

Bernard Wrigley



Bernard has been delighting audiences everywhere for 40 years now. With the nickname of "The Bolton Bullfrog" (given to him on the sleeve notes of his first LP on the Topic label) he's forged a reputation of meaty traditional pieces and some seriously daft songs and humorous monologues – not to mention his instrumental prowess. His career as a singer and storyteller began in the late sixties, when a love of folk music led him to perform in folk clubs. Since then he has released over sixteen albums of traditional and original songs, stories and monologues. His main instruments are the guitar and concertina.

From his beginnings with "Dave & Bernard" he's become known as an actor as well as a singer and storyteller. Some of the earliest appearances were in Alan Bennett's plays and no fewer than seven different characters in 'Coronation Street'.

Many will remember him from 'Emmerdale' a few years ago when he played Barry Clegg the hapless rocket builder whose wife Lisa left him for Zak Dingle. He was also in three episodes of Dinner Ladies, where he complained, danced sang, and played the concertina. Then he played the part of Dodgy Eric in Phoenix Nights, where he sold a mechanical bucking bronco to the club (with disastrous results) and in the second series insisted that Brian Potter hire a bouncy castle with a fifteen foot phallic extension (Sammy The Snake).

Radio listeners will have heard Bernard's contributions he made to the "Mark & Lard" programme on BBC Radio 1, and then the Mark Radcliffe show on Radio 2. Quite a few dramatic roles were on BBC Radio 4 plays.

The CDs now number eighteen - you can see them at his website www.bernardwrigley.com along with clips from the many TV & film appearances.