

CD REVIEWS: What the local and music press said

"Perhaps the most innovative thing to have happened to my CD player in ages. Top marks".
CHRIS NEWBY, LONDON MUSIC REVIEW

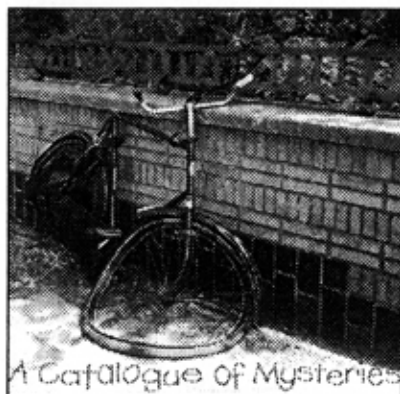
"...a constantly surprising set of original songs which will appeal to a wide audience".
TREVOR DEFFERD, NEWBURY WEEKLY NEWS

"...echoes of the days when you could mellow out and float downstream... Delicious light and shade".
LES PALMER, GO MAGAZINE

A CATALOGUE OF MYSTERIES: OIA 161 007 115 857, price £12

LISTENING to the first CD by an unknown artist is a little akin to opening a birthday present in that the contents, however beautifully wrapped, can either excite or disappoint. The analogy is particularly appropriate here as the launch of this new album by local musician Nigel Watts-Plumpkin coincides with his 40th birthday. Attractively packaged with images evoking childhood memories, the album more than lives up to its title by providing the listener with a constantly surprising set of original songs which will appeal to a wide audience.

A sense of nostalgia is immediately apparent in the scratchy gramophone sound of the opening and the lyrics of several songs reflect the



passing of time. Musically Nigel admits to being influenced by, among others, Crowded House, Annie Lennox and the Beatles and the latter are especially brought to mind in the vocal harmonies of the excellent *My Pretty One* and the quirky marching-band humour (echoes of *Yellow Submarine?*) of *Sheep Fever*, a

song about blind faith which could well develop a cult following with its bleating backing vocals. Some of the tracks have been co-written by Ian Grove who contributes a mellow blend of acoustic and electric guitar sounds. The closing song *Far Away Star* recalls the melodic rock of musicians such as Rick Wakeman and Mike Oldfield while thoughts of the past are banished with the promise of a brighter future.

For those wishing to explore the album for themselves, *A Catalogue of Mysteries* is available locally from Hogan Music and Our Price with £1 from every sale being donated to Leukaemia Research.

TREVOR DEFFERD