

Bills

Lol Moran



A white swan is shown from a side profile, swimming in greenish water. The swan's head is turned towards the camera, showing its long neck and bright orange beak with black tips. The water has gentle ripples around the swan. The background is a soft, out-of-focus green.

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These songs, apart from one, have all been written since my *Bombarded* album came out in 2014, and I could have done a further two albums if I'd used all of them.

Most of my songs tend to be humorous, as you will gather.

Mary Ann's Teapot

The 150-year-old true story of the infamous teapot. My great-grandparents were living in Sunderland at that time and I like to think that they may have known Mary Ann, but I'm obviously grateful that they didn't know her that well.

The Crow

This was inspired by Karine Polwart's "Follow the Heron", which she wrote about her favourite bird. This is about my favourite bird, although I do like swans too.

Bill the Quill

This is basically William Shakespeare's life story, and was written for the 400th anniversary in 2016 of his death.

Inky Fingers

...as was this, an imagined lecture to his son by John Shakespeare (I do live in Stratford-upon-Avon, by the way!)

Mad Billy

Inspired by a thread on a Hartlepool United FC message board about odd old men seen in the town years ago, this isn't named after any specific person.

Old Banger

I'm sure we all had an emotional attachment to our first car and were sorry to see it go - despite everything!

Stranton

The Victorian new town of West Hartlepool was basically an enlarged Stranton. This song is a lament for what has become of the village.

Tourists of Stratford

They always say "write about what you know", so I did!

Hartburn

For years I used to tell this story to American tourists in between songs, but now it is one of the songs. If you didn't know, acid reflux is another name for heartburn (as is Stockton for Hartburn!)

Walking to Wilmcote

There can't be many villages so well endowed with ways to get there as Wilmcote. I go to a folk session there once a month - but in the car!

Navvy Nan

Victorian West Hartlepool's fierce drinking, fighting, donkey-cart driving wild woman finally gets the recognition she fought (and drank) for.

Holey Melodeon

A bit of nonsense written for my musician friends at the Wilmcote folk session - hearing 7 melodeons at once can make you think certain thoughts!

Bills

- 1 **Mary Ann's Teapot** (©2016)
- 2 **The Crow** (©2017)
- 3 **Bill the Quill** (©2016)
- 4 **Inky Fingers** (©2016)
- 5 **Mad Billy** (©2017)
- 6 **Old Banger** (©2016)
Parody of: 'Greensleeves'
- 7 **Stranton** (©2017)
- 8 **Tourists of Stratford** (©1997)
Parody of 'Mountains of Mourne'
- 9 **Hartburn** (©2017)
- 10 **Walking to Wilmcote** (©2017)
- 11 **Navy Nan** (©2016)
- 12 **Holey Melodeon** (©2017)

Lol Moran

All songs written and performed by Lol Moran.

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Arrangements, recording, editing, photography and graphics by Lol Moran

The two 'recycled' songs are traditional or out of copyright.

All of the lyrics can be found on the website (address below), along with a video of *Mary Ann's Teapot* and an animated version of *Bill the Quill*.

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The album title refers to the fact that no less than five of the songs have a William in them.

The photos of swans on the River Avon at Stratford are there as a reference to one of the Bills, whose mother lived at Wilmcote, and who was given the metaphorical name "Sweet Swan of Avon" by his friend and fellow playwright Ben Jonson. However, real swans and their bills are also mentioned in two songs.

