

No 121 Autumn What's Afoot

The official
magazine of

Devon Folk
DANCE SONGS MUSIC STORIES

ORDERED OFF STAGE IN MID-NUMBER



Picture: Maria Alzamora

**BUT GRANNY'S ATTIC STILL LOVE SIDMOUTH
PLUS**

**WINTER WARMERS –
BIG EVENTS TO ENJOY
AND THE CLUB AND
SESSION LISTINGS**



**HERE'S A
HOLE NEW
INSTRUMENT
FIND OUT WHAT
IT IS ON PAGE 6**



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FRIDAY 13TH March 2020 7:30pm PETER KNIGHT AND JOHN SPIERS

Two genuine legends of the folk world, Peter Knight and John Spiers, are welcomed to the Flavel as a duo for the first time. Best known for their work in Steeleye Span and Bellowhead respectively, Peter and John first came together as an experiment at the Folk East Festival in 2016 where they performed a special "one off" show. The reception was astonishing and Peter and John decided to make their arrangement more permanent and touring together has now become a regular part of their schedule. This will be Peter's third visit to the Flavel following two very successful shows by his band, Gigspanner.

SATURDAY 25TH APRIL 2020 CARA DILLON

Cara Dillon, one of the most outstanding performers on the UK folk scene, makes her third appearance at the Flavel. Born in County Derry, Cara has risen to be one of the finest exponents of Irish song as well as, with husband and musical partner Sam Lakeman, steering an eclectic musical path combining the traditional with the contemporary. She has had a number of successful albums and tours extensively either with Sam or a full band appearing in concert halls and at festivals the world over. Cara has won countless awards and accolades including "Album of the Year" at the BBC Radio 2 folk awards, the Meteor Music award for "Best Irish Female", and Tatler's "Woman of the Year in Music". Cara has also been featured in many remarkable projects including singing the title track for the film "Tinkerbell and the Great Fairy Rescue" and appearing on Mike Oldfield's Tubular Bells 3.

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Editorial

AT THE Dartmoor Folk Festival I was guided into the car park by a very friendly pair of stewards who turned out to be a married couple from a village north of Bristol. I was surprised they'd come all this way to help out. "Well," they said, "we are friendly with some of the people who run this event and they're always desperate for people to help out here. Most people want to do the jobs in town where they get to see things. Not many want to be stuck out here."

My thanks to this couple for doing the "dirty job". Sadly, as club and event organisers know, while many are happy to turn up, not so many are willing to roll up their sleeves. There are plenty who demand to perform (whether they are capable of it or not) but not so many who come early to put the chairs out then stay that to put them back. There are many who turn up at festivals demanding to know where the "free" events are but not so many who feel they should support the events financially or by helping.

So here's to the unsung heroes who keep the folk scene alive. Hats off to the harassed organisers, a cheer for the treasurers trying to balance the books, a salute to those who never sing but are always there to sell raffle tickets – and even copies of What's Afoot. And for those who read this article and think, "I'd like to lend a hand to keep this great folk music tradition rolling," in our next issue we'll be looking at ways you can help.

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What's Afoot is published four times a year by Devon Folk, covering April-June, July-September, October-December and January-March. To ensure 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). The Editor and Devon Folk accept no liability for content of copy supplied by advertisers. Views expressed are not necessarily those of the Editor and Devon Folk. We are always ready to consider items for publication but reserve the right to edit them where necessary. Any material offered for consideration that needs to be returned to the sender should be accompanied by a prepaid addressed envelope.

We were ordered off the stage in mid-number – but we still love Devon

Granny's Attic were a major casualty of the storm that spoiled Sidmouth Folk Festival's final night. Here's how it all happened

THE omens were not looking good when Granny's Attic took to the stage for their last concert at Sidmouth. The weather had taken such a severe turn for the worse that some campers had been packing up and going home on Thursday.

A festival highlight – the torchlit procession that closes the show – had to be cancelled and the organisers had decided not to put anything on in the Ham marquee.

However, the Bulverton marquee, although high on a hill overlooking Sidmouth, was still considered safe. So Granny's Attic set up there and started blowing away the audience. Unfortunately, the rising wind was threatening to blow the audience away literally – and everything else..

But the band played on, hoping for the best. Granny's guitarist and singer George Sansome says: "We were keen to play our gig in the Bulverton as the audience were lively and up for a good night so we kept singing and playing despite the occasional distraction of high winds buffeting the sides of the marquee.

"However, the gusts increased and the weather was just getting worse and worse. We got to the fifth number of a set of seven, a tune set that Lewis, our fiddler, wrote, called *Lacy House/Right Under The Bridge*. We'd just gone into the second tune when we received the signal from the side of the stage to stop so the marquee could be evacuated.

"We duly stopped playing mid-tune and waited while the announcement was made that the rest of the evening's music would be cancelled. "This was

completely the right decision and the safest thing to do – we were glad to be out of the marquee in the end. We managed to have a laugh though. After the announcer said: 'I'm afraid we'll have to cut the gig short', someone in the audience shouted out: 'They're not that bad.'

"The one thing we didn't understand was that despite the requests for the audience to vacate the marquee as soon as possible, a number of people queued up to buy our new album from the festival's merchandise table when they should have been getting out.

"We'd mentioned the album during the gig but had told people to buy from us online or to come and find us elsewhere at the festival, as we thought that their safety was worth a lot more than a few CD sales. It seems a few people disagreed and were very keen to get their hands on the album.

"If they're reading this: we appreciate your support but would feel more comfortable if you valued yourself a bit more"

George feels the festival organisers took the right decisions when the weather deteriorated towards the end of the week. He and the other band members – melodeon and concertina player Cohen Braithwaite-Kilcoyne and violin and mandolin player Lewis Wood – appreciated all their efforts to make sure the music could continue where possible.

Their experience has certainly not put them off Sidmouth or Devon. George says: "We love playing

'As the marquee was being evacuated, people were queuing to buy our CD'



WEATHER BEATEN: *Granny's Attic were having a great gig until Sidmouth's Bulverton Marquee had to be evacuated when the storm hit*

Picture: Maria Alzamora

Sidmouth as it seems like almost everyone from the folk scene is in the same place at the same time.

"The new album, *Wheels Of The World*, was actually recorded in Devon. Back in January we spent a week in Sean Lakeman's studio in the beautiful village of Horrabridge, on Dartmoor. During the week we found some time to walk up onto Dartmoor for some fresh air and to enjoy the landscape – as well as paying a few visits to the local pubs. It's an inspiring area and we loved working with Sean in his studio.

'SINCE Granny's Attic played in South Tawton and South Zeal a few years ago, we've loved the area so it was great to be able to spend some more time there, and elsewhere in Devon.

"Combe Martin has to have a special mention for the brilliant Shammick Acoustic with the lovely Tom and Barbara Brown. We played there in March and had a great evening.

"South Brent Folk Day (in July) was a really lovely gig. We were on before the fairly local duo Kathryn Roberts and Sean Lakeman, who played a brilliant set - as usual. The whole event had a really friendly feel, and it was nice to play to a mix of 'folkies' and local people. Everyone was singing together by the end.

"We've loved all of our experiences in Devon so far – that windy night in Sidmouth definitely hasn't put us off! Granny's Attic will be playing Church House in South Tawton on June 12, 2020."

So if you were one of the punters who got hustled out of the Bulverton Marquee before you could lay your hands on *Wheels Of The World*. South Tawton could be the place to get it.

Or you could try getting it from the band's website, www.grannysattic.org.uk

Wheels Of The World is on Grimdon Records.

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Mandolin man with a hole new sound

A Devon instrument maker is winning fans around the world with his distinctive creations like this Liuto Cantabile

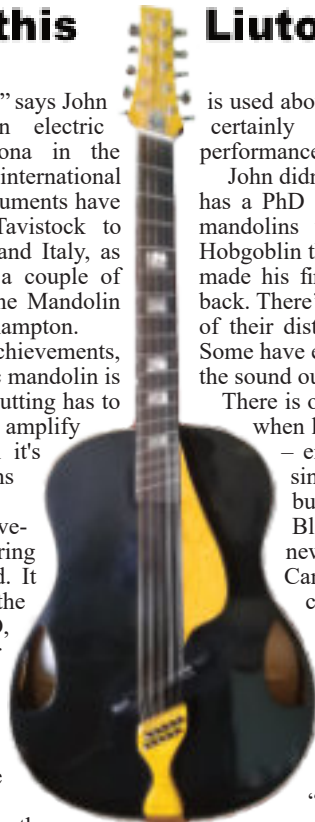
YOU'RE lucky to see this one," says John Maddock, pointing at an electric mandola, "it's bound for Arizona in the morning." John is gaining an international reputation as a maker and his instruments have been sent from his home in Tavistock to Canada, Germany, New Zealand and Italy, as well as around Britain. Locally, a couple of them have gone to members of the Mandolin Orchestra of Devon, based in Okehampton.

But he's modest about his achievements, saying that in particular the electric mandolin is a bit of a niche instrument. The strutting has to be different to cut down, rather than amplify the acoustic sound so that when it's plugged in there are no problems with feedback.

One of his specialities is the five-string mandolin, the low fifth string giving extra notes at the bass end. It can be tuned C, G, D, A E or – the tuning that John favours – D, G, D, A, E which is particularly useful for the favourite folk keys of G and D.

The five-string models are also loved by jazz musicians. To listen to a sample of one in action, google "Stefan Zeichner, Lady Be Good, five string swing".

Florida-based Stefan starts the Gershwin classic on a five-string fiddle before picking up one of John's five-string mandolins and really putting it through its paces. John's instrument



is used about three minutes into the video but it is certainly well worth watching the whole performance.

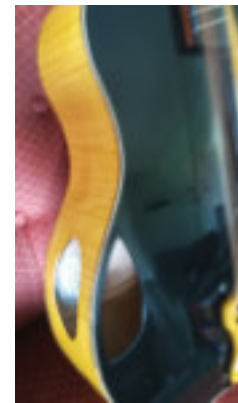
John didn't start off as an instrument maker – he has a PhD in chemistry – but he got hooked on mandolins when he picked up a model from Hobgoblin that was lying about the house. Then he made his first one himself and has never looked back. There's no mistaking his instruments because of their distinctive body shapes, his own design. Some have extra holes – John feels they let more of the sound out.

There is one that always draws a lot of attention when he's out on the west Devon folk circuit – either accompanying his father Alan, a singer and guitarist (playing a guitar John built for him, of course), or playing with Black Tar Roses (see the review of their new CD on page 35). That's his Liuto Cantabile (pictured here), a 10-string creation also known as a liuto moderno.

A very old variation of the mandocello, this not only sports some extra holes but also has fan fretting.

This, says John, provides a variable scale. "Your bass strings are longer than the treble. You can have sensible gauges." But he points out: "It's a lot of work – not least in setting it up at the end. Lots of little details catch you out."

John also makes travel mandolins after a client asked him for something small enough to fit inside



Left: a close-up of the holes in the Liuto Cantabile, pictured on the facing page. Right: the same technique is applied to an acoustic mandolin. Far right: John with the mandola which has gone to the United States



a standard Ryan Air carry on bag, while still having enough body so that the player could hold it comfortably.

"My electric travel mandolins are all hollow-body instruments built for a smooth clear sound," he says. "They have a scale length of 13" and a body 80% of normal size. Combined with a headstock reduced to the smallest dimensions possible with Gotoh stealth tuners, these are just 21" long in total – excluding the endpin jack.

"These instruments will just squeeze into a padded uke case – the soft cases with a bit of give in them."

John also does restoration work on mandolins and other instruments. If you need a repair or fancy an instrument a little out of the ordinary, check out his website, <https://jzmaddock.000webhostapp.com>



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- Dec. 28 Open Night
- Jan. 11 Open Night
- Jan. 25 Ian A. Anderson, ex-fRoots editor w. English trad. to American blues

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The carnival is not over just yet

After a changeable summer when we didn't know whether to carry sun tan lotion or sou'westers, we are moving towards winter. But as a consolation, many of the folk clubs that closed during the summer will be waking up and although many morris sides will retreat to their practice halls, there are still chances to see them here and there – particularly on Boxing Day when many will be out to dance off their Xmas excesses. We report on how Devon's other festivals fared later in this issue. In addition to our guide for specific events and sessions over the next three months, here's a taster of other events which will – in the words of the song – drive cold winter away.

OCTOBER

BARING-GOULD FOLK FESTIVAL

26TH -28TH OCTOBER

THIS is the 20th annual festival dedicated to the parson who collected so many West Country songs. Organised in Okehampton by Wren Music, it features festival patron Phil Beer, Polly Bolton, Georgia Lewis, Hannah Cumming, Martin and Shan Graebe, Matt Quinn and Kevin Sessions. The festival ceilidh will be led by Banter, a trio that can sound like a big band. They will also be running a dance workshop. Dartmoor's own Bill Murray will be contributing a good few songs and running the annual conker competition. Tickets cost a very reasonable £40 for the weekend. The festival also offers a 'Buy Three, Get One Free' on

weekend tickets (so a group of four can come to the whole weekend for £120). Tickets can be obtained from the website www.wrenmusic.co.uk/~Baring-Gould/ or by sending a cheque made payable to Wren Music to: Baring-Gould Folk Weekend, Wren Music, Ebenezer Hall, Okehampton, EX20 1AR. Tickets for individual events will be on sale on the door.

THE ANNUAL GREY MARE FESTIVAL, STICKLEPATH

31ST OCTOBER

A WONDERFUL 'Young Tradil on' now in its third year. With a Tom Pearce buried in its graveyard, Sticklepath claims to be the home of the grey mare from the song Widcombe Fair. Children and parents or carers are invited to gather at Sticklepath Pavillion for 6pm. Folk Musicians will lead the search for the ghostly Grey Mare (pictured right with Jim Causley as Tom Pearce) and her riders. The procession and search ends at 8-8.30pm and Morality Plays then take place in each of the pubs, followed by a Halloween Folk session in the Devonshire Inn.

Picture: Ian Atherton



THE FIRST SALCOMBE 'LIVE' FESTIVAL. 11 TO 13 OCTOBER

A WEEKEND of live acoustic, folk & Americana music, jazz and blues, stand-up comedy and other entertainment.

Cara Dillon will be in concert and other acts include Americana artist Hannah White with her new band The Nordic Connection, Cornish

singer/songwriter Joe Francis with his band Winter Mountain, indie-folk quartet Velvet & Stone, Glastonbury-based folk rocker Nick Parker and Totnes husband and wife duo HarboÓle & Jonas.

Tickets are needed for the Cara Dillon concert but entry to other events is free. See the website for details: www.salcombe-live.co.uk

NOVEMBER

BONFIRES are two a penny this month but Devon boasts two spectacular fire festivals that are all its own.

FIRST up is the Tar Barrels of Ottery St Mary on the fifth. When flaming tar barrels are hurled about. It's not a festival for the faint-hearted. Details – and safety warnings – at www.tarbarrels.co.uk/

Hatherleigh Carnival on November 9th features a parade of spectacular floats as well as lots of live music. But the highlights are the two runs through the town with three blazing barrels on a sledge. The dawn run (pictured) is for the real early risers but the evening run takes place after the parade. Details can be found at www.hatherleighcarnival.co.uk



Picture: Geoff Hodgkinson

BUDE FOLK ROOTS & WORLD MUSIC FESTIVAL 15 TO 17 NOVEMBER

Just over the western border at the Penstowe Manor Resort, this three-day festival features Cara Dillon, Strawbs, Julie Felix and Said the Maiden, among many others. Tickets are £85 in advance. Some onsite accommodation is available. See the website for details: www.budfolk-festival.co.uk

PUDSEY DAY OF MORRIS, TAVISTOCK

SATURDAY NOVEMBER 16

A DANCE extravaganza in Bedford Square and around the Pannier Market as morris sides from across the county gather to help raise cash for Children in Need. Pudsey Bear will be out and about and you may see some strange beasts. The annual event, organised by Dartmoor Border Morris has a good track record for entertaining as well as fundraising so it's well worth dropping by.

DECEMBER

A LOT of the folk clubs will be having Christmas parties and carol sessions. See our guide on the following pages for details.

Tavistock's annual Dickensian evening on Friday December 6th offers not just a chance for last-minute late-night shopping but a carnival atmosphere that will be enhanced by dancing from local side Lodestone Border and Wreckers Morris from just over the border in Cornwall.

A lot of sides will be out on Boxing Day. Those we've been told about so far include: Dartmoor

Border Morris who are to perform at the at Royal Oak Meavy, from mid-day. Plymouth Morris and the Plymouth Maids will be dancing at the Brook Inn, Plympton. PL7 1NJ. Winkleigh Morris can be found at the Duke of York, Iddesleigh.

It's worth checking the website of your local morris side to see if they have decided to stir themselves after Xmas.

And if you feel the need to dance off all that turkey then there's South Brent's big ceilidh on Friday 27th. It's advertised on page 35..

Dartmoor shows how to weather the storm

The hardy folk of the moor defied the elements to put on another first-class event. ALAN QUICK has the details

‘WE’VE been doing this for 42 years. We ought to be able to cope with the weather by now.” So said Mark Bazeley of the Dartmoor Pixie Band, a leading light of the Dartmoor Folk Festival and grandson of its founder Bob Cann.

He was absolutely right – to the relief of folk fans who came on to Dartmoor directly from Sidmouth where the weather had put paid to some of the festival’s Friday plans.

Dartmoor staged its usual outdoor arena events under cover in huge marquees at South Zeal near Okehampton, following the festival association’s well-tested wet-weather contingency plan.

After a national power outage affected many homes across the county on the Friday afternoon, the festival brought in a large generator as a stand-by for the weekend. Luckily, it wasn’t needed..

The festival opened with a fantastic concert by Sam Kelly and The Lost Boys, followed by a dance with the Dartmoor Pixie Band. Both were sold out.

Saturday morning saw a full range of workshops, song and dance sessions. These were followed by Grand Dart-i-moor Fayre, opened by Chucklefoot, aka Roger Butler, who recently appeared on TV’s Britain’s Got Talent.

Another festival highlight was the presentation of an English Dance and Song Society gold badge to Vic Legg from Bodmin, Cornwall, for outstanding services to folk music, dance and song. Hundreds watched the presentation, made by Eddie Upton, also a gold badge holder.

A concert celebrating Devon’s Postman Poet, Edward Capern, was performed to a full house.

There were good crowds throughout Sunday and the closing Music Hall on the Sunday evening was also a sell-out, with standing room only at the back of the marquee.

Other artists at the festival included Greg Russell and Ciaran Algar, Sara Grey and Kieron Means, Moirai, The Jellyman’s Daughter, Kirkophany, Luke Daniels, The Stowes, The Dartmoor Pixie Band, The Ramsley Minors, Jim Causley, Enter-

tainingly Different and The Pocketwatch Theatre Company. A hugely-successful dedicated children’s festival ran alongside the main event.

Visitors were able to enjoy concerts, a ceilidh, craft displays, dances, pub sessions and music, song and dance workshops and competitions.

Free events included Starter’s Song Sessions, Shanty Group singing, Festival Folk Club sessions, a ramble on Dartmoor, Folk church service and Youth Music Session.

Alan Quick, press officer for the Dartmoor Folk Festival Association, said: “It was a fantastic weekend, a bit wet at times, but rain and windy conditions didn’t stop play.

‘THE festival association’s wet-weather procedure was put into action and the events all transferred into giant marquees and the other usual venues around South Zeal.

“Attendance was remarkably high, in fact a sell-out for several of the events, which shows the keenness of folk enthusiasts.

“We installed extra road trackway on grass areas where we know it can be wet, but no vehicles got stuck or needed a push.

“The works crew kept the marquee pegs firmly secured and fortunately there were no incidents or accidents or changes to the programme other than moving the arena events under cover.”

Jane White, festival secretary, said: “We had a fabulous festival. “The quality of the artists really shone through and despite the occasional rain and windy conditions, a good time was had by all.”

Jason Rice, chairman, added: “Everything ran smoothly and I would like to thank the 60 volunteer stewards, the association members who help stage the event, the local residents who put up with the tremendous influx of people and all those who attended. “It really was a great festival.”

Alan Quick, added: “It was the traditional music, dance, song and crafts of the area that formed the basis for the first Dartmoor Folk Festival and they



KEEPING UP TRADITION: The Dartmoor Pixie Band, which was created by the festival’s founder Bob Cann

still remain for the association which runs the festival today. Since it was founded it has grown enormously and we are able to invite some of the best folk artists around, whilst maintaining the festival’s reputation for being a relaxed, friendly and traditional festival.

“An action-packed programme was arranged and

it was another great festival. “The festival is deeply rooted in the heart of the Dartmoor community and is keeping customs and traditions alive. It really is one of the gems in the traditional music, song and dance calendar of the British Isles.”

A campsite of more than 200 pitches operated and many people attended from across the UK.

Exeter Folk & Acoustic Music Club

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- | | |
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| Friday 8th November | Concert Night – Pete Moreton |
| Friday 29 th November | Open Club Night |
| Friday 20 th December | Christmas Party Open Club Night |

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Edward steps up to first place

AFTER coming second in last year's junior stepdancing contest at Dartmoor Folk Festival, Edward Selwood, pictured, took the top trophy this year.

Edward, 13, is a South Zeal boy, but this year the adult's trophy went to a Hampshire lass: Alice Knight. Alice, 16, won the junior step dance championship in 2017 and this was her first year competing in the adult contest. Saturday afternoon at the Festival included the hotly-contested Dartmoor Broom Dance championship and here Stephanie Lowe, 10, from Swansea, Wales, swept the competition aside. Stephanie said she had been to every Dartmoor Folk Festival since she was in a pram and was delighted to win the award, having learned the steps in the festival workshops over the years.



Teignmouth is still sparkling at 21



ON THE BORDER: Lodestone Border Morris of Tavistock performing at Teignmouth

THE 21st Teignmouth folk festival was a great success, even if the weather on Sunday afternoon tried its best to dampen proceedings for an hour or so at the outside stage. Nevertheless, the show went on and Papa Gator and the Levee Breakers were a great hit in their first appearance at the festival although the audience was smaller than usual.

Luckily, the sun came out for the last part of the programme and the Morris finale went ahead as planned.

We were pleased to be invited to use the council chambers for our Friday and Saturday night concerts and both were very well attended. Geoff Lakeman and Jim Causley were on top form and we were delighted to introduce Peter and Barbara Snape from Lancashire to Teignmouth.

Friday night was a taster for them and they did a full support on Saturday night when we had Jim Payne from Newfoundland with Paul Wilson and Marilyn Tucker. We are always delighted to welcome Jim back to the festival and Teignmouth has strong links with Newfoundland.

The Sunday afternoon concert, hosted by Barry Lister, was well supported with the theme South West meets North West. Barry ran the concert in the style of the 'Woodlands' concerts at Sidmouth with

a bit of banter between the performers and a nice relaxed atmosphere.

We were delighted to welcome Bill Murray and together with Jim Causley and Geoff Lakeman, they entertained with West Country material and Peter & Barbara Snape, together with Barry, singing a variety of songs from the north.

One high spot this year was the comment from a regular that it was 'The Best Yet' which makes it all worth while.

ON Saturday the weather was really kind to us and the festival kicked off with a procession from East Cliff to the Triangle Stage led by the City of Plymouth Pipe Band followed at a "safe distance" by a dozen or so of the dance teams.

We were delighted the Old Guffers Shanty Crew joined us again this and pleased to introduce Rakes Adrift from North Devon to our festival audience.

Mrs Midnights' Ceilidh Band are always a favourite for those who want a good dance on Saturday night. Teignmouth has very good dance spots and over the weekend we had 22 teams performing, which filled the town with music and colour. Plans are under way for the 2020 festival which is set for June 19-21.

Steve Gill



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GUEST LIST

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- 3 NOV SARAH McQUAID**
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- 15 DEC CHRISTMAS PARTY**

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Letter to The Editor

Oggies? Oi!



THE editor has been taken to task by reader Bill Crawford of Totnes over the last issues front cover.

He writes: "Dear John, It is great to see a large part of the latest edition of *What's Afoot* given over to my old friend Cyril. However I was taken aback by the cover photograph. Cyril wrote *The Oggie Man* about the pasty seller outside Devonport Docks, which is in Devon.

"Cyril's picture is surrounded by Cornish Pasties. Any Devonian worth his salt knows Devon pasties have the crimping over the top, not at the side – that is the Cornish way.

"You may be interested to know that the earliest recorded mention of a 'pasty' is from Totnes."

I feared I'd get caught out on this. Although a blow-in, I know the difference between the pasties (and always put the cream on my scones first).

Mab Foxen cooked some Devon pasties for the front cover: they weredelicious but they didn't quite work artistically. So (oh the shame) I used Ginsters' mini pasties – nothing like so tasty but better in the photograph.

I can try to justify my use of Cornish pasties by quoting Cyril from his own website: "What is meant by 'oggie'? Well, it's a slang term for a **Cornish** pasty. The full term is 'tidy oggie' and I'd say its native use is confined mainly to Cornwall and to South West Devon, around the Naval port of Plymouth. I've tried asking for an oggie in South East Devon, at Exeter St David's station, only to be met with a blank stare and a slack jaw."

Thanks, Bill for the feedback and for saying that you still enjoyed the magazine.

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26th Sept - Musicians/Singers Open Night
31st Oct - Club's Sixteenth Birthday
With Guest Steve Turner
28th Nov – Musicians/Singers Open Night
19th Dec – Musicians/Singers Open Night

Further details from
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01392 422119 jeremy.m.child@gmail.com

Exeter Ceilidhs



28 Sep 2019 Pigs Might Fly

26 Oct 2019 Spinach for Norman

30 Nov 2019 Flash Co

Kenn Centre, Kennford 8pm – 11pm

07969 297 633 www.exeterceilidhs.net

FOLK dance has lost two wonderful musicians recently. Andrew Mycroft of the Amycrofters sadly left us in May, and more recently, at the end of July, we lost Bruce Thomas of Stick the Fiddle. Both were excellent musicians and a pleasure to work with. Whoever's in charge of these things, I think that's enough for now. You can read a tribute to Bruce on page 38. A tribute to Andrew appeared in the previous issue.

The Exeter Ceilidh series attracted dancers from all over, despite the occasional clash. The first season of six dances is now over. Total gate more than 350 dancers, all having the time of their lives. My utmost thanks again to the bands: Spinach for Norman, Pigs Might Fly, Amber Fire, Dartmoor Pixie Band, Dumbo's Feather and Phoenix.

Next season has nine (yes, nine!) dances. Some of the old favourites will be returning along with some new bands: Flash Company, Home Brew, Mischief and Mayhem and Chris Toyne's Big Band. This time I will be mostly taking a rest from calling duties. While the split calling was generally well received and seemed to have more fans than detractors, there were some practical issues. As you read this the season will have already started, so why not join us and Spinach for Norman on October 26?

Hopefully, you will have been to Sidmouth Folk Festival this year to try out the delights of Diane Silver from the US calling Contra, along with some ceilidh greats such as Whapweasel, Blackbeards Tea Party and (still going strong) the Committee Band. We lost the lovely Stowford Rise hall and had to be content with the somewhat smaller St Theresa's Hall for the evening dances. Despite my concerns, this turned out to be a blessing. House full happened only once, and the benefit of not having to trek miles away more than outweighed the (at times) slight crush.

This was my first time calling at Sidmouth (excluding a single Anchor Gardens Ceilidh, which doesn't really count) — six sessions of squares and two contra evenings. The afternoon sessions, known as "The Big Square Thing", were a joint workshop with Ivan Aitken and myself. It was an experiment by Gareth, but by all accounts it was very popular.

Personally I had a great time. As many of you know, I love calling, and to be able to do so to so many amazing dancers was wonderful. To be able to do so to the incredible fiddle playing of my favourite Token Woman, Linda Game (ECDB, The Linda Game Band) took it into the realm of a sublime pleasure.

Sadly the end of Sidmouth was not so much a

washout as a blowout. The organisers were so worried about the gale forecast that they dismantled the Ham venue early, moving the concerts up to the Bulverton. That didn't really help though — the Bulverton also suffered and they ended up having to abandon the Granny's Attic concert mid-number. Lewis Wood, who was playing on stage at the time, said he was terrified.

So, no Belshazzar's Feast concert, and no last night LNE — a highlight of the festival for many. Still, well done to the organisers for making the right call when faced with a difficult decision.

Wandering around Sidmouth, it seemed there were fewer people around — and the weather wasn't to blame (at least not at the start of the week). When Tom Hinds came over in 2015, the Blackmore Gardens dance floor was full with four (or sometimes even five) packed contra lines. Not so this year. Diane Silver was amazing, but the numbers were definitely down.

Moving on, I see the Government is continuing its assault on our folk traditions. First it was by over zealous live music restrictions. Then Brexit (try getting musicians over here, or vice versa, after we've left). Now they've decided to move the May 2020 bank holiday back four days — to the Friday of the following weekend. No consultation, just seems like a good idea.

While I approve of the sentiment (moving it for VE day celebrations), a little more notice would have been nice. When they moved it in 1995 they gave two years notice.

So two fingers (it is VE day after all) up to calendar and diary producers who have already started printing next year's product. Two fingers up to anyone planning on getting married on the bank holiday. And two fingers up to May Heydays.

The successor to Eastbourne International Folk Festival, May Heydays, has been created and moved to Evesham through the sheer hard work, commitment and dedication of a small group of people. It's an incredibly difficult task to start a folk festival from scratch, which apart from a mailing list and a slot in the calendar is exactly what they were doing.

Thanks to the Government, they have had to cancel all the bank holiday Monday activities they had planned. Dancing will end at 10.30pm on Sunday, although campers will be able to stay on until Monday morning. Ticket prices are being changed to reflect the new situation.

Mecki and her team have done amazing things despite so much adversity. Please support them if you can by going to May Heydays next year. Details at mayheydays.org.uk.

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 where a change in pub landlord can lead to venue changes at short notice) 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 cannot accept responsibility for subsequent changes by club organisers or because of unforeseen events.

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

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

WILLAND FOLK DANCE CLUB

SATURDAY DANCES
Willand Village Hall

- October 19th Jane Thomas & English Contra Dance Band
- November 9th Dinner & Dance - Jane Thomas & Ted Farmer & Weston Country Dance Band (*Ticket Only*)
- December 14th Sarah Bazeley & The Dartmoor Pixie Band
- December 31st New Year's Eve – Jane Thomas & Robert Blackborow & Pair of Shears (*Ticket £9.00*)

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 informa^on
Contact Marilyn Broom 01404 47200 or Zena Roberts 01884 253546

Regular Events

MONDAY WEEKLY

SESSION Appledore Royal Hotel Totnes, Bay Horse

DANCE

Bridport FDC . WI Hall. 7.30pm Monty Crook, 01308 423442.

Chudleigh FDC, Chudleigh Town Hall. Term time. From 7pm. Mary Marker 01626 854141

Kilmington VH, 2-4pm. Janet Bulpin 01297 33019

Sidford Scottish at VH

SONG Kingsteignton, Acoustic Warehouse, Passage House Inn, 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, The Horse pub (last)

Plymouth, Dolphin (2nd)

South Zeal, Kings Arms (3rd)

Topsham, Bridge Inn (2nd) Blues

STORY Totnes, Pie Street. (2nd) South Devon Storytellers, 7.30pm

TUESDAY WEEKLY

SESSION Appledore, The Champ
DANCE

Exmouth Isca Scottish Dancers, Sept-May. East Budleigh CH 7.30pm. VJ Tyler, 01395 276913

Farringdon VH, EX5 2HZ, 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 SONG Bradninch White Lion(1st), Castle (3rd)

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

SESSION Exmouth Manor Hotel (3rd, 5th) Jeff Lewis 01395 269232
DANCE Kingsteignton FDC.

Church Hall. Jean Foster 01626 363887 (2nd, 4th)

Wiveliscombe FDC, (2nd, 4th). Community Centre. 01984 624595
SONG

Plymouth, Artillery Arms (1st, 3rd) 8.30pm Marilyn Cowan 01752 309983

South Brent, Pack Horse (2nd, 4th) 8.30pm Eileen McKee 01364 73699

TUESDAY MONTHLY

SESSIONS

Albaston, Queens Head, 1st
Bradninch, West End Hall. (2nd). Colin Wilson 01392882036

Calstock, Boot Inn (2nd) Mike 07725 579718

Chipshop (nr Tavistock) Copper Penny, 8pm (4th)

Frogmore, Globe Inn (1st). 8.30pm.

Shebbear, Devil's Stone (2nd)

SONG Coleford, New Inn (last) 01363 84914

Sandford, Lamb Inn (1st) Paul & Hazel 01363 776275

MUSIC Topsham, Bridge Inn (1st)

WEDNESDAY WEEKLY

SESSION Appledore, Royal Hotel
DANCE Bideford FDC, Northam VH. Chris Jewell, 01237 423554

Gittisham FDC at 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 PH. 10am-12pm. VJ Tyler, 01395 276913

SESSION

Exmouth, Beacon Vaults

Torquay Ryans Bar

WED FORTNIGHTLY

DANCE Crowcombe, Halsway Manor FDG (1st, 3rd)

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

Malborough, Royal Oak, (2nd)
Pennymoor Singaround, Cruwys Arms (3rd). Biddy Mallabone 01271 373305

SESSION Plymouth, Hyde Inn (2nd). Alis 01752 662002

MUSIC Seaton. Eyre Court (3rd) Jurassic Folk. Adrian 01404 549903

Swimbridge, Jack Russell Inn (1st)
SONG Sidmouth, Anchor (1st)
Uffculme Culm Music & Performance Club at VH. (last). Brian Bennelick 01884 840192

THURSDAY WEEKLY SONG

Bideford FSC, Joiners Arms. John Purser 01237 424286
Bishopsteignton, Red Rock

Regular Events

Brewery 7.30pm. John Morey 07791 054773

Denbury, Union Inn, Steve Bassett, 01803 812537

DANCE

Crewkerne FDC, St Bartholomew's Church. Jean 01460 72505

Newton Popleford, American Square class, VH, 2-4.30pm.

Tavistock FDC, Town Hall.

Margaret Holt, 01822 855858

SESSION Plymouth, Minerva Inn, 8.30pm

THURS FORTNIGHTLY

DANCE Chard FDC, Combe St Nicholas VH. 7.30pm Hillary Durrant 01460 61996

Exmouth FDC (1st, 3rd). Withycombe Methodist CH. Chris Miles 01395 275592

Willand FDC at VH. (2nd, 4th) Zena Roberts 01884 253546

MUSIC Willand Club Band, VH. (1st, 3rd) Mary Marker 01626 854141

WEST GALLERY Crediton, St Lawrence Chapel. Sonja Andrews 01363 877216

THURSDAY MONTHLY SONG

Brixham, Quayside Hotel (1st)

Teignmouth FSC, Oystercatcher Cafe (last)

MUSIC

Churchstow, Church House Inn (1st)

Totnes, Barrell House. Klezmer (3rd)

South Brent, Pack Horse Inn (3rd)

SESSION

Exmouth, Bicton Inn (1st)

Frogmore, Globe. (3rd) 8.30pm

FRIDAY WEEKLY

DANCE

Bideford Country Dance Club, Northam VH. John Blackburn 01237 476632

Dartington FDC at VH.

Sheila Chappell, 01392 882156

Newton Popleford American Square Dance classes. VH 10am-12.30pm 01395 578306

SONG Bodmin FSC, The Old Library, 10 Lower Bore Street, PL31 2JX

www.bodminfolkclub.co.uk

FRIDAY FORTNIGHTLY

DANCE Aylesbeare FDC at VH. Ted Farmer 01392 466326

FRIDAY MONTHLY

DANCE

Exeter D'accord French, St Matthew's Hall. Mike Long 01392 811593. Not regular.

Exeter Contra Dance, Kenn Centre, Exeter Road, Kennford, EX6 7UE, 7.30pm (2nd). Jeremy Child 01392 422119.

South Brent Fest Noz, Palstone Recreation Hall (1st)

SONG

Brixham FSC, Old Coaching Inn (1st). Mark Harrod mnharrod@yahoo.co.uk

Carhampton, Butchers Arms. (2nd). Lynda Baker 01643 702994

Exeter Folk & Acoustic Club, Victoria Tennis Club (last). Peter Cornelius 01392 210983.

Marldon. Old SmokeyHouse (3rd) Folk Plus Acoustic Club. Paul 01803 550153

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

SESSION Plympton, Union Inn (last)

SAT FORTNIGHTLY

SONG Combe Martin, Shammick Acoustic, Pack Of Cards. (2nd, 4th). Tom & Barbara Brown 01271 882366

SATURDAY MONTHLY

SONG

Brendon, Staghunters. (3rd) Carole Henderson-Begg,

01769 540581

Calstock, Boot Inn (1st) Mike Warman 01579 382711 Oct-March only)

SESSION West Anstey, Jubilee Inn (1st) 7pm

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 St Matthew's Hall. John Stephens 01392 875332

SUNDAY FORTNIGHTLY

SONG

Bude FSC, Falcon Hotel Debbie Merrett, 01409 254144

SESSION

Parracombe, Hunter's Inn. (2nd, 4th)

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

MUSIC

Pennymoor, Cruwys Arms. (last) Lunchtime

Plymouth, Dolphin. (1st) 1.30pm

SESSION

Totnes, Bay Horse. (2nd) Bluegrass.

DAY UNSPECIFIED

DANCE

Beacon Wheel Chair Dancers. Sue Cummings 01803 554799

Teign Playford Club. Jean Foster 01626 363887

University of Exeter Folk Dance

Specific Events

OCTOBER

TUESDAY 1st
CONCERT
Kingskerswell, St Mary's Parish Church, TQ12 5LD. 7.30pm, Damien O'Kane & Ron Block

WEDNESDAY 2nd
DANCE
Gittisham Folk Dance Club. Pair of Shears, Ted Farmer
Halsway Folk Dance Group, Bicknoller Village Hall.
Stringaccord, Robert Blackborow

THURSDAY 3rd
CONCERT
Halsway Manor, Halsway Lane, Crowcombe, Somerset TA4 4BD. 8pm, Guitar Concert with Kevin Dempsey, Tristan Seume, Charlotte Carrivick

FRIDAY 4th
CONCERT
Otterton Mill, nr Budleigh Salterton, Devon, EX9 7HG. 8pm, Paul Lamb and Chad Strentz
Great Torrington, Plough Arts Centre EX38 8HQ. 8pm, Lindisfarne

SONG
Brixham Folk. The Old Coaching Inn, 61 Fore Street, Brixham, TQ5 8AG. 7.30pm, Club Guest night with Cosgrave & Banks

SATURDAY 5th
CEILIDH
Bridport Ceilidhs - Church House (St Mary's) Hall, South Street, Bridport DT6 3NW. 7.30pm Chris Jewell, Ted Farmer
Halsway Manor, Halsway Lane, Crowcombe, Somerset TA4 4BD. 8pm, Matt Norman, Ed Rennie, Jenny Read, Steph West.

DANCE
Teign Playford Rydon Hall Kingsteignton 2.30-5.30pm with Gwyn George and Jean Foster.

SUNDAY 6th
SONG
Topsham Folk Song Club, Matthews Hall, Fore Street, Topsham EX3 0HF. 8pm, Leveret

WEDNESDAY 9th
DANCE
Gittisham Folk Dance Club. Jason Rice and Rob Murch of Dartmoor Pixie Band - Simon Maplesden

THURSDAY 10th
DANCE
Willand Folk Dance Club. Rob Zikking with own music

CONCERT
Ivybridge, The Watermark, Erme Court, Leonards Road, PL21 0SZ. 8pm, Fairport Convention

The Plough@TheGeorge, The George Hotel, 1 Broad Street, South Molton EX36 3AB. 8pm, The Urban Folk Quartet

SONG
Bideford Folk Song Club. The Joiners Arms, Market Place, EX30 2DR. 8pm, Bruce Watson

FRIDAY 11th
SONG
Exeter Folk and Acoustic Music Club. Victoria Park Tennis Club, Lyndhurst Road, St Leonards, EX2 4NX. 8pm, Jackie Oates

CONCERT
Calstock Arts, The Old Chapel, Sand Lane, PL18 9QX. 8pm, The Rheingans Sisters

SATURDAY 12th
SONG
Combe Martin, Shammick Acoustic Open Night, Pack o' Cards.

CEILIDH
Bideford, Pollyfield Centre, 2 Avon Road, EX39 4BL. 7.30pm. The Dartmoor Pixie Band

CONCERT
Exeter, Cygnet Theatre, Friars

Gate, EX2 4AZ. 7.30pm, Gothic Dartmoor - Wren Music

Great Torrington, Plough Arts Centre, EX38 8HQ. 8pm, Nick Wyke & Becki Driscoll - Cold Light

SUNDAY 13th
SONG
Lee Mill, Folk on the Moor, Westward Inn, PL21 9EE. 7.45pm, Luke Jackson

CONCERT
Kingskerswell, St Mary's Parish Church, TQ12 5LD. 7.30pm, Rachel Sermanni

Great Torrington Plough Arts Centre, EX38 8HQ. 7.30pm, Anne Niepold & Riccardo Tesi

WEDNESDAY 16th
DANCE
Gittisham Folk Dance. Bridgwater Band, Mary Blackborow
Halsway Folk Dance Group, Bicknoller Village Hall. Pair of Shears, Ray Goodswen

FRIDAY 18th
CONCERT
Halsway Manor, Halsway Lane, Crowcombe, Somerset TA4 4BD. 8pm, Melodeon Concert: Anne Niepold & Riccardo Tesi

Exeter Phoenix, Gandy Street, EX4 3LS. 8pm, Al Stewart

Barnstaple, The Plough@StAnne's, Paternoster Row, EX31 1SX. 8pm, Sarah Deere-Jones & Phil Williams

SATURDAY 19th
DANCE
Willand Folk Dance Club. Willand Village Hall, Gables Road, Willand, Cullompton, EX15 2PL. 8pm, English Contra Dance Band, Jane Thomas

CEILIDH
South Brent Village Hall, 7.30pm, Autumn Ceilidh, The Mooncoin Ceilidh Band

Halsway Manor, National Centre for Folk Arts, Halsway Lane, Crowcombe, Somerset TA4 4BD. 8pm, Merry Neet with Taffy Thomas & Friends.

TUESDAY 22nd
SONG
Exeter, The Bridge Inn, Bridge Hill, Topsham, EX3 0QQ. 8pm. Willy Porter

WEDNESDAY 23rd
DANCE
Gittisham Folk Dance. Stick the Fiddle, Ray Goodswen

SONG
Gidsong, Gidleigh Village Hall, nr Chagford, TQ13 8HR. Open evening, all welcome. 8pm.

THURSDAY 24th
DANCE
Willand Folk Dance Club. Jane Thomas, Pair of Shears

CONCERT
Exeter Phoenix, Gandy Street, EX4 3LS. 7pm, The Eskies

Great Torrington, Plough Arts Centre EX38 8HQ. 8pm, Mad Dog Mcree

SATURDAY 26th
CONCERT
Combe Martin, Shammick Acoustic Open Night, Pack o' Cards. Bob and Gill Berry

Halsway Manor, National Centre for Folk Arts, Halsway Lane, Crowcombe, Somerset TA4 4BD. 8pm, Duo Branschke/Armstrong

The Plough@TheGeorge, The George Hotel, 1 Broad Street, South Molton EX36 3AB, 8pm, Track Dogs

DANCE
Exeter D'Accord's French Music and Dance. St Mathews Hall, Summerlands Place, Newtown, EX1 2LJ

Exeter Ceilidhs, The Kenn Centre, Exeter Road, Kennford, Exeter,

Devon, EX6 7UE. 8pm, Spinach for Norman

SUNDAY 27th
CONCERT
Kingskerswell, St Mary's Parish Church, TQ12 5LD. 7.30pm, Marry Waterson & Emily Barker

Great Torrington, Plough Arts Centre EX38 8HQ. 7.30pm, Grace Petrie

MONDAY 28th
CONCERT
Exeter Phoenix, Gandy Street, Exeter EX4 3LS. 8pm, Grace Petrie

WEDNESDAY 30th
DANCE
Gittisham Folk Dance. Jigs for Gigs, Colin Andrews

CONCERT
Honiton, The Beehive Arts Centre, Dowell Street, EX14 1LZ. 7.30pm, Show of Hands

THURSDAY 31st
SONG
Teignmouth Folk Club's 16th Birthday with guest Steve Turner. The Oystercatcher's Café. 12 Northumberland Place, Teignmouth, TQ14 8DD. 8pm,

NOVEMBER

FRIDAY 1st
CONCERT
Barnstaple The Plough@StAnne's, Paternoster Row, EX31 1SX. 8pm, Faeland

SATURDAY 2nd
CEILIDH
Bridport Ceilidhs. Church House (St Mary's) Hall, South Street, Bridport DT6 3NW 7.30pm. Chris Toyne Big Band, Jeremy Child

SUNDAY 3rd
CONCERT
Halsway Manor, Halsway Lane, Crowcombe, Somerset TA4 4BD. 5pm, Tom & Barbara Brown, Mick

Ryan and Lester Simpson

Exeter Phoenix, Gandy Street, EX4 3LS. 7.30pm Paul Simon's Graceland Performed by the London African Gospel Choir

SONG
Lee Mill, Folk on the Moor, Westward Inn, PL21 9EE. PL21 9EE. 7.45 pm, Sarah McQuaid

WEDNESDAY 6th
DANCE
Gittisham Folk Dance Club. Chris Toyne, Mary Marker

Halsway Folk Dance Group, Bicknoller Village Hall. BG Sound, Club Callers

FRIDAY 8th
CONCERT
Calstock Arts, The Old Chapel, Sand Lane, Calstock PL18 9QX. 8pm, Clive Carroll

SONG
Exeter Folk and Acoustic Music Club. Victoria Park Tennis Club, Lyndhurst Road, St. Leonards, EX2 4NX. 8pm, Pete Morton

SATURDAY 9th
SONG
Combe Martin, .Shammick Acoustic Open Night, Pack o' Cards

DANCE
Launceston Folk Dance Club Saturday Dance. Launceston Town Hall, PL15 7AR. 8pm. Beryl Jukes & Jig & Reel

Willand Folk Dance Club. Willand Village Hall, Gables Road, Willand, EX15 2PL. 8pm, Ted Farmer, Weston C D Band, Jane Thomas. Ticket only

CONCERT
Halsway Manor, Halsway Lane, Crowcombe, Somerset TA4 4BD. 8pm, Narthen

SUNDAY 10th
SONG
Lee Mill, Folk on the Moor,

Specific Events

Westward Inn, PL21 9EE. 7.45pm, Daoiri Farrell

Topsham Folk Song Club, Matthews Hall, Fore Street, EX3 0HF. 8pm, Jim Moray

WEDNESDAY 13th

DANCE

Gittisham Folk Dance Club. Fresh Aire, Graham Barrett

CONCERT

Exeter Corn Exchange, Market Street, EX1 1BW. 8pm, Oysterband & June Tabor

THURSDAY 14th

DANCE

Willand Folk Dance Club. Stringaccord, Robert Blackborow

CONCERT

Topsham, Matthews Hall, Fore Street, EX3 0HF. 8pm, Martyn Joseph

SONG

Totnes Folk Song Club.

Dartmouth Inn, The Plains, TQ9 5EL. 8pm. James Patterson & John Dipper

FRIDAY 15th

CONCERT

Kingskerswell, St Mary's Parish Church, TQ12 5LD. 7.30pm, Chris Cleverley

Exeter Corn Exchange, Market St, EX1 1BW. 8pm, Elkie Brooks

South Molton, The

Plough@TheGeorge, The George Hotel, 1 Broad Street, EX36 3AB. 8pm, The Tannahill Weavers

SATURDAY 16th

CONCERT

Calstock Arts, The Old Chapel, Sand Lane, PL18 9QX. 8pm, Keating, Dyer & Davey

Honiton, The Beehive Arts Centre, Dowell Street, EX14 1LZ. 7.45pm, Acoustic Strawbs

DANCE

Tavistock Folk Dance Club.

Tavistock Town Hall, Bedford Square, PL19 0AE. 8pm, Jigs for Gigs, Jane Thomas

TUESDAY 19th

CONCERT

Exeter Phoenix, Gandy Street, EX4 3LS. 8pm, Moya Brennan

SONG

Gidsong, Gidleigh Village Hall, nr Chagford, TQ13 8HR. Open evening, all welcome. 8pm

WEDNESDAY 20th

CONCERT

Brixham Theatre, New Road, TQ5 8TA. 7.30pm. Gigspanner Big Band

DANCE

Gittisham Folk Dance Club. Meter Rite, Aileen Wills

Halsway Folk Dance Group, Bicknoller Village Hall. Chris

Toyne, Jane Thomas

THURSDAY 21st

CONCERT

Exeter, The Lemon Grove, St. German's Road, EX4 6TG. 7.30pm, Wildwood Kin

SATURDAY 23rd

DANCE

D'Accord's French Music and Dance. St Mathews Hall, Summerlands Place,

Newtown, EX1 2LJ. 7.30pm, Kantref

CONCERT

Combe Martin, Shammick Acoustic, Pack o' Cards. Rag

Mama Rag

SUNDAY 24th

CONCERT

Calstock Arts, The Old Chapel, Sand Lane, PL18 9QX. 8pm, Lady Maisery

SONG

Lee Mill, Folk on the Moor, Westward Inn, PL21 9EE. 7.45pm,

Mike Silver

WEDNESDAY 27th

CONCERT

DANCE

Gittisham Folk Dance Club. Tight Squeeze, Jane Thomas

THURSDAY 28th

DANCE

Willand Folk Dance Club. The More The Merrier, Ted Farmer

CONCERT

Great Torrington, Plough Arts Centre EX38 8HQ. 8pm, The Hut People

FRIDAY 29th

CONCERT

Ivybridge, The Watermark, Erme Court, Leonards Road, PL21 0SZ. 7.30pm, The Hut People

Kingskerswell, St Mary's Parish

Church, TQ12 5LD. 7.30pm, Sound of the Sirens + support

Sadie Horler.

SATURDAY 30th

DANCE

Exeter Ceilidhs The Kenn Centre, Exeter Road, Kennford, EX6 7UE. 8pm, Flash Company

CONCERT

Halsway Manor, Halsway Lane, Crowcombe, Somerset TA4 4BD. 8pm, London Klezmer Quartet

December

SUNDAY 1st

CEILIDH

Bideford, Northam Hall, Fore St, Northam, EX39 1AN. 2pm. Spinach for Norman

SONG

Lee Mill, Folk on the Moor, Westward Inn, PL21 9EE. 7.45pm.

WEDNESDAY 4th

DANCE

Gittisham Folk Dance Club. Jeroka, Simon Maplesden

Halsway Folk Dance Group. Stringaccord, Aileen Wills

THURSDAY 5th

CONCERT

Ivybridge, The Watermark, Erme Court, Leonards Road, PL21 0SZ. 8pm, St Agnes Fountain

Halsway Manor, Halsway Lane, Crowcombe, Somerset TA4 4BD. 8pm, Belshazzars' Feast

FRIDAY 6th

CONCERT

Calstock Arts, The Old Chapel, Sand Lane, PL18 9QX. 8pm, Tom Moore & Archie Moss

Exmouth Pavilion Esplanade, EX8 2AZ. 7.30pm, Show of Hands

SATURDAY 7th

SONG

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

CONCERT

Exmouth Pavilion Esplanade, EX8 2AZ. 7.30pm, Show of Hands

DANCE

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

CONCERT

Halsway Manor, Halsway Lane, Crowcombe, Somerset TA4 4BD. 8pm, Christmas Frolics with The Mellstock Band

Barnstaple The Plough@StAnne's, Paternoster Row, EX31 1SX, 8pm. The Finn Collinson Band

SUNDAY 8th

SONG

Lee Mill, Folk on the Moor, Westward Inn, PL21 9EE. 7.45pm, Gerry Colvin

MONDAY 9th

CONCERT

Exeter Corn Exchange - Market Street, EX1 1BW. 8pm, Steeleye Span 50th Anniversary Tour

WEDNESDAY 11th

DANCE

Specific Events

Gittisham Folk Dance Club. The Dancing Keys, Ted Farmer

THURSDAY 12th

DANCE

Willand Folk Dance Club. Iain and Nick, Simon Maplesden

SONG

Totnes Folk Song Club. Club night with traditional carols

CONCERT

Halsway Manor, Halsway Lane, Crowcombe, Somerset TA4 4BD. 8pm, Yuletide! A Tudor Christmas with Piva

SATURDAY 14th

DANCE

Exeter, D'Accord's French Music and Dance. St Mathews Hall, Summerlands Place, Newtown, EX1 2LJ. 7.30pm, The Eelgrinders

Willand Folk Dance Club. Willand Village Hall, Gables

Road,, Cullompton, EX15 2PL. 8pm, Dartmoor Pixie Band, Sarah Bazeley,

CONCERT

Combe Martin, Shammick Acoustic, Pack o' Cards, Narthen

Totnes, St Mary's Church, High Street, TQ9 5NN. 7.30pm, Totnes Early Music Society, Society of Strange and Ancient Instruments: The Longest Night

Lynton Town Hall. 8pm, Knight & Spiers

SUNDAY 15th

CONCERT

Halsway Manor, Halsway Lane, Crowcombe, Somerset TA4 4BD. 3.30pm, Steph West, folk harp.

SONG

Lee Mill, Folk on the Moor, Westward Inn, PL21 9EE. 7.45pm, Christmas party.

TUESDAY 17th

Gidsong, Gidleigh Village Hall, nr Chagford, TQ13 8HR. Open evening, all welcome. 8pm

SONG

Lee Mill, Folk on the Moor, Westward Inn, PL21 9EE. 7.45pm, Christmas party.

SONG

Lee Mill, Folk on the Moor, Westward Inn, PL21 9EE. 7.45pm, Christmas party.

TUESDAY 17th

Gidsong, Gidleigh Village Hall, nr Chagford, TQ13 8HR. Open evening, all welcome. 8pm

SONG

Lee Mill, Folk on the Moor, Westward Inn, PL21 9EE. 7.45pm, Christmas party.

WEDNESDAY 18th

CONCERT

Ivybridge, The Watermark, Erme Court, Leonards Road, PL21 0SZ. 8pm, Mad Dog Mcreea

DANCE

Gittisham Folk Dance Club. Jigs for Gigs, Robert Blackborow

Halsway Folk Dance Group. Halsway Manor. Fresh Aire - Simon Maplesden

THURSDAY 19th

CONCERT

Honiton, The Beehive Arts Centre, Dowell Street, EX14 1LZ. 8pm, Mad Dog Mcreea Damnation Alley Tour 2019

SUNDAY 22nd

SONG

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

FRIDAY 27th

CEILIDH

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

SATURDAY 28th

SONG

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

TUESDAY 31st

DANCE

Willand Folk Dance Club. Willand Village Hall, Gables Road, Cullompton, Devon EX15 2PL. 8pm, Pair of Shears, Jane Thomas & Robert Blackborow

Keep us up to date with what's happening in your area. Email devonfolkeditor@gmail.com

Clubs and Sessions

Folk song clubs and sessions are sometimes forced to change venue at short notice due to change in management at a pub. See www.flaxey-green.co.uk or www.devonfolk.org.uk for updates.

ALBASTON

1st Tues. Queen's Head, Cornwall PL18 9AJ. Open session

APPLEDORE

Tues. The Champ, 5 Meeting Street), EX39 1RJ.

BEAWORTHY

2nd Tues The Devil's Stone Inn Shebbear, EX21 5RU

Bere Ferrers

Old Plough. 01822 841064 **3rd Sun** song & music, **Alternate Tues** music session

contactus@theoldeploughinn.co.uk

BIDEFORD

Thurs Bideford Folk Club*

Joiners Arms - John Purser 01237 424286 or email bidefolk@gmail.com

BISHOPSTEIGNTON

Thurs, Red Rock Brewery, John Morey 07791 054773.

www.oldworkshop.org. 7.30 pm

BODMIN Folk Club

Fri, The Old Library, 10 Lower Bore Street, Bodmin, PL31 2JX www.bodminfolk.co.uk

BOW

1st Wed Irish music session White Hart, Bow.

BRADNINCH

2nd Tue. Acoustic Music Club Bradninch West End Hall, West End Road EX4 4QW. Colin Wilson 01392 882036.

1st Tue Folk club. Old White Lion, guest night **3rd Tue.** Castle Hotel. 8.30 pm. Rob Reeves,

01392 881014

BRENDON

3rd Sat. Staghunters. Carole Henderson-Begg, 01769 540581

BRIXHAM*

3rd Wed. The Old Coaching Inn, 61 Fore Street, TQ5 8AG events@theoldcoachinginnbrixham.uk

3rd Wed. The Golden Lion 65 New Road TQ5 8NL, David Lee 01803 846 346

BUDE
Sun. twice monthly. Falcon Hotel. Debbie Merritt 01409 254144 or see www.budefolk.com

BUDE

CALSTOCK
1st Sat, The Boot Inn, Fore Street, PL18 9RN. October to January. Mike Warman 01579 382711

2nd Tues. The Boot Inn, Fore Street, PL18 9RN Telephone Mike 07725 579718

CARHAMPTON (nr. Minehead)
2nd Fri. The Blazing Stump Folk Club, Butcher's Arms TA24 6LP (01643 821333), Lynda Baker: 01643 702994, lyndabaker731@gmail.com

CHITTLEHAMPTON
1st Fri. concerts, usually in Parish Church. Preconcert supper if pre-booked. 01769 540581 or 540887. events@chumpchurches.org.uk

2nd Mon. music session, Bell Inn

COMBE MARTIN
2nd & 4th Sat. Shammick Acoustic, Pack of Cards. Tom & Barbara Brown, 01271 882366.

CHIPSHOP (nr. Tavistock)
4th Tuesday – 8pm Copper Penny Inn, PL19 8NT (01822 833288, 07725 579718) mitilmusic@gmail.com

COLEFORD
Last Tues 8pm Acoustic night The New Inn EX17 5BZ Tel: Dave 01363 84914

CREDITON
Alternate Thursday CREDITON West Gallery Quire. Sonja Andrews 01363 877216

CULLOMPTON
3rd Friday and 5th Sunday South West Shape Note Singing, Steve 07976 605692 or Martin 07721 451406

DENBURY
Thurs. Union Inn. Acoustic mixed sessions. Steve Bassett, 01803 812537

EXETER
1st Fri Barnfield Theatre. Bedford Room. Acoustic open mic session. Jerry 07843 419178

Last Fri. Exeter Folk & Acoustic Music Club Victoria Park Tennis Club, St Leonards Peter Cornelius 01392 210983 www.exeterfolkclub.org/

EXETER

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

LEE MILL

Sun Folk On The Moor. 7.45pm Westward Inn, Lee Mill. Anton Horwich, 01822 853620

HALSWAY

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

HAYTOR

1st Fri, 7pm Tinpickle Session - Tinpickle and Rhum, The Moorland, Dartmoor National Park TQ13 9XT (01364 661407)

4th Tues. Shape Note singing Methodist Church, East Street, Lpplepen, TQ12 5SX jeremyjamesdonaldson@gmail.com

KINGSTEIGNTON
Mon. 7.30pm Acoustic Warehouse – Music & Performance Club, Estuary Courtyard, Passage House Inn. Nigel 07989 180091

LYMPSTONE
4th Wed. Lymptone Folk, Roots and Acoustic, Saddler's Arms, Exmouth Road, EX8 5LS. 01395 225075, 07741409265

MARLDON
3rd Fri Ye Olde Smokey House, Vicarage Road, TQ3 1NN. Folk Plus Acoustic Music Club. Paul 07894 961010 or 01803 550153.

MORETONHAMPSTEAD
Last Mon, The Horse Pub, George Street, TQ13 8PG

NADDERWATER (Exeter)
1st Thurs. Royal Oak Singaround. Traditional & Contemporary. 01392 272352

KEHAMPTON
Last Sun. Okey Folky. Plume of Feathers. Mixed music and song session Debbie 0777347937

PENNYMOOR Singaround* **3rd Wed.** Cruwys Arms. Jon Shapley 01363 83740

Last Sun Music session Cruwys Arms. Biddy Mallabone 01271 373 305 Jon Shapley 01363

PLYMOUTH
2nd Wed. Plymouth Folk Roots Hyde, Mutley. Ali 01752 662002

1st and 3rd Tue. The Artillery Arms. Mixed song and instrument session Marilyn Cowan 01752 309983

SANDFORD
1st Tue. Lamb Inn. Mostly song. Paul & Hazel 01363 776275

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

SEATON
3rd Wed Jurassic Folk - Eyre Court, 2, Queen Street. Music session. Adrian 01404 549903

SOUTH BRENT
Alt. Tues Pack Horse Inn. 8.30pm. Song. Eileen KcKee 01364 73699

3rd Thurs, 8pm. Mixed session

SOUTH ZEAL
3rd Mon music session email markbazeleymobile@gmail.com

STICKLEPATH (Okehampton)
1st Sun. Devonshire Inn. Derek Moore 01837 840316

SWIMBRIDGE
1st Wed The Jack Russell, Al Cruse pamnal2@btinternet.com

TEIGNMOUTH
Last Thurs. Teignmouth Folk Club. Oystercatcher Cafe, Northumberland Place. Martyn Hillstead, 01626 778071.

TOPSHAM*
Sun. Singers nights, Globe Hotel 8pm. John Stephens 01392 875332 www.topshamfolkclub.org

TORQUAY
3rd Mon Open Mic. Artizan Gallery 01803 428626. Robert Spence

TOTNES
2nd Thurs Folk Song Club. Dartmouth Inn. Steve & Anne Gill, 01803 290427.

1st & 3rd Mon. open session (English) **2nd & 4th Mon.** open session (Irish). **2nd & 4th Wed.** mostly traditional song unaccompanied Bay Horse

UFFCULME
Last Wed. Culm Music & Performance Club, Village Hall, 5 Bridge Street EX15 3AX. Brian Bannellick, 01884 840192

WILLAND
Alt. Thurs. Willand Club Band Workshop Willand Chapel, Gables Road. Mary Marker 01626 854141

Clubs and Sessions

KINGSTEIGNTON

Mon. 7.30pm Acoustic Warehouse – Music & Performance Club, Estuary Courtyard, Passage House Inn. Nigel 07989 180091

LYMPSTONE

4th Wed. Lymptone Folk, Roots and Acoustic, Saddler's Arms, Exmouth Road, EX8 5LS. 01395 225075, 07741409265

MARLDON

3rd Fri Ye Olde Smokey House, Vicarage Road, TQ3 1NN. Folk Plus Acoustic Music Club. Paul 07894 961010 or 01803 550153.

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Last Sun Music session Cruwys Arms. Biddy Mallabone 01271 373 305 Jon Shapley 01363



MUGDOCK
Scottish Ceilidh
&
Country Dance Band
01643 707294

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)

Catseyebag@aol.com

www.catseyemorris.co.uk

Cogs & Wheels (F)

Donna Tombs

dtombs65@gmail.com (Thurs)

Dartmoor Border (F)

Mark Tregaskis 01752 299700

Dartington Morris Men (R)

Martin Jones,

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).

info@firestonedance.co.uk

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)

Jacqueline on 07748 121093

Grimspound Border Morris (F)

Lee Merry, 8, Waterside, Bovey

Tracey, TQ139SX

lmerry@live.co.uk

Harberton Navy (F)

Jan Culf

janculf@harbertondevon.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 2LD

Lodestone Border (F)

lodestonemorris@hotmail.co.uk

Mayhem Border Morris (O)

Wellington.

Mayhembordermorrissuk

@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 (R)

Bag: Marion Reece

maz4par@gmail.com. 01752

210181

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, 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

PLEASE keep your contact details up to date. Email changes to devonfolkeditor@gmail.com

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

Banned From The Moor

01364 631401

Barnstormers 01392 882036

Blue Jewel 07957 855458

Broad Band 01884 840816

Bridgewater 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

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

Oggle 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

Tinners 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 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

General Information

FOLK IN CORNWALL

John Tremaine, 7, The Moors, Lostwithiel, PL22
0BX 01208872124 mail@folkincornwall.co.uk

FOLKLIFE

Sam Simmons, 16, Barrett Rise, Malvern, WR14
2UJ. 01684 561378 sam@folklife.co.uk
www.folklife.org.uk, www.folklife-directory.uk

FOLK LONDON

Email: editor@folklondon.co.uk
www.folklondon.co.uk

FOLK SOUTH WEST

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

SOMERSET & DORSET

www.folkmusicsomerset.co.uk
www.sadfolk.co.uk Tony & Peter's Folk Diary -
email for list:
sanchobramble@hotmail.com

UNICORN (BEDS, HERTS, CAMB. AREA)

Simon Bailes, 10 Chapel Street, Dunton,
Biggleswade Beds SG18 8RW Tel: 01767 310 424

unicornmagazine@hotmail.co.uk

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

Jon Melville, 57, Shakespeare Drive, Nuneaton,
CV11 6NW. 02476 345543.
jon_melville@yahoo.co.uk www.themorrisring.org

OPEN MORRIS

Norm Warren, email: secretary@open-morris.org

NATIONAL YOUTH FOLKLORE TROUPE OF ENGLAND*

Dave Leverton, Manor Farm Cottage, Chewton
Keynsham, Bristol BS31 2SU 01179 866316 or
07831 101755, email
david.leverton2@btinternet.com

Club News

What's on in... Bideford

Pete Beer sent us this report about his club

BIDEFORD Folk Club is alive and well, based in the skittle alley of the Joiners Arms, meeting every Thursday. Guest nights start at 7.30pm; other nights at 8pm with an open music session followed by a singaround.

Each week a different MC brings his or her own style to the proceedings. Singarounds are the normal format but the first Thursday of the month offers an extended spot for regular members to showcase their talents. This has a nice twist, as the material being presented must be new to the performer. It might sound a bit harsh but it really keeps the grey matter engaged.

Guest nights are spread throughout the year. Often, guests have been delighted with our ability to pick up choruses (we are blessed with seven singers from The Exmoor Carollers as regular members). One guest wished we could all go to the recording studio with him.

I also organise joint singarounds with Bude & Pennymoor Folk clubs, which give a chance to hear different songs and performers. Bands and groups have evolved from the club: The Back Kitchen Boys, End of the Road, Dambuskers, and Jongleurs.

A small number of us perform in singouts at a local residential home and recently at a local village fete and the library at Xmas.

As a bonus, visitors touring Devon & Cornwall with motor home or camper (no caravans), can stay overnight in the Victoria Park car park, for a nominal fee. It is only 10 minutes walk to the club and Bideford is well blessed with pubs cafes and takeaways. You could visit us on a Thursday and drive on down to Bodmin Folk Club on the Friday.

I am so pleased to be involved in a "welcome to all" folk club, whose members are very receptive to any type of live acoustic music, accompanied and unaccompanied singers, poets, story tellers – but most of all new members of the audience.

So if you are in the area, give us a visit, you are all very welcome.

*What's your club doing? Send your news to
devonfolkeditor@gmail.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 skiöle alley.

**October 10th - Guest Night
Bruce Watson**

Website: www.bidefordfolkclub.com

**John Purser
01237 424286
bidefolk@gmail.com**

Brixham Folk Club

**The Old Coaching Inn, 61 Fore Street, Brixham, TQ5 8AG
First Friday in the Month – start time 7.30pm**

**Admission on singers' nights £3.00 - Performers £2.00
For more information contact mnharrod@yahoo.co.uk**



Guest Night – Friday 4th October - Cosgrave & Banks
Mike Cosgrave (accordion, guitar, whistle, vocals)
and Steve Banks (fiddle, hardanger fiddle, vocals,
guitar) a superb folk/acoustic duo based in Devon

**Every third Wednesday evening – Sing/Play-around from 8.00pm
For more events at The Old Coaching Inn events@theoldcoachinginnbrixham.uk**



**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**

Totnes Folk Club

Dartmouth Inn, The Plains
Totnes, TQ9 5EL



2nd Thursday in the Month – 8pm

10th October – Singers' Night

14th November – Guest Night

James Paöerson
& John Dipper

12th December – Singers' Night
with Tradij onal Carols

For more informaÇon phone

Steve & Anne Gill

01803 290427

or Andy Clarke 01803 732312

LAUNCESTON

FOLK DANCE CLUB 2019 - 20

Tuesday Club Nights

8.00 – 10.00 pm (Not July & August)

St. John Ambulance Hall

Saturday Dances 8.00 – 11.30pm

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A Devon Song

The Saucy Sailor

I'VE got nothing against Steeleye Span. I thought their first three albums were terrific. My gripe is with their overwhelming influence on the folk scene and the number of singers who stand up in a club and announce: "This is a Steeleye Span song." (All right, I accept this is a fault with the singers rather than the band.)

Yes, Steeleye Span recorded a song but their version is not the be all and end all. Certainly their *Saucy Sailor* is a fine version but let's not overlook this one which was collected by that energetic parson, Sabine Baring-Gould from James Parsons, a hedger and thatcher from Holster Yard, half a mile west of Lew Down village.

Parsons gave the parson many fine songs – Baring-Gould claimed to have collected 200 from him and 20 appear in *Songs Of The West*. In an obituary for Parsons which Baring-Gould wrote for the *Western Morning News* in 1900, he called him one of the principal singers who contributed to the book and praised his musical abilities.

In Martin Graebe's excellent biography of Baring-Gould, *As I Walked Out*, he writes: "Baring-Gould regarded him as special for other reasons than the sheer volume of material he knew. He liked to believe that Parsons was one of those singers who were descended from a long line of old bards and that his ancestors, particularly his father had passed on a number of unusual and rare songs from earlier times."

Parsons' rendition of *Saucy Sailor* is certainly unusual and very different from Steeleye Span's, with a far jauntier tune (the first few notes remind me of *O My Darling Clementine*)

One problem for some singers may be the fact that there seems to be a bar missing: the first three lines of each verse run over three bars and the fourth over four.

In *Songs Of The West* an attempt is made to regularise the song by adding a bar of instrumental at the end of each of the first three lines. You could do this or just enjoy the quirkiness of the song. It could be performed either as a solo or split up for two voices.

THE SAUCY SAILOR

Come my fairest, come my dearest
Love with me.
Come and you shall wed a sailor
From the sea."
"Faith, I want none of your sailors,"
She did say.

A Devon Song

Saucy Sailor

Collected by Baring-Gould from James Parsons

Melody

Come my dear - est, come my fair - est love ___ with me.

Come and you shall wed a sail - or from ___ the sea. Faith I want none

of your sail - ors she ___ did say. So be - gone you sauc - y crea - ture

So be - gone from me I say.

"So begone you saucy creature,
So begone from me I say."

"You are ragged, you are dirty,
Smell of tar.
Get you gone to foreign countries
Hence afar."
"If I'm ragged, if I'm dirty
Of tar I smell,
Yet there's silver in my pockets
And of gold a store as well."

When she saw the shining silver
Saw the gold,
Down she kneeled and very humbly
Hands did fold.
Saying: "O forgive the folly,
From me fell.
Tarry, dirty, ragged sailors
I love more than words can tell."

"Do not think you changeful maiden
I am mad
That I'll take you when there's others
To be had.
Not the outside coat and waistcoat
Make the man.
You have lost the chance that offered.
Maidens snap whene'er you can."

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Reviews

GHOSTS AND GHOULS FROM DEADLY DARTMOOR

The Dartmoor Troubadour (Charlie Wilson)

THE cover and sleeve for this CD is attractive, well designed and informative. There is a track list on the back and a useful map of Dartmoor that illustrates clearly the locations of the 10 songs.

There is no doubt in my mind that Charlie Wilson, The Dartmoor Troubadour has put a great deal of thought into the production of the album. He has researched the legends and abstracted the essential parts of each story, setting them in verse to ghostly and ghouly music. In his notes inside the CD cover, he admits he has "performed these songs in a mostly dark humoured and comic fashion, some from the perspective of fictional local eye witnesses (eg poachers, hikers, innkeepers etc) and some from the perspective of the spectres themselves".

Charlie Wilson grew up at Princetown in the heart of Dartmoor in the 1970s when it was a different place from what it is today. His notes explain that in those days it was not unusual for youngsters to walk seven or eight miles across the dark and misty moor to a disco or a barn dance. "Will the Hairy Hands get you as you make your way through Postbridge?" Charlie has been through it all, he has earned the right to write the songs and to put his verse to music.

I think that as single numbers in a performance set they may well be easier to absorb than when listening in one sequence to 10 tracks, each with the same ghouly voice and rhythm. Having said that, in listening to the CD for the second time, I began to appreciate the humour and to enjoy such refrains as "When the Devil Came Down to Widecombe".

Charlie accompanies himself on several instruments and the overlaying and mixing of these in the recordings has been engineered with skill, by C Wilson Jnr.

The legends are well covered in the lyrics. It is as though you are listening to a storyteller reading from a book, yet it is strange how the addition of the music, which is inevitably quite repetitive, does improve one's ability to remember the narrative.

The more that I played this album, the more I began to like it. The simplicity of the words and the rhyming and timing is very clever, it has been well thought out and as I have mentioned earlier, the repetitive refrains such as "The Ghosts of Lustleigh Cleave" are effective.

The Cutty Dyer (The Ashburton Sprite) was a new story to me, water sprite or ogre? "Ye'll go

Reviews

down to the bottom of the Yeo" is another refrain that sticks in my mind. I had to search out the details of the legend on the internet which must be a good recommendation for this recording.

If you want to know more about Dartmoor legends, Charlie Wilson's Ghosts and Ghouls from Deadly Dartmoor may well be the recording you have been looking for.

To buy this CD, contact: thedartmoortroubadour@outlook.com

Bill Murray

REBELS, ROGUES AND OUTLAWS

Black Tar Roses

"DARK Folk/Americana" isn't the genre with which we are most familiar in Devon but this album is worth the discovery for its energy, presentational quality and the many messages therein. It might have been your good fortune to see Darren and Sally Long in any of the local sessions they have visited and where a few songs entice you to hear more, and know more, about them.

They came to the Devonshire Inn in Sticklepath, which can be quite a traditional monthly singaround at times, and brought a performance that left a strong impression. We saw them again busking at the Dartmoor and Sidmouth Festivals,

and they shared in a night of rebel songs surprisingly organised by the Labour Party in O k e h a m p t o n . All of this is a way from Plymouth where they live and regularly gig, and from Los Angeles where they spend some time each year. So do take the chance to see them live if you can.

The songs on their first album show a variety of styles and a clever "atmospheric" production which complements Darren's storylines and their characters, who could be described as being down on their luck. There is a rough and smooth feel and a grittiness; especially in songs such as *Through the Sea Foam Green* (which reminds us that Darren spent some time at sea himself) and driven by fiddle and mandolin that a young friend likened to a Pogues' track.

The Cattle Thief is probably my favourite track, in that it feels more like the folk I know and it has haunting harmonies, piano and mandolin. *Dance around the Fire* shows off the duelling voices that then blend together as the relationship develops, and with a slide guitar on other tracks, I found myself being attracted to more Americana.

Credits are given to excellent musicians such as Joseph J, Stephen McCormick, Heather Donavon, Stephen Bently-Klein and especially to John

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Reviews

Maddock, who often gigs with them on mandolin. This musical collaboration adds depth to what we have enjoyed when the couple sing to Darren's guitar in sessions. Really good songs with stories, and now worth listening to again and again for the overall musical pleasure.

Derek Moore

A CAUSLEY CHRISTMAS

Jim Causley: Hroc Music

JIM Causley has been very prolific: hot on the heels of the release of his Commissions CD (reviewed in the last What's Afoot) came this collection of Jim's favourite Christmas and seasonal songs.

The Christmas CD has a local flavour and includes two Wassails, from Dartmoor and Jacobstowe, and other traditional material: The *Dunster Carol*, the bouncy and joyful *Wailey Wailer*, and The Plymtree Carol, written by the Rector of Plymtree in the mid 15th century.

More modern material includes Mick Ryan's poignant Christmas in *Nomansland*, telling the story of the Christmas Eve "truce" of 1914, Jim's setting of Charles Causley's *Song of Truth* from his Cyprus Well CD, and *Mistletoe*, a poem by Walter de la Mare set to a hauntingly beautiful tune by Jim.

The arrangements are all Jim's own, with the help of Paul Downes on the two Mick Ryan tracks – the other being the hymn to excessive gluttony, *My Christmas Day*.

The CD's production is, as always, excellent, and Jim is joined to great effect by local musicians Nick Wyke and Becki Driscoll as well as Paul Downes on guitar and banjo.

The appeal of this CD is not limited to Christmas – but, for those who like to do their Christmas shopping early, buy it now (from Jim's website) for any Christmasophile (Jim's word) among your friends or family. The CD is available from Hroc, Jim's own label (it's Old English for rook).

Nicola King

BETTER DAYS A COMIN

Sara Grey and Kieron Means

SARA and her son Kieron have been regular visitors to Devon over the years, bringing us their particular brand of Americana. If you caught them at a festival or a club, you will know what to expect from this CD which has a wide range of old-timey songs and some more recent compositions.

There are no pyrotechnics to disturb the laid-back feel of a performance given in an authentic style. Their homespun harmonies certainly feel more spontaneous than rehearsed.

Kieron's bluesy guitar complements Sara's banjo on most of the tracks but there are some acapella songs, notably *Silk Merchant's Daughter*, an

interesting variation on the maid-dresses-as-sailor-to-follow-her-lover and shipwrecked-mariners-turn-to-cannibalism themes. Their version comes from America but there are indications that the ballad originated in Britain: it opens in Fore Street, Liverpool.

There are other transatlantic crossovers: *The Carolina Lady* may be better known over here as *The Lady Of Carlisle* thanks to recordings by Peggy Seeger and Pentangle. Martin Carthy has also recorded a Somerset version, *The Lion's Den*.

And there is also some acknowledged straight borrowing from Britain: *I Know Whose Tears* is based on Kipling's poem *Mother O' Mine*.

Ireland's influence on American music is very evident in *State Of Arkansas*, a hard luck, hard work and hard times ballad.

However, the strength of American music has always been to absorb so many different styles – the blues, gospel and European tunes – and produce something all of its own. This CD is a good snapshot of what has gone on and what is going on now.

It can be obtained from Wild Goose Records .

John Foxen

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In Memoriam

Bruce Stewart Thomas

Guitarist with Stick The Fiddle

It was a shock to hear of Bruce's sudden death at the end of July. At his funeral, Stick the Fiddle friends played pieces written or loved by Bruce and everyone sang Bread Of Heaven, with full organ and string backing, to land Bruce "safely on Canaan's side" with "songs of praises".

The chapel was filled to capacity, with family, friends, work colleagues and dancers sharing tributes to a man known by many for his joy of life, willingness to help, kindness and compassion.

Bruce loved playing guitar. A friend (now guitar shop owner) recalled how Bruce, as the "big boy" at school in the Sixties, taught him to play *You're Gonna Lose That Girl*. He was a fan of rock 'n' roll, and for a time renewed his electric guitar playing in Tiverton band, Rock Of Ages. He also enjoyed Playford, flamenco and pop classics, and until he died, Bruce was working on the Grade 8 repertoire.

For many years, Bruce ran the Halberton Folk Club alongside his lifelong friend and singer/guitarist, John Lee, with whom he often frequented the Pennymoor Singaround. He often spoke fondly of stars of the folk world who had performed in the club and who enjoyed his hospitality.

About 30 years ago, Bruce and I, together with Greta, formed Stick the Fiddle, and one of our first appearances was as support act to Show of Hands, the significance of which I clearly did not appreciate at the time.

One of Bruce's great strengths was to be able to relate to and encourage everyone to work together and fulfil their musical potential with enjoyment.

As a band member, he was a joy to work with. He composed quirky and memorable music, and would



Bruce Stewart, 1946-2019

work tirelessly putting handwritten set dance tunes on the computer as requested by callers for folk dance clubs and festivals. However exhausted by such events, Bruce always supported and enthused fellow musicians and dance organisers.

Latterly he stated his most worthwhile playing was for people suffering dementia and brain injury as they responded to gentle music.

We miss his irrepressible joy in family and friends and all things musical, his computing and administrative skills and his ability to calm anxiety or irritation and come up with alternative and more sensible ways of looking at life. His legacy lives on; an inspiration to us all. God bless you, Bruce.

Sue Rivett

FAREWELL TO A MUSICIAN: Family and friends give Bruce Stewart a suitably musical send-off at his wake



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