ZAPPANALE 25 – *some reflections*

At **Don & Bunk**'s exhibition show, Preston told the story of how a week earlier the **Grandmothers** had played the Lovely Days festival in Wiesen, Austria. Also on the bill was **Johnny Winter**, who appeared unwell backstage. His entourage called Don over for advice, so he demonstrated some 'Stravinsky Exercises' to Johnny, which he said should help pep him up. A few days later, Winter sadly passed away. It's best to think that Johnny didn't take Don's advice – unlike John Coltrane who, in 1962, Preston urged "to progress beyond where you are, and lead the people who are following you into new realms of music."

It turned out that the **Magic Band'**s show would be the last with Denny Walley. They was smoking.

Saturday was a real humdinger of a day. **The Muffin Men** wowed us – their *Fairies Wear Brown Shoes* being a particular highlight. The five-piece hornless **Spanner Jazz Punks** drew an ever-increasing number of folk into their web of trust for to gaze in wonder at their ska-rred *Duodenum* and such. The double-battery assault of **The Crimson ProjeKCt** – featuring Mr Mr **Pat Mastelotto**, who bears an unfortunate resemblance to the incarcerated Rolf Harris – was a little overpowering at times (as my friend Lee might say, the sound of two drummers proving that they're only half as good as Bill Bruford). But there was plenty of relief from the full-on bongo fury with the wonderful **Tony Levin/Adrian Belew** duet that was *Matte Kudasa*, the lovely laid-back *One Time*, and also when the band split into its constituent parts: the **Stickmen** whipping out Fripp's *Breathless*, the ABPT sucking on selections from *E*.

Sadly, **David Parlato** didn't make it to Bad Doberan and spent 17 days in hospital fighting a life threatening bout of pancreatitis. Happily, he lived to tell the tale, but his place in the Grannies was taken by the Magic Band's **Eric Klerks**. He did a sterling job.

After their set, the Spannerman praised a bemused Don Preston on his falling down sax solo.

All in all, a lovely-jubbly jubilee.

photo album