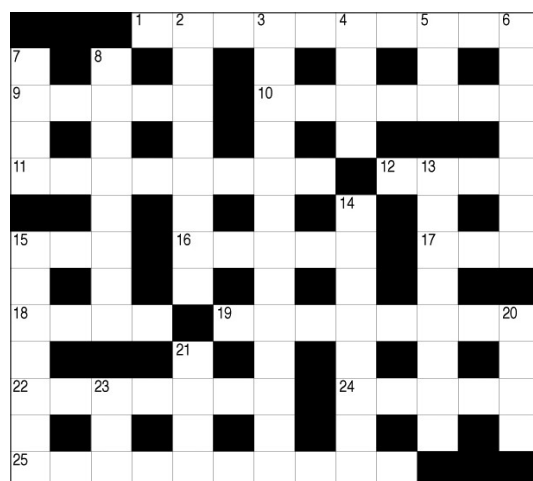
KATHERINE BROOMFIELD



HMV NEWBURY TOP 10

- Singles:**
 1 *Mercy* by Duffy
 2 *What's it Gonna Be* by H Two O ft. Platinum
 3 *Now You're Gone* by Basshunter
 4 *Sun Goes Down* by David Jordan
 5 *Wow* by Kylie Minogue
 6 *Rockstar* by Nickelback
 7 *Supernatural Superserious* by REM
 8 *Sunshine in the rain* by BWO
 9 *Up all Night* by Young Knives
 10 *Work* by Kelly Rowland

- Albums:**
 1 *Seventh Tree* by Coldfripp
 2 *Back to Black/Black to Black deluxe edition* by Amy Winehouse
 3 *Version* by Mark Ronson
 4 *All the Right Reasons* by Nickelback
 5 *19* by Adele
 6 *Life in Cartoon Motion* by Mika
 7 *Thriller: 25th anniversary edition* by Michael Jackson
 8 *Good Girl Gone Bad* by Rihanna
 9 *Call Me Irresponsible deluxe edition* by Michael Buble
 10 *X* by Kylie Minogue



Newbury Weekly News Crossword No. 7

ACROSS

- 1 Short story by Edgar Allan Poe (3,4,3)
- 9 Northern Ireland footballer David (5)
- 10 Province and former kingdom in Spain (7)
- 11 The officers' mess on board a warship (8)
- 12 A boy attending a bride (4)
- 15 and 3 down Catholic conspiracy to assassinate James I and his parliament in 1605 (3,9,4)
- 16 Go on the scrounge (5)
- 17 Senior barristers appointed on the recommendation of the Lord Chancellor, but not referred to as this at present (1,2)
- 18 a Laugh, popular radio programme of days gone by (4)
- 19 In a savagely violent manner (8)

DOWN

- 2 Reinhard __, Heinrich Himmler's deputy (8)
- 3 See 15 across
- 4 Of a broadcast, not recorded in advance (4)
- 5 Word that can be tacked on the front of bed, gain or on to form other words (3)
- 6 Another word for blokes (7)
- 7 A play or other stage performance (4)
- 8 The craft of shoeing horses (8)
- 13 Having a pH greater than 7 (8)
- 14 Trademark for the drug

- salbutamol, used in the treatment of asthma (8)
- 15 Social insect that feeds on wood (7)
- 20 __ Saint-Laurent, French couturier (4)
- 21 Shortened name for a type of classical music concert (4)
- 23 Compulsory annual test for motor vehicles (1,1,1)

Solutions to Feb 28 Crossword

- Across:** 1 Kismet, 5 Mexico, 8 Doolally, 9 Nene, 10 Afar, 11 Patented, 13 Newton Abbot, 15 Ovations, 17 Oops, 19 Clam, 20 Globular, 21 Conker, 22 Telfon.
- Down:** 2 In-off, 3 Meldrew, 4 Telephoto, 5 May, 6 Xenon, 7 Convent, 12 Transport, 13 Novello, 14 Beowulf, 16 Tomsk, 18 Plato, 20 Ger.