

Ainsco & Co

Ainsco & Co were formed in 2006 after a varied and colourful career of both Tony Ainscough and Darren Neild. Tony tells us he was about to give it all in after the wife he adored passed. Darren ask him to join him and they have been together ever since.

It all started for Tony in 1956 when he bought his first guitar, a Harmony F Hole model. None of his friends were interested but he was invited to play a few chords at darts matches which were very popular before being called upon to sing too.

At the time he enjoyed the music of Slim Whitman, Hank Williams and Hank Locklin.

It wasn't until 1965 as a bus driver and, while driving back to the depot one evening, he was singing at the top of his voice, not realising the conductor was listening, when it all began.

The conductor told him he had a good voice and asked if he would like to sing in a band. There followed a three year stint with the Country Boys before being invited to join the Country Five and subsequently the Everglades, which lasted for 21 years until 1992.

Various outfits ensued including American Pie, Bandolero and Louisville to name a few. Now

with his experience and the other half of the duo, Darren, they plan to make a name for themselves as Ainsco & Co.

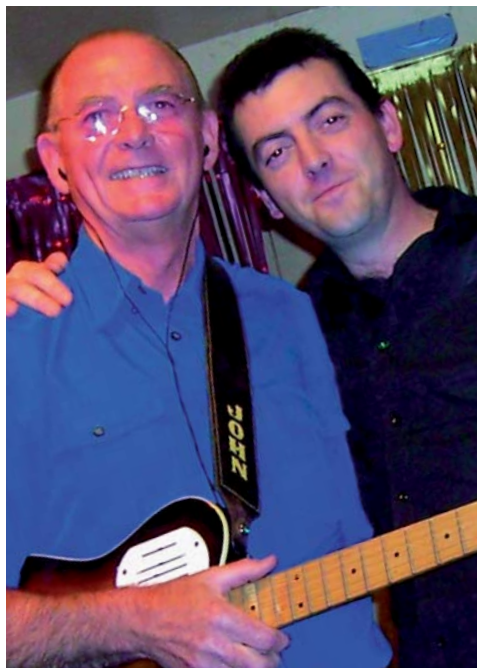
Darren was born and raised into a family of musicians and from the age of nine would watch his father John and uncle George perform in clubs and bars across the north west. Their bands included the George Neild trio, the Saddlers and the Idle Hours. He blames them for his addiction to Country music.

He reckons he has the same heroes as everyone else - George Jones and Merle Haggard - but the one who touched him the most was Kevin McGarry of the Hillsiders. He says he influenced him more than anyone and is the reason he has become a singer.

Darren formed a band with his two brothers, John and Paul along with his father and called themselves UK Country. They lasted together for 10 years before Darren joined the Everglades replacing his now partner, Tony.

He says to replace someone like Tony is never easy and it was because of the support of Bernie Green, the great late, Stan Smith and Les O'Neil. I owe them a great deal.

In 1992, Ron Moore (BMG)



Left: Tony Ainscough. Right: Darren Neild.

invited Tony to Nashville where he played at the Nashville Palace along with the great John Conley. He also met Ray Sawyer of Dr Hook who was great fun. Tony says, 'the last two years have been quite busy but real good fun, fronting the sound of Valrico Station (ex-American Pie) boy, can they travel! I am now

enjoying every minute of it'. Which brings us back to now, Ainsco & Co and Tony who says they haven't had a cross word between them in two years. If you want to find out more to to book Ainsco & Co then contact Cloud 9 Entertainments on 07889 135366 or email cloud9ents@aol.com.

**If you are an artist and have any quality pictures please send them to us at
Cross Country, PO Box 4257, Sheffield S25 9DA
or email them to gig.cc@btconnect.com**