

What's Afoot

No 127 Summer
July-Sept 2022



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THAT'S GOING
ROUND THE
WORLD**

**MORRIS REACHES
NEW HEIGHTS
PLUS
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WHAT'S ON WHERE,
CD REVIEWS,
NEWS AND
VIEWS**



Official magazine
of **Devon Folks**
dance song music morris

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SOME GREAT CONCERTS COMING UP AS PART OF THE EXCITING FOLK SERIES IN DARTMOUTH'S HIGHLY RATED ARTS CENTRE. TICKETS. AVAILABLE ON 01803 839530 OR ONLINE AT WWW.THEFLAVEL.ORG

SATURDAY 8TH OCTOBER 2022 AT 7:30

KATHRYN ROBERTS AND SEAN LAKEMAN

Kathryn Roberts and Sean Lakeman have long established themselves as one of the UK folk scene's most rewardingly enduring partnerships with a story that includes 25 years of music making. The Dartmoor-based husband and wife team have twice won the coveted 'best duo' title at the BBC Radio Two Folk Awards consistently delivering assured, diverse performances as evidenced by their most recent album released in 2020, *On Reflections*. The evening promises a whistle-stop tour through their artistic journey to date from their early days as members of folk supergroup 'Equation' to their most recent exceptionally well received work.

SUNDAY 23RD OCTOBER 2022 AT 7:30PM

FAIRPORT CONVENTION

Folk at the Flavel are proud to welcome to the Flavel the band credited with launching folk rock in the UK and one of the most iconic bands of any genre, *Fairport Convention*. *Need we say more!*
Tickets are going fast so booking asap is strongly recommended

SATURDAY 26TH NOVEMBER 2022 AT 7:30PM

GIGSPANNER

The final date for the 2022 Folk at the Flavel series sees the return of the legendary fiddle player Peter Knight, founder member of folk-rock pioneers Steeleye Span with his band, Gigspanner, now firmly established as one of the most innovative acts on the folk scene. Peter Knight's virtuoso fiddle playing is complemented by the flawless playing of Roger Flack on guitar and Sacha Trochet on hand drums and percussion. Gigspanner's two previous appearances at the Flavel very quickly sold out so be sure to get your tickets soon!

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Message from our President

WE ARE proud to announce that Jim Causley has agreed to become the new president of Devon Folk. He writes: "It is a great honour to have been invited to be the president of Devon Folk. I am very passionate about the traditional music, song, dance, dialect and folk customs of Devon and I hope by bringing my passion and active involvement on the Devon folk scene to 'Devon Folk' it will help the organisation in its mission to spread the love, enjoyment and awareness of our county's rich folk culture and heritage to an ever wider audience."

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Globetrotting guitar comes to Devon

Gareth Hedges hosts an instrument that is travelling around the world as a tribute to a legendary performer

FOR years Devon guitarist Gareth Hedges has travelled the world, performing in the United States, Australia, New Zealand and Europe. Now the world has come to him in the shape of a guitar that is being passed from player to player round the globe.

The “Around the World in 80 Plays” project is being run in memory of Bert Jansch, the legendary guitarist and member of Pentangle who shook up the folk music world in the Sixties. He died at the age of 67 in 2011 but his musical legacy is being perpetuated by the Bert Jansch Foundation which is sending the guitar to nominated players. They are asked to video a tribute to Bert, sign the guitar and pass it on.

When the guitar arrived at Gareth’s home near Tavistock, it had already been signed by a number of fine players but the name that caught his eye was that of Richard Thompson, co-founder of Fairport Convention and writer of such folk club standards as *Down Where the Drunkards Roll*, *Vincent Black Lightning* and *Beeswing*.

“What an honour it was to sign my name next to his,” said Gareth.

Countless guitarists have been influenced by Bert’s records but Gareth actually knew the man. Back in the Sixties, the teenage Gareth was living just outside London and having become obsessed by the guitar, he haunted the city’s folk clubs where Bert and other future stars such as Martin Carthy and John Renbourn and particularly Davy Graham were refining their art.

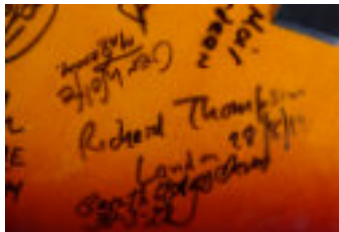
“It was wonderful to sit in a pub or a coffee bar with perhaps



as few as a dozen other people and see artists like Bert and Martin up close, not crammed into a big concert hall,” said Gareth. “When I first saw Bert, he was playing in so many different styles: blues, folk, jazz, American and British songs. It inspired me to look in many different musical directions and to bring as many different styles as possible into my own playing.”

This is evident now when you see Gareth in concert or in a folk club. His repertoire ranges from arrangements of folk tunes such as *The May Day* collected in Devon by Baring-Gould to old-timey American songs to jazz standards from the Thirties.

Bert was a very private man but Gareth got to know him reasonably well and often frequented Bert’s guitar shop in London to spend many happy



WELL PLACED: Gareth’s signature just below Richard Thompson’s

WHY are people going to all this trouble to celebrate Bert Jansch? The answer is that his first album, recorded in the kitchen of a north London flat on a reel-to-reel tape recorder in 1964, sent shockwaves through the music world that are still felt today. And that first LP was just a glorious start to a glorious career. His version of Davy Graham's tune *Angi* has become a benchmark for guitarists. He has inspired generations of guitarists – not just folkies. Neil Young reveres him and recorded Bert's song *Needle Of Death*. Jimmy Page of Led Zeppelin owes him a huge debt for the track *Black Mountain Side*. Johnny Marr of The Smiths and Bernard Butler of Suede regard him as a genius and have recorded tributes for the Bert Jansch Foundation. If you don't know him, check him out now!



hours playing with him and swapping ideas about songs and arrangements.

There was a very strong American influence in Bert's playing and Gareth had a chance to get close to the source when he began working as a road manager for various American artists who were visiting Britain in the Sixties. They included Buffy St Marie, who wrote *Universal Soldier* which was a hit for Donovan, and Bill Monroe, the father of bluegrass.

Bill wrote *Blue Moon Of Kentucky* which, in highly rocked up version, became a huge hit for Elvis Presley. Gareth once asked Bill what he thought of the Elvis version. Bill smiled and said: "I likes the cheques." ("I likes" is not a misprint but a Kentucky colloquialism.)

Later Gareth went to America and Bill was happy to use him as a roadie over there. This led to a number of roadying jobs for American musicians, interspersed with concerts and performances across the States.

One of his clients in the States was the blind guitarist Reverend Gary Davis, whom he had first worked for in England.

Davis was sensitive about his condition and would never talk about his blindness. It's said he carried a gun, saying that if he needed it, God

would tell him where to aim. We asked Gareth if this was true. "He certainly carried a gun. I don't know if he ever used it."

In the Thirties, Davis was deeply religious and would sing only religious songs. "In later life, when I was on the road with him, he would open up a little and sing songs like *Cocaine Blues* or even songs like *I Met A Little Girl And She Wouldn't Say Quit* – but only if his wife wasn't there.

"He lived in New York and even though he had made enough money to buy a house in Queens Even in the Sixties, he would still sing in the streets."

THE American experiences certainly paid off for Gareth. Dartmoor entertainer Bill Murray's tastes are firmly set for British music – preferably Devon music – but he has confessed: "I like American music the way Gareth plays it. In fact, I prefer the way he does it to a lot of the originals."

Gareth has been settled in Devon for many years now but has been touring abroad regularly.

He was very pleased when Bert Jansch's musical collaborator John Renbourn moved to Devon to study composition at Dartington

THE guitar going round the world is a Yamaha LL-TA Transacoustic model. Bert Jansch played Yamaha guitars for a long time and this was one of his favourite models.

Yamaha helped him set up his guitar

shop in London that Gareth Hedges often frequented and presented him with a guitar to play on stage. That groundbreaking first LP was recorded using a borrowed guitar as Bert didn't have one at the time

College. They had become friends in London and the friendship deepened in Devon. They sometimes travelled to London together to see Bert play.

As his tribute to Bert, Gareth chose to play *The Cuckoo*, a song that began life in Elizabethan England and moved to the States where it became Americanised. One of the most famous recordings was by the Tennessee banjo player Clarence Ashley and Gareth picked up his version while roading for him in Britain.

Bert recorded an English version of the song on the Pentangle LP *Sweet Child* but Gareth said: "I chose an American tune because I wanted to emphasise the importance of American music to Bert. He could play an American song and somehow give it a British feel then play an English or Scottish song and give it a transatlantic twist. It was something I really admired and found inspiring."

His video (guitar players, take note: there is a close-up on his left hand fingering when he plays his solo) can now be found on the Bert Jansch Foundation website or you can follow a link on the What's Afoot Facebook page.

As What's Afoot went to press, the guitar was being passed on to Devon duo Graham and Gail Harvey. Who knows where this globe-trotting guitar will wind up next?

You can find out more about Gareth and his forthcoming concerts on his website, www.garethhedges.com



ON THE ROAD AGAIN: The travelling guitar goes to Graham and Gail Harvey

Teignmouth Folk Club
The Brass, Hollands Road
Teignmouth TQ14 8ST
First Monday in the Month
8pm Free admission

Monday 6th June
Musicians/Singers Open Night

Monday 4th July – Guest Night
The Back Beach Boyz

Monday 1st August
Musicians/Singers Open Night

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



The Joiners Arms
Market Place, Bideford, EX30 2DR

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

June 6th Guest Night
Na-Mara
October 6th Guest Night
Sally Ironmonger & Brian Carter

Website: www.bidefordfolkclub.com

John Purser
01237 424286
bidefolk@gmail.com

There's plenty to do in Devon this summer

CHAGSTOCK FESTIVAL

Friday 22 July to Saturday 23

CHAGFORD'S big event is mostly rock and pop but you can still find the odd folk act here and there such as Flats & Sharps, a bluegrass band from Penzance.
chagstock.info

DARTINGTON SUMMER MUSIC SCHOOL AND FESTIVAL

Saturday 23 July to Friday 19 August

This festival has a strong classical and early music bias but folk creeps in during week two with performances from bands such as Leveret. And Eliza Carthy makes an appearance in week three, which is supposed to have a more jazzy feel.

See dartington.org for details

SIDMOUTH FOLK WEEK.

Friday 29 July to Friday 5 August

LAST year the lack of camping meant a lot of punters from outside the county were put off coming. Regulars complained they weren't meeting up with old friends as they usually did.

This year it's business as normal with a line-up that includes Fisherman's Friends, Steeleye Span, Kate Rusby and Show of Hands. Of course, the festival would not be complete without our own Jim Causley and Bill Murray who will be flying the Devon flag..

Sunday is an important day for some with massed morris sides performing on the front then the Sidmouth Horse Trials where fantastic beasts ranging from hobby horses to seagulls and dinosaurs, will compete for the Aardman Award.

sidmouthfolkfestival.co.uk



NIGHT MARE: Watch out for fantasĈc beasts in Sidmouth at the fesĈval's horse trials on Sunday July 31

DARTMOOR FOLK FESTIVAL

Friday 5 to Sunday 7

August 2022

LAST year's festival was a quieter affair, merged with Zale Fair. This year the festival is back with a bang, although some tickets have been limited due to venue capacity and all the weekend tickets have already sold out.

However, there are plenty of events for which you don't need a weekend ticket. You can just turn up and make a donation on the

day (subject to venue capacity). These include the famous Step Dance and Broom Dance workshops, song and music sessions, Grand Dart-i-moor Fayre and the Sunday afternoon Showcase to mention just a few. There is also a large free carpark.

dartmoorfolkfestival.org.uk

LYME FOLK WEEKEND.

Friday 2 September to Sunday 4

DEVON'S own Seth Lakeman is topping the bill at this festival just over the border in Lyme Regis, Dorset.

www.lymefolk.com

TEIGN SHANTY FESTIVAL.

Not this year. Next fesĈval Friday 8 to Sunday 10 September 2023

www.teignshantylfestival.co.uk

SALCOMBE LIVE FESTIVAL

Friday 7 to Sunday 9 October 2022

The line-up is still being arranged for this festival. We will give more details in the next issue.

salcombe-live.co.uk

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Devon Telecom

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

Morris dancing hits dizzy heights



PEAK EXPERIENCE: Fay Young, right, and her daughter Zay in morris tailers on top of Ben Nevis

We look at folkies raising funds for good causes with activities ranging from an epic trek to a singing marathon and a dance-out for Ukraine

FAY Young has gone one better than Will Kemp by topping off an arduous nine-day trek with a morris dance on top of a mountain.

Admittedly, Fay didn't dance all the whole distance but Will's way, from London to Norwich, is a lot easier than her chosen route: The West Highland Way, 97 miles of rugged, rocky terrain.

After eight days of slog, she arrived at Fort William and on the ninth day strode up Ben Nevis and still had the energy to perform a spritely Cuckoo's Nest.

Fay, 61, a mother of three and grandmother of seven, is a member of Wreckers Border Morris. It's based in Cornwall but can truly claim to be a border side as its membership is drawn from both sides of the Tamar.

This year, Wreckers' chosen charity is SUDEP Action, an organisation that aims to raise awareness of sudden death in epilepsy. These are cases when a person with epilepsy dies suddenly

and prematurely and no reason for death is found.

SUDEP Action is a cause close to Fay's heart: her only son Jamal was just 26 when he went to sleep one night and never woke up, leaving his partner Donna and their two young sons.

To raise money for SUDEP Action, Fay has put her best foot forward twice before: "In 2015 I walked the whole 630 miles South West Coast path and as the pandemic eased, I set off from St Bees in Cumbria and walked Wainwright's Coast to Coast path, 92 miles across England to Robin Hood Bay in Yorkshire." But this was her first journey to include a morris dance. This was a thank-you to Wreckers for the side's support for her charity.

She was accompanied by fellow Wrecker, Cheryl Varley. Cheryl managed the hike to Fort William but aggravated an old ankle injury, the bane of morris dancers, so she wisely decided not to attempt the ascent of Ben Nevis on the

ninth day, June 4 (she did climb Nevis two days later). This day had been chosen for the climb as it was the anniversary of Jamal's death in 2013. Fortunately, Fay's daughter Zay, who lives at Wotter on Dartmoor, had come up to Scotland for the big day and, being a dancer with Catseye, she was able to accompany Fay on the five-hour ascent and dance in Cheryl's tatters.

A film of the performance shows the pair were risking life and limb, dancing on such a rock strewn surface but they were lucky – or extremely skilful – and no dancers were harmed in the making of this video. You can find the

video on the What's Afoot Facebook page – along with a link for making a donation to Sudep. At the time What's Afoot went to press, Fay had raised £895, well over her £500 target, with much more promised.

Fay says the worst part of the journey was scrambling over the nineteen and a half miles of rocks around Loch Lomond (so much for the bonny banks celebrated in song). "It was up and down, up and down all day," says Fay, "We got to the campsite about half past nine at night." The best part: "Finishing the trek. It was a real high getting into Fort William."

Music marathon marches on

PHYSICALLY, Tony Golding-Cook's marathon is not quite as demanding as Fay's (see story above) but it's lasted longer. In January last year, he began a 100-song challenge, posting a folk song or tune a week on Facebook to raise money for BASICS Devon – a team of volunteer Ambulance Doctors who offer their services 24/7 to support our amazing paramedics in Devon.

As What's Afoot went to press, Tony had reached song 70 and raised more than £600 to help the medics, all senior clinicians who have had extensive specialist training in the challenging area of pre-hospital emergency medicine. They are supported and partly equipped by the South Western Ambulance Service NHS Foundation Trust but provide their expertise and time on a voluntary basis.

Tony knows their work well because, although he is the Fool for Dartmoor Border Morris, in civilian life he is Dr Golding-Cook with a string of medical qualifications too long to note here and, in addition to being a GP, is also a member of the BASICS team. Like his colleagues he could be called out to an emergency anywhere in Devon at any moment and is an approved blue-light



response driver with a car equipped with specialist medical equipment and life-saving drugs.

He is a well qualified doctor but makes no claim to being a great singer. But the songs he has chosen are those of the people and his homespun delivery certainly gets them across. They range from shanties such as *Blow The Man Down* and *Blood Red Roses* to more tender songs such as *She Moved Through The Fair* and *Once I Had A True Love*. There are also morris tunes (he plays melodeon) including *Ring Of Bells*. Check him out on Facebook (search for Medics For Morris) and learn more about his good cause.

So if you see Dartmoor Border Morris in action with a medic in a green uniform watching intently, it's not because one of them might have a heart attack at any moment. It's Dr Golding-Cook taking a moment or two to enjoy his side's dancing while on standby for a call that could save someone's life.

So donate if you can, because it might be your emergency he and his colleagues next rush to.

www.totalgiving.co.uk/donate/basics-devon
or www.justgiving.com/basics-devon

Helping a charity? Email devonfolkeditor@gmail.com about it

Charitable Folk

Plymouth-based side The Old Town Twelves were very quick off the mark to support the embattled people of Ukraine, organising an afternoon of dance on Saturday April 2 outside the city's Dolphin pub. We applaud their efforts and we'll let their Facebook posting speak for itself.



Old Town Twelves with Harberton Navy & Black Bess Border raised £370 for DEC Ukraine



Thank you to the Dolphin pub for hosting



AND FINALLY: Colin Andrews, the former editor of *What's Afoot*, tells us that he has recently acquired a large number of folk dance EPs LPs and books and has put these up for sale on his website www.bonnygreen.uk/sales.html with proceeds going to Air Ambulance charity, another cause well worth support ng.

Song

Trad singers reunited at Halsway

BILL CRAWFORD and Rosie Upton's traditional song weekend made a welcome return to even more enjoyable because we could stay in the newly refurbished facilities. It was great to be meeting up again with old friends and making new ones, doing the thing we most enjoy.

The highlight of the weekend was hearing Dave Webber and Anni Fentiman deliver their fascinating presentation *Of Whales and Men*, a history of the changed relationship in words and song which they first presented at the Mystic sea music festival, USA.

Not only did they have some spectacular photographs but it was also a fascinating subject and full of interesting facts and of course interspersed with familiar songs.

A great favourite of the weekend is *Desert*

Island Discs which this year was expertly hosted by Rosie Upton with Dave and Anni's selection. It is always fascinating to hear what songs from the source singers influenced their early years. Another light-hearted fun session with Bill and Rosie challenging the special guests to a folk quiz, an event that tends to be quite competitive.

Steve Gill was honoured to be asked to run the Saturday night session.

A very well organised residential weekend thanks to Penny, Bill and Rosie and in previous years Meg Rose. We are looking forward to next year when hopefully Judy & Dennis Cook will be part of the weekend which will be run on March 11-13. Information will go on the Halsway website in September or October.

Anne Gill

We look forward to welcoming you to

Brixham Folk Club

We meet at 7.30pm on the 1st Friday of every month at
The Edge, Bolton Street
Brixham, TQ5 9DH

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 with any queries



FOLK ON THE MOOR
at
The Exchange, Ivybridge



GUEST LIST

- 26 Jun Steve Tilston**
10 Jul Richard Grainger
17 Jul Winter Wilson
Club closed in August
4 Sep Jez Lowe
25 Sep Craig & Willoughby
9 Oct Demon Barbers

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

Drake's Drum

Words: Henry Newbolt

Tune © Heather Wood

Drake he's in his ham-mock an' a thou-sand miles a-way
Cap-tain art thou sleep-in' there be-low? Slung a-tween the
round shot in Nem-bre Di-os Bay, an' dream-in' all the
time o' Ply-mouth Ho- Yon-der limes the is-land,
yon-der lie the ships - W' sai-lor lads a-danc-in' heel an'
toe an' the shore-lights flash-in' an' the
night tide dash in' He sees it all so
plain-ly as he saw it long a-go.

Chords: G, C, D, Em, C, D, G, C, Am, D, G, C, D, C, D, Am, Em, G, D, C, G, Am, D, Em, C, D

Beating the drum for Armada's hero

OUR latest song comes courtesy of Heather Wood, once a member of the legendary Young Tradition, the vocal trio who, back in the Sixties took a capella harmony folk singing in a new and exciting direction.

The poem *Drake's Drum*, written by Henry Newbolt in 1897, has been set to music many times by many different musicians but Heather's tune is our favourite. It is so much in the tradition that it often gets labelled "trad". Jim Causley did not fall into this trap and credited Heather when he recorded it on his recent *Devonia* double album (see What's Afoot 126 for a review of Jim's splendid collection of Devon songs).

Years ago Newbolt's poem was drummed into generations of schoolchildren but I fear it is likely to have faded from the curriculum. It commemorates the death of Sir Francis Drake during his ill-fated expedition to seize Spanish gold. A raid on Puerto Rico failed and the hero

of the defeat of the Armada died of dysentery off the coast of Panama.



The replica drum

But his legend lives on (although tarnished by his part in the slave trade), particularly the hope that if England is in peril his fighting spirit can be summoned up beating his drum. Drake is said to have taken the drum, emblazoned with his coat of arms, on his voyages around the world between 1577 and 1580. It was reportedly with him for his final voyage and as he lay on his death bed in 1596, it is alleged that he ordered the drum to be returned to

England, where in times of trouble it should be beaten to recall him from heaven to come to his country's aid.

A replica of the drum can be seen in Drake's former home, Buckland Abbey (the real one is safely stored away in climate controlled conditions). Legends have sprung up around the

Con't nued on Page 14

Heather Wood and The Young Tradition

THE Young Tradition lasted only from 1965 to 1969 yet the group's impact on the folk scene was huge and can still be felt today.

Heather Wood, Royston Wood (no relation) and Peter Bellamy made their mark despite competition from Bob Dylan, Donovan, Dave Swarbrick, Martin Carthy and Fairport Convention. It was astonishing that three unaccompanied singers could summon up the energy of a rock band. I was lucky enough to see them twice at close quarters at the Toad Hall Folk Club in Ilford and was blown away.

Just an old man's rose-tinted memory? No. Let's focus on one lasting change they made to the folk scene. They not only brought to prominence Cyril Tawney's *Chicken On A Raft*, they also made a vital change. Originally Cyril sang it to a steady beat but the YT decided to extend the line "Dabtoes forward and the dustmen aft" so they could drag out a glorious chord on the word "aft".

This change was avidly embraced by the

folk world, if not its creator. I have read that Cyril was bemused by the change but it became so popular that eventually he decided to go along with it and recorded it that way.

On the internet's Mudcat Forum there is a posting from someone called Gurney: "I was a member of Cyril's club for a couple of years when I lived in Plymouth, and I once asked him what he thought of the Young Tradition's way of holding that note. He replied that he didn't care, "just as long as they sing it".

Heather was born in Yorkshire and is now in the US but lived in Sticklepath for a while. "I spent some time there in (around) 1963-4, in a house called Pixie's Garden, where Mrs Tarry and her son Peter bred dogs, salukis and cocker spaniels. Forty dogs – but the house had 14 rooms. We also had a lamb who thought he was a dog. Fine until he would jump onto your lap – very pointed little hooves."

For another Heather story, see page 15

Drake's Drum by Henry Newbolt

Drake he's in his hammock an' a thousand mile
away,

(Capten, art tha sleepin' there below?)

Slung atween the round shot in Nombre Dios
Bay,

An' dreamin' arl the time o' Plymouth Hoe.

Yarnder lumes the island, yarnder lie the ships,

Wi' sailor lads a-dancin' heel-an'-toe,

An' the shore-lights flashin', an' the night-tide
dashin'

He sees et arl so plainly as he saw et long ago.

Drake he was a Devon man, an' ruled the
Devon seas,

(Capten, art tha sleepin' there below?),

Rovin' tho' his death fell, he went wi' heart at
ease,

An' dreamin' arl the time o' Plymouth Hoe,

"Take my drum to England, hang et by the
shore,

Strike et when your powder's runnin' low;
If the Dons sight Devon, I'll quit the port o'
Heaven,

An' drum them up the Channel as we drummed
them long ago."

Drake he's in his hammock till the great
Armadas come,

(Capten, art tha sleepin' there below?),

Slung atween the round shot, listenin' for the
drum,

An' dreamin' arl the time o' Plymouth Hoe.

Call him on the deep sea, call him up the
Sound,

Call him when ye sail to meet the foe;

Where the old trade's plyin' an' the old flag
flyin',

They shall find him, ware an' wakin', as they
found him long ago.

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 13

drum, not only that it could recall Drake but it is also said to beat by itself at times of national peril or victory. Brixham fishermen claimed to have heard the drum beating during the Napoleonic Wars. Soldiers on the beaches during the Dunkirk evacuation also claimed to hear a drumming, although no drums or drummers were present. Some believe this was a sign that Drake was right there with them, fighting for England.

A story from World War One alleges that drumming was heard at Scapa Flow when the German fleet surrendered.

Newbolt picked up this legend and put it into his famous verse. He was a Staffordshire man, wrote his poem in what he believed was Devon dialect with lines such as "Capten, art tha sleepin' there below?"

Dartmoor singer and devotee of our dialect, Bill Murray, had this to say about Newbolt's attempt to be authentic: "Not a lot of dialect in the poem. He tries to produce a Devon accent on word that would probably not have been used eg 'lumes' and 'Take my drum to England' should be followed by 'ang een by tha shore' I reckon.

"I read that Henry was a student at Clifton College. Perhaps he picked up a bit of West Country dialect there."

We give you Newbolt's poem as he wrote it and will let you decide how to sing it. Jim

Causley sings it quite straight but it still sounds really Devonian (mind you, I have heard Jim sing a song from the other side of the country — from the Norfolk village of St Just near Trunch *The Ivy And The Holly*— and it sounds totally Devonian).

Newbolt also gets the details wrong about Drake's burial at sea, claiming that the hero was sewn up in his hammock with a cannonball at his head and his feet to weigh him down. However, this was the fate of the common sailor — if he was lucky. If he fell in battle then his body might just be pushed over the side to get it out of the way. There was no time for sentiment.

NO SUCH end for Drake. He was cast into the deep wearing full armour and in a lead coffin. Back in 2011, Pat Croce, the owner of a pirate museum in Florida, claimed he was close to locating Drake's coffin. He said he had found the remains of two ships, the Elizabeth and the Delight, at the bottom of Portobelo Bay. They were scuttled shortly after Drake's death.

"This is absolutely a dream come true — to find the ships of the most successful pirate in history," Mr Croce said at the time.

But more than 10 years on the coffin still eludes him and other searchers. As the Spaniards discovered, you can't catch Sir Francis Drake that easily.

Did Gwendolyn ride the Grey Mare or is this tale a load of Tom Cobleys?

“SO THEY taught you Widdecombe Fair at school – but I bet you don’t know the verse about Gwendolyn.”

This cryptic remark from a lorry driver has puzzled Heather Wood for well over half a century. Can any of our readers solve the riddle?

Heather, who kindly gave us her setting of Drake’s Drum as this issue’s Devon Song, was a member of legendary folk trio The Young Tradition. She recalls that back in the Sixties, she and her fellow YT member, Peter Bellamy, the Norfolk folk singer, were hitch-hiking from London to St Ives for a gig (in those far-off days so many artists had to thumb a ride to the next gig).

“We were picked up by a lorry somewhere near Exeter, and as we were driving, we saw the signpost to Widdecombe. ‘Oh,’ said we, ‘Widdecombe Fair song.’

“The driver asked if we knew it, and I said I’d learned it at school.”

“‘Ah,’ said he, ‘But I bet they never taught you the verse about Gwendolyn.’ ‘Gwendolyn?’ said we. ‘Ah, and Bill Brewer etc...’”

But the ride came to an end without the driver divulging the verse about Gwendolyn.

Heather has been living in New York for years so doesn’t have many opportunities to get down to Devon and find the missing verse so I offered to help. The obvious person to try was Dartmoor entertainer Bill Murray who has been collecting Devon songs for years. But the question stumped him so I put it to the excellent Devonshire Dialect Facebook page.

Members were intrigued and wanted to hear the missing verse but were unable to help.

“Perhaps an unrepeatable trucker’s version or a raunchy rugby song?” suggested Alan Endacott.

Tony Gale pointed me towards Dr Todd Gray’s book, *Uncle Tom Cobley and All*. Dr Gray, a research fellow at the University of Exeter, is an authority on Devon history and could be seen as a cultural exchange for Heather. While she went off to become an American citizen, Dr Gray, who was born in New England, came to Devon on a school trip in 1973 and fell in love with the county. He earned a PhD at the University of Exeter in 1988 and in 1992 became a Fellow of the Royal Historical Society.

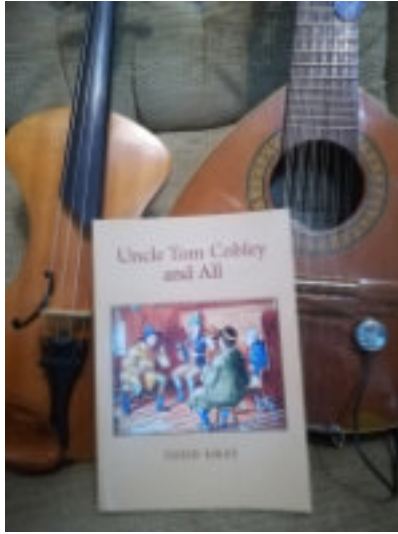
In 2006, he became a British citizen and in 2014 was awarded an MBE or voluntary services to Devon’s history.

You may remember that in 2006 he caused quite a stir by claiming that a 16th-century document proved that the Cornish pasty was in fact invented in Devon as early as 1460.

His book, *Uncle Tom Cobley And All*, also stirred up a bit of fuss by suggesting that the song *Widdicombe Fair* was not particularly

associated with Widdecombe but was much older than the version that Sabine Baring-Gould printed (misspelling the village name on the way) and was known by various names across Devon and beyond.

Dr Gray’s research is extensive, painstaking and fascinating – although it may upset the good folk of Widdecombe. I would commend it to anyone interested in the folklore of this county, particularly because he has gathered 57 versions of the song, including the one that Kenneth



THOROUGH: Dr Todd Gray’s guide to the many versions of *Widdecombe Fair*



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Seth Lakeman



Spiers & Boden



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Janice Burns and Jon Doran • Rosie Hood Trio
The Undoing of Polly Button • many more...

NEW SITE: **Castle Park, Warwick, CV34 6AX**

www.warwickfolkfestival.co.uk

A Devon Song

Williams sang as Rambling Syd Rumpo on Round the Horne in 1967: The Terrible Tale Of the Somerset Nog.

Baring-Gould's version became so popular it obscured the fact that the song had been sung at Tavistock Fair, Barnstaple Fair and many other local variations. It also gave rise to a huge number of rewrites. The song has been adapted for use in parliamentary and local election campaigns and for advertising whisky, Guinness, Shell oil and other goods.

It was altered for singing on the battlefields of both world wars and at sea. One version goes: "Now we have a good ship and her name's The Defence, All along, down along over the Sea." It was even recast as a work song for the men hauling sledges over the ice and snow during Scott's 1901 polar expedition. It has even been translated into Spanish and French.

The cast of characters that appear in the alternative versions is rich indeed and includes many females. To mention just a few, there are Aunt Mary and "my lover Miss Brewer (*Tavistock Fair*), Jumping Joan and Mrs Ap Richard plus a lot of other wives (*The Beggars of Ratcliffe Fair*), Old Mother Bags o' Balls

(Widlicombe Fair) and Sally Levi, Scotch Lil and Fat Alice (*The Somerset Nog*) but no Gwendolyn that I was able to find.

I may have missed it or it is more likely that the Gwendolyn verse was so local that it has escaped the notice of even the most diligent collectors.

So if anyone does know a Gwendolyn verse that dates back to the Sixties and before, we'd be very glad to hear from you. I realise this is almost an open invitation to "fakeloreists" to invent their own Gwendolyn verses. If you do come up with some such verses, send them in, but please mark them as "Tom Cobblers". There is enough confusion around this subject already.

Unfortunately there is a strong possibility that Alan Endacott is right and the missing Gwendolyn version is an unrepeatable lorry driver's version so even if I did receive it, I wouldn't be able to print it – at least not in What's Afoot.

John Foxen

● Dr Todd Gray's fascinating book *Uncle Tom Cobley and All* is available from stevensbooks.co.uk, price £9.99

Can you find her at the Fair?

WIDECOMBE Fair is back this year after its covid break and as always will be on the second Tuesday in September – this year, Tuesday 13.

We can't guarantee that you will find a Gwendolyn there but it's a safe bet that you will have a good time if you enjoy a real traditional Dartmoor fair. A full day of ring events starts at 9.30am with horse judging in the Main Ring and finishing up in Ring 5 with the Tug-o'-War at 7pm.

And there will of course be plenty of music, both in the main tent, the village green and in the garden of the Rugglestone Inn, just a short walk away. As What's Afoot went to press the musical line-up for the day had not been finalised but you are more than likely to hear fine tunes and songs from Jim Causley, Bill Murray, banjo wizard Rob Murch and concertina player Geoff Lakeman (father of the slightly more famous Seth, Sam and Sean).

There will also be displays and songs from old favourites,

Dartmoor Border Morris, whose distinctive tatters mirror the earth, grass and sky of the moor. For something out of the ordinary you could even try your hand at morris dancing. Just ask the Dartmoor Border boys and girls to teach you Tinnars' Rabbits, their introductory dance.

But if Morris dancing is a bit tame for your adventurous tastes then you could try your hand at some of the fair's extreme sports such as hay bale tossing or the Tug-o'-war or risk life and limb in the Uncle Tom Cobley Downhill Race.

There is a good chance you will see Uncle Tom Cobley and his grey mare at the fair.

As for Gwendolyn, if you do meet one it might not be a good idea to ask her: "Are you the one that all those lorry drivers sing the naughty verses about?" You might get more than you bargained for.

For more details, see www.widcombefair.com



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

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 changes by club organisers or because of unforeseen events.

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

Exeter Folk & Acoustic Music Club

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

NO CLUB NIGHT IN JULY - SUMMER BREAK

Friday 26 th August	Open Club Night
Friday 9 th September	Concert Night: SI BARRON
Friday 30 th September	Open Club Night
Friday 14 th October	Concert Night: JIM CAUSLEY
Friday 28 th October	Open Club Night

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

Folk song clubs and sessions are some mes forced to change venue at short noī ce. See www.devonfolk.org for updates.

AWLISCOMBE NR HONITON

2nd Wednesday Jurrassic Folk Honiton Inn Awliscombe, EX14 3PJ. 8pm 01404 549903 or 01404 43429

BIDEFORD

Thursday. Bideford Folk Club* Joiners Arms – John Purser 01237 424286 or email bidefolk@gmail.com. See advert on Page 14

BISHOPSTEIGNTON

Wednesday 7.30pm. Red Rock Brewery, John Morey 07791 054773. www.oldworkshop.org.

BODMIN

Friday: Bodmin Folk Club. The Old Library, 10 Lower Bore Street, Bodmin, PL31 2JX (at the top of Fore Street) www.bodminfolk.co.uk

BRIXHAM

4th Monday 8pm. The Birdcage, New Road, Brixham. TQ5 8LT

1st Friday 7.30pm. Brixham Folk Cub. The Edge, Bolton Street, Brixham TQ5 9DH

BUCKLAND MONACHORUM

2nd Sunday 7.30pm. Music and song session. The Drake Manor Inn, The Village, Buckland Monachorum, PL20 7NA

1st Wednesday 8.30pm. Music session The Drake Manor Inn

COLEFORD

Last Tuesday 8pm. The New Inn Dave 01363 84914

CHERITON FITZPAINE

Last Sunday Noon. Half Moon Inn. Clare Penny 01884 860023

CHIPSHOP (NR TAVISTOCK)

4th Tuesday 8pm. Song and music session. Copper Penny Inn, PL19 8NT (01822 833288, 07725 579718) miijmusic@gmail.com

COLEFORD

Last Tuesday: Singaround 8pm The New Inn Coleford, Crediton EX17 5BZ Tel: Dave 01363 84914

CREDITON

West Gallery Quire. Ring Sonja Andrews 01363 877216 to check day

CULLOMPTON

South West Shape Note Singing, Steve 07976 605692

DARTINGTON

Last Monday: 7pm New Lion Brewery, Meadowbrook, Dartington, TQ9 6JD. Mark Jefferys markjefferys7@gmail.com

DENBURY

Thursday 7.30pm. Denbury Folk. Union Inn, The Green, TQ12 6DQ. Mostly song. 01803 812537

ERMINGTON

Last Monday: 8pm Crooked Spire Inn, PL21 9LP. Acousŷ c session “Country meets Folk”. keithnick@hotmail.com

EXETER

Last Wednesday: 7.30pm Cornish and Devonian music Session. The Mount Radford, 73-75 Magdalen Rd, EX2 4TA

Last Friday: Exeter Folk & Acousŷ c Music Club, Victoria Park Tennis Club, St Leonards. Peter Cornelius 01392 210983 www.exeterfolkclub.org

EXMOUTH

4th Sunday: 7pm. Exmouth Folk Club GWRSA Railway Club 3-5 Royal Avenue, EX8 1EN. Chris Ausŷ n 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 Tuesday or 1st Wednesday 8pm. Gidsong. Gidleigh Village

Hall. See Gidleigh Village Hall Facebook page for more informaŷ on.

IPPLEPEN

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

IVYBRIDGE

Sunday: Folk On The Moor 7.45pm The Exchange 1-3 Fore Street, PL21 9AB. Anton Horwich, 4, The Green, Milton Combe, Yelverton, 01822 853620

KINGSTEIGNTON

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

LYMPSTONE

4th Wednesday Lymptstone Folk, Roots and Acousŷ c, Redwing Inn. Church Rd, EX8 5JT. 01395 225075/ 07741409265

MARLDON

3rd Friday Ye Olde Smokey House, Vicarage Road, TQ3 1NN. Folk Plus Acousŷ c Music Club. Paul 07894 961010

MILTON COMBE

Alt Tuesdays: 7.30pm. American Roots session. Who’d Have Thought It Inn, PL20 6HP marjnr.54@virgin.net

PLYMOUTH

1st and 3rd Tuesday. The Arŷ llery Arms. Mixed song and tune session Marilyn Cowan 01752 309983

SANDFORD

1st Tuesday 8pm Lamb Inn Paul & Hazel 01363 776275

3rd Wednesday 7.30pm Lamb Inn Jon Shapely 0136383740 jon_shapley@hotmail.com

SCORITON

4th Sunday: 7.30pm. Singaround Tradesman’s Arms Sue & Simon Williams, Scorrilton Farmhouse.

Song and Music

SOUTH BRENT

3rd Thursday: Pack Horse Inn, 8pm. Mixed session.
mickbramich@gmail.com

ST DOMINICK

2nd Saturday Who'd Have Thought It Inn, PL12 6TG Mike 07725 579718

SIDMOUTH

Sidmouth Acous̄c Folk Club, The Blue Ball, EX10 9QL third Monday. Hugh Sutherland, 01395 514618

SOUTH ZEAL

3rd Mon music session
markbazeyleymobile@gmail.com

STICKLEPATH (OKEHAMPTON)

1st Sunday 8pm. Singaround.
Devonshire Inn. Derek Moore

01837 840316

STOKE CANNON

Stoke Cannon Inn nr Exeter. 4th Wednesday 8.30pm. Paul and Alison 07709324836

TALLATON

3rd Sunday noon. Mostly English session. The Talaton Inn, TEX5 2RQ.
jon@devonstrings.co.uk

TEIGNMOUTH

First Monday Teignmouth Folk Club. The Brass, Hollands Road, TQ14 8SP Martyn Hillstead, 01626 778071.

TOPSHAM

Monthly Monday Session. Maøhews Hall, 38 High Street, Topsham, Exeter EX3 0HF

Weekly Tuesdays Song.

Maøhews Hall, EX3 0HF

Monthly Concert. Maøhews Hall, Fore Street, Topsham, EX3 0HF

TOTNES

2nd Thursday: Folk Song Club. Dartmouth Inn. TQ9 5EL. Contact Steve & Anne Gill, 01803 290427.

1st & 3rd Tuesday. Bay Horse. Music Song session (English)
2nd & 4th Tuesday. Bay Horse. Music session (Irish)

WILLAND

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

Social Dance Clubs

BIDEFORD

Bideford Country Dance Club, Northam Hall, Fore St, Northam, EX39 1AN. Weekly Fridays 8pm. Tel: 01237 476632. Please phone to check the details.

Bideford Folk Dance Club, Northam Hall, Fore St, Northam, EX39 1AN. Weekly Wednesdays (From last in Sept to first in May) Tel 01237 423554.

BRIDPORT

Bridport Folk Dance Club, WI Hall, North Street, DT6 3NW. Weekly Monday except holidays. 7.15pm. Gwenda or Mike. 01308 863552.

DARTINGTON

Darí ngton Folk Dance Club, Darí ngton Village Hall. Weekly on Fridays 8pm. Tel 01822 852442.

EXMOUTH

Exmouth Folk Dance Club, Withycombe Methodist Church Centre, 5 Regents Gate, EX8 1TR. Thurs (1st and 3rd) 8pm September to June. Tel 01395 275592.

Exmouth Isca ScoEsh Dancers, East Budleigh Village Hall, Wynard Road, EX9 7DU. Weekly Wednesdays 10am. Tel Mr & Mrs VJ Tyler 01395 276913

Exmouth Playford Club, East Budleigh Church Hall, Budleigh Salterton. 2nd Sun. 2.30pm. Mr & Mrs VJ Tyler 01395 276913

GITTISHAM

GiO sham Folk Dance Club, GiEsham Village Hall, EX14 3AF. Usually Wednesdays. 8pm Tel Rosemary 01395 515403.

LAUNCESTON

Launceston Folk Dance Club, St John Ambulance Hall. Weekly Tues 8pm Not July and August. Tel Rosemary 01566 774491.

NEWTON ABBOT

Newton Abbot Irish Set Dance, Jolly Farmer, 8 Market Street, TQ12 2RB. Weekly Wednesdays. Tel 01626 204350.

PLYMOUTH

Country Dance Plymouth, Trinity United Reform Church Hall, Tor Lane, Hartley, PL3 3NY. Weekly Tuesdays. 8pm, not June, July and August. Tel 01752 774484.

SIDFORD

Sidford Folk Dance Club, Sidford Social Hall, Byes Lane EX10 9QX. Weekly Tuesday 8pm from September to May. Tel 01395 514161 or 01395 568336.

SOUTH HAMS

South Hams Folk Dance Club, West Charleton Village Hall TQ7 2AG. Weekly Wednesday 7.45pm September to April. Tel Philip 01548 561415.

TAVISTOCK

Tavistock Folk Dance Club, Parish Centre PL19 8AU or Methodist Church Hall PL19 8DX. Fortnightly on Thursday from 2pm to 4pm. Not June, July and August. Tel 01822 855858.

WILLAND

Willand Folk Dance Club, Willand Village Hall, Gables Road, EX15 2PL. Second and fourth Thursdays at 8pm. Tel 01844 253546 or 01404 47200.

Morris and Display Teams

(F - Morris Federation, R Morris Ring, Open Morris)
 Day: regular meetings
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 Morris (F)
 Tues Catseyebag@aol.com
 www.catseyemorris.co.uk
Cogs & Wheels (F)
 Donna Tombs
 dtombs65@gmail.com (Thurs)
Dartmoor Border (F)
 Mark Tregaskis 01752 299700
 treggie@blueyonder.co.uk Wed
 dartmoorbordermorris.com
Darlington Morris Men (R)
 Marj n Jones
 bagman@darlingtonmorrismen.
 org.uk (Fri)
Exeter Morris Men (R)

Mike Painter, 01392 660444.
 mikepainter25@gmail.com,
 Thurs.
Firestone
 (Appalachian & Irish). Email
 info@firestonedance.co.uk
Glory of the West Morris (F)
 Pat Langman 07813625871
 gloryoPhewest@gmail.com
 (Wed)
Great Western Morris Men (F)
 bagman@greatwestern.org.uk
 (Thur)
Green Willow Clog (F)
 Jacqueline 07748 121093
**Grimspound Border
 Morris (F)**
 Lee Merry, 8, Waterside,
 Bovey Tracey, TQ139SX
 lmerry@live.co.uk
Harberton Navy (F)
 David Beavis
 davidbeavis@iscali.co.uk
Ilfracombe Red Peacock coats (F)
 Linda Corcoran,
 lindacorcoran@btopenworld.com
Isambard Gasket Rats (F)
 bag@isambardsgasketrats.co.uk
Lodestone Border (F)
 lodestonemorris@
 hotmail.co.uk (Thurs)
Lyme Morris
 www.facebook.com/LymeMorris
Majidah Tribal Belly Dance
 majidah925@gmail.com
Newton Bushel Morris (F)
 Rod Shute, 01803 403153
 rod@newtonbushelmorris.uk
Old Town Twelves
 Alison Chapman, 07541 385463

Ober Morris
 bag.oer.morris@gmail.com
Plymouth Clog (O)
 plymouthclog@outlook.com
Plymouth Morris
 bagman@plymouthmorris.uk
 www.plymouthmorris.uk
Raddon Hill Clog Morris (F)
 Triss Cummings 01626 376173
Rough Diamonds Appalachian
 01460 220607
Shuffle The Deck (F)
 Appalachian. Kathy Houlihan
 01752 893335 or 07719 652885
**Sidmouth Steppers NW
 Morris (F)**
 cath.neleton@gmail.com
**Sidmouth Traditional
 Mummers** Henry Piper, 21B,
 Broad Street, Obery St Mary,
 01404 811491
 henry.piper@zoom.co.uk
Tinners Morris Men (F)
 andrew@frangleton.co.uk
Trigg Morris Men (R)
 Roger Hancock, 01208 73907
Tudor Dance Group
 Mrs Elizabeth Thurgood,
 Treetops, 7 Pothers Close,
 West Hill, Obery St Mary,
 EX11 1YE,
 01404 812185 (Sat)
Winkleigh Morris (F)
 Angela Haines, Hollacombe,
 Hollacombe, Chulmleigh
 EX18 7QE 01837 83219
 daveyhaines@btinternet.com
 (Tues)
Wreckers Border (F)
 wreckers.bag@gmail.com Thurs

For many years What's Afoot has been providing a free listing service for bands and callers.

There have been two problems. Despite numerous pleas, bands and callers have not bothered to keep their details up to date so the magazine has sometimes been carrying listings for defunct bands and deceased musicians and callers.

Also this was unfair to bands and callers who actually supported the

magazine by advertising in What's Afoot (we make no money from this. All staff are voluntary and profits go to supporting folk music in Devon.

We will continue to give free listings for non-profit organisations such as dance and folk clubs but there will be a small charge for listings for artists who charge for their services.

This will also apply to our website. See page 30 for details.

Events

JULY

SATURDAY 2ND

DANCE Willand Folk Dance Club. Willand Village Hall, EX15 2PL. 8pm. Caller: Frances Oate: Jovial Crew.
SONG The Lost Sound. Flete House Mothecombe. PL8 1LA. 7pm

MONDAY 4TH

CONCERT Teignmouth Folk Club. The Brass, 3 Hollands Rd, TQ14 8SR. The Back Beach Boyz. 8pm

WEDNESDAY 6th

DANCE GiĒsham Folk Dance Club. GiĒsham Village Hall, EX14 3AF nr. Honiton. Caller: Aileen Wills, Band: Chris Toyne

THURSDAY 7th

CONCERT Oĕerton Mill, EX9 7HG, Danni Nichols. 8pm.

SATURDAY 9th

CONCERT Calstock Arts, The Old Chapel, PL18 9QX. Alasdair Roberts. 8pm

SUNDAY 10th

CONCERT Folk on the Moor, The Exchange, 1-3 Fore Street, Ivybridge PL21 9AB. Richard Grainger. 7.45pm

WEDNESDAY 13th

DANCE GiĒsham Folk Dance Club. GiĒsham Village Hall, EX14 3AF. Caller: Chris Jewell Band: Fresh Aire

THURSDAY 14th

CONCERT Exmouth Pavilion, EX8 2AZ. Gigspanner Big Band and Raynor Winn: Saltlines. 7.30pm

WEDNESDAY 20th

DANCE GiĒsham Folk Dance Club. Village Hall, EX14 3AF. Simon Maplesden, Jeroka

SATURDAY 23rd

CONCERT Oĕerton Mill, EX9 7HG, Mississippi Macdonald.
DANCE Organic Arts Barn Dance Fundraiser. West Town Farm EX2 9TG. Red Shed. 7pm.

SUNDAY 24th

CONCERT Folk on the Moor, The Exchange, 1-3 Fore Street, Ivybridge PL21 9AB.

Winter Wilson. 7.45pm

WEDNESDAY 27th

DANCE GiĒsham Folk Dance Club. GiĒsham Village Hall, EX14 3AF. Caller: Jane Thomas Band: Dancing Keys

FRIDAY 29th

CONCERT B-Bar, Barbican Theatre, Castle Street, The Barbican, Plymouth PL1 2NJ. Suthering. 9pm

AUGUST

MONDAY 1st

CONCERT Darĳngton Great Hall, Totnes, TQ9 6EL. Balladeste. 9.30pm

TUESDAY 2nd

CONCERT Darĳngton Great Hall, TQ9 6EL. Leveret. 7.30pm

TUESDAY 9th

CONCERT Ashburton Arts Centre, West Street, TQ13 7DT. Rory McLeod. 7.30pm

THURSDAY 11th

CONCERT Oĕerton Mill, EX9 7HG. Jake Lukeman.

THURSDAY 25th

CONCERT Oĕerton Mill, nr Budleigh Salterton, EX9 7HG. Roberts and Lakeman

SEPTEMBER

THURSDAY 1st

CONCERT Calstock Arts, The Old Chapel, PL18 9QX. Miranda Sykes & Hannah Marĳn. 8pm

CONCERT Oĕerton Mill, EX9 7HG. Jez Lowe

SATURDAY 3rd

DANCE Willand Folk Dance Club. Village Hall, EX15 2PL. 8pm. Nicola Scoĕ. English Contra Dance Band.

MONDAY 5th

CONCERT Exeter Phoenix, EX4 3LS. Sons of the East. 7.30pm

WEDNESDAY 7th

DANCE GiĒsham Folk Dance Club, Village Hall, EX14 3AF. Colin Andrews and Chris Jewell

THURSDAY 8th

DANCE Willand Folk Dance Club. Village Hall, EX15 2PL. 8pm. Caller: Simon

Maplesden. Band: The More the Merrier

FRIDAY 9th

CONCERT Exeter Folk and Acousĳc Music Club. Victoria Park Tennis Club, Lyndhurst Road, St. Leonards, Exeter, EX2 4NX. Si Barron.

SATURDAY 10th

CONCERT Calstock Arts, The Old Chapel, PL18 9QX.

Mississippi MacDonald. 8pm

SUNDAY 11th

CONCERT Exeter Phoenix, Gandy Street, EX4 3LS. Rowan Rheingans Dispatches on the Red Dress. 8pm

TUESDAY 13th

DANCE Sidford Folk Dance Club, Sidford Social Hall, Byes Lane EX10 9QX. 8pm. Caller: Simon Maplesden, Own music

WEDNESDAY 14th

DANCE GiĒsham Folk Dance Club, GiĒsham Village Hall, EX14 3AF. Caller: Jane Thomas Band: Chris Toyne

MONDAY 19th

CONCERT Calstock Arts, The Old Chapel, PL18 9QX. Janice Burns and Jon Doran. 8pm

TUESDAY 20th

DANCE Sidford Folk Dance Club, Sidford Social Hall, Byes Lane EX10 9QX. 8pm. Caller: Jeremy Child, Own music

THURSDAY 22nd

DANCE GiĒsham Folk Dance Club, GiĒsham Village Hall, EX14 3AF. Caller: Ted Farmer with his own music

TUESDAY 27th

DANCE Sidford Folk Dance Club, Sidford Social Hall, Byes Lane EX10 9QX. 8pm. Caller: Jane Thomas. Own music

WEDNESDAY 28th

DANCE GiĒsham Folk Dance Club, Village Hall, EX14 3AF. Caller: Jeremy Child Band: TBA

FRIDAY 30th

CONCERT Exeter Phoenix, EX4 3LS. Wildwood Kin. 7.30pm
CONCERT Calstock Arts, The Old Chapel, PL18 9QX. Rheingans Sisters. 8pm.

Useful Contacts

FOLK IN CORNWALL

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

FOLKLIFE

Sam Simmons, 16, BarreØ Rise, Malvern, WR14
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Andrew Knight secretary@morrisfed.org.uk.
www.morrisfed.org.uk

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morris.org

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IF YOUR DETAILS CHANGE, PLEASE EMAIL DEVONFOLKEDITOR@GMAIL.COM

Totnes Folk Club

Dartmouth Inn, The Plains
Totnes, TQ9 5EL



2nd Thursday in the Month – 8pm

The new owners of the
Dartmouth Inn welcome
the Folk Club.

2nd Thursday of the month
For more information contact

Andy: ndclarke6@gmail.com

Anne: anne.m.gill@icloud.com

Steve & Anne Gill
01803 290427
or Andy Clarke 01803 732312

Tavistock Folk Dance Club

**Dancing on Thursday
afternoon 2 – 4pm
All welcome**

8th September – Parish Centre
22nd September – Parish Centre

6th October – Methodist Church Hall
20th October - Methodist Church Hall

3rd November – Methodist Church Hall
17th November – no dancing

1st December – Methodist Church Hall
15th December – Methodist Church Hall

Contact: 01822 855858

Pennymoor Singaround

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

1st Thursday –12 noon
London Inn, Morchard Bishop.
Contact Jon Shapley 01363 83740.

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
Jon Shapley: 01363 83740 –jon_shapley@hotmail.com

Also run by Pennymoor members:

The Lamb, Sandford, Nr. Crediton –1st 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



Maids follow in Men's footsteps

Plymouth Men's decision to become a mixed side has been taken up by city's clog dancers

PLYMOUTH Men's move to admit women and change the name to Plymouth Morris has been echoed by Plymouth Maids who have changed their name to Plymouth Clog and are seeking new recruits – including men.



PUT YOURSELF IN THEIR SHOES: Part of the side's recruiting poster on social media

It's a radical move for the side, which has been going since 1987, but a necessary one, says Sue Thacker, Foreman of Plymouth Clog. She said: "We did have falling membership and low numbers when we went out. It started about a year before lockdown. I was squire then. We tried to adapt some of the dances for fewer people. We have only 12 dancers and not all of them, including myself are completely fit.

"When you come to a practice you get half of that number turning up and we end up doing the same dances over and over again.

"When I joined in 1987, we had 22 to 25 dancers. So when you went out it didn't matter if only half the people turned up, you always had the eight needed for most dances. We need twice as many dancers as we have now.

"Also, we have an ageing side. I think our youngest dancer is 32 then the next youngest is 47. Our oldest dancer is 78. Our youngest band member is my husband who is 68."

Things came to a head at the side's AGM in December and it was decided to change the name.

Anyone who thinks clogging is only for the ladies should take a look at the excellent mixed side Customs & Exiles who perform with terrific energy and precision.

It must be said that the women who

have joined Plymouth Morris since it opened its doors to them some three years ago have given the side a new vitality and it's hoped bringing men into Plymouth Clog will give it a similar boost.

However, one thing that

will need to change before men join is the kit, currently blue dresses, aprons and lacy bloomers. Most men would recoil from this attire unless they were on a stag night and on to their eighth pint. Sadly, any dancing after that amount of alcohol is usually wild and enthusiastic but not good clogging.

"If we have men, we do need to change our kit," said Sue. "We are having great debates about this. We have the potential to be quite a good side. We have a great variety of dances. – North-west traditional and ones we have adapted. We have several dances that have been written for the side dating back to the Eighties and some that Sue, our 78-year-old has written for the times when we have fewer people. We do stepdancing as well.

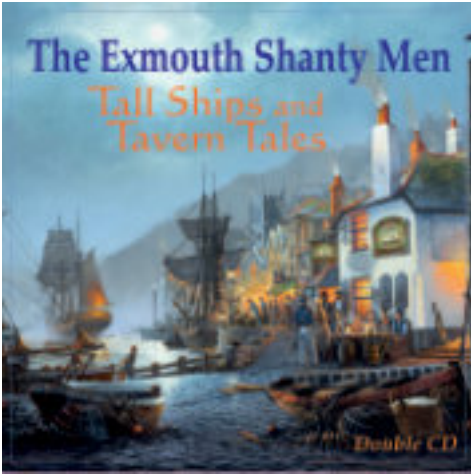
"We need younger people to take the side on and make it what they want."

If you fancy trying it out, email Plymouthclog@outlook.com or ring Sue on 07971 254315.

● **THE oldest side in the county, Exeter Morris Men, has decided to follow the trend and open up membership to women as well. If you're interested, contact Mike Painter on 01392 660444. Or mikepainter25@gmail.com**



WINDS OF CHANGE: The side is discussing a unisex uniform



TALL SHIPS AND TAVERN TALES

The Exmouth Shanty Men

WildGoose Records

THE Exmouth Shanty Men have always been good. They care about the history behind the songs and they perform in a way that honours this history, through their costumes, their choice of shanties and forebitters, with audience participation, and with their creative identities (docheck out their jokey pseudonyms if this is your first encounter with them).

With this double CD, however, my opinion is that they have moved from good to excellent. I must add they have been my friends for many years so I am not unbiased. However, as the wife and mother of shanty singers I hear a lot of music and know quality when I hear it.

The shanty men are not a choir but their standard of performance would put many choirs

On Friday August 5, The Exmouth Shanty Men will present a stage version of Tall Ships and Tavern Tales as part of Sidmouth Folk week. The show sets sail at 7.30pm at the Manor Pavilion. Tickets are available from the festival website sidmouthfolkfestival.co.uk

to shame. Harmonies are not complex but are well thought through and performed impeccably. The songs are carefully chosen to tell a story of sailing away and sailing home and demonstrate the breadth of their repertoire.

From Helen Highwater's beautiful rendition

of *Heaven's A Bar* through tales of tall ships, fishing, whaling, ladies of questionable morals, and work songs the music flows seamlessly. Billy Rowlocks' legendary enthusiasm is a little more restrained in recording than when performing live. Canon Fodder seems to have a great liking for the ladies of ill repute! I love the lyrical sound of Levi Ashore.

The group's quest for authenticity means the lyrics are not sanitised or politically correct. I agree with this: to re-write lyrics is to air-brush history, while this history should be faced and acknowledged even (or especially) when it is uncomfortable or challenging. Sam Minella's rendition of *No More Auction Block For Me* had me turning off the music to think through the implications of the song.

I wonder, however, whether many people realise that Lord Exmouth (another excellent track led by Dai Wright) wasn't bobbing up and down on the Barbary Coast for fun but was laying siege to Algiers to rescue Europeans who had been enslaved by raids on the coasts of South-West England, Ireland and France? This is a practice that pre-dated by centuries the African slave trade.

In a world where shanty singing has become "trendy", the Exmouth Shanty Men are determined to stay with the music's roots while still having a rollicking good time. I recommend this double CD as excellent listening, and if you have the chance to see a live performance, then take it and raise a glass to Betty Stogs.

Gillian Lemar Collings

THAT'S ALL FOLKIES

Belshazzar's Feast

WildGoose Records

AFTER delighting audiences far and wide for 25 years, Belshazzar's Feast, aka Paul Sartin and Paul Hutchison, are embarking on the Farewell Tour. That's All Folkies is the Farewell Album.



The two Pauls met in the mid-Nineties when they were both part of folk-rock band Life of Reilly. It is easy to see how the two would have had an immediate rapport, with their musical interests and talent, their wry sense of humour and their ability to engage an audience. No doubt they have had fun planning each tour and they have certainly thrilled audiences. Underlying the

light-hearted aspect of the performance there is the serious side, the meticulous research, the hours of arranging, re-arranging, rehearsing and, finally, being satisfaction. Both Pauls seek perfection in all that they do.

The title of the album, *That's All Folkies*, has a melancholy ring to it as well as a casual farewell. Material is drawn from studio and live recordings made during the 25 years, plus three previously unreleased tracks. Of the 14 tracks many are dance tunes. They include tunes from the collections of Nathaniel Kynaston and John Playford, melodies written by one or both of the duo, and compositions by friends.

There are also four songs, including *Doll Thy Ale*, a traditional song arranged by Graham Pratt "an austere test on the perils of drink, which we have taken to heart". This is linked to a tune collected in Romania which, with its modular tone, evokes scenes of dancing, feasting, drinking and revelling.

Another song with an alcoholic theme is *Apple Tree Wassail* from the Ruth Tongue Collection, housed at Halsway Manor in Somerset.

Finally, but perhaps les pièces de resistance, are arrangements of Mozart's *Eine Kleine Nachtmusic* together with Vivaldi's *Spring* from the Four Seasons, and Beethoven's Piano Concerto for Oboe.

This album is highly recommended, a must for any lover of music and fun.

Jacqueline Patten

AUF WIEDERSEHEN, ME DUCK

Paul Walker

& Karen Pfeiffer

Crazy Moose Records



WHAT a beautifully presented CD with Stoke-on-Trent

potteries on the front cover and with a list of top musicians to help them along. You will have to buy a copy to find out who they all are.

Virtually all the tracks are self-penned, giving the album a very contemporary feel.

As for the Anglo-German duo themselves, I feel Karen (from Stuttgart) is the stronger singer of the two but Paul (from Stoke on Trent) is a lovely guitarist.

My personal choice is for a folksong writer to be connected with the past which, in my opinion, gives their work a more "folkie" feel. If the writer is totally in the present then the songs to

me seem rather "poppy". However, I am sure this CD will have great appeal to most people, which is fine by me as I am told I live in the past.

Music festivals of a contemporary nature will love these two so organisers should look at giving them a booking. It is a lovely CD so do seek Paul and Karen out.

Steve Gill

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Terry Underhill

Morris dancer, gardener, TV presenter and president of Devon Folk

DEVON FOLK was honoured to have Terry Underhill as president from 1987 until September last year when ill health forced him to resign.

He held the position for 34 years and over that time presented many Devon Awards to worthy recipients and saw a great many changes in the folk world.

Ken Hudson, publicity officer for Dartington Morris and also a Devon Award recipient, was able to confirm that Terry joined the side within the first year of its founding at Dartington Hall, although he was not one of the founder members.

In just over a 50-year connection with Dartington Morris, he held almost every officer role, with the exception of treasurer – fulfilling some of these positions on more than one occasion.

When dancing became more of a challenge for Terry, he took over the role of Champernowne the Club Hobby Horse, as its Jockey, when Lionel retired. “The Morris was an integral part of Terry’s life and his overwhelming love of both



Terry Underhill and his wife Dorothy with the DarCngton Morris horse Champernowne

the club and the tradition itself will be very difficult to replace,” said Ken Hudson.

Born in London on March 28, 1938, Terry moved to Rattery with his wife Dorothy and their three sons in 1980.

His website will give you an insight into his work and many achievements on the Dartington Estate. After he left Dartington, his own one-acre garden formed the basis of the popular weekly programme Gardens For All on Television South West which Terry presented for 11 years.

Terry also spent 10 years as a magistrate, became gardening editor for Devon Life and Cornwall Life, was chairman of the Totnes U3A and a trustee of Rattery Environment Group. He also enjoyed a lengthy chairmanship of the Dartington Natural History Society and he led botanical and wildlife tours all over the world including Africa, Europe, India and North and South America.

Terry leaves his wife Dorothy, sons Philip and Richard (his son Duncan sadly died in 2010) and eight grandchildren.

Brenda Tombs

A FOUNGING member of Cogs and Wheels, Brenda Tombs, passed away on Thursday March 10 at the age of 87.

Brenda was an incredibly vivacious woman whose love for life helped build the side which is based in South Zeal and started in 1996.

Ill health forced her to leave Cogs and Wheels in 2008 and she missed dancing so much that she couldn’t bear to watch her old side perform. But when her youngest daughter, Donna, joined in 2017, she became the most loyal and enthusiastic member of the side’s audience.

Brenda moved to Devon about 30 years ago and made so many friends. She will be sadly missed by them and her family.

A celebration of her life was held on Wednesday



Brenda, front centre, at Cogs and Wheels 21st anniversary celebraCcons

March 30 at the Beer Cross Natural Burial Ground and those who attended were told to wear their brightest and most colourful clothes and bring the best stories of her life.

Jo Trapnell

Dance teacher and Vice President of Devon Folk

JO TRAPNELL, who has died aged 98, was vice president of Devon Folk from the early 1980s.

She was born in Liverpool and trained at Chelsea College of Physical Education, where Douglas and Helen Kennedy regularly put her and her colleagues through their paces. She then moved to North Devon to teach at West Bank School, Bideford, and met Peter. They married and had four children. She became a grandmother and great grandmother.

Over the years, she taught dance at clubs and schools throughout the country, ran weekend courses, represented Devon at the Albert Hall Festival and received the Devon Folk Award.

She was also a member of the Devon District



Committee of the EFDSS and a vice-president of both Devon Folk and Willand Folk Dance Club. These are just a few of her dance achievements. All this she fitted around her family, tennis and golf.

In May 2010, Bideford Folk Dance Club held a splendid party to celebrate Jo's final club night after 60 years as teacher and caller, and the photograph shows Jo on the garden seat Bideford Folk Dance Club members presented to her then. Many members of Devon

Folk attended this event.

Jo died on March 17. Her memorial service was held on April 7 at St Mary's Bideford. Donations for the DEC Ukraine Humanitarian Appeal were collected at the service.

WILLAND FOLK DANCE CLUB

SATURDAY DANCES

Willand Village Hall

June 11th Brian Stanton & Deo Volente
July 2nd Frances Oates & Jovial Crew
September 3rd Nicola Scott & English Contra
Dance Band

Admission £8.00 Bring & share supper Raffle

Contact: Zena Roberts 01884 253546 www.willandfolkdanceclub.co.uk

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



**DEVON FOLK MEMBERSHIP
 APPLICATION FORM**

Please complete and return to the Devon Folk
 Membership Secretary
 Anne Gill, Maleth, 11, Cleveland Road,
 Torquay, TQ25BD

I wish to join Devon Folk as an
 Individual member

We wish to join Devon Folk as a
 family group

We wish to join Devon Folk as a
 Group or club

Name of individual, club or group

Contact person (for group or club)

Address

Postcode

Telephone

Email

Cheque enclosed
 To Devon Folk

Details requested
 For BACS payment

Magazine to be sent by POST EMAIL

I/We agree to Devon Folk contacting me/us as
 indicated above and for occasional notifications.
 Your email will not be passed to any third party.

Devon Folk's new website going live

THE NEW Devon Folk Directory is now up and running (you can find it at www.devonfolkdiritory.org). There is the opportunity for many more folk performers and club to reach a wider audience. Listing is free for advertisers with What's Afoot and for members of Devon Folk. Membership of Devon Folk only costs £10 a year for individuals, families, groups or clubs – and you also get the benefit of quarterly issues of What's Afoot.

A new Devon Folk website will also soon go live. It has been constructed by Trevor Paul, who has for the past few years provided a web presence for Devon Folk in association with his Flaxey-Green website.

His site has provided a very valuable information service for folk activities in Devon for very many years, but he has given notice that it will terminate in the autumn of this year. We thank him for his services to the folk world.

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MEMBERSHIP SECRETARY

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01803 290427

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WHAT'S AFOOT EDITOR

John Foxen

devonfolkeditor@gmail.com

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PL19 9HZ

Devon Folk needs you!

HERE is an opportunity for you to help revitalise Devon's folk scene after the covid crisis and to spread the joy of the music, song and dance that we love.

There are vacancies on the Devon Folk committee and people with a strong interest in folk, energy and enthusiasm and ideas are asked to sign up. We particularly need young people to take an interest.

A nomination form is printed here and applications 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 annual general meeting, which is usually held in March.

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

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autumn concerts 2022

singers nights

Our singers' nights are running
most Tuesdays - from 7.45pm.
Arrive by 7.45pm to book a slot
if you'd like to perform. Non-
performers are most welcome

**Venue may change -
keep an eye on our website
or Facebook page**

Our **monthly** (mainly English)
instrumental **session** is on the
first Monday of the month

Please note that we close for August

Our last singers' night before our summer
break is Tuesday 26 July. We start again with
our Phil Beer concert on 4 September

Phil Beer
Sunday
4 September
8pm - £15

**Harbottle
& Jonas**
Sunday 16 Oct
8pm - £10

Cara Dillon
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8pm - £22

**Exmouth
Shanty Men**
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they do you good! - Eddie Upton

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