

Notes for Podcast One

Early recording at Bretton Hall 1963 - 1966

Throughout this series of podcasts we have referred to Mike as Mike Levon, but his original name, which he used until 1970 was Mike O'Connor, so that was the name on all the early Bretton recordings.

Before he came to Bretton, in his home town of Grantham, he was playing drums in a band with two others called 'The Trends' who played Shadows covers. He already had a tape machine and was interested in recording.

When he came to Bretton he was on 'Ents' which organised bands to play at Kennel Block, the students' bar. He played drums occasionally with other students in a band called Throb which included Clive Colling and Brian Wilson who played on various Holyground tracks.

Apart from the 12 inch album 'Last Thing on my Mind' we have also mentioned two 7 inch EPs, (extended play) 'Crossection' and 'Where its At' in the podcast, but in fact there was a third EP 'The Motley Crew', consisting solely of folk songs and shanties recorded in Kennel Block in 1966.

In Podcast One, we incorrectly identified Jenny Tarren's 'Lowlands' as being on 'Last Thing on My Mind', but it was in fact on 'Where Its At', the earlier EP.

'Last Thing on My Mind' had a Xeroxed booklet to accompany it, so there were fewer details on the cover. The tracks are rather randomly mixed with traditional folk songs alongside the first collaborations between Mike and Bob Hart.

Since this podcast episode was made, a discovery in the archive of another vinyl LP, 'Bar One', has been made - completely lost in Shirley's memory! The tracks are all folk, including some early Bob Dylan. Like some other Bretton records the sleeve is plain, but type-written details were Xeroxed and stuck on to the white covers that came with the pressings. Sleeves for other records were screen-printed in the college art rooms.

More information: <https://holyground.co.uk/earlyvarious.html>



*Mike O'Connor (Levon) with
Truvox tape machine 1963*

Original Sleeve Notes

Crossection recorded June - October 1965, in the Adam Room, Bretton Hall (7 inch mono recording)

Side One

Don't Think Twice (Dylan) ... Terry McCann, Marilyn Collins, guitar, John Williams, Bass, Jane Westlake, tambourine

With God on My Side (Dylan)...Jane Westlake and her guitar

Side Two

The Cobbler Song (trad.)... Kevin Slater and hammer

Guitar Blues in E (Korner-White)... John Williams

I Don't Believe You (Dylan)... Dave Nuttall; Clive Colling, piano; John Williams, guitar; Brian Wilson, bass; Mike O'Connor, drums

Produced by Audio & Design Ltd.

Recording & Cover Design by Mike O'Connor

Record No. MJB 113/3

The Motley Crew, Recorded June 1966 in Kennel Block Bretton Hall (7 inch mono recording)

Side One

A Long Time Ago - A Capstan shanty

Haul Away, Joe - a short haul shanty

Paddy Doyle's Boots - a bunt shanty, sung by the crew aloft

Heave Away, Me Johnny - a halyard shanty used to help long heaves

Side Two

The Ellen Vannin Tragedy - steamship which sank in Liverpool Bay in 1899

Paddy and the Whale - an Irish tall story

The Holy Ground - said to be the sailor's name for an area of ill-repute

Dick Smith, Dick Bacon, Mike Jackson, Angus McIntosh, Bruce Wigham, Mac Noble, Dick Dod, Dave Pugh, Alan Cunningham, Dave Nuttall, Kev Slater, Chris Coombs, Mike O'Connor

Recording Mike O'Connor, Production Kev Slater

Where Its At/San Francisco Bay Blues 1966 (7 inch mono recording)

Side One

I Still Miss Someone (Cash-Westlake)... Jane Westlake & guitar

Lowlands... Jennie Tarren

Stewball... Pat Newsham; Ted Flexman; Russ Little & guitar

Side Two

Song of Black Glass (O'Connor-Hart)...Bob Hart; Jane Westlake; Jim Reed, lute; Clive Colling, virginals; John William, guitar.

Corrina Corrina (arr. Dylan-O'Connor-Coombs) Chris Coombs & harmonica; Jane Westlake, guitar; Norfolk Jim, flute; Clive Colling, virginals; Jim Reed, lute; John Williams, bass: Ian Jones, drums.

San Francisco Bay Blues (arr. Hart-O'Connor)...Bob Hart & guitar; Chris Coombs, 2nd guitar; Ian Jones, kazoo & tambourine; Paul Harding, Jew's harp; Steve Ringsell, bongoes; John Williams, bass: Ann Calvin-Thomas, maracas

Production: Steve Ringsell, Ann Calvin-Thomas

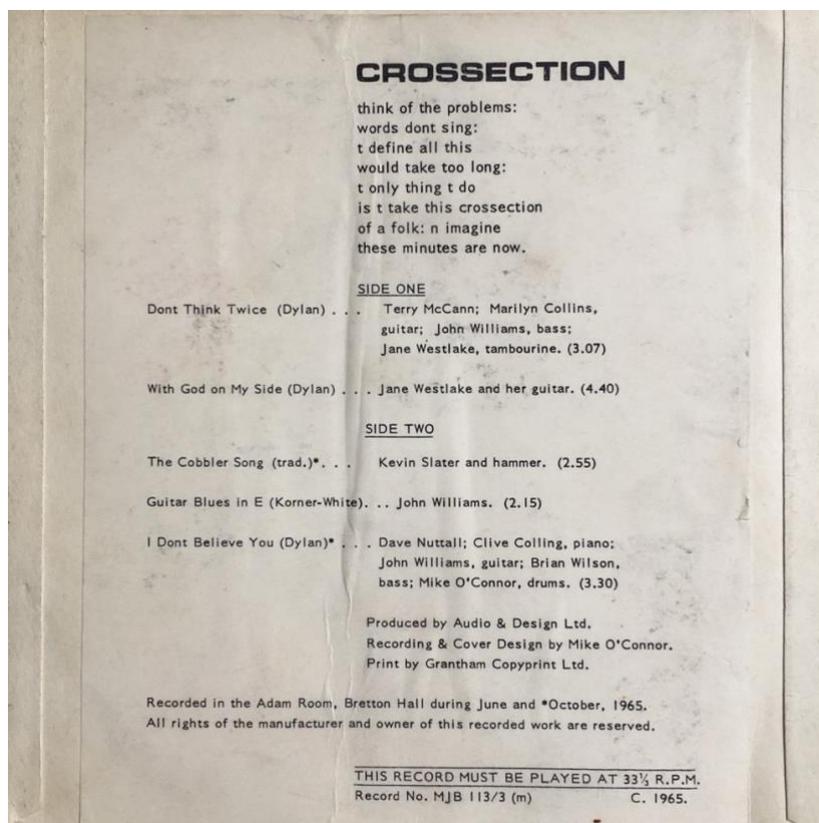
Recording Engineer: Mike O'Connor

Last Thing On My Mind (12 inch mono recording) Recorded in Bretton Hall January/March 1966

See information on the Holyground website: <https://holyground.co.uk/last/lasttrack.html>

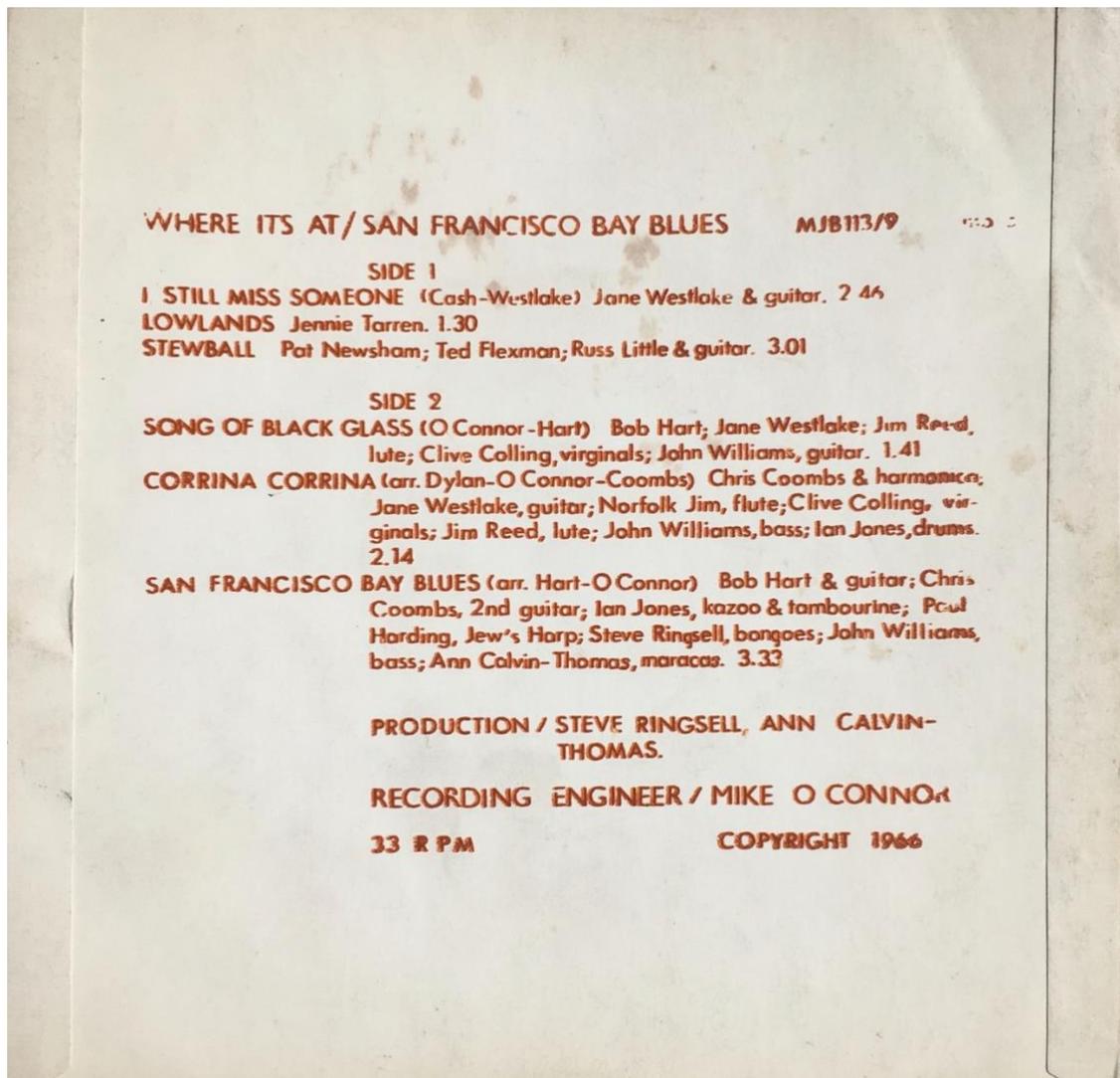
Please note that this information is about the CD which was released as part of 'The Works' series. Some tracks that were on the original vinyl were not included on the CD.

Crosssection, 1965



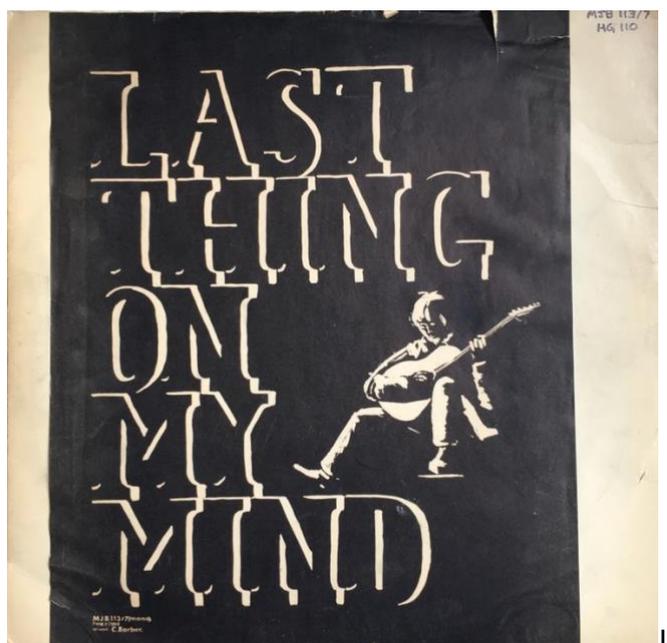
Screen-printed front cover of 'Crosssection', and Xeroxed back cover

Where It's At, 1966

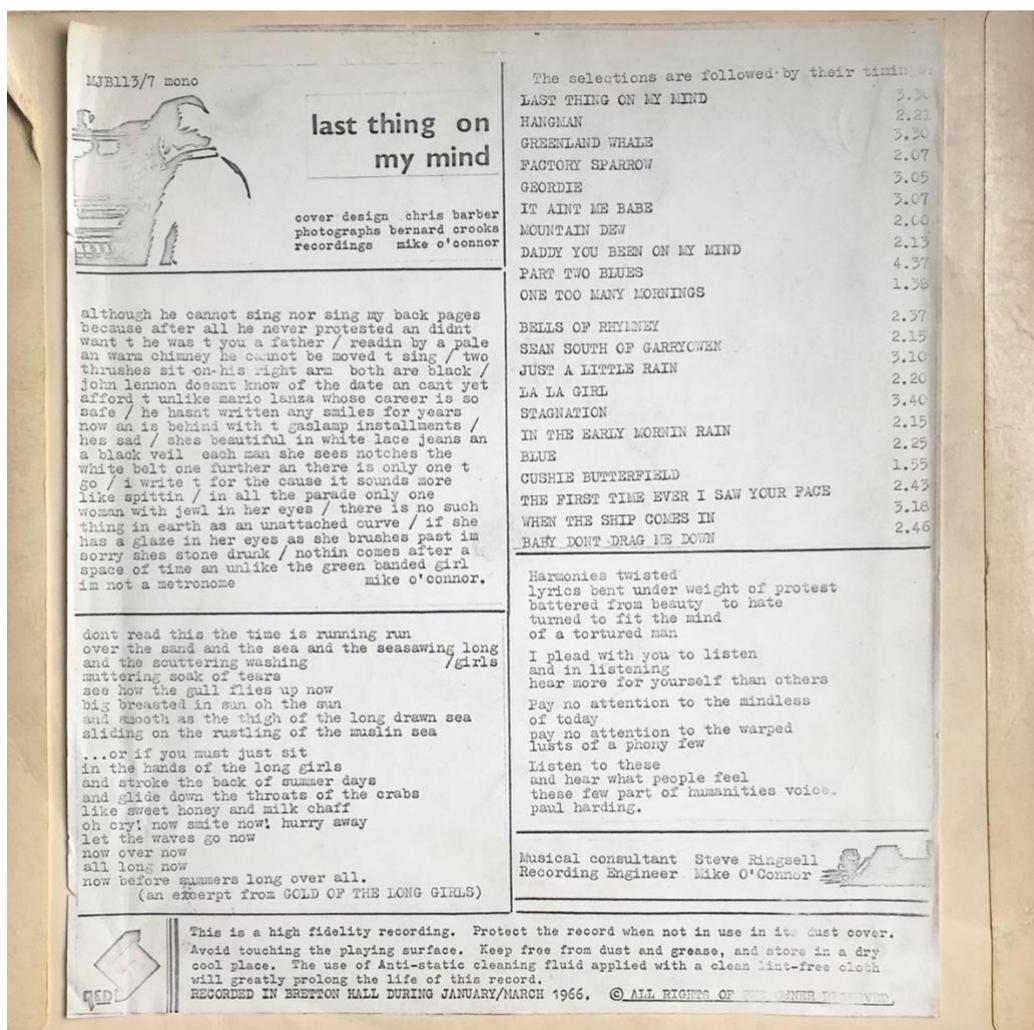


Screen-printed back cover for 'Where It's At'

Last Thing on My Mind, 1966



Screen-printed front cover, and Xeroxed back cover for the original vinyl copies of 'Last thing on My Mind'.



Bar One, 1965

nine, ten candles.....
singin n laughin.....
flames n memories.....
fadin: all-

BAR ONE

'At these hours there was no tellin what was bound t happen-
Never never could the greatest prophesisor ever guess it-
There was no such thing as an audience-
There was no such things as performers-
Everybody did somethin-
And had somethin t say about somethin.....'

(Bob Dylan)

BAR-one ... side two

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|-----------------------------|--|
| 1. OLD REILLY'S DAUGHTER | Kevin Slater. |
| 2. HERMIT TALKING BLUES | Barry Normington. |
| 3. TALKING BLUES NUMBER TWO | Mike Robertshaw and
Barry Normington. |
| 4. THERE BUT FOR FORTUNE | Terry McCann,
John Williams (guitar). |
| 5. I KNOW WHO IS SICK | Diane Hawkins. |
| 6. JOAN'S ALE | Kevin Slater. |
| 7. WE SHALL OVERCOME | Jane Westlake. |

Recording and editing by Mike O'Connor.

Recorded on 15th and 30th March, and on 24th May, 1965
in Kennel Block, Bretton Hall.

BAR-one ... side one

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|-------------------------------|--|
| 1. IT AIN'T ME BABE | Terry McCann,
John Williams (guitar) |
| 2. ALL MY TRIALS | M. Mason, Nigel Beck
(harmonica),
John Thorne (guitar)
and R. Thomas. |
| 3. THE JUG O' PUNCH | Kevin Slater. |
| 4. BALLAD OF LADY C. | Mike Robertshaw. |
| 5. THE THRESHING MACHINE | Verity Spencer. |
| 6. ZIDER ZIDER ZIDER | Jon Palmer. |
| 7. THE TATIES THEY GROW SMALL | Barry Normington. |
| 8. WITH ME NAVY BOOTS ON | Mike Robertshaw. |

Produced by MJB Recording and Transcription Service Ltd.,
7, High Street, Maidenhead.

Cover Design by John Williams.

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Recording first issued June, 1965.