

PICTURE FILE
FOR

THE MAN
WHO'LL SEE
THE POET



The author and Robert McElhaney, of Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. Author, 40, McElhaney, 27



Below: Anglican shrine, Walsingham, where a miracle occurred for the author



Pedlar of Swaffham and his dog, in the church he endowed with money that came to him through a dream.



*Above:
The author's friend, George Melly, as a young blues singer in the 1950s, and
Below:
as the author knew him, in his prime*



Huub is older in this pic, but this is just how he used to look when he said, "Everyone loff me!"

Huub Jansson, drummer with the Dutch Swing College band.





The author, 1983, in back garden with antiquated lawn mower

Centre bans jacuzzi readings

A SPORTS centre pulled the plug on plans to hold a nude poetry reading session in their jacuzzi.

Members of the Padiham Sink performing arts group planned to launch the new body by reading poetry to each other in the spa bath at Springers Sports Centre in Nelson.

But when they turned up they were told they could not go ahead with it.

Organiser Val Kirkham, of Regent Street, Nelson, said: "We were told that they did not want that kind of publicity for their centre. Apparently it is okay for mixed groups to use the jacuzzi — so long as they don't read poetry."

Only five of the group's 10 members turned up — and one of them admitted to bringing his swimming trunks.



■ Silenced poet Val Kirkham

Val said: "We do feel upset, and we will be making every effort to find a jacuzzi which will welcome poetry."

Another group member Dave Cunliffe of Copster Green, said: "I have come all the way over here to join in, only to find we have been banned. It is a long way to come for nothing. Val told them exactly what we were planning when she booked."

The poets planned to sit among the bubbles reading extracts from their own work. They had already dropped the idea of inviting the public along because of lack of space.



■ Prose among the potted plants for jacuzzi poets (from left) Janet Cook, Dave Cunliffe, Andrew Savage and Val Kirkham.



Glenn adjusts the mike



Geraldine washes the weightlifters



Poetry tape created by the Father of Nine



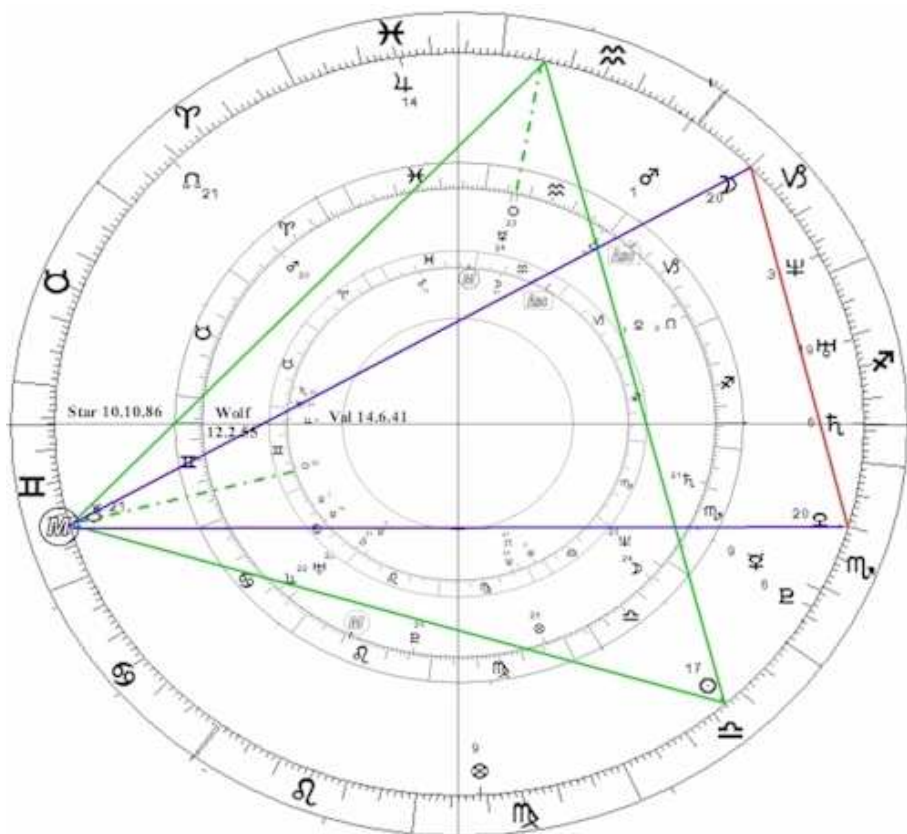
**Poets in the pub:
Dave Cunliffe, the Author, Andrew Savage, John Donlan**

Author's tarot table, with Shaman Stones



*Author with
'Man Who'll
See the Poet'*

The most beautiful face I ever saw



The combination of three astral charts which convinced me I must marry Wolfram!



*Above:
the author's son Graham and his wife Clare on their wedding
day, 10 October 1987.*

*Left:
the author and Wolfram Thomé, married earlier on same day*



'Mother and Son Marry' - the headline that never was



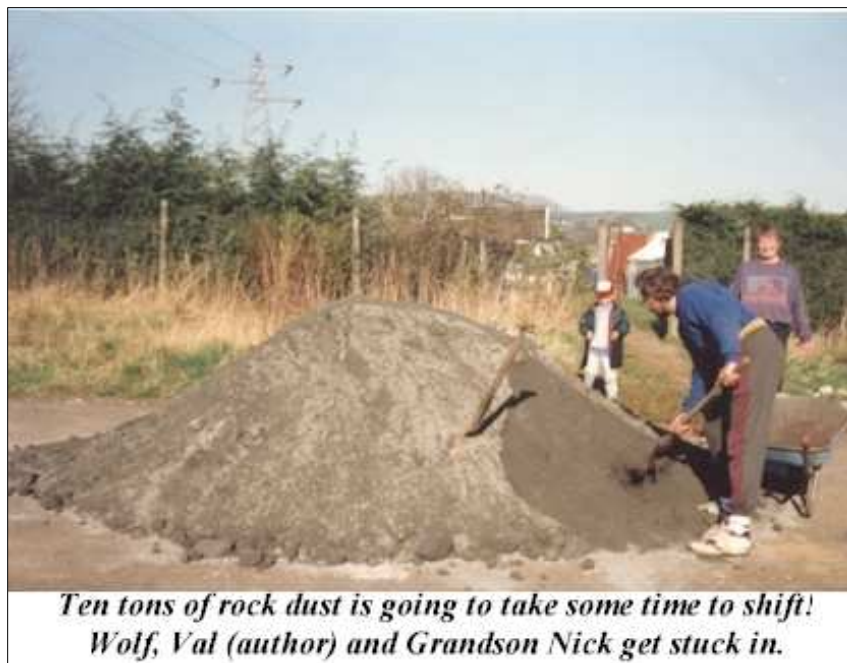
*My ancestor and first spirit guide,
Elizabeth Lee, of the Murfin family*



*Our first wedding anniversary, Wolfram with the marquee he got from
Bob Gillibrand, Pennine Marquee Hire*



Local business man Graham White, his plans defeated by witches



Left:
The heap of rock dust I got for a birthday present. Wolf shovels while grandson Nick Salisbury looks on, and author grins in background.

Below:
Our second plot, adjacent to the first, with its 'allotment architecture' shed and my pile of Nelson brick

Wolf and the greenhouse he built out of pallets



Beds dug on 2nd plot with its old ramshackle shed, and my pile of bricks on right



The finished greenhouse, built in traditional Black Forest style with high pitched roof

Garden plot fury as MP is snubbed!

A RIGHT blooming row has blossomed down at the allotments — Pendle Tory MP John Lee has been barred from visiting a blind organic gardener's plot in Nelson!

The ban came after the committee had a crisis meeting in a shed ... and decided to tell Mr Lee to "keep off the grass", and any other part of their patch.

The green-fingered growers say the snub has nothing to do with politics.

But it has left organic gardener Mr Wolfram Thome and his wife, Valerie, who issued the invite, furious.

And John Lee has branded the ban "silly and ridiculous".

The VIP trip to Nelson's Swinden

Hall allotments should have taken place today (Friday).

But days before the "blue" was due to bloom, trouble took root.

An anti-Tory slogan was daubed on the committee shed and a pro-Labour poster sprouted in a greenhouse.

The "storm in a plant pot" grew when the committee poured weedkiller on the plan to welcome the politician.

They have given no reason for the rebuff, but say the decision is definitely non-political.

Fuss

Mrs Thome said: "John Lee helped get us a fence from the council so we invited him to take a look at our plot by way of a thank-you. We can't understand the fuss."

Said Mr Lee: "I have helped the allotments groups in the past, and as an MP, I fully expect, within reason, to be able to visit things in my constitu-

ency, particularly at the invitation of an allotment owner.

"I can assure the allotment holders I am unlikely to stand in the middle of the allotments and hand out pictures of John Major and copies of our campaign leaflet or let off blue balloons."

However, unrepentant committee members dug in their heels when questioned about the bar.

Secretary of the Swinden Hall Allotments committee, chimney sweep Mr George Wilkinson, of Regent Street, said: "Everything regarding John Lee has been resolved. There was a committee meeting last Sunday in our allotment hut and Ken Metcalfe, the secretary of all the Nelson allotments, was present.

"The issue was discussed at length, a vote taken, and it was decided by nine votes to two that John Lee was not allowed to visit out allotments. We are not politically minded, it has nothing to do with politics," said Mr Metcalfe, who refused to comment further.



MP defies allotments 'ban'



PENDLE MP John Lee visited Swinden Allotments in Nelson on Friday, despite a committee ban.

Local organic gardener Valerie Thome and her disabled husband Wolfram were able to show him their pride and joy plot, because in the event the committee offered no resistance to the visit.

Nelson Allotments Committee chairman Mr Ken Metcalfe refuses to comment publicly about the apparent climbdown over the matter, but did speak with Mr Lee at his constituency surgery on Saturday, and is understood to have apologised for the snub.

Said Mr Lee of the visit: "As far as I was concerned, it was all very pleasant and relaxed. There was no attempt to prevent us from entering and, as I was invited by one of the allotment holders, I was delighted to go and look at the tremendous efforts that go into the allotments."

Mr Lee confirmed that he had spoken to Mr Metcalfe about the "no visit" vote of the committee reported in this newspaper last week.

Victimisation

"I suspect there has been a certain clash of personalities," he said. "I am hopeful of ongoing good relations with the allotment holders, and hope there is no victimisation or unpleasantness in future."

Meanwhile, former Labour voter Val, who issued the invitation to Mr Lee and found herself at odds with the Swinden allotments committee because of it, reckons the incident has changed her political allegiance for good.

"We were delighted with the way that the day turned out, and everybody had a lovely time," she said. "But I have been disgusted at the attitude of Left wingers in the area. I am all for freedom of choice and expression, and if that is the way they behave I will vote Conservative in future."



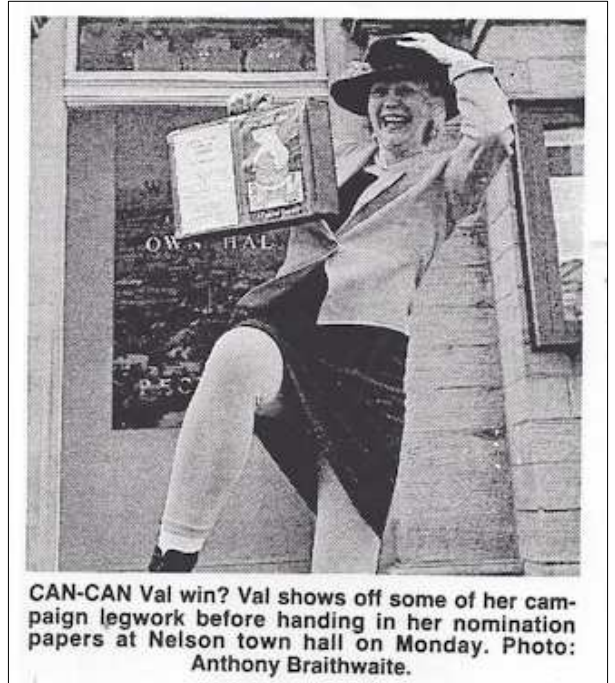
*Left:
Wolf lays a patio*



*Right:
Parrot eating
marigolds*



The author is invited to contest the Nelson seat



CAN-CAN Val win? Val shows off some of her campaign legwork before handing in her nomination papers at Nelson town hall on Monday. Photo: Anthony Braithwaite.



*Left and Below:
The Little Hut (Sleep Hut)
in the allotment.*



*The Light at the End of the Tunnel (Mile Tunnel,
Foulridge)*

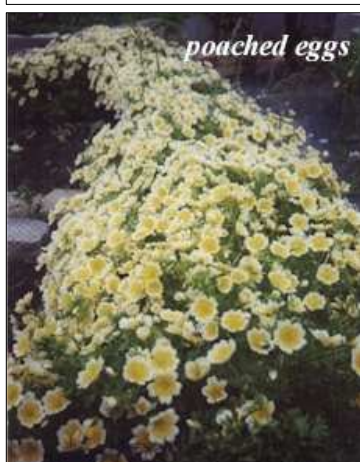


Wolf and some of his weights

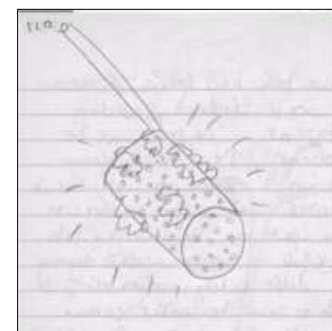




Happy Families - Fasal, Wolf, Val, Sayeed



Debbie, Fasal's prospective Second Wife, having her sari adjusted by Indian friend



Huehuateotl (the Old, Old God of the Aztecs), who has a burning brazier on his head, and the burning brazier which was put over my head in a dream



The Author with Phil Smith, broadcaster, after a Witches' Sabbat



Wolf meets Ray Ennis, of the Swinging Blue Jeans, while we were filming 'Married Love' with Stephen Humphries, of Testimony Films.