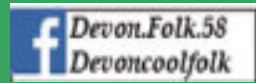


No 123 Spring What's Afoot

The official magazine of

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DANCE SONGS IN LIVE DUETTES

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IN A WHEELCHAIR BUT KATHRYN KEEPS SINGING



FOLK AT THE FLAVEL



SOME GREAT CONCERTS COMING UP AS PART OF THE EXCITING FOLK SERIES IN DARTMOUTH'S HIGHLY RATED ARTS CENTRE

SATURDAY 25TH APRIL 2020 7:30pm CARA DILLON

Cara Dillon, one of the most outstanding performers on the UK folk scene, makes her third visit to Flavel. Born in County Derry, Cara, accompanied by husband and musical partner Sam Lakeman, has risen to be one of the best loved performers in any genre. She has had several successful albums and tours extensively. Cara has won countless awards and accolades including "Album of the Year" at the BBC Radio 2 folk awards, Cara has also been featured in many remarkable projects including singing the title track for the film "Tinkerbelle and the Great Fairy Rescue" and appearing on Mike Oldfield's Tubular Bells 3.

TUESDAY 9TH JUNE 7:30pm FAIRPORT CONVENTION

Folk at the Flavel are proud to welcome to the Flavel one of the most iconic bands of all time, *Fairport Convention*. Fairport have been entertaining music lovers for over half a century and they still maintain a busy touring schedule and of course the famous annual Fairport Convention Cropredy Festival which has just celebrated its 40th year. They have just released their latest album 'Shuffle & Go'. Fairport Convention, who have won a BBC Lifetime Achievement Award, features the long established line up of Simon Nicol on guitar and vocals, Dave Pegg on bass guitar, Ric Sanders on violin, Chris Leslie on fiddle, mandolin and vocals, and Gerry Conway on percussion.

SATURDAY 27TH JUNE 7.30pm NANCY KERR AND JAMES FAGAN

Folk at the Flavel welcome for a first visit one of the most celebrated duos in the folk world, *Nancy Kerr and James Fagan*. Nancy has to date won six BBC Radio 2 Folk Awards including Folk Singer of the Year in 2015. Her recent work has included the multi-award-winning "The Full English" band, James and Nancy have been playing together since 1995 and together they have released six albums. James hails from Sydney, Australia and is a multi-instrumentalist and singer, specialising in bouzouki, guitar and mandolin. Nancy and James formed the Melrose Quartet in 2010 and were nominated for Best Group at the 2014 Folk Awards. James is in great demand as a session player and appears on albums by among others Cara Dillon and Martin Simpson.

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A WORD OF WARNING

AS What's Afoot goes to press, it's very uncertain how the coronavirus outbreak will affect the country. We are providing a lot of listings in good faith but there is a possibility that some may be cancelled due to cases of the disease. So we advise checking up on the Flaxey Green website or ringing venues before setting off. This is always good policy even in normal times as events can be cancelled at short notice—sadly, for some years now the whole country has suffered an epidemic of pub closures.

There is a certain irony in coronavirus striking in Mayflower 400 year. As Seth Lakeman found, the diseases that settlers brought to the New World threatened to wipe out the Native American population (read his story on page 8). We just have to hope that modern medicine can defeat the disease, the big festivals will go ahead and that venues such as The Plough (see our article on page 7) can carry on. Striking a note of hope, the village of Lustleigh survived the Black Death with no casualties and is still celebrating its escape with May Day festivities (see page 17).

John Foxen

NEXT COPY DEADLINE: MAY 20th 2020

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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How a mermaid turned tragedy into a triumph

Despite a crippling illness, Kathryn Collings manages to keep singing

AT FIRST sight it might seem a slightly tacky gimmick: a pirate and a mermaid singing sea songs together. Something you might see at a Hide-Hi holiday camp rather than a folk club or festival. But Kathryn Collings' costume hides a painful story. For like the mermaid of legend, whose every step felt like sharp knives were cutting her feet, she struggles to walk. At the age of 22, a malevolent cocktail of illnesses have more or less confined her to a bulky wheelchair.

Despite being in almost constant pain, Kathryn still goes out with her father, Steve, to sing. And when her soaring, soulful soprano fills a room, audiences quickly realise that there is far more to her than a gimmick. Kathryn is a fine example not only of the power of music but also of how the human spirit can overcome adversity.

She came to music through her father, a long established performer in the folk world. Steve is a solo singer and a member of Teignmouth's Back Beach Boyz shanty crew. Now he also appears with his daughter as CASK – Collings' Acapella Shanty Krew. His voice perfectly complements his daughter's. Together they perform material ranging from shanties and folk songs to patter songs and contemporary ballads.

They have appeared at shanty festivals and folk clubs in the south-west but Kathryn has to be careful about her choice of venue because of her medical condition. She lives in Teignmouth but now dare not come out to the town's annual folk festival, an event she used to love because Morris dancers are everywhere and the tinkling of their bells can throw her into painful spasms. The sharp

jangling of tambourines is another trigger for these attacks. Even someone tapping her on the shoulder unexpectedly can cause a bad reaction her muscles can suddenly twist her away from the friendly gesture. In the folk world it's par for the course for friends to greet each other with hugs or slaps on the back. But if you see Kathryn, curb your enthusiasm when you greet her.

Her body reacts unnaturally due to Functional Neurological Disorder, (FND), a condition in which patients can experience neurological symptoms such as weakness, movement disorders, sensory symptoms and blackouts. Her brain can suddenly send the wrong signals to her muscles, causing them to twist her body into agonising shapes.

She has also been diagnosed with Fibromyalgia syndrome (FMS) a rheumatoid disorder of the muscles and bones that causes pain and fatigue. Sufferers feel as if their muscles have been pulled or overworked. Sometimes the muscles twitch or burn. As if that were not enough, she has also been diagnosed with complex PTSD, possibly due to incidents of bullying at school, and she can have "emotional flashbacks" to painful situations she suffered years ago.

But only three years ago she was doing very well in an accountancy apprenticeship and performing on stage in her spare time.

Then her illness started to get the better of her. As she put it, she would go to rehearsals and the next day feel "pretzeled" by involuntary spasms. She had to drop the apprenticeship and the stage work. Even walking became a problem. Kathryn

'Like the mermaid whose every step felt like knives cutting her feet, she struggles to walk'



SOUND OF THE SEA: CASK – father and daughter Steve and Kathryn Collings on stage

tried getting about with a rollator but this wasn't much help. Then, thanks to folk music, she had a stroke of good fortune. She and her father had gone to a mobility shop where they were recognised by a fellow shanty singer, a member of Missin' Tackle, who worked there. Through him they managed to acquire the wheelchair she now uses which was being sold off at a knockdown price. It's a dream model which not only gets her about but can also raise her up so she is almost at eye level with her father when she sings with him. It's like having a portable stage.

It always grabs the audience's attention when she comes on stage and is then "elevated". But Kathryn admits to being mischievous at a shanty festival when she was sitting right in front of an artist who was singing Stan Rogers' Mary Ellen Carter. When he came to the stirring "Rise again, rise again" chorus, she flipped the switch on her wheelchair and rose up in front of him. "He couldn't stop laughing," she said.

Her dad already had a pirate costume from a Pirate and Parrot evening with the Back Beach Boyz. Kathryn's mermaid costume not only complements it but also makes a virtue out of the fact that she has to sit down all the time.

She made it herself but Steve was a little critical at first because it has a hexagonal pattern rather than fish scales.

"It's not real," he complained.

Kathryn rolls her eyes when she tells the story. "Real! What, you mean like a 'real' mermaid? Come on, dad."

The mermaid may not be real but the singing is as you can discover if you catch them at Perranporth's Loudest Shout on Saturday April 18. They'll also be at the Teign Maritime Shanty Festival in September (see the next issue of What's Afoot for more details of that event). Kathryn and Steve are also regular performers at Gidsong in Gidleigh Village Hall.

But if you go to see Cask, judge them on their music. When Kathryn sings she is like the stricken vessel in Stan Rogers' song *Mary Ellen Carter* and rises again. It's a reminder to us, as the song says:

*"And you, to whom adversity has dealt the final blow
With smiling bastards lying to you everywhere you go
Turn to, and put out all your strength of arm and heart and brain
And like the Mary Ellen Carter, rise again."*

John Foxen

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THE Plough Arts Centre has been a strong supporter of folk music over the years, hosting concerts for local names such as Jim Causley and Mad Dog Mcree and national stars such as The Tannahill Weavers and the Askew Sisters.

But despite rising attendance – audience figures have reached their highest point in the centre's 45-year history – the Plough is facing financial difficulties. As What's Afoot went to press it was holding a fund-raising appeal to cover a £30,000 shortfall.

The Plough's director Richard Wolfenden Brown said: "Despite a thriving arts and community programme, excellent customer feedback, and audiences for films and live events that have grown by 55 per cent over the past five years, The Plough has experienced a recent dramatic rise in overheads coupled with a reduction in core funding which has created the perfect storm in our delicate finances.

"We are tightening our belts and seeking ways to save money, including reducing staff hours in order to try to stabilise finances. But to survive the short term we need your help."

Money is tight for most people right now, but if you can afford to help out, even in a small way, – visit www.crowdfunder.co.uk/power-the-plough. There are some rewards for helping out.

A £10 donation will get your name on the arts centre's roll of honour on its website while a donation of £25 will put you into a draw for a GOLDEN TICKET valid for a year and worth more than £500.

For £150 or more you can sponsor a seat. A plaque will be fixed to a seat in the Plough theatre bearing a short message of your choice, for example a dedication to a loved one. The seat will display your plaque for 10 years.

What's Afoot has made a small contribution by giving the Plough a free advert on the back page of this issue. The Devon Folk Association will probably discuss offering more aid at its AGM.

Here's hoping that the Plough can overcome its difficulties and continue providing top class entertainment. If you can't afford to donate, try to get along to the events and show your support.

Seth sets sail on

Lakeman's album tells both sides of the Pilgrims' story

"IT'S an incredible story. I'm surprised there isn't some massive Hollywood movie about it," says Seth Lakeman, commenting on the 400th anniversary of the sailing of the Mayflower.

But if Tinseltown hasn't taken the trouble to commemorate this historic anniversary then Seth has, by producing *The Pilgrim's Tale*, a concept album that follows the ballad opera tradition of Fairport Convention's *John Babbacombe Lee* and Peter Bellamy's *The Transports*.

His starting point was a record released 50 years ago: Cyril Tawney's *A Mayflower Garland*. Cyril released his album to celebrate the 350th anniversary of the Mayflower's voyage (for details about it, see Bill Murray's article in issue 120 of *What's Afoot*). Seth says: "It's a wonderful record but it didn't really go far enough, I wanted to go a bit further...and flesh out the story."

Coming from Buckland Monachorum and having grown up steeped in Plymouth's maritime traditions and music, Seth was well equipped for such a project. But it took a trip to North America (on tour with rock legend Robert Plant) to give him a starting point. He spent some time with members of the Wampanoag tribe, the Native Americans who saved the Pilgrim Fathers from starvation by sharing food and showing them how to farm in the New World. A rosy picture of this cooperation is painted every Thanksgiving Day in the US but Seth's meeting with the Wampanoag showed him a darker side. "The surprise to me was the forced alliance between the settlers and the Native Americans," he says.

The Wampanoag, who had inhabited the area we know now as New England for 10,000 years, had been ravaged by disease brought by English explorers and fishermen. They needed European weapons to fend off a rival tribe. But the uneasy



alliance would eventually lead to them being forced into a small corner of their land.

Says Seth: "After I came back from America, I wanted to tell both sides of the story. You feel a responsibility."

So the first song on the album, *Watch Out*, recounts the dream of a Wampanoag girl who foresees the coming of the settlers and tries to warn her parents about the strangers with fire in their eyes. As history has shown, she was right to be fearful. Today, the Wampanoag inhabit only a small corner of their land.

But *The Pilgrim's Tale* is even-handed with Seth's songs also relating the hardships suffered by the Pilgrims and highlighting the courage of the seamen who took them to the New World.

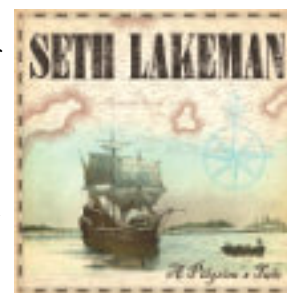
Seth says that once he started writing, the songs came thick and fast. On the album they are linked by spoken introductions written by Nick Stimson, a writer and producer from Devon who is also Associate Director of The Theatre Royal,

Mayflower 400

Plymouth. "The narrator is Paul McGann," says Seth. "He's done Hornblower and Doctor Who of course. He's a big history fan. He really enjoyed the songs and the flow of it all so it's come together really well."

The album was recorded at Seth's home studio near Yelverton with Benji Kirkpatrick adding vocals, bouzouki, guitar, and side drum to Seth's vocals, violin, viola, E tenor guitar, bouzouki, drums and harmonium. They worked very fast, cramming the recording into about 48 hours – some bands need that time just to record one track. Seth is pleased there are barely any overdubs which gives the album a very natural feel. He did call in father, Geoff and sister-in-law Cara Dillon to add vocals and Ben Nicholls on double bass and jews harp.

The result is a powerful work that tells a story economically and with impact. "Hopefully, it's a



window to the era and the subject," says Seth. "A good way of people finding about it."

The songs throw light on some incidents that many may not know. *The Great Iron Screw*, for example, tells how the main bean of the Mayflower split but was repaired thanks to the iron screw the settlers had brought for housebuilding.

When *What's Afoot* spoke to Seth about his project he was about to set off on an unconventional tour,

taking the songs to places connected with the Pilgrim Fathers.

"It's a concept tour in itself as well. It's quite a challenge to go into some of these venues. A lot of it's in Lincolnshire and Yorkshire, Southampton Dartmouth and Plymouth. It's not a normal tour. Generally, you would spread yourself evenly throughout the territory. This one – in Lincolnshire you can see it five times." The tour



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Ballad Opera

took in Harwich, where the Mayflower's captain Christopher Jones lived. The song *Westward Bound* portrays him by the shore, contemplating the momentous voyage and its dangers.

The tour ended in Plymouth in February but there's a chance to see a spectacular version of the project at Plymouth's Theatre Royal in June. Performed by citizens of Plymouth and members of the Wampanoag tribe, with text by Nick Stimson and Seth's songs. *This Land* is the story of The Mayflower and the impact of its arrival. It runs from June 16 to the 20.

The big question about a concept album is: are the songs good enough to stand alone? One that might find a regular place in Seth's concert repertoire is *Bury Nights*, the lament of despairing settler who feels all the promises of a better life in America were false. Seth performed a poignant solo version on Radio 4's Loose Ends which stunned the other guests. The haunting *Mayflower Waltz* that concludes the album certainly ought to find a place in session. *Pilgrim Brothers* is a song of religious hope but the stomping tune could be picked up by a border morris side. *Sailing Time* is a blistering reworking of the Padstow Farewell well suited to the bustle on a ship leaving harbour.

At some point Seth hopes to take the show to America but he's got a lot on his plate with his other touring work and the festival season (you can catch him at Sidmouth this summer).

He has other projects and one is particularly tantalising: an album based on Laurie Lee's book *As I Walked Out One Midsummer Morning*. It tells of the young Laurie leaving his home in the Cotswolds and walking first to London, then across Spain from north to south. On his way he earns his living by playing his violin. Who better than Seth to set this story to music?

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WELL I've been busy, calling in Paris and (by the time you read this) Ireland. It's Interesting calling where there are language issues (my French is low grade schoolboy and my gaelic doesn't go beyond craic and slainte - although they're both really useful words!)

I found (by trial and error) that the most effective way of communicating the dance was to get out and demonstrate. They understood and if they wanted to see it again they said so. Surprisingly my French, which does not extend to Ladies Chain or Right Hand Star, did turn out to be useful. "Asseyez-vous" (sit down) and "Regardez" (watch) were used multiple times.

Of course, many folk dance, and particular contra dance, terms come from French (going back to when the language of court was French) such as Dosey Do (dos-a-dos), Promenade, Pousette. Allemande also comes from France but not (as the urban myth goes) from "a la main (to the hand), but from the French for German. At one time (16th-17th century), many German dances came across the border to France and they had a lot of arm turns in them. They became known as "allemande" (German) dances and from that the

signature arm turn became an Allemande Turn, shortened over time to Allemande.

It occurred to me that we could use demonstration far more when calling in English. Although, in theory, we all speak the same language, in practice there are multiple small (and not so small) differences in meaning and understanding. Dance is a physical medium, so what better way to instruct than physically?

Some interesting times simple instructions have failed. "Dosey do: go back to back with your partner" ends up with them standing back to back. "Put your right hands in for a Right Hand Star, put your left hands in for a Left Hand Star" ends up with them putting their left hands in but not taking their right ones out.

Those of us who call barn dances for complete beginners are used to demonstrating doseyy dos, but for ceilidhs with regular attendees this just isn't necessary. Maybe we should be expanding the range of moves used - perhaps throw in a dopaso or a flutterwheel? For the beginners it makes no difference as everything is new. For the more experienced dancers, it's a chance to try something new and different. I do get a bit fed up with dances

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that have the same moves just in a different order - and with ceilidhs that never try anything new or exciting.

Exeter Ceilidhs are going well with a record attendance at our last dance to the wonderful Dartmoor Pixies. Slightly too many in fact, perhaps having such a popular band on Burns Night wasn't the best idea in the world. Another learning opportunity. I now have a third season all lined up - details soon.

One of the (numerous) reasons for starting Exeter Ceilidhs was to provide eventually a feed of dancers to local folk dance groups. If you run such a group, send me flyers or bring them along.

For my next overseas trip I'll be flying off to Dublin. I'm not looking forward to the three hour plus drive when I get there. The festival is at Lisdoonvarna, on the Western coast of Ireland. It's a small town of about 800 people where every year, for about a month, more than 40,000 people descend for Europe's largest romantic matchmaking festival - and you think Sidmouth gets overcrowded! That's not when I'm going though - I'm there for a bluegrass festival.

I'll let you know how I get on...

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7-9 AUGUST 2020
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WWW.DARTMOORFOLKFESTIVAL.ORG.UK

Fes̄ivals

It's spring and the outdoor events are beginning to blossom. Here's a round-up of what's on offer

BOVEY TRACEY GREEN MAN

SATURDAY, 25 APRIL 2020 FROM 09:30-17:30
 THE festival, organised by the town and Glimpsed Morris, spreads along Fore Street with plenty of dancing, stalls and other entertainment. Last year's event was nearly blown away by high winds but hardy morris dancers kept it going. So don't be put off if the weather looks doubtful, the morris won't be. Expect a full day of music, dancing, eating, drinking, may pole dancing, mummings plays, a Town Crier and story telling). There will be a procession through the town by the Green Man (accompanied by his Twiglets).



MAY HEYDAYS

FRIDAY 1 MAY TO SUNDAY 3

AFTER 44 years, Eastbourne International Folkdance Festival will be relocating to Evesham in the Midlands. For more details, see the advert in this issue or visit www.mayheydays.org.uk



LUSTLEIGH MAY DAY

SATURDAY 2 MAY

THE village of Lustleigh still celebrates May in the time-honoured way, complete with the crowning of the May Queen on the hillside above Wreyland. Tradition has it that after the plagues of the 1300s left the village unscathed, the inhabitants decided to celebrate their salvation by holding special festivities on May Day. The tradition gradually died out but was resurrected in the early 1900s.

PIRATES A-PLENTY

BRIXHAM PIRATE FESTIVAL -

SATURDAY 2 MAY TO SUNDAY 3

THE Government's VE Day celebrations have forced this popular event to cut down from three days to two but a mini festival is promised on the Monday for those who can take the day off. Details were sparse as we went to press so keep an eye on brixhampirates.com

PIRATES WEEKEND PLYMOUTH

9 MAY 2020 - 10 MAY 2020

If you couldn't make the Brixham festival or feel that you need even more piracy in your life then Plymouth is offering more buccaneering at the Barbican. There will be shanties galore and dancing from those cutlass-swinging Plymouth Morris Men.

HUNTING OF THE EARL OF RONE**COMBE MARTIN MAY 22-25**

A UNIQUELY Devonian event which dates back to the 17th century when, according to the Earl of Tyrone, fleeing from Ireland after an unsuccessful rebellion, landed near Combe Martin and was hunted down.

This never happened but it didn't stop the villagers holding this annual ceremony in which the bizarrely clad "Earl of Rone", mounted on a donkey is paraded through the streets then taken down to the beach and "shot". The custom was banned in 1837 by local bylaw due to "licentious and drunken behaviour". But it was restored by local enthusiasts in the 1970s and now the whole village takes part – even the primary school pupils have their own "Earl".

Saturday is the night of the Combe Martin Strawberry Cake. The village was once famous for producing the first strawberries of the season in the UK, and this is commemorated by the Strawberry Cake – an amazing confection of sponge, whipped cream and fresh strawberries (taking three people about three hours just to assemble) which is paraded in to the Earl of Rone tune while the company joins in with the dance, and then avidly consumed.

A full account of this custom, by Tom Brown who helped to restore it, is in What's Afoot 118 (email devonfolkeditor@gmail.com for a copy).

**PENNYMOOR SONG AND ALE****FRIDAY 5 TO SUNDAY 7 JUNE**

THIS annual songfest is held at the London Inn, Morchard Bishop EX17 6NW. There is camping in the field next to the inn. There are lunchtime and evening song sessions, a walk on Saturday morning and singing at a local care home in the afternoon. At Saturday's late-night session you have to stand on the famous wobbly log to sing. £15 for the weekend. Contact sally 01363 85022. Booking essential.

TEIGNMOUTH FOLK FESTIVAL**FRIDAY 19 JUNE TO SUNDAY 21**

A SPLENDID festival by the sea that some morris sides prefer to Sidmouth because there is more room to dance. A special attraction this year is veteran performer Martin Wyndham-Read, accompanied by Iris Bishop, the duet concertina virtuoso who can give our own duet star, Geoff Lakeman, a good run for his money. There are also the fabulous Wilson Family See the advert in this issue for more details and keep an eye on www.teignmouthfolk.co.uk for any last-minute additions to the programme.

ANNUAL SOUTH BRENT FOLK DAY**SATURDAY 4 JULY**

A GREAT little festival that punches well above its weight. This year boasts none other than Martin Carthy as the headline act. See the advert in this issue for more details. It might be a good idea to get tickets early. An unusual addition is a tambourine workshop by this magazine's assistant editor Mab Foxen. Mab was trained in the Salvation Army's dynamic style of tambourine playing and will be shedding a whole new light on this often underused and abused instrument. For more details of the festival, see the advert in this issue or visit southbrentfolk.org.uk*

AND IN THE SUMMER**NEW FOREST FOLK FESTIVAL****WEDNESDAY 1 JULY TO SATURDAY 5**

Our own Phil Beer will be there with his band. See the advert in this issue for more details www.newforestfolkfestival.co.uk

WARWICK FOLK FESTIVAL**THURSDAY 23RD JULY TO SATURDAY 25TH**

See the advert in this issue for more details www.warwickfolkfestival.co.uk

A turner who took a turn for the worse

AFTER a winter of storms, Hillary and Bill Durrant will be hoping for a respite at this year's Dartmoor Festival. The couple, who were demonstrating pole lathe turning, had their gazebo destroyed by the storm played havoc with Sidmouth FF and threatened to disrupt Dartmoor.

The weather was a double blow for the couple. Not only did they need a new gazebo but they raised very little money at the festival for the charity they support, Cardiac Risk In The Young.

The Durrants, from Somerset, have been taking pole lathing to events around the country to raise awareness of cardiac risk since their granddaughter, Dr Jenny Bucknell died "out of the blue" in 2011 from an undiagnosed heart condition. She was only 23 and had barely finished at university.

Hillary said: "Jenny lived and worked in Cardiff and my daughter accepted her degree certificates. She had just landed a job at Llandoverly Hospital in Wales and was so happy telling me all about it over the 'phone the night before she suddenly died."

Despite the storm, the Durrants kept their sense of humour and offered their "roofless gazebo" for sale. "We did only get an offer of a pound," said Hillary.

They plan to keep on demonstrating the old craft of pole lathe turning and will be at Dartmoor again. Do drop by and see them and, if you can, help a very worthwhile charity.



KEEPING UP THE CRAFT: Bill Durrant demonstrating pole lathe turning at last year's Dartmoor Folk Fes̄ val and, below, the wreckage of their gazebo after the storm

**CHAGSTOCK FESTIVAL****FRIDAY 24 JULY TO SATURDAY 25**<https://chagstock.info/>**SIDMOUTH FOLK WEEK****FRIDAY 31 JULY TO FRIDAY 7 AUGUST**

This is the big one with something to please everybody. See the advert in this issue for more details or visit <https://sidmouthfolkfestival.co.uk/>

43RD DARTMOOR FOLK FESTIVAL**FRIDAY 7 AUGUST TO SUNDAY 9 AUGUST**

Bob Cann's festival has a magic all of its own. It not only offers great music but also sets up unique events such as the Dartmoor step dancing competition. See the advert in this issue for more details or visit www.dartmoorfolkfestival.org.uk/

BEAUTIFUL DAYS FESTIVAL**FRIDAY 21 AUGUST TO SUNDAY 23 AUGUST**www.beautifuldays.org/**CORNWALL FOLK FESTIVAL****FRIDAY 28 AUGUST TO MONDAY 31 AUGUST**<https://cornwallfolkfestival.com/wp/>**LYME FOLK WEEKEND****FRIDAY 28 AUGUST TO MONDAY 31**www.lymefolk.com/**TEIGN SHANTY FEST, TEIGNMOUTH****SATURDAY 26 SEPTEMBER TO SUNDAY 27**www.teignshantyfestival.co.uk/**BARING-GOULD FESTIVAL****OCTOBER.**Wren 01837 53754 info@wrenmusic.co.uk

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

March 14 th	Jeremy Childs and Spinach for Norman
April 18 th	Simon Maplesden and Jigs for Gigs
May 9 th	Ray Goodswen and Portland Drive
June 13 th	Jane Thomas and Oxford Nags

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 informaĉ on
Contact Marilyn Broom 01404 47200 or Zena Roberts 01884 253546

Regular Events

MONDAY WEEKLY SESSION

Appledore Royal Hotel
Totnes, Bay Horse

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

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

Kilmington VH, 2-4pm. Janet
Bulpin 01297 33019
Sidford Scoĉ sh at VH

MONDAY FORTNIGHTLY SESSION

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

SONG
Kingsteignton, Acousĉ c
Warehouse, Passage House Inn,
(1st, 3rd)7.30pm. Nigel 07989
180091

MONDAY MONTHLY MUSIC

Chinlehampton, Bell Inn (2nd).
Topsham, Bridge Inn (1st)
Welcombe, Old Smithy (2nd)
Irish.

SESSION
Topsham, Bridge Inn (2nd) Blues
Totnes, Bay Horse (4th) Irish.
Clovelly, Red Lion (1st)

Moretonhampstead, The Horse
Pub (last)

Plymouth, Dolphin (2nd)
South Zeal, Kings Arms (3rd)
STORY Totnes, Pie Street. (2nd)
South Devon Storytellers 7.30pm

TUESDAY WEEKLY SESSION

Appledore, The Champ
DANCE
Exmouth Isca Scoĉ sh Dancers,
Sept-May. East Budleigh CH
7.30pm. VJ Tyler, 01395 276913
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 Scoĉ sh Folk, 7.15pm
King Edward VI School

SONG
Topsham FSC, The Bridge Inn,
7.45pm-10.15pm.
www.topshamfolkclub.org

TUESDAY FORTNIGHTLY SONG

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

Plymouth, ArĴ llyery 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)
Chris Ausĉ n 07812 688432

DANCE
Kingsteignton FDC. CH. Jean
Foster 01626 363887 (2nd, 4th)
Wiveliscombe FDC, (2nd, 4th).
Community Centre. 01984 624595

TUESDAY MONTHLY SESSION

Bradninch, West End Hall. (2nd).
Colin Wilson 01392 882036

Calstock, Boot Inn (2nd) Mike
07725 579718

Frogmore Globe Inn (1st) 8.30pm
Shebbear, Devil's Stone (2nd)

SONG
Chipshop (nr Tavistock) Copper
Penny Inn (4th)

Coleford, New Inn (last) 01363
84914

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

Sidmouth Acousĉ c Folk Club
Sidholme Hotel, EX10 8UJ (2nd)
07850163241

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 VH. 01404
813129

Newton Abbot, Jolly Farmer.
Irish. Maggie, 01626 204350
West Charleton VH. South Hams
FDC, Philip Worth 01548 561415
Budleigh Salterton, Isca Scoĉ sh
Dancers, Sept-May. Public Hall.
10am VJ Tyler, 01395 276913

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

SONG Totnes, Bay Horse (2nd, 4th)

WEDNESDAY MONTHLY SONG/MUSIC, Brixham, The Old
Coaching Inn.(1st) Sing/Play
(3rd) BFC Folk Choir (2nd ,4th)

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

Lympstone, Redwing Inn. (4th)
01395 225075

Pennymoor Singaround, Cruwys
Arms (3rd) 7.30pm Jon Shapley
01363 83740

SESSION
Dawlish, South Devon Inn. (last)
Honiton, Beehive Centre, (2nd)
7.30pm

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

MUSIC Seaton. Eyre Court (3rd)
Jurassic Folk. Adrian 01404 549903
Swimbridge, Jack Russell Inn (1st)

SONG Sidmouth, Anchor (1st)

THURSDAY WEEKLY SONG

Bideford FSC, Joiners Arms. John
Purser 01237 424286

Regular Events

Bishopsteignton, Red Rock Brewery 7.30pm. John Morey 07791 054773
Denbury, Union Inn, Steve Basseö, 01803 812537
DANCE
Crewkerne FDC, St Bartholomew's Church. Jean 01460 72505
Tavistock FDC, Town Hall. Margaret Holt, 01822 855858
Newton Poppelford Square Dance class, VH, 2-4.30pm.
SESSION Plymouth, Minerva Inn, 8.30pm
THURS FORTNIGHTLY DANCE
Chard FDC, Combe St Nicholas VH. 7.30pm Hillary Durrant 01460 61996
Exmouth FDC (1st, 3rd). Withycombe Methodist Ch 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 MUSIC Churchstow, Church House Inn (1st)
SESSION
Exmouth, Bicton Inn (3rd) 01395 272589.
Frogmore, Globe. (3rd) 8.30pm
SONG
Brixham, Quayside Hotel (1st)
Exmouth, Bicton Inn (4th) 01395 272589
Morchart Bishop, London Inn (1st) Pennymoor Singaround noon-3pm Jon 01363 83740
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 ngton FDC at VH. Sheila Chappell, 01392 882156
Newton Poppelford, American Square Dance classes. VH 10am-12.30pm 01395 578306
SONG
Bodmin FSC, The Old Library, www.bodminfolkclub.co.uk
FRIDAY FORTNIGHTLY DANCE Aylesbeare FDC at VH. Ted Farmer 01392 466326
FRIDAY MONTHLY DANCE
Exeter D'accord French, St Maöhews Hall. Mike Long 01392 811593.
Exeter Contra Dance, The Kenn Centre, EX6 7UE, 7.30pm (2nd). Jeremy Child 01392 422119.
South Brent Fest Noz , Palstone RecreaĴ on Hall(1st)
SONG
Brixham FSC, Old Coaching Inn. (1st). mnharrod@yahoo.co.uk
Carhampton, Butchers Arms. (2nd). Lynda Baker 01643 702994
Exeter Folk & AcousĴ c Club, Victoria Tennis Club (last). Peter Cornelius 01392 210983.
Marldon. Old Smokey House (3rd) Folk Plus AcousĴ c Club. Paul 07894 961010
Milton Abbot Ma's FSC at VH (3rd)
SESSION Plympton, Union Inn (last)
Cullompton South West Shape Note Singing (3rd) Steve 07976 605692 or MarĴ n 07721 451406
SAT MONTHLY SONG
Combe Mar n, Shammick

AcousĴ c, Pack Of Cards. (4th). 01271 882366
Brendon, Staghunters. (3rd) Carole Henderson-Begg, 01769 540581
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
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) 8.30pm
Cullompton South West Shape Note Singing, (5th) Steve 07976 605692 or MarĴ n 07721 451406
Okehampton, Plume of Feathers, Okey Folky.(last) Doug 07770 484025
S cklepath, Devonshire Inn. (1st) Derek Moore 01837 840316
MUSIC
Winkleigh Kings Arms, (3rd)
Pennymoor, Cruwys Arms. (last) LunchĴ me. Jon Shapley 01363 83740
Plymouth, Dolphin. (1st) 1.30pm Scorrison, Tradesmna's Arms. (4th) 7.30pm. 01364 631308
SESSION Totnes, Bay Horse. (2nd) Bluegrass.
CLUBS, DAY UNSPECIFIED DANCE Beacon Wheel Chair Dancers. Sue Cummings 01803 554799
Teign Playford Club. Jean Foster 01626 363887
 Further informaĴ on and updates at www.devonfolk.org.uk,

Specific Events

APRIL

WEDNESDAY 1ST DANCE

GiŃ sham Folk Dance Club. Mark Moran, A Tight Squeeze
CONCERT Plough Arts Centre, Gt Torrington EX38 8HQ. 8pm. Grace Petrie

SATURDAY 4TH DANCE

Spring Céilidh, South Brent Village Hall. Doors 7.30pm. Spinach for Norman

MONDAY 6TH CONCERT

Exeter Corn Exchange Market Street, Exeter, EX1 1BW. 6.45pm. Feast of Fiddles

TUESDAY 7TH DANCE

Sidford Folk Dance Club. Cancelled

WEDNESDAY 8TH DANCE

GiÖ sham Folk Dance Club. Chris Jewell, Home Brew

THURSDAY 9TH DANCE

Willand Folk Dance Club. Peter Howarth, Weston C.D.Band

SONG Totnes Folk Song Club, Dartmouth Inn, TQ9 5EL, 8pm. Geoff Lakeman and Rob Murch

CONCERT

Ashburton Arts Centre, West Street, Ashburton TQ13 7DT. Doors 7pm. The Askew Sisters
ONerton Mill, OÖerton, nr Budleigh Salterton, EX9 7HG. 8pm. Tom McConville

SATURDAY 11TH DANCE

Willand Folk Dance Club. Village Hall, Gables Road, Willand, EX15 2PL.

TUESDAY 14TH DANCE

Sidford Folk Dance Club. Simon Maplesden

WEDNESDAY 15TH DANCE

GiÖ sham Folk Dance Club. Ray Goodswen, Petronella

THURSDAY 16TH CONCERT

Ashburton Arts

Centre, West Street, TQ13 7DT. Doors 7pm. Sarah McQuaid

FRIDAY 17TH CONCERT

Exeter Folk and AcousĴ c Club. Victoria Park Tennis Club, Lyndhurst Road, St. Leonards, EX2 4NX. 8pm. Mike Silver

SATURDAY 18TH DANCE

Willand Folk Dance Club. Village Hall, EX15 2PL. 8pm. Simon Maplesden, Jigs For Gigs
Exeter St James CH, Mount Pleasant, EX4 7AH. D'Accord's French Music and Dance.

CONCERT St Mary's Church, Totnes, TQ9 5NN. 7.30pm. Totnes Early Music Society, JOGLARESA: The Enchantress of Seville

SUNDAY 19TH SONG

Folk on Moor, Westward Inn, Lee Mill, 7.45pm. Lander Mason
Topsham FC, Maöhews Hall, EX3 0HF. Gigspanner Big Band

TUESDAY 21ST DANCE

Sidford Folk Dance Club. Jane Thomas, Jigs for Gigs

WEDNESDAY 22ND DANCE

GiÖ sham Folk Dance Club. Simon Maplesden, Chris Toyne

THURSDAY 23RD DANCE

Willand Folk Dance Club. SONG Bideford Folk Club. The Joiners Arms, Market Place,, EX30 2DR. 8pm. Maggie Duffy

SATURDAY 25TH CONCERT

Shammick AcousĴ c, Pack o' Cards, Combe MarĴ n. Alice Jones

DANCE

Exeter Ceilidhs. Kenn Centre, Exeter Road, Kennford, EX6 7UE. 8pm. Gill Spence, Mischief and Mayhem

Bridport Ceilidhs. Church House (St Mary's) Hall, DT6 3NW, 7.30pm. Miss Mayne's Party
Launceston Folk Dance Club. Town Hall, PL15 7AR, 8pm. Sarah Bazeley, Dartmoor Pixie Band
Teign Playford Dance, Rydon Hall, Kingsteignton. 2.30-5.30pm. Jean Foster.

CONCERT The Flavel, Flavel Place, Dartmouth, TQ6 9ND. 7.30pm Cara Dillon

SUNDAY 26TH SONG

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

CONCERT Plough Arts Centre, Gt Torrington EX38 8HQ. 7.30pm. Kathryn Roberts and Sean Lakeman

CONCERT Plough Arts Centre, Gt Torrington EX38 8HQ. 7.30pm. Kathryn Roberts and Sean Lakeman

TUESDAY 28TH DANCE

Sidford Folk Dance Club. Jeremy Child

WEDNESDAY 29TH DANCE

GiÖ sham FDC. Sarah Clough, Pair of Shears

THURSDAY 30TH SONG

Teignmouth Folk Club. The Oystercatcher's Café, Northumberland Place, 8pm. Jack's Ramble

MAY

SUNDAY 3RD SONG

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

MONDAY 4TH CONCERT

Exeter Corn Exchange EX1 1BW. 7.15pm. The Simon & Garfunkel Story

TUESDAY 5TH DANCE

Sidford Folk Dance Club. Chris Jewell

WEDNESDAY 6TH DANCE

GiÖ sham Folk Dance Club. Aileen Wills, Rough Music

CONCERT

Teignmouth Pavillions The Den

Specific Events

Crescent, TQ14 8BG. 7.30pm.
Sam Sweeney

The Plough@StAnne's,
Paternoster Row, Barnstaple
EX31 1SX. 8pm. The Rheingans
Sisters

SATURDAY 9TH DANCE

Willand Folk Dance Club. VH
Gables Road, EX15 2PL. 8pm.
Ray Goodswen, Portland Drive
Exeter, St James CH, Mount
Pleasant, EX4 7AH. 7.15pm.
D'Accord's French Music and
Dance Poisson Rouge

CONCERT Exeter Folk Acousŭc
Club. Victoria Park Tennis Club,
Lyndhurst Road, St Leonards,
EX2 4NX. 8pm. Bob Fox

SUNDAY 10TH

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

TUESDAY 12TH

DANCE Sidford Folk Dance Club.
Mary Marker

WEDNESDAY 13TH

DANCE GiÒ sham FDC. Mary
Marker, Dancing Keys

THURSDAY 14TH

DANCE Willand FDC. Jane
Thomas, Quantock Quarenders
SONG Totnes Folk Song Club.
The Dartmouth Inn 28 Warland,
TQ9 5EL.

CONCERT Plough@StAnne's,
Paternoster Row, Barnstaple
EX31 1SX. 8pm. Nick Hart and
Tom Moore on violin

FRIDAY 15TH

CONCERT Plough@StAnne's,
Paternoster Row, Barnstaple
EX31 1SX. 8pm. The Postman
Poet: A Celebration of the Life &
Songs of Edward Capern

SUNDAY 17TH

CONCERT Barnfield Theatre,
Barnfield Road, EX1 1SN.

7.30pm. Julie July Band: The
Fotheringay Tour 2020
SONG Folk on the Moor,
Westward Inn, Lee Mill, 7.45pm.
Clive Gregson

TUESDAY 19TH

DANCE Sidford Folk Dance Club.
Party night Aileen Wills,
Quantock Quarenders. r.

WEDNESDAY 20TH

DANCE GiÒ sham Folk Dance.
Jeremy Child, Jigs for Gigs

FRIDAY 22ND

CONCERT OÖerton Mill, EX9
7HG. Danni Nicholls

SATURDAY 23RD

CONCERT St Katherine's Priory,
Exeter, EX4 7JY. 7.30pm. Greg
Hancock, Alex Seel, Tennyson's
Twin "Songwriters Circle
Concert"

WEDNESDAY 27TH

DANCE GiÒ shamFDC. Jane
Thomas, Ivor Hyde and Holly

THURSDAY 28TH

DANCE Willand FDC, Club
Callers, The More The Merrier

SATURDAY 30TH

CONCERT Shammick Acousŭc,
Pack o' Cards, Combe Marŭn.
Magpie Lane

DANCE

Exeter Ceilidhs. Kenn Centre,
Exeter Road, Kennford, EX6 7UE.
8pm. Jeremy Child, Sŭck the
Fiddle

SUNDAY 31ST

CONCERT RHS Rosemoor,
Torrington, EX38 8PH. 7.30pm.
Show of Hands

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

JUNE

WEDNESDAY 3RD

DANCE GiÒ sham FDC. Mary
Blackborow, Bridgwater Band

FRIDAY 5TH

SONG Pennymoor Song and Ale
7th, 8th, 9th. Email Sally
spool2@bŭnternet.com

SATURDAY 6TH

DANCE Bridport Ceilidhs, Church
House Hall, DT6 3NW. 7.30pm.
Gill Spence, Abacus

MUSIC Bradninch Musical
Gardens. 01392 881566

mike.leonard120@gmail.com o

SUNDAY 7TH

MUSIC Bradninch Musical
Gardens. See above

TUESDAY 9TH

CONCERT The Flavel, Flavel
Place, Dartmouth, TQ6 9ND.
7.30pm. Fairport Convenŭon

WEDNESDAY 10TH

DANCE GiÒ sham Folk Dance
Club. Janet Bulpin, Fresh Aire

THURSDAY 11TH

DANCE Willand Folk Dance Club.
Mary Marker, Sŭck the Fiddle
SONG Dartmouth Inn, Totnes
TQ9 5EL. Totnes Folk Song Club,
8pm. A Devonshire Garland

FRIDAY 12TH

CONCERT

Plough@StAnne's, Paternoster
Row, Barnstaple EX31 1SX. 8pm.
Rosa Rebecka + Special Guests.

Plough Arts Centre, Gt
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7.15pm. D'Accord's French

SUNDAY 14TH

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

WEDNESDAY 17TH

DANCE GiÒ sham Folk Dance
Club. Graham Knight, Meter Rite

FRIDAY 19TH-SUN 20TH

FESTIVAL Teignmouth Folk FF

FRIDAY 19TH

CONCERT Exeter Folk Club.
Victoria Park Tennis Club, St
Leonards, EX2 4NX. 8pm. Crows

SATURDAY 20TH

DANCE D'Accord's French . St
Mathews Hall, EX1 2LJ

SUNDAY 21ST

SONG Folk on the Moor,

Specific Events

Westward Inn, Lee Mill, 7.45pm.

WEDNESDAY 24TH

DANCE GiÒ sham Folk Dance
Club. Gill Spence, Jigs for Gigs

THURSDAY 25TH

DANCE Willand Folk Dance Club.
Simon Maplesden, Chris Toyne

CONCERT

OÖerton Mill, OÖerton, Devon,
EX9 7HG. 8pm. Geoff Lakeman
and Rob Murch

SATURDAY 27TH

CONCERT

Shammick Acousŭc, Pack o'

Cards, Combe Marŭn. Sandy
Brechin & Ewan Wilkinson

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Nancy Kerr and James Fagan

DANCE

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

SUNDAY 28TH

SONG

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

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Combe Mar n
4th Sat. Shammick Acous c, Pack of Cards. Tom & Barbara Brown, 01271 882366.
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Last Tues, 8pm Acous c night The New Inn, EX17 5BZ. Dave 01363 84914
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Crediton
Alt Thurs Crediton West Gallery Quire. Sonja Andrews 01363 877216
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Kingsteignton
Mon. 7.30pm Acous c Warehouse, Estuary Courtyard, Passage House Inn. Nigel 07989 180091
Lympstone
4th Wed. Lympstone Folk, Roots and Acous c, Redwing Inn. Church Rd, EX8 5JT. (4th) 01395 225075/07741409265
Marldon
3rd Friday Ye Olde Smokey House, Vicarage Road, TQ3 1NN. Folk Plus Acous c Music Club. Paul 07894 961010
Moretonhampstead
Last Monday, The Horse Pub, George Street, TQ13 8PG
Morchar Bishop
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New Road TQ5 8NL, David Lee 01803 846 346

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

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Clubs and Sessions

www.exeterfolkclub.org

Exmouth
3rd & 5th Tues. 8.30pm. Manor Hotel, Beacon. Chris Aus n 07812 688432
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South Brent

Pack Horse Inn Alt. Tues. 8.30pm. Song. Eileen KcKee 01364 736999

Pack Horse Inn 3rd Thursday, 8pm. Mixed session

South Zeal

3rd Mon music session markbazeleymobile@gmail.com

Sclepath (Okehampton)

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Elizabeth Wozniak 01271 325425

Beltane (F)

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

Bideford Phoenix Morris (F)

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Blackawton Morris (F)

Chris Janman, 01803 712362

Black Bess (F)

Jayne Thomas 01626 366844 blackbessborder@gmail.com

Borderline (F)

bag@borderlinemorris.org
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

Darlington Morris Men (R)

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

Exeter Morris Men (R)

Mike Painter, 01392 660444. (Thurs) mikepainter25@gmail.com

Exmoor Border Morris (F)

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

Firestone

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Glory of the West Morris (F)

Carol Mantell, 01647 252740 (Wed)

Great Western Morris Men (F)

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

Green Willow Clog (F)

Jacqueline 07748 121093

Grimspound Border Morris (F)

Lee Merry, 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, lindacorcoran@btopenworld.com

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Debs : 01626 770238 bag@isambardsgasketrats.co.uk

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

Lodestone Border (F)

lodestonemorris@hotmail.co.uk

Lyme Morris

www.facebook.com/LymeMorris

Newton Bushel Morris (F)

Rod Shute, 01803 403153 teresa@newtonbushelmorris.uk

Old Town Twelves

Alison Chapman, 07541 385463

Oner Morris

bag.oOer.morris@gmail.com

Plymouth Maids (O)

Sue Hawes, 01752 345054 plymouthmaids@hotmail.com

Plymouth Morris

maz4par@gmail.com
www.plymouthmorrismen.org.uk

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Friday 24th April

Saturday 9th May

Friday 29th May

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Friday 26th June

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Open Club Night

Guest Night – Bob Fox

Open Club Night

Guests Night – Crows

Open Club Night

For more information contact

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

A wake-up call for the hardier sides

THERE'S a rude awakening for Morris sides on May 1st as the dancers and musicians rise to greet the sun. If you fancy seeing them as they welcome in the summer, here's a list of some of the spots where they will be dancing.

Beltane Morris: 4.30-6.30am Haytor car park.

They may be joined by **Isambard Gasket Rats**.

Dartmoor Border Morris. Sunrise at Leedon Tor Car park

Plymouth Morris: 5am The Hoe Promenade, above Smeaton's Tower, Plymouth Hoe.

Wreckers Border Morris. 5am Kit Hill car park, Cornwall.

Dartington Morris: 5.30am-6.30am Totnes Castle

Bideford Phoenix Morris. 05.30am Kingsley Statue, Bideford Quay,

Newton Bushel Morris, 5am Labrador Bay, nr Teignmouth

And if your side has been missed off the list, remember to keep us up to date with what you're up to by emailing devonfolkeditor@gmail.com

Mining Dartmoor for old melodies

BILL MURRAY reveals how he managed to build up his extensive repertoire by ferreting out material that the real old singers loved but that purist collectors once scorned



Eve Gotham, Performance Photo

FOR many years now I have introduced myself as a Dartmoor Entertainer in preference to a Folk Singer because most of the songs that I sing regularly in concerts at village halls these days are not strictly folk songs.

Several of the songs I learnt over the years from the older singers are in fact popular songs written in the period from 1905 to 1925 and printed in broadsheet form by music publishers with familiar names such as Boosey and Co, Chappell & Co and JH Larway.

In the words of Charlie Laycock (1879-1943) the folk song recorder from Moretonhampstead who also collected printed music, “some are very good, some fairly good and others indifferent”.

The early folk song revival provided the impetus for song writers and musicians to put their heads together and to compose songs that imitated the traditional folk song. “I have written several rustic songs,” wrote Fred E Weatherly (who wrote the lyrics for *Danny Boy*) “humbly endeavouring to copy the old humorous songs ... the music of which exactly reproduces the style and spirit of the old English folk songs.”

The homely philosophy of his family’s gardener was the inspiration behind his song *Stonecracker John* (not to be confused with Martin Graebe’s more recent composition of the same name). It was

published in 1909 with music by Eric Coates (1886-1958), composer of *The Dam Busters March* and the *Desert Island Discs* theme *Sleepy Lagoon*. Weatherly claimed “that if it had not been for the reference to motor cars and the label of his name, critics would not have detected the modern origin of the song”.

When the grand folks go by on their wild-cat machinery,

They kicks up a dust an’ they spoils all the greenery,

Oh whack fol the riddle oh, I chuckle and say,

I’d crack ‘em an’ whack ‘em, if I had my way.

So I would, now,
Yes I would, now,
If I had my way!

Fifty years ago, the better compositions were still being sung by a few of the older men and occasionally women, in the pubs and village halls in our area. These singers “owned” their songs and

they were usually quite protective of them. Most were humorous.

They certainly amused me and from the moment I heard George Edworthy of Willand, sing *Bread and Cheese and Cider* at the cellar folk club in Burton Hall, North Tawton, it has been my mission to search out and recover as many as possible of these old songs.

It is worth recording that George had been brought to Burton Hall by that bastion of the



Exeter traditional folk scene, The Jolly Porter Folk Club, and he certainly would not have been allowed to sing his songs in that club were they not considered to be from the English tradition.

I do not think George had any of the sheet music or 78rpm records for the songs he sang and that was probably true of most of the old singers I knew. One exception was Gordon Ching of Crockernwell who had the sheet music for most of his songs so he could be accompanied on the piano by his mother or his wife.

Gordon was a real entertainer, very much in demand for local events and village hall evenings. It was Gordon who translated Ernest Melvin’s song from the North Country *Nowt About ‘Owt* into the Devonshire version of *Nort About ‘Ort*.

A few of the songs had a piece of dialogue set in between the verses. One I have come across is *Wot’s Ther Price o’ Swedes?* (1924) and finding this song, which must have been quite popular in its day, did answer the question as to why, 50 years later, when one of Gregory Transport’s lorry drivers delivered vegetables to the old Covent Garden Market, one of the merchants would invariably shout out: “Wot’s Ther Price o’ Swedes in Devon?” I was joyful when I found the 78rpm recording of this in the Hospicecare charity shop in South Street, Exeter.

THE prolific Fred E Weatherly also tried his hand at writing sea songs, for example, *The Place For Jack*, which is printed in this issue in the hope that one of our local shanty groups might take it into their repertoire.

The next phase of songs that appealed to the old singing friends came during the period from 1925 to 1935. With the new availability of the wind-up gramophone, people could play and learn the songs from the 78rpm Zonophone recordings of country rustics such as Albert Richardson. His renderings of *Buttercup Joe*, *The Old Sow* and *Farmer’s Boy* were very popular and his Kentish brogue was easy enough to translate into the Devonshire accent.

At about this time, Roy Hutchings from Drewsteignton was learning some wonderful American cowboy songs from the radio which he would occasionally sing in the pub. His favourite was *The Strawberry Roan*, which I remember him



singing at The Baring Gould Festival when he was in his late eighties.

The third group of songs from that period I remember hearing the old singers perform were those of our most prolific Devonshire dialect writers, William Weeks, who wrote *The Mortal Unluck Old Chap* and *That Quare Feelin’* and of course Jan Stewer (AJ Coles) with his very well know songs *Out Come Mother And Me* and *What About A Little Drop of Cider*.

Before the internet, searching out copies of the sheet music and recordings of these old songs was very difficult. I spent many long hours in second-hand bookshops looking through the piles of dusty paper, usually without success. Occasionally, something would turn up and if it did then it was quite likely others from the same source would be found.

Charles Laycock, whom I mentioned earlier, did produce a list of ‘modern West-country songs’ that appeared in The Devonian Year Book for 1915. In the Devonshire section, he lists 35 songs including *Down ‘Ome By Kirton Town* by FC Smale (which I heard an elderly gentleman from Crediton sing quite recently), *Young Tom o’ Devon* and *The Wonnerful Wise Man o’ Tawton* which I am pleased to say, I have, at long last, managed to obtain from the British Library.

However, it did cost me £286! I would issue a warning to people to be careful when ordering music and other documents from The British Library and to read the wording on their website carefully. They will not give quotations and in paying by card on-line the money is deducted from your account before you know the cost.

MANY of you will know *Tavystock Goozey Vair* which, allegedly, was written by C John Trythall and published by JH Larway in 1912. A search has been made to find out exactly who this man was and where he lived. A person of the same name who hailed from Torquay but was working for a railway company in London does appear in the census at about that time but my strong feeling is that it was Charles Laycock who penned the words and also those of *Down ‘Pon Ole Dartmoor* which was published in 1916. (A full account of Bill’s hunt for the identity of the Goozey Vair songwriter plus his adventures singing the song in Tavistock was published in *What’s Afoot*

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The other song attributed to C John Trythall was *The Dinky Farm Nigh Burrator* and very recently I have managed to obtain a copy of this.

For quite a long time I, somewhat illogically, did not consider that a folk club was the right place to sing the more formal songs of this period, such as Devon Glorious Devon, Devonshire Cream And Cider and Drake's Drum. These days, just to hear Jim Causley's highly amusing introduction to the former is wonderful and to listen to Steve Collings' rendering of Devonshire Cream And Cider always give me great pleasure.

What am I looking for now? I once heard at The Post Inn, Whiddon Down, an old chap singing a song with the chorus *Everything in our House Goes Underneath the Bed*. I have not been able to find the words for this song which I thought was well worth learning. Perhaps you have a copy tucked away in a dusty old box underneath the bed.

From Bill's Archives

IN PREVIOUS issues of What's Afoot we have published songs collected from Devon musicians by Baring-Gould and Cecil Sharp. These are classed as "real folk songs" by some "purists", even though some of them came from printed broadsides and were probably composed by penny-a-line writers.

But as Bill Murray tells us: the real old singers had no worries about "purity". If they liked a song they sang it.

So in this issue, we present a song written by the prolific Fred Weatherly which Bill managed to unearth and hopes will be taken up by shanty crews in the county. So far Bill has not been able to find all the music so there has been a little "reconstruction", a speeded-up version of the folk process. If somebody can lay their hands on a complete copy of the song, please let us know.

I make no apologies for including a "composed" song. After all, *Fiddler's Green* has been printed as a traditional Irish song more times than John Conolly can count while *Rolling Down The River* has been taken up round the world by people who have never heard of its composer, the late great Jack Forbes and its location has often been changed from Essex to suit wherever it is being sung.

So if you like this song then take it up and "Devonise" it if you like it.

Song Seeker

The Place For Jack

Words: Fred E Weatherly Music: Fred W Sparrow

Chosen and recovered from obscurity by Bill Murray

Melody

Go-ing a-board my ship my girl go-ing a-board my ship!

Who-ther it's out on a fight-ing spell or on-ly a cru-is-ing trip.

Who-ther it's bones for Da-vy Jones or who-ther we all comes back the

sea is the place for Jack, my dear, for roll-ick-ing roll-ing Jack.

As we went down by Gosport Hard,
Strolling along the quay,
We met with a bunch o' the prettiest gals
As ever you want to see,
Saying: "Where be going to, Johnny?
Where be going to, Jack?"
And what'll we do without 'ee,
Until you all comes back?"

Going aboard my ship, my gal,
Going aboard my ship!
Whether it's out on a fighting spell,
Or only a cruising trip,
Whether it's bones for Davy Jones,
Or whether we all comes back,
The sea is the place for Jack, my gal,
For rollicking, rolling Jack.

So off we went in a hurricane,
Off to the sharks and whales,
An' we were 'ware of mermaids fair,
Whisking their pretty tails,
Singing: "Where be going to, Johnny?
"Why do you sail so fast?
"Why don't you stay with us, boys?"
Says we: "My dears, avast!

"It's sailing we must go, my dears,
"Over the spanking foam.
"If we were to stay with you and play,
"What would they do at home?
"It's perfectly clear you're sweet and dear,
"An' exactly to our minds,
"But what ever we do we must be true
"To the gals we leave behind."

An' when we got back to shore once more.
Over the ocean wide,
There were the gals we'd left behind,
And plenty more beside,
Saying: "When are you going to marry us, Jack?"
What can a chap do then?
Why give 'em a kiss all round, my lads,
An' off to sea agen.

Off to sea agen, my lads,
Lest danger you befall.
For tho' you may love the lot, my lads,
You can't well marry 'em all,
But tho' you may sail thro' sharks and whales,
Or out on the mermaids' track,
The sea is the safest place, my lads,
For rollicking, rolling Jack.



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Pennymoor Singaround

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Music Session - last Sunday 12 noon

Cruwys Arms
Nr Tiverton, EX16 8LF

NEW DAYTIME SESSION

1st Thursday – 12 midday to 3pm
The London Inn, Morchard Bishop EX17 6NW

Contacts:

Facebook: Pennymoor Singaround
Biddy Mallabone: 01271 373305 – biddy.mallabone@outlook.com
Jon Shapley: 01363 83740 – jon_shapley@hotmail.com

Also run by Pennymoor members:

The Lamb, Sandford, Nr Crediton - 1st Tuesday
Contact: Hazel or Paul 01363 776275

The Devonshire Inn, Sticklepath - 1st Sunday
Contact: Derek 01837 840316

The New Inn, Coleford - Last Tuesday
Contact: Dave 01363 84914

Bradninch Musical Gardens 2020



6th & 7th June

Calling all musicians.

We would love you to come along and make the weekend a wonderful experience.

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Contact mike.leonard120@gmail.com

Calling for Balladeers for the Bradninch Musical Gardens weekend 2020 sees the 20th Bradninch Music Festival and the Musical Gardens weekend has long been the main supporter of the Festival

The Gardens weekend will be the 6th & 7th June and this year the Gardens will also be supporting the Sound Minds Mental health initiative so we are keen to promote young artists - but all are more than welcome and we can promise loads of tea, cake and Pimms. If at all interested in playing do please contact Mike Leonard mike.leonard120@gmail.com or [01392 881566](tel:01392881566)

Club News

Pennymoor's folk matinee

SOMETIMES you're told to sing for your supper, but the Pennymoor folk are now asking you to bring lyrics for your lunch.

They have started a lunchtime session on the first Thursday of the month after finding that some people were reluctant to drive at night (hardly surprising given the weather we've had so far this year).

The venue is The London Inn, Morchard Bishop EX17 6NW and the first session was held in March, just as What's Afoot was going to press. The session runs from noon until 3pm and the organisers mention that the pub serves excellent food (the editors of this magazine can vouch for that).

The Pennymoor organisers say that they have found people have been leaving sessions early because they have a long way to travel and have wondered if other clubs are finding the same. Certainly, when What's Afoot visited the excellent Exmouth Club at the Manor Hotel recently with punters pleading that they had long journeys to make.

There seems no easy solution to this. A lunchtime session is fine for those who are retired or get a regular day off during the week but harder for those in gainful employment. Clubs could try starting and finishing earlier in the evening but then they could face complaints from those who can't get away from work until late in the day. We'd be interested to hear from any club that has managed to strike the right balance.

Called to the bar

THE monthly session, run by Pennymoor members Paul and Hazel, at the Lamb in Sandford (first Tuesday of the month) has recently had its eighth birthday and is now moving into the main bar of the pub at the request of the landlord.

After a successful Wassail sing he said: "It's too good not to share with others" and feels that the music shouldn't be squashed into the side bar where people might feel there's not room to join or be nervous about coming in.

It's good to have a landlord who's interested in folk and keen to promote it.



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Joe Broughton's Conservatoire Folk Ensemble - Phil Beer Band - Skerryvore

Martyn Joseph - Reg Meuross - Dave Bainbridge & Sally Minnear - Ranagri

Ashley Hutchings "Dylancentric" - 15 String Trio - Granny's Attic - Ninebarrow

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TREASURER Brian Chappell	MEMBERSHIP SECRETARY Sheila Chappell	Mary Marker Cromarŕ e, Oldway, Chudleigh, TQ13 0JA 01626 854141
2 Penstone Barns, Lease Hill, Hele, Exeter EX5 4QA. 01392 882156	2 Penstone Barns, Lease Hill, Hele, Exeter EX5 4QA 01392 882156	annmarker5@bŕ nternet.com Eileen McKee Woodland CoÖage, South Brent, TQ10 9ES. 01364 73699
CHAIR Anne Gill	WHAT'S AFOOT EDITOR John Foxen	eileen.southbrenRolk@ gmail.com
Maleth, 11 Cleveland Road, Torquay, TQ2 5BD. 01803 290427	devonfolkeditor@gmail.com	Jane Snow 27 John Street, Tiverton EX16 5JP 01884 259042
VICE CHAIR/PUBLICITY Colin Andrews	WEBMASTER Trevor Paul	
Bonny Green, Morchard Bishop, Crediton EX17 6PG 01363 877216	webmaster@devonfolk.org.uk	
	MINUTES SECRETARY Jean Foster	
	1 Lowicke House, Ringslade	

THE 2020 Devon Folk AGM was held on Saturday 14th March at 10.15am in Ide Community Hall, Ide. .

Devon Folk supported a music and dance workshop in Chudleigh on Saturday March 28..

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 is provided here. 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 election to the Devon Folk Committee.
Name
.....

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

Telephone
.....

Email
.....

Please return this form to:
E. Conway, 151 Kingsdown Crescent, Dawlish, Devon, EX7 OHB. 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.
- I wish to claim free membership of Devon Folk through my subscription.
- I wish to join Devon Folk for the annual fee of £2. I understand this does not entitle me to the magazine.
- Our club wishes to join Devon Folk for the annual subscription of £12.
- Our club is affiliated to EFDSS.

Individual or first nominated club member

Name
Address

Postcode
Telephone
Email

- I enclose a cheque (payee: Devon Folk)
- I wish to pay by bank transfer (details will be sent by email)

Magazine to be sent by
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Second nominated club member
Name
Address

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Magazine to be sent by
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- I/We agree to Devon Folk contacting me/us as indicated above and for occasional notifications. Devon Folk will not pass your email to any third party.

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Is available free to

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

SPECIAL OFFER TO EFDSS MEMBERS

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

Side wassails five times in one month

DARTMOOR Border Morris have had a busy wassail season, dancing at five events in a month.

On New Year's Day, they turned out at the Cornwood Inn at Ivybridge, a pub that was saved from closure by community action.

On Sunday 5th they were out again at at to wassail Buckland Abbey where they also performed their mummings play, an updated version which, instead of St George fighting the dragon, has Sir Francis Drake fighting King Philip of Spain. At the event, the side collected £132 for the Dartmoor Rescue group, their chosen charity for this year

The following weekend, the side travelled up to Stroud in Gloucestershire for wassail, where

with the aid of another 30 Morris sides, more than £1,800 was collected for the foodbank in Stroud and a housing charity.

On Saturday, January 18, Dartmoor members wassailed in Bere Ferrers, at an event organised by the Tavy and Tamar Apple Group, who put on an apple day in Bere Ferrers on the first Saturday in October.

They held their last wassail of 2020, at Shaugh Prior Village Hall on Sunday, January 26. Despite pouring rain, members still did some Morris dancing, then blessed the apple trees in the two orchards.

Are there any sides out there who can beat this record for wassailing?

Date change for Lyme dance day

LYME Morris has had to change the date of its annual day of dance due to a council error in booking the day.

The recently renamed side (formerly Uplyme Morris) will hold their third day of dance on the weekend of July 18th-19th.

Saturday will be a programmed day of dance, starting with a procession through the Dorset town down to the sea front. This will be followed by dancing at various allocated areas throughout the day.

A special feature will be a horse show – with sides invited to bring their hobby horse mascots and other creatures. The annual horse trials at the Sidmouth Festival have certainly proved very popular with sides and the public over the years.

On Saturday evening, sides taking part are being treated to a free barbeque. There will also be an open mic session.

On Sunday, sides are invited to dance or to relax on the beach.

If your side would like to take part, email petemorton56@googlemail.com



BRING OUT THE BEAST IN YOU: We have high hopes that the horse show at Lyme Morris's day of dance will attract a lot of entries. The Dark Mare of Dartmoor, seen here with special ears for collecting cash at Tavistock's Pudsey Day, will certainly be there and hopes to meet a lot of old friends and some new ones.

Reviews

'FORTYFIVED'

THE OLD SWAN BAND www.wildgoose.co.uk

THE Old Swan Band are no strangers to the English Dance scene, having been around longer than almost all the other bands put together, 45 years as the title suggests.

If you are looking for the no frills, safe tunes which are easy to dance to then look no further. On the other hand, if you love to listen to a band on your home equipment, as I often do, then because of the "all bullets fired from the first bar" approach, a trade mark of English music, you might find the Old Swan Band rather predicable.

With such a line-up and featuring so many instruments, it would have been more to my taste if they had started the tunes more sparsely and then let rip.

This is a very happy album and I find it hard to single out any track but when they play *The Kings of Kerry* as an English jig instead of an *Irish slide* – don't go there. I did enjoy track six the Swedish waltz.

Steve Gill

SLEEP DEPRIVATION

Vicki Swan and Jonny Dyer

Available from swan-dyer.co.uk

A STUNNING set of tunes from two of the finest musicians on the scene. Vicki and Jonny, who have almost become fixtures at Halsway workshops, have produced a compilation that proves not only can they write catchy melodies but they are also very clever arrangers. You will be beguiled by the lead lines but take the time to really listen to what is going on underneath – particularly Jonny's excellent keyboard work.

Thanks to multi-tracking we are treated to Vicki on nyckelharpa, flute and double bass and Jonny on piano, bouzouki, guitar and mandolin. They offer a selection of jigs, waltzes, reels and even a chapelloise (and the sheet music can be downloaded from their website). For me, a stand-out track is *Caucasia* with Jonny's wailing vocal.

It's certainly an album for dancing but it can also be driven to. "Sleep Deprivation" refers to the hours musicians spend on the road and it can be played as one continuous "drive-time" track.

A little while back, Jonny and Vicki dropped in on us in Tavistock during a marathon tour which had taken them to Penzance and would take them back home to Essex via Halsway. Mab Foxen mentioned she used their Purcell's Polyphonic Party CD to soothe me out of road rage during long trips. This album serves the same purpose.

John Foxen

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