
What's Afoot



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No. 106

WINTER 2014



COOL FOLK

INSIDE

Devon's Folk Magazine

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Editorial

What a great summer for festivals! Anniversaries abounded galore - Sidmouth's 60th, Cecily Fox-Smith, and, of course, the Great War. Folk culture has always embraced the view of normal people during big events, and the Great War is no exception - possibly the best recent example being Show of Hands' Centenary. But now is the time to look forward. WA's foray to embrace the 21st Century has been highly successful. We have more facebook friends now than we sell copies of What's Afoot! Food for thought indeed!

This year, I was lucky enough to go 'oop North' to Otley festival and the Morris Federation Day of Dance. Such a wealth of talent old and young, whom we rarely see here. Festival organisers, how about giving them a try?

Finally a big thanks to all our contributors and a warm welcome to our new ones

sue@hamer-moss.co.uk

Sue Hamer-Moss

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Front cover photograph: Celebrating Cicely Fox Smith [by Alan Quick]
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This year was a bumper year for our Devon summer festivals, with generally brilliant weather, landmark anniversaries and a host of brilliant acts, old and new. Sue Hamer-Moss, Alan Quick, Anne Gill and our welcome new contributor, Kate Nye report...

Sidmouth

Sue Hamer-Moss

July 31st - August 7th

Sidmouth

I have often felt that Sidmouth is thought of by Devon folk people as a festival one *goes to*, rather than being *a part of*. So I was delighted when the director, John Braithwaite, welcomed our approach to sell What's Afoot at the opening free concert, including an invitation to the preceding gathering for friends of the festival. At this point I should thank my 'partners in crime', the brilliantly proactive Mary Marker (*see also page 8*) and Jane Snow. Thank you ladies! It was also great to see Devon friends in various roles in and around the festival.

And what a triumph the festival was! 60 years old and counting. Acts old and new, and any excuse for a party. The new 'Hollywood' style 'Sidmouth Folkweek' sign in sky-high lettering on the hill opposite the campsite greeted newcomers emphatically. The columns scattered over the town with pictures from times gone by and comments from most of the doyens of the folk world, were truly fascinating. A huge effort orchestrated by John Dowell, who ran the festival for many years.

For those seeking nostalgia, there were many old favourites to enjoy. Steve Knightley, Oysterband, Andy Cutting, Martin Carthy, Pete Coe, Martyn Windham Reed, The Old Swan Band, Gas Mark 5, Paul Hutchinson and many, many more. The special thing about Sidmouth is that there is something for everyone, and I felt that the balance between comforting old favourites and exciting new acts was just about perfect.

Sidmouth has always been a great dancing festival and this year was no exception. In celebration of the 60 years of Sidmouth, all the dance teams made their way to the Connaught Gardens to give a free performance in glorious

sunshine to a packed lawn filled with festival goers and holidaymakers alike. Such a brilliant advert for the festival and hopefully one which will be repeated next year.

For youngsters, the gorgeous weather was a bonus. It was delightful to wander through the wonderful space that the festival creates in the Blackmore Gardens and watch children learning Maypole dancing - or to take a peek into the intensely creative and talented Shooting Roots sessions for young adults at the Arts Centre.

I personally chose to wallow in nostalgia. The Oysterband concert was a rousing powerhouse with wonderful songs both old and new. Steve Knightley managed to convey the personal touch of his Grow your Own Gig tour in the Ham Marquee: no mean feat. Sidmouth Sunday is my favourite day as I love the opportunity to dance on the seafront surrounded by all the morris teams. I never miss the John Gasson jig competition. John was tragically killed in 1987 travelling to Sidmouth and the competition is in his memory - *see Morris Matters for more*. I decided to re-introduce myself to Playford dancing after about 40 years, with the fascinating set of workshops going through the different books chronologically - the more complex dances being a real mental challenge after a rousing Late Night Extra the previous night!

So all in all, the usual fab festival with something for everyone. Even if you don't buy a ticket, the atmosphere in the town is really special: music from most of the pubs, a buzzing and pretty well regulated craft market, really good quality healthy food and well designed chill areas. So what are you waiting for?

contd on page 6

3rd Wednesday

Pennymoor Singaround

8.00 pm

**Cruwys Arms,
Nr Tiverton, EX16 8LF**

Nicola King 01363 877748

1st Tuesday

8.00 pm

Song & Music Session

**Change of venue planned. No longer at the
Rose & Crown, Sandford, Nr Crediton**

**Contact Hazel or Paul 01363 776275
for more details**

contd from p 4

Dartmoor

August 8th-10th

Kate Nye, Geoff Lakeman

Sticklepath Near Okehampton

Kate Nye reflects on her weekend at Dartmoor festival

It was so nice, after several years absence, to return to Dartmoor Folk Festival, the friendly little festival after Sidmouth. I visited with a totally new perspective. I have, in the past, attended festivals with the sole purpose of personally playing as much music as possible in sessions. This time, I brought no instruments and attended as an observer / listener.


I was lucky enough to see The New Rope String Band on the Friday evening in the Marquee. I haven't laughed so much in years. They are a hilarious mix of wit, slapstick and great musicianship. Brilliant fun. They were followed by the robust and bouncy Dartmoor Pixie Band for the late evening ceilidh. I've always loved the 'Pixies', they make me wish I could dance!

On the Saturday, after having a leisurely rummage around the craft tent and chatting with some friends I watched the step dancing competition (*won by Jason Rice: ed*), The standard of dancing was superb as usual. Speaking of dancing, I caught up with a local morris side, Winkleigh Morris, who were on fine form.

I stayed on for the early evening concert with a pint of glorious Black Rat Perry. It was a delight to see the bar so improved, with a great choice of real ales and ciders. The act that gripped my attention was

contd on P7

Bradninch Acoustic Music club meets the 2nd Wednesday of the month in St Disens Hall on Fore Street – parking nearby.



The club's ethos is to support, nurture and promote all those who want to perform in the public arena and have the skills and confidence to play at their very best, as well as having a fun musical night out. All levels of ability and ages are welcome at the club and we encourage as many people as possible to participate either in an audience capacity or as artists. All we ask is for the audience to respect the endeavours of all our performers and remember we all had to start somewhere.

amc



**BAMC invites you to their Xmas Club Night
with very special guests**

Phil Beer & Paul Downes

**Bradninch Guildhall 10th December 7:30 for 8.00
Tickets £10**



Following the club's **Young Voices in Music** stage during 2013 Bradninch Music Festival we wish to do it all again in 2015 so we are inviting nominations from other music clubs of their young and evolving performers who would benefit from the experience of playing to a wider and very friendly audience at the small Bradninch Festival.

We can offer a small remuneration and the inevitable "drink and a plate of chips". All we ask is they are under 25 and show commitment.

Contact Colin 01392 882036 or Mike 881566

yvm

Dartmoor contd from p6

undoubtedly Lady Maisery. I have never been particularly keen on 'folk singing' especially when unaccompanied, but these three very talented young ladies restored my faith in the voice, as well as being superb instrumentalists. Greg Russell & Ciaran Algar were great too.

The Sunday evening Grand Music Hall was just fabulous with sets from most of the festival guests, and compered by the one and only Tony Beard, 'The Wag from Widecombe'. A pure delight.

Dartmoor Festival has the perfect formula. There are lots of things to do for both adults and children. Music sessions, singing, dance workshops, to name but a few. It is a lovely event, small and friendly and with really 'top notch' performers.

Kate Nye

Geoff Lakeman had these memories of the festival:

It was a thrill to perform solo gigs.....to get to play with Mark Bazeley and The Orchards (all musical legends)....and then after the Music Hall, to have another 3am session with Pete Coe etc, including the amazing Leonard on banjo and Matt on guitar.They too - who have been all over the world- say it is the most unique musical gem of a small music festival they had ever been to.It is so DIY- yet so professional at the same time. No great corporate sponsorship...just about everything organised and arranged by local people. No wonder that the organisers are putting South Zeal and Dartmoor on the map in such an extraordinary way.

After insisting I would not write any more, I have been strong-armed by the Spiralearth website (which is having a mighty re-launch in the autumn) to write a piece about music in England - making comparisons with Ireland and Scotland, which I have called "Sense of Place." Bob, South Zeal and Dartmoor will have a very special mention in it.

Geoff Lakeman

With thanks to *Alan Quick* for the photographs below:



Left: Shuffle the Deck Appalachian Dancers during one of their displays

Below: Children with the masks they made with Rob Pudner, back left and Dexter Newman, right.



Contd on p 8

contd from p7

Teignmouth

June 20th-22nd

Anne Gill

Teignmouth

Another successful festival weekend with perfect weather for all our outside events. Crowds enjoyed watching the various Morris sides do their displays and this year Mike Boston and Mrs. Midnight encouraged some Ceilidh dancing during their concert performance. Sadly the Carlton Theatre which has been our main concert venue, is being demolished to make way for a new multi-purpose theatre and arts centre. The new venue is not scheduled for completion until 2016 so we have booked one of the local Churches for our concert which has space to accommodate us. Plans are well underway for the 2015 festival 19th – 21st June.

Why not visit us on Social Media?



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Mary Marker (pictured 3rd from left with some of her friends & fellow musicians - Marion, Sandra & Julie) celebrated her birthday in June 2014 with a Barn Dance at Chudleigh Community Hall. Over 100 friends and family were invited including fellow callers and dancers, together with a large number of musicians from Mary's various bands, who provided the live music. It was a privilege to join Mary for this wonderful celebration and everyone enjoyed a superb evening which included a bring & share supper and all of Mary's favourite dances and tunes.



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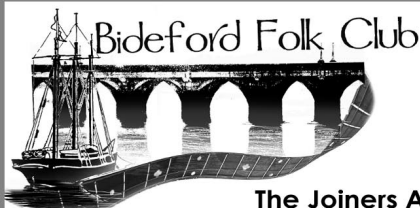


GUEST LIST

14 DECEMBER	GERRY COLVIN BAND
21 DECEMBER	CHRISTMAS PARTY
28 DECEMBER	CLUB CLOSED
11 JANUARY	JIM REYNOLDS
25 JANUARY	DONAL MAGUIRE
8 FEBRUARY	JACKIE OATES
22 FEBRUARY	REG MEUROSS
8 MARCH	DAN WALSH
22 MARCH	TOM McCONVILLE

**7.45pm
SUNDAYS**
Dates not specified are Open Nights

For directions or more information ring Anton on 01822 853620, Ben on 01752 708770, Keith on 01752 331121 or check our website: www.moorfolk.co.uk



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Remembering the legacy of the author and poet at Bow on June 21st. Alan Quick, Sylvia Watts, Melanie Henrywood and Mike Warman share their memories of the day,

As the midsummer sun blazed down on Bow, over 100 people gathered in the Village Hall to begin our celebration of the life and work of Cicely Fox Smith. A year or more of planning was culminating in what was to be a marvellous day.

Cicely Fox Smith was born in Lymm, Cheshire in 1882, but settled in Hampshire after the First World War. She was prolific in the works she created, which have long been a source for folk performers.

Nowhere in Bow had she been commemorated as a writer until a special day was held in the village in June to mark her significant contribution.

Sylvia recalls: 'Several of us strolled to St Bartholomew's churchyard for the Commemorative Ceremony via Cicely's home, which she had shared with her sister Madge. The daughter of the current residents laid wild flowers on Cicely's grave: due to diligent research Mel Henrywood ascertained for sure that it is also Madge's (Margaret Scott Smith) resting place, and her name will be included on the stone. The Rev Anthony Geering, Prebendary of Exeter Cathedral, led us in a beautiful ceremony, which included a Celtic invocation known as a Caim, a New Zealand version of the Lord's Prayer; and we 'clipped' the grave – a West Country custom. A young lady from Bow laid some wild flowers, we all sang the Farewell Shanty, and the church bells pealed in celebration.

We then repaired to the Village Hall once again for a cream tea repast. Danny McLeod, a singer and writer from the North East and a passionate authority on Cicely Fox Smith and her work, led a discussion group. This brought to the fore just how unusual a woman she was, succeeding in a man's world and convincing her readers that she must be a man. There was a poetry competition which was taken up with enthusiasm. The remit was to write on one of Cicely's main themes – the sea, World War 1, nature, children's poetry, sometimes with humour. The winning poem - 'At the Memorial Stone' is reproduced on page 11, by kind permission of the author.'

This was followed by a concert to celebrate her life and work and to mark 60 years since her death on April 8, 1954. The concert featured songs and readings of Cicely's poems. Performers included Martyn Wyndham-Read, Tom Lewis, Peter and Barbara Snape, Moira Craig, Joyce and Danny McLeod, Bill Wilkes and Jim Saville, "Shake a Leg" Jackie Williams, other singers from around the country and local singers from the South West, including a local resident who read the dialect poem "The Old Cob Wall". Cicely's poems have been an inspiration to folk singers who have adapted her work, adding tunes to her poems to create songs evocative of this golden age.

The Cicely Fox Day project was initiated by four folk friends, Mike Warman, Sylvia Watts and Dick and Melanie Henrywood. Melanie said: "*It was a brilliant day - superb weather, magical graveside ceremony, fantastic concert and memorable singaround*". Sylvia adds: "*The aims of the day were to provide a more fitting headstone for this notable poet, author and traveller, and to enable a wider audience to appreciate her work. Judging from comments on the website, those aims were truly realised.*' Many, many thanks to everyone who gave freely of their time, their talent and their skills in bringing this project to fruition. Thanks to one and all it was an absolutely brilliant day'.

Cicely left a legacy of books and 650 poems that capture the essence of the last years of the 19th century and the first years of the 20th century. Mike Warman continued: "*Her work is not as widely read and known as she might deserve! She wrote about the sea and it is mainly these poems which have been set to music and are widely sung in the UK, US and Australia. She was quite a character - speeding round the Devon lanes in her Morris Minor*".

A 52-page souvenir booklet "Celebrating Cicely", was published to mark the occasion. A DVD and CD of the celebrations and about the life of Cicely is being professionally produced.

For more information, visit her website www.cicelyfoxsmith.org.uk .

AT THE MEMORIAL STONE

I saw them though I know you will doubt it:
The fifteen held in 'in grateful memory',
Shuffling into line, looking down at their boots,
Awkward in rough tunics, too big, too small,
Stitched by the resentful fingers of girls
Waiting for the dark factories' hoots.
Belts were pulled tight on skinny waists,
Shoulders sagged with the Lee Enfield weights.
A voice – the assured tone of the squire class –
Called their names: a roll call of the local
Yeomanry: Metherell, Hayman and Holmes,
Murrin, Down, Luscombe and the Edworthys,
Local lads who had it all before them.
The names hung in the moth-busy air.
A sharp order, backs straightened, webbing creaked
And eyes now looked beyond the granite stone.
As one they turned and as one they marched off
Down the dark, dripping lane back to their homes
Of silence, low ceilings and blackened hearths
And sleeping strangers barely remembered
By longing hearts.
And did we deserve them?
Have we done our best? Would we make them proud?
I saw them though I know you will doubt it.

Nicola King was lucky enough to get to one of Steve Knightley's acclaimed *Grow Your Own Gig* concerts. Here are her impressions:

This gig was one of a series of 'Grow Your Own Gig' concerts which Steve has been doing in village halls all over the country this year, beginning with one at the folk club in Kenn in January which I was also lucky enough to see. Both Steve and Phil Beer, as well as doing big concerts as Show of Hands, believe in taking their songs back to the communities which provide their inspiration, doing small intimate gigs which involve their audiences and keep them in touch with their roots in Cornwall, Devon and Dorset. Steve's backdrop for the gigs on this tour is a black and white drawing of a Dartmoor kitchen: Steve joked that he always expects Phil to come walking across the moor towards the window of the kitchen, and onto the stage ...

Steve's set included 'Black Night in Yeovil Town', the true story of how he and Phil had a close escape from a local thug whilst trying to buy fish and chips after a poorly attended gig in the town of that name. 'Transportation' tells the story of sheep stealers who cleverly evade the police when their van breaks down on a rainy night on the A30, and puts the crime into historical context by thanking their good luck for not being caught in the days of transportation 'down under': this song got the audience joining in with the chorus straight away. Steve's dry humour comes through in these songs based on his own – or local – experience, and also tells the moving stories of a couple drowned in the River Dart which 'every year claims a heart' and a gamekeeper related to Steve who found himself facing the guns in the battle of the Somme. Steve referred to the album 'Centenary' which Show of Hands were invited to make as part of the commemoration of World War One, and sang the beautiful Requiem, a version of Wilfred Owen's 'Anthem for Doomed Youth'.

Steve includes traditional songs too: a lovely version of 'Twas on One April Morning'

which he learned from the late Tony Rose, and 'Renardine', which he accompanied on the quattro, a small instrument from Venezuela rather like a ukulele. One of the most surprising songs of the set was a powerful blend of Dylan's 'Boots of Spanish Leather' and 'Try', a song by one of his teenage daughter's favourite singers, Pink. For the encore, Steve performed one of Show of Hands' now iconic songs, 'Arrogance Ignorance and Greed'. He introduced it by wondering why there are now so few protest songs in the vein of the early Dylan and Bruce Springsteen: there was a door on either side of the stage at this venue and as Steve sang the song he turned to one door and then the other, looking for Bob and Bruce, and had the audience in stitches – and gasps of admiration – as he sang one verse in the voice of Dylan and the other in that of Springsteen. A friend who has only recently 'discovered' Steve and Show of Hands said to me after a gig at Sidmouth that she thought Steve was an English Springsteen – I hope he would take that as a compliment! There are more gigs to come, and Steve said that he thought the theme of the next series might be songs of the sea, with a new backdrop to match – I am looking forward to that one!

Nicola King

If, like your editor, you were unlucky and could not get to a gig, Off The Beaten Track, reviewed by Jackie Patten on page 50, is the set list from these gigs.



Colin Andrews was fascinated to discover *Helen Conant's* report of *Whit Monday morris dancing in Devon, from the July 1950 edition of English Dance & Song. He has kindly shared this extract:*

The coast of Devon was alive with gaiety when the Devon Morris Men, headed by Nibs Matthews, toured Musbury, Seaton, Beer & Sidmouth on Whit Monday. The tour started at Musbury at 11 am. The older Morris team, composed of Bill Leaker, Maurice Buckland, Peter Fox, Eric Langford, Robert Robins and the M.C. started the day by dancing Bledington Trunkles in front of the village petrol pump – quite appropriate since petrol had just come off ration.

The party then left for Seaton in many cars, some decorated with coloured handkerchiefs. The very exciting performance by the younger team of How D'ye Do Sir thrilled a thousand onlookers. Members of the younger team were Gordon Deacon, Tony Blake, Allan Kennedy, Bob Rundle, Leslie Meigh and the M.C. who seemed to classify for both age groups. The fool, Dick Witt, danced his jig while the man-woman, Dick Davey, looked on approvingly.

At Beer the large crowd arrayed itself on the steep bank overlooking the harbour. The angle of the bank, however, was unfavourable to the tin collectors who performed their duty under most adverse conditions.

At Sidmouth the Morris Men danced to over 1000 holidaymakers, and caused quite a disturbance when the man-woman tried his skill in Leap Frog. Constant Billy, Gallant Hussar, Lads A Bunchum and Getting Upstairs were well performed by young and old teams.

Many general dances were enjoyed by all. The contingent from Dartington Hall found themselves on a jetty at Sidmouth dancing to Winsome Bartlett's pipe & tabor, with a considerable crowd interested.

Colin Andrews adds:

The Devon Morris Men were the predecessors of the Exeter Morris Men. Bill Leaker, Dick Davey and, occasionally, Tony Blake, were still dancing when I joined Exeter MM in 1973. Eric Langford was one of the founder members of Dartington MM.

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Dorothy Margaret Brook, always known as 'Margaret' to us, was born on the 5th January 1932, at Sherdon Farm, Exmoor.

Margaret was always very proud of her Exmoor roots and shared many of her early memories with us. Her grandfather would warm his cider by the fire, sit her on his knee and sing "Jim the Carter's Lad". She told us tales of her father driving the ponies from Exmoor down to Bampton Fair for sale, often doing so as an introduction to the song, helping her audience engage in the excitement and importance of the occasion.

At the age of 9 she moved to Chawleigh in mid Devon. This was to be her home for the remainder of her life. At the same time she kept her close links with family and friends on Exmoor, and continued to contribute to the great singing tradition of the area along with her cousin Dick French and friend Jim Sanders; a tradition that is alive and well today.

Margaret's personal passion was her singing and storytelling. Much of her repertoire was 'absorbed' in childhood where she was the star performer at many a family and village party, but she never stopped adding to it, drawing from local sources such as Walter Keenor and Jean Webber. We first met her in the 1970's through Sam Richards who at that time was collecting songs from Exmoor and Mid Devon.

I first heard her sing in the barn at Westland at a very early Pennymoor 'Song and Ale'. We knew at once she was something very special. Margaret 'delivered' a song – never just 'sang' it - something we could all perhaps learn from. Her involvement in, and enthusiasm for the song conveyed itself to her audience so that everyone shared in the pleasure. Those sparkling green eyes were irresistible, and she was able to get away with the cheekiest of stories!

The sharing of songs and stories then became a two way experience and Margaret was able to draw upon new material resulting in an impressive repertoire. However, all her material, no matter from where she chose it, was delivered in her own inimitable style. She was a great member of Pennymoor Singaround, participating



in all concerts and activities and was particularly happy to involve herself in charitable fundraising events.

Her authenticity was recognised by many and we are fortunate that she was interviewed for radio and television, including a documentary of her life on Exmoor. Her songs and stories have been recorded over a period of 50 years, from Sam Richards in the 60's through to Ross Henrywood this year. We are grateful for their foresight.

Margaret was a joy to know. Her pleasure in song and storytelling was a reflection of the pleasure she took in life. She will be missed by all who met her. Her legacy is the gift to us of a strong and enduring folk tradition. Let this be her testimonial.

Clare Penney

On behalf of Pennymoor Singaround

Frances Popley and Ian Hey

Sadly we have also learnt of the passing of Frances Popley and Ian Hey

Frances danced with Harberton Navy & Newton Bushell . Her funeral was on Sat 4th Oct.

Ian Hay was a well loved and respected Hammer Dulcimer player.

DEVON FOLK EVENT

SATURDAY 28th March 2015

Community Hall, The Primary School
Lawn Drive, Chudleigh TQ13 0LS

MUSIC WORKSHOP

Traditional British Dances and
American Tunes for Contras/Squares

Workshop led by Mary Marker £10.00

1.00 - 5.30 p.m.

Tunes available beforehand

Dance with Aileen Wills 7.00 - 10.30 p.m.

Booking Forms 01626 854141
Mary Marker 57 Great Hill, Chudleigh TQ13 0JS

British & American Dances

7.00 - 10.30 p.m.

Caller: Aileen Wills
The Workshop Big Band
Led by Mary Marker

Bring and Share Supper - £4.00

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CLUB NIGHTS

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15th November 2014 Frances Oates and Silver & Gold
21st March 2015 Ted Farmer and Friendly Folk

Contact: Margaret Holt 01822 855858



Saturday 27th December 2014



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Folk on Facebook

As reported elsewhere, our Devonfolk Facebook page has over 600 'friends' as of going to press. We are delighted to welcome all our venues and artists, as well as people keen to know what is happening.

The page is really coming alive with posts about all kinds of upcoming events with a slightly wider genre than we can cover in WA. Our webmaster, Trevor Paul, is doing a fantastic job sharing events from the Devonfolk website. With its timeline approach, Facebook is brilliant to remind people a few days before an event. To publicise your event, please post or share directly onto the Devonfolk facebook page (messed invitations are NOT processed!). This is currently free, but a modest fee for advertising events on the page in future is under consideration, so get in now! Pictures, videos and links are also very welcome.

COOL FOLK

Online, In Venues, Inside WA...

The launch of something new is always a bit scary and Cool Folk was no exception. Happily, the idea has been a resounding success. In addition to the insert in this magazine, 400 extra copies were printed and distributed around venues and festivals.

It was great seeing our bright yellow Cool Folk leaflets all around Sidmouth and Dartmoor, festivals. As we do not charge for Cool Folk, we provided loads of copies to Shooting Roots, children's festival organisers, merchandising outlets and permanent Arts venues, complementing our facebook page, Devoncoolkfolk. It is also small enough to be published directly on the Facebook page.

So, has it been a success?

We have our first dedicated ad - thank you IVFDF! A youngster was inspired to enter the competition, AND Halsway Manor have kindly sponsored the competition in this edition. Most important of all, though, is that COOL FOLK inspires its intended young readership.. For that, only time will tell. *Sue Hamer-Moss*

STOP PRESS

This section contains last minute announcements - please read carefully as they are not in date order! ed.

Stop Press copy date 15th Oct, Feb, June

The soundtrack from the brilliant 'A Day's Work' by Mick Ryan (reviewed in issue 105) is now available on CD from Wild Goose records. (WGS403CD).

Perfect Christmas present - just published: **Tom Brown's** new book : **A Sailor's Life** about the Life and Times of 19th Century sailor, John Short of Watchet. For more info, visit : www.umbermusic.co.uk

Day long celebration of the legendary **Bob Copper's** centenary on **January 24th 2015** at Cecil Sharpe House. More info and tickets: www.musicglue.com/cecilsharphouse

WHAT'S AFOOT

could reach more of the folk community.

CAN YOU HELP?

Take some copies with you to events
Tempt people by leaving old copies
in libraries, arts centres, tourist info etc.

Contact

Brian Chappell, Colin Andrews or Sue Hamer-Moss
(contact info p. 21)

The Broad Band

Ceilidh & Barn Dancing with Caller
Folk Music for All Occasions

Jon Palmer

01884 840816

enquiries@broadbandceilidh.co.uk
www.broadbandceilidh.co.uk



FOOTNOTES

Good News: Our **COOL FOLK competition** will become a permanent feature! **Halsway Manor** have kindly provided 2 tickets for their Hothouse Festival in April to this month's winner, 11-year old **Zena Ahmed** from South Zeal. Congratulations Zena! Read her impressive contribution in our Cool Folk supplement. **Dartmoor Festival** have kindly offered a prize for the next competition. So if you know any keen youngsters under 30 who would like to enter, pass this message on!

What's New

Session at the Royal Exchange, Torrington on 2nd and 4th Thursdays aimed at emerging musicians and poets, starting around 8pm ish. See contacts for further details.

Open Mic at The Angel Bar, Exeter, EX4 3SR

 AngelBarExeter.

Changes

Song and Music Session has changed from **Rose and Crown** to the **Lamb** at Sandford, while looking for a permanent venue. See ad (p5).

Drjams have announced updates to their **Open Mic** sessions for live bands, at a number of pub locations in West Devon. See their website <http://www.drjams.co.uk/> for details.

2nd Sunday session at **Kings Arms, South Zeal**, has moved to the **White Hart Inn at Bow**.

EFDSS

Education Resources

EFDSS announced the launch of a new Education Resource bank to support teaching folk of all genres to young people. This is particularly welcome as it is often too costly for us in far flung parts of the country to attend the excellent workshops and 'live' weekends at Cecil Sharpe House. Read the Autumn edition of the EDS magazine for more, or visit their website: www.efds.org/resourcebank

Sue Hamer-Moss

Coming Soon...

The Story of Tarka Morris Men. After the decision to hang up their bells after 22 years, we plan to have the full story of one of the best morris sides in Devon.

In similar vein we plan to have a story on the **Silver and Gold band**, who have also decided not to perform any more, after many years together.

IVFDF - the Intervarsity Folk Dance Festival is being hosted by Exeter University next year. Look out for programme announcements on our facebook page and website nearer the time.

This time, we had an enormous number of wonderful CDs to review, and we just did not have space for them all - even with our new 'Bite Size' review format. Watch out for reviews of these (listed on page 48) in the next issue of WA.

Phil Beer - Folk Boat

Phil Beer repeated his folk sailing tours for the 3rd year in succession, this summer. The idea is to spend five days at a time sailing a traditionally rigged vessel in West Country waters. Open to anyone, people can learn how to sail, attend music workshops led by Phil, or simply just listen to Phil and musical guests playing in informal sessions. For more info, visit:

<http://www.philbeer.co.uk/sailing>



Sue Hamer-Moss

Devon Folk News

The 2013 Devon Folk Award was presented to Patricia Reid in July this year at a very enjoyable afternoon of dance given by the Teign Playford club. Patricia received the award in recognition and appreciation of her contribution to Folk in Devon over many years. Patricia has been very active in promoting folk dancing in Devon, for young people as well as adults. In addition to visiting schools and working with Brownie groups, she organised an Education Day of Dance, Music and Song held in 2002 for 10 to 11 year olds, and was also instrumental in organising the visit of NYFTE in 2009 to Newton Abbot. For many years Patricia organised both the Devon Playford Weekend held at Halsway Manor, and the Dartington Weekend held at Dartington Hall.

As Publicity Officer for Devon Folk, she worked hard to bring folk activities to the attention of the general public through both radio and the press. Patricia also promoted the work of Devon Folk, in particular the Soundbeam appeal.



Devon Folk has again sponsored the Dartmoor Folk Festival which was held in August. Donations have been received from Bideford Folk Dance Club and Totnes Folk Dance Club which like Marldon Folk Dance Club, another supportive club, has now closed.

The date has been set for the Devon Folk Annual General Meeting which will be held on Saturday 14th March, 2015 at South Brent Village Hall courtesy of South Brent Folk Festival committee. The meeting will be followed by a folk concert.

What's Afoot editor, Sue Hamer-Moss, has reported that the Facebook and CoolFolk initiatives are working well. Devon Folk has over 600 'friends' on Facebook.

E. Conway

Introducing our Sponsors

STOP PRESS!!! Congratulations to Fidelius's Sarah Page for reaching the Devon finals of the Venus Women's Business Awards in two categories. We wish her luck in the finals in November.

Devon Telecom™ *Play the moment, pause the memories*
info@devontelecom.co.uk



Not sure about investment? Try our independent help. Contact Graham at Devonshire Asset Management T: 01271 327500 or E: Graham@dam-ltd.co.uk

Fidelius  **Contact Fidelius Insurance Services for all your event insurance needs**
on info@fidelius-insurance.co.uk, www.fidelius.co.uk or 01271 355346

A warm welcome and thanks to our new sponsors.

Devon Telecom are local experts who help domestic and business customers get best value for money and the right telecoms service for their specific needs. MD Clive is an avid folkie!

Devonshire Asset Management are independent financial advisers. Graham's personal service helps you feel in control but with the added benefit of his extensive knowledge.

Fidelius are Devon based insurance brokers offering competitive specialist products for small businesses and individuals. They have a proud history of insuring many Devon folk events.

Would You or Your Business like to

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WHAT'S AFOOT?

Contact sue@hamer-moss.co.uk

DEVON FOLK MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION FORM

Please complete and return to the Devon Folk Membership Secretary, Mrs Sheila Chappell,
2 Penstone Barns, Lease Hill, Hele, Exeter, EX5 4QA. Cheques payable to Devon Folk.

I enclose the annual subscription of £5 for 3 issues, starting April 2015

I *wish/do not wish to be enrolled as a member of Devon Folk at no extra charge.

(*delete as appropriate)

I wish to be enrolled as a member of Devon Folk. I enclose £2 annual subscription

Our club wishes to join Devon Folk. The annual subscription of £10 is enclosed, and contact details for our two nominated members are given below.

Our club is affiliated to EFDSS. Contact details for our two nominated members are given below

Individual/first nominated club member:

Name..... Telephone

Address

Postcode Email

Second nominated club member

Name..... Telephone

Address

Postcode Email

By providing email contact you agree to its use for occasional Devon Folk communications. It will not be passed on to any third party. FORMS CAN BE DOWNLOADED FROM DEVON FOLK WEBSITE

DEVON FOLK COMMITTEE NOMINATION FORM

Nominee.....

Proposed by

Seconded by

I the undersigned am willing to stand for election to the Devon Folk Committee

Name

Address

.....
Email Telephone

Please return completed form to Devon Folk Secretary by 30th January 2015
to Eileen Conway, 151, Kingsdown Crescent, Dawlish, EX7 OHB
Email: conway@kingeres.eclipse.co.uk

Devon Folk Committee*

President

Terry Underhill

Vice- Presidents

Aileen Wills

Jo Trapnell

Treasurer

Brian Chappell

2, Penstone Barns, Lease Hill, Hele, Exeter, EX5 4QA. 01392 882156

Members of the Committee

Chairman

Anne Gill

Maleth, 11, Cleveland Road, Torquay, TQ2 5BD
01803 290427

Vice Chairman

Colin Andrews

Bonny Green, Morchard Bishop, Crediton,
EX17 6PG 01363 877216
bonnygreencolin@googlemail.com

Secretary

Eileen Conway

151, Kingsdown Crescent, Dawlish, EX7 0HB.
01626 862312

Membership Secretary

Sheila Chappell

2, Penstone Barns, Lease Hill, Hele, Exeter. EX5 4QA. 01392 882156

Minutes Secretary

Jean Foster

1 Lowicke House, Ringslade Road,
Newton Abbot, TQ12 1QF 01626 363887

Elected Members

Steve Gill

Maleth, 11, Cleveland Road, Torquay, TQ2 5BD.
01803 290427.

Nicola King

Beech Hill. Morchard Bishop, Crediton, EX17 6RF. nicola@beechhill.eclipse.co.uk
01363 877748

Dick Little

Collaton Grange, Collaton, Malborough,
Kingsbridge, TQ7 3DJ. 01548 561352

Mary Marker

57, Great Hill, Chudleigh, TQ13 0JS. 01626 854141. ammarker5@btinternet.com

Jane Snow

27, John Street, Tiverton, EX16 5JP. 01884 259042

Ben Van Weede

c/o Great Moor House, Bittern Road, Sowton
Industrial Estate, Exeter EX2 7NL. 01626 832806 ben-van-weede@devon.gov.uk

Eileen McKee

Woodland Cottage, South Brent, TQ10 9ES
01364 73699 eileen.southbrentfolk@gmail.com

Co-opted

Sue Hamer-Moss

1, Beara House, Dragon Hill, Langtree,
EX38 8NE 01805 601323
sue@hamer-moss.co.uk

Jean Warren

51, Green Park Road, Plymstock, Plymouth, PL9 9HU. 01752 401732

Webmaster

Trevor Paul

trevor@flaxey-green.co.uk
www.devonfolk.co.uk

Devon & Cool Folk NEW

Email

c/o Sue Hamer-Moss

devoncoolfolk@gmail.com



Devon.Folk.58

Devoncoolfolk

Diary Dates (1)

The details in this section are believed to be correct at the time of compilation, and the editor accepts no responsibility for subsequent changes. For weekly clubs with no guest & other sessions see quick guide. Regular venue for club is given in club listings where not specified below. 8pm start unless otherwise stated. Colín Andrews

November

- Fri 28** **DANCE** Exeter FDC, Baptist Centre, Palace Gate. Pam Hayes, live music
SONG Ley Arms, Kenn.
CONCERT Chudleigh Cmty Hall. Kathryn Roberts & Sean Lakeman
CONCERT Church House, South Tawton. Carrivick Sisters. £7
- Sat 29** **DINNER & DANCE** (Ticket only) Willand FDC at VH. Club callers, Folk Two.
CONCERT Scorrion VH. Kathryn Roberts & Sean Lakeman
- Sun 30** **SONG** Folk on the Moor, Westward Inn, Lee Mill, 7.45 pm
SONG White Hart, Okehampton

December

- Tue 2** **DANCE** Sidford FDC at VH. Barn. Jeremy Child
DANCE Country Dance Plymouth, Trinity URC Hall
DANCE Lucky 7 FDC, Liverton VH Christmas Party.
MUSIC Bridge, Topsham
- Wed 3** **DANCE** Halsway FD Group, Halsway Manor. Simon Maplesden, Friendly Folk.
MUSIC Jack Russell, Swimbridge
MUSIC Irish. White Hart, Bow
MUSIC Jurassic Folk, Dolphin, Beer
SONG Anchor, Sidmouth
- Thu 4** **DANCE** Tavistock FDC, St Peter's Sch. Club callers
DANCE Exmouth FDC, Withycombe Meth CH. Aileen Wills, Jigs for Gigs
SONG Bicton Inn, Exmouth
SONG Quayside Bar, Brixham
SONG Crabshell, Kingsbridge

- Fri 5** **SONG** Brixham FC, Theatre Bar 7.30
SONG Barnfield, Exeter
CONCERT Plough, Torrington. Martin Harley
- Sat 6** **CEILIDH** Church House Hall, Bridport. Patchwork.
- Sun 7** **SONG** Devonshire Inn, Sticklepath
SONG Folk on the Moor, Westward Inn, Lee Mill. 7.45 pm
CONCERT Great Hall, Seale Hayne, Newton Abbot. St Agnes Fountain
SONG Barrell House, Totnes. Martin Harley.
- Mon 8** **MUSIC** Bell Inn, Chittlehampton
- Tue 9** **DANCE** Sidford FDC at VH. Aileen Wills, Jeroka
DANCE Country Dance Plymouth, Trinity URC Hall
CONCERT South Devon Arts, Totnes Bella Hardy
- Wed 10** **DANCE** Gittisham FDC at VH. Jane Thomas, Iain Bryden.
SONG Globe, Lympstone.
SONG Royal Oak, Malborough
CONCERT Bradninch Guildhall. Phil Beer & Paul Downes
- Thu 11** **DANCE** Tavistock FDC, St Peter's Sch. Alan & Marion Finch. Xmas Party.
DANCE Willand FDC at VH. Aileen Wills, More The Merrier
DANCE Exmouth FDC, Withycombe Meth CH. Brian & Olly.
SONG Totnes FSC, Dartmouth Inn
- Fri 12** **DANCE** Exeter FDC, Baptist Centre, Palace Gate. Xmas party. Simon Maplesden, Jigs for Gigs. Bring & share
- Sat 13** **SONG** Ley Arms, Kenn. Phil Beer
SONG Shammick Acoustic, Pack of Cards, Combe Martin. Jez Lowe & Kate Bramley
- Sun 14** **SONG** Folk on the Moor, Westward Inn, Lee Mill. Colvin Quarmby. 7.45
SONG White Hart, Bow
- Mon 15** **MUSIC** Kings Arms, South Zeal
- Tue 16** **DANCE** Sidford FDC at VH. Xmas party. Eileen Nightingale, Jigs for Gigs
SONG Royal Oak, Nadderwater
SONG Pack Horse, South Brent

Diary Dates (2)

- Wed 17** **DANCE** Gittisham FDC at VH.
Aileen Wills, Jeroka
DANCE Halsway Manor FD Group,
Halsway Manor. Ian Ludbrook, John
& Mary Brock.
SONG Pennymoor Singaround,
Cruwys Arms.
SONG Teign House Inn, Christow
SONG Jurassic Folk, Dolphin, Beer
- Thu 18** **DANCE** Exmouth FDC Xmas party,
Withycombe Meth CH. Club callers.
SONG Royal Oak, South Brent
- Sat 20** **DANCE** Willand VH. Eileen
Nightingale, Weston Band
SONG Staghunters, Brendon
- Sun 21** **SONG** Folk on the Moor, Westward
Inn, Lee Mill. Party night. 7.45 pm
SONG Old Plough, Bere Ferrers
SONG Shammick Acoustic, Pack of
Cards, Combe Martin. Midwinter
carols night.
- Tue 23** **SONG** Ley Arms, Kenn.
- Sat 27** **SONG** Shammick Acoustic, Pack of
Cards, Combe Martin. Old Father
Christmas.
CEILIDH South Brent VH. Tom
Addison, Buttoned Up
- Wed 31** **DANCE** Willand VH. Jane Thomas,
Simon Maplesden, Friendly Folk

January 2015

- Thu 1** **DANCE** Bystock Court, Exmouth.
Ticket only 01395 275592
- Fri 2** **SONG** Brixham FC, Theatre Bar 7.30
SONG Barnfield, Exeter
- Sat 3** **SONG** Acorn FSC, URC Hall. Home
grown talent.
- Sun 4** **SONG** Folk on the Moor, Westward
Inn, Lee Mill, 7.45 pm
SONG Devonshire Inn, Sticklepath
- Tue 6** **DANCE** Country Dance, Plymouth,
Trinity URC Hall.
DANCE Lucky 7 FDC, Liverton VH
DANCE Sidford FDC at VH. Simon
Maplesden
MUSIC Bridge, Topsham
SONG Globe, Frogmore
- Wed 7** **SONG** Anchor, Sidmouth

- MUSIC** Irish. White Hart, Bow
MUSIC Jack Russell, Swimbridge
MUSIC Jurassic Folk, Dolphin, Beer
- Thu 8** **DANCE** Tavistock FDC, St Peter's
Sch. John Estall
DANCE Exmouth FDC, Withycombe
Meth CH. Wendy Hoare
DANCE Willand FDC at VH. Jeremy
Child, Amycrofters.
SONG Totnes FSC, Dartmouth Inn.
- Sat 10** **DANCE** Willand VH. Ted Farmer,
Chris Toyne Big Band
SONG Shammick Acoustic, Pack of
Cards, Combe Martin. Roaring
Trowmen
- Sun 11** **SONG** White Hart, Bow
SONG Folk on the Moor, Westward
Inn, Lee Mill, 7.45 pm Jim Reynolds
- Mon 12** **MUSIC** Bell Inn, Chittlehampton
- Tue 13** **DANCE** Country Dance Plymouth,
Trinity URC Hall.
DANCE Sidford FDC at VH. Nicole
Mac, Sou'westers.
- Wed 14** **DANCE** Gittisham FDC at VH.
Graham Barrett, Fresh Aire.
SONG Globe, Lymptone
SONG Bradninch Acoustic Club, St
Disen's Hall
- Thu 15** **DANCE** Tavistock FDC, St Peter's
Sch. Alyson & Jerry Tucker.
DANCE Exmouth FDC, Withycombe
URC Hall. Ted Farmer
SONG Royal Oak, South Brent
- Fri 16** **CONCERT** Plough, Torrington.
Fish & Bird
- Sat 17** **DANCE** Tavistock Town Hall New
Year Party John Estall & friends
SONG Staghunters, Brendon
CONCERT Plough, Torrington.
Tony Wade
- Sun 18** **SONG** Folk on the Moor, Westward
Inn, Lee Mill, 7.45 pm
SONG Old Plough, Bere Ferrers
- Mon 19** **MUSIC** Kings Arms, South Zeal
- Tue 20** **DANCE** Lucky 7 FDC, Liverton VH
DANCE Country Dance Plymouth,
Trinity URC Hall.
DANCE Sidford FDC at VH. Jane
Thomas.
SONG Royal Oak, Nadderwater

Diary Dates (3)

- Tue 20** **SONG** Pack Horse, South Brent
- Wed 21** **SONG** Jurassic Folk, Dolphin, Beer
SONG Coach & Horses, Appledore
- Wed 21** **SONG** Pennymoor Singaround, Cruwys Arms.
SONG Teign House Inn, Christow
DANCE Gittisham FDC at VH. Frances Hilson, Chris Toyne
DANCE Halsway Manor FD Group, Bicknoller VH. Robert Blackborow, Amycrofters.
- Thu 22** **DANCE** Tavistock FDC, St Peter's Sch. Alan & Marion Finch.
DANCE Exmouth FDC, Withycombe Meth CH. Club callers
DANCE Willand FDC at VH. Jane Thomas, Iain Bryden
- Sat 24** **SONG** Shammick Acoustic, Pack of Cards, Combe Martin. Kathryn Roberts & Sean Lakeman
CONCERT Plough, Torrington. Kent Duchaine & Leadbessie
- Sun 25** **SONG** Tradesman's Arms, Scorrilton
SONG White Hart, Okehampton
SONG Folk on the Moor, Westward Inn, Lee Mill 7.45 pm Donal McGuire
- Tue 27** **DANCE** Sidford FDC at VH. Aileen Wills, Amycrofters
DANCE Country Dance Plymouth, Trinity URC Hall.
SONG Cross Hotel, Copplesstone
- Wed 28** **DANCE** Gittisham FDC at VH. Nicole Mac, Sou'westers
SONG Magelake Pavilion, Uffculme
- Thu 29** **DANCE** Tavistock FDC, St Peter's Sch. AGM. Club callers.
DANCE Exmouth FDC, Withycombe Meth CH. Nicole Mac, Sou'westers
SONG Teignmouth FSC, Oyster-catcher.
- Fri 30** **DANCE** Exeter FDC, Baptist Centre, Palace Gate. Wendy Hoare
SONG Ley Arms, Kenn.
- Sat 31** **DANCE** Gittisham FDC. The Institute, Ottery St Mary. Sarah Bazeley, Dartmoor Pixie Band. Bring & share.

February

- Sun 1** **WHAT'S AFOOT COPY DATE**
DANCE Bideford FDC. Northam Hall, 2.30 pm Chris Jewell. For charity.
SONG Devonshire Inn, Sticklepath
SONG Folk on the Moor, Westward Inn, Lee Mill, 7.45 pm
- Tue 3** **DANCE** Lucky 7 FDC, Liverton VH
DANCE Country Dance Plymouth, Trinity URC Hall.
DANCE Sidford FDC at VH. Jeremy Child, Jigs for Gigs
SONG Globe, Frogmore
- Wed 4** **DANCE** Halsway Manor FD Group, Bicknoller VH. Ted Farmer, Friendly Folk
SONG Anchor, Sidmouth]
MUSIC Irish. White Hart, Bow
MUSIC Jack Russell, Swimbridge
MUSIC Jurassic Folk, Dolphin, Beer
- Thu 5** **DANCE** Tavistock FDC, St Peter's Sch. Jim Reade
DANCE Exmouth FDC, Withycombe Meth CH. Chris Miles
SONG Quayside Bar, Brixham
SONG Bicton Inn, Exmouth
SONG Crabtree, Kingsbridge
- Fri 6** **SONG** Barnfield, Exeter
SONG Brixham FC Theatre Bar 7.30
- Sat 7** **SONG** Acorn FSC, URC Hall. Minehead. Claude Bourbon
SONG Ley Arms, Kenn. Jackie Oates & Tristan Seume
- Sun 8** **SONG** White Hart, Bow
SONG Folk on the Moor, Westward Inn, Lee Mill, 7.45 pm. Jackie Oates
- Mon 9** **MUSIC** Bell Inn, Chittlehampton
- Tue 10** **DANCE** Sidford FDC at VH. Eileen Nightingale
DANCE Country Dance Plymouth, Trinity URC Hall.
- Wed 11** **DANCE** Gittisham FDC at VH. Robert Blackborow, Bridgwater Band
SONG Globe, Lypmstone
SONG Bradninch Acoustic Club, St Disen's Hall
- Thu 12** **DANCE** Tavistock FDC, St Peter's Sch. Chris Thorne

Diary Dates (4)

- Thu 12** **DANCE** Exmouth FDC, Withycombe Meth CH. Club callers
DANCE Willand FDC at VH. Ted Farmer, More The Merrier
SONG Totnes FSC, Dartmouth Inn, Lee Collinson
- Sat 14** **DANCE** Willand VH. Bob Morgan, English Contra Dance Band
SONG Shammick Acoustic, Pack of Cards, Combe Martin. Open night.
CONCERT Plough, Torrington. Sally Barker
- Sun 15** **SONG** Old Plough, Bere Ferrers
SONG Folk on the Moor, Westward Inn, Lee Mill, 7.45 pm
SONG Topsham FSC, Matthews Hall Nancy Kerr & James Fagan
- Mon 16** **MUSIC** Kings Arms, South Zeal
- Tue 17** **DANCE** Sidford FDC at VH. Club callers, Chris Toyne
DANCE Lucky 7 FDC Anniversary, Liverton VH
SONG Royal Oak, Nadderwater
SONG Pack Horse, South Brent
- Wed 18** **DANCE** Gittisham FDC at VH. Ted Farmer, Jeroka
DANCE Halsway Manor FD Group, Bicknoller VH. Ray Goodswen
SONG Pennymoor Singaround, Cruwys Arms
SONG Teign House Inn, Christow
SONG Jurassic Folk, Dolphin, Beer
- Thu 19** **DANCE** Tavistock FDC, St Peter's Sch. John Estall
DANCE Exmouth FDC, Withycombe Meth CH. Aileen Wills
CONCERT Cheriton Bishop VH. Lady Maisery
SONG Royal Oak, South Brent
- Fri 20** **CONCERT** Clayhidon VH. Lady Maisery
- Sat 21** **SONG** Staghunters, Brendon
CONCERT Lustleigh VH. Lady Maisery.
- Sun 22** **SONG** Tradesman's Arms, Scorrilton
SONG White Hart, Okehampton
SONG Folk on the Moor, Westward Inn, Lee Mill 7.45 pm. Reg Meuross

- Tue 24** **DANCE** Sidford FDC at VH. Gill Spence, Jeroka
DANCE Country Dance Plymouth Trinity URC Hall
SONG Cross Hotel, Copplestone
- Wed 25** **DANCE** Gittisham FDC at VH. Aileen Wills, Jigs for Gigs
SONG Coach & Horses, Appledore
SONG Magelake Pavilion, Uffculme
- Thu 26** **DANCE** Tavistock FDC, St Peter's Sch. Frances Oates
DANCE Exmouth FDC, Withycombe Meth CH. Chris Miles, Amycrofters
DANCE Willand FDC at VH. Frances Hilson, Jeroka
SONG Teignmouth FSC, Oystercatcher Cafe
- Fri 27** **DANCE** Exeter FDC, Baptist Centre, Palace Gate. Aileen Wills.
SONG Ley Arms, Kenn.
- Sat 28** **SONG** Shammick Acoustic, Pack of Cards, Combe Martin. Mischief Afoot

March

- Sun 1** **SONG** Devonshire Inn, Sticklepath
SONG Folk on the Moor, Westward Inn, Lee Mill, 7.45 pm
- Tue 3** **DANCE** Sidford FDC at VH. Simon Maplesden
DANCE Lucky 7 FDC, Liverton VH
DANCE Country Dance Plymouth Trinity URC Hall
SONG Globe, Frogmire
MUSIC Bridge Inn, Topsham
- Wed 4** **DANCE** Halsway Manor FD Group. Halsway Manor, Club callers, Meter Rite.
SONG Anchor, Sidmouth
MUSIC Jurassic Folk, Dolphin, Beer
MUSIC Irish. White Hart, Bow
MUSIC Jack Russell, Swimbridge
- Thu 5** **DANCE** Tavistock FDC, St Peter's Sch. Ted Farmer
DANCE Exmouth FDC, Withycombe Meth CH. Denis Warry
SONG Bicton Inn, Exmouth
SONG Quayside Bar, Brixham
SONG Crabshell, Kingsbridge
- Fri 6** **SONG** Brixham FC, Theatre Bar 7.30
SONG Barnfield, Exeter.

Diary Dates (5)

- Sat 7** **PLAYFORD** Teign Playford Club, Rydon Hall, Kingsteignton, 2.30 pm. Jean Foster, Gwyn George
SONG Acorn FSC, URC Hall, Minehead. Jeff Warner
CONCERT Plough, Torrington. Mabon
- Sun 8** **SONG** White Hart, Bow
SONG Folk on the Moor, Westward Inn, Lee Mill, 7.45 pm. Dan Walsh
- Mon 9** **MUSIC** Bell Inn, Chittlehampton
- Tue 10** **DANCE** Sidford FDC at VH. Aileen Wills, Sou'westers
DANCE Country Dance Plymouth, Trinity URC Hall.
- Wed 11** **DANCE** Gittisham FDC at VH. Jane Thomas, Friendly Folk
SONG Globe, Lymptstone
SONG Bradninch Acoustic Club, St Disen's Hall
- Thu 12** **SONG** Totnes FSC, Dartmouth Inn, **DANCE** Tavistock FDC, St Peter's Sch. Alan & Marion Finch
DANCE Exmouth FDC, Withycombe Meth CH. Rosie Shaw
DANCE Willand FDC at VH. Ted Farmer, Petronella
- Sat 14** **DANCE** Willand VH. Ivan Aitken 3D
DEVON FOLK AGM South Brent
SONG Shammick Acoustic, Pack of Cards, Combe Martin. Open night
- Sun 15** **SONG** Old Plough, Bere Ferrers
SONG Folk on the Moor, Westward Inn, Lee Mill, 7.45 pm
- Mon 16** **MUSIC** Kings Arms, South Zeal
- Tue 17** **DANCE** Lucky 7 FDC, Liverton VH
DANCE Country Dance Plymouth, Trinity URC Hall
DANCE Sidford FDC at VH. Jane Thomas
SONG Royal Oak, Nadderwater
SONG Pack Horse, South Brent
- Wed 18** **DANCE** Gittisham FDC at VH. Graham Knight, Stick The Fiddle
SONG Pennymoor Singaround, Cruwys Arms.
SONG Teign House Inn, Christow
SONG Jurassic Folk, Dolphin, Beer
- Thu 19** **MUSIC** Bicton Inn, Exmouth
DANCE Tavistock FDC, St Peter's Sch. Alyson & Jerry Tucker
DANCE Exmouth FDC, Withycombe Meth CH. Club callers
SONG Royal Oak, South Brent
- Fri 20** **DANCE** Exeter FDC, Baptist Centre, Palace Gate. Chris Miles, Amycrofters.
- Sat 21** **DANCE** Tavistock FDC. Ted Farmer, Friendly Folk
SONG Staghunters, Brendon
- Sun 22** **SONG** Tradesman's Arms, Scorrifton
SONG Folk on the Moor, Westward Inn, Lee Mill 7.45. Tom McConville
- Tue 24** **DANCE** Sidford FDC at VH. Eileen Nightingale, John & Mary Brock
DANCE Country Dance Plymouth, Trinity URC Hall
- Wed 25** **DANCE** Gittisham FDC at VH. Ted Farmer, Jigs for Gigs
SONG Coach & Horses, Appledore
SONG Magelake Pavilion, Uffculme
- Thu 26** **SONG** Teignmouth FSC, Oystercatcher Cafe
DANCE Tavistock FDC, St Peter's Sch. Tony Dawe
DANCE Exmouth FDC, Withycombe Meth CH. Simon Maplesden, Ivor Hyde & Holly
DANCE Willand FDC at VH. Ian Ludbrook, Friendly Folk
- Fri 27** **SONG** Ley Arms, Kenn
- Sat 28** **SONG** Shammick Acoustic, Pack of Cards, Combe Martin. Mary Humphreys & Anahata
DANCE Liskeard Town Hall. Jane Thomas, Jigs for Gigs. Bring & share
WORKSHOP Chudleigh Cmty Hall. Playing for folk dance. Dance 7pm
CONCERT Plough, Torrington. Phil Beer Band.
- Sun 29** **SONG** White Hart, Okehampton
SONG Folk on the Moor, Westward Inn, Lee Mill, 7.45 pm
SONG Topsham FSC, Matthews Hall Andy Cutting
- Tue 31** **DANCE** Country Dance Plymouth, Trinity URC Hall
DANCE Sidford FDC at VH. Ray Goodswen

FREE

PULL-OUT SUPPLEMENT FOR YOUNGER READERS

 **Devoncoolfolk**



Young broom dancers at Dartmoor festival - Photo: Alan Quick

PLEASE:

HELP us reach young people. Do you know young people, teachers or youth workers? We would love you to give them this. Devon Folk is committed to youth projects of all kinds and this is our vehicle to encourage young people into folk activities..

COOL FOLK is produced by Devon Folk, the regional folk body affiliated to the EFDSS.

WOULD YOU LIKE TO GET INVOLVED?

We are looking for contributors, production support, distribution outlets and, above all

SPONSORS!

Message us on facebook/devoncoolfolk or email devoncoolfolk@gmail.com

COOL FOLK

COMPETITION

Kindly Sponsored by : **Halsway Manor-** www.halswaymanor.org.uk

AND THE WINNER IS.... 11 year-old **Zena Ahmed** from South Zeal.

Well done Zena!


*Zena wins 2 tickets to the awesome **Hothouse Festival** at Halsway Manor.
Check out their website for more details.*

Zena's entry is below - **Why don't YOU have a go next time?**

Message us on  **Devoncoolfolk** to find out more.

I ADMIT IT, I'M A FOLKIE

I've always convinced myself that I'm not really a folkie, but I've been wrong. Folk music is a big part of my life and I like it more than I think. Every month, I go to a folk singaround in Sticklepath where I sing and play the guitar. I go to the Wren folk roots choir in Okehampton where we learn and perform songs from all over the world. Not to mention Dartmoor Folk Festival, which takes place behind our garden wall in South Zeal. I like 'now' music - like Arctic Monkeys and Disclosure - and I don't always like some folk music, but I can say that I wouldn't be who I am today without it. Folk has changed me - and for the better. It has led me to do more and more things, for instance, I busked outside our house during the folk festival and raised £20.20 for Hospicecare. Folk has also led me to meet more people - it has real purpose in my life

See the other entries at  **Devoncoolfolk**

or at www.devonfolk.co.uk

LIKE COOL FOLK?

Why Not
Get

What's Afoot

Inside the new issue of What's Afoot...

Personal experiences of our wonderful summer festivals - Sidmouth, Dartmoor and Teignmouth

Steve Knightley special - the intimate Grow Your Own Gig tour, and a review of his CD

Available in Folk Clubs and Arts Centres all over Devon. **52 pages of stuff - only £1!**
Or email us: devoncoolfolk@gmail.com

NEW STUFF

Anyone want to be part of a high energy, high jumping Morris team like this?

We are starting a team in North-Mid Devon. Why not have a go?

contact
devoncoolfolk@gmail.com





NYFTE (pronounced "Nifty") is the National Youth Folklore Troupe of England, a group of young people from all over the country who share an interest in traditional music, song and dance.

NYFTE's brilliant new CD is well worth a listen. Many of the dance tunes are traditional morris tunes. They are played really well with strong rhythms and light, expressively clear melodies - perfect for listenening, or to be inspired to make up a dance. Solos are turn and turn about with different instruments taking the lead for different tunes.

There are a few shanties too - well known tunes to sing along to, but arranged in the special Nyfte way.

What is truly amazing is that this wonderful music has been produced by 11-18 year olds. It really does not sound like it!

Find out more at

www.nyfte.org.uk/

CD from Wild Goose Records
WGS405CD

DARTMOOR FESTIVAL STEP DANCE CHAMP

*Matthew Stoner (15)
Also Champ in 2010 and 2011!!*



Thanks to Alan Quick for the great pic!

COOL FOLK

SPRING ACTIVITIES FOR ALL AT HALSWAY MANOR

Check out activities at our
competition sponsors, Halsway
Manor, National Centre for Folk
Arts.

SAT 4TH APRIL 2015
HOTOHOUSE FESTIVAL

A one-day folk roots festival –
programmed by and for young
people –showcasing the best young
folk acts from around the UK. The
festival is at Halsway Manor itself,
a seriously grand old house in the
Quantock Hills in West Somerset.
from 12 noon until late. Camping and
overnight B&B are available.

Line-up for 2015 is to be confirmed,
but recent performers have included
Jim Moray, Sam Brookes, Ballina
Whalers, The Teacups, Kitty
Macfarlane, Barrule and Moore
Moss Rutter. Halsway also run two
'Hothouse' folk arts weeks for young
people.

Check out

www.halswaymanor.org.uk

for updates and more info.

If you are aged 12-15, don't miss the
Shooting Roots residential event at
Halsway from Sunday 15th Feb to
Thursday 19th Feb 2015.



THE LONGEST RUNNING FOLK FESTIVAL
IVFDF 2015
EXETER
27 FEBRUARY - 1 MARCH

- NANCY KERR BAND - BLACKBEARD'S TEA PARTY -
- KATHRYN ROBERTS AND SEAN LAKEMAN -
- BUFFALO GALS STAMPEDE - GREG RUSSELL -
- PANJANDRUM - TICKLED PINK -
- VERTICAL EXPRESSION - PIGS MIGHT FLY -

WWW.IVDF2015.ORG.UK *hothouse music*

COOL STUFF

DO YOU KNOW...????

about all the cool folk activities for
younger people?

*The EFDSS has a **Full English Learning Programme** which reaches out to Schools and Colleges throughout England doing all kinds of folk activities.*

To find out more, visit their new Education Resource Bank www.efdss.org/resourcebank. Barnstaple's pathway school had enormous fun learning local songs in a fun way.

***Shooting Roots** runs brilliant courses at festivals for under 25s. Visit them on*

 /Shooting Roots

Folk dance contacts

*Affiliated to EFDSS

Wk weekly, **Fn** fortnightly, **M** monthly

Social Dance - quick guide

MONDAY

Chudleigh Folk Dance Club	Wk
Sidford, Scottish	Wk
Northam, Third Age	Fn

TUESDAY

Exmouth, Isca Playford Group	Wk
Isca Allemanders Square Dance Club	Wk
Kingsteignton Folk Dance Club	Fn
Launceston Folk Dance Club	Wk
Liverton, Lucky 7 Folk Dance Club	Fn
Plymouth, Country Dance Plymouth	Wk
Sidford Folk Dance Club	Wk
Totnes Scottish Folk Dance Classes	Wk

WEDNESDAY

Bideford Folk Dance Club	Wk
Gittisham Folk Dance Club	Fn
Exmouth, Isca Scottish Dance	Wk
Halsway Folk Dance Group	Fn, 1&3
Newton Abbot Irish Set Dance	Wk
South Hams Folk Dance Club	Wk

THURSDAY

Chard Folk Dance Club	Fn
Exmouth Folk Dance Club	Wk
Tavistock Folk Dance Club	Wk
Willand Folk Dance Club	Fn

FRIDAY

Aylesbeare Folk Dance Club	Fn
Bampton Folk Dance Club	M, 1st
Bideford Ceilidh Club	Wk
Dartington Folk Dance Club	Wk
Exeter(Ide) D'Accord French Dances	M, 3rd
Exeter Folk Dance Club	M, 4th
Salcombe Regis Folk Dance Club	Wk
South Brent French	1st

Social Dance - details

Aylesbeare Folk Dance Club

Alt. Fri, Aylesbeare VH. Ted Farmer, 01392 466326.

Bampton Folk Dance Club

First Fri. St.Michael's Hall, Station Road. Hazel Ridd, 01884 820438

Beacon Wheel Chair Dancers

Sue Cummings 01803 554799

Bideford Ceilidh Club*

Fri. Northam Hall, Fore St, Northam, Bideford EX39 1AN John Blackburn, 01237 476632

Bideford Folk Dance Club*

Wed. Northam Hall. Chris Jewell, c/o Tor View, Lakenham Hill, Northam, Bideford, Devon . Tel: 01237 423554

Bridport 3 Days Late Ceilidh Club

Club nights now discontinued but monthly ceilidhs will still run. Dates in diary section. Monty Crook 01308 423442

Chard Folk Dance Club

Alt. Thurs., Combe St Nicholas VH. 8 pm. Details: Hillary Durrant 01460 61996

Chudleigh Folk Dance Club

Mondays, term time. Woodway Room, Chudleigh Town Hall.. 8 - 10 pm. Chudleigh Folk Music, 7.00 - 8.15 pm. Mary Marker, 01626 854141

Country Dance, Plymouth*

Tues., Trinity United Reform Church Hall, Tor Lane, Hartley, Plymouth. 8 pm. Jacqui Joint 01752 774484

D'Accord*

3rd Fri. 8 pm. French & Breton dances, Ide VH, nr. Exeter. Pat Tomkins 01392 811593

daccordexeter9@gmail.com

Dartington Folk*

Most Fridays, Dartington VH, 8.00 pm. Mrs Edith Sanders, 27, Indio Rd, Bovey Tracey, TQ13 9BT. 01626 834981

Devon Set Dancers*

Mrs. Q. Daniel, 6, Balmoral Close, Newton Abbot, TQ12 4BJ

Don't forget: Check for any changes online: www.devonfolk.co.uk OR



Devon.Folk.58
Devoncoolfolk

Folk dance contacts

Exeter Folk Dance Group*

Last Fri. 7.30 pm Palace Gate Centre, Baptist Church, South Street, Exeter. Tricia Henderson 07816 000148

Exmouth Folk Dance Group*

Thurs., Withycombe Methodist Church Hall. 8 - 10 pm. Mr Chris Miles, 25, Old Bystock Drive, Exmouth, EX8 5RB. 01395 275592

Exmouth, Isca Playford Group

Classes 10am - noon. Evening club. Masonic Hall, Budleigh Salterton, Tues Oct- Apr. Mr & Mrs V.J. Tyler, 66, Ivydale, Exmouth. 01395 276913

Exmouth, Isca Scottish Dancers

Classes Masonic Hall, Budleigh Salterton, Tues Sept - May. Mr. V.J. Tyler, 66, Ivydale, Exmouth. 01395 276913

Gittisham Folk Dance Club*

Wed, fortnightly (usu. 2nd & last). Gittisham VH., nr. Honiton. Gill Spence, 20 Ridgeway Gardens, Ottery St Mary EX11 1DU 01404 813129. <http://www.seered.co.uk/gittisham.htm>.

Great Western Ceilidhs*

Sat. Monthly, Bowhill Primary School, Buddle Lane, Exeter. Pete Langley 01392 491228

Halsway Folk Dance Group

1st & 3rd Wed. 8pm Halsway Manor (TA4 4BD), Bicknoller VH (TA4 4EQ) or Crowcombe VH (TA4 4AQ) Ring Brian Graham 01643 797294 to check venue

Isca Allemanders Square Dance Club

Tues, Kenn Centre, Kennford. Brian Bradford, 73 Burrator Drive, Exwick, Exeter, Devon, EX4 2EW. 01392 433469 dancing@iscasdc.co.uk

Kingsteignton Country Dance Club*

Tues, twice monthly. Church Hall. Mrs. Jean Foster, 1 Lowicke House, Ringslade Road, Newton Abbot, TQ12 1QF 01626 363887

Launceston Folk Dance Club

Tues. St Johns Ambulance Hall, 8 pm (Not July & August). 01579 362423

Lucky 7 Folk Dance Club*

Alt. Tues. Liverton VH. 8 pm. Mrs. Julie Lavers, 2, Grays Meadow, Queens Road, Moretonhampstead TQ13 8NB 01647 440754

Newton Abbot

Wed. Irish set dancing, Jolly Farmer, Market Street. Maggie Daniel 01626 204350

Salcombe Regis Folk Dance Club*

Fri. St Peter's Church Hall, Sidford. Mrs D. Cooper, 6, Darnell Close, Sidmouth. 01395 513131

Sidford Folk Dance Club*

Tues. Sidford VH, Byes Lane. J. Westwood, 01404 813863, Eileen Nightingale 01297 443915
1st Tue Barn Dance (B) for beginners. Otherwise mixed social dance (S).

Sidford Scottish Folk Dance Club

Mon. Sidford VH, Byes Lane. 8 pm. Brian Martin, 01404 850416

South Hams Folk Dance Club*

Wed. West Charleton VH. Philip Worth, Greenbank, Hope Cove, TQ7 3HP. 01548 561415

South Brent Folk*

Eileen McKee, Woodland Cottage, South Brent, TQ10 9ES. 01364 73699

South Brent French

1st Friday, Recreational Hall.

Tavistock Folk Dance Club*

Thurs. St Peter's School. (not July & August). Mrs Margaret Holt, 3, Copperfields, Horrabridge, Yelverton, PL20 7VB. 01822 855858

Teign Playford Club*

Mrs Jean Foster, 1 Lowicke House, Ringslade Road, Newton Abbot, TQ12 1QF 01626 363887

Totnes Scottish Folk Dance

Dance classes, Tues. King Edward VI School, 7.15 pm. Details: 01803 557821

University of Exeter Folk Dance Club

Richard Mason, 3, Kingfisher Drive, Exeter, EX4 4SN. 01392 411434

Willand Folk Dance Club*

Alt. Thurs. Willand VH. Zena Roberts, 7, Everett Place, Tiverton, EX16 6UN. 01884 253546

Wiveliscombe FDC

2nd & 4th Tues, Sept - May. Community Centre. 01984 623495

Folk music & song contacts

MONDAY

SE Appledore, Royal Hotel 8.30pm	Wk
SE Bideford, White Hart (mostly Irish)	Wk
SE Chittlehampton, Bell Inn	M, 2nd
SE Culmstock, Culm Valley	M, 3rd
SE South Zeal, Kings Arms	M, 3rd
SE Topsham, Bridge, (Blues)	M, 2nd
SE Torquay Crown & Sceptre	Wk
SE Totnes, Bay Horse	F, 1&3
SE Welcombe, The Old Smithy(Irish)	M, 3rd

TUESDAY

SE Bere Ferrers, Old Plough	F, 1&3
FC Bradninch, Ye Old White Lion	M, 1st
FC Bradninch, Castle Hotel	M, 3rd
SE Copplestone, Cross Hotel	Last
FC Exmouth, Manor Hotel	3,5
SE Frogmore, Globe	M, 1st
OM Landkey, Castle, 9pm	F
FC Nadderwater, Exeter, Royal Oak	M, 3rd
SE Plymouth, Artillery Arms	Fn
SE? Plymouth, Fortescue	Wk
FC Sandford, Lamb (temp)	M, 1st
SE South Brent, Pack House	3rd
SE Torquay, Ryan's Bar	1st
SE Totnes, Steam Packet. Irish/Scots	Wk
SE Totnes, Bay Horse	Wk

WEDNESDAY

SE Appledore, Coach and Horses	M, 4th
FC Beer, Dolphin Hotel	M, 1&3
SE Bow, White Hart. (Irish)	M, 1st
SE Christow, Teign House Inn	M, 3rd
SE Dawlish, South Devon Inn	M, last
SE Exmouth, Beacon Vaults	Wk
SE Exmouth, Bicton (music)	M, 3rd
SE Kingsbridge, Kings Arms	M, last
FC Lympstone, Globe Inn	M, 2nd
SE Malborough, Royal Oak	M, 2nd
FC Pennymoor, Cruwys Arms	M, 3rd
SE Plymouth, Hyde, Mutley	M, 2nd
SE Sidmouth, Anchor (song)	M, 1st
SE South Brent, Royal Oak	Wk
SE Swimbridge, Jack Russell	M, 1st
SE Torrington, Royal Exchange	M, 2&4
FC Uffculme, Magelake Pavilion	M, last
SE Whimble, New Fountain	M, 2nd

THURSDAY

FC Bideford, Joiner's Arms	Wk
SE Bishopsteignton, Red Rock Brewery	Wk
SE Brixham, Quay Side Hotel	M, 1st

SE Denbury, Union Inn	Wk
SE Exeter: City Gate Hotel	M,3rd
SE Exeter: Wells Tavern	M,3rd
SE Exmouth, Bicton Inn	M, 1st
SE Exmouth: Beacon Vaults	F, Alt
SE Frogmore, Globe	M, 3rd
SE Horns Cross nr Bideford (Irish)	M, 3rd
SE Kingsbridge, Crabshell Inn	M, 1st
SE Plymouth, Minerva	Wk
SE South Brent, Royal Oak	M, 3rd
FC Teignmouth, Oystercatcher Café	M, last
SE Topsham, Bridge (music)	M, 1st
SE Torrington, Globe	Fn,2&4
SE Totnes, Barrel House	M, 3rd
FC Totnes, Dartmouth Inn	M, 2nd
FM Willand Band Club	Fn, 1&3

FRIDAY

SE Bishopstawton, 3 Pigeons	M, 1st
FC Bodmin, Syd's Bar	Wk
SE Bridford, Bridford Inn	M, 1st
FC Brixham, Theatre Lounge Bar	M, 1st
SE Ermington, Crooked Spire	F 2&last
FC Exeter, Barnfield Theatre	M, 1st
FC Kenn, Ley Arms	M, last
SE Torquay, Crown & Sceptre	Wk

SATURDAY

SE Brendon, Staghunters InnM,	3rd
FC Combe Martin, Pack of Cards	Fn, 2&4
FC Minehead, Acorn FSC URC Hall	M, 1st

SUNDAY

SE Bere Ferrers, Old Plough	M, 3rd
FC Bude, Falcon Inn	Fn
FC Bow, White Hart	2nd
SE Exeter, Stoke Arms. Irish	Wk
FC Lee Mill, Westward Inn	Wk
FC Okehampton, White Hart	M,last
SE Parracombe, Hunters Inn	F, 2&4
SE Plymouth Barbican, Dolphin	M, 1st
SE Plymouth, Morley Arms 3-6 pm	M, 3rd
FC Scorrington, Tradesman's Arms	M,4th
SE Sticklepath, Devonshire Inn	M, 1st
SE Tiverton, Half Moon (noon)	M,2nd
FC Topsham, Globe	Wk

Folk song clubs (FC), Open Mike (OM) and sessions (SE) are sometimes forced to change venue at short notice due to change in management at a pub. Please check if in doubt. See also www.devonfolk.co.uk for updates

Folk music & song contacts

Bere Ferrers

Old Plough. 01822 841064 2nd Sun Irish, 3rd Sun song & music, 1&3rd Tues music session

Bideford Folk Club*

Thurs. Joiners Arms, Market Place, Bideford EX39 2DR Jerry & Hilary Bix, 36, Lower Gunstone, Bideford. Tel/fax 01237 470792

Bishopsteignton

Thurs, Red Rock Brewery, John Morey 07791 054773. www.oldworkshop.org

Bodmin Folk Club

Fri. Mason's Arms (?), Bodmin Mike Freemantle 01726 816454 www.bodminfolk.co.uk

Bradninch

Alt. Tues. Castle Hotel. 8.30 pm. Rob Reeves, 01392 881014

Bradninch

2nd Sun, 3 -6 pm White Lion

Brendon

3rd Sat, Staghunters. Martyn Babb, martynbabb@aim.com, Carole Henderson-Begg 01769 540581.

Brixham

1st Fri. Brixham Theatre Bar, 7.30 pm. John Miles 01803 858394

Bude

Sun, twice monthly. Falcon Hotel. Lucy Burrow, 01288 341582

Chittlehampton

1st Fri. concerts, usually in Parish Church. Pre-concert supper if pre-booked. 01769 540581 or 540887. events@chumpchurches.org.uk. 2nd Mon music session, Bell Inn

Christow

3rd Wed. Teign House Inn. Also showcase spots
1st Sun afternoon. www.myblackhat.net

Combe Martin

2nd & 4th Sat, Shammick Acoustic, Pack of Cards. Tom & Barbara Brown, 01271 882366 contact@shammickacoustic.org.uk

Copplestone

Last Tues. Cross Hotel. Song & music

Denbury

Thurs. Union Inn. Acoustic mixed sessions. Vic Connell, 01803 812535

Ermington

Last Fri. Crooked Spire. 07990 863135.

Exeter, Barnfield Theatre

1st Fri. Bedford Room. Acoustic open mike session. Jerry 07843 419178

Exeter Folk Project

Last Thurs Starz Bar, Lower North Street, Exeter Helen 0797 2195278

Exmouth

3rd & 5th Tues. 8.30 pm. Manor Hotel, Beacon, Exmouth. Jeff Lewis 01395 269232

Folk On The Moor

Sun. 7.45 pm Westward Inn, Lee Mill. Anton Horwich, 4 The Green, Milton Combe, Yelverton 01822 853620

Halsway Manor (Crowcombe)

1st Sun. Song & music session in the bar lounge. Brendon Room. Details: 01984 618324

Jurassic Folk

1st Wed Jam Session; 3rd Wed Come All Ye, Dolphin Hotel, Beer. Details: jurassic.pete@aol.com

Kenn

Last Fri. Ley Arms. Peter Cornelius 01392 210983

Kingsbridge

1st Thurs. Crabshell Inn. (Bob & Brenda Burnside, 01548 853351) Last Wed. Kings Arms

Lympstone

2nd Wed. Globe Inn. Music, song & stories. Brian Mather 01395 278594

Malborough

2nd Wed. Royal Oak

Minchhead

1st Sat. (Guest), Acorn Folk Club, United Reform Church Hall, Bancks Street, Eileen Ann 01643 709394. www.acornfolkclub.co.uk

Nadderwater (Exeter)

3rd Tues., Royal Oak

Okehampton

Last Sun, White Hart, Sandie Whittington Sandie. whittington@btoopenworld.com;

Pennymoor Singaround*

3rd Wed. Cruwys Arms, Pennymoor. Nicola King 01363 877748

Folk music & song contacts

Plymouth, Artillery Arms

Alt Tues. Artillery Arms, Pound Street,

Plymouth, Folk Roots

2nd Wed. Hyde, Mutley. Ali 01752 662002

Plymouth, Morley Arms

1st Sun Bluegrass, skiffle. 3rd Sun Open acoustic.
3 - 6pm

Roadwater

2nd Fri. Valiant Soldier. George Ody 01643
704347

Scoriton

4th Sun. 7.30 pm. Tradesman's Arms Sue &
Simon Williams, Scorriton Farmhouse, Scorriton,
Buckfastleigh TQ11 0JB 01364 631308.

Sidmouth

1st Wed. traditional song. Anchor Inn

South Brent, Pack Horse Hotel.

Alt. Tues. mostly song. Eileen KcKee 01364
73699 Every Wed. mostly music.

South Brent, Royal Oak

Wed. 8.30 pm Alt Wed children's folk 7.30 -8.30
pm. Caroline 01364 73490. Also 3rd Thurs Mike
Bramich 01364 649339

Sticklepath (Okehampton)

1st Sun. Devonshire Inn.

Teignmouth

Last Thurs. Oystercatcher Café, Northumberland
Place. Martyn Hillstead, 01626 778071.

Topsham*

Sun. Globe Hotel 8.30 pm. Tickets for guest
nights available one month in advance. www.
topshamfolkclub.co.uk

Totnes Folk Song Club

2nd Thurs. Dartmouth Inn. Steve & Anne Gill,
01803 290427.

Totnes, Barrel House, Ballroom

3rd Thurs. Klezmer & East European music.

Totnes, Bay Horse

Weekly, Mostly traditional unaccompanied

Uffculme

Music & Performance Club, Magelake Pavilion.
Last Wed. Brian Bennelick, 01884 840192

Willand Club Band Workshop

Alt. Thurs. Willand Chapel, Gables Road. Mary
Marker 01626 854141

Regional Contacts

Around Kent Folk

Kathy & Bob Drage, 80, Westgate Bay Avenue,
Westgate, Kent, CT8 8NY 01843 835694

Dorset Folk

Steve Hunt, Meadow Cottage, Chapel Lane,
Woodlands, Wimborne, BH12 8LU 01202
814858

Folklife West

Sam Simmonds, 16, Barrett Rise, Malvern,
WR14 2UJ. editor@folklife-west.co.uk

Folk London

Sue West, 102, Gosport Road, Walthamstow,
E17 7LZ. 020 8509 0545. www.folklondon.
co.uk

Folknews Kernow

Chris Ridley, Trenilloes, St Columb, Cornwall.
TR9 6JN 01637 880394

Folk South West

Eddie Upton, Church Farm, Leigh, Sherborne,
DT9 6HL. 01935 873889 folksw@folksw.org.
uk

Mardles (Suffolk, E. Anglia)

Mary Humphreys editor@suffolkfolk.co.uk
01638 7204445

Puddingstone (Herts.)

Libby Byne-Grey 01920 460553

Somerset & Dorset

www.folkmusicsomerset.co.uk. www.sadfolk.
co.uk Tony & Peter's Folk Diary - http://www.
sanchobramble.weebly.com

Taplas (Wales)

Keith Hudson, 182, Broadway, Roath, Cardiff,
CF24 1QJ 02920 499759

Wiltshire Folk

Geoff Elwell, 3, Sarum Avenue, Melksham,
SN12 6BJ. 01225 703650

Also www.wiltshirefolkarts.org.uk

Unicorn (Beds, Herts, Camb. area)

Simon Bailes, 10 Chapel Street, Dunton
Biggleswade Beds. SG18 8RW Tel: 01767 310
424 unicornmagazine@hotmail.co.uk.

Useful contacts

Alive & Kicking

Appalachian. Julie Page 07815 966838

Beltane Border

www.beltaneborder.co.uk

Bideford Phoenix Morris

Sue Jones, 01237 477047

Blackawton Morris

Chris Janman, 1, Castle Lane, Blackawton, Totnes. 01803 712362

Black Bess

Suzanne Lovell 01803 873908

Borderline

Tony Whitson, 01271 321431.

bag@borderlinemorris.org

Bovey Tracey Mummers

Rod Wilkins 01803 812581

Bradninch Millers Morris

Ian Bloomfield, 6, West End Road, Bradninch, EX5 4QW

Cat's Eye Border

<http://www.catseyemorris.co.uk/>

Cogs & Wheels

Alexa Mason, 01647 277498. cogsandwheels@hotmail.com

Dartmoor Border

treggie@blueyonder.co.uk

Dartington Morris Men

John Skirton, 01548 856584

bagman@dartingtonmorrismen.org.uk

Exeter Morris Men

Mike Painter, 19, Marlborough Road, Exeter, EX2 4TJ. 01392 660444.

mikepainter@blueyonder.co.uk

Exmoor Border Morris

Sue White, 01237 451261

Firestone

(Appalachian & Irish). Richard Mason, 3, Kingfisher Drive, Exeter, EX4 4SN. 01392 411434

Glory of the West Morris

Carol Mantell, Beggars Roost, Higher Ashton, Exeter, EX6 7QR. 01647 252740

Great Western Morris Men

Duncan Moss, 01626 354705.

bagman@great-western.org.uk

Ritual and Display Groups

Green Willow Clog

Sue Fildes 07768 625333

Grimspound Border Morris

Lee Merry 01626 835010

Harberton Navy

Nonnie Duncan, Little Cholwell, Harberton, Totnes. 01803 867650

Heather & Gorse

Maggie Anderson mag2anderson@yahoo.co.uk

Ilfracombe Red Petticoats

Janet Ellis 01271 342351

Isambard Gasket Rats (new - contact details to follow)

Kings Arms Pace Egg & Mummers*

Dave Denford, The Cottage, Ramsley, South Zeal, EX10 2LD

Lodestone Border

<http://www.lodestonemorris.co.uk/>

Newton Bushel Morris

Mary Neal mary.neal@blueyonder.co.uk

North Devon Mummers

Francis & Barbara Verdigi, 01271 813843

Plymouth Maids

Shirley Ingram, 01752 407676. plymouthmaids@hotmail.com

Plymouth Morris Men

Andy King, 01752 300758

www.plymouthmorrismen.org.uk

Porthleven Morris Men

Max Williams 01326 572101

Raddon Hill Clog Morris

Jane Hewitt, 53, Kingsway, Exeter, EX2 5EN
01392 660646

Rough Diamonds Appalachian

01460 220607

UPDATES All changes to publicised events and contact details are on www.devonfolk.co.uk - provided that organisers let the editor know! The website is usually updated within a couple of days of information being received. Updates received **after Stop Press** copy dates **cannot be guaranteed** for the next magazine publication, but will be saved for the future.

Useful contacts

Ritual and Display Groups contd.

Saffron Maids

Unice Wighton. www.saffron-maids.org.uk

Shuffle The Deck

Appalachian. Jenny Draper, Ladywell, Grange Road, Buckfast, TQ11 0EH. 01364 643320

Sidmouth Steppers NW Morris

Liz Clode, 25, Primley Road, Sidmouth, EX10 9LD. 01395 513389 liz.clode1@btinternet.com

Sidmouth Traditional Mummers

Henry Piper, 21B, Broad Street, Ottery St Mary, 01404 811491 henry.piper@zoom.co.uk

Sunrise Border Morris

Martyn 07768 613894

Tinners Morris Men

Mike Palmer 01647 433464

Trigg Morris Men

Roger Hancock, 01208 73907

Uplyme Morris Men

Timothy Fox 01297 443072

Tudor Dance Group

Elizabeth Thurgood, Brookfield, Combe Water, Cotleigh, Honiton, EX14 9SQ. 01404 831512

Winkleigh Morris

Averil Stacey, Holly House, Manor Road, Landkey, EX32 0JJ 01271 831461
averil@cayster.co.uk

Wreckers Border

Jack Spiers, 01579 350696

Festivals

Baring-Gould Festival

End of October. Wren 01837 53754 info@wrenmusic.co.uk

Bude Folk Festival

23-26 May 2014 www.budfolkfest.com
07736 374003

Burnham Folkfest

August. www.folkfest.co.uk

Crediton Folk Festival

Early May Pete Lister 01363 775695
creditonfolkfestival@yahoo.co.uk

Festivals, National Organisations

Dartmoor Folk Festival

Mrs J White, Sunnyhill, South Zeal, EX20 2JL.
01837 840102 www.dartmoorfolkfestival.co.uk.
2nd weekend in August.

Dulverton Folk Festival

Late May Bank Holiday

Intervarsity Folk Dance Festival

Richard Mason 01392 411434

Malborough Music Festival

August. malborough.festival@ukonline.co.uk

Pennymoor Song & Ale

Early June. Clare Penney 01884 860023

Sidmouth Folk Week

Early August. www.sidmouthfolkweek.org.uk

South Brent Folk Festival

11th -13th July 2014. Eileen McKee, 01364 73699

Teignmouth Folk Festival

Mid June. www.teignmouthfolk.co.uk Anne Gill,
01803 290427

Wadebridge

August Bank Holiday weekend. 01208 812230

National Organisations

English Folk Dance & Song Society

Cecil Sharp House, 2, Regents Park Road,
London, NW1 7AY. 020 7485 2206. info@efdss.org
www.efdss.org

The Morris Federation

Fee Lock, 28, Fairstone Close, Hastings, Sussex.
01424 436052. www.morrisfed.org.uk

The Morris Ring

Charlie Corcoran, 70, Greengate Lane, Birstall,
Leicestershire, LE4 3DL. Tel/fax 0116 267 5654
www.themorrisring.org.

Open Morris

Brian Antaur, secretary@open-morris.org

National Youth Folklore Troupe of England*

Dave Leverton, Heathers, Stanton Wick,
Pensford, Bristol, BS39 4BZ. 01761 490236
daveleverton@lycos.co.uk

Bands

*Those in bold text have an advert elsewhere in this magazine. * EFDSS affiliated.*

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Babelfish	07971 148531	Occasion Ceilidh Band	01752 337501
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Blue Jewel	07957 855458	Paddy's Whiskers*	01803 520799
Broad Band	01884 840816	Park Bench Aristocrats	01548 810038
Bridgewater Band	01823 491662	Petronella	01626 854141
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Dave Mashford	01752 822010	Quantock Quarenders	01984 656459
Eel Grinders	01647 440020	Red Shed	01363 774339
Fiery Clockface	01822 612281	Reel Thing	01460 240671
Five Pound Fiddle	01409 211340	Rusty Buckets	01398 323494
Flash Company	01392 851496	Scratchbox	01803 847689
Folk Two	01548 550004	Sheer Hopody	01769 520595
Footloose	01647 433464	Slack Ma Girdle	01823 680523
Fox Amongst The Chickens	01579 351201	Slapjack	01823 601583
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Friendly Folk	01643 707294	Spinach For Norman	01392 875239
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Haymakers	01288 361625	Steve Gill & Andy Clarke	01803 290427
Hips & Haws	01392 861466	Stick The Fiddle	01884 243295
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Jeroka	01935 824674	Weston Country Dance Band	01934 813326
Jigs For Gigs	01460 241326	Woodshed Band	01803 558929
Jiggerypipery	01647 433390		
Kickshaw Ceilidh Band	01364 631122		
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Lucy Lastic	01884 881385		
Meltdown	01278 732202		
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Mooncoin Ceilidh Band*	01803 290427		
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Callers

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Colin Andrews	01363 877216
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Robert Blackborow	01823 491662
John Blackburn	01237 476632
Adrian Brayley	07791 703009
Linda Breeze	01363 776184
Tom Brown	01271 882366
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Mike & Shelagh Palmer	01647 433464
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01579 362423

Review

Steve Gill

Light and Shade

annemgill@tiscali.co.uk

We are delighted to welcome another new contributor - Geoff Lakeman - to What's Afoot, with his eloquent and honest review of Steve Gill's great new CD.

Tucked away in south Devon meet mild-mannered & modest Steve Gill who has in this recording weaved a musical tapestry including tunes and songs from Britain and further afield into twelve tracks. For me Steve is one of the most respected folk musicians in the West Country and with "Light and Shade" you could say he has come out of the shadows.

The listener is sucked in from the start with three Northumbrian Polkas with bouzouki & fiddle accompaniment. More strings in the mix would have been good but let's give the lad a chance, he's only getting into his stride! Devon ditty "Penny Wager" follows with Morris-like Anglo concertina backing, which is measured - not plodding. This song will appeal to those of you who like a flutter. Three Irish slides next were recorded in Exmouth (honest) and this set took me back to Doolin, County Clare. Shutting my eyes and remembering the set dancers kicking up the sparks in the local pub. Uncluttered concertina accompaniment again on a Bill Worsfold's love song from the North Island of New Zealand. Track five & Steve plays three jigs on the whistle, with a novel ghosting effect slightly behind. And then my favourite track which I have seen Steve perform live is his self-penned "Painted Stations". Is that a tear in my eye or a bit of coal-flecked steam as I listen suffused by a mantle of nostalgia? I rode the footplate as a boy and remember G.W.R "God's Wonderful Railway". Steve has a dig at that nasty Dr Beeching whose cuts signalled the end of steam, not to mention hundreds of branch lines.

Steve plays atmospheric harmonica as he covers Ashley Hutchings' "Wolfe". A bit of harmony singing here would not have gone amiss. A gentle one-row melodeon leads us into a Newfoundland Waltz, then a gear change to a Galician polka. You won't stay still on this one; but I feel more syncopated mandocello strumming would have made it even punchier. Anglo concertina again on

Graeme Miles "Old Man of the Sea". Steve tell me his first every song with a box. A Welsh gem "Edward Evans' Delight", followed by a moving lament, written by Pipe Major W Ross, about the de-population of St Kilda in 1930. The tasteful hint of keyboard drone in the background makes this track quite hymnal. Final track and Steve and his helpers aim for ramming speed - or as near as they get to it. It's time to get yer hobnail boots out again for three classic Kerry polkas. The set DOES build, with fiddle and bouzouki joining in, but I would like it to have swelled to an even bigger climax. It left me wanting more... and yet that can't be bad can it?

"Light and Shade" is a thoroughly professional recording, well -aided by musicians like Andy Clarke, Sophia Colkin, Martyn Cornelius and Susie Trezise. Producer Aaron Aldred should be proud of what he has teased out of Steve at his Exmouth studio. There's no doubting the competence, understanding and integrity of his music-making, but when you can play as well as he can, next time let's have the brakes off, turn up the volume a bit more and let rip.

Geoff Lakeman

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Review

Far Distant Stars

Lynne Heraud and Pat Turner

Wild Goose WGS404CD

Lynne and Pat perform an impressive range of material, from traditional ballads sung in close harmony to self-penned humorous songs via contemporary folk classics. I have heard them several times at Pennymoor Song and Ale and Sidmouth, and they are always entertaining and their harmonies beautiful.

This CD has a similar range: traditional songs include Poor Murdered Woman, Sheep Crook and Black Dog and I Must and I Will Get Married, and there is a beautiful version of Anne Lister's Moth. Lynne has written a haunting tune for Ruth Cornford Mitchell's poem of The Great War, 'He Went for a Soldier', and Pat a beautiful song in memory of Lynne's youngest son Tom – called, simply, 'Song for Tom'. Some songs, such as this one, are performed with gentle guitar accompaniment, others with accordion, and others a capella.

'Mr and Mrs Smith' is a 'genuine' music-hall song by Lee and David, here given a sharp and effective rendition, and 'Mr Double-Barrelled' is a song by Lynne in music-hall vein about the 'upwardly mobile Betty Smith'. Lynne and Pat are not afraid to use the habits and complaints of 'women of a certain age' as material for their songs, such as a tendency to back-bite and gossip in 'Secrets', and the problem of Stress Incontinence in a song of that name: this witty song is made all the funnier by being set to a tune reminiscent of a tragic ballad – "now I live with my condition and my gussets reinforced".

Although songs such as these are probably best heard live (when they have been known to provoke hysterical laughter) they are also well worth listening to on CD, as are all the songs on this album – strongly recommended!

Nicola King

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'Bite' Size CD Reviews

Colin Andrews

Colin undertakes a marathon set of CD review - see also pages 45 and 53!

TWO'S COMPANY

Chloe Clifford www.celtic-harper.co.uk

I didn't expect to see a Celtic harp on the table outside the village pub at Idlesleigh. Tempted to investigate apres-morris I yielded to further temptation by purchasing this CD. And I'm pleased I did. There is something inherently peaceful about a harp (is that why angels have them?) and the twelve instrumental tracks of harp music, occasionally supplemented by bodhran, guitar or fiddle are delightfully soothing. Several tunes are well-known - Lowlands of Holland, King of the Fairies, Searching for Lambs, and The Parting Glass - but there are also a couple of Chloe's own compositions. Most enjoyable.

TOM GOBLIN

PJ23

Gwilym Davies

This CD is Gwilym's first solo album for 12 years - although it's not entirely solo since his wife, Carol, joins him on some tracks, and there are guest appearances, mostly as instrumental

accompaniment, from Terry Brenchley, Roger Mills and Geoff Ramshaw.

The songs reflect Gwilym's considerable experience as an avid researcher and collector for nearly 50 years. They include some he learnt first-hand from Appalachian singers and appropriately accompanied on banjo, another (Long A-Growing) from Harry Brazil, a member of the gypsy family with whom he spent much time recording songs and tunes, and several traditional songs from his native Hampshire and adopted Gloucestershire. Only two songs could in any way be classified as modern but even these (Tony Dean's Following The Old Oss and Gwilym's own setting of the folk tale The Deerhurst Worm) are stepped in tradition. His Cotswold morris background is not forgotten, with a worthy rendition of Gallant Hussar and Black Joke.

Although some arrangements come over better than others, the standard of singing and presentation is very good, with a good deal of thought given to making the material on the CD really entertaining.



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HOT AIRS

Treewind TWD 018

Fendragon

I love everything about this CD - the real foot-tapping music, the sleeve notes with, source, rhythm, & number of times through (useful for callers!), and the illustrations on cover and disc itself. But then I would expect nothing but the best from Mary Humphreys, Anahata, Gina & Dave Holland who make up the band that emerged over ten years ago from the musicians of Gog Magog Molly. Many of tunes are taken from manuscript collections, some unpublished, and on these the line-up is mainly fiddle, melodeon, keyboard (piano style) and whistle or flute. However, for the couple of Playford offerings - Childgrove and Nonesuch - hurdy-gurdy and cello are in evidence. The opening track features two polkas from Colin Cater. Though the Bampton Quaker often gets played at ceilidhs it's rare to hear the Welsh Cuckoo's Nest (Nyth Y Gwew). A great album for listening to, or for dancing.

Review

Just Another Day: *Songs from Minehead then and now*

Tom and Barbara Brown

Wildgoose WGS406CD

Tom and Barbara Brown have become immersed in the seafaring history of the West Somerset and North Devon coast along with the traditions and songs associated with it. After the highly acclaimed series of CDs *Short Sharp Shanties* on which was recorded the entire repertoire of Watchet shantyman John Short, this album comprises eleven of the songs that Cecil Sharp collected from two retired sea Captains in Minehead, Robert Lewis and John Vickery, plus three that Tom and Barbara wrote for the Minehead Harbour Project.

The songs from Lewis and Vickery were diverse and by no means all maritime, some are rare, some more well known. Of those chosen for this CD the maritime songs include 'Spanish Ladies', 'The Sea Captain', 'Franklin', and 'The Greenland Fishery'; while those associated with the land include 'The Bonny Bunch of Roses O', 'The Lark in the Morn', and 'The Devonshire Girls'. Many of the songs can be heard on the folk scene today, rarely are they heard in these versions. Both the opening and closing tracks, 'A Minehead Lad' and 'Just Another Day' were drawn from the Minehead Harbour Project. They set the scene perfectly at the same time as setting the strong performance style that persists throughout. The other taken from the project is 'Heave Away My Johnny', new words by Tom put to a tune that Sharp Collected from Cpt Vickery.

Every track is refreshingly varied with strong vocals and accompaniment. Careful thought has gone into the arrangements. For the recording Tom and Barbara were joined by an array of talented friends: Barry Lister, Matt Norman, Paul Sartin, Keith Kendrick, Anahata, Brenda Burnside, Jon Dyer and Mary Eagle all make contributions. Finally credit should be given to Doug Bailey for another excellent production from Wildgoose.

Jacqueline Patten

Ley Arms Folk & Acoustic Music Club

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Tuesday 23rd December Christmas Party – Open Club Night
(*Revised Date*)

2015

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Saturday 7th February Concert Night – Jackie Oates & Tristan Seume
Friday 27th February Open Club Night
Friday 27th March Open Club Night
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The Cornelius Family – leyarmsfolk@hotmail.co.uk - Tel. 01392 210983

'Bite' Size CD Reviews

Colin Andrews

Yeeee Ha! Colin reviews a couple of American CDs

SASSAFRAS TEA

bluebellwoodmusic@gmail.com

Appaloosas

Appaloosas are a Dartmoor-based 3-piece group who specialise in American Appalachian, old-timey & bluegrass music. This is the 2nd album from Peter Acty (vocals, guitar, banjo), formerly with Magpie Lane, his daughter Eliza (lead local, guitar) and Plymouth folk stalwart, Stephen Potter (fiddle, mandolin). No Dartmoor dialect influence here - it all sounds pretty authentic with a raw edge to the vocals and some pretty nifty finger work over the strings. Though I'm not particularly au fait with this genre nowadays, tracks like Wildwood Flower, The Cuckoo and Muleskinner Blues brought back pleasant memories of my first forays into folk clubs some 50 years ago - before I 'discovered' the English folk song scene.

OLD VIRGINIA

WGS398CD

Rattle On The Stove Pipe

If the Appaloosas' CD whets your appetite for the foot-tapping American country-style music then Old Virginia will certainly provide a feast. The arrangements are very slick, with well-structured variety in the instrumental accompaniments, as one might expect from such seasoned performers as Dave Arthur, Pete Cooper and Dan Stewart who make up the group. My impression is that this new album is even better than their previous one which was reviewed a while back in What's Afoot. Again, New River Train I recognised from the 60's - incidentally when Dave Arthur was at the time performing largely traditional English material!



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- Feb. 28th Mischief Afoot, skilled musicians & singers
- Mar. 14th Open Night
- Mar. 28th Mary Humphreys & Anahata, East Anglian songs & tunes
- Apr. 11th Open Night with Ninebarrow
- Apr. 25th Bob Fox, War Horse's 'Songman'

Reviews

Christmas Carols - folk style

Festive cheer with Vicki Swan and Jonny Dyer, and The Exmoor Carolers

*By the time you are reading this, Christmas preparations will be well and truly upon us. Folk is no exception, and we thought it would be nice to include an article about Christmas carols - folk style of course. **The Exmoor Carolers** enchant North Devon every year with their carefully researched and arranged concert programme of local carols. This year, **Vicki Swan and Jonny Dyer** have released a beautifully orchestrated CD, **A sound of Christmas Past**, of well-known secular carols in their own special style. **Sue Hamer-Moss** looks at both.*

Live Gigs

The Exmoor Carolers

Look out for The Exmoor Carolers who will be performing in churches on the lead up to Christmas, with a final performance at The Plough Arts Centre at Torrington on Sunday 21st December. Great singing, music and harmonies, the group are keeping alive those special carols that were popular on Exmoor 150 years ago.

Last year, you were greeted with mulled wine and mince pies and then treated to a full evening's performance of delightful local carols - very few of which were well known, but all the better for it. The musicianship and harmonies were superb, as was the storytelling, which showed how carefully each carol had been researched and how much care had been put in to it by members of the group.

One was left feeling that the Christmas spirit (in all its forms) was well and truly with us.

Dates and contact numbers for tickets on:
www.facebook.com/pages/Exmoor-Carolers/187901227951030

CD A Sound of Christmas Past Vicki Swan and Jonny Dyer

Equally delightful but in a different way, is Vicki Swan and Jonny Dyer's lovely album of traditional (mainly British) secular carols, many of which are very familiar. The irrepressible spirit of Vicki and Jonny shines through in their joyous but often delicate and thoughtful arrangements.

Their vision is for as many people as possible to sing along to the CD while enjoying Christmas at home. Little details such as the lovely personal email to What's Afoot, and the scrummy to-die-for Plum Pudding on the CD cover all add to this image. It is difficult to have favourites, but I particularly enjoyed the precise clock-like arrangement of 'Past Three O'Clock', the lovely harmonies of the Coventry Carol and the fun Essex Wassail.

As they say, they have spent hours playing and singing their favourite carols - it is very kind indeed of them to invite us to their Christmas party - you won't regret going!

<http://www.swan-dyer.co.uk>

WFM140501



The Exmoor Carolers after their performance at the Plough Arts Centre, Torrington in 2013

Review

Wight Cockade

The Dollymopps

Wild Goose WGS397 CD

The Dollymopps are Justin Smith, Dorana Philpott and Virgil Philpott and all three sing in harmony on all except two tracks. I found the Dollymopps really refreshing, the harmonies are great, there's loads going on if you concentrate and really listen but for me the joy of their performance is the songs. Unlike many harmony groups they never compromise the song with the harmonies, the song comes first and their delivery of the songs is delightful; the harmonies adding interest, strength and colour to the performances while preserving the life and vitality of the songs. As the name of the CD suggests The Dollymopps are bringing to life songs and poems from the Isle of Wight, resulting in the rare privilege of a CD of traditional material where every single song will be fresh and new to most of us on the mainland. All but two of the tracks are sung in harmony, the exceptions being a tune- "The Loyal Isle of Wight Volunteers' Quick March" -superbly played on guitar by Virgil and "Jonas and the Devil", where a single voice is enhanced by guitar accompaniment.

Among the traditional songs are two poems from Percy Stone's collection with tunes written by the group "The Recruiting Sergeant" and "Newtown Randy." I particularly enjoyed these songs and would never have known that the tunes were not traditional, the tunes fit the poems with the ease that usually only comes from a few hundred years of singing. Sources for the traditional songs include a number from the George Gardiner collection, among them the familiar yet intriguingly different "From Spithead Roads" and the beautiful "Gypsy Girl."

I have never seen The Dollymopps perform in concert but, after listening to this CD, if I see their name on a festival programme I will do my best to listen to them. Different, intriguing and very well sung, all in all a lovely CD.

Jerry Bix

Totnes

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2015*

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Review

Ron Taylor and Jeff Gillett

Ron Taylor and Jeff Gillett have performed together for more than 20 years and are well known as excellent performers of traditional songs. Surprising then that this is only the second CD they have made as a duo. Ron is one of England's finest interpreters of traditional song while Jeff has a well-deserved reputation as a superb guitarist and accompanist, so you know that when you see them together you are in for a treat.

And indeed, for anyone who loves English traditional song this album is a treat; superbly recorded and engineered by Doug Bailey, with haunting and sensitive additional instrumentation from Gill Redmond on cello (listen to "Banks of Green Willow"), Becky Dellow fiddle, Steve Tyler hurdy-gurdy and Katy Marchant recorder and bagpipes. Everyone involved has brought the song to the fore; the instruments provide a setting for the words and melody. Accompaniment is an art in itself, and Jeff Gillett demonstrates his mastery, with a few well-chosen notes establishing the emotion of the song, catching your interest or unsettling the listener depending on the setting.

Ron sings all the songs with an easy grace and such clarity of diction that the story goes straight into your soul and sparks your emotions with these timeless tales of love, deception, loss and danger.

Buy It, Try It and Never Repent You

Wildgoose Studios – WGS400CD

The choice is excellent with a mix of very well known songs such as "Lovely Joan", "Reynard the Fox", "Sir Patrick Spens", "Rambleaway", etc alongside the less familiar "Stormy Scenes of Winter" from Nova Scotia and "Holland's Leaguer" from a 1635 broadside about the closing of a notorious brothel.

It is always difficult to comment on style, personal taste being so variable, but I found the whole album very measured and rather constrained, nobody is taking any risks here, nothing suddenly leaps out and grabs you. This is a celebration of the songs themselves but taken as a whole I found my attention wandering with nothing to grab me back into the CD. If you treasure traditional song at its best you should have this in your collection, and live they are truly a wonderful experience, so as the title says, "Buy It, Try it and Never Repent You."

Jerry Bix

Folk in the Attic Old music manuscripts, song & dance books, folk albums, musical instruments, etc. may be of value - don't throw them out without checking!

Something to Look Forward To!

We were regrettably unable to find space for reviews of the following CDs:


The Elizabethan Session from EFDSS

FORTYssimo - The Old Swan Band's 'birthday' CD

Anna Shannon - A Celebration of Old England

Vin Garbutt - Synthetic Hues

They are great CDs - see reviews in our next edition. Better still - why not give them a try?



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Andy Cutting

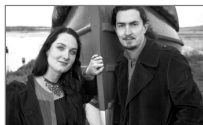
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Monthly instrumental session nights featuring mainly English tunes are held at **The Bridge Inn, Topsham** now on the **first Tuesday of each month (not August) 8pm- 10.30pm.**

Concert tickets can be bought on singers' nights, at concerts or online at **www.topshamfolkclub.org** all enquiries 01392 875332

For much of 2014 Steve Knightley decided to take a break from the usual frenetic tours of big venues, large audiences and loud concerts and embark the ‘Grow your own Gig’ project - see *Nicola King’s feature on p 12*. By playing as a solo guitarist and singer in village halls and smaller venues the length and breadth of England, he would be in touch with his audience and adapt to the requirements of the venue and the organisers. So popular has the tour been that he has decided to extend the tour and is taking bookings for later in 2014 and into 2015, resuming after a tour with Show of Hands. Even then he is unlikely to be able to meet the demand. Off the Beaten Track is the album of the tour. It is the set list, or at least a selection from it.

As at a live gig Steve divided the recording into two parts. Whether you have been fortunate to be at one of the concerts or whether you hope to do so during the coming months, you can sit back and feel that you are there. The easy, relaxed, delivery of an evening spent in a village hall is conveyed through the CD. This, however, makes the sheer brilliance of Steve as an instrumentalist and folk singer lull you into forgetting how much thought and work has gone into creating this performance. This is Steve going back to his roots, the foundation on which later developments in his musical journey has been based.

Writing his own songs Steve maintains the English traditional song in its true sense. Themes that have formed the core subjects in song and rural life over the past few centuries continue to be relevant: villainy, characters who are both loved and despised, unrequited and requited love, rustic idyll. Steve covers them all, in a twenty-first century way. The lyrics tell a tale that never ceases to amuse and enthrall while the accompaniment is in a traditional style with the natural influence of contemporary life.

These songs would be relevant in many places, for those of us living in the West Country there is the added pleasure of being able to picture the exact scene or relate to the area or event, possibly the person. Set 1 commences with ‘Widcombe Fair’ and is followed by a track about social standing, love, (very) rough justice and the River Dart’s legendary need to take a heart each year. Thus the scene is set. The same set includes ‘Broomfield Hill’ (trad. arr. Carthy) and fine tracks that illustrate Steve’s skill as a writer as well as a performer. The final track in this set is ‘Raining Again’ and includes the memorable line “The neighbours came in 1910, Round here that means they just moved in.” Set 2 includes a further five songs by Steve; plus ‘Twas On One April’s Morning’ (a tribute to the late Tony Rose); ‘Try / Boots of Spanish Leather’ (a tribute to Bob Dylan) and ‘Reynardine’ (trad. recon. Lloyd). The last track of the album is ‘Country Life’, an anthem to the declining countryside, a fitting conclusion.

This is an excellent album in every way and will become a “must-have” for all devotees of folk song. The concerts will continue to attract large audiences.

Jacqueline Patten

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What's Afoot operates a magazine exchange with other folk publications from outside the county. Copies of similar magazines from other areas are always welcome. Please contact the Editor (address on page 3).

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HUMS ANCIENT & MODERN

SAM 0011

Gren Morris & Sam Stephens

This album offers an unusual combination of a powerful voice that sounds almost classically trained and imaginative guitar accompaniments, which are sometimes jazzy & bluesy. Initially I wasn't impressed but with a repeat playing, I've become more appreciative. There is certainly an eclectic mix of material. The pairing seems to work better on the 'modern' songs - the unaccompanied harmony in Merlin's Song by Graham Pratt is excellent, and the last track is delightfully tongue-in-cheek. I wasn't quite so keen on Gren's rendition of traditional songs, apart from the Streams of Lovely Nancy, which features concertina and guitar accompaniment. The CD is worth listening to. It was recorded live - I'd be interested in seeing a live performance.

THE OLD ROADS

COS329CD

Charles Spicer & Mark T

The promotional notes for The Old Roads: Early Folk Music don't quite match up to the content of this CD. The instrumentals, on bouzouki, cor anglais and small pipes, are very good and for the most part give an 'old' feel to the music. I'm less convinced about the inclusion of some of the songs - When First To London seems quite out of place, and, although the ballads Lord Ronald and The Lailly Worm have a long pedigree, I wasn't taken by their presentation. The last song, Cavalilly Man, was interesting however - a completely different ballad to that which Strawhead included on one of their albums. Strange, too, that essentially the same tune, Taxim/Taqsim, with different instrumentation introduces two of the instrumental tracks.

THROUGH AN OPEN WINDOW

Mary Dinham

Contact Tony Harvey at Shoestringstudios@gmail.com

This is a delightful CD recorded in Exeter by a local singer, and sold with all proceeds going to the charity MIND in Exeter & East Devon. Mary was once a regular on the Exeter Folk Club scene, performing and recording a cassette as Trouble At The Mill with Linda Bowers but she has only recently started singing at clubs again after a long break. All songs (except percussion on the final track) on the album are unaccompanied and some - the traditional Tarry Trousers, Dougie Maclean's Caledonia, Paul Simon's A Church Is Burning, and the Tim Edward's Ladybird - feature Mary's daughter, Anna Langley-Smith singing in harmony. Very effectively too! Mary is perhaps best known for her rendition of bluesy & swingtime numbers, such as Lullaby of Birdland and Irving Berlin's Blue Skies, to which her very melodic contralto voice is well suited. Enjoy Mary's singing and support a worthwhile charity.

HALF HANDS AROUND

FCD014

Alison Frosdick & Jack Burnaby

www.alisonandjack.co.uk

What a delightful album! The twelve songs provide a lot of interest, with less familiar versions of Scarborough Fair, Twa Corbies and High Germany, some superb original songs in Ruardean Bears and Little Tommy Jones, both based on real events and excellent renditions of The Watchet Sailor and Sweet Carnlough Bay. I loved the tongue-in-cheek Half Hands Around about a female wishing to join an all-male Morris side - quite different from the close parody of the Female Drummer which I heard sung on the same theme at Sidmouth this year. Alison's clear & melodic voice is very pleasant to listen to and Jack's accompaniments (and occasional vocals) provide a perfect balance, with concertina & melodeon much in evidence. There is also whistle on some tracks - it works very well with Bear Dance following the song about a bear. I think I detected a harmonium and a piano as well - unless Jack has got one of these electronic squeezeboxes that can imitate almost any instrument.



Morris Matters



After a generally wonderful season of lovely summer evenings to enjoy local dancing teams, and good weather for the majority of our dancing festivals, it was a pretty

good season for morris dancing. But sometimes all good things have to come to an end, and it is always sad to hear of teams which decide to fold.

From John Blackburn's facebook page:

*www.facebook.com/
john.blackburn.716*

Tarka Morris Men, after 22 years, have decided to hang up their bells and retire. This picture was taken on Sunday 28th September, on their final tour. Thanks to all past members for their friendship, loyalty and good humour.



Competitions in Morris dancing are often a cause for lively debate. On the one hand are the people who feel that Morris dancing should be kept as an amateur social pursuit, as that is part of its charm. Others feel that competition is healthy, as it preserves standards of dance and encourages larger audiences. Certainly, the **John Gasson jig competition** does the latter!


Held during the first Sunday of Sidmouth folkweek, the competition has not failed to fill the Blackmore Gardens marquee since it moved there from the Manor Pavilion Theatre a few years ago. John Gasson was a morris dancer who loved [solo] jig dancing, but was tragically killed on his way to Sidmouth in 1987. The competition was established in memory of him and has been held at Sidmouth every year since then.

Dancing takes place in the middle of the marquee, with the audience (including 4 judges) sitting around the edge. Competitors are of all ages -

from 14 to (umm - around) 70! Dances should not only be technically excellent, but the dance should be 'performed' in the available space, with an excellent interaction with the audience, and in strong partnership with the musician. Yes, there can only be one musician! There are single jig (one dancer) and double jig competitions. Dances may be new or traditional, but must be in the style of Cotswold or Molly.

What is brilliant about the competition (apart from the incomparable Chris Rose's MC'ing), are the inventive and mature winning performances from youngsters - musicians as well as dancers. Those I saw winning a few years ago, come back as judges, start new teams or invigorate existing ones. Fantastic!

To find out more, including the winners, visit:
<http://www.johngassonjig.org.uk/>


 [johngassonjigcompetition](https://www.facebook.com/johngassonjigcompetition)

Sue Hamer-Moss



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