

# BARCLAY JAMES HARVEST

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BARCLAY JAMES HARVEST LIVE AVAILABLE ON ALBUM & MUSICASSETTE





# BARCLAY JAMES HARVEST

It's ten years and it's been hard. Barclay James Harvest in September celebrated their tenth anniversary together with a completely unaltered line-up, and when you can do that in the music industry it is no mean achievement. In fact the Barclays have had more than their fair share of hassles which would have broken lesser bands. Changes in record companies, management and the normal stories which abound of the difficulties of the music scene, have plagued the band since its inception. In the last few years the group has come through the many offstage problems to reach a wider acceptance through sell-out concert tours and albums which regularly chart. For whatever the ancillary problems have been, there has been one constancy — the quality of the music the band puts out.

Each tour is a sell-out and each year more halls and extra dates are booked to accommodate the demand for tickets.

Since the beginning of 1974 when they joined the Polydor label they have notched up sales of well over 300,000 with the three albums on that label.

Their eighth album, "Octoberon", has just been released and already the indication is that it will follow the others straight into the charts.

Individually the band comprises:

John Lees – guitar, vocals

Mel Pritchard – drums Les Holroyd – bass

Stewart Wooly' Wolstenholme - mellotron, keyboards

They still live in a group of small villages at Saddleworth just outside Manchester.

John was born in January 1947 and ranks a place on any roll of progressive composer/guitarists. His vocal work is of a similar standard. John is fair-haired and off stage sports denims and tinted prescription spectacles. He is regarded by some as being 'difficult' at times. He is not! He simply has the ability to see through hype and understands that the shortest distance between two points is a straight line. When John sees how things are, he tells you! Photographers on assignments to photograph the band and who are warned to treat John carefully invariably find that he is most co-operative and will go out of his way to help them achieve the shots they require. He is also a keen photographer.

Les was born in March 1948 and is the perfect counterpart to John. Slim in build he is quietly spoken and gives the aura of a very sensitive artist, which of course he is. In publicity and promotion photographs he rarely smiles but offstage has great warmth and sincerity as well as a good sense of humour. He has a farm and is passionately fond of horses. He shares most of the writing and arranging with John. Les's bearded face is an essential part of the visual Barclays' image.





Wooly, born April 1947, is strictly a one-off character. He stands well over 6 feet tall and is about as far away from the conventional image of a rock musician as you are ever likely to find. When he is not working he spends a large part of his spare time at his village local. He is almost obsessed with V-necked sweaters which he has made for him and sporting wordings ranging from his own nickname to the title of the latest album. His other minor eccentricity is clogs — the genuine old English, North Country-type complete with metal horseshoe-shaped sole reinforcements. Consequently Wooly's arrival at any destination is often heralded by the staccato ring of his footwear on pavement, corridor or staircase. There is never any doubt as to his impending arrival. He is unpredictable in the most innocuous way and is always the most difficult member of the band to locate. He somehow manages to disappear for weeks at a time even in his own village. His talent on the keyboards and as an arranger is self-evident and he usually contributes one track to each album. His 'Mockingbird' is probably one of the bands most requested numbers at concerts.

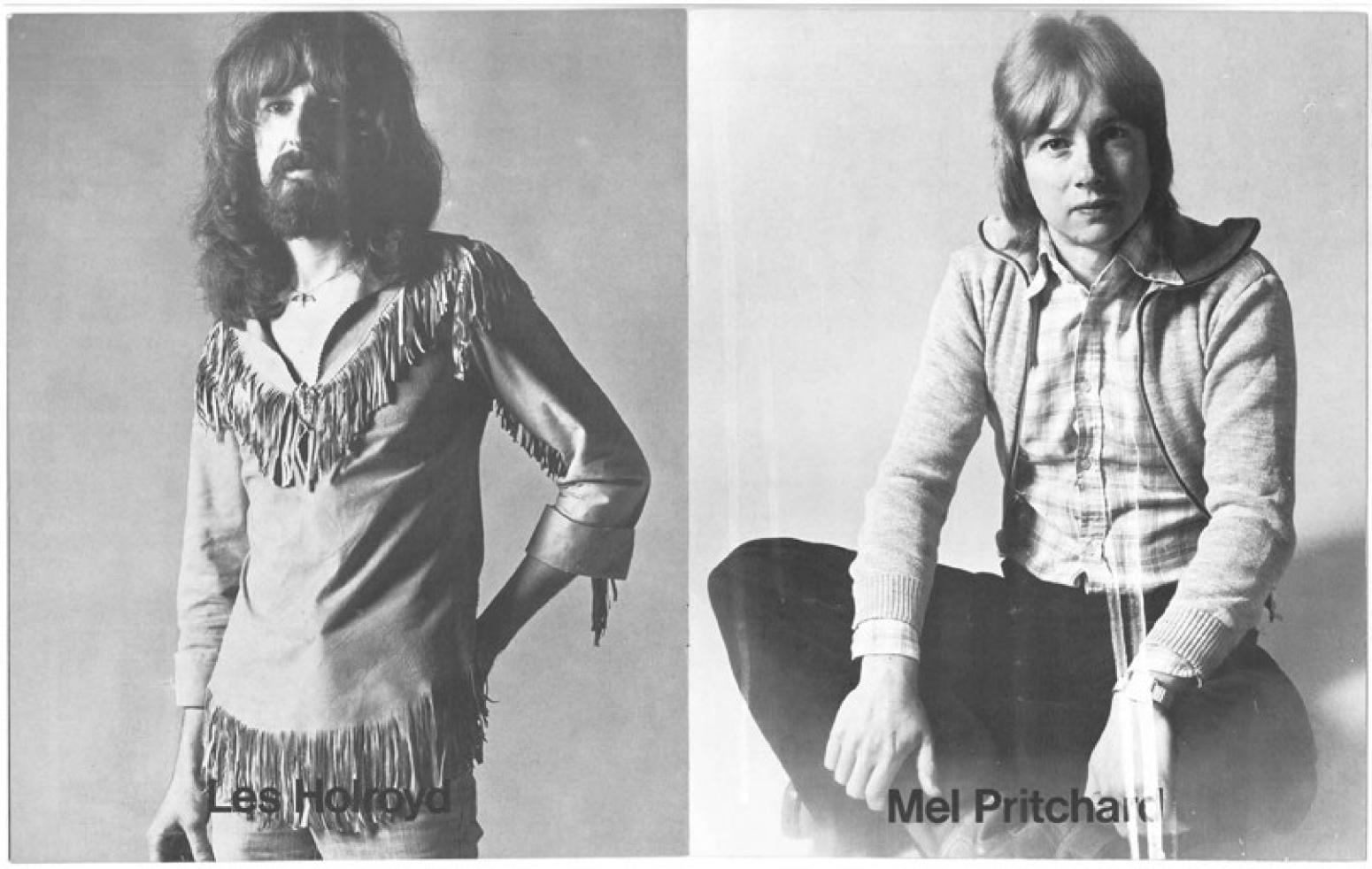
Mel was born in January 1948. His technique and feel in the drum chair is a vital part of the Barclays' syndrome. He is fair-haired, round-faced and makes no concessions towards the conventional rock drummer image. He likes the simple life and hangs out quite a bit with Wooly. It's really only in the studio or on the concert platform that he undergoes a transformation from being almost a 'Mr. Average' to being one of the finest drummers in the business.

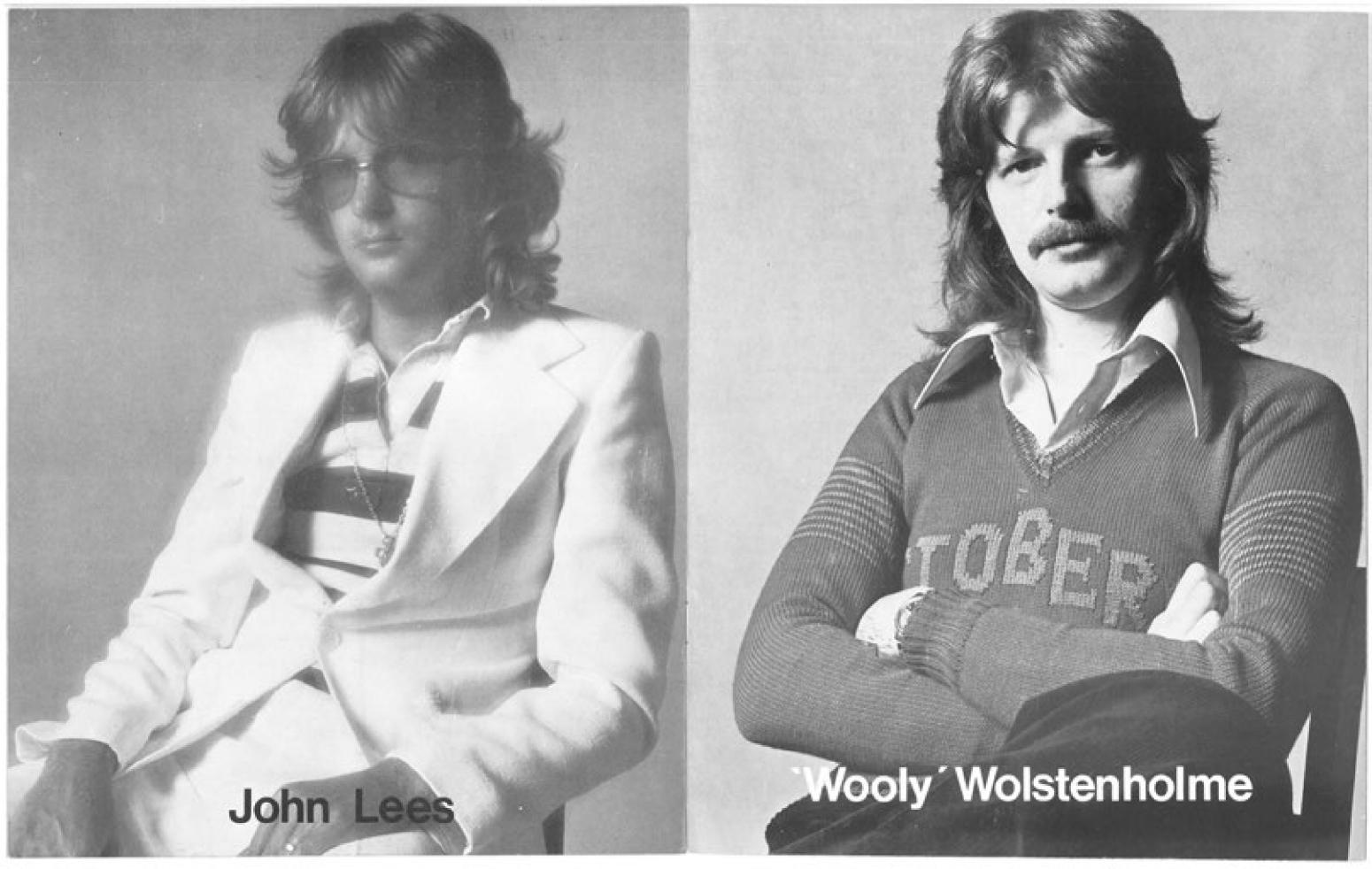
So that's the band. In America they have a tremendous following and their last European tour was met with total acclaim both from audiences and the press alike.

Strangely enough it is only here in the UK that the group have met with mixed reaction from the Press. Some of the criticism has been blatantly spiteful and unwarranted but spoke more of the review's lack of insight than the band's performance. 'Octoberon' is far and away their best album to date and with this and the current tour it is highly probable that even the most sceptical reviewers will have little to fault. However, in the final analysis, it is album sales and the sell-out of date after date that is the proof of the pudding.











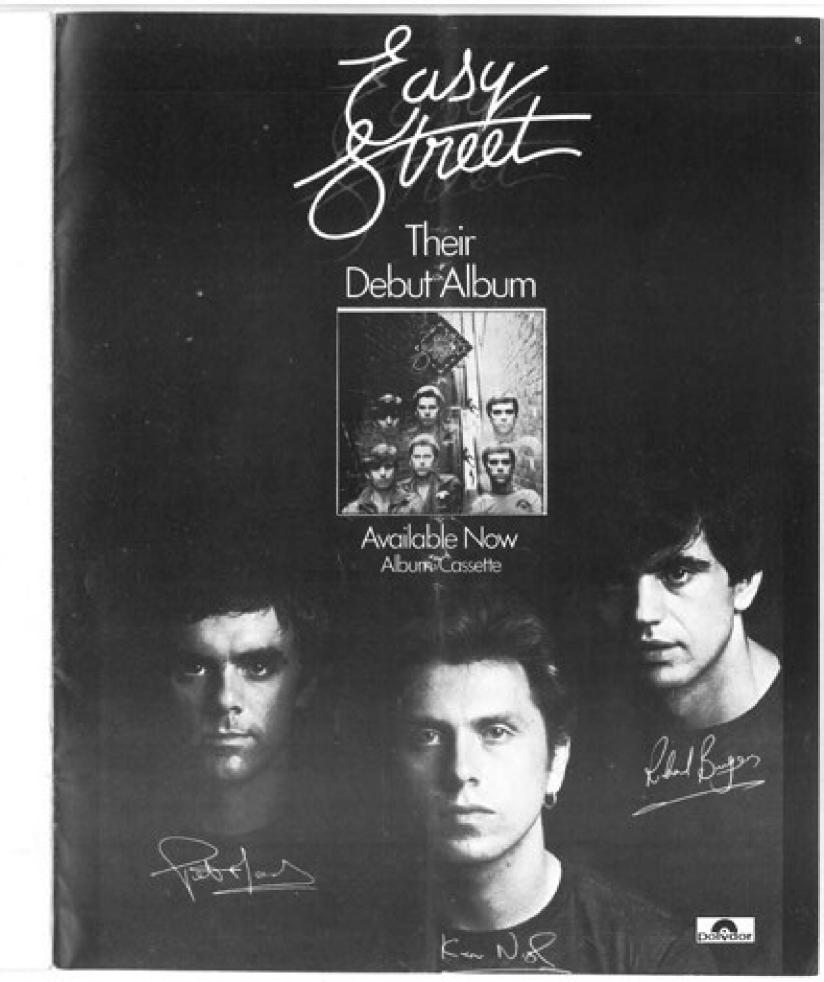
Barclay James Harvest's guests on the hill are Easy Street, a band which earned itself considerable reputation in just three minutes flat. When Easy Street appeared on New Faces on 29 December they literally stopped the show and the panel dead in its tracks with one of the tightest and inventive bands ever seen on that show. They hit an all time high on points awarded by the panel and the only criticism which was forthcoming was on their alleged lack of dress sense. Needless to say they won the competition that night and shortly afterwards Polydor issued their first single Tve Been Loving You' which, although it did not make any chart impression in this country, received considerable air play and charted in the United States.

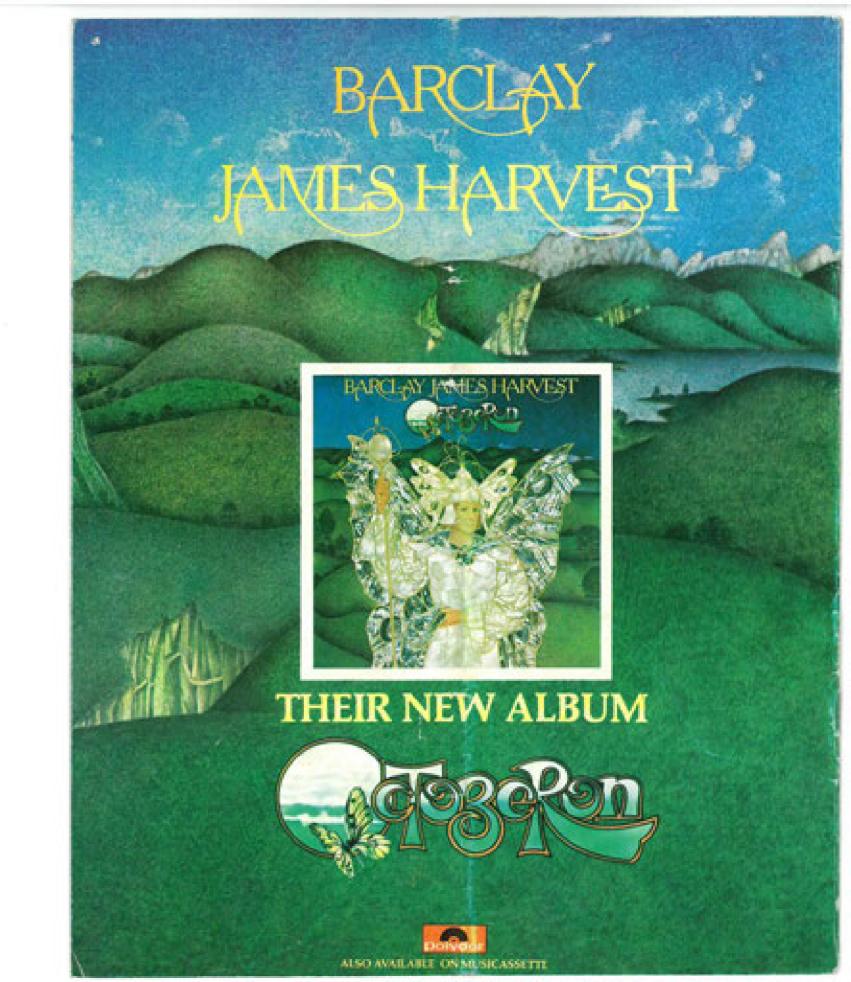
Ken Nicol usually handles the vocals and plays lead guitar. His acoustic guitar work has been acclaimed as probably the most inventive and exciting on the scene today. Ken sports an ear-ring which he wore long before it became the 'pop' fashion.

Rhythm guitar is handled by Ken's brother-in-law Pete Marsh who is shorter in stature with close-cropped hair. He also takes many of the vocals and possesses one of the most unusual voices being recorded today. He can handle a belting rock vocal in the Little Richard style with the best of them. The one difference being that with this style of singing often the vocalist strays closely to the borders of his vocal capacity. Pete, as you will hear, is one of those fortunate few who can keep even the most outrageous 'belter' well in control.

The drum chair is taken by Richard Burgess, one of the finest drummers on the scene. Until joining Easy Street he was a drummer for the National Jazz Youth Orchestra and his work at sessions can be heard on several chart records. Barbara Dixon's 'Answer Me' being a case in point. His vibrance and innovation slot perfectly into the groove set by Pete and Ken.

Easy Street are supported on the tour by Jim Hall on bass and Kevin Saviger on keyboards. Their first album is released in October and already in the USA, where their popularity is well established, advance orders are building up.





## KENNEDY STREET ENTERPRISES

## PRESENT



- OCTOBER
- 7 SHEFFIELD, City Hall
- 8 BIRMINGHAM, Odeon
- 9 MANCHESTER, Free Trade Hall
- 10 NEWCASTLE, City Hall
- 11 EDINBURGH, Usher Hall
- 12 GLASGOW, Apollo
- 13 LEEDS, Town Hall
- 14 LIVERPOOL, Empire
- 17 HEMEL HEMPSTEAD, Pavillion
- 18 OXFORD, New Theatre
- 19 LONDON, Hammersmith Odeon
- 21 PORTSMOUTH, Guildhall
- 22 CAMBRIDGE, Corn Exchange
- 23 SOUTHEND, Kurseal
- 24 CROYDON, Fairfield Hall
- 25 CARDIFF, Capitol
- 26 BRISTOL, Colston Hall
- 27 BOURNEMOUTH, Winter Gardens
- 28 LEICESTER, De Montfort Hall
- 29 PETERBOROUGH, ABC
- 30 IPSWICH, Gaumont
- 31 NORWICH, Theatre Royal
- NOVEMBER 1 IPSWICH, Gaumont
  - 2 HANLEY, Victoria Hall
  - 4 MALVERN, Winter Gardens
  - 5 ASTON, University