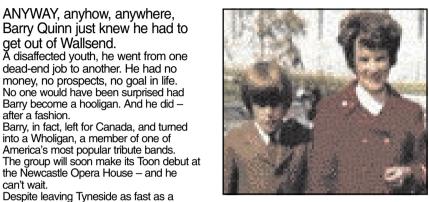
## Barry Quinn left prospects – and a bad perm! He returns to Tyneside in a few

## Barry Quinn left Tyneside for Canada at the age of 21, disillusioned and with no prospects – and a bad LOOK WHO STANDED TO STUTION OF STUTION Tyneside in a few months as a "hooligan", of sorts. And he's proud of it, as he tells Showbusiness Reporter GORDON BARR



FRONTMAN – Barry is the Roger Daltrey figure in tribute hand The Wholigans

School with no prospect of a job. "The shipyards were laying people off, and figure in tribute band The Wholigans



to play the famed Opera House stage.

as my childhood heroes, such as

a rut to follow their dreams.

a Who tribute band?

up," he explains.

"I am coming home to play the same stage

voungsters who feel the their life is stuck in

to go, and inspire them and show that

"You just have to explore every possible

the disenchanted youth from Battlehill. Wallsend, end up playing Roger Daltrey in

'Growing up in Wallsend in a divorced

"But I survived, as people do, and come

avenue and don't be scared to leave your

So what is the Barry Quinn story? How did

PROUD - a young Barry with his mum Jennie

there wasn't much else – this was no computer age for the general public to

"Life looked gloomy and I spent a good part of those years, like others, on the dole and in and out of the bookies and the bars "I had a couple of odd jobs here and there. but struggled to keep my flat and to stop the council from taking my furniture for not

"Times were not good, so at one point a cousin who was over from Canada said, 'Why don't you come over here?' but I really didn't pay it that much attention until

"I approached my dad with the idea – keep mind I have no money, no job – and he was cool as a cucumber.

"He said OK, but that I'd have to go working with him painting for a while. He knew at that point in time there was

nothing there for me.
"So I did and a few months later, when I was 21, I left England for Canada with a suitcase, a terrible brown suit, a bad perm

Barry's family had originally come to Britain from Canada when he was a young child. But he had few memories of the place. I ended up in Toronto. It was beautiful, big but I at first found the size of it quite scary. Barry got a painting job within two to three days, but it wasn't long before the rock bug took hold. In 1981, the Wholigans were



**IN TUNE** – mum watches Barry practice

"When I first left England for Canada in 1980 I knew I wanted to rock but The Wholigans and The Who were not even occupying any part of my brain, it really wasn't my thing," he reveals.

"I was into Black Sabbath, Ozzy, Judas Priest, UFO, Status Quo, Budgie and Thin Lizzy. So I joined a band in Montreal called Nouveau Riche and we played originals,

"One day on the train to Montreal someone mentioned my passing resemblance to Roger Daltrey, to which I shrugged and 'Thanks, I think'.

"Well, after playing for a while, we added some cover songs – just a couple of Who tracks - which I really wasn't familiar with, and after I sang them, people came up and said how much they liked it, so we added a couple more.

That went down well and the guitarist closely resembled Pete, so things were eerily falling into place. None of this was planned. The word 'tribute' was not around then in connection to bar bands, at least not as predominantly as it is today." The band then upped sticks and moved to Toronto, changing their name to The

There were a few line-up changes, and as the fan base grew, so did Barry's affection for Who songs.

Wholigans and staying at Barry's pad most

"I went from merely singing the songs to really enjoying singing them," he says. "The



**BIG HIT** – Barry and the rest of The Wholigans are big in both Canada and America, helping to exorcise the frustration of his early life in Wallsend



**HAPPY FAMILY** – Barry with dad David and brother also called David

audience feedback was a big help and I found myself being consumed by 'Orribl Oo!' and loving it." There were some more line-up changes,

and just like Roger Daltrey and Pete Townshend from The Who, Barry and guitarist John Walsh ("a mini Pete", says Barry) did not get on off-stage. "But on stage it was a beautiful thing and we both knew it," recalls Barry.

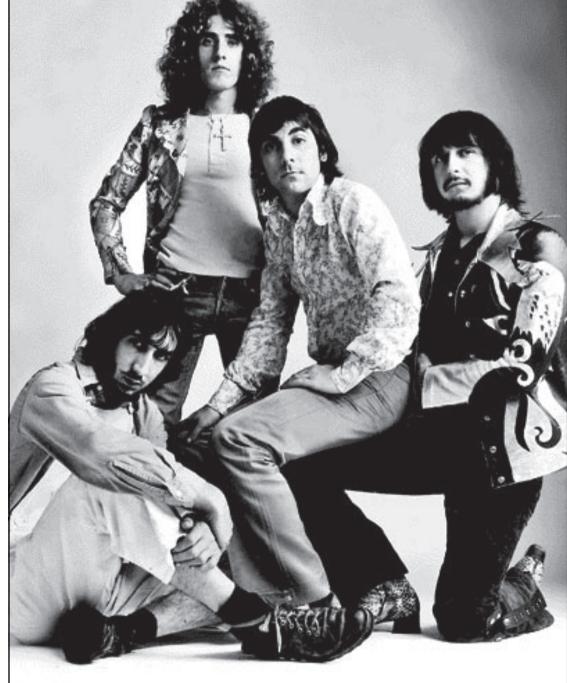
The band became hugely popular throughout Canada and the USA in the 80s, but after more line-up changes, the band split and in the early 90s Barry moved to Florida and took a seven-year

"I found myself itching to play again. I auditioned tons of Who wannabes, and, let me tell you, that was rough." So four years ago The Wholigans were resurrected, with not one, but two new line-

ups – and with Barry in both. One of the line-ups plays Canada, the other the USA. "So I have a southern Wholigans and a northern one." he laughs. The groups, he feels, are stronger and

better than ever. "I can't wait to get back to Newcastle." he says. "I did follow my dream. I got out of that dead-end existence. It shows that if you really put vour mind to it, you can do it." here is one sad and unexpected twist to Barry's homecoming gig in September, though. His mother died a few weeks ago "She was planning on coming to the show. Life's funny that way," he sighs

■ The Wholigans are at Newcastle Opera House on September 5. Tickets are £10. Ring (0191) 232 0899



WORSHIPPED MUSICIANS - the real The Who in a serious pose from back in their heyday

## Ups and downs of legendary group

THIS week it was announced that The Who's Roger Daltrey is planning to record an album with longtime bandmate Pete Townshend in the autumn. Townshend has been writing new songs and the duo will embark on a concert tour later Formed in Shepherd's Bush, London, in 1964, The Who

evolved out of local youth club

The group courted controversial publicity. Townshend's guitar pyrotechnics were especially teworthy; the instrument was used as an object of rage as he smashed it against floors and

John Entwistle and Keith Moon.

They also exhibited anti-social attitudes and were shunned by major labels initially. band The Detours and featured Despite their strength as a Pete Townshend, Roger Daltrey, singles act, the band failed to

embraced the album market fully with Tommy, an extravagant rock opera which increasingly in-demand live appearances On August 23, 1978, Keith Moon died following an overdose of medication taken

idiosyncratic, exciting

achieve a No 1 hit on either

But the band resumed recording in 1979 having added drummer Kenny Jones to the line-up. There was a farewell tour in 1982-83 and the band remained estranged until the end of the to alleviate alcohol addiction. decade. In June 2002, Entwistle His madcap behaviour and was found dead in a Las Vegas

abounded.

drumming had been an integral

rumours of a permanent split

part of the Who fabric and

T'S Carys' birthday next week and she is in a state of great excitement about it Every morning her first question is "How long is it until I'm five?" I tend to tell her how many sleeps it is in the hope that it will make more sense to her. Emma has less patience and will iust snap back that its one less day than yesterday which is no help at all. Not that she will have that many presents to open. Sadly my siblings are not very good at keeping in touch and as my

nephews and nieces are all just about grown up now my brother and sister have very little interest in my offspring.

Carys won't receive so much as a card which I think is pretty mean so it will be down to us and the

grandparents to ensure that birthday girl isn't left feeling disappointed. Still, she is pretty easy to please

In fact she is a toy manufacturer's delight. So long as its pink or purple and has Barbie or omething equally girlie on it she'll be delighted. However, she's set her heart on a new bike this year. Raymond doesn't really want to get her one as Kieran's old one is erfectly serviceable. Unfortunately Kieran's old bike is not pink and purple. She has seen

and ridden on exactly what she

wants when we were buying a new helmet for Emma recently And now nothing else will do. I would have written out a cheque already but Raymond just does not see the point. I have tried appealing to his love of cars pointing out that he wouldn't vant to drive a rusty old banger i he could have a gleaming new sports car. This was an extremely bad move on my part as the bigger our family grows the

further our transportation moves away from the nifty little two seater which Raymond covets. lt doesn't help that our childless friends round the corner have recently acquired a red, open top, flashy number whereas we have

acquired a demanding new baby and a diesel 7 seater. It also doesn't help Carys' cause that Raymond comes from a long line of hand me down thrifty souls whereas I am definitely descended from the profligat

spenders race.

So I've decided to back off and let Carys do the persuading. She's tried the practical approach telling him the old bike has wobbly stabilisers. He told her they could be fixed. She tried the aesthetic appeal - the new bike will match her helmet. I could have told her that one wouldn't work – you can tell by looking at him that matching colours is not something that is important to him! So finally she has done what I would have done in her shoes. Gone for good old female emotional blackmail. Tears,

wobbly lower lip and a "You don't

love me, do you?" I still have no

idea if its worked, I have put him

in charge of present buying but I

would put money on Carys' wily

charms working in the end.

I'll let you know the outcome



IMPATIENT



**OLD BIKE** 



**BIRTHDAY** 



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## Davidsons of Morpeth Bridge End, Morpeth

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