

Railroad Hobos

We are named after famous hobos who, according to our songs were thieves, killers and even worse, fare dodgers. We ourselves are none of these things of course (okay, we've done a bit of fare-dodging when times were tough) but we liked the name, trains and hobos being two of our major themes. This band has been playing for about four years but we've all rubbed shoulders with one another in different line-ups over the years playing similar kinds of music, music with scraps and patches of Country, blues, gospel and skiffle, all stitched together to make something we called 'hobo blues'.

Four, five, or six of us will perform depending on the venue but we are always a 'live' band. We even avoid fixing set arrangements for our songs which keeps us all fresh. No one is ever certain when, or even if, they will be called on for a solo in any given number. Keeps the songs fresh too!

We first dipped our toes into the Country music pond when we showcased at the Pickering Festival a while ago and we found the water extremely warm! We've had help and encouragement from punters, promoters, writers and editors ever since and we want to say a hefty hobo thankyou to you all. We are looking forward to meeting everyone on the scene in the next year or so.

We have been booked to perform at the British Country Music Awards show in October too. Featured on the front cover are

the regular members of the band and here is a little insight into all of us who perform together whenever possible.

Vince Townsend - Vocals, rhythm guitar



Started the band in 2004. Finds the songs from

here, there and everywhere and writes one from time to time. Raised in Liverpool which had a thriving Country scene, even in the late 50s (doors opened at 8pm, music started at 9pm, trouble started at 10pm) and in his real life supports Everton Football Club.

Country credentials: First album he ever heard was Ride This Train by Johnny Cash.

Hobo credentials: Was once editor of a journal called Hobo News, plus he lives next to a railway track!

John Hesp - Bass



A guitar picker by trade, John will switch from bass

when the need arises. He also plays several other instruments in an Irish band. All in all a bit of a show off. In his other life John is a keen cyclist and follows every stage of the Tour de France. Country credentials: Was playing Country licks before most of the band were born and that's the truth.

Hobo credentials: Not sure. He's got a bullet hole in his hat and his name is 'Junkyard Johnny' but he stays silent on both subjects!

Amaya Huntly - Fiddle



The youngest member of the band, Amaya is

at the University of Durham but joins us at every opportunity. Has also played piano for the band (a real honky tonk sound) and like all the band, an excellent harmoniser. A singer/songwriter with her own band she dreams of writing a West End musical.

Country credentials: Does a drop dead version of Your Cheatin' Heart and Take These Chains. Hobo Credibility: Amaya is Spanish for homeless traveller.

Jesse Hutchinson - Lead guitar



High Energy lead breaks contrast with some

subtle fills and an occasional solo of measured grace. Jesse also plays and sings on Scarborough's vibrant music scene and is strongly influenced by singer/ songwriters, particularly Bob Dylan. Country credentials: Cut his teeth in Scotland with a band called the Tennesseans.

Hobo credibility: Jesse has a wolfhound called Lobo the Hobo!

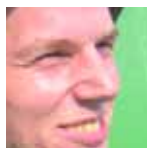
Al 'Low-down' Lawrence - Harmonica



Al's background is playing the blues so he breathes a raw

distinctive sound into our songs. Away from playing the blues, Al likes to unwind watching reruns of Rising Damp, that's what the devil's music can lead you into. Country credentials: Until recently, none, then he discovered the Old Crow Medicine Show and loves them. Hobo credibility: Well, he does a great freight train impersonation with that mouth organ of his. He also sang for his supper on the streets of Ireland with Tom.

Tom Townsend - Drums, slide guitar, bass



A founder member of the band and

another all-rounder, switching roles to suit the situation. Though still a youngster, Tom is already a veteran and has performed all over Britain and Ireland.

Country credentials: As a child was force-fed Jimmie Rodgers and Hank Williams. Hobo credibility: Once ran away to work on a steamboat in the manner of Mark Twain.

Whether we are four, five or six you are guaranteed a full band sound.