

## From Nashville to outer space for musicians

By Peter Kay. Published 23<sup>rd</sup> May 2008

TWO musicians from the Sheffield area have branched out with a book about "music, magic and space". But Fred Alcock and Paul Arnold are not jettisoning their musical background. SpaceCoyotes and the Secret of the Blue Planet is being published with a sample CD of four songs. A full-blown CD is due to follow.

The book follows 14-year-old JoJo, who dreams of becoming a SpaceCoyote and flying across the galaxy in search of her grandfather, who disappeared 40 years ago.

The musical content is provided by a teenager's band called Applejuice.

The magic is not the Harry Potter type, says Fred. It's DNA magic. JoJo can take a strand of hair from a great singer and transfer the vocal ability to somebody else. "It's like Grease meets Star Wars."

The book is the latest collaboration between Fred, aged 66, who lives in Wortley, and Paul, aged 36, who lives in Mosborough.

They were both born in Crookes but only hooked up after meeting at one of the songwriter workshops Fred used to run at Wortley through the Nashville Songwriters Association International.

They became partners in a music and publishing business.

Fred is a regular visitor to the country music capital of Nashville and enjoyed a fruitful 18-year-old partnership with Sheb Wooley, whose claims to fame range from writing Purple People Eater to playing Pete in the long-running TV western Rawhide.

The book is dedicated to Sheb Wooley, and it is doing very well, says Fred. "It sold nearly 1,000 in four weeks, which is pretty good. There has been an offer from a small film company in America and talk of an animated DVD. The response has been phenomenal."

They are now working on a possible film deal in America with former Sheffield concert promoter Mitzi Matlock.

Fred formed a band, the Jetblacks and spent several years touring Europe, sharing the bill with the likes of Bill Haley, the Everly Brothers and The Who.

Paul started on drums before turning to guitar and split his time between university and a rock band. With a masters degree in pathology, he works at Sheffield Children's Hospital.

Fred and Paul will be signing copies of SpaceCoyotes and the Secret of the Blue Planet (Troubadour Publishing, £13.99) at Waterstone's in Meadowhall next Friday (May 30) between 1pm and 3pm.

