

What's Afoot

No 118 Winter

The official magazine of



Geoff Hodgkinson 2014

WINTER WARMERS

FIRE FESTIVALS AND WASSAILING

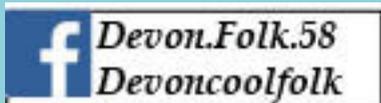
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Articles, features, news to:

EDITOR

John Foxen

devonfolkeditor@gmail.com

129 Tamar Avenue,
Tavistock, Devon,
PL19 9HZ

Assistant Editor

Mab Foxen

All diary dates, events,
club & other listings to:
diary@devonfolk.org.uk

All advertising enquiries
& copy to:

Anne Gill

01803 290427

advert@devonfolk.org.uk

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enquiries:

Brian & Sheila Chappell
2, Penstone Barns, Lease
Hill, Hele, Exeter, EX5 4QA
01392 882156

subscriptions@devonfolk.org.uk

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EDITORIAL

The times they are a-changing

I HOPE you have noticed a number of changes to the magazine. The big one has been the move to colour throughout. The next big change is to bring out What's Afoot four times a year instead of three. The reason for this is to try to make the listings more up to date and to bring in more news about what's happening on the folk scene. This will kick in with the next issue which will cover April, May and June.

Such changes do come at a cost. We have been hit by rising postal costs and print fees. So the bad news is that the cover price will be going up to £1.50 – still less than the price of a pint or a posh coffee.

The extra cash is not going into our pockets. All work on the magazine is voluntary and proceeds go to Devon Folk which this year made three donations of £300 to the Dartmoor, South Brent and Teignmouth festivals. So you know your cash is going to good causes.

NEXT COPY DEADLINE: FEBRUARY 20~~th~~2019

WHAT'S Afoot is published four times a year by Devon Folk, covering April-June, July-September, October-December and January-March. To ensure that readers get maximum benefit from listings that start on the first of the first month, we aim to start distributing in the middle of the month before. This means final copy dates for articles and adverts are: Feb 20th (April-June), May 20th (July-September), August 20th (October-December) and November 20th (January-March).

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Rolling out the

GEOFF HODGKINSON
takes a look at the
county's fabulous
fire festivals

FLAMING tar barrels have been pulled and rolled around England for centuries. They are the perfect component of fire celebrations that date back to pre-Christian times.

Fire was important to our ancestors because it could be a weapon, cook food and keep them warm. It also gave light and that's why festivals celebrating it tend to occur at night and in winter (in UK at least). Legend says fire chased away evil spirits. Smoke could chase away diseases, too. So why not celebrate it?

In the south there is plenty of evidence of fire festivals, although you need to learn what, where and when. They happen around Halloween, often on the same day, and in rural places where old habits die hard. Thomas Hardy wrote one account in *The Return of the Native*. Great reading, if you have the time.

Here in Devon, in early November, there are two Flaming Tar Barrel events that are as true to the origins of a fire festival as you can get.

In Ottery St Mary, a series of Flaming Tar Barrels is "rolled" or, more accurately, run around the streets on the shoulders of designated locals. It starts with the younger generation at dusk with small barrels and finishes after midnight in the town's Square with monster barrels you hardly believe can be lifted, especially when on fire.

This spectacular combination of bravado, chaos and strength attracts too many spectators for the wrong reasons. It is a "must" for fire freaks like me but don't attend unless you have fire in your soul and understand the risks.



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Hodgkinson

GOING FOR THE BURN: Hatherleigh's
fire runners dazzle the dawn

In Hatherleigh, Tar Barrels roll first at 5am and then at 9.30pm, to mark the start and finish of carnival day (Carnival features a dramatic torchlit procession that's worth seeing in its own right). They traverse the town, pulled on a sled by (usually) 16 lads, with a lass or two at times. In recent memory this was a desperate mile-long dash that ended in the Square with a bonfire, but

blazing barrel



Copyright Geoff Hodgkinson

Picture: GEOFF HODGKINSON 2017

Health & Safety has led to a toning down and the runs are more controlled today. Nonetheless, it's uplifting to witness hundreds "running with the barrels" as the lads sprint along two sections of the route. In this digital age, why do these events continue? "Tis a Devon Thing", that's why!

● *Journalist, photographer and filmmaker, Geoff Hodgkinson has taken more than 30,000*

photos of fire-based events. He has made three films of the Hatherleigh Tar Barrels and is a member of Hatherleigh Tar Barrel subcommittee and of Lewes Cliffe Bonfire Society in Sussex. He runs Johns Park Studio, a sound recording venture for encouraging Devon musical talent, and is writing a book on Fire Festivals in Britain. www.johnsparkstudio.rocks

folk music & song on Sunday evenings at

topsham folk club

spring concerts 2019



Crows - *The Globe Malthouse, Fore Street, Topsham EX3 0HR*
Sunday 24 March 2019 at 8pm £12 adv/£14 door

Dave Bordewey, Mick Ryan, James Patterson and Paul Downes have reunited to reform the hugely popular 1980s group Crows. Featuring two of the finest male voices in the English folk tradition; Mick Ryan and James Patterson together with masterly musicianship from James on guitar, Paul on guitar, mandocello, mandolin and banjo and Dave on fiddle and mandola.

Daoiri Farrell - *Matthews Hall, Fore Street, Topsham EX3 0HF*
Sunday 7 April 2019 at 8pm £12 adv/£14 door

A former electrician who changed profession after seeing Christy Moore perform on Irish TV, Dublin-born traditional singer and bouzouki player Daoirí (pronounced 'Derry') Farrell is being described by some of the biggest names in Irish folk music as one of most important singers to come out of Ireland in recent years. Winner of the Horizon Award and Best Traditional Track at the BBC Folk Awards 2017. *'Effortless, instinctive, natural...the real deal.'*
- Mark Radcliffe, BBC Radio 2 Folk Show

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- Mike Harding



Please note there will be no singers' night on 23 December 2018

Wassail in a village steeped in cider

Singer and musician JIM CAUSLEY explains why he is so passionate about the annual apple event in his birthplace

NOBODY knows when the Whimble Wassail began. It was first mentioned in Sabine Baring-Gould's *Devonshire Characters and Strange Events* in 1908 and again in the *Devon & Exeter Gazette* in 1931.

The Whimble History Society has photographs of the ceremony at Rull Farm in 1939, believed to be the last wassail before it stopped for World War II. It was revived in 1983 by the Whimble History Society, largely led by the enormous enthusiasm of the "Mayor of Whimble", John Shepherd. Born in Whimble, he was extremely passionate about his home village – many events and organisations in the village today are a direct legacy of this passion. I first met John as a toddler when I sat upon his knee – playing Father Christmas in the village every year was one of his many roles.

I joined the wassail in my early teens via the village pantomime group, The Whimbletons. The band also played for the wassail procession and I soon got roped in.

Whimble people feel so passionately about their wassail because for more than 100 years, Whimble was home to the once world-famous Whiteways Cider Company. It employed a large proportion of the village, in many cases, several generations of the same family.

In its heyday, Whiteways boasted the largest



Picture: David Angel

cider apple orchards in the world. Some claim indeed but easily justified when you see an aerial photograph of Whimble and the extent of the orchards even to this day. They were particularly prosperous during war years when wines from the Continent were scarce and expensive. It also promoted the health benefits of drinking good old English cider. This belief goes back a long way as Baring-Gould writes of poorly parsons being sent to the

vicarage at Whimble for "six weeks cyder cure". I'm not sure what that involved but I think it's safe to imagine a regular supply of good strong Whimble cider, famed to cure all ailments.

The factory dominated the village and made good use of the railway line to London Waterloo. Entering the village by train, visitors were greeted by the WHITEWAYS sign on top of Whiteways Hill, with all nine enormous letters picked out in white capitals like Devon's answer to Hollywood.

Sadly, Whiteways' fortunes fell with the new taste for things such as lager and Babycham and in the late Nineties, it was bought up by Showerings of Shepton Mallet (in turn bought by Britvic). The factory was demolished and now the site is covered in a sea of Bovis Homes. This Legoland gives no clue to the proud industry that once made the village famous the world over.

I have many fond memories of Whiteways and feel very privileged that I experienced a world

Winter Warmers

now disappeared. My earliest memory is being strapped into the yellow child seat on the back of my mum's pushbike, heading into the village and passing what seemed to me like a ginormous towering factory with its great sliding doors beside the road with huge lorries loading barrels of cider and of course the wonderful smell that permeated the entire village. Our neighbours – who were like an extension of my family – were farmers who also worked for Whiteways.

My best friend Hannah's grandad would give us bottles of Cydrax and Peardrax (two of the soft drinks that were produced by Whiteways) and other merchandise such as branded keyrings which we were very proud to own.

I remember one day at Whimple primary school when there was some mishap at the factory – which loomed over the school – and during play-time a great wave of cider came washing down over the school wall and across the yard. The dinner ladies and caretakers frantically set about evacuating the area which was without doubt the most exciting thing in that school for many, many years!

After the factory closed, my class took our cycling proficiency course in its extensive grounds.

All this history and pride feeds into our passion for the wassail. Villagers remember Whiteways and newcomers have a helping hand from the Whimple Heritage Centre & Whiteways Museum, the crown jewel of the History Society.

It is housed in Lockyers Linhay, a barn that belonged to the New Fountain Inn and was kindly sold to the society for a generous price by the pub. After many years of fundraising, the society

has converted it into a very attractive building with a beautifully presented collection of village history as well as Whiteways artefacts and memorabilia. The History Society gives regular talks, history walks, archive film shows and presentations.

The New Fountain Inn is where the Whimple Wassail begins every January 17th – Old Twelvey Night.



TWELVEY NIGHT: An orchard bonfire, above, and below, Jim Causley leads the singing



Everyone gathers in the pub and then reassembles in the car park for a quick run-through of the ceremony by the village beadle.

Then it's my turn to remind (or teach) people the verses of the wassail song we sing around the trees to be wassailed.

We always begin with one of the last remaining "Whimple Wonder" trees in Mr Reynolds' garden next to the Fountain car park. It is a rare survival of a local variety of cider apple and now several saplings are doing well around the village in a concerted effort to revive this local gem.

Our wassail ceremony follows the standard format: singing to the tree, an incantation to the tree by the wassail King and Queen (always village children), the placing of toast soaked in Wassail (hot mulled cider) in the leaves of the tree, the throwing of apples at the trunk and the banging of pots and pans to scare away any remaining evil spirits who weren't put off by the singing.

A band of local farmers fire several volleys of blanks from their shotguns and lastly, a large cauldron of Wassail is passed around and everyone takes a little in receptacles brought

Winter Warmers

from home. Then we process to the first of three orchards, ending up on the opposite side of the village at the cricket club house.

The procession is led by a band of local musicians playing the Whimble Wassail Processional Tune, a jolly march in two parts; the first in G, the second in D which keeps the musicians from getting too bored on the long walk to the final orchard.

The strength of the band has fluctuated over the years. We have been joined by morris musicians and even members of the Dartmoor Pixie Band but at one stage it was largely led by musicians from the pantomime group who had discarded the original processional tune in favour of Irish folk tunes as they found playing the same tune all night terribly dull!

I have visited several other traditions which involve playing processional tunes and they seem to have no problem in playing the same tune throughout.

As a bit of stickler for tradition, I felt I had to try to save the Whimble Wassail Processional Tune which survives in the Heritage Centre archives on an ancient cassette tape played by an unknown concertina player. I am not unashamed to say I got my way!

I like to think John Shepherd would be proud of me but sadly some musicians left the wassail, offended by me saying they could play Irish tunes in the session in the cricket club after the ceremony. Well you can't please all the people all of the time.

Something particular to Whimble is that we also visit a beech tree in the village square. It lives by the stream (the Celtic Gwyn Pwll from which Whimble derives her name) and at its foot is an ancient tethering stone whose refurbishment was

one of John Shepherd's many projects. Stopping there every year to remember John and all he did for the village, we re-enact the wassail ceremony, have several more volleys of gunfire and finish with three hip-hip-hoorays.

Then it's on to the final orchard of the night. All the orchards are prepared by volunteers and lit beautifully with lanterns to lead wassailers to the correct tree.

Health & Safety is not a prominent part of the proceedings but there are several people in fluorescent jackets pointing the crowds in the right direction, something that seems absent in the photographs from 1931.

Afterwards, everyone heads for the village cricket club for a good old knees-up with pasties, hot soup, apple cake and cheese and plenty of local cider!

The musicians provide the entertainment and all six verses of the wassail song are sung (it was decided long ago that it would be too much for the crowds to commit to memory, so we sing only the first two verses and chorus during the ceremony).

We're a very traditional wassail: no fireworks, bouncy castle, hog-roast or mummies play and you don't pay to take

part. Morris sides have asked to dance. But the history society felt that while morris dancers get to dance throughout the entire year, we wassailers get only one night. They wanted to keep it simple and not mix traditions.

I am naturally very biased but I have attended several wassails (that don't fall on the 17th) and even without my personal connection, Whimble Wassail is still my favourite because I feel it gets to the heart of what wassailing is about.

I once attended a wassail in the grounds of Montacute House in Somerset and it had all the extra entertainment you could imagine. But as we



HERE'S A HEALTH: Cider is shared out at the Whimble Wassail – but do bring your own glass or mug

Winter Warmers

walked around the orchard, wassailing the trees, we trod on last year's apples. Why wassail to ensure a good crop then leave the apples to rot?

Perhaps it's the rich history of cider-making but I feel our wassailers believe in what they are doing and the importance of its continuation.

At the instigation of the History Society, each year I join fellow wassail musician Emma Palmer in leading a daytime wassail for pupils in Whimble Primary School's own orchard. Emma and I love this as we both attended the school and agree there is no better way to preserve a tradition than to get children involved as early as possible.

Baring-Gould's *Devon: A Book of the West* tells of a crippled old farmer's wife in East Devon. The last member of her family, she looked after her farm alone. So thoroughly did she believe in wassailing that she would go out into her orchards every old twelvey night, in the unforgiving January weather, and wassail the trees all by herself.

If that isn't an example of dedication to a tradition, I don't know what is. It is exactly the same spirit you find with the Whimble Wassailers.

I get an email every December from Roger Smith, chairman of the Whimble History Society (who was born in the village), asking if I can play for the procession.

I always reply that neither hell nor high water would keep me away and if one day I am the only one alive who remembers Whiteways and the wassail then like that dear old farmer's wife I shall gladly stagger around wassailing by myself.

- *THE Whimble Wassail song can be heard on Jim's album Fruits of the Earth (2005 WildGoose Records). The striking cover picture was used at the beginning of this article.*

- *THE Whimble Heritage Centre is open to visitors on Saturdays 10:30-16:00 and Wednesdays 13:00-15:00. April 1-September 30. Tel: 01404 822499 www.whimble.org*

- *A review of Jim's latest CD, Special Commissions, appears on page 36.*

If your village has a winter warmer, spring special or summer celebration that should be highlighted then let us know. Send an email to devonfolkeditor@gmail.com

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Baring the secrets of Baring-Gould

Martin Graebe's book provides many insights into the life of the pioneering song collector

SABINE Baring-Gould still looms over Devon's folk music scene nearly 100 years after his death.

His monumental legacy of songs and tunes he collected includes so many that have become staples of any singaround or session, such as *Sweet Nightingale*, *Fathom The Bowl* and *Widdecombe Fair*.

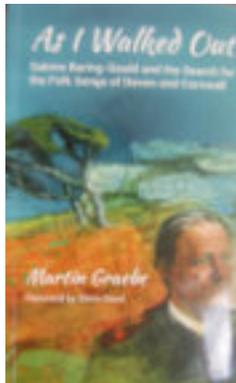
He certainly deserves praise but the parson of Lew Trenchard has come in for more than his fair share of fierce criticism for rewriting songs, bowdlerising them or even making them up wholesale.

Now a book by singer and songwriter Martin Graebe brings us a warts-and-all portrait of the gentleman collector. *As I Walked Out* is a work of scholarship of which Baring-Gould himself might have approved.

Martin not only tells us about the clergyman but also offers portraits of the singers whose work he collected. For instance, we learn of James Parsons of Lew Down, who told Baring-Gould that one evening at a pub he was offered a quart of ale for every fresh song he could sing.

"Well, your honour, I sat down again and I zinged on... I zinged 16 fresh songs and that chap had to pay for 16 quarts." But this took its toll. Parsons admitted: "I hadn't come to the end of my songs only I were that fuddled I couldn't remember no more."

We also hear of Baring-Gould's collaborators



such as the dandyish musician Frederick Bussell who noted so many of the tunes, often under difficult circumstances, as this anecdote from the book illustrates.

"One wild and stormy day," wrote Baring-Gould, "Mr Bussell and I visited Huccaby to interview old Sally Satterley who knew a number of songs. Her father was a notable singer and his old daughter, now a grandmother, remembered some of his songs.

"But old Sally could not sit down and sing. We found that the sole way in which we could extract the ballads from her was by following her about as she did her usual work.

"Accordingly, we went after her when she fed the pigs or got sticks from the firewood rick or filled a pail from the spring, pencil and notebook in hand dotting down words and melody.

"Finally, she did sit to peel some potatoes when Mr Bussell with a manuscript music book in hand seated himself on the copper. This position he maintained as she sang the ballad of *Lord Thomas and the Fair Eleanor* till her daughter applied fire under the cauldron and Mr Bussell was forced to skip from his perch."

It's a nice image – the foppish Bussell leaping, squeaking from a boiler that was being fired up beneath him – but the tale may well have been embroidered by Baring-Gould.

Even his half-brother Arthur said: "I don't think

Song Collecting

that Sabine ever told a story just as it happened but must needs colour it up a little.” Fellow song-collector Frank Kidson was even more blunt, saying of *Songs Of The West*: “I cannot in the least believe that a single song is there placed as it was sung to Baring-Gould.”

Martin points out many instances where Baring-Gould has rewritten songs not only because he felt they were coarse but he also altered words here and there for no apparent reason. *Strawberry Fair* is such a huge rewrite that although we have the original words (considered far too risqué at the time), we have no idea what the original tune was.

But he defends Baring-Gould against the charge of censoring *Three Drunken Maidens*. The parson's version says they paid for their drink with their mantles rich and fine and not their maidenheads. However, Martin finds no evidence of censorship and believes the maidenheads are an addition by Bert Lloyd, another equally important collector with a reputation for embellishing the truth a little.

While he finds a lot to criticise, Martin finds more to praise in the parson. He made mistakes and could be infuriating in his cavalier way with details. He got the names and ages of his informants wrong.

But as folk historian Steve Roud points out in his introduction to *As I Walked Out*, Baring-Gould had to invent the role of “song collector” from scratch so some mistakes were inevitable.

Baring-Gould recognised that the old songs were being lost because the younger folk

despised what their fathers were singing. He was desperate not just to save them but also to bring them to the widest possible audience. In his eyes, that meant tailoring them for a Victorian audience with all its prudery. Also, he did not feel the public would accept plain unadorned folk songs and decided they needed the flowery piano accompaniments provided by his collaborators.

These piano parts may no longer be to our taste but they prompted some people to become interested in “real folk”. In much the same way, the rock settings of ballads by Fairport Convention and Steeleye Span have led many listeners to performers such as Sam Larner and Bob Cann.

It's nearly as impossible to summarise this book as it is to summarise the life of Baring-Gould. As Martin shows us, he was not only a folk song collector but also a novelist, chronicler of the lives of the great saints and the doings of werewolves, teacher, translator of Icelandic sagas and also a country parson.

I have no hesitation in recommending this book to anyone with an interest in folk music. It is packed with information about the collector, his contemporaries and his sources. There are 12 songs and a very informative essay by Julia Bishop on the music in Baring-Gould's collection.

It is not only an enjoyable read but a book of reference to be returned to time and time again. Hats off to the parson and his biographer.

John Foxen

• *As I Walked Out: Sabine Baring-Gould and the Search For The Folk Songs Of Devon And Cornwall is published by Signal (www.signalbooks.co.uk)*

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NEW LOOK:
Tricia and John and two of the Guild Hall windows that inspired their songs, the Civil War and Pilgrim Fathers scenes

Duo opens window on the city's past

MANY artists claim they sweated blood on their latest opus but Tricia Moore literally gave blood for her new CD.

Tricia, half of folk duo Silvington, was doing her bit as a blood donor at Plymouth Guild Hall, when she noticed the stained glass windows depicting great events in the city's history.

Among them she spotted William Cookworthy, the Quaker credited with discovering the formula for making English porcelain, and thought: "We've got a song about him."

Next to William were the Pilgrim Fathers. "We've got a song about them as well," thought Tricia. "There's a song in every window."

So she and musical partner John Connor, stalwarts of the Folk On The Moor club at Lee Mill and well known on the Devon scene, set to work writing songs about the characters and events depicted.

The result is their new album, *A Song In Every Window*, which should be out now (What's Afoot was given access to a rough mix). The windows

have certainly provided rich material for Silvington's third CD. Plymouth is no stranger to war and this is reflected in John and Tricia's songs.

The Black Prince set sail from Plymouth to ravage France. John's song takes the point of view of a humble soldier telling his love he will return from the war.

The Bretons hammered Plymouth (happily the city is now twinned with Brest) but *The Breton Raid*, which has a cracking chorus, tells how they got their comeuppance at Blackpool Sands.

There's another fine chorus on the Civil War song *The Siege of Plymouth*.

You can't ignore the Armada, of course, but Tricia finds a new angle on the old story by suggesting he might have had a little supernatural aid to beat the Spaniards. But an entirely different light is cast on the hero in *The Fyshinge Feaste* which commemorates him bringing fresh water to Plymouth through the construction of a great channel down from the moor.

There is a sad song about Catherine of Aragon

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who landed at Plymouth before travelling to London and marrying two kings before being cast aside. But the mood changes to comic with *Sir Walter's Almain*. The singers admit that their take on the story of Raleigh owes a lot to Bob Newhart's classic Tobacco sketch and to Blackadder. Well, if you're going to steal, steal from the best.

The Almain is written in mock-Elizabethan style and the two fine guitarists strive to keep a traditional feel to the music.

The notable exception is *Dancing On the Hoe*, about the city's inhabitants surviving the air raids. This has a very strong jive feel.

The 13 songs feature good harmonies and good stories. Most importantly, they open a window to the past.

You can order a copy of *A Song in Every Window* through Silvington's website, www.silvington.org

John Foxen



FOLK ON THE MOOR THE WESTWARD INN LEE MILL, nr IVYBRIDGE



GUEST LIST

2 DEC	JIGANTICS
16 DEC	JOHNNY COPPIN & CO
6 JAN	GEOFF LAKEMAN
20 JAN	LAKEMAN/ROBERTS
3 FEB	JIM REYNOLDS
24 FEB	SAM KELLY DUO
3 MAR	MOIRAI
17 MAR	MARTYN WYNDHAM-READ
31 MAR	JOE TOPPING

7.45pm
SUNDAYS
Club closed
30 December.
Non-specified
dates are
Open
House

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

Jeremy Child

Barn Dance Caller



www.barndancecaller.net

Experienced caller provides lively dancing to recorded music or live band.

"So many people said it was the best wedding do they'd ever been to. You really made our day - thank you" **Barry & Sue Wakefield**

"A superb caller and a bundle of fun to boot - he made our party go with a swing" **John Kelly**

"Everyone had a great time from young to old and it was a great way for our guests to mingle and break the ice. Jeremy was a brilliant and enthusiastic caller." **Alex and Rhian Hamilton**

01392 422119 jeremy.m.child@gmail.com

Contra Dance in Exeter

Second Friday in Every Month (except August): 7:30pm to 10:30pm

www.tinyurl.com/ContraExeter

01392 422 119 / 07969 297 633 contraexeter@gmail.com

SPONSORS OF DEVON FOLK

Devon Telecom

Play the moment, pause the memories
info@devontelecom.co.uk

UP to about five years ago, the Great Western Ceilidhs were a regular feature of the Devon folk dance scene with good bands, good callers, well attended by an enthusiastic core of dancers who made every ceilidh a roaring success.

Despite being popular, the ceilidhs became less frequent and soon stopped. I believe one reason is that they were losing money. Nationally famous bands and callers are expensive.

This was bad news not only for the dancers but for the local folk dance clubs, for whom public ceilidhs act as a feeder for new dancers.

While doing the occasional public ceilidh, I heard many former Great Western Ceilidhs attendees bemoan the lack of the series, while others asked where else they could dance.

At a Spinach for Norman ceilidh to celebrate 25 years of playing I realised just how much enthusiasm there still was for ceilidhs. The thought sat in my mind until the demise of the Exeter Folk Dance Club. The club volunteered the balance of its funds to be used for promoting and advertising folk events in Devon.

This was when the idea started to fully form. Devon has plenty of excellent bands, surely a locally based ceilidh series was all there but for the organising? I used my contacts with bands and started to call in some favours. The idea was the bands would take all the money on the door less the cost of the room. That would encourage them to publicise their own gigs (as well as others) and they would take the reward along with the risk.

So far so good. I wanted bands that had their own following, particularly for the early gigs. This would work only if we started with a bang and kept the pace up. The more people go to a dance, the more go to the next one, and the next one... So I went for a series rather than a couple of test gigs - if you're going to go for it, go for it big style.

I approached eight bands, seven I had called with and one I had great respect for. Three of those (Spinach for Norman, Pigs Might Fly and Dartmoor Pixie Band) had their own following among local dancers, a fourth also had a following, but was not quite so local (Bloatertown, North Devon), and the rest (Amber Fire, Stick the

Fiddle, Dumbo's Feather, Phoenix) I knew were good to dance to. To my great pleasure, they all said yes with enthusiasms.

Sadly, Bloatertown has decided to disband, following the death of its bass player (see *Obituary*, page 38).

I wanted a regular date and a regular venue. The regular date proved fairly easy – the key thing is to avoid clashes. The only regular local dances are at Willand (second Saturday) and Bridport (first Saturday, and an hour away). So I settled on the fourth Saturday, as far as possible from the Willand dance, and avoiding Bridport. I knew I was going to have to adjust in the first year as doing it all at relatively short notice not everyone, everywhere would be available on the dates I wanted. I wanted to start in October (September was too early to get the publicity machine going) and go through to June, missing out December.

I looked at 16 venues around Exeter. My favourite (St Matthews Hall in Newton) was quickly ruled out. They had just imposed a 10pm curfew for new bookings. The others were whittled down fairly quickly: too expensive, too small, no alcohol, carpeted, not available... Even the old GWC venue of Bowhill Primary School couldn't be used as the caretaker wasn't prepared to lock up on a Saturday evening.

So it came down to the Kenn Centre.

Initially I was wary of a venue outside Exeter without public transport then I realised that for those travelling from outside Exeter (and there would be quite a few) the Kenn Centre was quicker and easier to get to, thus expanding our "range". Add to this its cheap, excellent facilities, lots of free parking and nice size.

My initial plan of eight gigs failed as combinations of band and hall availability meant we just could not find an October date, and (again because of clashes) the November one would not work. However December 1 worked for everyone, so I decided to start the series then. This gave plenty of time to prepare and to advertise it to the local folk dance clubs and other avenues.

So here we are: December 1, Kenn Centre, 8pm, Spinach for Norman. Be there.

Exeter Ceilidhs

Kenn Centre, Kennford EX6 7UE

Saturdays 8pm to 11pm

£8 (Under 16 £4, Under 10 Free)

1st December 2018	Spinach for Norman
26th January 2019	Pigs Might Fly
2nd March	Amber Fire
23rd March	Dartmoor Pixie Band
27th April	Dumbo's Feather
25th May	Phoenix

07969 297 633 contact@exeterceilidhs.net

www.exeterceilidhs.net



The Mooncoin
Ceilidh Band

South Devon based band
playing lively dance music with
a strong Irish flavour.

Own Caller

Instruments include Melodeon,
Guitar, Bouzouki, Fiddle, Bodhran,
Whistle & Uilleann Pipes

Available for Weddings, Barn Dances
Anniversaries, Conferences etc.

To book the band please contact
Anne & Steve Gill
01803 290427
annemgill@tiscali.co.uk

BRIXHAM FOLK CLUB
The Old Coaching Inn
61, Fore Street, Brixham
TQ5 8AG

First Friday in the Month
8pm

Admission on singers'
nights £3.00/performers
£2.00

For more information phone
Steve & Anne Gill
01803 290427

For more on events at
The Old Coaching Inn
events@theoldcoachinginnbrixham.uk

WILLAND FOLK DANCE CLUB

SATURDAY DANCES
Willand Village Hall

December 22nd
Monday December 31st

Robert Blackborow and Weston Country Band
New Year's Eve Dance – Jane Thomas and
Simon Maplesden and Chris Toyne's Big Band

January 12th
February 9th
March 9th

Jeremy Child and Spinach for Norman
Aileen Wills and Pair of Shears
Gill Spence and Jigs for Gigs

Admission £8.00 Bring & share supper Raffle
Contact: Zena Roberts 01884 253546 www.willandfolkdanceclub.co.uk

Club Nights 2nd & 4th Thursdays 8.00 – 10.30pm in the Village Hall
Members £3.50 / Non-members £4.00 – See Diary Dates for more information
Contact Marilyn Broom 01404 47200 or Zena Roberts 01884 253546

What's On Where

THE latest listings appear in the following section. We try our best to keep up to date but events can be subject to change (especially at folk clubs) so we suggest you check before setting off, either by ringing the organisers or going to the venue's website.

If no contact details have been provided, an excellent reference point is the flaxey-green website www.flaxey-green.co.uk

Contact details for clubs, bands and callers and diary dates for regular and specific events are now being coordinated by Trevor Paul.

Any information sent to diary@devonfolk.org.uk or trevor@flaxey-green.co.uk will be shared between Devon Folk publications (What's Afoot and website) and the flaxey-green website.

The details in this section are believed to be correct at the time of compilation. The editor accepts no responsibility for subsequent changes.

Our Devon Folk website www.devonfolk.org.uk has the latest updates that we have been given.

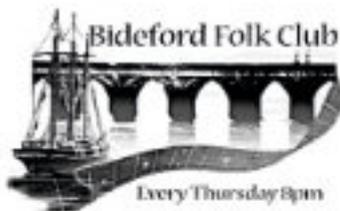
Please notify of us of any changes to contact details for clubs etc.

Teignmouth Folk Club The Oystercatcher's Café Northumberland Place

Last Thursday in the Month
8pm Free admission

29 th November	-	Open Night
27 th December	-	Open Night
31 st January	-	Guest TBA
28 th February	-	Open Night
28 th March	-	Open Night
25 th April	-	Guest TBA

Further details from
Martyn Hillstead
01626 778071/07904037812
martynggh@aol.com



The Joiners Arms
Market Place, Bideford, EX30 2DR

Friendly weekly club – bring a song or tune, join in or just sit and listen.

Everyone welcome.

Singarounds most weeks with about eight guests year.

Upstairs in the skittle alley.

Guests for 2019 to be confirmed

Website: www.bidefordfolkclub.com

John Purser
01237 424286
bidefolk@gmail.com

Regular Events

MONDAY WEEKLY

DANCE

Bridport FDC (except holidays).

WI Hall. 7.30pm Monty Crook,
01308 423442.

Chudleigh FDC, Chudleigh Town
Hall. Term time. Music from 7pm.

Mary Marker 01626 854141

Kilmington VH, 2-4 pm. Janet

Bulpin 01297 33019

Sidford Scottish at VH

SESSION

Totnes, Bay Horse

Appledore Royal Hotel

SONG

Kingsteignton, Acoustic

Warehouse, Newton Abbot RFC,
Rackerhayes, Newton Road, TQ12
3SJ. 7.30pm. Nigel 07989 180091

MONDAY FORTNIGHTLY

SESSION

Fremington New Inn (1st, 3rd)

Totnes, Bay Horse (1st, 3rd) 8.30pm

MONDAY MONTHLY

MUSIC

Chittlehampton, Bell Inn (2nd).

Totnes, Bay Horse (4th) Irish.

Welcome, Old Smithy (2nd) Irish.

SESSION

Clovelly, Red Lion (1st)

Moretonhampstead, White Horse
(last)

Plymouth, Dolphin (2nd)

South Zeal, Kings Arms (3rd)

Topsham, Bridge Inn (2nd) Blues

STORY

Totnes, Pie Street, High Street,
TQ9 5RY. (2nd) South Devon
Storytellers, 7.30pm

TUESDAY WEEKLY

SESSION Appledore

The
Champ

DANCE

Exmouth Isca Scottish Dancers,
Sept-May. East Budleigh Church

Hall 7.30pm. Mr & Mrs VJ Tyler,
01395 276913

Kennford, Kenn Centre, Isca

Allemanders Square Dance Club.

7.30pm Carol Lockton 01626

867392

Launceston FDC. St John

Ambulance Hall. Rosemary 01566

774491

Plymouth, Country Dance. (Sept-

May). Trinity URC Hall. Jacqui Joint,

01752 774484

Sidford FDC at VH. Helen 01395

514161

Totnes Scottish Folk, 7.15pm

King Edward VI School

TUESDAY FORTNIGHTLY

DANCE

Kingsteignton FDC. Church Hall.

Jean Foster 01626 363887 (2nd, 4th)

Wiveliscombe FDC, (2nd, 4th).

Community Centre. 01984 623495

MUSIC

Bere Ferrers, Old Plough (1st , 3rd)

SESSION

Exmouth Manor Hotel (3rd, 5th)

Jeff Lewis 01395 269232

SONG

Bradninch White Lion (1st), Castle
(3rd)

Plymouth, Artillery Arms (1st, 3rd)
8.30pm

South Brent, Pack Horse (2nd, 4th)

8.30pm Eileen McKee 01364 73699

TUESDAY MONTHLY

SESSION

Bradninch, West End Hall (2nd).

Colin Wilson 01392 882036

Calstock, Boot Inn (2nd) Mike
07725 579718

Chipshop (nr Tavistock) Copper
Penny (4th) Mike 07725 579718

Frogmore, Globe Inn (1st) 8.30pm.

Shebbear, Devil's Stone (2nd)

SONG

Coleford, New Inn (last) Winter

months only. 01363 84242

Nadderwater, Royal Oak (3rd)

Exeter Trad. FSC

Sandford, Lamb Inn (1st) Paul &

Hazel 01363 776275

MUSIC

Topsham, Bridge Inn (1st)

WEDNESDAY WEEKLY

SESSION

Appledore, Royal Hotel

Exmouth, Beacon Vaults

Torquay Ryans Bar

DANCE

Bideford FDC, Northam VH. Chris

Jewell, 01237 423554

Gittisham FDC, VH. 01404 813129

Newton Abbot, Jolly Farmer. Irish.

Maggie Daniel, 01626 204350

West Charleton VH. South Hams

FDC, Philip Worth 01548 561415

Isca Scottish Dancers, Sept-May.

Budleigh Salterton Public Hall.

10am-noon. Mr & Mrs V. J. Tyler,

01395 276913.

WED FORTNIGHTLY

DANCE

Crowcombe Halsway Manor FDG
(1st, 3rd)

MUSIC

Exeter, Globe (2nd, 4th)

SONG

Totnes, Bay Horse (2nd, 4th)

WEDNESDAY MONTHLY

SESSION

Brixham Maritime Inn. 9pm (3rd)

Dawlish, South Devon Inn. (last)

Honiton, Beehive Centre (2nd)

7.30pm

SONG

Lympstone, Globe. (2nd) Brian
Mather 01395 27859

Lympstone, Saddler's Arms (4th)
01395 225075

Pennymoor Singaround, Cruwys
Arms (3rd). Biddy Mallabone 01271

Regular events

373305

Sidmouth, Anchor (1st)

Uffculme Culm Music &

Performance Club at VH (last).

Brian Bennelick 01884 840192

SESSION

Malborough, Royal Oak, (2ndd)

Plymouth, Hyde Inn (2ndd). Alis

01752 662002

MUSIC

Seaton. Eyre Court (3rd) Jurassic

Folk. Adrian 01404 549903

Swimbridge, Jack Russell Inn (1st)

THURSDAY WEEKLY

DANCE

Crewkerne FDC, St Bartholomew's

Church. Jean 01460 72505

Newton Poppleford American

square dance classes, VH, 2-4pm.

Jean Stickland 01395 568155

Tavistock FDC, Town Hall.

Margaret Holt, 01822 855858

SESSION

Plymouth, Minerva Inn, 8.30pm

SONG

Bideford FSC, Joiners Arms. John

Purser 01237 424286

Bishopsteignton, Red Rock

Brewery 7.30pm. John Morey

07791 054773

Denbury, Union Inn, Steve

Bassett, 01803 812537

THURS FORTNIGHTLY

DANCE

Chard FDC, Combe St Nicholas VH.

7.30pm Hillary Durrant 01460

61996

Exmouth FDC (1st, 3rd).

Withycombe Methodist Ch Hall.

Chris Miles 01395 275592

Willand FDC at VH. (2ndd, 4th) Zena

Roberts 01884 253546

MUSIC

Willand Club Band at VH. (1st,

3rd) Mary Marker 01626 854141

WEST GALLERY

Crediton, St Lawrence Chapel.

Sonja Andrews 01363 877216

THURS MONTHLY

MUSIC

Churchstow, Church House Inn

(1st)

South Brent, Royal Oak (3rd)

SESSION

Exmouth, Bicton Inn (1st)

Frogmore, Globe. (3rd) 8.30pm

Nadderwater, Royal Oak (1st)

SONG

Brixham, Quayside Hotel (1st)

Teignmouth FSC, Oystercatcher

Cafe (last)

FRIDAY WEEKLY

DANCE

Bideford Country Dance Club,

Northam VH. John Blackburn

01237 476632

Dartington FDC at VH. Sheila

Chappell, 01392 882156

Newton Poppleford American

Square Dance classes. VH 10am-.

01297 33019

Salcombe Regis FDC, St Peter's Ch

Hall, Sidford. Mrs D Cooper,

01395 513131

SONG

Bodmin FSC, Band & Social Club.

www.bodminfolkclub.co.uk

FRIDAY FORTNIGHTLY

DANCE

Aylesbeare FDC at VH.

Ted Farmer 01392 466326

FRIDAY MONTHLY

DANCE

Exeter D'accord French, St

Matthews Hall. Mike Long

01392 811593. Not regular.

Exeter Contra Dance, St

Katherine's Priory, 7.30pm (2nd).

Jeremy Child 01392 422119

South Brent Fest Noz, Palstone

Recreation Hall(1st)

SESSION

Plympton, Union Inn (last)

SONG

Brixham FSC, Old Coaching Inn.

(1st). Steve & Anne Gill 01803

290427

Carhampton, Butchers Arms.

(2nd). Lynda Baker 01643 702994

Exeter Folk & Acoustic Club,

Victoria Tennis Club (last). Peter

Cornelius 01392 210983.

Marldon. Old Smokey House (3rd)

Folk Plus Acoustic Club. Paul

01803 550153

Milton Abbot Ma's FSC, VH (3rd)

SAT FORTNIGHTLY

SONG

Combe Martin, Shammick

Acoustic, Pack of Cards. (2ndd, 4th).

Tom & Barbara Brown 01271

882366

SAT MONTHLY

SESSION

West Anstey, Jubilee Inn (1st) 7pm

SONG

Brendon, Staghunters (3rd) Carole

Henderson-Begg, 01769 540581

Linkinhorne, Church House Inn

(1st) Mike Warman 01579 382711

SUNDAY WEEKLY

MUSIC

Appledore, Coach & Horses, 4pm

SONG

Lee Mill, Westward Inn. Folk on

the Moor. 7.45pm. Anton Horwich

01822 853620

Topsham FSC, Globe Hotel. Guest

nights at Matthews Hall. John

Stephens 01392 875332

SUNDAY FORTNIGHTLY

SONG

Bude FSC, Falcon Hotel, Debbie

Merrett, 01409 254144

Regular Events

SESSION

Parracombe, Hunter's Inn (2nd, 4th)
Plymouth, Morley Arms, (1st, 3rd)
3pm.

SUNDAY MONTHLY

SONG

Bere Ferrers, Old Plough. (3rd)
8.30pm

Okehampton, Plume of Feathers,
Okey Folky. (Last) Debbie Jessop

07773 479375

Scorriton, Tradesman's Arms. (4th)
7.30pm. 01364 631308

Sticklepath, Devonshire Inn. (1st)
Derek Moore 01837 840316

SESSION

Exmouth, Bicton Inn (1st) 9.30pm.

Totnes, Bay Horse. (2nd) bluegrass.

MUSIC

Pennymoor, Cruwys Arms (last)
Lunchtime

Plymouth, Dolphin. (1st) 1.30pm

DAY UNSPECIFIED

DANCE

Beacon Wheel Chair Dancers. Sue
Cummings 01803 554799

Teign Playford Club. Mrs Jean
Foster 01626 363887

University of Exeter FDC
mason.rj@btconnect.com

Specific Events

DECEMBER

SATURDAY 1ST

WORKSHOP

Devon Folk Event. Community Hall
Primary School, Lawn Drive,
Chudleigh TQ13 0LS. 10.30am to
3.30pm, Music for Morris dancing.

CONCERTS

St Mary's Parish Church,
Kingskerswell TQ12 5LD. 7pm,
Sound Of The Sirens + Samantics

Dolphin Hotel, Station Road, Bovey
Tracey TQ19 9AL. 7.30pm, Sarah
McQuaid.

Harberton Parish Hall, Tristford
Road, Harberton TQ9 7SE nr
Totnes. 8pm, Belshazzar's Feast.

CEILIDH

Exeter Ceilidhs. The Kenn Centre,
Exeter Road, Kennford, Exeter, EX6
7UE. 8pm, Spinach for Norman.

Bridport Ceilidhs. Church House (St
Mary's) Hall, South Street, Bridport
DT6 3NW. 7.30pm, Doug Eunson &
Sarah Matthews, Ray Goodswen.

SUNDAY 2ND

SONG

Folk on the Moor, Westward Inn,
Lee Mill, 7.45 pm. Jigantics

TUESDAY 4TH

CONCERT

St Mary's Church, Kingskerswell

TQ12 5LD. 7pm, Elles Bailey

Exeter Phoenix, Gandy Street,
Exeter EX4 3LS. 7pm, Thea Gilmore

DANCE Sidford Folk Dance Club,
Aileen Wills, Ivor and Holly

WEDNESDAY 5TH

DANCE

Gittisham Folk Dance Club. Home
Brew, Jill Spence

Halsway Folk Dance Group. Jeroka,
Simon Maplesden. Halsway Manor

THURSDAY 6TH

CONCERTS

Exmouth Pavilion Esplanade, EX8
2AZ. 7.30pm, Show of Hands with
Miranda Sykes and Cormac Byrne.

DANCE

Exmouth Folk Dance Club. Chris
Miles

FRIDAY 7TH

CONCERTS

Exmouth Pavilion Esplanade, Show
of Hands, see Thursday for details
Hatch Court, Loddiswell.
Meridianum Ensemble, Hiemalis
Tour

Beehive Arts Centre, Dowell Street,
Honiton, EX14 1LZ. 8.00pm, Sound
of the Sirens + Samantics

SATURDAY 8TH

CONCERTS

Totnes, Barrel House, 59a High

Street, Totnes, TQ9 5PB. 8pm,
Martin Harley.

Exmouth Pavilion Esplanade, Show
of Hands, see Thursday for details.

Barbican Theatre, Castle Street,
Plymouth PL1 2NJ. 7.30pm, The
Dylan Project.

St Michael's Church, Chagford
TQ13 8BN. Meridianum Ensemble,
Hiemalis Tour

SONG Shammick Acoustic Open
Night, Pack o' Cards, Combe
Martin.

SUNDAY 9TH

CONCERT Ashburton Arts Centre,
TQ13 7DT. Meridianum Ensemble,
Hiemalis Tour

TUESDAY 11TH

CONCERT St Mary's Church,
Kingskerswell TQ12 5LD. 7pm,
Peter Knight and John Spiers.

DANCE Sidford Folk Dance Club,
Gill Spence, Amy Crofters Band

WEDNESDAY 12TH

DANCE Gittisham Folk Dance
Club. Fresh Aire, Jane Thomas.

THURSDAY 13TH

DANCE Willand Folk Dance
Club. Friendly Folk, Ted Farmer.

SONG Totnes Folk Song Club.
Club night with traditional carols

Specific Events

FRIDAY 14TH

CONCERT

The Plough@TheGeorge, The George Hotel, 1 Broad Street, South Molton EX36 3AB. 8pm Peter Knight and John Spiers.

DANCE Contra Dance. Countess Wear Village Hall, Exeter, EX2 6LB. 7.30pm, Jeremy Child

CONCERT The Beehive Arts Centre, Dowell Street, Honiton, EX14 1LZ. 8.00pm, The Standing Waves + Sadie Horler and her band

SATURDAY 15TH

CONCERT The Plough Arts Centre, 9–11 Fore Street, Great Torrington, EX38 8HQ. 8pm, Seth Lakeman

SUNDAY 16TH

SONG

Shammick Acoustic. The 16th annual Midwinter Carols Night
Folk on the Moor, Westward Inn, Lee Mill, 7.45pm, Johnny Coppin.

TUESDAY 18TH

SONG Bradninch Folk Club. The Castle Hotel, Bradninch EX5 1NN. 7.45pm, Geoff Lakeman.

DANCE Sidford Folk Dance Club, Jane Thomas, Fresh Aire

WEDNESDAY 19TH

DANCE

Gittisham Folk Dance Club. Pair of Shears, Jeremy Child

Halsway Folk Dance Group. John and Mary Brock, Jane Thomas. Halsway Manor

CONCERTS

The Watermark, Erme Court, Leonards Road, Ivybridge PL21 0SZ. 7.30pm, Mad Dog Mcrea

Barbican Theatre, Castle Street, Plymouth PL1 2NJ. 8pm, Jim Causley - A Causley Christmas

THURSDAY 20TH

CONCERT The Beehive Arts Centre, Dowell Street, Honiton,

EX14 1LZ. 8pm, Mad Dog Mcrea

SATURDAY 22ND

DANCE Willand Folk Dance Club. Willand Village Hall, Gables Road, Cullompton, Devon EX15 2PL. 8pm, Weston Country Dance Band, Robert Blackborow.

CONCERT Shammick Acoustic, Pack o' Cards, Combe Martin. Vicki Swan & Jonny Dyer's Winter Warmer

SUNDAY 23RD

SONG Shammick Acoustic, Midwinter carols Night. High Street, Combe Martin, Ilfracombe EX34 0HS. 7.30pm

THURSDAY 27TH

CEILIDH South Brent Village Hall. Twixt Christmas and New Year ceilidh. 7pm, Buttoned Up.

MONDAY 31ST

DANCE Willand Folk Dance Club. Willand VH Gables Road, Cullompton, EX15 2PL. 8pm, Chris Toyne's Big Band, Jane & Simon.

JANUARY

SATURDAY 5TH

CEILIDH Bridport Ceilidhs. Church House (St Mary's) Hall, South Street, DT6 3NW. 7.30pm, Jigs for Gigs, Mike Courthold.

TUESDAY 8TH

DANCE Sidford Folk Dance Club, Jeremy Child

WEDNESDAY 9TH

DANCE Gittisham Folk Dance Club, Gittisham Village Hall. Jeroka, Simon Maplesden.

FRIDAY 11TH

DANCE Contra Dance, Countess Wear Village Hall, Exeter, EX2 6LB. 7.30pm, Stick the Fiddle, Jeremy Child.

SATURDAY 12TH

SONG Shammick Acoustic Open Night Pack o' Cards, Combe Martin

DANCE Willand Folk Dance Club. Willand Village Hall, Gables Road, Cullompton, Devon EX15 2PL. 8pm, Spinach For Norman, Jeremy Child.

SUNDAY 13TH

SONG Folk on the Moor, Westward Inn, Lee Mill, 7.45 pm.

TUESDAY 15TH

DANCE Sidford Folk Dance Club, Simon Maplesden

WEDNESDAY 16TH

DANCE

Gittisham Folk Dance Club, VH. Jigs for Gigs, Aileen Wills.

Halsway Folk Dance Group. Stringaccord, Ian Ludbrook. Venue TBC

SATURDAY 19TH

CONCERT A Gallery Gig, Plough Arts Centre, Gt. Torrington EX38 8HQ. 8.15pm, Loveworthy.

TUESDAY 22ND

DANCE Sidford Folk Dance Club, Jane Thomas

WEDNESDAY 23RD

DANCE Gittisham Folk Dance Club. Gittisham Village Hall. Chris Toyne, Janet Bulpin.

THURSDAY 24TH

DANCE Willand Folk Dance Club. Jane Thomas, Petronella.

SATURDAY 26TH

SONG

Shammick Acoustic, Pack o' Cards, Combe Martin. Jez Lowe

CEILIDH Exeter Ceilidhs. The Kenn Centre, Exeter Road, Kennford, EX6 7UE. 8pm, Pigs Might Fly.

Specific Events

TUESDAY 29TH

DANCE Sidford Folk Dance Club, Ted Farmer

WEDNESDAY 30TH

DANCE Gittisham Folk Dance Club, Gittisham Village Hall. Raleigh Reelers, Ray Goodswen.

FEBRUARY

SATURDAY 2ND

CONCERTS

Dolphin Hotel, Station Road, Bovey Tracey TQ19 9AL. 7.30pm, Bob Cheevers.

The Watermark, Erme Court, Leonards Road, Ivybridge PL21 0SZ 7.30pm, Steve Knightly

CEILIDH Bridport Ceilidhs. Church House (St Mary's) Hall, South Street, DT6 3NW. 7.30pm, Skillicorne, Nick Walden.

TUESDAY 5TH

DANCE Sidford Folk Dance Club, Simon Maplesden.

WEDNESDAY 6TH

DANCE

Gittisham Folk Dance Club. Gittisham Village Hall. Pair of Shears, Jane Thomas.

Halsway Folk Dance Group. Band, venue TBC

FRIDAY 8TH

DANCE Contra Dance, Countess Wear Village Hall, Exeter, EX2 6LB. 7.30pm. Chris Jewell, Jeremy Child.

SATURDAY 9TH

SONG Shammick Acoustic Open Night, Pack o' Cards, Combe Martin

DANCE Willand Folk Dance Club, VH, Gables Road, EX15 2PL. 8pm, Aileen Wills, Pair of Shears.

SUNDAY 10TH

SONG

Folk on the Moor, Westward Inn, Lee Mill, 7.45pm.

Topsham Folk Club, Malt House, The Globe Hotel, Fore Street

TUESDAY 12TH

DANCE Sidford Folk Dance Club, Jane Thomas, Jigs For Gigs.

WEDNESDAY 13TH

DANCE Gittisham Folk Dance Club, Gittisham Village Hall. Brian Graham, Ted Farmer.

FRIDAY 15TH

CONCERT Exeter Corn Exchange - Market Street, Exeter, EX1 1BW. 7.30pm, Fairport Convention

SATURDAY 16TH

CONCERT Dolphin Hotel, Station Road, Bovey Tracey TQ19 9AL. 7.30pm, Claude Bourbon.

TUESDAY 19TH

DANCE Sidford Folk Dance Club, Janet Bulpin

WEDNESDAY 20TH

DANCE

Gittisham Folk Dance Club, Gittisham VH. Jigs For Gigs, Mary Marker.

Halsway Folk Dance Group. Jeroka, Ray Goodswen. Venue TBC

FRIDAY 22ND

CONCERT The Plough@StAnne's, Paternoster Row, Barnstaple EX31 1SX. 8pm, Blackheart Orchestra

SATURDAY 23RD

SONG Shammick Acoustic, Pack o' Cards, Combe Martin. Kimber's Men

DANCE Gittisham Folk Dance Club. Dartmoor Pixie Band.

SUNDAY 24TH

SONG

Folk on the Moor, Westward Inn, Lee Mill, 7.45 pm.

Topsham Folk Club. Matthews Hall, Fore Street, EX3 0HF.

TUESDAY 26TH

DANCE Sidford Folk Dance Club.

WEDNESDAY 27TH

DANCE Gittisham Folk Dance Club. Village Hall. Gibby Swaine and Ian Anderson, Jeremy Child.

THURSDAY 28TH

DANCE Willand Folk Dance Club. Ted Farmer, Jeroka

CONCERT Exeter Cathedral, Seth Lakeman.

MARCH

SATURDAY 2ND

CEILIDH

Bridport Ceilidhs. Church House (St Mary's) Hall, South Street, DT6 3NW. 7.30pm, Oxford Nags with Jane Thomas.

Exeter Ceilidhs. The Kenn Centre, Exeter Road, Kennford, Exeter, Devon, EX6 7UE. 8pm, Amber Fire.

TUESDAY 5TH

DANCE Sidford Folk Dance Club, Jeremy Child

WEDNESDAY 6TH

DANCE

Gittisham Folk Dance Club. VH. Fresh Aire, Aileen Wills.

Halsway Folk Dance Group. Merrymakers (TBC), Gill Spence (TBC) . Venue TBC

FRIDAY 8TH

DANCE Contra Dance. Countess Wear Village Hall, Exeter, EX2 6LB. 7.30pm, Fresh Aire, Jeremy Child

CONCERT Exeter Phoenix, Gandy Street, Exeter EX4 3LS. 7.30pm, Mad Dog Mcrea + Special Guests.

SATURDAY 9TH

DANCE

Willand Folk Dance Club. Willand VH, Gables Road, Cullompton, Devon EX15 2PL. 8pm, Gill Spence, Jigs For Gigs.

Specific Events

Teign Playford. Rydon Hall, Kingsteignton, TQ12 3LP. 2.30pm, Gwyn George and Jean Foster
CONCERT Exeter Phoenix, Gandy Street, EX4 3LS. 7.30pm, Mad Dog Mcrea.
SONG Shammick Acoustic Open Night, Pack o' Cards, Combe Martin

SUNDAY 10TH

SONG Folk on the Moor, Westward Inn, Lee Mill, 7.45pm.

TUESDAY 12TH

DANCE Sidford Folk Dance Club, Gill Spence, Fresh Aire

WEDNESDAY 13TH

DANCE Gittisham Folk Dance Club. Gittisham VH. TBA

THURSDAY 14TH

CONCERT Dolphin Hotel, Station Road, Bovey Tracey TQ19 9AL.

7.30pm, Nick Harper
DANCE Willand Folk Dance Club. Aileen Wills, Ivor Hyde's Band

TUESDAY 19TH

DANCE Sidford Folk Dance Club, Janet Bunpin

WEDNESDAY 20TH

DANCE

Gittisham Folk Dance Club. VH. Meter Rite, Graham Knight.

Halsway Folk Dance Group. Band TBC, Ted Farmer. Venue TBC

SATURDAY 23RD

CEILIDH Exeter Ceilidhs. The Kenn Centre, Exeter Road, Kennford, Exeter, Devon, EX6 7UE. 8pm, Dartmoor Pixie Band.

CONCERTS

Harberton Parish Hall, Tristford Road, TQ9 7SE nr Totnes. 7.15pm. Aly Bain & Phil Cunningham.

Shammick Acoustic, Pack o' Cards, Combe Martin. Granny's Attic.

SUNDAY 24TH

SONG Folk on the Moor, Westward Inn, Lee Mill, 7.45 pm.

TUESDAY 26TH

DANCE Sidford Folk Dance Club, Aileen Wills

WEDNESDAY 27TH

DANCE Gittisham Folk Dance Club. Gittisham Village Hall. TBA, Jane Thomas

THURSDAY 28TH

CONCERT Exeter Corn Exchange. Market Street, Exeter, EX1 1BW. 7.30pm, Feast of Fiddles Silver Jubilee Tour.

DANCE Willand Folk Dance Club. Kate & Doug Eaton, The More The Merrier.

General Information

FESTIVALS

BARING-GOULD FESTIVAL Late October. Wren Trust 01837 53754

BUDE FOLK FESTIVAL Late May bank holiday weekend. 07736 374003

CORNWALL FOLK FESTIVAL August bank holiday weekend 01208 812230

DARTMOOR FOLK FESTIVAL 2nd weekend in August. Jane White 01837 840102

PENNYMOOR SONG AND ALE Early June. 01884 860023

SIDMOUTH FOLK WEEK Always include 1st Mon in Aug. www.sidmouthfolkweek.org.uk

SOUTH BRENT FOLK FESTIVAL Early July. Eileen McKee 01364 73699

TEIGNMOUTH FOLK FESTIVAL Mid-June. www.teignmouthfolk.co.uk

REGIONAL CONTACTS

FOLK IN CORNWALL John Tremaine, 01208 872124 mail@folkincornwall.co.uk

FOLKLIFE Sam Simmons, 01684 561378. sam@folklife.co.uk

FOLK LONDON Sue West, 020 8509 0545

FOLK SOUTH WEST Eddie Upton 01935 873889 folksw@folksw.org.uk

SOMERSET & DORSET Tony & Peter's Folk Diary sanchobramble@hotmail.com

NATIONAL CONTACTS

ENGLISH FOLK DANCE & SONG SOCIETY (EFDSS) Cecil Sharp

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

MORRIS FEDERATION

Secretary: Fee Lock, 28, Fairstone Close, Hastings, East Sussex.

01424 436052

www.morrisfed.org.uk

MORRIS RING

John Melville, 57, Shakespeare Drive, Nuneaton, CV11 6NW. 02476 345543

jon_melville@yahoo.co.uk

OPEN MORRIS

Norm Warren secretary@open-morris.org NYFTE (National Youth Folklore Troupe of England)

Dave Leverton, Manor Farm Cottage, Chewton Keynsham, Bristol, BS31 2SU. 01179 866316 david.leverton2@btinternet.com

Morris and other display

(F - Morris Federation, R Morris Ring, Open Morris member). Day = regular practice/dance out night

Alive & Kicking (F)

Appalachian. Jo Wright 01392 462531

Angletwitch (F)

Elizabeth Wozniak 01271 325425

Beltane (F)

Border, Harriet White.
harrietcewhite@yahoo.co.uk

Bideford Phoenix Morris (F)

Frances Hall, 01409 281877

Blackawton Morris (F)

Chris Janman, 01803 712362

Black Bess (F)

Jayne Thomas 01626 366844
blackbessborder@gmail.com

Borderline (F)

Grace Brand 01598 740645
bag@borderlinemorris.org

Bovey Tracey Mummers (R)

Rod Wilkins 01803 812581

Bradninch Millers Morris (F)

Duncan Harrington 01884 855270

Cat's Eye Border (F)

Cateyebag@aol.com
www.catseyemorris.co.uk

Cogs & Wheels (F)

Debbie Jessop
debbie@jessop.com (Thurs)

Dartmoor Border (F)

Mark Tregaskis 01752 299700

Dartington Morris Men (R)

Roy Hartwell, 01548 831159
bagman@dartingtonmorrismen.org.uk (Fri)

Exeter Morris Men (R)

Mike Painter, 19, Marlborough Road, Exeter, EX2 4TJ. 01392 660444. (Thurs)
mikepainter25@gmail.com

Exmoor Border Morris (F)

Marlene Cann, marlenecann61

@yahoo.co.uk (Wed)

Firestone

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

Glory of the West Morris (F)

Carol Mantell, Beggars Roost, Higher Ashton, Exeter, EX6 7QR 01647 252740 (Wed)

Great Western Morris Men (F)

Mike Boston bagman@
greatwestern.org.uk (Mon)

Green Willow Clog (F)

Marilyn McKechnie 01803 524110

Grimspound Border Morris (F)

Lee Merry, 8, Waterside, Bovey Tracey, TQ139SX
lmerry@live.co.uk

Harberton Navy (F)

Jan Culf JanCulf@harberton.co.uk

Heather & Gorse (F)

Maggie Anderson
mag2anderson@yahoo.co.uk

Ilfracombe Red Petticoats (F)

Linda Corcoran, 5, Stanbury Rd, Knowle, EX33 2NR
lindacorcoran@btopenworld.com
Isambard Gasket Rats (F)
Debs : 01626 770238

bag@isambardsgasketrats.co.uk

Kings Arms Pace Egg & Mummers*

Dave Denford, The Cottage, Ramsley, SouthZeal, EX10 1LD

Lodestone Border (F)

lodestonemorris@hotmail.co.uk
Mayhem Border Morris (O)
Wellington.

Mayhembordermorriskuk@gmail.com

Newton Bushel Morris (F)

Dave Warren, 07773 088445
dave@newtonbushelmorris.uk

North Devon Mummers

Francis & Barbara Verdigi, 01271 861553

Old Town Twelves

Alison Chapman, 07541 385463

Otter Morris

Benji Upchurch 07986 175612

Plymouth Maids (O)

Sue Hawes, 01752 345054
plymouthmaids@hotmail.com

Plymouth Morris Men (R)

Joe Cumming,
01752 217684
www.plymouthmorrismen.org.uk

Raddon Hill Clog Morris (F)

Barry Lewis 01395 443408

Rough Diamonds Appalachian

01460 220607

Shuffle The Deck (F)

Appalachian. Kathy Houlihan
01752 893335

Sidmouth Steppers

NW Morris (F)

Ruth Lewis,
07976 251929
steppers@sidmouthsteppers.com

Sidmouth Traditional Mummers

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

Tinners Morris Men (F)

andrew@frangleton.co.uk

Trigg Morris Men (R)

Roger Hancock, 01208 73907

Uplyme Morris Men (R)

Timothy Fox 01297 443072

Tudor Dance Group

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

Winkleigh Morris (F)

(Tues) Angela Haines, Hollacott, Hollocombe, Chulmleigh EX18 7QE
01837 83219

daveyhaines@btinternet.com

Wreckers Border (F)

wreckers.bag@gmail.com

Devon Folk is running a workshop on Music for Morris Dancing on Saturday December 1 in Chudleigh at the Community Hall Primary School, Lawn Drive, TQ13 0LS. 10.30am to 3.30pm.

Bands and Callers

BANDS

Bands and callers in bold have an advert in this edition of What's Afoot that will give you more information about them

* EFDSS affiliated.

3dB Ceilidh Band 01803 862393
Abacus – email Julie Mason
mason.je@btconnect.com
Amycrofters Band 01404 46451
Autumn Gold 01840 261708
Babelfish 07971 148531
Back to Square One 01392 422119
Barnstormers 01392 882036
Blue Jewel 07957 855458
Broad Band 01884 840816
Bridgwater Band 01278 691370
Choughed to Bits 01752 851990
Country Style 01803 813555
Dartmoor Pixie Band*
01837 840775
David Mashford 01752 822010
Eel Grinders 01647 440020
Five Pound Fiddle 01409 211340
Flash Company 01392 851496
Flash Jack 01566 785233
Folk Two 01548 550004
Footloose 01647 433464
Fox Amongst The Chickens 01566
785233
Fraich 'Airs'* 01392 811593
Fresh Aire 01823 257488
Friendly Folk 01643 707294
Full English 01271 866907
Haymakers 01288 361625
Hips & Haws 01392 861466
Hobson's Choice 01823 272537
Home Brew 01363 877216
Hot Punch 01271 373128
Housewives' Choice 01363 774426
Ivor Hyde's Band 01460 65159
Jeroka 01935 824674
Jiggerypipery 01647 433390
Jigs For Gigs 01460 241326
Long Odds & Short Straws
01460 61996
Lucy Lastic 01884 881385
Meltdown 01278 732202

Meter Rite 01823 401271
Mischief & Mayhem*
01395 514291
Mooncoin Ceilidh Band*
01803 290427
More The Merrier 01626 854141
Mrs Midnight 01363 775552
Mugdock 01643 707294
Mullachabu 01626 871260
New Vintage Band 01363 774426
Occasion Ceilidh Band
01752 337501
Oggie Band* 01271 865030
Old Boys 01726 837432
Other Band 01326 563564
Paddy's Whiskers* 01803 520798
Park Bench Aristocrats 01548
810038
Petronella 01626 854141
Pigs Might Fly 01392 465462
Pig's Whisper 01392 250355
Phoenix 07971220462
Quantock Quarenders 01984
656459
Rakes Adrift 01271 865030
Red Shed 01363 774339
Reel Thing 01460 240671
Rumpus 01548 531525
Rusty Buckets 01398 323494
Scratchbox 01803 847689
Sheer Hopody 01769 520595
Slack Ma Girdle 01823 680523
Slapjack 01823 601583
Smileyboots 01752 364596
Spinach For Norman 07970 151059
Squeezum 01823 333567
Steve Gill & Andy Clarke 01803
290427
Stick The Fiddle 01884 243295
Swain's Gold 01579 383554
Tinnors 01736 787951
Up The Creek 01548 531525
Walter Shortage & Hosepipe Band
01837 52174
Winkeilidh Band 01805 938213
Weston Country Dance Band
01934 813326
Woodshed Band 01803 558929

CALLERS

Tom Addison
hawkes1880@yahoo.co.uk
Andy Clarke 01803 732312
or 07792009374
Colin Andrews 01363 877216
Steve Banks 01803 782219
Graham Barrett 01823 461632
Sarah Bazeley 01837 840775
Robert Blackborow 01278 691370
John Blackburn 01237 476632
Mike Boston 07789714498
Adrian Brayley 07791703009
Linda Breeze 01363 77618
Tom Brown 01271 882366
Les Burden 01840 261708
Dick Carlyon 01458 272933
Jeremy Child 01392 422119
Ted Farmer 01392 466326
Judy Forrow 01626 864042
Ray Goodswen 01278 424332
Sue Hamer-Moss 01769 560708
Susan Heard 01823 462936
Joan Holloway 01626 870539
or 07562 766960
Gil Jefferies 01752 844138
Chris Jewell 01237 423554
Beryl Jukes 01209 712357
Graham Knight 01823 401271
Rosie Longhurst 01566 785233
Simon Maplesden 01884 33571
Mary Marker 01626 854141
Richard Mason 07900 588713
Barry Moule 01288 361625
Eileen Nightingale 07811 367966
Frances Oates 01209 217918
Dave Outhwaite
aeled-weccan@outlook.com
Mike Palmer 01647 433464
Kate Powell 01626 866257
Tom Stevens 01872 240826
Matt Swindlehurst
matt.swindlehurst@btinternet.
com
John Tarling 01297 34804
Garry Thompson 01271 865030
Helen Wilson 01392 882036



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Jan. 26 Jez Lowe, supreme song-writer and performer.
Feb. 9 Open Night
Feb. 23 Kimber's Men, one of the country's best shanty and maritime groups.
Mar. 9 Open Night
Mar. 23 Granny's Attic, ridiculously talented young group of singers and players.
Apr. 13 Open Night
Apr. 27 Jim Causley, Devon's own.

Exeter Folk & Acoustic Music Club

Victoria Park Tennis Club, Lyndhurst Road, St. Leonards,
Exeter, EX2 4NX – 8.00pm

Friday 21st December **Christmas Party** – Open Club Night

Friday 25th January Open Club Night

February Concert Night To be arranged

THERE WILL BE NO REGULAR CLUB NIGHT IN FEBRUARY

Friday 15th March **Steve Turner**

Friday 29th March Open Club Night

April Concert Night To be arranged

Friday 26th April Open Club Night

For more information contact

The Cornelius Family – exeterfolkclub@outlook.com - Tel. 01392 210983



Picture: Mab Foxen



Dartmoor gives new meaning to ‘brake dancers’

WE’VE always said dancers should support each other but Great Western and Tinnors Morris went a step further at the Dartmoor festival, becoming “brake dancers” to stop two flatfooters sliding down South Zeal’s steep main street.

Jake Jones and Dan Eccles (known as JD & Folk) had put their board out in front of the Oxenham Arms and were about to dazzle the crowd with some fancy Appalachian stepping when the board started to slip away.

So the morris men stepped in – or rather sat in – to keep the lads firmly in their place while they gave a performance they describe as freestyle Appalachian flatfooting fuelled entirely by cider.

Other sides who entertained the crowds at the Dartmoor festival were Winkleigh, Cogs and Wheels and Enigma from Somerset.

Enigma appeared at Dartmoor despite injuries and badly planned holidays severely reducing their side. But they pulled through by press-ganging a couple of musicians from Cornish side Wreckers and were even able to lend their whistle player Jenny Cox to Jake and Dan for a few dances.

Trigg treat

NEWS from over the western border: Bodmin side Trigg have agreed to let women dance.

This follows the Ring’s decision to allow sides with women dancers be members. Plymouth was among the first of the sides to accept the change.

Trigg, which practises at Lanivet, is now recruiting. Contact triggbagman@hotmail.com for details.

Keeping it in the family

A BROTHER and sister took top honours at the 41st Dartmoor Folk Festival.

Stanley Frangleton, 10, from South Zeal, became Dartmoor Broom Dance Champion while sister, Ruth, 14, was the Junior Step Dance Champion.

Stanley, who learned the dance at festival workshops, was following in a family tradition because his older

sisters, Beth and Elsa, have won the broom dance championship at previous festivals.

His sister Ruth said she was “thrilled” to win.

It was fifth time lucky for Jenny Read of Exeter, who won the adult Dartmoor Step Dance Championship.

She previously took the title in 2016, 2012, 2004 and 2002.



Affiliated to the English Folk
Dance & Song Society,
Registered Charity No. 305999



ELECTED MEMBERS OF THE DEVON FOLK COMMITTEE

PRESIDENT	Bonny Green, Morchard	WEBMASTER	Chudleigh, TQ13 0JA
Terry Underhill	Bishop, Crediton EX17 6PG	Trevor Paul	01626 854141
VICE PRESIDENTS	01363 877216	webmaster@devonfolk.	annmarker5@btinternet.
Jo Trapnell	SECRETARY	org.uk	com
Aileen Wills	Eileen Conway	MINUTES SECRETARY	Eileen McKee
TREASURER	151 Kingsdown Crescent,	Jean Foster	Woodland Cottage, South
Brian Chappell	Dawlish, EX7 0HB.	1 Lowicke House, Ringslade	Brent, TQ10 9ES.
2 Penstone Barns, Lease Hill,	01626 862312	Road, Newton Abbot,	01364 73699
Hele, Exeter EX5 4QA.	MEMBERSHIP SECRETARY	TQ12 1QF	eileen.southbrentfolk@
01392 882156	Sheila Chappell	Steve Gill	gmail.com
CHAIR	2 Penstone Barns, Lease Hill,	Maleth, 11 Cleveland Road,	Jane Snow
Anne Gill	Hele, Exeter EX5 4QA	Torquay, TQ2 5BD	27 John Street, Tiverton
Maleth, 11 Cleveland Road,	01392 882156	01803 290427	EX16 5JP
Torquay, TQ2 5BD. 01803	WHAT'S AFOOT EDITOR	Mary Marker	01884 259042
290427	John Foxen	Cromartie, Oldway,	
VICE CHAIR/PUBLICITY	devonfolkeditor@gmail.com		
Colin Andrews			

THE 2019 Devon Folk AGM will be held at 6pm on 30th March at South Brent Village Hall and will be followed by a ceilidh.

The committee is again grateful to Mr J Hendon and Bideford Folk Dance Club, who have generously sent donations, as well as to those clubs who support Devon Folk in other ways. Devon Folk is always grateful for donations as these help towards sponsoring local events. Once again, financial support has been provided for the Dartmoor, South Brent and Teignmouth Folk Festivals. The next Devon Folk supported event will be a Music and Dance Workshop at Chudleigh Community Hall on April 27, 2019. This is being organised by Mary Marker with a theme of English and American Longways dances. Jane Thomas will be the caller for the afternoon tea dance on the same theme.

Changes to the production of What's Afoot have been agreed by the committee. More information is in the editorial.

Devon Folk Committee still has several vacancies and is always pleased to welcome new members. Full committee meetings are usually held in Exeter four times a year on a Saturday morning, in addition to the business meeting after the AGM. A nomination form is on this page.

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

.....

.....

.....

Telephone

Email

*Please return this form by 28th February
2019 to:*

*E. Conway, 151 Kingsdown Crescent,
Dawlish, Devon, EX7 0HB.*

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

I wish to pay the annual subscription of £6 for four issues.

I wish to claim free membership of Devon Folk through my subscription.

I wish to join Devon Folk for the annual fee of £2. I understand this does not entitle me to the magazine.

Our club wishes to join Devon Folk for the annual subscription of £12.

Our club is affiliated to EFDSS.

Individual or first nominated club member

Name

Address

Postcode

Telephone

Email

I enclose a cheque (payee: Devon Folk)

I wish to pay by bank transfer (details will be sent by email)

Magazine to be sent by

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Second nominated club member

Name

Address

Postcode

Telephone

Email

Magazine to be sent by

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Email

I/WE agree to Devon Folk contacting me/us as indicated above and for occasional notifications
DEVON Folk will not pass on your email to any third party

DEVON FOLK MEMBERSHIP

Is available free to

- Anyone paying the annual subscription for What's Afoot magazine
 - Any EFDSS member living in Devon
 - Two nominated members of any Devon club affiliated to EFDSS
- And is also available to:

- Anyone paying an annual fee of £2
 - To two nominated members of any club paying an annual subscription of £12
- Only individuals or clubs paying the annual subscription of £6 or £12 respectively are entitled to receive the magazine. It is now possible to receive What's Afoot by email and pay for subscriptions by bank transfer. Application forms are on our website www.devonfolk.org.uk

SPECIAL OFFER TO EFDSS MEMBERS

Free membership of Devon Folk used to be granted automatically to any member of the English Folk Dance and Song Society living in Devon because Cecil Sharp House passed on names and addresses to Devon Folk. Due to Data Protection Legislation they can no longer do this. If, as an EFDSS member, you would like free membership of Devon Folk, send your name, address and EFDSS membership number to:
Mrs Sheila Chappell, 2 Penstone Barns, Lease Hill, Hele, Exeter, EX5 4QA



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Saturday Dances 8.00 – 11.30pm
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Adjacent free parking.*

Saturday 27th April 2019

Sarah Bazeley &

The Dartmoor Pixie Band
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Launceston Folk Dance Club

Tickets £8.00
Contact details
Rosemary Phillips
01566 774491

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from the Moor

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feet tappin' and ensure
your event rocks!
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A Devon Song

Let's restore this 'restored' sea ballad

THIS edition's song was recorded by Baring Gould then nearly lost to us. There is a "fake song" version in his *Songs Of The West*.

The parson tells us that his collaborator Sheppard, "who did not take down the tune, considers this form to be due to the way in which the men sang the air, and he has restored it to what he conceives to be the correct form".

Sheppard was certainly a fine musician but his "restoration" is, in the opinion of this editor, a Victorian folly.

For a full account of the musical problems Baring-Gould and his collaborators had, see Martin Graebe's excellent book, reviewed in this issue and in particular the essay he includes by Julia Bishop.

Fortunately, in his notes, Baring-Gould gives us the tune he got from William Friend, of Lydford, James Parsons, and Robert Hard. He writes: "All had the same melody somewhat varied. As taken from their singing, it had an archaic character."

His problem was that the tune is in the mixolydian mode – as are so many folk songs – and he didn't think the public was ready for them. For that reason a number of songs didn't make it to his published books although he left them to us in his many notebooks.

Thanks to the folk revival, singers and musicians have grown as accustomed to the modes as our forefathers were – even if, like them, we don't know what the modes are called (with mixolydian, you can be playing in what seems to be the key of D and a C chord creeps in).

The tune of this song may be archaic and have lyrics on a similar theme to the better known *Here's Adieu Sweet Lovely Nancy* but it is certainly a beautiful, simple air that needs to be sung as much as possible.

A Devon Song

Nancy

Collected by Baring-Gould

Melody

My ___ own ___ pret - ty Nan - cy my love and ___ de -
- light This ___ is the kind let - ter to ___ you I in -
dite. It ___ is to in - form ___ you where - ev - er I go in
tem - pest in ___ bat - tie I'm faith - ful ___ to you.

My own pretty Nancy
My love and delight
This is the kind letter
To you I indite.
It is to inform you
Wherever I go
In tempest, in battle
I'm faithful to you.

When blust'ring and roaring
We're tossed about
Five hundred bright sailors
All sturdy and stout.
One moment deep plunged
Then high in the air.
To see my sweet Nancy
I almost despair.

We fought with a Spaniard,
A galleon of pride.
With cutlass and pike, love,
We climbed up her side.
We fought as sea lions,
The deck ran with blood
But soon all was over.
And victors we stood.

Storm, battle, all ended,
If God spares our lives,
We'll come to our sweethearts,
Our children and wives.
A health to sweet Nancy.
I drink on the main,
God send me to Nancy,
And England again.

Folk Plus Acoustic Music Club

Ye Olde Smokey House, Marldon,
Nr Paignton, TQ3 1NN (Top Bar)

3rd Friday in the Month

Prompt start, so let Chris know by 7.30pm
if you wish to sing/perform.
7.30pm - 10.45pm

Entry £2 (performers & audience)

We have a basic p.a. for those that
wish to use it.
New and experienced performers
made very welcome.

Hosted by Chris & Paul Woodhouse (Folk Inspired).
Facebook page: Folk Plus Acoustic Music Club
Paignton
Contact us on 07894 961010 or email:
p.woodhouse47@sky.com

Totnes Folk Club

Dartmouth Inn, The Plains
Totnes, TQ9 5EL



2nd Thursday in the Month – 8pm

13th December - Singers' Night
with traditional carols
10th January – Singers' Night
14th February – Singers' Night
14th March – Guest Night
Nick Dow

For more information phone
Steve & Anne Gill
01803 290427
or Andy Clarke 01803 732312

A fanfare for all the fundraisers

A SPLENDID piece of news from Combe Martin. The village had been struggling to find a bugler for the Remembrance Day ceremony. Then one was found – but without a bugle.

So the local folk club Shammick Acoustic has stepped in and bought one for the village's use - this year and whenever it's needed in the future.

It is heartening when we hear of a folk club contributing something to the local community and not being a separate, isolated entity.

Another fine example is Gidsong, run monthly by Bill Murray and Tich Scott in Gidleigh Village Hall. Not only does it provide first class entertainment but it has also raised a £3,000 towards the hall's new heating system which should be in place in time to stop teeth chattering through this winter. Gidsong also contributed £100 towards a defibrillator for the village.

A number of morris sides collect for charities when dancing out. One notable mass effort is the big Pudsey Day dance in Tavistock, organised by Dartmoor Border Morris. Now in its fifth year it attracts sides from all over the county and beyond. As What's Afoot went to press, 16 sides were scheduled to dance around the town on Saturday November 17.

Dartmoor dancer Hollie Williams led the side's fundraising effort for Jeremiah's Journey, a charity that supports bereaved children. The side helped her take part in a sponsored tandem parachute jump in full kit that raised more than £500.

Some of you may be thinking: "Hey, our side/club did this but we didn't get a mention." The reason is: you didn't tell us about it. So if your club or dance side is involved in any charity fundraising that would benefit from publicity GET IN TOUCH. Send details to devonfolkeeditor@gmail.com

Pennymoor Singaround

Song and Music Session - 3rd Wednesday 8pm

Music Session - last Sunday 12 noon

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

Contacts:

Facebook: Pennymoor Singaround

Nicola King: 01837 82100 – nicolaaking@btinternet.com

Jon Shapley: 01363 83740 – jon_shapley@hotmail.com

Also run by Pennymoor members:

The Lamb, Sandford, Nr Crediton - 1st Tuesday

Contact: Hazel or Paul 01363 776275

The Devonshire Inn, Sticklepath - 1st Sunday

Contact: Derek 01837 840316

The New Inn, Coleford - Last Tuesday

Contact: Dave 01363 84914

HILARY BIX

Recorded in St Helena's Church, Lundy, August 2013

HILARY Bix was a stalwart of the North Devon folk scene for a very long time before she lost a long battle with cancer a couple of years ago. With her husband, Jerry, she ran the Bideford Folk Song Club and organised a series of folk festivals in Bideford. She was also actively involved with the Exmoor Carollers and Winkleigh Morris.

These recordings were made in a single session during her last visit to Lundy, singing a capella from memory in the church, while outside the wind howled and the rain poured.

The 16 songs are absolutely beautiful, all sung with great feeling and expression in her crystal clear, soft, melodic voice. The acoustics of the church give several an almost haunting quality.

The pleasure for me is that, although I had known her for a long time, I had not heard her sing the majority of these more serious offerings. I was far more familiar with her jolly chorus or somewhat risqué music hall type songs, including some of her own.

It would be almost unfair on the other tracks to pick out individual songs for comment but Cicely Fox-Smith's poem, *Shipmate Sorrow*, set to Hilary's own tune is a real gem. Her rendition of John Pole's *Mr Fox* is perhaps the best I have ever heard – but not one to listen to alone at night if you are of a nervous disposition.

Even some songs with familiar titles such as *Love Is Pleasing* and *The Grey Cock* are less-familiar versions. The choice of Dave Webber's *The Blackbird* as the final track leaves one with a feeling of peace and tranquility.

I would urge anyone who knew Hilary to get a copy of the CD and share her love of singing. As for those who did not come across her, I would urge you to get a copy – you don't know what you have been missing.

Colin Andrews

• THE CD is available, for a recommended donation of £10, from Jerry Bix 07967 303981 jerry.bix@gmail.com The proceeds will be shared between Cancer Research, North Devon Hospice and the Marie Curie Trust.

JIM CAUSLEY

SPECIAL COMMISSIONS EP

DEVON is not only blessed with stunning landscapes and diverse communities but also a musician and songwriter who is so adept at conveying its beauty and charm. Jim Causley has a natural yet uncanny ability to invoke the region's people, its past, its present and its future. This EP of specially commissioned songs is a wonderful collection presented in a nostalgic but modern way.

We can delve into our history in *Green Lanes* and be transported into the mysterious world where these ancient trackways lead us. In *Unearthed Themes*, Jim shows us the connection we should all have with the land we live in and how we all have a responsibility to maintain a thriving community. One cannot help but sing along to *Pride of the Moor*, one of his best known tunes, also featured on Jim's *Forgotten Kingdom*

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Reviews

album. Again, this is a clever showcase of the history of the Dartmoor tin mining industry which many may not know much about. The mention of, Chagford, the town in which I live and work helps me to relate to this history.

On the Border, with its ethereal introduction and its evocative words, draws us into thinking about how we all share the space we live in. This is a beautiful song, the sentiment cannot fail to move you and Jim's unmistakable, rich voice transcends the whole production.

Other songs take on the themes of murder and injustice (*Diamond of the Moor*), the celebration of Exeter and its trees (*City of Trees*) and a "glorious" celebration of the county in *Glorious Devon Morning*.

This collection of seven songs once again proves that Devon has a rich and diverse musical tradition that continues to move forward in the contemporary world of folk. The EP is a must for your collection – a little gem we all can enjoy.

The EP is available from Jim's website, www.jimcausley.co.uk.

Alex Atherton

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Thursday 27th December 2018

Twixt Christmas and New Year

CÉILIDH

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or dance your (new) socks off

with

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with caller **Kate Fincham-Powell**

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at **7.30pm**

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For further information contact 01364 73699



<http://southbrentfolk.org.uk>

ROB JENKINS MUSICIAN

ON Friday 7th September, Bishops Tawton Church was packed, with standing room only, to celebrate the life of our friend Rob Jenkins. His sudden and unexpected passing, while on holiday with all his family in France, left all who knew him in shock and took away a much respected and appreciated musician from our North Devon music community.

An accomplished multi-instrumentalist, Rob loved and valued the craftsmanship of his instruments. He played most stringed instruments, both acoustic and electric, and also played melodeon when prompted.

He played for country dances with The Harvest Band, deputised in several other local bands as required and spent around 25 years with The Bloatertown Band, while also leading several sessions on a regular basis in North Devon.

He was just as happy with music in the Celtic style as English dance and even sang a bit when encouraged. His playing was also a feature of local church services and he was joined in this by his wife, Julia.

As a band player he was a driving rhythm on guitar, mandola and bass. He could cut loose with Telecaster or Strat, liberating the rocker who dwelt in his soul, for Rob enjoyed a wide range of music. But he was equally able to step back to



pick melody on mandolin or acoustic guitar. As a session leader, Rob was never greedy with tunes, often preferring to lend his sensitive support to other players, making them feel welcome and encouraging participation. He was a genuine, gentle, “people” person with a droll sense of humour and an impish grin when up to mischief.

Rob had just retired from working as a surveyor, first in private employment and then with the local authority. Fundamentally a family man, he was looking forward to spending time with his wife, daughter, son and grandchildren.

He leaves a legacy of friendship, skill, generosity and happy musical memories throughout North Devon – he made making music together a fulfilling and downright enjoyable experience for which we are all the richer – thank you Rob, you always hit the right note in life.

Al Cruse

BOB PATTEN FOLKSONG AND FOLKLORE COLLECTOR

IT is with great sadness that we report that Bob Patten passed away in Exeter Hospice on Saturday October 6 after a long battle with cancer.

He and his wife, Jacqueline, were actively involved in researching and collecting folk songs, folk customs and stories in the West Country, particularly in Somerset and Devon, over a period of nearly forty years.

Their extensive collection of field recordings is lodged in the sound archives of the British Library. Among their published material is a book on Exmoor Songs and Customs, a digital book on CD,

A Somerset Scrapbook, and, more recently, a DVD of the Dartmoor Folk Festivals, which included archive material recorded over the festival's history. In the Sound Archives there can also be found traditional songs, tales and reminiscences recorded from local people in their home village of Morchard Bishop.

A fuller appreciation and account of Bob's valuable contribution to the record of folk song and customs will appear in the next edition of What's Afoot.

Colin Andrews

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Forthcoming Musical Events

Folk

Peter Knight and John Spiers

at The George, South Molton
Friday 14 December 8pm

Seth Lakeman (SOLD OUT)

Saturday 15 December 8pm

The Exmoor Carolers

Sunday 23 December 3pm

Gordie Tentrees & Jaxon Haldane

at The George, South Molton
Thursday 31 January 8pm

Jamie Smith's Mabon

Friday 15 February 8pm

The Blackheart Orchestra

at St Anne's Arts Centre, Barnstaple
Friday 22 February 8pm

Jake's Progress

An evening without Jake Thackery

at The George, South Molton
Saturday 23 February 8pm

Manran

Saturday 2 March 8pm

Jon Boden & The Remnant Strings

Saturday 9 March 8pm

Show of Hands

In the Garden Room, RHS Rosemoor
Sunday 19 May 8pm

Other Musical Highlights

**Andy Fairweather Low
& The Low Riders & The High Riders**

Saturday 1 December 8pm

Jean Toussaint Young Lions Quintet

at The George, South Molton
Sunday 2 December 7.30pm

The Rancheros

at The George, South Molton
Saturday 8 December 8pm

Sam Green and the Midnight Heist

Friday 21 December 8pm

Carl Palmer's ELP Legacy

Saturday 26 January 8pm

Ma Bessie & her blues Troupe

Saturday 9 February 8pm

Snake Davis Band

Thursday 14 February 8.30pm

Dire Streets

Saturday 23 February 8pm

Climax Blues Band

Friday 1 March 8pm

Steve Harley Acoustic Trio

Sunday 10 March 7.30pm