

# What's Afoot

No 125 Winter



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SUTHERING**

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## At the risk of repeating myself...

**H**ERE we are in 2022 and I find myself still coming out with the same warnings: all events may be subject to change due to Covid. Please check before setting off. But as we go to press in December, we may be seeing the light at the end of the tunnel. Sessions are opening up again – although some were cancelled when there was a spike in Covid cases in Devon. Concerts are being booked and as you will read on 4, two community choirs have managed to thrive in lockdown thanks to the magic of Zoom. You can also read how Pete and Maggie Cornelius will celebrate 50 years of singing this year. This proves our music can survive so many trials and tribulations - think back over those 50 years to events such as the first oil crisis when we were all issued with ration books (younger readers may have to Google this), the IRA bombing campaigns (perhaps not really a Devon problem) the Falklands War, the Gulf War, The second Gulf War, Afghanistan, the house price slump etc etc. But the music goes on. Folk music is often music of hard times, whether we are singing about the hard lot of a labourer, men press-ganged and dying at sea or some young lass abandoned by her lover. Often the songs brought consolation to those who were suffering as they realised that others had been in the same boat. So keep singing and support local artists and venues – but do it safely and responsibly. *John Foxen*

### NEXT COPY DEADLINE: February 20th 2022

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# Duo on a mission to get us singing

**Suthering don't just stand on stage asking us to listen to them. They also run two community folk choirs that have survived the problems of the pandemic**

**“W**E HAD a really busy year booked in for 2020,” says Heg Brignall of the duo Suthering, “so it was really devastating when everything got cancelled.” It’s been the same for musicians all over the county and the country but Heg and her musical partner Julu Irvine found it all the more frustrating as they had just moved from Bristol to Tavistock.

The duo had received good reviews in the folk press and on radio, and, in addition to their plans to perform at numerous gigs, had started two community folk choirs: the Wheelhouse Choir in Tavistock and the Great Sea Choir in Plymouth. Then the pandemic put the brakes on their activities.

It was a double blow because Suthering, although keen to promote their own music, are equally keen to get other people singing. Says Heg: “We don’t audition our choirs. Anyone who is enthusiastic about singing can come. There’s no bar. We don’t select music based on what we think they can or can’t do. We just select music we think is going to be really exciting then we teach them singing techniques so they have a really excellent sound and they get booked for professional level events which is so exciting.

“To hear 45 people of mixed abilities – some absolute beginners – singing really well is such a joy.”

They had started the Wheelhouse Choir in September 2019 and managed one concert before

Christmas. But the choir members were all keen to continue singing together through Zoom.

Says Heg: “Our Plymouth choir, the Great Sea Choir, we started in January just before the pandemic. We had about eight rehearsals and then – bless them – all of them carried on online.”

Julu says: “Heg had been running a Great Sea Choir in Bristol for about eight years before we moved down here. I hadn’t run choirs before. I’d run workshops at singing retreats and written arrangements but the

Wheelhouse was my first experience of running a choir.”

Julu and Heg were overwhelmed by the community spirit shown by the members of both choirs and their dedication to learning, even on line. That practice has paid off as the choirs have

managed some outings as restrictions have eased: In late November both performed at the National Trust’s Cotehele House, in Cornwall and in December both choirs had separate Christmas concerts lined up.

The Wheelhouse Choir is scheduled to perform as support at the launch concert at Tavistock Wharf on February 11 for for Suthering’s first album, *If We Turn Away*.

The pandemic was certainly shattering but, says Heg: “In the end it was really fortuitous. It enabled us to focus on our album and we ended up with a different album than we would have had but for the pandemic. There were definite periods of



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no creativity which was quite hard as we thought we could end up with load and loads of music. We ended up with just two songs for the album but they are filled with loads and loads of emotion.”

One of those songs is *Kingfisher*, which Heg was inspired to write by the bird that can often be seen flying by the canal or the Tavy in Tavistock. A kingfisher features on the cover of the CD.

The move to Tavistock has been good for them although Julu initially had reservations. She grew up there and moved away but has now discovered a new love for Devon where she was first introduced to folk music.

“I was in choir and chamber choir at school but my love of folk music came from going round folk clubs with my stepdad, Rob Shepherd when I was about 14,” she says. “He ran folk clubs at the

Elephant’s Nest and at the Wharf. I started singing in the clubs then.”

“We’ve taken a varied journey to get where we are,” says Heg “I played for a long time in a band called Heg & the Wolf Chorus.” That band, which is taking a break for the moment, won praise for its theatrical approach to folk music when it performed at such prestigious events as the Cambridge Folk Festival.

**J**ULU, who plays, flute, whistles and guitar, and Heg, who plays piano, got together at a singing retreat when they began thinking about how many folk songs there are in which women get a rough deal. So they decided that some of the songs could be changed. One of the first songs they worked on was *As I rode Out*, a variant on the *Seventeen*

## What’s in a name? Suthering, Julu and Heg explained

**ALL** three names are certainly intriguing. Let’s start with the duo’s name. They found suthering, which means the sound of the wind through the trees or wind under a birds wing in a poem by John Clare, the poet and folk fiddler.

*The Autumn wind on suthering wings*  
*Plays round the oak-tree strong*

*And through the hawthorn hedges sings*  
*The year’s departing song.*

They felt this described their music.

Julu comes from Julu’s sister who, as a child, couldn’t pronounce Julia properly. As happens in most families, the amusing mispronunciation stuck.

Heg is short for Helen.



Come Sunday theme. “In that song,” says Heg, “the chap visits the girl in the night, has his way and in the traditional story he pushes off at the end. – leaving her with child usually. In our version he gets very drunk, declares his love for her and gets thrown out before he has his wicked way.”

This song hasn’t made the album but Heg says: “We do have a song that Julu wrote called *Mary*. When we started playing together, we realised that she had written the song in true folk tradition where the female in the story got a really crappy ending. So Julu wrote an additional verse at the end where Mary rises triumphant.”

Says Julu: “I’d fallen foul of the traditional folk way of writing.”

Heg adds: “Folk is a living tradition. On the one hand, there’s the traditional element and people want to continue singing these songs and allow them to have a part of history. But at the same time you are inadvertently continuing a narrative that may be misogynistic, racist or sexist.

“But you can give some of these stories a different ending. There are a lot of people trying to get these old songs to reflect our modern values. It’s really exciting.”

There will be those who feel that you should not tamper with the tradition in any way and that this is a 21st Century “snowflake” fad. But there is a

precedent. Back in 1975, Steeleye Span recorded their version of the ballad Little Sir Hugh. The original is a particularly nasty anti-Semitic libel. Steeleye Span cut the anti-Semitic elements from the song, turning it into a murder ballad (which some might find distasteful anyway). The arguments will continue to rage about tampering with the tradition, some don’t like the idea of “rocking up” the old songs but the songs have undoubtedly changed over the centuries and will continue to change, like it or not.

**WE** CAN only suggest that you make up your own mind about Suthering’s approach to music by giving their new album, *If We Turn Away*, a listen or catch them in concert. The album is released on February 25 and can be ordered from their website [Suthering.com](http://Suthering.com).

It’s a beguiling mixture of harmonies and arrangements that may attract even die-hard folkies. You can see them in concert with Harbottle & Jonas, another fine Devon-based duo at Brixham Theatre on January 29, at Folk On The Moor on February 27 and at Crediton Arts Centre on March 26.

For details on joining the Plymouth or the Tavistock choir, check out their pages on Facebook or look on the Suthering website..

## Opportunity for young musicians

**YOUNG performers of all styles of traditional and contemporary folk have a chance to show their worth in the annual New Roots contest. This is the modern equivalent of a hiring fair. Their work will be looked at not only by a panel of judges but also by the organisers of numerous folk clubs and festivals and the best will be offered gigs at various venues.**

Exeter-based singer Callum McKellar entered last year’s contest, which was held on line because of Covid. “I put up a video of my work and as a result, I got three gigs: one at St Baldock folk Club, one at St Neot’s Folk Festival and one at St Albans Folk Club. At St Alban’s I was allowed to bring my trio Arbrevyn. It was a real boost.”

All contestants must enter short videos of their work and this year, those shortlisted will be invited to perform in St Albans on Sunday March 27, 2022, at Trestle Arts Base, Russet Drive. It’s a bit of a journey from

Devon but could well be worth it for serious musicians. For example, in 2019, before the Covid restrictions, appearances were offered to some entrants at Upton-on-Severn, Leigh, Broadstairs, St Albans, Sidmouth, Bromyard, St Neots, Leigh, Gate to Southwell and Warwick Folk Festivals and at folk clubs that included Redbourn, Walthamstow, Chesham, Stockton, Norwich and Lewes. The 2022 list of opportunities was being finalised when we went to press. The categories for are under 18 and 18-24. There is no one winner so all the finalists have a chance of gigs.

To enter, visit [www.new-roots.org.uk](http://www.new-roots.org.uk) to get the entry form and send it to [info@new-roots.org.uk](mailto:info@new-roots.org.uk). You will then receive an email telling you how to upload up to 15 minutes of your music.

Closing date is January 31, 2022. For enquiries, email [info@new-roots.org.uk](mailto:info@new-roots.org.uk) or ring 01727 852111.

# Telling tales that turn back time

**An important part of our folk heritage is the wealth of old stories that helped shape our culture. Author and storyteller, LISA SCHNEIDAU, explains how you can get involved in this tradition**

**S**TORYTELLING, an age-old tradition, is currently enjoying a worldwide revival. Traditional stories passed down through the generations include folk tales, fairy tales, myths, epics and stories of how it all began.

Part of the craft of good storytelling is to really get into the heart of a story, honour the community and the place it has come from, and bring it alive in ways that directly connect with the people listening in the here and now. There’s a freedom of expression that comes from telling a story without notes or prompts, and a satisfying connection with land and history through our local tales.

But stories are more than just heritage. We all need magic and inspiration, desperately so in these difficult times, and many traditional stories lie at the roots of our beliefs and our journeys. Whether you are two years old or a hundred and two, there’s something heartening about sharing in a good tale. Stories can offer a flash of inspiration, a whole load of belly-laughs, a hero’s journey or a new way of looking at life.

Here’s a quick guide to some of the storytelling going on in Devon at the moment, and how you can get involved.

### STORYTELLING PERFORMANCE

STORYTELLERS can be found at arts centres, events, festivals and other venues across the county, offering storytelling performance or contributing to wider events. Some storytelling can be considered “theatre-based” while other storytellers have a more informal, “fireside” style. Keep an eye on [www.meetup.com](http://www.meetup.com)’s Devon Storytellers page for events near you, plus the Facebook pages of particular story groups such as South Devon Storytellers, who will often invite tellers for performance nights. As the weather gets better again, story walks are yet another option.



The growth of Zoom during the pandemic means you can now watch storytelling from your living room and even enjoy stories from much further afield. Visit the Society for Storytelling’s website [www.sfs.org.uk](http://www.sfs.org.uk) for a calendar of events. As an example, Dartmoor Storytellers will be hosting a night of Solstice storytelling on Monday December 20, with storytellers from all over the country.

### STORYTELLING CLUBS AND GROUPS

INFORMAL storytelling clubs are an ideal way of starting out with storytelling, and trying out new skills. There many local storytelling groups in Devon and the West Country, such as Sidmouth, Plymouth, Torrington and Exeter. Have a look at

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## STORY TIME

the Devon Storytellers page on [www.meetup.com](http://www.meetup.com) for information on local meetings and story nights.

I run two informal story clubs in Devon: South Devon Storytellers, based in Totnes (together with Ronnie Conboy) and Dartmoor Storytellers, based in Chagford. Both offer an opportunity for anyone to try their hand at storytelling, with a combination of longer performance story and short 10-minute story sharing. We're a friendly bunch and it's a great place to gain confidence in storytelling, and get feedback. Or you could just come along to listen to stories.

South Devon Storytellers meets on the second Monday evening of every month, 7.30pm at Pie Street, High Street, Totnes TQ9 5RY. You can find out more on the group's Facebook page (South Devon Storytellers). Dartmoor Storytellers holds occasional performance storytelling nights in Chagford and around the moor. You can find out more on the group's Facebook page (Dartmoor Storytellers).

For more intensive storytelling training, keep an eye out for workshops. Many of us run these occasionally, to help beginners gain more practical experience of storytelling in a friendly atmosphere.

I hope this article has whetted your appetite to come along to listen to storytelling or even to tell stories yourself. I hope to see you at an event sometime soon. Do contact me on [lisa@lisaschneidau.co.uk](mailto:lisa@lisaschneidau.co.uk) about Dartmoor and Totnes clubs and events, or to see if I can be of further help on your storytelling journey.

## A taste of Devonshire

IF YOU want to learn local tales to tell, Lisa strongly recommends the book *Devonshire Folk Tales* by Michael Dacre. This collection of 30 stories covers a wide range of our county's folklore and tradition – kicking off with the story of how Totnes was allegedly founded by Brutus, not Caesar's pal but a refugee from the fall of Troy. Keeping up with the times, there is even a Kindle edition of this tome.

To get local tales straight from source, keep an eye out for Tich Scott, whose family have been farming on Dartmoor for 400 years. He can usually be found at the monthly Gidsong meetings at Gidleigh village hall (see listings).

Tich comes from a proud line of storytellers and fortunately the BBC recorded his mother (now sadly deceased) and his aunt telling stories in the kitchen. You can find the recordings by Googling BBC Spotlight, April and June Scott, Dartmoor ladies, Devon dialect.

## PRESERVING OUR HERITAGE

# Library that holds a treasury of folklore

## Broadcaster and author MARK NORMAN tells of a fascinating new archive at CREDITON

THE Folklore Library & Archive is a volunteer-led organisation with a physical base at CREDITON Library, thanks to a working partnership with Devon Libraries.

Formed earlier this year, The Folklore Library & Archive has a remit to collect and preserve for future generations material related to folklore – our traditions, customs and beliefs. The organisation is unfunded and relies on donations but already holds many collections of international significance. Recently, funds were raised through a day of online talks by speakers from institutions such as the British Museum and the British Library.

The archive's collections include the document archives of the late Anglo-American folklorist Venetia Newall, whose unique collection of decorated eggs of which she was a world expert is housed at the British Museum; digitised copies of the only surviving handwritten notebooks of Charlotte Sophia Burne, the first female president of The Folklore Society, and the UK's largest archive of material related to ghostly black dogs – the legend that inspired Conan Doyle's *The Hound Of The Baskervilles*.

The archive has also been bequeathed the photographic slides of the Oxford-based folk musician and collector Dyk Brooker. These are awaiting digitisation.

The Patron of The Folklore Library & Archive is the popular children's writer Michael Rosen, who has an interest in the subject through his own heritage, and the curator is folklore author and researcher Mark Norman. The project started from the success of Mark's internet programme The Folklore Podcast which has been running for six seasons now and is in the top 1% of podcasts in its genre around the world, with more than



1.3 million downloads. Mark says: "This exciting partnership with Devon Libraries allows us to provide a proper physical base for our important collections, allowing researchers to come and work with the material in a conducive library environment.

"Many of our collections are slowly becoming available in digital form on our website, but there is much more which can only be handled in person and now researchers will be able to come to CREDITON to do just that.

"WE are also looking forward to being able to run projects with the local community to collect more valuable information in this area. We are able to digitise video material and audio recordings and can also scan people's photos for the collection. We will be looking in the future to work with local groups to allow them to record interviews and other material in the community as part of reminiscence projects also. There are many great collaborative opportunities to be had through this partnership."

The Folklore Library & Archive is looking to add valuable oral history and music recordings to its sound archives, to preserve our spoken and played past before it is lost. Readers of What's Afoot are invited to contribute to this vital work. If you have recordings of events that you have been involved in, or have visited, which you think would fit the bill, we would love to archive them.

These may be filmed or on audio recordings – we are able to digitise a number of formats and can return your originals unless you want to donate them for archiving as they are. We are also looking for people to record memories of the past: traditions, customs, school life, carnivals, festivals



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## PRESERVING OUR HERITAGE

– whatever you remember. If you would like to record something, or interview family or friends as part of our oral history collecting project, we can give you an information pack and more details. The Folklore Library is currently split into two catalogues – print materials and electronic books. Researchers may request complete copies of electronic works which are in the public domain. For all other materials, researchers will be able to request a copy of either one chapter, or 5% of the work (whichever is the greater) in line with current copyright regulations for educational research. A small charge will be made for the provision and postage of hard copies of materials, or for scanning physical items. A donation will be encouraged for the provision of electronic works. Please get in touch.

The electronic books library catalogue is currently under construction and will be made available on this page when it is ready.

The Folklore Library & Archive website can be found at [www.folklorelibrary.com](http://www.folklorelibrary.com) and the email address is [folklorelibrary@gmail.com](mailto:folklorelibrary@gmail.com)

The transition of material onto the shelves at Crediton Library is ongoing and the website is being constantly updated.

## Talking about the old times in the old way

IF YOU have a keen interest in Devon's past, you may be interested in joining the Facebook group Devonshire Dialect run by the Dartmoor entertainer Bill Murray. It's a fine source of old expressions (and occasionally some new ones) and a good forum for putting questions.

This recent post gives the flavour of the group.

Still occasionally heard in Devon is truck used to mean trash

For example: “Whot truck be yu telling up now? Du e 'ol' yer tongue ef 'e can't spake zense.”

“Whot truck 'ave 'e a-cuked vur dinner tuesday?”

“Tez whot tha gintry cal'th 'kerry'.”

“I bant gwain tu ayte zich trade 's that es.”

If this makes sense to you or you need help translating it and want to know more, contact Bill via Facebook and ask to join the group

There is also a live Devonshire discussion group that meets on the net. Check out <http://www.interwovenproductions.com/i-tell-ee-wot.html>

# 50 years on and the songs continue

## Exeter Folk Club hosts Pete and Maggie Cornelius celebrate their musical jubilee

**B**ACK in 1972, Pete Cornelius was working in St Bridget Nurseries in Exeter and was asked to provide some entertainment for the firm's dinner dance. Maggie, the daughter of one of his colleagues, didn't work at the nurseries but got roped in and ended up singing with Pete. So began a musical partnership that led to marriage, a son, Martyn, and, eventually, Exeter Folk and Acoustic Music Club.

Over the past 50 years, the Cornelius family have established themselves as a strong act on the Devon folk scene as well as running a series of fine clubs. They will be celebrating their musical partnership with a special concert at their club on Friday March 11.

Pete and Maggie's musical debut at the dinner dance didn't include traditional folk songs. “We sang Tim Hardin's *The Lady Came From Baltimore* and Crosby, Stills and Nash's *Teach Your Children*,” recalls Pete. “I was really into American music back then, particularly Bob Dylan. If it wasn't for him I don't think I'd be singing folk music.”

“I didn't experience English singers until years later – Martin Carthy and people like that. My influences were all American – and Maggie didn't know what folk music was until she met me.”

“Then we started going to local clubs and I started getting interested in the British singer songwriters like Allan Taylor. The first guests we ever saw in a club were Paul Downes and Phil Beer and that changed my life for ever. We are still friendly with them after all these years.”

So it is apt that the anniversary celebrations that

## Club News



should have taken place in February, have been pushed back to March by a special guest appearance of Downes and Beer at the club. This concert will be held at Exminster Village Hall rather than at the usual location, Victoria Park Tennis Club. For details, see the club's advert on page 24.

Pete and Maggie's musical meeting led to marriage. They continued performing as a duo and also with their friend, the multi-instrumentalist Alan Howlett, who had also taken part in that fateful cabaret 50 years ago. Their son Martyn joined them, making his singing debut with them when he was only three.

**O**VER the years they have performed in most folk clubs and folk music venues in Devon: back-street pubs, four-star hotels, village halls, churches, small theatres and festivals, as well as parties, weddings, wakes and charity events.

“We had always wanted to run a club and put something back into this wonderful, friendly world of folk music,” says Pete, “but we never had the time until we were close to retirement.”

In 2005 they formed the Exe Valley Folk club at the Ruffwell Inn, Thorverton. They moved to the Seven Stars Inn in Kennford in October 2006. November 2012 saw them at the Ley Arms in Kenn, as the Ley Arms Folk & Acoustic Music Club before settling in February 2016 at the Victoria Park Tennis Club in Exeter.

What's Afoot thanks them for the music and for running these clubs and hope they will continue this great tradition.

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# Drawn to the music



ALL TOO often at a folk club or session there is someone crouched over a notebook. They are paying no attention to any other performer but scrabbling through their notes to find a song they can read to you, usually badly: why do some singers insist in writing out songs when they can't read their own handwriting?

A glorious exception to the rule is Kat Blockley. In addition to being a morris dancer (with Otter) and an English concertina player, she is also an artist who likes to make lightning sketches of the other performers.

We managed to purloin her sketchbook to bring

you these two quick impressions. On the left are Sam Sweeney, Fay Hield and Rob Harbron performing at Topsham Folk Club in September. Kat recalls: "They were really inspiring. There were lots of opportunities to sing along and the audience were also in fine voice."

On the right is harpist Susie Trezise playing at Exeter Folk Club. Kat comments: "It was the first meeting of Exeter Folk Club since before the first lockdown which was a lovely evening including a one way system, cake, and of course a raffle."

Are there any more artists who would like to send us there sketches of Devon folk life?

## Lucky Penny lands heads up

EVERY cloud has a silver lining, reports Hazel Underwood. Having lost the Cruwys Arms at Pennymoor, where we've met for more than 40 years, Pennymoor Singaround is now hosting song and music sessions in three different pub venues in addition to a monthly zoom session.

Through using more venues we are attracting new people, both as participants and audience, who are always welcome. There are also four other sessions which are run by Pennymoor members (see ad on page 28). Great to be spreading the joys of singing and playing together.

We also returned to Coverack youth hostel in the Lizard, with a smaller group, for a wonderful few days in November. It was really good to share it with our invited guests Peter and Barbara Snape

from Lancashire who provided great songs and company. The card they sent us after the event said: "You have something very special in your group and if you could bottle it then it would be worth a fortune." We can only agree.

## Gamble pays off

AS THE audience filed in to see Fay Hield and Aher wonderful band back in September, there was a great feeling of excitement mixed with relief, writes Adrian Wynn

Our first proper series of concerts for nearly two years has clearly been a much-needed source of nourishment for many people and we've been mightily encouraged by the number who bought

tickets and turned out. Indeed, after our initial fear of not selling enough tickets, audiences have turned out in such numbers that we had to think carefully about how to maintain a safe environment in a venue that normally seats 170.

Martin Simpson in November drew in large numbers but we were grateful to receive positive feedback suggesting that people felt as secure as was reasonably possible. Artists and audience alike have been delighted to be sharing the performance space, experiencing that very real but slightly intangible connection that exists in a live venue. We're looking forward to much more of the same in the spring – see our advert on the back page for more details.

Our online performance space continues once a month. Topsham Folkvid became a community in itself, almost a lifeline for some, and while we hope it will be needed less and less, we'll keep it going for as long as is needed. We look forward to seeing you in Topsham.

## More on the moor

FOLK on the Moor, which has been established for over 40 years and meets every Sunday evening, reopened last October in a new venue at The Exchange pub in Ivybridge, writes Club Organiser, Anton Horwich.

I'm delighted to say, we got off to a storming start. After more than 18 months out because of Covid, we were obviously unsure how things would go but our audience has come back in droves and everyone seems very happy with the new venue. We had a full house for our opening night with The Jigantics and have continued with excellent attendances, also picking up new members from the local area.

We have a full programme of top-line guests booked, starting the New Year off on January 9 with Kathryn Roberts and Sean Lakeman, twice winners of the BBC Folk Duo award, followed by the Dartmoor Pixie Band on January 23 and Phil Beer on February 13. For further information, see our advert on page 29, visit moorfolk.co.uk or email folkonthemoor1@gmail.com.

## A good move

WE STARTED the music again in October with a new venue and a new name: Exmouth folk and acoustic sessions at The Railway Club (GWRSA), reports Chris Austin. The first two sessions were organised just as a trial because we weren't sure how many people would turn up. Thankfully we had 40-plus on each evening. Now we will be getting together on the fourth Sunday of the month from 7pm to 10pm and as, stated on the packet, the

evenings will be totally acoustic. The big pluses of the new venue are that it is two minutes' walk from Exmouth Rail station, has a big car park outside and there is level access. We have cabaret-style seating in a big space, which is good for social distancing.

## Starting up.

IN THE previous issue we mentioned that Country Meets Folk/Americana session was being held at the Crooked Spire Pub, Ermington, on the first Monday of the month. Organiser Keith Lacey-Nichol says there has been a small response so far but he intends to keep the sessions going and review the situation in the new year. Anyone interested can contact him on keithnick@hotmail.com

In Tavistock, a new session has started at the Stannary Arms. These will be mixed tune and song sessions – traditional, modern and everything between. The organisers are planning to run the sessions on the first and third Tuesdays of the month. Anyone interested should contact John Maddock on jz.maddock@googlemail.com

## Reader's rebuke

AFTER the last issue of What's Afoot came out, the editor received a polite rap across the knuckles from a reader based in Leicestershire.

His email said: "I noticed in the autumn edition of What's Afoot that Derek Moore's song sessions at The Devonshire Inn, Sticklepath, were not listed. Please be assured that these sessions have resumed post lockdown; they take place on the first Sunday of each month.

"I speak as a person no longer resident in Devon but as one who is nevertheless a frequent visitor. Being active on the folk scene I always look forward to learning about local folk events when coming to your part of the country and What's Afoot is the first place I look."

Firstly, we are glad to report that the Sticklepath sessions are indeed alive and well at the Devvy. The only reason they weren't included in the autumn issue was that at the time of going to press, there was no certainty that they could go ahead.

Secondly, it's always good to hear from readers even if they want to point out something we may have got wrong or omitted. Your contributions help to keep the magazine up to date.

Thirdly, it was good to hear from Sam Stephens, whom I haven't seen for more than 40 years – back when he used to sing with Anne Lennox Martin and was a regular at the Dingles Folk Club in London (almost at the foot of the BT Tower – or the GPO Tower as it was back then). I remember Sam as a fine guitarist and singer and here's hoping we will meet up again at the Devvy some day.

# Here we come a-wassailing

ONCE again it's wassail time and all self-respecting folkies should be gathering in orchards to make as much noise as possible to wake up the apple trees so that they will bring us a bumper harvest this year. Here are the festivities we've heard about.

## JANUARY 1

### The Cornwood Wassail

MEET at the Cornwood Inn, which has the distinction of being 100 per cent owned by the community. It was saved from extinction in 2020 when it was bought from a pub chain and given a new life, building on old roots. It's been quite a journey. Drop in for a drink or meal before – or after – the wassail which kicks off at 3pm. Dartmoor Border Morris will be on hand to provide dancing, music and song.

## JANUARY 2

### Buckland Abbey Wassail

FROM 10am until 4pm there will be plenty of wassailing in Sir Francis Drake's old home. Dartmoor Border Morris leads the Wassail and will also perform a mummings play in the Great Barn.

The Great Barn has been transformed into a woodland forest with twinkling Christmas trees and a River of Light through the middle.

After the Mummings play and dancing, everyone will head to the orchard, where we will celebrate for a good harvest by making offerings to the trees with cider and toast. We need to make as much noise as possible to wake the apple trees from their winter slumber. Bring pots and pans and anything noisy to help chase away any bad luck in the hopes of getting a good harvest next year. The events are free but the National Trust will still be charging for admission to the property.

## JANUARY 8

### Stoke Gabriel wassail

PLENTY of folk music at this wassail but unfortunately at the time we went to press the

organisers were not able to confirm that it will go ahead. Please check on their Facebook page

## JANUARY 8

### St Sidwell's Community Centre, Sidwell Street, Exeter, EX4 6NN

JOIN in an orchard Wassail, with singing and ceremony, organised by Wren Music. The wassail starts at 6pm folk music session and refreshments will follow from 7pm. You can also join us at St Sidwell's, Wednesday 5 January, 7pm-8.30pm for a free singing workshop to learn some Wassail songs. This sessions is suitable for all, you do not need to have done any singing before. No booking is required. See [www.wrenmusic.co.uk](http://www.wrenmusic.co.uk)

## JANUARY 9

### Fatherford Rd, Devon, Okehampton, EX20 1QS

JOIN Wren music for a traditional Wassail from 4pm to 6pm with singing and cider to bless the apple trees for a fruitful year. For more details [www.wrenmusic.co.uk](http://www.wrenmusic.co.uk). No booking required.

## 14 JANUARY

### Buckerell & Weston Wassail

Hosted by Heron Farm, Weston, Honiton, EX14 3NZ, this event, which features music by Jim Causley and dancing from Otter Morris, aims to raise money for Hospiscare. It starts at 6pm and the tickets at £10 per adult, children go free, entitle you to a Heron Farm burger, cider or apple juice.

## JANUARY 15

### Sandford Wasail

THE bonfires, pots, pans, clatter, commotion and a volley of shotgun blasts will be heard around the Cider Works at Commonmarsh Lane, Crediton, EX17 1HJ from 7pm to 10pm. The ancient Anglo-Saxon tradition of wassailing involves waking tree spirits and blessing the orchard, and shooing off pesky evil demons to ensure a bountiful crop in the year to come.

Hot mulled cider and pizza nibbles are provided

in abundance to keep you warm during our winter celebration. Entertainment includes the wassail play from the Brown Paper Mummings, the fire dance from Great Western Morris and the ceremony presided over by our local green man.

## JANUARY 15

### Landkey Community Orchard, Millenium Green, Devon, Landkey, EX32 0QP

WREN Music are organising a traditional Wassail from 5pm to 7pm with singing and cider to bless the apple trees for a fruitful year. More details will appear on Wren website. No booking required.

## JANUARY 15

### HALSTOW WASSAIL

THIS event at Halstow Farm, Tedburn St Mary, features music from Devon's own Jim Causley and the shanty crew Mariners Away. Email [cider@graysdevoncider.co.uk](mailto:cider@graysdevoncider.co.uk) for more details and tickets.

## JANUARY 17

### Whimpe Wassail

OF THIS wassail in his home town, Jim Causley said: "Neither hell nor high water would keep me away and if one day I am the only one alive who remembers the wassail then I shall gladly stagger around wassailing by myself." This event, in what was once the proud home of Whiteways Cider, goes back well over 100 years and starts with visiting the last remaining Whimpe Wonder trees in Mr Reynolds' garden next to the Fountain car park. It is a rare survival of a local variety of cider apple. The wassailers process round the village, visiting three orchards and finish up at the village cricket club for a good old knees up with pasties, hot soup, apple cake and cheese and of course plenty of local cider. Please note: there are no morris dancers at this wassail!

Jim Causley's heartfelt account of this history of the Whimpe wassail can be found in What's Afoot 118

## JANUARY 20

### Clyst St Lawrence

YOU cannot keep Jim Causley away from a wassail! By our reckoning this is his fourth this month but he may have slipped some by us. The event is hosted by Venton's Devon Cyder at the Cyder Barn. Plans were still being finalised as What's Afoot went to press so we suggest you check the website [ventons.co.uk](http://ventons.co.uk) or have a look at the Ventons Facebook page.

## LAUNCESTON

### FOLK DANCE CLUB 2022

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 23<sup>RD</sup> April 2022

Beryl Juke calling with  
Jig and Reel  
Bring and share supper

### NOVEMBER 2022 DANCE DETAILS TO BE ADVISED

For further information ring  
Rosemary Phillips  
01566 774491

# MUGDOCK

Scottish Ceilidh  
&  
Country Dance Band  
01643 707294

**HAS YOUR WASSAIL BEEN MISSED OUT? MAKE SURE YOU TELL US ABOUT NEXT YEAR'S IN PLENTY OF TIME. WE ARE ALWAYS HAPPY TO PUBLICISE DEVON'S FOLK EVENTS WHEN WE HEAR ABOUT THEM.**



## A Devon Song

As stated above, Jim Causley is this year's king of the wassail. So it seems fitting to publish here the Whimble Wassail, as sung every year in his home village. You can find the song on Jim's CD Fruits of the Earth

### Whimble Wassail Song

A-wassail, a wassail; the moon she shines down  
Our apples are ripe and the nuts they are brown  
Whence thou mayest bud dear old apple tree  
And whence thou mayst bear we sing unto thee

*Chorus*  
With a wassail, a wassail, a wassail  
And joy come to our jolly wassail.

Oh apple tree prosper bloom and bear  
So we may have plenty of cider next year  
And where there's a barrel we'll hope there'll be ten  
That we may have cider when we come again

*Chorus*  
Oh Mistress, O Master our wassail begin  
Please open your door and let us come in  
Besides all on earth you'll have apples in store  
Pray let us come in for 'tis cold at the door.

We wish you great plenty and long may you live  
Because you are willing and free for to give  
To our wassail so cheerful, our wassail so bold  
Long may you live happy and lusty and old.

*Chorus*  
Come fill up our wassail bowl full to the brim  
Come see it all garnished so neat and so trim  
Sometimes with laurel and sometimes with bay  
We'll all drink our fill in the good old way.

*Chorus*  
Now for this gold liquor to us that you bring  
We lift up our voices and merrily sing  
That all in our village long may they remain  
And long may our neighbours stay ever the same.

We look forward to welcoming you to

## Brixham Folk Club

We meet at 7.30pm on the 1<sup>st</sup> Friday of every month at  
The Trawler Pub, 66 North Boundary Road,  
Brixham, TQ5 8LA

Singers, musicians of all levels welcome, along with anyone who  
loves folk music and just wants to join us.

Contact Mark & Jo on [mnharrod@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:mnharrod@yahoo.co.uk) with any queries

## A Devon Song

### Whimble Wassail Song

G C

A - wass ail, a wass ail; the moon she shines

G G D Am

down Our app - les are ripe and the nuts they are

D D G

brown — Whence thou may - est bud dear —

C Am D

old app - le tree And whence thou mayst

G D

bear — we sing un - to thee

G G D G

With a wass - ail, a wass - ail, a wass - ail And

C G D G

joy come to our jo - lly wass - ail

## What's On Where

THE latest listings appear in the following section. We try to keep up to date but events can be subject to change due to all sorts of factors at the best of times and there is still the possibility of Covid restrictions being reintroduced. Do 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](http://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](mailto:diary@devonfolk.org.uk) or [trevor@flaxey-green.co.uk](mailto: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 changes by club organisers or because of unforeseen events.

Our Devon Folk website [www.devonfolk.org.uk](http://www.devonfolk.org.uk) has the latest updates that we have been given. We ask that organisers notify us immediately of any changes to contact details for clubs etc.

# WILLAND FOLK DANCE CLUB

SATURDAY DANCES  
Willand Village Hall

- December 18<sup>th</sup> Geoff Cubitt and Kelly's Eye  
December 31<sup>st</sup> Robert Blackborrow & Pair of Shears  
January 8<sup>th</sup> Ceilidh - Simon Maplesden & Spinach for Norman  
February 5<sup>th</sup> Aileen Wills and Fresh Aire  
March 5<sup>th</sup> 60<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Dance – Cream Tea at 5pm  
Dance 8pm – Simon Maplesden & Jigs for Gigs

Ring 07746038754 for further details

Admission £8.00 Bring & share supper Raffle

Contact: Zena Roberts 01884 253546 [www.willandfolkdanceclub.co.uk](http://www.willandfolkdanceclub.co.uk)

Club Nights 2<sup>nd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup> 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 MONTHLY SESSION** Plymouth, Dolphin (2nd)

South Zeal, Kings Arms (3rd) (Last) Crooked Spire Inn, The Square, Ermington PL21 9LP.

**TUESDAY WEEKLY SONG** Matthews Hall, 38 High Street, Topsham, Exeter EX3 0HF  
**DANCE** Exmouth Isca Scottish Dancers, Sept-May. East Budleigh Church Hall 7.30pm. Mr & Mrs V. J. Tyler, 01395 276913  
Launceston FDC (Not July, Aug). St John Ambulance Hall. Rosemary 01566 774491

**Plymouth**, Country Dance. (Sept - May). Trinity URC Hall. Jacqui Joint, 07866 980752

**TUESDAY FORTNIGHTLY MUSIC/SONG** Totnes, Bay Horse (1st, 3rd) 8pm (2nd & 4th) 8.30pm

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

**TUESDAY MONTHLY SONG** Coleford, New Inn (last) 01363 84914

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

**SESSION** Chipshop (nr Tavistock) Copper Penny Inn (4th) check with mitilmusic@gmail.com

**SONG** Gidsong 1st Tuesday (or 1st Wednesday) Gidleigh Village Hall (check with Gidleigh VH Facebook page)

**WEDNESDAY WEEKLY SONG** Bishopsteignton, Red Rock Brewery 7.30pm. John Morey 07791 054773

**DANCE** Wednesdays. 7.45pm.

South Hams Folk Dance Club, West Charleton Village Hall TQ7 2AG. 01548 561415

**WEDNESDAY MONTHLY SONG** Kingsteignton, Acoustic Warehouse, Passage House Inn, (1st) 7.30pm. Nigel 07989 180091

Pennymoor Singaround, 7.30pm Jon Shapley 01363 83740  
Stoke Cannon Inn, Nr Exeter (4th) Paul and Alison 07709324836  
Lypstone, Redwing Inn. (4th) 01395 225075

**MUSIC** Jurassic Folk, Honiton Inn, Awliscombe (2nd) 8pm 01404 549903 or 01404 43429  
**MUSIC/SONG** (1st) 8.30pm The Drake Manor Inn, Yelverton PL20 7NA stickulari@gmail.com

**THURSDAY WEEKLY SONG** Bideford FSC, Joiners Arms. John Purser 01237 424286

**DANCE** Tavistock FDC, Town Hall (Not July, Aug). Please check with Margaret Holt, 07866 980752

**THURSDAY FORTNIGHTLY**

**DANCE** Willand FDC at VH. (2nd, 4th) Zena Roberts 01884 253546  
**MUSIC** Willand Club Band at VH. (1st, 3rd) Mary Marker 01626 854141

**THURSDAY MONTHLY** Pennymoor Singaround (1st) 12noon - 3pm Jon 01363 83740  
[jon\\_shapley@hotmail.com](mailto:jon_shapley@hotmail.com)

**SESSION** Exmouth, Bicton Inn (First) 01395 272589  
Third, hosted by Becky Brooks 01395 272589.

Fourth Folk Club Night 01395

272589 Hosted by Derek Brook  
**MUSIC** South Brent, Pack Horse Inn (3rd)

**FRIDAY MONTHLY SONG** Brixham FSC, The Trawler Pub, 66 North Boundary Road, Brixham, TQ5 8LA. (1st). Mark Harrod [mnharrod@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:mnharrod@yahoo.co.uk)  
Exeter Folk & Acoustic Club, Victoria Tennis Club (last). Peter Cornelius 01392 210983. See diary for guests on other Fridays  
Marldon. Old Smokey House (3rd) Folk Plus Acoustic Club. Paul 07894 961010

**SUNDAY WEEKLY SONG** Folk on the Moor. Ivybridge, The Exchange 1-3 Fore Street, Ivybridge PL21 9AB Not Aug. 7.45pm. Anton Horwich 01822 853620

**SUNDAY MONTHLY SONG** Sticklepath, Devonshire Inn. (1st) Derek Moore 01837 840316

GW RSA Railway Club 3-5 Royal Avenue, Exmouth EX8 1EN. (4th) 7pm Chris Austin 07812 688432

**MUSIC** Pennymoor (last) Lunchtime. Jon Shapley 01363 83740  
Plymouth, Dolphin. (1st) 1.30pm  
**SONG/MUSIC** The Drake Manor Inn, Yelverton PL20 7NA (2nd) 7.30pm. [jacunn68@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:jacunn68@yahoo.co.uk)

These listings are believed to be correct at the time of going to press. They do not include open mic sessions at various pubs. Further information and updates may be found on the Devon Folk website, [www.devonfolk.org.uk](http://www.devonfolk.org.uk).

## Specific Events

### JANUARY

**SATURDAY 8TH DANCE** Willand Folk Dance Club. Willand Village Hall, Gables Road, Willand, EX15 2PL. 8pm. Simon Maplesden Spinach for Norman

**CONCERT** Provident Methodist Chapel, Throwleigh, EX20 2HZ. Jim Causley with Bill Murray Songs of Devon

**SUNDAY 9TH SONG** Folk on the Moor. The Exchange 1-3 Fore Street,

Ivybridge PL21 9AB. Kathryn Roberts and Sean Lakeman  
**THURSDAY 13TH DANCE** Willand Folk Dance Club, Willand Village Hall. Caller: Ted Farmer Band: The More The Merrier

## Specific Events

**SUNDAY 16TH**  
**CONCERT** Exeter Corn Exchange, Market Street, EX1 1BW. The Simon and Garfunkel Story

**WEDNESDAY 19TH**  
**DANCE** Halsway Folk Dance Club. Bicknoller Village Hall, Honey Row Lane (Hill Lane Junction) TA4 4EQ. Caller: Ray Goodswen Band: Accordion to Taste

**SUNDAY 23RD**  
**SONG** Folk on the Moor. The Exchange 1-3 Fore Street, Ivybridge PL21 9AB. Dartmoor Pixie Band

**THURSDAY 27TH**  
**DANCE** Willand Folk Dance Club. Mary Marker & her Scottish Scratch Band

**SATURDAY 29TH**  
**CEILIDH** Exeter Ceilidhs. The Kenn Centre, Exeter Road, Kennford, EX6 7UE. 8pm. Dartmoor Pixie Band.

### FEBRUARY

**WEDNESDAY 2ND**  
**DANCE** Halsway Folk Dance Club. Bicknoller Village Hall, Honey Row Lane (Hill Lane Junction) Bicknoller TA4 4EQ. Caller: Jane Thomas Band: Pair of Shears

**THURSDAY 3RD**  
**CONCERT** Exeter Corn Exchange - Market Street, Exeter, EX1 1BW. Fairport Convention

**FRIDAY 4TH**  
**CONCERT** Pavilions Teignmouth The Den Crescent,, TQ14 8BG. Steve Knightley – Pass Notes The Stories Behind the Songs Tour

**SATURDAY 5TH**  
**DANCE** Willand Folk Dance Club, Willand Village Hall, Gables Road, Willand,, Devon EX15 2PL. 8pm. Caller: Aileen Wills Band: Fresh Aire  
**CONCERT** Calstock Arts, The Old Chapel, Sand Lane, Calstock PL18 9QX. Steve

Knightley, Pass Notes The Stories Behind the Songs Tour

**SUNDAY 6TH**  
**CONCERT** Topsham Folk Club. Matthews Hall, Fore Street, Topsham EX3 0HF. Nick Hart

**THURSDAY 10TH**  
**DANCE** Willand Folk Dance Club. Caller: Colin Andrews Band: Tight Squeeze

**SUNDAY 13TH**  
**SONG** Folk on the Moor. The Exchange 1-3 Fore Street, Ivybridge PL21 9AB. Phil Beer.  
**CONCERT** Exeter Phoenix, Gandy Street, Exeter EX4 3LS. Martha Tilston

**WEDNESDAY 16TH**  
**DANCE** Halsway Folk Dance Club. Bicknoller Village Hall, Honey Row Lane (Hill Lane Junction) Bicknoller TA4 4EQ. Caller: Simon Maplesden Band: Fresh Aire

**SATURDAY 19TH**  
**CONCERT** Dartington Great Hall, Totnes, Devon, TQ9 6EL. Sam Sweeney

**SUNDAY 20TH**  
**CONCERT** Calstock Arts, The Old Chapel, Sand Lane, PL18 9QX. Lau (Unplugged)

**SATURDAY 26TH**  
**CONCERT** Exeter Folk and Acoustic Music Club. Exminster Village Hall, Church Stile, Exminster, Exeter, Devon, EX6 8DF Concert Night Paul Downes and Phil Beer  
**CEILIDH** Exeter Ceilidhs. The Kenn Centre, Exeter Road, Kennford, Exeter,, EX6 7UE. 8pm. Mischief and Mayhem

**SUNDAY 27TH**  
**SONG** Folk on the Moor. The Exchange 1-3 Fore Street, Ivybridge PL21 9AB. Suthering

### MARCH

**WEDNESDAY 2ND**  
**CONCERT** Exeter Phoenix, Gandy Street, EX4 3LS. Faustus  
**DANCE** Halsway Folk

Dance Club. Bicknoller Village Hall, Honey Row Lane (Hill Lane Junction) TA4 4EQ. Caller: Robert Blackborow Band: Own Music

**SATURDAY 5TH**  
**CONCERT** Bideford Folk Song Club. Pannier Pantry, 1 Bridgeland Street, Bideford EX39 2PS. Magpie Lane The Flavel, Flavel Place, Dartmouth, TQ6 9ND. Cara Dillon  
**DANCE** Willand Folk Dance Club, Willand Village Hall, Gables Road, EX15 2PL. 8pm. 60th anniversary dance. Caller: Simon Maplesden Band: Jigs for Gigs

**SUNDAY 6TH**  
**CONCERT** Topsham Folk Club. Matthews Hall, Fore Street, EX3 0HF. Leveret

**THURSDAY 10TH**  
**DANCE** Willand Folk Dance Club. Caller: Ted Farmer - Band: Chris Toyne

**FRIDAY 11TH**  
**CONCERT** Exeter Folk and Acoustic Music Club. Exminster Village Hall, Church Stile, Exminster, Exeter, Devon, EX6 8DF Concert Night The Cornelius Family - (Pete & Maggie's 50th anniversary of performing) charity night. The Beehive Arts Centre, Dowell Street, Honiton, EX14 1LZ. Kathryn Roberts & Sean Lakeman Calstock Arts, The Old Chapel, Sand Lane, PL18 9QX. Chris Wood

**SUNDAY 13TH**  
**SONG** Folk on the Moor. The Exchange 1-3 Fore Street, Ivybridge PL21 9AB. John Ward Trio

**WEDNESDAY 16TH**  
**DANCE** Halsway Folk Dance Club. Bicknoller Village Hall, Honey Row Lane (Hill Lane Junction)

## Specific Events

Bicknoller TA4 4EQ. Caller: Aileen Wills Band: Jeroka

**THURSDAY 24TH**  
**DANCE** Willand Folk Dance Club. Caller: Sarah Clough Band: The More The Merrier

**SATURDAY 26TH**  
**CONCERT** Barnfield Theatre, Barnfield Road,

Exeter, EX1 1SN. Steve Knightley, Pass Notes – The stories behind the songs.  
**CEILIDH** Exeter Ceilidhs. The Kenn Centre, Exeter Road, Kennford, Exeter, EX6 7UE. 8pm. Blue Jewel.

**SUNDAY 27TH**  
**SONG** Folk on the Moor. The

Exchange 1-3 Fore Street, Ivybridge PL21 9AB. Guest to be confirmed. See [www.moorfolk.co.uk/](http://www.moorfolk.co.uk/).

**WEDNESDAY 30TH**  
**CONCERT** Exeter Corn Exchange - Market Street, Exeter, EX1 1BW. Feast of Fiddles.

## Clubs and Sessions

**FOLK song clubs (FC) and sessions (SE) sometimes have to change venue at short notice. Please check. See [www.devonfolk.org.uk](http://www.devonfolk.org.uk)**

**AWLISCOMBE** Nr Honiton Jurrassic Folk 2nd Wednesday Honiton Inn, EX14 3PJ. 01404 549903 or 01404 43429

**BIDEFORD**  
Bideford Folk Club\* Thursday. Joiners Arms - John Purser 01237 424286 or email [bidefolk@gmail.com](mailto:bidefolk@gmail.com)  
**BISHOPSTEIGNTON**  
Wednesday 7.30pm. Red Rock Brewery, John Morey 07791 054773. [www.oldworkshop.org](http://www.oldworkshop.org).

**BODMIN**  
Friday: The Old Library, 10 Lower Bore Street, Bodmin, [www.bodminfolk.co.uk](http://www.bodminfolk.co.uk)  
**BRIXHAM**  
1st Friday. Brixham Folk Cub. The Trawler Pub, 66 North Boundary Road, TQ5 8LA

**BUCKLAND MONACHORUM**  
2nd Sunday 7.30pm. The Drake Manor Inn, PL20 7NA  
1st Wednesday 8.30pm. The Drake Manor Inn.

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

**COLEFORD**  
Last Tuesday: 8.00pm The New Inn Coleford, EX17 5BZ Tel: Dave 01363 84914  
**CULLOMPTON**  
Alt Thursdays: Crediton West

Gallery Quire. Sonja Andrews 01363 877216  
3rd Friday and 5th Sunday: South West Shape Note Singing, Cullompton Steve 07976 605692 or Martin 07721 451406

**ERMINGTON**  
Last Monday: 8pm Crooked Spire Inn, The Square, Ermington PL21 9LP. Country meets Folk.

**EXETER**  
Last Friday: Exeter Folk & Acoustic Music Club Victoria Park Tennis Club, St Leonards. Contact Peter Cornelius 01392 210983  
Also guest nights [www.exeterfolkclub.org](http://www.exeterfolkclub.org)

**EXMOUTH**  
4th Sunday: 7pm. GWRSA Railway Club 3-5 Royal Avenue, Exmouth EX8 1EN. Chris Austin 07812 688432

1st Thursday 7.45pm Bicton Inn Folk session 01395 272589  
3rd Thursday 8.30pm Bicton Inn Folk session 01395 272589.  
Becky Brooks  
4th Thursday 8.30pm Bicton Inn Folk club night 01395 272589.  
Derek Brooks

**GIDLEIGH**  
1st Tues or 1st Wed 8pm. Gidsong. Gideligh Village Hall. Check Gidleigh Village Hall Facebook page.

**IPPLEPEN**  
4th Tuesday: Shape Note singing Methodist Church, East Street, Ipplepen, TQ12 5SX [jeremyjamesdonaldson@gmail.com](mailto:jeremyjamesdonaldson@gmail.com)

**IVYBRIDGE**  
Sun: Folk On The Moor 7.45pm

The Exchange 1-3 Fore Street, PL21 9AB. 01822 853620

**KINGSTEIGNTON**  
1st Wednesday: 7.30pm Acoustic Warehouse – Music & Performance Club, Estuary Courtyard, Passage House Inn. Nigel 07989 180091

**LYMPSTONE**  
4th Wednesday Lympton Folk, Roots and Acoustic, Redwing Inn. Church Rd, Lympton, EX8 5JT. (4th) 01395 225075/07741409265

**MARLDON**  
3rd Friday Ye Olde Smokey House, Vicarage Road, Marldon, TQ3 1NN. Folk Plus Acoustic Music Club. Paul 07894 961010

**PENNYMOOR**  
Penny Moor Singaround\*  
3rd Wednesday Song and music check venue Jon 01363 83740  
Last Sunday noon Music session check venue Clare Penny – 01884860023  
1st Thursday noon Song and music Check venue Jon 01363 83740  
Stoke Canon Inn, Nr Exeter.

4th Wednesday Paul and Alison 07709324836

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

**SCORITON**  
4th Sunday: 7.30 pm. Tradesman's Arms Sue &



## Clubs and Sessions

Simon Williams, Scorriton  
Farmhouse, Scorriton,  
**SOUTH BRENT**  
3rd Thursday: Pack Horse Inn,  
8pm. Mixed session  
**SOUTH HAMS**  
Wednesdays. 7.45pm. South  
Hams Folk Dance Club, West  
Charlton Village Hall TQ7  
2AG. 01548 561415  
**SANDFORD**  
1st Tuesday Lamb Inn Paul &  
Hazel 01363 776275

**SOUTH ZEAL**  
3rd Monday music session email  
markbazeyleymobile@gmail.com  
**STICKLEPATH** (Okehampton)  
1st Sun. Devonshire Inn.  
Derek Moore 01837 840316  
**TEIGNMOUTH**  
Teignmouth Folk Club. Martyn  
Hillstead, 01626 778071.  
**TOPSHAM**  
Tuesdays: Song Matthews Hall,  
38 High Street, Topsham  
EX3 0HF

**TOTNES**  
2nd Thur: Folk Song Club.  
Dartmouth Inn. Steve &  
Anne Gill, 01803 290427.  
1st & 3rd Tues. Bay Horse.  
Music and Song (English)  
2nd & 4th Tuesday. Bay  
Horse. Music session (Irish)  
**WILLAND**  
Willand Club Band Workshop  
Alt. Thurs. Willand Chapel,  
Gables Road. Mary Marker  
01626 854141

## Morris and Display

F: Morris Federation, R: Morris  
Ring, Open Morris member Day  
regular practice/dance out night  
**Alive & Kicking (F)**  
Appalachian. Jo Wright  
01392 462531  
**Angletwitch (F)**  
Elizabeth Wozniak 01271  
325425  
**Beltane (F)**  
Border, Harriet White.  
harrietcewhite@yahoo.co.uk  
**Bideford Phoenix Morris (F)**  
Frances Hall, 01409 281877  
**Blackawton Morris (F)**  
Chris Janman, 01803 712362  
**Black Bess (F)**  
Jayne Thomas 01626 366844  
blackbessborder@gmail.com  
**Borderline (F)**  
bag@borderlinemorris.org  
**Bovey Tracey Mummers (R)**  
Rod Wilkins 01803 812581  
**Bradninch Millers Morris (F)**  
Duncan Harrington 01884  
855270  
**Catseye (F)**  
(Tues) Catseyebag@aol.com  
www.catseyemorris.co.uk  
**Cogs & Wheels (F)**  
Donna Tombs  
dtombs65@gmail.com (Thurs)  
**Dartmoor Border (F)**  
(Wed) Mark Tregaskis 01752  
299700  
**Dartington Morris Men (R)**  
(Fri) Martin Jones bagman@  
dartingtonmorrismen.org.uk

**Exeter Morris Men (R)**  
Mike Painter, 01392 660444.  
(Thurs)  
mikepainter25@gmail.com  
**Exmoor Border Morris (F)**  
(Wed) Marlene Cann,  
marlenecann61@yahoo.co.uk  
**Firestone**  
(Appalachian & Irish).  
info@firestonedance.co.uk  
**Glory of the West Morris (F)**  
Carol Mantell, 01647 252740  
(Wed)  
**Great Western Morris Men (F)**  
(Mon) Mike Boston  
bagman@greatwestern.org.uk  
**Green Willow Clog (F)**  
Jacqueline 07748 121093  
**Grimspound Border Morris (F)**  
Lee Merry, lmerry@live.co.uk  
**Harberton Navy (F)**  
JanCulf@harbertondevon.co.uk  
**Ilfracombe Red Petticoats (F)**  
Linda Corcoran, lindacorcoran@  
btopenworld.com  
**Isambard Gasket Rats (F)**  
Debs : 01626 770238  
bag@isambardsgasketrats.co.uk  
**Kings Arms Pace Egg &  
Mummers**  
Dave Denford, The Cottage,  
Ramsley, SouthZeal, EX10 2LD  
**Lodestone Border (F)**  
lodestonemorris@hotmail.co.uk  
**Lyme Morris**  
www.facebook.com/LymeMorris  
**Newton Bushel Morris (F)**  
Rod Shute, 01803 403153

teresa@newtonbushelmorris.uk  
**Old Town Twelves**  
Alison Chapman, 07541 385463  
**Otter Morris**  
bag.otter.morris@gmail.com  
**Plymouth Maids (O)**  
Sue Hawes, 01752 345054  
plymouthmaids@hotmail.com  
**Plymouth Morris**  
bagman@plymouthmorris.uk  
www.plymouthmorris.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 (F)**  
cath.nettleton@gmail.com  
**Sidmouth Traditional  
Mummers**  
Henry Piper, 01404 811491  
henry.piper@zoom.co.uk  
**Tinners Morris Men (F)**  
andrew@frangleton.co.uk  
**Trigg Morris Men (R)**  
Roger Hancock, 01208 73907  
**Tudor Dance Group**  
Elizabeth Thurgood,  
01404 812185.  
**Winkleigh Morris (F)**  
Angela Haines, 01837 83219  
angelahaines48@outlook.com  
(Tues)  
**Wreckers Border (F)**  
wreckers.bag@gmail.com,  
Thurs.

## Bands and Callers

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

Abacus Julie Mason  
mason.je@btconnect.com  
Amber Fire 01803 862393  
Babelfish 07971 148531  
Barnstormers 01392 882036  
**Blue Jewel 07957 85458**  
Bridgwater Band 01278 691370  
Choughed to Bits 01752 851990  
Chris Toyne Band  
chris.toyne@btinternet.com  
Classic Ceilidh Band  
07778 105739  
Dartmoor Pixie Band\*  
01837 840775  
Dancing Keys 01884 820438  
Eel Grinders 01647 440020  
Flash Company 01392 851496  
Flash Jack 01566 785233  
Folk Two 01548 550004  
Fox Amongst The Chickens  
01566 785233  
Fraich 'Airs'\*  
01392 811593  
Fresh Aire 01823 257488  
Full English 01271 866907  
Haymakers 01288 361625  
Hips & Haws 01392 861466  
Hobson's Choice 01823 272537  
Home Brew 01363 877216  
Hot Punch 01271 373128  
Jeroka 01460 54568  
Jigs For Gigs 01460 241326  
Long Odds & Short Straws  
01460 61996  
Lucy Lastic 01884 258892  
Meltdown 01278 732202  
Meter Rite 01823 401271  
Mischief & Mayhem\*  
01395 514291  
Mist The Boat 01409 211340

**Mooncoin Ceilidh Band\***  
**01803 290427**  
More The Merrier 01626 854141  
Mrs Midnight 01363 775552  
**Mugdock 01643 707294**  
Mullachabu 01626 871260  
New Vintage Band  
01363 774426  
Occasion Ceilidh Band  
01752 337501  
Oggle Band\* 01271 865030  
Old Boys 01726 837432  
Other Band 01326 563564  
Paddy's Whiskers\*  
01803 520798  
Park Bench Aristocrats  
01548 810038  
Petronella 01626 854141  
Pigs Might Fly 01392 465462  
Pig's Whisper 01392 250355  
Piping Hot 01803 528234  
Phoenix 07971220462  
Quantock Quarenders  
01984 656459  
Rakes Adrift 01271 865030  
Red Shed 01363 774339  
Reel Thing 01460 240671  
Scratchbox 01803 847689  
Sheer Hopody 01769 520595  
Slack Ma Girdle 01823 680523  
Spinach For Norman  
07970 151059  
Squeezum 01823 333567  
Steve Gill & Andy Clarke  
01803 290427  
**Stick The Fiddle**  
**01884 255356**  
**or 07790 760462**  
Stringaccord 016430707294  
Tinners 01736 787951  
Up The Creek 01548 531525  
Walter Shortage & Hosepipe  
Band 01837 52174  
Winkeilidh Band 01363 877216

Weston Country Dance Band  
01934 813326  
**CALLERS**  
Tom Addison  
hawkes1880@yahoo.co.uk  
Andy Clarke, 01803 732312  
or 07792009374  
Colin Andrews 01363 877216  
Steve Banks 01803 782219  
Graham Barrett 01823 461632  
Sarah Bazeley 01837 840775  
Robert Blackborow  
01278 691370  
John Blackburn 01237 476632  
Adrian Brayley 07791703009  
Linda Breeze 01363 776184  
Les Burden 01840 261708  
Dick Carlyon|  
01458 272933  
**Jeremy Child 01392 422119**  
Sarah Clough  
www.callersarah.com  
www.facebook.com/callersarah  
Ted Farmer 01392 466326  
Ray Goodswen 01278 424332  
Sue Hamer-Moss 01769 560708  
Susan Heard 01823 462936  
Joan Holloway 01626 870539  
or 07562 766960  
Gil Jefferies 01752 844138  
Chris Jewell 01237 423554  
Beryl Jukes 01209 712357  
Graham Knight 01823 401271  
Rosie Longhurst 01566 785233  
Simon Maplesden 01884 33571  
Mary Marker 01626 854141  
Barry Moule 01288 361625  
Frances Oates 01209 217918  
Mike Palmer 01647 433464  
Kate Powell 01626 866257  
Kip Pratt 07969123346  
Phil Preen phil@philpreen.co.uk  
John Tarling 01297 34804  
Garry Thompson 01271 865030  
Helen Wilson 01392 882036

**PLEASE HELP US TO KEEP THE LISTINGS AS UP TO DATE AS POSSIBLE.  
IF YOU RUN A CLUB, A SESSION OR A MORRIS SIDE, EMAIL ANY  
CHANGES OF VENUE, DATES OR CONTACTS TO  
TREVORPAUL@FLAXEY-GREEN.CO.UK  
NEWS ITEMS ABOUT YOUR SIDE, CLUB OR MEMBERS' ACTIVITIES  
SHOULD BE SENT TO DEVONFOLKEDITOR@GMAIL.COM**

## General information

### REGIONAL CONTACTS

#### Folk in Cornwall

John Tremaine, 7, The Moors, Lostwithiel, PL22  
0BX 01208 872124  
mail@folkincornwall.co.uk

#### Folklife

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

#### Folk London

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

#### Folk South West

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

#### Somerset & Dorset

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

#### Unicorn (Beds, Herts, Camb. area)

Simon Bailes, 10 Chapel Street, Dunton,  
Biggleswade Bedfordshire SG18 8RW Tel:01767  
310424 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

#### The Morris Federation

Andrew Knight  
www.morrisfed.org.uk

#### The Morris Ring

Peter Morris  
bagman@themorrisring.org

#### Open Morris

Hetty Bevington, email: secretary@open-  
morris.org

#### National Youth Folklore Troupe of England\*

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

## Exeter Folk & Acoustic Music Club

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

Friday 28 <sup>th</sup> January	Open Club Night
Friday 25 <sup>th</sup> February	Open Club Night
Saturday 26 <sup>th</sup> February	Concert Night: Paul Downes & Phil Beer (Exminster Village Hall)
Friday 11 <sup>th</sup> March	Concert Night: The Cornelius Family (Pete & Maggie's 50 <sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Performing) Charity Night
Friday 25 <sup>th</sup> March	Open Club Night
Friday 22 <sup>nd</sup> April	Concert Night: Mike Silver

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

## Jeremy Child

### Barn Dance Caller



www.barndancecaller.net

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

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

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

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

01392 422119 jeremy.m.child@gmail.com



## Exeter Ceilidhs

Jan 29<sup>th</sup> 2022 Dartmoor Pixies

Feb 26<sup>th</sup> Mischief and Mayhem

Mar 26<sup>th</sup> Blue Jewel

Apr 30<sup>th</sup> Amber Fire

Kenn Centre, Kennford 8pm – 11pm £8

07969 297 633 www.exeterceilidhs.net



# Willand waltzes into its 60th year

## Members of the club recount how a one-off village dance grew into an association that once graced the national airwaves

**O**UR Club was formed in the 1960s after Bill Rutter, area organiser from the English Folk Dance and Song Society, contacted Gladys Godfrey, a prominent character in the village, and her husband George, to organise a dance in the village hall. Bill promoted this dance widely throughout the county to youth groups and other dance clubs. We had the wonderful Dennis Darke and the Greensleeves Country Dance Band with Irene Harcourt calling.

As a result, Gladys and George formed the Willand Square Dance Club with support from the English Folk Dance and Song Society. Soon, the club was brimming with young people with a thirst for dancing knowledge and technique.

The club moved on to form a dance team whose displays became very popular with many local organisations such as women's institutes, village fetes, care homes, Friday evenings in the Sidmouth Connaught Gardens and Whit Monday tours of coastal towns. The club also danced as a team at one of the early Sidmouth Folk Festivals. Sadly, we no longer have a dance display team.

A large number of prominent people, George and Gladys, Irene Harcourt, Dennis Darke, Dick Witt and Ron Beeson to name but a few, along with some of our early members are no longer with us, but no doubt they are keeping an eye on us from their resting places.

Following on from this, the BBC produced many of their Friday Night Is Dance Night radio programmes at Willand. These were broadcast to the nation live and Marilyn Broom remembers all the wires being trailed in through the side doors from the outside broadcast vans in the car park. The Greensleeves Country Dance Band played with Dick Witt calling.

Aileen Wills and her husband Bernard used to play in a Band at Saturday Dances in the early

years of the club, too. We never had live music for club nights in those days and at first we could only dance to 45rpm records

Later came the link with the Westerveseda Dance Group from Northern Germany. Willand hosted this club who brought a strong contingent of dancers, and their German coach driver. Day trips were organised all over the county to include displays from both teams at various venues. There was social dancing and other activities held in the evenings.

The German coach driver was intrigued by our Devon country roads – no M5 in those days! There were civic receptions with the Mayor of Tiverton where official gifts were exchanged. Club members, their parents and other folks from the village accommodated all of these visitors from Germany and a great time was had by all.

On the Clubs return visit to Westerveseda, Gladys led the Willand team dancing through the streets, as part of a procession in front of 5,000 people.

The club also held annual fancy dress dances, an annual dinner dance, and took part in village variety shows.

**I**N 2001 the club changed its name to Willand Folk Dance Club as the term square dance was being associated more and more with American square dancing.

Without the enthusiasm of the above mentioned people our club might not have been here to-day. We have been so fortunate to have people to follow in their footsteps and put the club where it is.

There are so many memories that can be recalled. Today we are a club made up of dancers of various ages and organising club evenings and monthly Saturday dances for people who come from all parts of the South West from Bristol to

West Cornwall. We always welcome new faces and hope that they can develop our enthusiasm for dancing.

Our callers and bands now come from many parts of the UK and many feel privileged to be asked to come to Willand. As you will see from our club programme (on page 18) we also have an annual residential weekend.

If you are reading this, and were once a dancer with us, we would love to hear from you. Why not come and join us on March 5 for a cream tea at 5pm and reminisce with old friends, an evening dance will follow at 8pm. There are some of the original members still dancing. We would love to hear your memories of the club.

Please let our chairperson, Marilyn Broom, know if you are able to join us: 07746038754

## Other news

THE Exeter Ceilidhs have started up again and are doing well. Organiser and caller Jeremy Child reports that the first in his monthly series attracted 41 dancers and the second 44. He commented: "A nice number but not too crowded." The ceilidhs are continuing on a monthly basis. See the advert on page 25 for details.

Some other clubs are still being cautious about reopening. We suggest that you check with the organisers before venturing out. Contact details are provided on the listings on page 19.

If you are a club organiser reading this, can we ask you to keep the magazine up to date with what is going on – even if you are planning to suspend operations until the Covid crisis abates and things start to return to normal. Hopefully, it will not be much longer before we can meet up and dance again.

## Blue Jewel Ceilidh Band

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



www.bluejewel.info

## The Mooncoin Barn Dance Band



Available for  
Wedding Ceilidhs  
Birthdays  
Anniversaries etc.  
Own Caller

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

Available as a 2, 3 or 4 piece band  
with caller. For more information  
Visit [www.flaxey-green.co.uk](http://www.flaxey-green.co.uk)

To book the band contact:  
Anne & Steve Gill 01803 290427  
Email: [anne.m.gill@icloud.com](mailto:anne.m.gill@icloud.com)

or Andy Clarke 07792009374



## The Joiners Arms

Market Place, Bideford, EX30 2DR

Friendly weekly club – bring a song or tune, join in or just sit and listen. Everyone welcome.  
Singarounds most weeks with about eight guests year.  
Upstairs in the skittle alley 7.30 for 8.00pm

**Saturday 5<sup>th</sup> March**

**Special Event: Magpie Lane** at the  
Pannier Pantry. (The Quay, Bideford)  
This will be a ticketed event – details  
nearer the date.

Website: [www.bidefordfolkclub.com](http://www.bidefordfolkclub.com)

John Purser  
01237 424286  
[bidefolk@gmail.com](mailto:bidefolk@gmail.com)



# Pennymoor Singaround

Song and Music Sessions  
The Lamb, Sandford - 3rd Wednesday 7.30pm

1<sup>st</sup> Thursday – 12 noon  
Contact Jon Shapley for venue

Music Session - last Sunday 12 noon  
The Half Moon, Cheriton Fitzpaine  
Contact: Clare Penny – 01884860023

Visit Facebook: Pennymoor Singaround  
Biddy Mallabone: 01271 373305  
[biddy.mallabone@outlook.com](mailto:biddy.mallabone@outlook.com)

Jon Shapley: 01363 83740 – [jon\\_shapley@hotmail.com](mailto:jon_shapley@hotmail.com)

Also run by Pennymoor members:

The Lamb, Sandford, Nr. Crediton – 1<sup>st</sup> Tuesday 8.00pm  
Contact: Hazel or Paul 01363 776275

The New Inn, Coleford – Last Tuesday 8.00pm  
Contact: Dave 01363 84914

Stoke Canon Inn, Nr Exeter - 4th Wednesday 8.30pm  
Paul and Alison 07709324836

The Devonshire Inn, Sticklepath- 1st Sunday 8.00pm  
Contact: Derek 01837 840316



## Former What's Afoot editor COLIN ANDREWS writes about the past and future of Devon Folk, the organisation that publishes this magazine

**D**EVON Folk publishes the What's Afoot magazine – but how many of its current readers know anything more about its background. What's Afoot was originally launched in 1980 by the then Devon District of The English Folk Dance & Song Society, to replace a brief news bulletin to members and a separate diary of folk events.

When the regional structure of EFDSS was abandoned in the early 1990s, the former District Committee continued under the same name for a while, before changing to the Devon Folk Association and later, to just Devon Folk. The publication of What's Afoot continued, expanding its content and coverage of folk events.

Over the years, Devon Folk has organised, promoted or sponsored various activities including workshops and local festivals such as Dartmoor and Teignmouth. Membership has been

open to clubs and individuals at a nominal cost, and EFDSS members in Devon have been entitled to free membership.

Unfortunately, under new data protection rules, Devon Folk no longer receives a list of Devon based EFDSS members, so unless these members make direct contact with Devon Folk, there is no way of knowing the exact membership numbers. It is intended to amend the constitution at the next Devon Folk AGM in March to remedy the situation and notice of the AGM will be published in the spring edition of English Dance & Song so that Devon-based EFDSS members can respond.

Over the past couple of years the active membership of Devon Folk does appear to have declined – not helped of course by the periods of lockdown – and there have been unfilled vacancies on the Committee. The long-serving President, Terry Underhill, has decided to step



**FOLK ON THE MOOR**  
At  
**The Exchange, Ivybridge**

**GUEST LIST**

9 January	Kathryn Roberts / Sean Lakeman
23 January	Dartmoor Pixie Band
13 February	Phil Beer
27 February	Suthering
13 March	John Ward Trio
27 March	Guest TBC

**NEW VENUE!**  
Sundays 7.45pm  
Unspecified  
dates are  
Open Nights

For directions or more information ring Anton on 01822 853620, Ben on 01752 708770, Keith on 01752 493360 or check our website: [www.moorfolk.co.uk](http://www.moorfolk.co.uk)

down, and, fortunately, Jim Causley has agreed to be nominated as his replacement. It is hoped, too, that a new Treasurer will also be appointed, to replace Brian Chappell who also announced his retirement after serving Devon Folk so well for many years.

Devon Folk is keen to involve a greater number of younger people to promote folk activities in the county. As part of this initiative, it is intended to publish a directory of persons and clubs willing to offer talks, workshops, tuition or performances about aspects of song, dance, morris, music and folklore to various community groups of all ages

This would include schools, youth clubs, Scouts and Guides at the younger end and U3A, WI groups and Senior Citizens associations in the upper range. Hopefully, this will generate some new members for song, dance clubs and morris sides. A letter will be going out to possibly interested parties in the near future – but please spread the word to anyone who might wish to get involved and ask them to get in touch. You can help out by joining the committee. A nomination form is printed here.

**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:  
**Anne Gill, Maleth, 11 Cleveland Road, Torquay, TQ2 5BD.**  
**by February 16, 2022**

**ELECTED MEMBERS OF THE DEVON FOLK COMMITTEE**

- |   |  |  |
|---|--|--|
| <b>PRESIDENT</b><br>Terry Underhill   | 151 Kingsdown Crescent,<br>Dawlish EX7 0HB.<br>01626 862312  | TQ13 0JA<br>01626 854141<br>annmarker5@btinternet.com  |
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PLEASE complete and return to the Devon Folk Membership Secretary, Anne Gill, Maleth, 11 Cleveland Road, Torquay TQ2 5BD

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  
Post                      Email

Second nominated club member  
Name  
Address  
  
Postcode  
Telephone  
Email

Magazine to be sent by  
Post                      Email

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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- 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](http://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:  
Anne Gill, Maleth, 11 Cleveland Rd,  
Torquay TQ2 5BD  
or email [Anne.m.gill@icloud.com](mailto:Anne.m.gill@icloud.com)





# Heather and Gorse will bloom no more

**As the South Devon ladies hang up their clogs, squire SARA DILLON tells their story**



**A**FTER 37 years, Heather and Gorse North West Morris dancers have sadly decided to disband. The side was formed in 1984 by Carol Gosling and a group of ladies who were associated with Newton Bushel. After being Morris widows for some time they decided to form their own side and Heather and Gorse was born.

In the early days the two sides often danced together and the two styles of dancing complemented each other. The kit colours for the kit were chosen to echo those of Newton Bushel and after a false start a kit was designed by Carole Ambridge and Sara Dillon that lasted for 35 years. The striking colours of blue, black, white and yellow stood the test of time and the side received many compliments on their appearance, presentation and performance.

Over the 37 years that Heather and Gorse were together they danced extensively in the local area, attended many festivals both locally and away, supported local fetes and charity events, danced at weddings and private functions and made an appearance at the Millennium Dome.

The side also enjoyed dancing at festivals in

Brittany and in the local towns where they were very well received with the usual French hospitality.

Like many other Morris Sides, Heather and Gorse have raised money for both local and national charities and have given many hundreds of pounds to such causes since their formation in 1984.

Over the years dancers and musicians have come and gone, some for work or family reasons but others to form new sides, for example, Black Bess and Wheal Sophia. The children have grown up and flown the nest and injuries have started to creep in. Heather and Gorse have been a strong and vibrant side but sadly time has taken its toll and all good things must come to an end. However, we are continuing as a social group and will look forward to meeting up with our friends both past and present at fetes and festivals in the future.

We would like to thank everyone who has been a member of or who has supported Heather and Gorse over the years and if we are able to plan a reunion sometime in the future, we hope to see you there.



# Dartmoor becomes 'Otter morris'



*New mascots: Dartmoor Border Morris with new recruits Maurice and Molly Otter*

**T**HERE has not been a merger between Meavy-based Dartmoor Border Morris and Otter on the other side of the moor. But Dartmoor can now boast new mascots Morris and Molly Otter.

The animal sculptures were part of the Moor Otter Trail, set up to raise money for conservation and restoration projects on Dartmoor. In May 2021 Eighty-one otter and cubs, standing tall on plinths, were unleashed on five different trails and scores of loyal "otter spotters" searched for them. Many people made donations along the way at each sculpture.

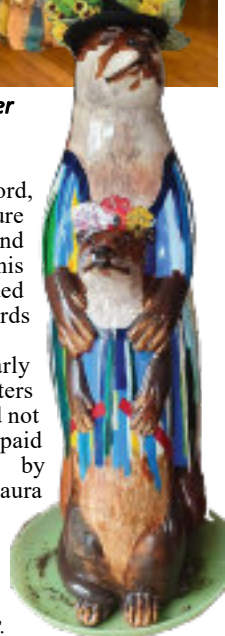
Local artists were asked to decorate the otters. Kathy Nettles was inspired by seeing Dartmoor Border Morris in action and asked if she could copy their tatters for her otters.

Morris and Molly, as the sculptures were called, were sent out on the moor with the other otters until September when they were gathered in to be auctioned off. The bagman of Dartmoor Border Morris, Mark Tregaskis felt it would be a shame if Morris and Molly slipped out of the side's view and so he started a Facebook fundraising page to buy the otters and install them at the Royal Oak in Meavy, the pub that lies conveniently just across

the green from the hall where his side practises. The Royal Oaks' landlord, Steve Earp (in the picture above holding the right-hand side of the banner) felt this was just what his pub needed and chipped in £100 towards the appeal.

In all, the side raised nearly £500 and won the otters (fortunately the bidding did not go as high as the £3,220 paid for Teigny and Tiny by Teignmouth-based artist Laura Wall).

The side has also won a sponsorship deal with The Black Farmer. Their last deal with the company, they featured in a television advert and had their picture on bus stops and billboards around the county. Maybe this year we will see Morris and Molly being fed Black Farmer sausages.



**What has your side been up to? Email your news to [devonfolkeditor@gmail.com](mailto:devonfolkeditor@gmail.com)**



**If your New Year's Resolution is to take up an instrument, why not try the melodeon? Veteran Morris musician and ceilidh band player, STEVE GILL, gives his advice on the ins and outs of the squeezebox**

**S**QUEEZEBOX supremo John Kirkpatrick once wrote in an article in Melody Maker that the melodeon is not the best instrument to learn by using sheet music. Playing by ear suits the melodeon as the push pull system is more of a knack and feel, rather like a mouth organ. And the mouth organ can be almost impossible to play from sheet music as you can't see the notes because the holes are covered by your mouth.

Many people, when they take up the melodeon, learn to play a tune on the treble side then try to add the bass years later in the hope they will meet in the middle.

My advice would be to learn the scale of G first and add the bass at the same time, before you learn to play a tune.

The three bass chords – GDC – are easy to play,

and once you have mastered them, you can progress to a simple tune that you know. The wonderful thing about the melodeon is that it is hard to be wrong on the left hand.

The Suzuki method of teaching music in Japan, where the teacher plays single notes which the student copies, is brilliant for the melodeon. With any instrument, muscle memory is the ultimate goal and you will soon sense which fingers to use without looking at the keyboard, like a touch typist.

I have never gone down the route of learning to read music, but many traditional players and singers in the past were not able to read or write, but were able to play and sing all night without any musical notation.

Always happy to have a chat on the phone about melodeons – Steve Gill 01803 290427

**AS YOU'D expect, John Kirkpatrick (pictured) has a top class instrument for every occasion. But you can start off more modestly, as Steve Gill explains.**

**QUESTION: What is a good starter melodeon and what is the best box for Morris?**

**ANSWER:** Hohner Erica with rounded edges is my favourite, also the Hohner Pokerwork is a good box and loud for Morris and sessions.

**QUESTION: Which keys should I go for?**

**ANSWER:** D/G is the best for English tunes. C/F is good for accompanying songs and B/C for Irish music. A/D/G are the best keys for Scottish tunes but the three rows make the box heavier.

**Question: Where can I buy a box in Devon?**

**ANSWER:** The website [www.flaxey-green.co.uk](http://www.flaxey-green.co.uk) often has adverts for instruments on sale. Nigel Sture (The Concertina Doctor) from Frogmore repairs both concertinas and melodeons and often has boxes for sale. See his advert on page 10. Hobgoblin Music Store is a good starting point if you want to buy a new instrument.

**QUESTION: How much would I expect to pay?**

**ANSWER:** A second-hand Hohner £200 - £600 and a new one £600 and up.

**QUESTION: Where do I go to learn tunes?**

**ANSWER:** Go along to a local Morris side or a session and ask if you can record them playing. I am sure they will be delighted to assist.



**In the previous issue of What's Afoot, we published the obituary of Ivor Hyde, the West Country's well known band leader and accordion repairer. This inspired these memories from a friend and his son, Steve**

*IAIN BRYDEN WRITES:* Following the excellent account of Ivor's life in the last edition of What's Afoot, I wanted to convey both the sadness and appreciation of all those aficionados of free-reed instruments, across the South-west and elsewhere, who benefited from Ivor's work as a tuner and repairer.

I know I speak on behalf of all who came to rely on Ivor's expertise and who, as is often the way with human nature, held the delusion that he would be there for ever. Alas, it was not to be.

Nevertheless, what a career! A career of fastidious attention to detail, enjoyment of difficult jobs eg reed "transplants" and amazing tolerance of some very dodgy instruments, (not the owners of course) and all the quirks of the accordion world. As for melodeons...

Many of us also shared those great moments when Ivor played us a tune in his front room, often in a style that we hadn't known before, such as French/Belgian musette – music which Ivor played at Center Parcs on occasions.

Then there was the real presence of Jimmy Shand, his hero and mine. We shared Ivor's pride in having played alongside Jimmy at the latter's home in Fife. Ivor owned a Shand Morino instrument – his pride and joy (see the picture below).

Dancers will join me in this tribute, with many



happy memories of Ivor and Holly's music around the local clubs. So thank you, Ivor, for your skill, dedication and courtesy, which we and your family will continue to treasure.

**Ivor's Shand surprised Jimmy**

**STEVE HYDE WRITES:** Father's most played and cherished instrument was his Hohner Shand Morino.

It's a three row chromatic C or Continental system with a Stradella bass. He bought it from Bells of Surbiton who allegedly had six of them manufactured at the Hohner factory as a special order..

Father's instrument and one other stayed in the UK with two going to the USA

and the other two elsewhere.

He was amused that when he showed Jimmy Shand the accordion, Jimmy was not aware that Hohner had made any C System instruments.

The photo shows father's hand playing that Shand Morino.

Playing for dances in his later years, he used a Beltuna as it had a MIDI bass fitted.



# folk music & song at topsham folk club

[www.topshamfolkclub.org](http://www.topshamfolkclub.org)

Matthews Hall • Fore Street  
Topsham EX3 0HF

## Celebrating Sue and Sheila

Coming soon - A special evening of music and song to remember our much missed friends Sue Mentz and Sheila Stephens. More details to follow..

## spring concerts 2022

### Nick Hart

Sunday  
6 February  
8pm - £14

### Leveret

Sunday  
6 March  
8pm - £16

### Gigspanner Big Band

Sunday 22 May  
8pm - £20

### Spiers & Boden

Sunday 26 June  
8pm - £20



[www.nickhartmusic.co.uk](http://www.nickhartmusic.co.uk)



[www.leveretband.com](http://www.leveretband.com)



[www.gigspanner.com](http://www.gigspanner.com)



[www.spiersandboden.com](http://www.spiersandboden.com)

++ SINGERS' NIGHTS ++ **Our singers' nights are running most Tuesdays** - upstairs in Matthews Hall council chamber from 7.45pm to 10.15pm. Please bring your own drink and £1 contribution. Tunes session 7.30pm. Singers from 7.45pm. Arrive by 7.45pm to book a slot if you'd like to perform. Non-performers are always most welcome. **On the following Tuesdays we're online at Topsham Folkvid: 25 January, 22 February, 22 March & 26 April** Please note on Tuesday 8 February our singers' night will be in the main hall. We hope to return to the Bridge Inn for Tuesday singers' nights later in 2022.

Our **monthly** (mainly English) instrumental **session** is also currently meeting upstairs at Matthews Hall on the **first Monday: 3 January, 7 February, 7 March & 4 April** from 8pm- 10pm

**Charity Night - Sunday 23 January at 7.45pm in the main hall. Free entry**  
- Live music - CD sale - folk quiz

Buy concert tickets online at [www.topshamfolkclub.org](http://www.topshamfolkclub.org)  
or Matthews Hall Café - open Tuesday to Friday 10am to 3pm  
& Saturday mornings 8am to 1pm

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