

No 122 Winter What's Afoot

The official
magazine of

Devon Folk
DANCE SONGS AND MORE

NOT SHOWING THEIR HANDS



*Who did
a 'secret'
gig and
where?
See Page 4*

Picture:
LINDA
HAYNES

**PLUS
PUDSEY'S
MASSED
MORRIS
SEE CENTRE
PAGES**

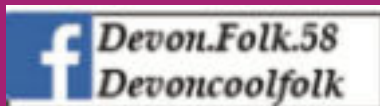


**FAREWELL
TO A BLUES
LEGEND**

PAGE 42

**HELP FOR
YOUNG
ARTISTS**

PAGE 8



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FOLK AT THE FLAVEL



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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. Giaspanner.

SATURDAY 25TH APRIL 2020 7:30pm 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.

STOP PRESS: NANCY KERR AND JAMES FAGAN will be appearing as part of the Folk at the Flavel series on Saturday 27th June 2020. Tickets on sale shortly.

**TICKETS FROM THE FLAVEL BOX OFFICE ON
01803 839530 OR ONLINE AT THEFLAVEL.ORG.UK**

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Editorial

In the previous issue, I highlighted the importance of helping out at your local club or event. The articles in this issue underline that message— not because I've chosen them but because this is what is happening. As Tom and Barbara Brown point out (page 14): "Organisers and punters are getting older and the younger people don't seem to want to take their places." Over the years we've seen clubs, events and dance sides fold because of lack of support but there are people who give us hope. Bev and Ray Langton have spent years inspiring young people at Sidmouth (page 8). Morris sides – some with young, energetic members – turned out in Tavistock to support a good cause (see centre spread). Julian Piper, whose obituary is on page 42, was an internationally acclaimed guitarist who didn't just promote himself but promoted other acts because he loved music. So support your local club or event. Every little bit of help – selling raffle tickets or making the tea – is appreciated and vital to the survival of our culture. After all, if Steve Knightley, Phil Beer and Paul and Warwick Downes aren't too proud to help a small club, there's no excuse for the rest of us not to chip in.

John Foxen

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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:
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‘Secret gig’ proves Show Of Hands have stayed true to their Roots

Phil Beer and Steve Knightley interrupted their national tour to help a struggling club

SHOW OF Hands can easily fill the Albert Hall and their recent tour took them to big venues up and down the country. But wouldn't it be wonderful to see them not in a huge theatre but up close and personal, perhaps in your local club?

Well, that was the treat for members and friends of Exmouth Folk Club back in November.

Phil Beer and Steve Knightley took time off from their nationwide tour to drop in at the Manor Hotel for, what Phil described as an “under-the-radar gig”. The icing on the cake was that Paul and Warwick Downes turned up as well.

Club organiser Chris Austin said: “It was really grand because we've been trying to up the profile of our little folk club in Exmouth.

“I don't actually know Steve and Phil but we have a mutual friend, who mentioned it to them. The guys said they'd love to come along and do a little gig at our club.

“It wasn't a secret gig but we realised if we started advertising it in all earnest we'd be absolutely swamped. We can only fit in 70 people. So we just sent out a few emails and popped it onto the club Facebook page for a couple of days then we had to take it down because all the tickets went.

“The guys didn't want to take any money at all for the gig. They wanted us to use the money we took on the door to promote the folk club and put some shows on with some slightly bigger names.

“They are big local heroes. They just did a

lovely set, mixing stuff up with Paul and his brother and did lots of audience participation and a few Show of Hands classics and songs they haven't played for years.

“It all felt very intimate and impromptu. It was like having them playing in your living room. People actually had ecstatic looks on their faces.”

‘Support your local folk club – you never know when stars might turn up out of the blue’

There are two morals to take away from this story:

First: Support your local folk club. Because you never know when stars might turn up out of the blue for old times' sake or just because they are passing and want to sample the local scene. It won't happen every night but wouldn't you kick yourself if you missed out?

Second: If you really make it big in folk music, don't forget your roots.

And Roots isn't just a song for Show Of Hands. They haven't forgotten their roots, as Phil Beer explained.

“There's been a folk club – even I haven't been aware of it – for some time in Exmouth. The original folk club in the Sixties and the Seventies was at the Deer Leap [now the Bath House]. It was a very good thriving club and the young Steve Knightley and the young Paul Downes, that's where they started doing their thing.

“There's a chap called Mike Selley who's still around who was involved in the organisation of that Sixties event who is now involved in the Exmouth Folk Club. He invited us. So on the night



BACK TO BASICS:
Phil Beer and Steve Knightley performing up close and personal at Exmouth Folk Club

Picture: LINDA HAYNES

before Show Of Hands were due to play in Portsmouth, they turned out in Exmouth. Unfortunately there are some artists in the folk world with inflated egos who would find doing such a small show demeaning.

Phil said: “Steve Knightley has a favourite expression: some people measure their success by the distance they can get from their origins. And there is an element of truth in that. And as far as we are concerned, the wheel invariably turns full circle. And here the wheel turns full circle. Here we are doing a gig in a little folk club in Exmouth and it was great fun. “There were some people I haven't seen for years.”

There are some artists who would make a great

song and dance about such an act of kindness. But **What's Afoot** found out about the secret gig only by chance. Phil mentioned it only in passing when I was talking to him about another topic and I almost had to prise the details out of him.

My reason for contacting him was an album he has recorded, as a favour for an old friend, singer-songwriter John Richards. The recording was done at Phil's home studio in Exminster. He says it's nothing grand, only what any working musician would have.

He explained: “John has been a friend of mine for years and he's very respected and lots of people do his songs. He's not a professional musician, he doesn't tour. But over the years

So how can Exmouth follow that?

CHRIS AUSTIN has been running the Exmouth club for about three years, on the third and fifth Tuesdays of the month at the Manor Hotel.

“It's a very nice venue,” he says. “Edward Elgar stayed there once upon a time. I think he came down on holiday. I just hope he didn't use the piano that's in there at the moment.

“I told the people who run the hotel, ‘We've got Show Of Hands coming to do a concert tonight,’ and they said, ‘Who?’ I said, ‘These guys have sold out the Albert Hall. You're talking about folk royalty here. You're really going to have to put a plaque on the wall.’”

The gig has left the club with a healthy bank balance. What does he intend to do with it?

“I'm changing the policy a bit on the fifth Tuesday. I used to put on shows with up-and-comers from the folk club but I've found that none of the people who usually come along to the folk club to play were turning up for those concerts.

“In the new year, I'm going to start putting on concerts with bigger names and sell tickets rather than do them as freebies as we used to. I'm hoping to get Boo Hewerdine to do a gig for us.” We wish the club well.

Cover Story

we've recorded one of his songs, Fairport have recorded one of his songs.

"He had an electric band at least 20 years ago and I produced that album at the Fairport studio. And I'd had a conversation with him about two years ago saying that I would like to revisit those master tapes at some point and remix the album. Given that I now have my own facility at home it means you're not watching the clock and I could probably produce a better version of the album now.

"That album contains one of my favourite John Richards songs, Roaring Water Bay.

"Steve and I have recorded that and I regularly play it on my solo gigs."

But before the remastering of the old album, John had another request.

Phil said: "A mutual friend of ours, who used to run folk clubs in Wolverhampton in the Seventies, John Hendley, died. This prompted John Richards to write a few songs and suddenly he realised that he's got a load of material. So he thought he'd better record some of this. He asked me if I could help and that's what happened."

Phil did all the recording and also played on a

number of tracks. But his busy life – Show Of Hands, his own band and his solo gigs – caught up with him and he wasn't able to do the mixing which was done at a studio in the Midlands.

The album is the first to have been recorded at Phil's home studio but he promises: "I'll be doing more recording work. I'm not giving up the solo gigs – there are a lot coming up in March, April and May – but in 2021 there will be less because there are several production projects in the offing. Production work means I get to stay at home which is obviously quite appealing."

A review of John's album appears on page 35.

PHIL is also keen to encourage young artists and speaks approvingly of Exeter-based band Velvet and Stone, in particular the violinist Kathryn Tremlett.

He has also helped the band out at a troubled time. He said: "They keep losing their guitarists. They were doing the Salcombe Festival and they'd just lost another guitarist so I went in and played for them. That was rather nice."

So keep your eyes open because Phil could turn up anywhere. And do support your local folk club.

News In Brief

Here's a health to the old apple trees

IT'S THAT time of year again when we need to wake up the apple trees to ensure a good harvest. One of the most traditional wassails in the county is at Whimple, as Jim Causley told us in a heartfelt article in What's Afoot 118.

Whimple born and bred, Jim said of the Wassail: "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 I shall gladly stagger around wassailing by myself."

Well, there's no fear of Jim being alone at the Wassail, which is held on Friday January 17 – Old Twelvey Night. The festivities start at the New Fountain Inn.

Another popular wassail, also on the 17th is at Sandford Orchards near Crediton. It begins at 7pm and offers mulled cider along with a wassail play from the Brown Paper Mummies, a fire dance from Great Western Morris and the local Green Man as master of ceremonies.

Wheeled wonders

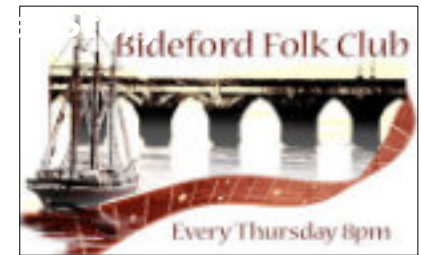
IN What's Afoot 120 we reported that Grimspound Morris men Richard Bartlett and Gilbert Gill, aged 89 and 78, were making an epic 800-mile bike ride across Spain and France. Readers will be pleased to know that they safely completed their journey to raise funds for cancer charities. A full report of how they fared can be found at twoldiesonacharityride.travel.blog

New duo formed

VIRTUOSO banjo player Rob Murch, well known as a soloist and also as a member of The Dartmoor Pixie Band, and concertina wizard Geoff Lakeman have teamed up in a new duo that is popping up in venues around the county and beyond. They made their debut at the Dartmoor Folk Festival and have gone from strength to strength.

Something missing?

ARE your local events not featured here? It's because you haven't told us about them. Send your news to devonfolkeditor@gmail.com



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**John Purser
01237 424286**

bidefolk@gmail.com

May Heydays 1-3 May 2020

Formerly Eastbourne International Folkdance Festival www.mayheydays.org.uk

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American

Scottish

International

and more

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Festivals aren't

JACQUELINE PATTEN turns the spotlight on a wonderful opportunity for children in Devon to learn and have fun in the process

CHILDREN in Devon have an opportunity that would be the envy of others throughout the country but how can we make sure that more of them realise this? "There are lots of ways that local people can help," said Bev Langton who, with her husband, Ray, is producer of the Children's Festival at Sidmouth Folk Festival.

"Help to spread the message about the fantastic opportunities available for children at Sidmouth Folk Festival; tell friends and families how much the Children's Festival has to offer; promote the learning opportunities to schools, church groups, local children's groups such as Brownies, Cub Scouts etc; follow the festival on social media; contact us with offers of workshops, performers (family type); apply to volunteer (incredibly important); encourage young people to apply for the Young Performers Showcase. Champion our cause in as many ways as possible."

Few people in Devon are unaware of Sidmouth Folk Festival, yet when asked if they know there are workshops and events specifically for children throughout the week, many show surprise. The Children's Festival at Sidmouth is an integral part of Sidmouth Folk Festival. The Blackmore Gardens, where most of the children's events take place, is often used as a thoroughfare to get from one workshop or music session to another.

Even if people find it a joy to stop and watch the children having fun, learning and making friends, they may not think of encouraging youngsters they know to join in, to make a special journey, and let it be a highlight of the school holiday, perhaps even of the year.

Ray and Bev are established folk music and song performers, known throughout the country for their work in the folk arts, children's festivals

and workshops, work in primary schools, and presentations. Ray plays melodeon and sings, while Bev is a folk dance caller. Their standards are high, their dedication admirable. They believe when music festivals offer more than just music, it is an opportunity to promote the genre in its widest form.

"We know that children love circus skills, clowns and junk modelling – but we have found over the years that they are also keen learners in music workshops, playing instruments, and singing, and in dance workshops, morris, maypole, and other forms, they like to have a go."

From experience Ray and Bev have found that it is a good idea to offer activities in age categories such as four years and under, five to seven years, and eight years and over. This means that workshop leaders can target their events more effectively and the children's achievements will be maximised. It is then possible to plan progressive workshops, broadening opportunities.

BEV explained: "Little ones may have percussion and musical games, five to seven-year-olds can join The Minims, the junior band, and the over-eights can play in the Seaside Stompers Ceilidh Band Workshop, who, at the end of the week, play as a "proper" ceilidh band for an evening ceilidh in the Blackmore Dance Marquee with a top-name caller".

New opportunities to engage children and expand the programme are always being sought and the mix is reviewed each year. This means that, although the basic elements remain constant throughout the long history of the festival, the activities are relevant to the current generation. In many ways the folk arts seem timeless. However,

just for old folk



SOUND TRAINING: Whatever their chosen instrument, youngsters get a chance to play in folk orchestras at the Sidmouth feis val

Picture: www.kylebakerphotography.com

they are continually influenced by contemporary life both nationally and internationally.

Bev added: "By the time you go to print we will have already put into a place a fair amount for 2020, and as always there will be some exciting new events and activities."

Although there are a few workshops leaders Bev and Ray invite to return every year, they like to "ring the changes". Bev explained: "We go to all sorts of places looking for potential performers and leaders. At times we do get some funny looks, say when we are the only adults without children watching a children's puppet show.

"We love festivals and will always gravitate towards children's events, but we also look at other family events, community festivals, local arts centres and the like. We have booked people to be part of the Children's Festival at Sidmouth who have never been to Sidmouth Folk Festival before and never been to a folk festival before."

At the same time they look towards people

working in the folk arts, advertise within the EFDSS Folk Educators Group, encourage some seasoned festival performers and leaders to expand their scope and work with children as well as adults, and even encourage some who work in education to develop teaching skills in the folk arts. Sometimes they hear of people by word of mouth, sometimes people approach them directly. They are always happy to hear from anyone.

WALKING around the children's events during the festival this year, the diversity of opportunities available was sure to impress. When you see children leaving the craft tent with an item of pottery or having created something that can be used later in the week, their smiles and laughter is infectious. Among the "Making and Doing" workshops were pottery, Crazy Crafts for five to seven-year-olds, Craft Carousel for over-eights, and Jack-in-the-Green-Jig-Dolls workshops.

For those drawn to drama and performance

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OPEN TO ALL: On stage in the Blackmore Gardens

Picture: www.kylebakerphotography.com

there were drama, stories and crafts with Bill, Donna and Ellie and songs, drama and music with the West Gallery Music Association. With their quick brains and eagerness to learn, children develop skills and absorb information remarkably quickly, especially in an informal setting.

Musical activities included action songs and songs with percussion for the under-fours, while the five to seven-year-olds could also attend The Minims Beginners' Band. For over-eights there were choir and ceildh band workshops, developing the skills of performing together and listening to others.

A new venture this year was the Ukulele Workshop. With the recent interest in learning this instrument among adults, it is ideal for the young and not so young to learn and play together.

Then there were the "Dancing and Moving" workshops. With the concern about children's health and inactivity in contemporary society, how good it is to see children enjoying maypole dancing, Appalachian Step Dancing, and Cotswold Morris, and learning to take care of themselves by doing yoga.

While they are dancing, they are also

developing skills working as a team and communicating.

What a wonderful way for children to spend a week of the summer holiday, surrounded by music and dance, something of interest every hour of the day, time to learn, time to be independent and make new friends, perhaps friends for life, and all in the setting of a beautiful seaside town in Devon. It is no surprise that a number of well-known performers credit Sidmouth Folk Festival for inspiring them.

BEV and Ray have developed a network of "ambassadors" in Devon, with good contacts in schools and they send details about workshops to local music teachers and music services, as well as folk music organisations. More local input would, however, be welcome. Some local children might like to appear in the showcase as a team. More local people might like to lead workshops. Performing arts schools might not realise the opportunities there are for their students.

Think about how you might help. If you can do anything then you should contact Ray and Bev at www.raybevlangton.co.uk/contact/

Earn a prestige gig

AN OUTSTANDING opportunity for young performers to display their talents is New Roots, organised by St Albans Folk Music.

This annual event is for young performers of all styles of traditional or contemporary folk, roots or world music, whether you play traditional material or write your own. Categories are under 18 and 18-24.

Artists must first submit videos of their work to see if they can win a place at the grand final. For that they will have to turn up in person in St Albans to play before a panel of judges and an audience. There is no one winner on the day but the event acts as a "hiring fair" with clubs and festivals offering performance spots to the finalists.

The judges – this year they are John Dipper, Anna Tabbush, Valmai Goodyear and Andy Stafford – offer helpful comments on performance style and material.

Last year's finalists were offered spots at the festivals Upton-on-Severn, Leigh, Broadstairs, St Albans, Sidmouth, Bromyard, St Neots,

Gate to Southwell and Warwick and at folk clubs, including Redbourn, Walthamstow, Chesham, Stockton, Norwich and Lewes.

The closing date for entries is January 31. Details of how to enter can be found at www.stalbansfolkmusic.org.uk/new-roots11.htm.

The final will be held on April 26 2020 at Trestle Arts Base, Russet Drive, St Albans.

Previous finalists include West Country lass Hannah Cumming, who appeared at the Baring-Gould Festival in October. Back in 2015, Mab Foxen and I "talent-spotted" her at New Roots final and were impressed enough to arrange a mini-tour of folk clubs in London, Essex, Hertfordshire and Norfolk (we were living in the east back then). We like to think we helped her on her way in the folk world.

Any clubs interested in encouraging youngsters by offering spots or even arranging a little tour can find details of how to help at the site.

John Foxen



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Exeter Ceilidhs



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29 Feb 2020 Home Brew

28 Mar 2020 Chris Toyne's Big Band

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Dance News

May fest moves to Midlands

FORMER member of Winkleigh Morris, Mecki Testroet, now director of the May Heydays festival, tells us her event is on the move.

After 44 years, Eastbourne International Folkdance Festival, EIFF, is relocating to Evesham – known to morris dancers because of Evesham Wheel. Mecki says the town (between Cheltenham and Birmingham) is much more accessible from the South-West.

As Jeremy Child mentioned in our last issue, the event, running on May 1 to 3, has also been hit by the Government's Bank Holiday mix-up.

There will be social dances in the evenings, with a whole range of dance workshops during Saturday and Sunday. The programme will include English folk (modern compositions plus more historical styles), American – especially Contra and Squares – dances from the Balkans and beyond, with a variety of other choices including Scottish, French and more.

The festival will take place at the De Montfort School WR11 1DQ with all events on the one site.

There will be steward tickets at reduced rates and camping will be available on site. Further information can be found on the festival website, www.mayheydays.org.uk. tickets on sale now. Those interested are welcome to mail or call Mecki, director@mayheydays.org.uk, telephone 01308 423442.

For more details see the advert on page 6

Still nifty at 50

PLYMOUTH Morris are holding their 50th annual ceilidh on Saturday February 29 with music from the wonderful Dartmoor Pixie Band..

Tickets for the event at The Woolwell Centre, Darklake Lane, Woolwell, PL6 7TR are £10 each and include a pasty supper. And there is a bar with Real Ale supplied by Summerskills Brewery. To book, you can visit their website www.plymouthmorrismen.org.uk/contact-us or call Marion on 07837271769.

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Northumberland Place

Last Thursday in the Month
8pm Free admission

30th January – Guest Night
Guest to be confirmed

27th February – Musicians/Singers Open Night

26th March – Musicians/Singers Open Night

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

Shammick shuts

NOVEMBER saw the last of Shammick Acoustic's Open Nights run at the Pack o' Cards in Combe Martin by Tom and Barbara Brown.

Happily, the club is still holding the guest nights on Saturdays which have proved very popular with audiences and performers – in our last issue Granny's Attic were full of praise for the "brilliant Shammick Acoustic and the lovely Tom and Barbara Brown".

Tom and Barbara have been hosting open evenings for 17 years but they confess that age and infirmity catch up with us all in the end.

They write: "Starting in the back bar of the Top George at the top of the village (The George and Dragon always being known as the Bottom George) as Shammick Acoustic Sessions in 2002, it ran on a monthly basis as a singaround at the suggestion of the then landlord, Phil McGuinness, a proud Irish Devonian, after a few irregular informal sessions there.

"The intention was to provide an environment in

which people could perform and share songs, music and the spoken word, and encourage them to do so. It became very popular for many people in the North Devon area and gradually built up enough funds through sending the pot round to book the occasional featured artist without having to worry whether or not there was sufficient money to pay their expenses.

"Just as the club was starting to put on the occasional full concert night, the Top George was closed by the owner, and the organisers had to decide how the future should look for the Sessions. The club moved to the function room at The Castle Inn for a couple of years, at the request of the then landlord – and we were fortunate that he also contributed towards the club's costs. How many clubs can say that?

"It was decided to run monthly concerts with quality nationally and even internationally renowned guests as well as the Open Nights, and to change the name to just Shammick Acoustic.

its open nights

However, the room required the use of PA, and even then the acoustics left a lot to be desired.

"And it shortly became obvious that the landlord wasn't happy as numbers weren't what he had expected, so his attitude wasn't the most welcoming. We moved to the Pack o' Cards in 2009 (the village of Combe Martin is more than well supplied with hostelryes) and we've happily been there ever since, with the unfailing support from our friendly hosts, Chris and Debbie Batchelor.

"Then we come to the most common reason for clubs closing these days – organisers and punters are getting older, and the younger people don't seem to want to take their places. Older people are less willing to travel far, particularly during the winter months or in bad weather, and many of them cannot be relied upon to support the Open Nights on a regular basis. For that reason, and more often these days through illness, numbers generally have dropped. So, with much regret, the

decision was made to end the Open Nights. Interestingly, the number of people who attended the last one in November was way up on those we had seen throughout previous year.

"The guest artists for the 2020 concerts are all booked, though, and the line-up is terrific. Have a look on www.shammickacoustic.org.uk, and get them in your diaries now (or check out the advert on page 11). Most, but not all of them take place on the fourth Saturday of the month.

"It's worth remembering that the club takes place in one of the most fascinating and unusual pubs in Devon, and they do great food and accommodation, so if you're at the other end of the county, there's no excuse for not picking out a few that are worth staying overnight for. You'll find a warm welcome at both pub and club."

What's Afoot would like to thank Tom and Barbara for all they have done for folk music in North Devon over the years and particularly for reviving the Hunting of the Earl of Rone.



Saturday 4th April 2020

SPRING CÉILIDH

with

SPINACH FOR NORMAN

with caller
Pam Hayes





at South Brent Village Hall

at 7.30pm

Doors open 7.00pm Reel Ale Bar

Tickets: £8 on the door; or from artworks: 01364 649424,
For further information contact 01364 73699

<http://southbrentfolk.org.uk>

Brixham Folk Club

**The Old Coaching Inn, 61 Fore Street,
Brixham, TQ5 8AG**

First Friday in the Month

start me 7.30pm

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

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

Session's regulars sing its praises

Jim Causley, Jackie Oates and many others came to celebrate a significant anniversary

PENNYMOOR Singaround marked its fortieth birthday with a weekend of celebration attended by more than 90 current and past members. There was plenty of singing, memories shared and concerts or talks from invited guests.

Several of those present remembered the 1960s folk revival and very popular folk sessions at The Jolly Porter pub in Exeter. One recalled Paul Simon being booked for just £8.

Clare Penney said when she moved to Pennymoor in the late Sixties, locals would readily sing and tell jokes and tales round the bar at the Cruwys Arms. One man would step dance on half a barn door placed in the middle of the floor, but only if he'd had enough to drink.

By the late 1970s these informal song and music sessions became the monthly Pennymoor Singaround. From the start the ethos was inclusive with many who had never had the courage to sing in public giving it a go. In later years friendships were made with singers and musicians in Brittany and Ireland and shared weekend gatherings were held, including for many years in Bampton after the traditional Bampton Fair.

Local farmer Gerald Palmer told how his wife, Margaret, would make large quantities of pasties and bucketfuls of soup for hungry carollers from Pennymoor at the end of an evening singing round the villages. Margaret was well known for her songs, witty stories and tales of growing up on Exmoor. Some were recorded during the last few years of her life and put onto a double CD by Ross Henrywood which was launched during the weekend (The CD is reviewed on page 33).

Mark Norman, author of Black Dog Folklore,

told us apparitions of ghostly black dogs are common in Devon. He described one reported at Coplestone Cross and more sightings along an ancient route from there to Torrington. Mark's book mentions the Black Dog procession at the October full moon started by Pennymoor Singaround to Black Dog village, accompanied by song and drums. This no longer happens but the dog created for this, similar to an 'obby 'oss, was on display and is now used by Mark for talks.

Jason Rice, from the Dartmoor Pixie Band, recalled Exmoor sessions and Pennymoor events when he was growing up in a musical family. He told of singing in public for the first time at Song and Ale and his first trip to Ireland with Pennymoor members at the age of 17. He played tunes on his granddad Jack Rice's accordion and demonstrated Dartmoor step dancing to Rob Murch's banjo.

Jackie Oates said first hearing unaccompanied folk singing at Pennymoor was a "sparky moment" that triggered a passionate interest and a successful career in folk. From a background of classical violin she began to sing, very nervously at first, and play traditional folk tunes. Now she is juggling the demands of motherhood with performing, recording and being musician in residence at the Museum of Rural life in Reading. Her current research is on the songs of women lace makers and she mentioned that many of our nursery rhymes are derived from these songs.

Jim Causley cited Pennymoor as a big influence. Still a singaround supporter, he is involved in the annual Jan Stewer evenings of Devon songs and stories at Puddington Village



BALANCING ACT: Laura Welsh braves the wobbly log



DARTMOOR DANCING: Jason Rice steps out to a tune from Rob Murch's Banjo

Hall in May. He sang Devon songs, including a cider song from Whimple, where he grew up, followed by amusing anecdotes and a Jan Stewer story in dialect. He also accompanied a song from dad, Ross, on accordion and did some hilarious impressions of various Pennymoor singers.

The weekend's many highlights included a late-



HARMLESS HELLHOUND: The black dog that was once used for an annual procession

night session singing on the traditional wobbly log for those brave enough to try. It was an enjoyable and important opportunity to celebrate the contribution of Pennymoor Singaround to so many lives and to the sharing of our folk culture over the past 40 years. Here's to the next 40.

Hazel Underwood

Exeter Folk & Acoustic Music Club

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

Friday 31st January
 Friday 28th February
Friday 20th March
 Friday 27th March

Open Club Night
 Open Club Night
Guest Night – Ian Bruce
 Open Club Night

For more information contact
 The Cornelius Family – exeterfolkclub@outlook.com - Tel. 01392 210983

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 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

January 11th Aileen Wills & Chris Toyne's Big Band
February 8th Gill Spence & Fresh Aire
March 14th Jeremy Child & Spinach for Norman

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

Regular Events

MONDAY WEEKLY SESSION

Appledore Royal Hotel
Totnes, Bay Horse.

DANCE

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

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

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

Sidford ScoO sh 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

Chilhampton, Bell Inn (2nd).
Totnes, Bay Horse (4th) Irish.
Welcombe, 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 ScoO sh Dancers,
East Budleigh CH 7.30pm. Mr &
Mrs VJ Tyler, 01395 276913

Farringdon VH, EX5 2HZ, Isca
Allemanders Square DC. 7.30pm
Carol Lockton 01626 867392

Launceston FDC St John
Ambulance Hall. Rosemary
01566 774491

Plymouth, Country Dance.

Trinity URC Hall. Jacqui Joint,
01752 774484

Sidford FDC at VH. Helen 01395
514161

Totnes ScoO sh Folk, 7.15pm
King Edward VI School

TUES FORTNIGHTLY SONG

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

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

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

MUSIC

Bere Ferrers, Old Plough (Alt)
SESSION

Exmouth Manor Hotel (3rd, 5th)
Jeff Lewis 01395 269232

DANCE

Kingsteignton FDC. CH. Jean
Foster 01626 363887 (2nd, 4th)

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

TUESDAY MONTHLY SESSION

Albaston, Queen's Head. 1st.

Bradninch, West End Hall. (2nd).

Colin Wilson 01392 882036
Calstock, Boot Inn (2nd)

Mike 07725 579718

Chipshop (nr Tavistock) Copper
Penny (4th)

Coleford, New Inn (last) 01363
84914

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

Topsham, Bridge Inn (1st)

Shebbear, Devil's Stone (2nd)

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

WEDNESDAY WEEKLY SESSION

Appledore, Royal Hotel

Exmouth, Beacon Vaults

Torquay Ryans Bar

DANCE

Bideford FDC, Northam VH.
Chris Jewell, 01237 423554

GiN sham FDC at Village Hall.
01404 813129

Newton Abbot, Jolly Farmer.
Irish. Maggie Daniel, 01626
204350

West Charleton VH. South Hams
FDC, Philip Worth 01548 561415

Isca ScoO sh Dancers, Sept-May.
Budleigh Salterton PH. 10am-12.

VJ Tyler, 01395 276913

WED FORTNIGHTLY SONG

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

Totnes, Bay Horse (2nd, 4th)

WEDNESDAY MONTHLY SONG/MUSIC

Brixham, Old Coaching Inn (3rd)

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

Sidmouth, Anchor (1st)

SESSION

Dawlish, South Devon Inn. (last)

Honiton, Beehive Centre, (2nd)
7.30pm

Malborough, Royal Oak, (2nd)

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

SONG

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

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

Pennymoor, Cruwys Arms (3rd).
Biddy Mallabone 01271 373305

Uffculme Culm Music &
Performance Club at VH. (last).

Brian Bennelick 01884 840192

MUSIC Swimbridge, Jack Russell
Inn (1st)

THURSDAY WEEKLY SONG

Bideford FDC, Joiners Arms. John

Regular Events

Purser 01237 424286.
Bishopsteignton, Red Rock Brewery 7.30pm. John Morey 07791 054773.
Denbury, Union Inn, Steve BasseO, 01803 812537
DANCE
Crewkerne FDC, St Bartholomew's Church. Jean 01460 72505
Newton Poppleford American Square Dance, VH, 2-4.30pm.
Tavistock FDC, Town Hall. Margaret Holt, 01822 855858
SESSION Plymouth, Minerva Inn, 8.30 pm
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. (2nd, 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
THURSDAY MONTHLY SONG
Brixham, Quayside Hotel (1st)
MUSIC Churchstow, Church House Inn (1st)
SESSION
Exmouth, Bicton Inn (1st)
Frogmore, Globe. (3rd) 8.30pm
SONG
Nadderwater, Royal Oak (1st)
Exeter Singaround
Teignmouth FSC, Oystercatcher Cafe (last)
MUSIC Totnes, Barrel House. Klezmer. (3rd)
South Brent, Pack Horse Inn (3rd)

FRIDAY WEEKLY DANCE
Bideford Country Dance Club, Northam VH. John Blackburn 01237 476632.
Dar nington FDC at VH. Sheila Chappell, 01392 882156
Newton Poppleford 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 MaO'hews Hall. Mike Long 01392 811593. Not regular.
Exeter Contra Dance, The Kenn Centre, Exeter Road, Kennford, EX6 7UE, 7.30pm (2nd). Jeremy Child 01392 422119.
South Brent Fest Noz, Palstone RecreaJ on 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 & AcousJ c Club, Victoria Tennis Club (last). Peter Cornelius 01392 210983. See diary for guests on other Fridays
Marldon. Old Smokey House (3rd) Folk Plus AcousJ c Club. Paul 01803 550153
Milton Abbot Ma's FSC, VH (3rd)
SESSION Plympton, Union Inn (last)
South West Shape Note Singing, Cullompton (3rd) Steve 07976 605692 or MarJ n 07721 451406

SATURDAY MONTHLY SONG **Brendon**, Staghunters. (3rd) Carole Henderson-Begg, 01769 540581
Calstock, The Boot Inn. Mike Warman 01579 382711
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 MaO'hews Hall. John Stephens 01392 875332
SUNDAY FORTNIGHTLY SONG **Bude** FSC, Falcon Hotel, Vince Jerrison 07787 156210
SESSION Parracombe, Hunter's Inn. (2nd, 4th)
SUNDAY MONTHLY SONG
Bere Ferrers, Old Plough. (3rd) 8.30 pm
Cullompton South West Shape Note Singing, (5th) Steve 07976 605692 or MarJ n 07721 451406
Okehampton, Plume of Feathers, Okey Folky. (last) Debbie Jessop 07773 479375
Scorriton, Tradesman's Arms. (4th) 7.30 pm. 01364 631308
S cklepath, Devonshire Inn. (1st) Derek Moore 01837 840316
MUSIC Pennymoor, Cruwys Arms. (last) LunchJ me
Plymouth, Dolphin. (1st) 1.30pm
SESSION Totnes, Bay Horse. 2nd , Bluegrass.
DAY UNSPECIFIED
Beacon Wheel Chair Dancers. Sue Cummings 01803 554799
Teign Playford Club. Jean Foster 01626 363887

Specific Events

JANUARY
SUNDAY 5TH
SONG Lee Mill, Folk on the Moor, Westward Inn, 7.45pm. Flash Jack
TUESDAY 7TH
DANCE Sidford Folk Dance Club. Sidford Village Hall. Graham Knight.
WEDNESDAY 8TH
DANCE GiN sham Folk Dance Club, GiO sham Village Hall. Pair of Shears, Simon Maplesden
THURSDAY 9TH
DANCE Willand Folk Dance Club, Willand Village Hall. The More The Merrier, Ted Farmer.
SONG Totnes Folk Song Club, The Dartmouth Inn. Julia Howe (for last 45 minutes)
SATURDAY 11TH
DANCE Willand Folk Dance Club. VH, Gables Road, Cullompton, EX15 2PL. 8pm, Chris Toyne's Big Band, Aileen Wills.
TUESDAY 14TH
DANCE Sidford Folk Dance Club. Sidford VH. Ted Farmer
WEDNESDAY 15TH DANCE
GiN sham Folk Dance Club, VH. Chris Toyne, Janet Bulpin
Halsway Folk Dance Group.
FRIDAY 17TH
MUSIC Totnes, Willow Vegetarian Restaurant, 87 High Street, TQ9 5LW. Trio Baklava
SUNDAY 19TH
SONG Lee Mill, Folk on the Moor, Westward Inn, 7.45pm.
Wainwright Williams (Brooks Williams & Sloan Wainwright)
TUESDAY 21ST
DANCE Sidford Folk Dance Club. Village Hall. Jane Thomas
WEDNESDAY 22ND
DANCE GiN sham FDC. VH. Jigs for Gigs, Aileen Wills
THURSDAY 23rd
DANCE Willand Folk Dance Club. Mugdock, Sarah Clough.
CONCERT Kingsbridge, Crabshell Inn, Embankment Rd, TQ7 1JZ. Free concert
FRIDAY 24TH
CONCERT
Gt Torrington, Plough Arts Centre, EX38 8HQ. 8pm. Steve Knightley
SATURDAY 25TH
SONG Combe Mar n. Shammick AcousJ c, Pack o' Cards, Ian A Anderson
CEILIDH Exeter Ceilidhs. The Kenn Centre, Exeter Road, Kennford, EX6 7UE. 8pm. Dartmoor Pixie Band.
TUESDAY 28TH
DANCE Sidford Folk Dance Club. Sidford Village Hall. Jeremy Child
WEDNESDAY 29TH
DANCE GiN sham Folk Dance Club, Village Hall. A Tight Squeeze, Ray Goodswen
THURSDAY 30TH
SONG Teignmouth Folk Club, The Oystercatcher's Café, Northumberland Place, TQ14 8DD, 8pm. Guest Night
FEBRUARY
SATURDAY 1ST
CONCERT
Exeter, Cygnet Theatre, Friars Gate, EX2 4AZ. Tom McConville
South Molton, Plough @ The George, George Hotel, 1 Broad St, EX36 3AB. 8pm. Miranda Sykes
SUNDAY 2ND
SONG Lee Mill, Folk on the Moor, Westward Inn, 7.45pm. Tom McConville
TUESDAY 4TH
DANCE Sidford Folk Dance Club. Simon Maplesden

WEDNESDAY 5TH
DANCE GiN sham FDC Village Hall. Jeroka, Ted Farmer
Halsway Folk Dance Group.
FRIDAY 7TH
CONCERT Gt Torrington Plough Arts Centre, EX38 8HQ. 8pm. Gadarene
SATURDAY 8TH
DANCE Willand Folk Dance Club, Village Hall, Gables Road, Cullompton, EX15 2PL. 8pm. Fresh Aire, Gill Spence
CONCERT Honiton The Beehive Arts Centre, Dowell Street, EX14 1LZ. Flats and Sharps.
SUNDAY 9TH
SONG Topsham Folk Song Club, MaO'hews Hall, Fore Street, EX3 OHF. Sam Kelly & Jamie Francis
TUESDAY 11TH
DANCE Sidford Folk Dance Club. Pair of Shears, Mark Moran
WEDNESDAY 12TH
DANCE GiN sham FFDC, VH Brian Graham, Colin Andrews
THURSDAY 13TH
CONCERT
Gt Torrington Plough Arts Centre, EX38 8HQ. Grace Petrie
Exeter Corn Exchange - Market Street, EX1 1BW. Fairport ConvenJ on
SONG Totnes Folk Song Club, Dartmouth Inn, 28 Warland, TQ9 5EL. Mike Cosgrave & Stephen Banks
FRIDAY 14TH
CONCERT
Dartmouth, The Flavel, Flavel Place, TQ6 9ND, Seth Lakeman
SATURDAY 15TH
CONCERT
Plymouth, Minster Church of St Andrew, Royal Parade, PL1 2AD. Seth Lakeman

CONTINUED ON PAGE 24



PUDSEY'S PALS: Can you name all the sides pictured here?
 Photograph by MARTIN SMITH

A Bear Dance for Pudsey and pals

HATS off to the massed morris dancers who helped to raise £1,760 for Children In Need. Fourteen sides joined Dartmoor Morris – and Pudsey, of course, in Tavistock on Saturday November 16 to strut their stuff and rattle tins.

This is the sixth Children In Need event Dartmoor has organised and so far these dance days have raised more than £7,000.

Dartmoor's Bag, Mark Tregaskis, told us: "I wanted a day of Dance that my own side could attend without having to travel too far. Talking to various organisations I found a summer event was too costly but an event in November would be doable. Children in Need seemed a good cause for a day of dance in November, so I went for it."

"Also as a parent, I know how lucky our family is to be healthy, so I like to be able to do something for those who are not so fortunate."

The event attracts sides from across the county and beyond. Helping out were: Black Bess, Catseye, Enigma, Exmoor, Glory Of The West, Grimspound, Lodestone, Old Town Twelves,

Plymouth Maids, Plymouth Morris, Tinnors, Winkleigh and Wreckers. Bude Barrel Morris, a side that started up less than a year ago, inspired by seeing sides at the Bude Folk Festival, had to pull out at the last minute due to a double booking but a couple of their dancers turned up just to lend moral support.

Mark is very grateful for all the sides' support but is also keen to thank Tavistock's council for letting the event go ahead and various supporters, especially Bob's East End Cafe in the Pannier Market, which handed out free cups of tea to thirsty morris dancers and musicians.

A stronger thirst was satisfied by Dartmoor Brewery, sponsors of Mark's side who donated three kegs of Jail Ale. This was sold off at £1 a pint to raise more cash for the charity.

And another thankyou goes to Tavistock Wharf Arts Centre which became the base for the day and sold Dartmoor Brewery's donated ale in its bar. Morris folk were allowed to relax there until the soundcheck for tribute band T.Rexstacy began to

clash with Morris musicians who were trying to start a session.

Mark also has words of thanks for: "The BBC, for lending us Pudsey Bear and a huge banner. Also for inviting my wife and me, along with my children to the Children in Need broadcast on Friday night to be interviewed live on the telly, dressed in Morris kit, explaining about Pudsey day of Morris – and again on Radio Devon, live on Saturday morning. And, of course, I must thank the generous people of Tavistock for donating so much to a worthy cause."

ARE there any plans for Children In Need next year? "Loads but it's too early yet to talk about them. I need to confirm with Tavi Council the date for next Pudsey day of Morris Number Seven, but, yes, there are plans."

And if you were wondering who was inside the Pudsey costume, it was Dartmoor founder member Sue Rogers, with her husband, Mark, acting as guide. And although she was there all

day, she probably saw less of the day of dance than anybody. Mark assures us that visibility is severely limited inside that suit.

More Morris Matters on Page 40

Blue Jewel Ceilidh Band 

"THE MOST ENJOYABLE AND HAPPY PARTY WE HAVE EVER HAD. WE DANCED OUR HEARTS OUT!"

www.bluejewel.info

Specific Events

SUNDAY 16TH

SONG

Lee Mill, Folk on the Moor, Westward Inn, Lee Mill, 7.45pm. Kaï e Kirk and Rick Williams

TUESDAY 18TH

DANCE Sidford Folk Dance Club. Jeremy Child

WEDNESDAY 19TH

DANCE

GiÑ sham Folk Dance Club, VH. Rough Music, Sarah Clough
Halsway Folk Dance Group.

FRIDAY 21ST

CONCERT

Teignmouth Pavillions The Den Crescent, TQ14 8BG. Jamie Smith's Mabon

SATURDAY 22ND

SONG

Combe Mar n, Shammick Acous̄c, Pack o' Cards, The Salts

MONDAY 24TH

CONCERT Tavistock Wharf, Canal Road, PL19 8AT. The Fureys

TUESDAY 25TH

DANCE Sidford Folk Dance Club. Ray Goodswen

WEDNESDAY 26TH

DANCE GiÑ sham Folk Dance Club. Village Hall. Jigs for Gigs, Monty Crook

CONCERT Exeter Corn Exchange EX1 1BW. The Furey

THURSDAY 27TH

DANCE

Willand Folk Dance Club. Jeroka, Ray Goodswen
CONCERT

Kingsbridge, Crabshell Inn, Embankment Rd, TQ7 1JZ. Free Concert

SONG

Bideford Folk Club, The Joiners Arms, Market Place, EX30 2DR. Chris Cleverly Trio

FRIDAY 28TH

CONCERT Ivybridge, The Watermark, Erme Court, Leonards Road, PL21 0SZ. Steve Knightley

SATURDAY 29TH

CONCERT

Exmouth Pavilion Esplanade, EX8 2AZ.

Phil Beer Band

Barnfield Theatre, Barnfield Road, Exeter, EX1 1SN. Steve Knightley

DANCE Exeter Ceilidhs, The Kenn Centre, Exeter Road, Kennford, EX6 7UE. Home Brew

MARCH

SUNDAY 1ST

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

TUESDAY 3RD

DANCE Sidford Folk Dance Club. Aileen Wills.

WEDNESDAY 4TH

DANCE GiÑ sham Folk Dance Club. Village Hall. Meter Rite, Robert Blackborow

Halsway Folk Dance Group. Bicknoller Village Hall.

FRIDAY 6TH

CONCERT

South Molton Plough @ The George, George Hotel, 1 Broad Street, EX36 3AB. 8pm. Paul James & The Drowned Lovers

SATURDAY 7TH

CONCERT

Barnstaple The Plough @ St. Anne's, Paternoster Row, EX31 1SX. 8pm. Jacob & Drinkwater

MONDAY 9TH

DANCE Sidford Folk Dance Club. Janet Bulpin

WEDNESDAY 11TH

DANCE GiÑ sham Folk Dance Club. VH. Jeroka, Aileen Wills

THURSDAY 12TH

DANCE Willand FDC. The More the Merrier, Jane Thomas

FRIDAY 13TH

CONCERT Honiton, The Beehive Arts Centre, Dowell Street, EX14 1LZ. Billy Mitchell and Bob Fox
Dartmouth, The Flavel, Flavel Place, TQ6 9ND. Peter Knight and John Spiers

SATURDAY 14TH

DANCE Willand FDC. Village Hall, Gables Road, Cullompton, EX15 2PL. 8pm, Spinach for Norman, Jeremy Child

CONCERT

Gt Torrington Plough Arts Centre, EX38 8HQ. 8pm. Billy Mitchell & Bob Fox

SUNDAY 15TH

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

TUESDAY 17TH

DANCE Sidford Folk Dance Club. Fresh Aire, Jane Thomas

WEDNESDAY 18TH

DANCE

GiÑ sham Folk Dance Club. Village Hall. The Dancing Keys, Jane Thomas

Halsway Folk Dance Group. Halsway Manor.

THURSDAY 19TH

SONG

Bideford Folk Club, The Joiners Arms, Market Place, EX30 2DR. Sally Ironmonger & Brian Carter

FRIDAY 20TH

CONCERT

Barnstaple The Plough @ St. Anne's, Paternoster Row, EX31 1SX. 8pm. Geoffrey Lakeman

Exeter Folk and Acous̄c Music Club, Victoria Park Tennis Club, Lyndhurst Road, St. Leonards, EX2 4NX. 8pm. Ian Bruce

Specific Events

SATURDAY 21ST

DANCE GiÑ sham Folk Dance Club. Saturday Dance. Broadclyst Village Hall.

Dartmoor Pixie Band

TUESDAY 24TH

DANCE Sidford Folk Dance Club. Pair of Shears. Club Callers.

WEDNESDAY 25TH

DANCE GiÑ sham Folk Dance Club. Village Hall. Fresh Aire, Graham BarreŌ

THURSDAY 26TH

DANCE

Willand Folk Dance Club. Petronella, Ted Farmer

CONCERT

Kingsbridge Crabshell Inn, Embankment Rd, TQ7 1JZ. Free Concert

FRIDAY 27TH

CONCERT Barnstaple The Plough @ St. Anne's, Paternoster Row, EX31 1SX. 8pm. Nlnebarrow

SATURDAY 28TH

WORKSHOP

Chudleigh Devon Folk event: 2020 Music Workshop and Tea Dance. Community Hall, Primary School, Lawn Drive, TQ13 0LS
CEILIDH Exeter Ceilidhs. The

Kenn Centre, Exeter Road, Kennford, EX6 7UE. 8pm. Chris Toynes Big Band, Sarah Clough
SONG

Combe Mar n. Shammick Acous̄c, Pack o' Cards, The Carrivick Sisters.

SUNDAY 29TH

SONG

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

TUESDAY 31ST

DANCE

Sidford Folk Dance Club. Jeremy Child.

General Information

MAGAZINES

FOLK IN CORNWALL

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

FOLKLIFE

Sam Simmons, 16, BarreŌ 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 Bedfordshire 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, Hasŷngs, 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

Jen Cox secretary@open-morris.org

NATIONAL YOUTH FOLKLORE TROUPE OF ENGLAND*

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

Bands and Callers

BANDS and callers in bold have an advert in this edition of What's Afoot that will give you more information about them * EFSSS affiliated.

3dB Ceilidh Band 01803 862393
 Abacus – email Julie Mason mason.je@btconnect.com
 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
 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
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 Friendly Folk 01643 707294
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 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 01460 54568
 Jiggerypipery 01647 433390
 Jigs For Gigs 01460 241326
 Lucy Laszlo 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
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 Oogle Band* 01271 865030
 Old Boys 01726 837432
 Other Band 01326 563564
 Paddy's Whiskers* 01803 520798
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Petronella 01626 854141
 Pigs Might Fly 01392 465462
 Pig's Whisper 01392 250355
 Phoenix 07971220462
 Quantock Quarenders 01984 656459
 Rakes AdriaP 01271 865030
 Red Shed 01363 774339
 Reel Thing 01460 240671
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 Rusty Buckets 01398 323494
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 Steve Gill & Andy Clarke 01803 290427
Stick The Fiddle 01884 243295
 Swain's Gold 01579 383554
 Tinnars 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 Barre 01823 461632
 Sarah Bazeley 01837 840775
 Robert Blackborow 01278 691370
 John Blackburn 01237 476632
 Mike Boston 07789714498
 Adrian Brayley 07791703009
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 Joan Holloway 01626 870539
 Gil Jefferies 01752 844138
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 Graham Knight 01823 401271
 Rosie Longhurst 01566 785233
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 Mary Marker 01626 854141
 Richard Mason 07900 588713
 Barry Moule 01288 361625
 Eileen Nighlingale 07811 367966
 Frances Oates 01209 217918
 Dave Outhwaite aeled-weccan@outlook.com
 Mike Palmer 01647 433464
 Kate Powell 01626 866257
 Tom Stevens 01872 240826
 MaO Swindlehurst maO.swindlehurst@btinternet.com
 John Tarling 01297 34804
 Garry Thompson 01271 865030
 Helen Wilson 01392 882036

Clubs and Sessions

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

APPLEDORE

Tues. The Champ, 5 Meeing 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. 7.30pm

BODMIN Folk Club
 Fri, The Old Library, 10 Lower Bore Street, 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 email: events@theoldcoachinginnbrixham.uk
 3rd Wed. The Golden Lion 65 New Road TQ5 8NL, David Lee 01803 846 346

BUDE

Sun. twice monthly. Falcon Hotel. Vince Jerrison 07787 156210 or see www.budefolk.com

CALSTOCK

1st Sat, The Boot Inn, Fore Street, PL18 9RN. Oct- Jan. Mike Warman 01579 382711
 2nd Tues. The Boot Inn, Tel 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

Usually 4th Sat. Shammick Acoustic, Pack of Cards. Tom & Barbara Brown, 01271 882366.

CHIPSHOP

(nr Tavistock)
 4th Tues. 8pm Copper Penny Inn, PL19 8NT (07725 579718) miimusic@gmail.com

COLEFORD

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

CREDITON

Alt Thurs Crediton West

Gallery Quire. Sonja Andrews 01363 877216

CULLOMPTON

3rd Fri, 5th Sun South West Shape Note Singing, Steve 07976 605692 or Martin 07721 451406

DENBURY

Thurs. Union Inn. Acoustic mixed sessions. Steve Basse, 01803 812537

EXETER

1st Fri Barnfield Theatre. Bedford Room. Acoustic open session. Jerry 07843 419178
 Last Fri. Exeter Folk & Acoustic Music Club Victoria Park Tennis Club, St Leonards, Peter Cornelius 01392 210983 www.exeterfolkclub.org

EXMOUTH

3rd & 5th Tues. 8.30pm. Manor Hotel, Beacon. Chris Austin, 07812 688432

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. 01984 618324

HAYTOR

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

IPPLEPEN

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

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

Clubs and Sessions

LYMPSTONE

4th Wed. Lymstone 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

OKEHAMPTON

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 83740

PLYMOUTH

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

662002

1st and 3rd Tue. The Arjllery 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 McKee 01364 73699

SOUTH ZEAL

3rd Mon music session email markbazeleymobile@gmail.com

STICKLEPATH

 (Okehampton)

1st Sun. Devonshire Inn. Derek Moore 01837 840316

SWIMBRIDGE

1st Wed, 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. Arjzan 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 Bennellick, 01884 840192

WILLAND

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

Morris and other display

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

Alive & Kicking (F)

Appalachian. Jo Wright 01392 462531

Angletwitch (F)

Elizabeth Wozniak 01271 325425

Beltane (F)

Border, Harriet White. harriettewhite@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.catseymorris.co.uk

Cogs & Wheels (F)

Donna Tombs
dtombs65@gmail.com (Thurs)

Dartmoor Border (F)

Mark Tregaskis 01752 299700

Dartington Morris Men (R)

Marj n Jones
bagman@dartingtonmorrismen.org.uk (Fri)

Exeter Morris Men (R)

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

Exeter University Rapper (F)

Alice Lockwood
alice.lockwood@hotmail.co.uk

Exmoor Border Morris (F)

Wed, Marlene Cann,
marlenecann61@yahoo.co.uk

Firestone

(Appalachian & Irish). Email
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)

Mondays, Mike Boston
bagman@greatwestern.org.uk

Green Willow Clog (F)

Jacqueline 07748 121093

Grimspound Border Morris (F)

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

Harberton Navy (F)

JanCulf@harbertondevon.co.uk

Heather & Gorse (F)

Maggie Anderson
mag2anderson@yahoo.co.uk

Ilfracombe Red PeN coats (F)

Linda Corcoran, 5, Stanbury Rd, Knowle, EX332NR
lindacorcoran@btopenworld.com

Isambard Gasket Rats (F)

Debs : 01626 770238
bag@isambardsgasketrats.co.uk

Kings Arms Pace Egg & Mummers*

Dave Denford, The CoOage, Ramsley, SouthZeal, EX10 2LD

Lodestone Border (F)

lodestonemorris@hotmail.co.uk

Lyme Morris

www.facebook.com/LymeMorris
petemorton56@goolemail.com

Newton Bushel Morris (F)

Rod Shute, 01803 403153
teresa@newtonbushelmorris.uk

Old Town Twelves

Alison Chapman, 07541 385463

Older Morris

bag.otter.morris@gmail.com

Plymouth Maids (O)

Sue Hawes, 01752 345054
plymouthmaids@hotmail.com

Plymouth Morris

maz4par@gmail.com
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 or 07719652885

Sidmouth Steppers

NW Morris (F)

Email cath.nettleton@gmail.com

Sidmouth Traditional Mummers

Henry Piper, 21B, Broad Street, OÖery St Mary, 01404 811491

Henry Piper

henry.piper@zoom.co.uk

Tinners Morris Men (F)

andrew@frangleton.co.uk

Trigg Morris Men (R)

Roger Hancock, 01208 73907

Tudor Dance Group

Elizabeth Thurgood, Brookfield, Combe Water, Cotleigh,

Honiton, EX14 9SQ. 01404

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Contact
Ben van Weede. 07970 151059
ben@spinachfornorman.co.uk

MUGDOCK

Scottish Ceilidh
&
Country Dance Band

01643 707294

Where can you be seen?

Send us details of your dance spots (Devon and just over the borders) for our next issue. Deadline February 10.

Totnes Folk Club

Dartmouth Inn, The Plains
Totnes, TQ9 5EL



2nd Thursday in the Month – 8pm

9th January – Singers' Night
13th February – Guest Night
Cosgrave & Banks
12th March – Singers' Night
9th April – GUEST NIGHT
Geoff Lakeman & Rob Murch

For more informa on 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
Launceston Town Hall, PL15 7AR

Saturday 25th April 2020
*Centenary of Folk Dancing in
Launceston with Sarah Bazeley &
The Dartmoor Pixie Band*
Bring and share supper
Saturday 7th November 2020
Jerry & Alison Tucker calling
with 'guest band'

For further information ring
Rosemary Phillips
01566 774491

A Devon Song

Forty Long Miles



THIS issue's song comes from William Nott of Meshaw, who gave us *The Devil's In The Girl* in edition 116 of *What's Afoot*.

It was collected by Cecil Sharp on January 5, 1905, during one of his many visits to the successful farmer and churchwarden at Old Parsonage Farm His photograph of Nott is above. He found William, who died on January 19, 1907, aged 76, a valuable source of songs and collected more than 30 from him. These included *Joan to Jan* (for which he particularly praised Nott's singing) and *The Threshing Machine*.

Forty Long Miles was a very popular song and versions of it crop up all over the country, each with their own variants.

For example, William's tune differs from that sung by George Withers from Somerset (you can hear his version on the Veteran CD, *Old Uncle Tom Cobleigh And All*, which also features songs by Dartmoor's own Bob Cann).

Possibly because it was such a popular song, Sharp took down only the first verse from William Nott (or if he did make a note of all the verses, sadly, he didn't pass them on to the English Folk Dance and Song Society library).

So I've had to fill out the song with verses from George Withers, reasoning that the Somerset version is most likely to be closest to what might have been sung in Meshaw.

There is a slightly more suggestive version in the book, *The English Folksinger* by Sam Richards and Tish Stubbs. This was collected by Ewan MacColl from Mark Anderson of Teesdale. Again, the tune differs from Nott's.

Although Sharp entitled the song *Forty Long Miles*, these words don't appear in the fragment from William Nott that he left us. It may be that William knew it by another name and Sharp put the one that he knew from other versions. Mark Anderson called it simply *Forty Miles* and George Withers' version begins: "Oh 45 miles I've travelled today." Perhaps the cottage in the song was five miles closer to Meshaw.:

A Devon Song

Forty Long Miles

Collected by Cecil Sharp from William Nott of Meshaw

Melody

As I walked out one cold win - ter's day I
saw a fine cot - tage up on the high - way where I nev - er saw one be -
- fore where I nev - er saw one be - fore.

As I walked out one cold winter's day
I saw a fine coŌage up on the highway
Where I never saw one before
Where I never saw one before.

I boldly stepped up and I knocked at the door,
And a preŌy young lassie skipped over the floor,
And I never saw her before,
And I never saw her before.

I said: "Love it hails, it rains and it snows,
And I be wet through all my clothes.
And I pray you open the door,
And I pray you open the door."

"Oh no, oh no, that never can be,
For no one should dwell in this house but me.
And I dare not open the door,
And I dare not open the door.

Well I turned myself round with miles to go,
And the storm grew dark and the rain did blow.
But she called me back again,
She called me back again.

"Take off they wet clothes love and put on some
dry,
And hop into bed here along with I.
And merry we will be,
And merry we will be."

That night we spent in sweet content,
And the very next day to the church we went,
And I made her my lawful bride,
And I made her my lawful bride.

So all you young fellows who ever you be,
Kiss all the preŌy maidens that ever you see,
And they'll call you back again and again,
And they'll call you back again.

Pennymoor Singaround

**Song and Music Session - 3rd Wednesday
7.30pm**

Music Session - last Sunday 12 noon

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

Contacts:

Facebook: Pennymoor Singaround

Nicola King: 01837 82100 – nicolaaking@b nternet.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, Sī cklepath - 1st Sunday

Contact: Derek 01837 840316

The New Inn, Coleford - Last Tuesday

Contact: Dave 01363 84914

Reviews

MARGARET PALMER: EXMOOR MAID.

Barleycorn Produc ons, BP107

MANY readers will have known or heard of local singer and storyteller Margaret Palmer, a much-missed member of Pennymoor Singaround:

Born on Exmoor in 1932, she moved to her step-father's farm near Chawleigh at the age of nine, where she spent the rest of her life. This double CD, recorded and produced to a professional standard by Ross Henrywood, forms a valuable archive of her songs, stories and memories and is a wonderful evocation of Margaret's character and life.

The recordings were made during the last two years of Margaret's life (she died in 2014) at her home, Nutson Farm, and at The Cruwys Arms in Pennymoor. Margaret was in failing health at the time of some of these recordings, so the strength of her voice varies but her sense of fun and wicked sense of humour shine through.

At the pub sessions, members of the singaround join in the choruses of songs such as *Jim the Carter's Lad* and *I Do Like an Egg for My Tea*. The warm regard in which she was held is evident in their enjoyment and laughter. At Nutson Farm, Mel Henrywood prompts Margaret to tell stories from her childhood and of farming life on Exmoor: many of her memories are linked to the songs she sings, such as *I Am a Jolly Farmer*, her Uncle Willy's sheep-shearing party song, and *Bampton Ho!*, preceded by the tale of a man who went to sell his horse at Bampton Fair, only to realise he has bought it back again from some travellers who smartened it up and disguised it.

Mel's infectious laughter – especially in response to Margaret's saucier jokes and stories – adds to the warmth and intimacy of these recordings.

One highlight is the tale of Bill Bates, *A Bit of Binder String*, a favourite at folk clubs and at the local entertainments such as the Jan Stewer concerts at which Margaret was a regular and popular performer.

Margaret learnt many of the songs that became part of her repertoire from her grandfather when a young child. Others came from farming parties, from school, the music hall tradition, local singers and friends. The notes cite sources where they could be found, but the collection is a very good example of how songs and stories change, move around the county or even country, and how attributions vary. For example, *Put on Your Old Grey Suit Now*, was originally written in 1909 by Stanley Murphy as *Put on Your Old Grey Bonnet*. Margaret adapted the lyrics to sing to her

Folk Plus Acoustic Music Club

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

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Reviews

husband Gerald on the occasion of their Golden Wedding in 2005, Margaret tells how she met Gerald at a dance in Crediton: she had gone with another young man who was so keen on her that he refused to give way to Gerald during a Ladies' Excuse Me. Gerald soon made his feelings clear.

They were a devoted couple: Gerald passed away at the beginning of October, so writing this review has been doubly poignant.

The proceeds from the sale of this CD go to the RFU Injured Players Foundation. If you would like to buy a copy, contact Ross Henrywood at info@barleycornproductions.co.uk

Nicola King

COLD LIGHT

Nick Wyke and Becki Driscoll

www.englishfiddle.com

IF YOU'RE a fiddler looking to spice up a session, you'd be hard pressed to do better than get your bow round *The Knitting Reel*. This funky little finger-buster, written by Becki Driscoll, gets the latest album from her and Nick Wyke off to a flying start.

As you would expect from these fine fiddlers, *Cold Light* is a treasure house of tunes, both their own compositions and traditional, with very tasteful

Reviews

and innovative arrangements, some breathing brand new life into old favourites. They take *Tie The Petticoat Tighter* and make it tighter still and put a victorious bounce into *The Triumph*.

La Folia is a tune that has fascinated musicians for centuries. Guitarists know it from Ponce's variations written for Segovia and comedy fans know Handel's version which provides the background music for Dave Gorman's "found poems" in *Modern Life Is Goodish*. Nick and Becki put their stamp on it very firmly with a set of spritely variations and a swing that would have made Stephane Grappelli smile.

The song *Riddles Wisely Expounded* has as many variations as *La Folia* – if not more, think *False Knight On The Road*, *The Devil's Nine Questions* etc. Here it gets a highly distinctive, upbeat flavour.

It's not all frantic fiddling. The title track, *Cold Light* has a stately, Playford feel. And there are two powerful ballads which deserve serious listening and thinking about. *Who's Crying Now* by Nick deals with addiction while *Halo* by Becki sprang out of reports of historic cases of abuse.

They are joined by some fine musicians on some tracks. Particularly effective are the contributions of Josh Westrip on trumpet and flugelhorn and Ellen Driscoll on French horn on *The Last Waltz Of The Evening*, and anti-war song that Nick and Becki wrote together.

But as they have proved on stage and again here, their real magic is the sound of their two violins together, weaving in and out, supporting each other in perfect balance and harmony. I'm also very fond of their interplay with Nick on guitar accompanying Becki on two splendid hornpipes from Dartmoor fiddler William Andrew (we told the story of the discovery of his instrument in *What's Afoot* 119). These tunes, which can be found in the William Andrew Tunebook (available from the Wren Trust) are in F and Bb and so are also ideal for spicing up a session (a bit unfair on the melodeons, though).

The final track is *Boscastle Breakdown* which they describe as a cheerful Cornish tune that is good fun to play with as many friends as possible. This is certainly a good CD to savour, to learn from and to find inspiration for musical nights in the pub.

John Foxen

BRING BACK THE SPRING

John Richards

JOHN RICHARDS is a musician's musician with a catalogue of songs covered by Fairport Convention and, as we mentioned in the cover story, Show Of Hands. This CD of new material,

by Phil Beer at his home studio in Exminster, shows John hasn't lost his touch.

The 15 songs on the album display a lively interest in old legends from his native Black Country, environmental concerns, old blues singers and social justice. He is joined by a fine group of musicians, including Phil Beer and Paul Downes, Mike Silver (who also co-wrote three of the songs) and his daughter Emma Jones, who shares the vocals, taking lead on some tracks.

Emma's voice rings out on *Hallsands*, a song of particular interest to Devon folk, as it chronicles the destruction of that fishing village near Plymouth, due to dredging to extend the naval dockyard. The loss of protective shingle led to Hallsands being washed away in 1917. Just over 100 years on, have the authorities learned a lesson from this disaster about protecting the environment? This is a song I believe could be picked up by singers in our county.

Unfortunately for geeks like me who like to know all about the background of a song, the sleeve notes give no details about the source of some of them and the website isn't helpful. I would like to know the story behind *Young Thomas*, which could be seen as *Crazy Man Michael* meets *The Curse Of The Were-Rabbit*. It tells of a farmer who accidentally kills the woman he loves while she is in the form of a hare and may remind some listeners of Barron Brady's *Buckland Witch*, based on a Dartmoor legend of a shape-shifting grandmother.

John's roots are not only in traditional folk but in blues and rock, as shown by the tracks *Never Trouble Trouble* and *Cat's Eyes & Stars*. The latter, about a hard-working guitarist with dreams of hitting the big time but refusing to compromise, contains lines that could be an epitaph for Devon bluesman Julian Piper whose obituary appears on page 42 of this magazine:

"But you won't get big on TV playing the blues. Still he always kept it honest raw and true."

The words might also apply to John Richards, who has not made the big time. But his view of how he would like to be remembered is summed up in *The Ballad Of An Ordinary Man*: "He was a miner who never broke a strike, bareknuckle fighter who'd never throw a fight."

John's identification with the "ordinary" people and the oppressed also comes over in such songs as *No Blacks, No Irish And No Dogs* and *Look In Their Eyes*. There is plenty to listen to and absorb in this album and it will be interesting to see which songs filter through into clubs and singarounds.

John Foxen.



Friday 27th December 2019

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<http://southbrentfolk.org.uk>

Are you covered?

Even folk performers need some insurance. COLIN ANDREWS reports on developments in what the EFDSS now offers its members

FOR many years a useful benefit of EFDSS membership has been public liability insurance. For members involved in running various kinds of folk activities for clubs, youth or adult groups or the public in general, this has been valuable security against claims for damages for unfortunate accidents or other incidents.

Many of us also assumed we were covered not only for voluntary activities but also when we were paid for our services at events where the number of participants was below a certain figure. Early this autumn a communication from EFDSS said only voluntary activities or those for which expenses only are claimed would be covered.

It was unclear whether this limited PL cover represented a change in EFDSS policy, possibly due to a change in insurance broker or an overdue statement of the terms of the pre-existing policy. For EFDSS members who play for paid gigs and relied on the member's PL policy for cover, the news was disconcerting. PL cover is available elsewhere – at a price – but lack of cover puts performers at risk and may even restrict access to

some venues that require proof of PL cover. I wrote to the membership secretary, expressing concern about the much more limited PL insurance terms. I suspect many other EFDSS members also contacted the membership secretary, the chief executive, or anyone at Cecil Sharp House who might have some influence.

Facing a possibly damaging fall in membership from supporters who had relied on the PL cover, the society had to negotiate with its insurance brokers. Now EFDSS have confirmed that, as from the renewal date of membership on January 1, the public liability insurance will not be restricted to voluntary activities.

It may not be appropriate for professional singers and musicians but those of us who do a few paid folk-related gigs have no cause to worry. A further bonus is that we can now raise PL queries directly with the insurance broker rather than going through Cecil Sharp House.

Colin Andrews

(An EFDSS member for more than 50 years, and former member of the National Executive)

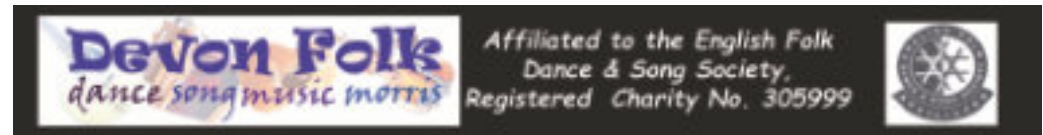
Other options for artists

THOSE seeking a career in music should consider joining the Musicians Union. Membership includes a policy which protects performers against legal liability for damages following injury to a third party or damage to property while performing or teaching.

The MU says: "Employers, local authorities and venues commonly require written evidence that musicians are insured against Public Liability before they are able to perform. Public Liability Insurance is provided by the Musicians' Union to a limit of indemnity of £10 million per member."

THE Joint Morris Organisation, which includes the Morris Ring, the Morris Federation and Open Morris, offers sides cover. It says: "Liability insurance is there to cover the individual dancer or musician, or a side collectively, for claims made against them by a third party for loss of or damage to their property or for injury caused arising out of the performance of the Morris or whilst setting up a set or coming off set.

"Cover is also provided at practice. "The Morris Organisation has a policy which covers any member or member side of the three organisations for such claims."



ELECTED MEMBERS OF THE DEVON FOLK COMMITTEE

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

THE 2020 Devon Folk AGM will be held on Saturday 14th March at 10.15am in Ide Community Hall, Ide. Tea, coffee and biscuits will be available for those attending.

The next Devon Folk supported event will be a music and dance workshop in Chudleigh on Saturday March 28. An advertisement giving further details appears on page. XXX

Devon Folk is, as ever, grateful for all donations which help in the sponsorship of local events. Donations have been received from Mr and Mrs B Durrant, Mr J Hendon and Bideford Folk Dance Club. Financial support has been provided to South Brent, Teignmouth and Dartmoor Folk Festivals.

Devon Folk Committee still has several vacancies and is always pleased to welcome new members. A nomination form can be found in this edition. Nominations are welcome from those in every area of folk and from all parts of Devon. Full committee meetings are usually held at Ide near Exeter four times a year on a Saturday morning, in addition to the business meeting after the AGM.

DEVON FOLK COMMITTEE NOMINATION FORM

Nominee
.....

Proposed by
.....

Seconded by
.....

I, the undersigned, am willing to stand for elecĴ on to the Devon Folk CommiŌee.
Name
.....

Address
.....
.....
.....
.....

Telephone
.....

Email
Please return this form by 1st February 2020 to:
E. Conway, 151 Kingsdown Crescent, Dawlish, Devon,
EX7 0HB. Email: conway@kingcres.eclipse.co.uk

DEVON FOLK MEMBERSHIP
APPLICATION FORM

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

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

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Devon Folk through my subscription.

I wish to join Devon Folk for the annual
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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
Post Email

Second nominated club member

Name

Address

Postcode

Telephone

Email

Magazine to be sent by
Post Email

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me/us as indicated above and for
occasional notifications. Devon Folk will
not pass your email to any third party.

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- 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
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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
or email bschappel@tiscali.co.uk

DEVON FOLK EVENT

Saturday 28th March 2020

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

MUSIC WORKSHOP

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A side happy that it's not on the 'Up'



ALL morris sides have their ups and downs but one side doesn't want the "up" any more. The side that used to be known as Uplyme Morris has rebranded itself as Lyme Morris.

The side started off in the village of Uplyme, just outside Lyme Regis, and in Devon. But now, says Squire Pete Morton, little dancing is done in Uplyme and more across the Dorset border in Lyme. And there was another factor that influenced the name change.

"When we said we were from Uplyme, nobody knew where it was. When we said it was near Lyme, they'd say, 'Oh we know where Lyme is'."

Ironically, Lyme Morris is no longer involved with the annual Lyme folk festival.


Says Pete: "They didn't support us as a side despite us giving the folk festival all the morris sides and organising half of the folk festival for them. I asked for something for the sides – reduced admission or free admission to events or drinks or food – but we got nothing. So I said I won't be organising it and we won't be coming. Now all the local sides who used to support the event don't come because of that."

However, the side's own day of dance in Lyme is becoming very popular. Pete says: "Our third day of dance will be on June 27th. We've got invitations out and the Belles of London will be coming down along with Steampunk from Kent. All sides are welcome.

"It starts with a procession down the high street and there will be dancing all day along the seafront. We're offering a free evening barbecue for all sides. If sides want to stay over, we are

trying to negotiate a good camping deal for them. And they are welcome to busk on the Sunday."

If this sounds tempting, contact Pete at petemorton56@googlemail.com

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A REMINDER not to believe everything you read on the web (as if that were really necessary) and an object lesson in how to upset three morris sides with one picture. The Facebook page Visit Tavistock advertised its Dickensian Evening (the annual December late-night shopping fest) with this picture and the caption: "The popular Morris dancers from Wreckers & Lodestone entertain us throughout the evening in various points around the town!" You gain points if you can tell us what's wrong with the picture and more if you can name "the intruder's" side.



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or email: folkonthemoor1@gmail.com

Julian Piper

Blues Authority

IT'S a long way from Topsham to the Bayou but Julian Piper, who has died aged 72, made the journey so he could really understand the roots of the blues, the music he loved and lived for.

The Devon-born musician, singer, writer and music promoter was not content just to sing the blues. He travelled across America to meet his heroes and shared the stage with giants such as Buddy Guy, Robert Cray and Lowell Fulson.

But for Julian, his greatest moment came in 1988, outside a lonely cedarwood shack near Lula Mississippi, the home of Sam Carr, drummer in the Jelly Roll Kings. Sam's father was the legendary Robert Nighthawk, the man who, with Elmore James, wrote the rule book on playing electric slide guitar.

The two men sat outside eating fried catfish and greens. Julian recalled: "Sam was telling me about when he had to run away at night because the Klan were coming for him, his days playing with Sonny Boy Williamson... I realised that sitting there that night, I was probably about as near the heart of the Blues as I – a white boy from Devon – was ever likely to get. It was a strange feeling."

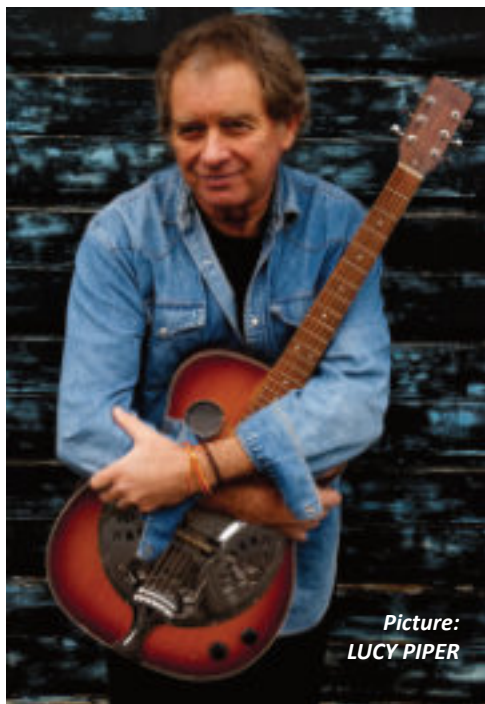
Julian's journey began as a teenager when he saw Adam Faith in Exeter. The singer didn't impress him as much as the guitarists backing him and he worked at mastering the instrument. And his musical taste switched from pop to blues.

After working in insurance, he became a full-time musician in the Eighties. In 1985 he took an American Arts course at Exeter University and spent his fourth year in the US. Local musicians in Baton Rouge, Louisiana, and New Orleans, quickly accepted him after hearing him play.

As well as playing solo and running his band, Junkyard Angels, Julian wrote acclaimed books and columns in The Guardian, The Observer and Mojo. Radio 3 commissioned him to produce a four-part documentary, Blues On The Bayou.

He also found time to promote concerts, often at the Globe and the Bridge Inn in Topsham and the Exeter Phoenix, bringing such stars as Robert Plant, Peter Green, Mick Taylor, Stan Webb's Chicken Shack and Robert Cray to the county.

Although Julian loved the blues above all, it was not to the exclusion of other styles. If you saw Chris Wood at the Globe in Topsham in November that was thanks to Julian. Other acts he arranged



Picture:
LUCY PIPER

included Dick Gaughan, Al Stewart, and Bert Jansch. He organised one of the last gigs by legendary guitarist John Renbourn who died shortly after appearing in Devon with Wizz Jones.

When Julian died, he left gigs which are being organised by his children Sam, a guitarist, and Lucy, a drummer (you may have seen Lucy playing with her father's cajun-influenced band, Papa Gator and the Levee Breakers, at last year's Teignmouth Festival on Sunday in the Triangle). These events, both at the Bridge Inn, Topsham, are: American blues slide guitar player and singer Kent Duchaine, February 28 and Bristol singer-songwriter Gaz Brookfield, March 21.

Although Julian was a renowned musician – Mojo magazine once described his slide guitar playing as "dazzling" – he was a very modest man. His son Sam said: "He'd done so much but he would never namedrop. He'd be getting his guitar to go out to some pub like the Dog and Duck or whatever and I'd say, 'Dad, you really don't need to go and play somewhere like this. But he'd just say, 'I like to play'.

"It was my father's humility and modesty which made him such a likeable chap really. We had over 350 people at the funeral so I think that is a testament to that."



It's all change at topsham folk club -
we're very sorry to be leaving The Globe Hotel after nearly 28 years but delighted to be welcomed by The Bridge Inn for our singers' nights which will be held on Tuesday evenings from 7 January 2020.

Our concerts will remain at Matthews Hall on Sunday evenings and our monthly instrumental sessions currently at The Bridge are changing to the first Monday.

Sunday evening concerts at Matthews Hall
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The Bridge Inn
Topsham EX3 0QQ

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All welcome - sing, play, join in, or just listen...
If you'd like to perform just ask the compère
People normally do two songs or tunes in a 10 minute spot



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Gadarene

Friday 7 February 8pm

Paul James & The Drowned Lovers

Friday 6 March 8pm
ThePlough@TheGeorge

Jacob & Drinkwater

Saturday 7 March 8pm
ThePlough@StAnne's

Billy Mitchell & Bob Fox

Saturday 14 March 8pm

Geoffrey Lakeman

Friday 20 March 8pm
ThePlough@StAnne's

Ninebarrow

Friday 27 March 8pm

Other Musical Highlights

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Thursday 23 January 8pm

The Unravelling Wilburys

Saturday 25 January 8pm

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**An Evening of Johnny Cash & June
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Friday 14 February 8:30pm
A Cabaret Seated Event

Genesis Legacy

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Steve Harley

Thursday 19 March 8pm

Hazel O'Connor

Thursday 26 March 8pm

Sari Schorr

Saturday 18 April 8pm

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Saturday 30 May 8pm
At RHS Garden Rosemoor