

No 129

January/Match 2023

What's Afoot



NEW PALS FOR PUDSEY

PLUS
HOW A MELODEON
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MUSIC TEACHERS
PLUS NEWS AND LISTINGS

Official magazine
of **Devon Folk**
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JIM CAUSLEY

More than simply a folk-singer, multi award winning singer-songwriter, musician and proud Devonian Jim Causley has been nominated no less than six times for a BBC Radio 2 Folk Award including being nominated as "Singer of the Year" in 2017. He has presented his own folk music show on BBC Radio Devon and in 2015 he worked with BBC TV historian Dr Sam Willis to create the music for his show '*Highwaymen, Outlaws and Villains*'.

Since the release of his debut album, *Fruits of the Earth* in 2005, Causley's unique voice and persona have helped him become one of the most well-loved and respected figures of today's contemporary roots and folk scene. A prolific collaborator, Causley is hugely admired for his work with iconic groups, The Devil's Interval and Mawkin: Causley as well as playing, touring and recording alongside Waterson:Carthy, John McCusker, Eddie Reader, Graham Coxson, Shirley Collins, Michael Morpurgo, Show of Hands, Kate Rusby, David Rotheray of Beautiful South fame and many more. In addition, to a busy touring schedule Jim has fifteen acclaimed albums to his name. His 2016 release, *Forgotton Kingdom*, was featured in the top ten folk albums of the year by Mojo magazine. He was described by Mojo Magazine as "*the finest singer of his generation*". Jim was described as "*Spearheading the West Country folk revival*" by The Guardian,

STOP PRESS:

The ever popular **Martin Simpson** will be paying a welcome return visit on **3rd November 2023**. Watch out for tickets going on sale in the new year. We are still working on other dates for 2023 and we hope to be able to make further announcements within the next few weeks,

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EDITORIAL

HERE'S hoping you received your copy of What's Afoot before Christmas so you could look at the event listings for the new year. The postal strikes have made deliveries uncertain. The folk scene is supposed to be apolitical so all I'll say is that I trust my regular posties, Surfy Mike and Jeggs, more than I trust their masters, especially if the powers-that-be want to remodel the Royal Mail on the lines of private couriers. I am biased because I put the previous issue of What's Afoot in the hands of a courier firm – it would be unfair to name them so let's just call them Dreadful Parcel Dumpers. It was a simple task: take the magazines from the printers in Tavistock to Torquay for distribution. DPD have an app so I could track my delivery. It was so useful to watch my parcel go to Cornwall, Birmingham and Exeter then, five days later, return to Tavistock. Thank you so much DPD.

John Foxen

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Melodeon amazes music teachers

TOM and Barbara Brown have built up an enviable list achievements over the years. They not only have a splendid reputation as performers and comperes throughout this county and indeed the country but they were also driving forces in the revival of the Hunting of Earl of Rone custom in their town of Combe Martin. For years they ran the Shammick Acoustic Club which became a firm favourite of fans and performers.

Yet there is a possibility that their proudest achievement might be that they inspired such a love of folk music in their granddaughter Tilly that she passed her music GCSE using a melodeon.

That's right, a melodeon. It's the mainstay of so many morris sides but still the butt of countless jokes about it "not being a proper instrument".

Certainly that was the view of both Tilly's music teachers who told her not expect more than a C because of the genre and the instrument she was

using. However, says Barbara: "She stuck determinedly to her intention of using English traditional music and the melodeon.

"At one point, her teacher, who knew very little about the genre, made a suggestion as to a variation that she might use in one of her compositions, to which her pupil replied, 'No, that's Irish – I'm doing English-style!'. "

So Tilly – or Matilda Riley to give her full name – was absolutely delighted therefore to find that she'd got a 7 (A-) in music.

Barbara says: "She's intending to take English, History and Politics at A-level. The first history project is on the Napoleonic wars, so she's enjoying researching song texts like *The Plains of Waterloo* and *Bony on the Isle of St. Helena*.

"She'll probably find appropriate things for English and Politics as well. I think she's

WILLAND FOLK DANCE CLUB

SATURDAY DANCES

Willand Village Hall

- | | |
|---------------------------|--|
| December 31 st | New Year's Eve dance
Ray Goodswen & Chris Toyne's Big Band
(8pm-12.30am) |
| January 7 th | No Dance |
| February 4 th | Robert Blackborow & Quantock Quarenders |
| March 4 th | Simon Maplesden & Fresh Aire |

Admission £8.00 - Tea & Biscuits - Raffle

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

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



EARLY STARTER:
Tilly Riley joins a session in Combe MarÅn during the HunÅng of the Earl of Rone weekend. Picture: Alice Weedon

become almost evangelistic about traditional music – would there were more like her.”

She adds, modestly: “The love of the music comes directly from her mother, our elder daughter Rowan, and her aunt and uncle, our other daughter Freya and her husband Simon. It only gets played when Dad’s away or when she shuts herself away in her bedroom. (Funnily enough, her sister follows her father in her dislike of folk music.)

“And because we sang and played, and had made CDs, it became known from a very early age as ‘Grandpa music’. Rowan and Freya (who used to work for Folk Arts England) used to be involved in the administration at Towersey Festival in particular. Tilly often went with them, so became very familiar, too, with the likes of Bellowhead, and other top-flight artists. Rowan and Freya had, of course, grown up with the music that was popular with our generation, so Tilly got to hear that, too: from Pete Coe and John Kirkpatrick to Fairport Convention and Six Hands in Tempo.

“Tilly plays piano, although not to a particularly high level, and initially picked up the fiddle in order to play folk music. We had lent her sister a melodeon in the hope that she would play it when she took part in The Hunting of the Earl of Rone, which they are all involved in annually. At some

point, Tilly picked it up and picked out the tune – and fell in love with the melodeon. We gave her a good one of Tom’s for Christmas last year, but she found it a bit heavy to carry in procession, and has now acquired a much lighter Hohner directly from Pete Coe – one of her heroes – and when she went to pick it up, ended up getting a three-hour one-to-one workshop with him to her absolute delight!”

IT’S a great story but with one downside. Although Tilly’s musical education certainly has its roots in Devon, she and her family live in Northamptonshire. I feel we need her in this county, especially after reading what she has to say for herself.

Tilly writes: I guess the first time folk music crossed into my school life was when I was five, loudly singing, “You have to get up early to be smarter than a whore”. In my mind there was absolutely nothing wrong and *New York Girls* was a perfectly reasonable song to be singing in the playground while everyone else was singing the latest pop songs.

I had asked Mum what a whore was, and to her credit I got the quite impressive answer for her thinking on her feet of: “It’s a lady who is

very friendly to lonely sailors”. To be fair, it isn’t too far off...

I managed to get through the rest of primary school without any other ‘incidents’. The next time my “knowledge” seemed to come up was in Year 8, when I was around 12 years old. We were studying *Treasure Island*, and in one chapter the pirates were rowing to shore singing. The student reading tripped up on one word – the name of the song that they were singing. Quite a few others tried to pronounce it, including the teacher: none of them managed to. I, however, immediately knew what the word was – Lillibulero – and quietly told everyone. This was met by quite a few questions from the others in my class, as you can imagine.

In Year 9, my knowledge once again became useful. We were studying a poem about Victorian prostitution and the subject of other words for prostitutes came up. I had a surprising number of them and was able to correct others when they suggested terms like ‘a landlord’s daughter’ – “No, they aren’t whores, they don’t get paid – they just

do it for fun.” I’m quite sure that my poor English teacher became slightly concerned.

A little while later I was having a debate with one of my friends who suddenly decided that they knew everything there was to know about sea shanties because of *Wellerman* recently being in the charts. I think the most obvious point against this was the fact that he called them “pirate songs”. I wasn’t impressed, and it quickly became clear to him that his “facts” weren’t particularly accurate. There are plenty of things you can try and argue with me on, but sea shanties aren’t one of them, particularly if you are calling them “pirate songs”.

Most recently, I found that when starting my A-level history course, I was really struggling with understanding the topic of the Napoleonic Wars. I asked my fab grandparents if they had any songs about the French Wars, the battles of Trafalgar and Waterloo in particular, to help me understand it a little

There are plenty of things you can try and argue with me on, but sea shanties aren’t one of them’

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

better. The difference it made was huge. There were aspects of the battles that I was able to understand better but it also meant that I had more of an interest in the subject, which I find one of the most important things when studying anything. I also found that I really struggled with the land battles a lot, while the naval battles I somehow found easier. I realised that this was because the

terminology of the naval warfare was in my everyday life – mentioned in virtually every other song I listened to.

I already had my grounding in the subject which made it so much easier to get my head around it.

Folk music really does help in your school life as well!

It's never too early for some folk

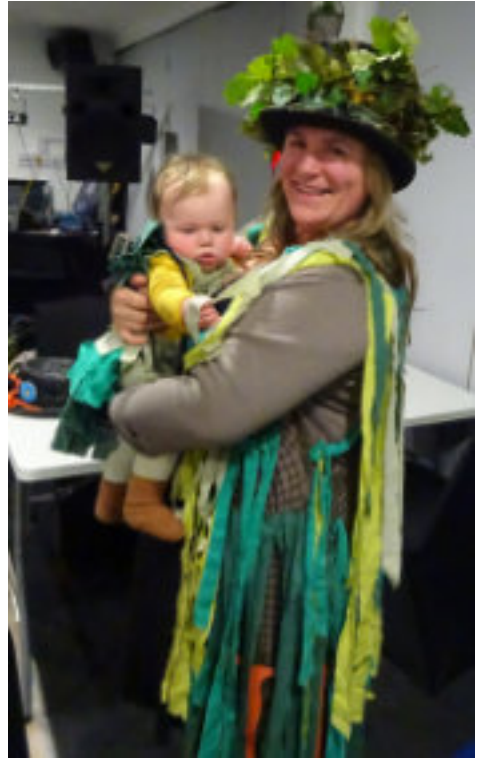
THIS is catching them really young. Cradling her four-and-a-half-month old daughter Delphine, Kat Blockley performs a rousing version of Pleasant And Delightful at the Stannary Arms in Tavistock following the Pudsey Day of Morris for Children in Need).

There is every hope that Delphine will grow up a folkie and a performer. Mother Kat of Talaton is an accomplished English concertina player, singer and dancer with Otter Morris. Father Claude is a professional trumpeter who studied at the Conservatoire National de Bordeaux. Despite that distinguished background, he has been inveigled into playing for Otter.

So how is Delphine's musical education progressing? Kat says: "Well she hears a lot due to my trio Strandline practising. She was on stage at Bradninch Festival at 39 weeks in the tummy and then in Whimble to support Jim Causley when five days 'overdue'.

"She was at Sidmouth for the week when three weeks old. Plus she had morris practice in the womb and out, she hears a lot at sessions and at home so hopefully she'll end up liking it as much as she seems to like it now!"

And it's not only Kat's desire to educate her daughter that drives all this. She admits: "It was either that or stay home and I'd miss folk music with others too much."



THERE is no question that the future of folk music lies in our young people, *writes John Foxen*, which is why I was so pleased to publish the articles about Tilly and Delphine. I was equally thrilled last year when *Path To Satisfaction* by young rapper BERWYN was chosen as the Hottest Record of the week by Radio 1's Future Sounds programme.

Rap isn't my music of choice but Berwyn Du Bois (to give him his full name) cut his musical teeth playing at Haverfolk, my old

club back in Essex. It was obvious then that this youngster from Trinidad was a huge talent, in addition to being such a likeable lad.

I mention this to stress the importance of encouraging young people to sing in folk clubs. Their musical journey may take them in very different directions from yours but for all those who go on to rock or rap, some may stay with folk or come back to it. BERWYN says he still likes folk and I hope one day I may get to hear him sing again in a folk club.

Mass morris meet puts pounds in Pudsey's pockets



AS SHOWN on our front cover, Pudsey Bear has been mixing with the morris in Tavistock. As well as meeting Grimbear from Grimspound Morris, he got to meet 18 sides from across Devon and beyond and helped to collect more than £1,800 for the BBC's Children In Need appeal in Tavistock on November 19

Despite the economic gloom, shoppers dug into their pockets for Pudsey and his morris mates who performed in Bedford Square and the Pannier Market from 10am until 4pm.

This was the seventh annual day of dance organised by Meavy-based Dartmoor Border Morris and it is rapidly becoming a major event of the South-west, attracting dancers from Cornwall and even Somerset and Wiltshire.

Over the years the event has now raised close to the £11,000 for Children in Need. The driving

force behind it is Dartmoor's bagman Mark Tregaskis who had feared bad weather would kill the event. But the rain held off. He said: "We are so grateful to the public who were so generous at a time when everyone is worrying about their fuel bills. We are also grateful to Dartmoor Brewery who donated barrels of ale to sell at a discount price to thirsty morris dancers – that raised a lot. Thanks also to The Stannary Arms who let us use their function room as a dancers' pit stop."

Equally as important as the fundraising for many dancers was the social side. They could not only make new friends but also meet old friends again. Because of lockdown some had not met for three years or more. Judy Petch, once with Devizes Jubilee but now with Dartmoor, said: "It was wonderful to dance with my old side, particularly with my friend Martin. But last time we did a stick dance together, he broke two of my fingers!" This time, Martin was more restrained when sticking.

Mark is planning next year's Pudsey Day of Morris which he hopes will be bigger and better. The sides who came this year were: Dartmoor, Borderline, Grimspound, Tinnors, Catseye, Sweet Coppin Clog, Harberton Navy, Plymouth Clog, Newton Bushel, Plymouth Morris, Old Town Twelves, Enigma, Glory of the West, Winkleigh, Otter, Devizes Jubilee, Lodestone and Wreckers.





GATHERING OF THE CLANS: Dancers relax in Tavistock's Bedford Square during Pudsey Day. How many sides can you idenÄfy?

Kilimanjaro climb raises £2K

MORRIS dancer and musician Jonathan Owen swapped his sticks for stout climbing poles and his fiddle for heavy duty boots to climb Mount Kilimanjaro and raise £2,154 for the Brain Tumour Charity.

Jonathan, of Newton Abbot, was inspired by the memory of his brother Rich, who was diagnosed with a brain tumour in his mid-twenties and died aged just 25. "My brother loved the outdoors and mountains and this is just the sort of adventure he would have loved."

But even the heavy exercise of dancing most nights of the week for Grimspound Border Morris, Otter, Catseye and Cousin Jack, had not prepared him for the rigours of the six-day trek to the summit of Kilimanjaro. He says of Day Three: "This day was sent to test me, possibly more than any of the others. The night was rough as altitude sickness was setting in. Whenever I lay down, I felt so nauseous and my head felt like a whirling dervish! I eventually gave up trying to sleep horizontally, so went into the huge 'mess' tent to try to sleep on a chair. After a couple of hours of on/off dozing, one of the guides found me and stuck a warming gas lamp in front of me as well as some hot water and about six months worth of Hibiscus tea. Nice!"

Jonathan is full of admiration for the guides who not only looked after him and his companions but also carried the heavy loads needed for camping. They taught him a song in Swahili which is likely to burst out at any of the

many music sessions Jonathan attends. All the effort paid off on Day Six, when, after a gruelling night hike in freezing temperatures he reached the summit and saw the sun rise over Africa.

He has one regret. A friend who read about Fay Young's trek across Scotland ending with a morris dance on top of Ben Nevis (What's Afoot 127) had challenged him to do a solo jig on Kilimanjaro. Jonathan had learned a two-stick solo jig for the occasion but was too exhausted to dance. "Fortunately, my pal still paid up."



We moor folk like our songs spooky

JIM CAUSLEY looks at some of the wild, weird melodies collected in our county

AS I write this article in that liminal time of the year between All Hallow's Eve and Martinmas, I am reminded of an aspect of traditional music in Devon that has long fascinated me: the striking differences between the melodies that Baring-Gould and his colleagues collected in the late 1800s and those enjoyed by the likes of Bob Cann in the 20th century.

Those of the Music Hall era also have their own distinctive flavour but that was a sound more influenced by a national and international movement. It amuses me that songs such as *Widcombe Fair* and *Tavistock Goozey Vair* are often spoken of in the same sentence when the former is a very old traditional song, indeed with a myriad of variants, while the latter was written by John C Tryhall and first published in 1912.

Baring-Gould would probably turn in his grave to think traditional songs he collected and published were being lumped-in with "modern-day" Music Hall drivel which he thought was the lowest form of art and the ruination of us all! But it is ironic – in a good way – that "modern" songs such as *Tavistock Goozey Vair* are now considered equally as traditional in the county as the older songs which Baring-Gould collected. But in a fittingly Baring-Gould-esque fashion I have wandered off topic slightly!

Baring-Gould collected and published many songs in straightforward major or Ionian keys but there are a striking seam of song melodies in his collection that particularly jump out at me. These are the ones in minor keys and in particular; the slightly more obscure modes such as Dorian or modes that are not part of the standard seven Greek modes at all but are something rather different.

There's one that crops up a lot which I have nicknamed the "half & half" mode because the first half of the scale is straight Aeolian minor and then after the fifth note of the scale it carries on up as if it were a straight major! Some would

call this a melodic minor (mostly found in classical music) but a melodic minor changes depending on whether you play up the scale or down. Baring-Gould's "half & half" mode is static no matter which way you come at it.

It sounds a little like Dorian and Mixolydian mixed together but also not like either of them. It reminds me in part of the Addams Family theme tune, that odd mixture of happy and creepy.

Another feature of this slightly more eerie vein of BG's tunes is those that slide between the major and the minor third. Nothing gives me more goosebumps because musically it's always something of a shock if you are not expecting it!

SOME of the best examples of these unusual melodies are found in songs such as *Kitty Alone*, *The Blue Flame*, *Where Are You Going To?* (now used by the Cornish as a session tune, renamed *Delyo Syvy*) *Adam the Poacher*; (see *What's Afoot* 119) *The Old Man Can't Keep His Wife at Home*, *Childe the Hunter*, *My Lady's Coach* (see this issue), *Broadbury Gibbet*, *Ockington*, *Blackingstone Ravens*, *Arscott of Tetcott* (see *What's Afoot* 117), *Dead Maid's Land*, *Georgie, The Gypsy Countess* and many more. All of these songs can be found in the Baring-Gould song archive and many can be heard on recordings released by Wren Music, in particular their excellent album; *Dead Maid's Land* (1998 WildGoose Records).

You don't hear tunes and melodies like these sung or played very much these days and I often wonder why they fell out of favour. The obvious answer is that tastes and fashions change and evolve as time goes on. Perhaps it was the same reason that the old songs began to disappear as people began wanting to sing something new, especially as new music was emerging from the cities and also from across the Atlantic.

When I think on the jolly music of 20th century Devon folk musicians such as Bob Cann,

Old Adam The Poacher



Old Adam the Poacher, which we first published in *What's Afoot* 119 is a good example of one of Jim's 'spooky tunes'. The B sec on changes from D minor to D major, which may present some problems for diatonic squeezebox players. Greg Bradfield-Smith, for many years the lead musician for Dartmoor Morris, says: "I play it in D minor/major on my

DG melodeon for C minor/major on the CFIJ with thirdless basses. My box has F# as a standard diatonic note, but it also has an F natural as an accidental."

Baring Gould collected it from the Dartmoor farmer and fiddle player William Andrew and put his own words to it but the tune is far more interesting than the parson's words.

the Rice family, the Orchard family, Pop Hingston, William Rew et al, I often have a hunch that diatonic squeezeboxes also contributed to the loss of minor keys. It still irritates melodeon players to this day if you strike up a tune in a session that is in anything other than D or G major!

You might assume that folks in olden and literally darker times might have shied away from more spooky and creepy melodies but it would seem that the opposite was true; they apparently relished them. It's only a modern phenomenon that jollity became en vogue but I wonder if that was a cultural response to two world wars in quick succession?

Another unavoidable observation is that most of these songs with intriguing scales and modes appear to have been collected in and around Dartmoor or are actually about Dartmoor legends and folklore. I've recently been working with Mark Norman who is – among many other roles – the folklore recorder for the Devonshire Association. Mark informs me that there is nothing like the amount of other-worldly folklore from Exmoor as there is from its moor southern sister. Hunting and farming songs are the order of business for Exmoor, which leads me to conclude that the presence of granite and bronze age features is essential for the nurturing of all things phenomenal!

Of course, Baring-Gould himself is the common factor among all of these songs and melodies and so one does also wonder how much of a hand he (and his musical

collaborators; Messrs Bussell and Fleetwood-Sheppard) had in shaping the uniqueness of what he collected. I have no doubt that all of the pre-eminent folk song collectors of the first revival had a healthy competition between them to see who could discover the most beautiful and unique songs and prove that their respective regions of England were rich in a distinct cultural heritage.

BARING-Gould commented in his book of Devon that he believed the traditional melodies of Devon and Cornwall were quite different from those collected in neighbouring Somerset and Dorset and he felt they had a distinct Celtic flavour, more in common with the music of Wales and Brittany. I cannot help but suspect this view was coloured by his great romantic love of those places and their culture and legends and on some level he sought to emulate that in his West Country homeland.

However they came to be, we do have these unique songs and tunes in Devon and have had them for more than one hundred years at least, whether they were freshly composed at the time or are remnants of a much older tradition. And even though they make odd bedfellows with the jolly dance music of 20th century north Dartmoor or the Music Hall dialect songs of AJ Coles and William Weeks, they are all part of the rich tapestry of what we now call Traditional Devonshire Folk Music and we have no imminent need to invent a new tradition or sound as we are already rather spoilt for choice!

DON'T RISK A RIDE IN THIS CURSED COACH

JIM Causley has given us his selection of spooky songs and this is one of them, possibly the most spooky.

It is based on the legend of Lady Mary Howard of Fitzford House Tavistock who is said to have murdered four of her husbands. For that wickedness, she is condemned to ride out each night in a ghastly coach made of bones, preceded by a gaunt greyhound with burning eyes. They make their way to Okehampton Castle and the greyhound must pick up a single blade of grass in its hideous jaws and carry it back to Tavistock. Only when every blade of grass has been plucked from around the castle, will Lady Mary be deemed to have expiated her dreadful sins and her nightly journey will at last come to an end.

The song was collected by Baring Gould who wrote in his *Songs Of The West*: "This was sung 50 years ago by Anne Bickle of Bratton Clovelly. The tune, to other words, was also sung by James Parsons. A second melody to it, obtained at South Brent, we give as No. 70, Broadbury Gibbet.

"My Ladye is, no doubt, Death personified, the Hela of Norse mythology; but locally supposed to be Lady Howard, daughter and heiress of Sir John Fitz, of Fitzford, Devon, b. 1596, who is supposed to travel nightly from Okehampton Castle to Fitzford Gate, Tavistock, in a coach of bones preceded by a phantom dog.

"I have added verses 4, 5, and part of 6; there were, however, originally many more, but I have

not been able to recover them." The good parson may have added a little more than he admits to.

The idea of a phantom coach that collects the souls of the dead is found in Breton and other Celtic mythology as the karrigell an Ankou. The Ankou is Death's henchman and has to collect the dead and deposit them in the underworld. In some traditions it is said that the last person in a village to die before the stroke of midnight on New Year's Eve will become the Ankou for the year. Did Baring Gould push the two traditions together? He was certainly well versed in Celtic mythology not averse to "improving" the songs he collected.

IN FACT, he and others may well have done Lady Howard a gross injustice. She had a tragic life. Her father John Fitz was indeed a villain who squandered a fortune, went mad and committed suicide when Mary was only nine years old. King James then "sold" her and her fortune to the Earl of Northumberland. The earl married her to his brother, Sir Alan Percy. But on a hunting trip Sir Percy caught a fever and died.

Mary married three more times but each match was ill-fated. Her only son also predeceased her. But local gossips must have made the most of her sad story and it turned into the song we offer you.

Perhaps some day someone will write a true ballad of Mary Howard but in the meantime we have this spine-tingling song.

My Lady's Coach

My ladye hath a sable coach
And horses two and four
My ladye hath a gaunt bloodhound
That runneth on before.
My ladye's coach hath nodding plumes
The driver hath no head
My ladye is an ashen white
As one that is long dead.

"Now pray step in," my ladye saith,
"Now pray step in and ride."
I thank thee, I had rather walk
Than gather to thy side.

The wheels go round without a sound
Or tramp or turn of wheels
As cloud at night in pale moonlight
Along the carriage steals.

"Now pray step in" my ladye saith,
"Now prithee come to me."
She takes the baby from the crib
And sets it on her knee.
The wheels go round without a sound
Or tramp or turn of wheels
As cloud at night in pale moonlight
Along the carriage steals.

A Devon Song

My Lady's Coach



My ladye hath a sadde coach And
hors - es two and four My ladye hath a
black blood - bound That run - eth on be - feet. My
ladye's coach hath odd - ing plumes The
dri - ver hath no head My ladye is an
ash - en white As one that is long dead.

“Now pray step in,” my ladye saith,
“Now pray step in and ride.”
Then deadly pale in waving veil
She takes to her the bride.
The wheels go round without a sound
Or tramp or turn of wheels
As cloud at night in pale moonlight
Along the carriage steals.

“Now pray step in,” my ladye saith,
“There’s room I wot for you.”
She waved her hand, the coach did stand
The Squire within she drew.
The wheels go round without a sound
Or tramp or turn of wheels
As cloud at night in pale moonlight
Along the carriage steals.

“Now pray step in,” my ladye saith,
“Why shouldst thou trudge afoot?”
She took the gaffer in by her
His crutches in the boot.
The wheels go round without a sound
Or tramp or turn of wheels
As cloud at night in pale moonlight
Along the carriage steals.

I’d rather walk a hundred miles
And run by night and day
Than have that carriage halt for me
And hear my ladye say:
“Now pray step in and make no din,
“Step in with me to ride.
“There’s room I trow by me for you
And all the world beside.”

Here we come a-wassailing

ONCE again 'tis 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 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. Drop in for a drink or maybe meal before – or after – the wassail which kicks off at 3pm with Dartmoor Border Morris dancing outside the pub. There will then be a procession to the community orchard where as much noise will be made as possible to wake the trees.

JANUARY 8

BUCKLAND ABBEY WASSAIL

FROM 11am until 4pm there will be plenty of wassailing in Sir Francis Drake's old home. Dartmoor Border Morris leads the Wassail and will perform a mummings play, featuring Sir Francis Drake instead of the usual St George, in the Great Barn.

After the Mummings play and a display of morris dancing (with a chance for the audience to join in), 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 14

HALSTOW WASSAIL.

JIM CAUSLEY has been very involved in wassailing activities at Grays Farm Tedburn St

Mary, as revealed in the previous What's Afoot. So it's no surprise to find that he's performing at their wassail. As we went to press, few details were available so check Jim's website jimcausley.co.uk or go to <https://graysdevoncider.co.uk/>



A splendid wassail card, featuring our own Jim Causley, produced by the talented Karen Cater. You can see more examples of her work at hedinghamfair.co.uk

JANUARY 17

WHIMPLE WASSAIL

OF THIS wassail in his home town, Jim Causley has 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 the village that was once the proud home of Whiteways Cyder, goes back for well over 100 years and starts with visiting the last

What's On

remaining Whimble 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 the history of the Whimble wassail and why he loves this event so much can be found in What's Afoot 118.

JANUARY 20

CLYST ST LAWRENCE

YOU cannot keep Jim Causley away from a wassail! Hot on the heels of his Gray's Farm and Whimble wassail, he will be at this event 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 or have a look at the Ventons Facebook page.

SANDFORD WASSAIL

JANUARY 21

THE good folk of Sandford Orchards are not holding their own wassail this year but will be on hand to help out with the village's own event. The procession will be leaving the parish hall at 6.35pm and ceremonies will start at 6.45pm in the square. There will be a wassail around the tree 7.15pm and from 8.30pm a song and tune session upstairs at the Lamb Inn with Hazel and Paul. All welcome to come along and join in or listen. Wassail

JANUARY 28

STOKE GABRIEL WASSAIL

AS WE went to press, the organisers said: "The finer details are still being worked out but we will have a traditional candlelit ceremony, lantern procession and tree blessing with gunfire, lots of live music from folk to soul and jazz, lots of local food, full bar and local cider, the Wassail singers, a performance from the Mummers Players, children's entertainment including lantern making, circus performance and skills workshop and storytelling... it should be a fantastic night!

"[It starts at 4pm and runs until 10pm. Tickets at £5 for adults and £3 for children. tickets will be sold at the gate."

The Mooncoin Barn Dance Band



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Birthdays
Anniversaries etc.
Own Caller

Instruments include Melodeon,
Guitar, Bouzouki, Fiddle, Bodhran &
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Available as a 2, 3 or 4 piece band
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To book the band contact:
Anne & Steve Gill 01803 290427
Email: anne.m.gill@icloud.com

or Andy Clarke 07792009374

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What's On

Teignmouth Festival to change format

Teignmouth Folk Festival has long been a favourite with morris sides because it offers so many opportunities to dance in a seaside town. As one morris dancer said: "In some ways it's better than Sidmouth because you're not continually fighting for your slot."

The festival will be running again this year on the weekend of June 24th/25th, a change of date to avoid it clashing with other events.

There will also be a change of format. The committee reluctantly decided they could not put on concerts or a ceilidh and will concentrate on a weekend of dance, focusing on Cotswold, Border and North-west. There will be entertainment during the day on the Triangle stage.

Sara Dillon is sending out invitations to morris sides (saradillon46@gmail.com). More details in the April to June edition of What's Afoot.

Teignmouth Folk Club

The Brass, Hollands Road
Teignmouth TQ14 8ST
First Monday in the Month

8pm Free admission

Monday 2nd January

Guest Night

Guest to be confirmed

Monday 6th February
Musicians/Singers Open Night

Monday 6th March
Musicians/Singers Open Night

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

Totnes Folk Club Dartmouth Inn

The Plains, Totnes TQ9 5EL

2nd Thursday in the month 8pm

For more information contact

Andy: ndclarke6@gmail.com

Anne: anne.m.gill@icloud.com

Visit our facebook page

Steve & Anne Gill

01803 290427

or Andy Clarke

01803 732312



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 skiOle alley 7.30 for 8.00pm


December 22nd Special event:
Christmas in the Bar, bring and share supper

March 23rd Guest Night
Lynne Heraud & Pat Turner

John Purser
01237 424286
bidefolk@gmail.com

Jeremy Child

Barn Dance Caller



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**

www.barndancecaller.net

01392 422119 jeremy.m.child@gmail.com



Exeter Ceilidhs

Jan 28th Dartmoor Pixies

Feb 25th English Contra Dance Band *

Mar 25th Amber Fire

Kenn Centre, Kennford 8pm – 11pm

07969 297 633 www.exeterceilidhs.net

* Contra-Ceilidh

Exeter will dance to university's tune

The city is promised a feast of folk as the students host the inter-varsity festival. AMY GOODSALL tells us about it

EXETER University has the honour this year of hosting one of the longest running folk events in Britain, the 73rd Inter-Varsity Folk Dance Festival. The weekend of February 3rd - 5th will see the town packed with dance sides and acts 20 universities from all over the country, as well as top-name folk acts.

But the festival is not just for students. Members of the public are welcome to watch and attend concerts. Unlike previous IVFDFs, this year's is set around Exeter's historic quayside. The Quay is beautiful, bustling and bright in the day and lit up by colourful lights at night. It boasts cafés, bakeries and even a working water mill. Some of the venues include Theatre Alibi, the Cygnet theatre, The Hall on Stepcote Hill – Exeter's oldest surviving street, and the XCentre, a rejuvenated wool-drying shed from the 1700s that now houses the charity Headway Devon.

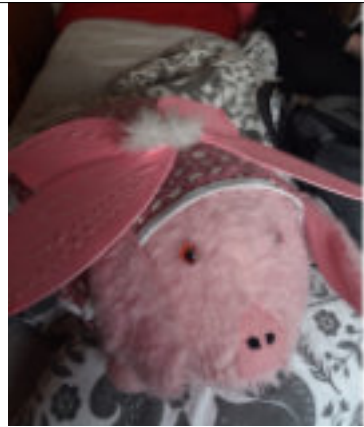
INVITED artists this year include Contrasaurus, Shivelight Duo, Ygra, Nozzy, Blue Jewel Ceilidh Band, Bearded Dragons and Oxford Waits, with more to be announced.

These bands will be playing on Friday and Saturday evening for ceilidhs, contras, an Eastern and Balkan ceilidh, Bal, Playford, Techno contra and more.

Workshops on Saturday and Sunday mornings include traditional singing from Jackie Oates, the innovative Dance: Social, Wren Music, the festival Scratch Band, and countless others. Workshops are usually led by volunteers from the local folk community and friends of IVFDF, and this year range from intro to ceilidh to advanced Balfolk dances to dances from the 16th century.

This is the eighth time that Exeter has hosted the festival so we are confident we can promise you a good time. The first IVFDF in 1951 was

Watch out for our Pig Floyd



EVERY university has its mascot and Floyd is ours. He is a much loved member of Exeter University's folk club and can often be found at our regular sessions in the City Gate pub on Iron Bridge. We have a range of musical expertise and people are welcome to sing, play or simply listen. A number of non-university people regularly attend. In the past, there have been alleged cases of mascot-kidnapping. Although we are quite sure nothing like that will happen, keep an eye out for Floyd and help us ensure he is ready to join the other mascots on stage at the display dance.

What's On



Exeter University's folk club enjoying one of their sessions. You don't need a degree to join in – just a degree of enthusiasm.

born out of a few universities' folk societies desire to learn new dances and to show off to each other. The first festival took the form of a display ceildh where they performed different dances and taught each other how to do them. This love for learning new types of folk dance has been at the heart of the festival ever since.

The display ceildh remains at the heart of the festival, with local dance sides and university groups performing. This year will see the first public performance of the university's new rapper side so please come and cheer them along.

Other events have grown up around it,

including a Morris tour, workshops, a whole host of dances, and the Survivors' ceildh – only those who survive the whole festival make it to this last event.

The Morris circuit showcases the historic buildings around Exeter, including the Medieval bridge, the Cathedral, the roman wall in the town centre, Exeter's oldest building St Nicholas Priory and of course the Quayside itself.

We are still finalising the programme so keep an eye on the festival at our website:

<https://ivfdf2023.wordpress.com>

You can get in touch with the IVFDF 2023 team at ivfdf2023@gmail.com.



28 April -

AT EVESHAM

1 MAY 2023

Callers and bands booked include: Cis Hinkle, Geoff Cubitt, ECDB, Doug Eunson+ Sarah Matthews, Keeping Thyme, Knotted Cord, O.B. Network, Stradivarious

English..International..American/Contra..French..Scottish dancing

At: de Montfort School, WR11 1DQ

All on one site; camping & café. £97pp til Jan 31st + steward rates. Go to www.mayheydays.org.uk

The Folkdance Festival in the Vale

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

Coming events

THE latest listings appear in the following section. We try to keep up to date but events can be subject to change. Do check before setting off, either by ringing the organisers, going to the venue's website or consulting our new website, www.devonfolkdirectory.org.

A revised, simpler version of the Devon Folk Directory is now up and running and can be found at www.devonfolkdirectory.org.

Listings are free for Devon Folk members and for subscribers and advertisers in What's Afoot. One person can be the contact for multiple listings at no extra cost.

Now the Flaxey-Green website has ended after more than two decades, the Directory will provide an

alternative for all kinds of folk activity in the county. We are pleased to say that Trevor Paul, the Flaxey-Green webmaster, will be helping to run the directory and the new Devon Folk website.

Information about coming events should be sent to devonfolkwebmaster@devonfolk.org or devonfolkeditor@gmail.com

If you submit an entry for the listings, it is your responsibility to ensure that details are up to date and that we are informed of any changes. 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.



FOLK ON THE MOOR
at
The Moorland Hotel, Wotter

GUEST LIST

15 Jan	Flash Jack
29 Jan	Barron Brady
12 Feb	Jim Reynolds
26 Feb	Newman/ni Chathasaigh
5 Mar	Steve Turner
19 Mar	Tom McConville
26 Mar	Lee Collinson



For directions or more information ring Anton on 01822 853620, Ben on 01752 708770, Keith on 01752 493360 or email folkonthemoor1@gmail.com

Song and Music

Song and Music

Folk song clubs and sessions are some of the best things to do in Devon. Please check if in doubt. See also www.devonfolk.org for updates.

AWLISCOMBE NR HONITON

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

BIDEFORD

Bideford Folk Club* Thursday. Joiners Arms - John Purser 01237 424286 or email bidefolk@gmail.com

BISHOPSTEIGNTON

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

BODMIN

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

BRIXHAM

4th Monday 8pm. The Birdcage, New Road. TQ5 8LT
1st Friday 7.30pm. 'Folk Cub. The Edge, Bolton Street, TQ5 9DH

BUCKLAND MONACHORUM

2nd Sunday 7.30pm. The Drake Manor Inn, The Village, PL20 7NA
1st Wednesday 8.30pm. 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 INR. TAVISTOCK

4th Tuesday 8pm. Copper Penny Inn, PL19 8NT (01822 833288, 07725 579718) mjmusic@gmail.com

COLEFORD

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

CULLOMPTON

Alternate Thursday: Crediton West Gallery Quire. Sonja Andrews 01363 877216

South West Shape Note Singing, Cullompton Steve 07976 605692

DARTINGTON

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

DENBURY

Thursday (weekly) 7.30pm. Denbury Folk. Union Inn, The Green, TQ12 6DQ. Mostly sing-around but occasional tunes, stories and poems.

Tel: 01803 812537

ERMINGTON

Last Monday: 8pm Crooked Spire Inn, The Square, PL21 9LP. Acoustic music session "Country meets Folk".

EXETER

Last Wednesday: 7.30pm Cornish and Devonian Folk Music Session (and some tunes from elsewhere). The Mount Radford, 73-75 Magdalen Rd, EX2 4TA

Last Friday: Exeter Folk & Acoustic Music Club Victoria Park Tennis Club, St Leonards.

Peter Cornelius 01392 210983
Also guest nights www.exeterfolkclub.org

EXMOUTH

4th Sunday: 7pm. GWRSA Railway Club 3-5 Royal Avenue, EX8 1EN. Chris Auson 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

FROGMORE

Alternate Wednesdays 8pm The Globe Inn, TQ7 2NR. Nigel & Sarah 01548 531525

IPPLEPEN

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

@gmail.com

KINGSTEIGNTON

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

LYMPSTONE

4th Wednesday 8pm. Lympstone Folk, Roots and Acoustic, Redwing Inn. Church Rd, Lympstone, EX8 5JT. 01395 225075/ 07741409265

MARLDON

3rd Friday 7pm. Ye Olde Smokey House, Vicarage Road, Marldon, TQ3 1NN. Folk Plus Acoustic Music Club. Paul 07894 961010

MILTON COMBE

Fortnightly Tuesday 7.30pm. American Roots song and tune session. The Who'd Have Thought It Inn, Milton Combe, PL20 6HP mar54@virgin.net

PLYMOUTH

1st and 3rd Tuesday 8.30pm. The Arjllery Arms. Mixed song and instrument session Marilyn Cowan 01752 309983

ST DOMINICK

2nd Saturday 7.30pm. Who'd Have Thought It Inn, St Dominick, Saltash PL12 6TG. Mike 07725 579718

SANDFORD

1st Tuesday 8pm Lamb Inn Paul & Hazel 01363 776275
3rd Wednesday 7.30pm Lamb Inn, Jon Shapely 0136383740 jon_shapely@hotmail.com

SCORITON

4th Sunday 7.30pm. Tradesman's Arms Sue & Simon Williams, Scoriton Farmhouse.

SIDMOUTH

3rd Monday 7.30pm. Sidmouth Acoustic Folk Club Blue Ball, Stevens Cross, Sidford EX10 9QL Hugh 01395 514618

SOUTH BRENT

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

SOUTH ZEAL

3rd Mon music session Kings

Song and Music

Arms markbazeylemobile@gmail.com

STICKLEPATH

1st Sunday 8pm. Devonshire Inn. Derek Moore 01837 840316

STOKE CANNON

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

TALLATON

3rd Sunday noon. Mostly English session.

The Talaton Inn, Talaton, EX5 2RQ. jon@devonstrings.co.uk

TEIGNMOUTH

1st Monday 8pm. Teignmouth Folk Club, The Brass, 3 Hollands Rd, TQ14 8SR.

Contact Martyn Hillstead, 01626 778071.

TOPSHAM

Monthly Monday Session. MaChews Hall, 38 High Street, EX3 0HF

Weekly Tuesdays Song.

MaChews Hall, 38 High Street Monthly (Roughly) Concert. MaChews Hall

TOTNES

2nd Thursday: Folk Song Club. Dartmouth Inn. Contact Steve and Anne Gill, 01803 290427.

1st & 3rd Tuesday 8pm. Bay Horse. Music and Song session (English)

2nd & 4th Tuesday 8pm. Bay Horse. Music session (Irish)

WILLAND

Alternate Thursday Willand Club Band Workshop. Willand Chapel, Gables Road. Mary Marker 01626 854141

WOTTER

Sunday 7.45pm. Folk on The Moor. The Moorland Hotel in WoCER, PL7 5HP (tel 01752 839228) Anton Horwich, 4, The Green, Milton Combe, Yelverton, 01822 853620

VARIOUS VENUES

Bill Murray and friends host monthly singarounds at Whiddon and Gidleigh village halls. For details ring Bill at 01647 231297 or email dartmoorbill@yahoo.com

Social Dance Clubs

BIDEFORD

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

Bideford Folk Dance Club, Northam Hall, Fore St, Northam, Bideford EX39 1AN. Weekly from last Wed in September to first in May Tel: 01237 423554.

BRIDPORT

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

CHARD

Chard Folk Dance Club, Combe St Nicholas Village Hall TA20 3NY. Fortnightly Thursday 7.30pm. Hilary & Bill Durrant 01460 61996

DARTINGTON

Darington Folk Dance Club, Darington Village Hall.

Weekly, Fridays 8pm. Tel: 01822 852442.

EXMOUTH

Exmouth Isca Scoilsh Dancers, East Budleigh Village Hall, Wynard Road, EX9 7DU.

Weekly, Wednesdays 10am. Mr & Mrs VJ Tyler 01395 276913

Exmouth Playford Club, East Budleigh Church Hall, Budleigh Salterton. 2nd Sunday. 2.30pm. VJ Tyler 01395 276913

GITTISHAM

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

LAUNCESTON

Launceston Folk Dance Club, St John Ambulance Hall. Weekly on Tuesdays 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: 01626204350.

SIDFORD

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

SOUTH HAMS

South Hams Folk Dance Club, West Charleton Village Hall TQ7 2AG. Weekly on Wednesdays 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, Thursdays 2pm to 4pm. Not June to August. Tel: 01822 855858.

WILLAND

Willand Folk Dance Club, Willand Village Hall, Gables Road, EX15 2PL. 2nd and 4th Thursdays 8pm. Tel: 01844 253546 or 01404 47200.

**NEWS ITEMS ABOUT YOUR CLUB'S ACTIVITIES SHOULD BE SENT TO
DEVONFOLKEDITOR@GMAIL.COM**

Events

JANUARY

MONDAY 2

Teignmouth Folk Club Guest Night. The Brass, Hollands Road, Teignmouth TQ14 8ST. Martyn Hillstead 01626 778071/07904037812

WEDNESDAY 4

GiP sham Folk Dance Club. Caller: Simon Maplesden Band: Pair of Shears, GiP sham Village Hall, GiP sham EX14 3AF

SATURDAY 7

The Oggle Band Ceilidh. Plough Arts Centre, Gt Torrington EX38 8HQ

TUESDAY 10

Sidford Folk Dance Club, Sidford Social Hall, Byes Lane EX10 9QX. 8Pm Janet Bulpin

THURSDAY 12

Willand Folk Dance Club. Caller: Colin Andrews Band: Dancing Keys. Willand Village Hall, Gables Road, EX15 2PL Chard Folk Dance Club. Caller: Olive Mitchell : Band: David and Graham. Combe St Nicholas Village Hall TA20 3NY. Hilary & Bill Durrant 01460 61996

WEDNESDAY 11

GiP sham Folk Dance Club. Caller: Jeremy Child and Fresh Aire. GiP sham Village Hall, GiP sham EX14 3AF nr Honiton Saturday 14 D'Accord's French Music and Dance. St James Church Hall, Mount Pleasant, Exeter EX4 7AH

SUNDAY 15

Flash Jack. Folk on the Moor, The Moorland Hotel, WoCær, PL7 5HP Tuesday 17 Sidford Folk Dance Club, Sidford Social Hall, Byes Lane EX10 9QX. 8Pm Simon

WEDNESDAY 18

GiP sham Folk Dance Club. Robert Blackborow I an and Margaret. GiP sham Village Hall, GiP sham EX14 3AF.

SATURDAY 21

Jim Causley, Devonshire folklore evening with Mark Norman. Princetown Library. See Jim's website.

TUESDAY 24

Sidford Folk Dance Club, Sidford Social Hall, Byes Lane EX10 9QX. 8Pm Jane Thomas

WEDNESDAY 25

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

THURSDAY 26

Tomorrow Bird. Plough Arts Centre, Gt. Torrington EX38 8HQ Willand Folk Dance Club. Caller: Mary Marker Band: Mary's Band. Willand Village Hall, Gables Road, EX15 2PL Chard Folk Dance Club. Caller: Brian Heaton : Band: Brian Heaton. Combe St Nicholas Village Hall Nr Chard TA20 3NY. Hilary & Bill Durrant 01460 61996

FRIDAY 27

Open night. Exeter Folk & Acousj c Music Club Victoria Park Tennis Club, St Leonards, EX2 4NX. Peter Cornelius 01392 210983. Steve Knightley: Unlock Me & Other Lockdown Laments. The Beehive Arts Centre, Dowell Street, Honiton, EX14 1LZ

SATURDAY 28

Ceilidh with Dartmoor Pixie Band. Kenn Centre, Exeter Road, Kennford, EX6 7UE

SUNDAY 29

Barron Brady. Folk on the Moor The Moorland Hotel, WoCær, PL7 5HP

TUESDAY 31

Sidford Folk Dance Club, Sidford Social Hall, Byes Lane EX10 9QX. 8pm. Aileen Wills and Chris Toyne Jim Causley. Topsham Folk Song Club Mathews Hall, Fore Street, Topsham, EX3 0HF.

FEBRUARY

SATURDAY 4

Rosa Rebecka. Plough Arts Centre, Gt. Torrington EX38 8HQ Steve Knightley. The Watermark, Erme Court, Leonards Road, Ivybridge PL21 0SZ Willand Folk Dance Club. Caller: Robert Blackborow Band: Quantock Quaranders. Willand Village Hall, Gables Road, Willand, EX15 2PL

TUESDAY 7

Sidford Folk Dance Club, Sidford Social Hall, Byes Lane EX10 9QX. 8Pm Mary Marker

THURSDAY 9

Willand Folk Dance Club. Caller: Sarah Clough Band: Jeroka. Willand Village Hall, Gables Road, EX15 2PL

SATURDAY 11

D'Accord's French Music and Dance. St James Church Hall, Mount Pleasant, Exeter EX4 7AH

SUNDAY 12

Jim Reynolds. Folk on the Moor The Moorland Hotel, WoCær, PL7 5HP

TUESDAY 14

Sidford Folk Dance Club, Sidford Social Hall, Byes Lane EX10 9QX. 8Pm. Valenj ne Dance. Gill Spence, Rosie Shaw and Fresh Aire

SUNDAY 19

Sharon Shannon Trio. Exeter Phoenix, Gandy Street EX4 3LS

TUESDAY 21

Sidford Folk Dance Club, Sidford Social Hall, Byes Lane EX10 9QX. 8Pm Jane Thomas

THURSDAY 23

Chard Folk Dance Club., Mary & Robert Blackborow : Band: Merry Band. Combe St Nicholas Village Hall TA20 3NY. Hilary & Bill Durrant 01460 61996

FRIDAY 24

Exeter Folk & Acousj c Music Club Victoria Park Tennis Club,

Events

St Leonards, EX2 4NX. Peter Cornelius 01392 210983. Open night.

SATURDAY 25

Ceilidh with English Contra Dance Band. Kenn Centre, Exeter Road, Kennford, EX6 7UE

SUNDAY 26

Chris Newman and Maire Ni Chathashaigh. Folk on the Moor The Moorland Hotel, Woŕcer, PL7 5HP
Melrose Quartet. Topsham Folk Song Club Mathews Hall, Fore Street, Topsham, EX3 0HF

TUESDAY 28

Sidford Folk Dance Club, Sidford Social Hall, Byes Lane EX10 9QX. 8Pm Simon Maplesden.

MARCH

FRIDAY 3

Jim Causley, ' Folk Cub. The Edge, Bolton Street, TQ5 9DH. The Countrymen. Calstock Arts, The Old Chapel, Sand Lane, Calstock PL18 9QX

SATURDAY 4

Willand Folk Dance Club. Simon Maplesde: Fresh Aire. Willand Village Hall, Gables Road, Willand, EX15 2PL

SUNDAY 5

Steve Turner. Folk on the Moor The Moorland Hotel, Woŕcer, PL7 5HP

TUESDAY 7

Sidford Folk Dance Club, Sidford Social Hall, Byes Lane EX10 9QX. 8Pm. Chris Jewell

THURSDAY 9

Phil Beer Band. Exeter Corn Exchange, Market Street, Exeter, EX1 1BW

Willand Folk Dance Club. Ted Farmer, Chris Toyne. Willand Village Hall, Gables Road, EX15 2PL

Chard Folk Dance Club. Jane Thomas, David & Graham Duo. Combe St Nicholas Village Hall TA20 3NY. Hilary & Bill Durrant 01460 61996

FRIDAY 10

Rachel Newton. Calstock Arts, The Old Chapel, Sand Lane, Calstock PL18 9QX

SATURDAY 11

D'Accord's French Music and Dance. St James Church Hall, Mount Pleasant, Exeter EX4 7AH

TUESDAY 14

The Fureys. Tavistock Wharf, Canal Road, PL18 8AT
Sidford Folk Dance Club, Sidford Social Hall, Byes Lane EX10 9QX. 8Pm. Fresh Aire

FRIDAY 17

Pete Coe. Exeter Folk & Acousŕc Music Club Victoria Park Tennis Club, St Leonards, EX2 4NX. Peter Cornelius 01392 210983.

SATURDAY 18

Jim Causley. The Flavel, Flavel Place, Dartmouth, TQ6 9ND

SUNDAY 19

Beans On Toast. Exeter Phoenix, Gandy Street EX4 3LS
Tom McConville. Folk on the Moor The Moorland Hotel, Woŕcer, PL7 5HP
The Haar. Topsham Folk Song Club Mathews Hall, Fore Street, Topsham, EX3 0HF

MONDAY 20

Sidmouth Acousŕc Folk Club Coracle. Blue Ball, Stevens Cross, Sidford EX10 9QL. Jan telephone 07850163241

TUESDAY 21

Sidford Folk Dance Club, Sidford Social Hall, Byes Lane EX10 9QX. 8pm. Jeremy Child.

WEDNESDAY 22

Feast of Fiddles. Exeter Phoenix, Gandy Street EX4 3LS

THURSDAY 23

Willand Folk Dance Club. Chris Jewell Band. Willand Village Hall, Gables Road, EX15 2PL
Bideford Folk Club. Lynne Heraud & Pat Turner. The Joiners Arms
Market Place, Bideford, EX30 2DR. John Purser 01237 424286
Chard Folk Dance Club. Caller: Simon Maplesden : Band: Ian Bryden. Combe St Nicholas Village Hall TA20 3NY. Hilary & Bill Durrant 01460 61996

SATURDAY 25

Amber Fire. Kenn Centre, Exeter Road, Kennford, EX6 7UE
Spring Ceilidh: Pam Hayes, Spinach for Norman. South Brent Village Hall, Staŕ on Approach, TQ10 9JL

SUNDAY 26

The Lost Trades. Exeter Phoenix, Gandy Street EX4 3LS
Lee Collinson. Folk on the Moor The Moorland Hotel, Woŕcer, PL7 5HP

Morris and Display Teams

(F - Morris Federaŕ on, R Morris Ring, Open Morris)

Day: regular meeŕng

Alive & Kicking (F)

Appalachian. Jo Wright 01392 462531

Beltane (F)

Border, Harriet White.

harrietcewhite@yahoo.co.uk

Bideford Phoenix Morris (F)

Carolyn Bennion, 01237 473798

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

Bradnich Millers Morris (F)

Duncan Harrington 01884 855270

Catseye Morris (F)

Tues Catseyebag@aol.com

www.catseyemorris.co.uk

Morris and Display Teams

Cogs & Wheels (F)

Donna Tombs
dtombs65@gmail.com (Thurs)

Dartmoor Border (F)

Mark Tregaskis 01752 299700
treggie@blueyonder.co.uk Wed
dartmoorbordermorris.com

Dar nton Morris Men (R)

bagman@darj ntonmorrismen.
org.uk (Fri)

Exeter Morris (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
gloryoQhewest@gmail.com
(Wed)

Great Western Morris (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@j scalic.co.uk

Ilfracombe Red Pe O 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

Olison Chapman, 07541 385463

Ooer Morris

bag.oOer.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.neCeton@gmail.com

Sidmouth Tradit onal

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

Mrs Elizabeth Thurgood,
01404 812185 (Sat)

Winkleigh Morris (F)

Angela Haines, HollacoC,
Hollocombe, Chulmleigh
EX18 7QE

01837 83219

daveyhaines@b nternet.com
(Tues)

Wreckers Border (F)

wreckers.bag@gmail.com Thurs

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

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561378 sam@folklife.co.uk www.folklife.org.uk,
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co.uk Tony & Peter's Folk Diary, email for list:
sanchobramble@hotmail.com

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unicornmagazine@hotmail.co.uk

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Cecil Sharp House,
2, Regents Park Road,
London, NW1 7AY. 020 7485 2206. info@efdss.
orgwww.efdss.org

THE MORRIS FEDERATION

Andrew Knight secretary@morrisfed.org.uk.
www.morrisfed.org.uk

THE MORRIS RING

Peter Aus n bagman@themorrisring.org
01926 339351 g

OPEN MORRIS

HeC y Bevington secretary@open-morris.org

NATIONAL YOUTH FOLKLORE TROUPE OF ENGLAND

www.nyQe.org.uk

Bands

BANDS IN BOLD HAVE AN ADVERT IN THIS ISSUE

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Backalong

07989 068825

Blue Jewel

kipviolin@gmail.com

07969123346

Dancing Keys

hazelridd@hotmail.co.uk

Hips & Haws 01363 866423

Home Brew 01363 877216

Irish band The O'Marleys
mac.moulton@gmail.com

Mooncoin

01803 290427

More The Merrier

01626 854141

Mugdock

01643 707294

Petronella

01626 854141

Red Shed

julianpaulwild@hotmail.com

Spinach For Norman
07970 151059

Steve Gill & Andy Clarke

01803 290427

S ck The Fiddle

01884 255356

or 07790 760462

Winkeilidh Band

01363 877216

Callers

Callers in bold have an advert in this issue

vvColin Andrews

bonnygreencolin@gmail.com

01363 877216

Steve Banks

steve@bluejewel.info

07957 855458

Jeremy Child

jeremy.m.child@gmail.com

hOps://barndancecaller.net

07969 297633

Anne Gill

01803 290427

Beryl Jukes

01209 712357

Mary Marker

01626 854141

Kip Prae

kipviolin@gmail.com

07969123346

TO HAVE your services as a band or caller listed here and in the Devon Folk Directory online, either join Devon Folk or subscribe to this magazine.

Exeter Folk & Acoustic Music Club

VictoriaParkTennisClub, Lyndhurst Road, St.Leonards, Exeter,
EX24NX – 8.00pm

Friday 27th January

Open Club Night

Friday 24th February

Open Club Night

Friday 17th March

Concert Night: PETE COE

Friday 31st March

Open Club Night

Friday 14th April

Concert Night: CROWS

For more informaŕ on contact

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

Folk on the Moor is back in its old home

FOLK on the Moor, which has been established in West Devon since the early 1980s (originally as The Who'd Have Thought It Folk Club in Milton Combe), has returned after 15 years to the venue on Dartmoor, from which it took its current name.

It is once again operating from The Moorland Hotel in Wotter after a short spell at a pub in Ivybridge and before that a few years in Lee Mill. The move from Ivybridge was prompted by unacceptable levels of noise at the venue.

"We only moved from The Moorland in 2007 because the hotel was going to be sold and we were to lose the use of the room," says club organiser Anton Horwich.

"But at that time, the sale never actually went through. As it turned out, we needn't have moved."

The hotel has recently gained new owners and the manager, Hayley, was keen to welcome the club back to its old haunt. "Our opening night

with Clive Gregson was a sell-out," says Anton, "and we were full to capacity, too, with our second guest night, which featured Bob Fox. Also very encouraging was the turnout for our first singers' night, when we attracted double the numbers, who typically came to Ivybridge and included some first-time performers.

"All in all, it's very encouraging and we feel very happy to be back at The Moorland. The room is comfortable with excellent acoustics, the staff are welcoming and there are reasonably-priced hotel rooms available for anyone, who may wish to stay over."

Folk on the Moor has some splendid evenings lined up in the coming months. For details, see the club's advert on Page 21.

IS YOUR club moving to new premises or offering a new format? Have you discovered new talent Keep us informed of what is happening by emailing Devonfolkeditor@gmail.com

CHARD FOLK DANCE CLUB

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Admission Club Nights £4.00

12th January - Olive Mitchell with David & Graham Duo

26th January - Brian Heaton plays & calls

9th February – Planned Dance Cancelled

23rd February - Mary & Robert Blackborow and Merry Band

9th March - Jane Thomas with David & Graham Duo

23rd March - Simon Maplesden with Ian Bryden

6th April - Simon Maplesden with Jeroka

20th April - Mary & Robert Blackborow and Merry Band

More information contact HILARY & BILL DURRANT 01460 61996

Sidford celebrates two silver steppers

A COUPLE who first met at Sidford Folk Dance Club have celebrated their silver wedding there with the same caller and musicians who performed at their wedding party.

John and Wendy Broom and friends danced the night away to musicians from More the Merrier and Petronella on November 1 last year. Jane Thomas, who called at their engagement party and at their wedding dance, kept her promise – made 25 years ago – to return for this special event.

The evening not only showed the power of dance in making a happy marriage but also disproved the myth that mothers-in-law can

unmake a marriage. One month after John moved in with Wendy, his mother Hetty came to stay. This visit was meant to be for two weeks but she stayed 10 years and enjoyed being taken to the folk clubs they attended.

Their grandchildren Suzie and Nick also spent many weekends with John and Wendy during their school years and were taken to clubs and festivals. Suzie joined NYFTE (the National Youth Folklore Troupe of England) and danced with them for several years.

Here's wishing John and Wendy and all their friends many more years of happy marriage and dancing.

Memorial dance for Doreen



THE life of popular dance caller Doreen Cooper was commemorated on the anniversary of her death with a special dance at Sidford Folk Dance Club.

Doreen ran the Salcombe Regis Club for many years and was well known throughout the county. The date of the dance, November 12 last year was an apt choice as it was a year on from her passing and also her birthday. Guests danced to recordings of Doreen's favourite music.

Doreen's three daughters, Sarah, Belinda and Laura said: "The evening reflected everything she loved about folk – the wonderful, evocative music and bringing people together."

Lockdown forces club to close

WE are sorry to report that the Country Dance Plymouth club has closed.

Treasurer Ian Joint says: "Our numbers never recovered after lockdown. We tried changing our time from evenings to afternoons but at our last meeting, when we didn't even have enough people to form a set, we decided that the time had come to call it a day.

"It is very sad. The club was formed in the

Seventies and, up until 10 years ago, we had a membership of 30-plus. But we have not been able to attract younger people and the end was inevitable. I am also Treasurer of the Tavistock Folk dance Club and I am pleased to say that that club is continuing. We now have a regular venue at the Methodist Church hall."

You can find details of the Tavistock Folk Dance Club in their advert on Page 32

Our breaking with tradition was a lucky break for us

Exeter Morris Men are now unisex and all the better for it says CHRIS BURHOUSE

NEVER in our dreams did we think that this year's recruitment push would result in a significant and encouraging article on page three of *The Times*, followed up with a live interview with Mariella Frostrup on Times Radio.

It is likely that circumstances and timing were on our side this time, compared with previous miserably failed attempts at finding new younger dancers. Having been a male-dancer-only side for 70 years, this year, Exeter Morris Men became Exeter Morris, hoping to recruit women dancers to bolster the dwindling number of ageing and relocating male dancers.

A press release announcing the name change and the invitation to potential women dancers was issued the morning after the Queen's funeral and was picked up almost immediately by BBC Radio Devon with many other local media outlets running the story, too.

And then, to apply a much-overused phrase, Exeter Morris "went viral" – well nationally anyway. Even Radio 4's Women's Hour wanted an interview. The outcome: we now have 10

potential new recruits (seven women and two men dancers, and a musician) who are being put through their paces at practice nights.

There is no doubt the decision to become a mixed side has been the overriding factor in finding our new recruits. The timing of the press release, when the media may have been on the look out for a "good news" story probably helped, too.

WE DID however, take a different approach with promoting Morris Dancing to a wider audience this time. Previous attempts have mainly been of the Lord Kitchener, "We Need You" approach, which in hindsight, most likely came across as being somewhat "needy".

This year, our invitation, over two nights in September and October, was simply for anyone who enjoyed music and dancing and having fun, to just come along and have a go at Morris Dancing.

The idea of course, was that we would then work our magic on those that came to our taster

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FINDING THEIR FEET: Exeter Morris's new recruits – of both sexes – at a practice session

sessions and encourage them to keep coming to regular practice nights.

And it appears to be working, with the potential that Exeter Morris will be starting their

2023 Dance Out season with a strong contingent of male AND female dancers.

Chris Burhouse is the Bagman for Exeter Morris. Email c.burhouse@btinternet.com



Saturday 25 March 2023

SPRING CÉILIDH

with

SPINACH FOR NORMAN

with caller
Pam Hayes



**at South Brent
Village Hall
at 7.30pm**



Doors open 7.00pm Reel Ale Bar
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For further information contact 01364 73699

<http://southbrentfolk.org.uk>

BACKALONG FOLK DANCE BAND

Devon-based trio
plus caller
melodeon/fiddle/guitar
contact
Steve Verge 07989068825

steveverge@gmail.com

Tavistock Folk Dance Club

Dancing on Thursday
afternoon 2 – 4pm

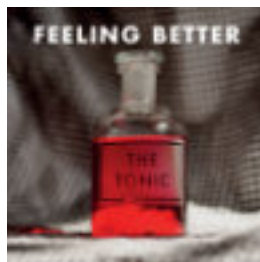
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Upper Hall
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1st and 3rd Thursday
each month

Contact: 01822 855858

Reviews



FEELING BETTER

The Tonic

BASED in the South-East, The Tonic is a four-piece band of experienced musicians and singers and who came together as a group in 2012.

The members are Julie Aitken (piano) and Gavin Aitken (fiddle & melodeon), Malcolm Woods (melodeon), Ollie Woods (percussion). Malcolm and Ollie have worked with the Wren Trust in Devon on a number of occasions. This is their first CD and features six sets of tunes and four songs.

Reading in the accompanying biographical notes that Gavin also plays with the dynamic ceilidh band, Florida, I was quite surprised — though pleasantly — that the presentation of the tunes was much more conventional, with a steady, foot-tapping rhythm ideally suited to country dancing. Though drawn from a variety of sources, as the sleeve notes explain, many of the tunes were familiar to me and included some of my favourites — *Squirrel In The Tree*, *Seven Stars* and in particular *Tom Tolley's Hornpipe*.

The songs *William Brown*, and *Frankie and Johnny* were also familiar, though the background information on the latter was very interesting. However, the songs from Julie and Ollie, I had not heard before. Both *Raking The Hay*, collected from Phoebe Smith, and *The Little Blue Flame*, from the Baring-Gould collection, were a real treat.

Yes, listening to the CD made me feel better! If I have any criticism at all it is that I would have liked a larger dose of the Tonic!

Colin Andrews

The CD is available, price £10 + £1.50 p&p from Julie Aitken elizatwells@yahoo.co.uk

MOST TRULY YOURS

The Gilchrist Collec ve

DESPITE the full page advert and article in the previous issue of What's Afoot and several postings on Facebook, an evening that featured a presentation of the life and the songs collected by Anne Gilchrist hadn't really registered with me until I heard Sue Burgess, Peter and Barbara Snape perform in the final floor spot at the Exeter Folk Club. Fortunately, there will still tickets for the event the following evening. The Gilchrist

Reviews

Collective, which on the CD also includes Brian Peters and Poppy Weatherall, was set up to celebrate the contribution that Anne Gilchrist (1863-1954) made to the collection of folk songs – and also tunes and dances – mostly from her native Lancashire, and to promote wider recognition of them.

A selection of 18 songs and two tunes are included on the CD, some unaccompanied and others with a sympathetic melodeon, concertina, fiddle or guitar accompaniment. *Bed Your Leave* and *When John's Sail Was New* (a version of *Joans Ale*) are two songs from the Lancashire Pace-Egging tradition at Eastertide, and *We have Been Rambling* is a Christmas Wassail song.

Although the titles of several songs are well-known, the versions collected by Anne Gilchrist are much less familiar. I particularly liked the variation of *Barbara Ellen*, *Admiral Benbow*, and *The Fall of the Leaf*, the latter

being very closely related to *What's The Life Of A Man*, a song I've always associated with Sussex.

Anne Gilchrist did collect some songs from a village on the East Sussex/Kent

border where a relative was at one time a Presbyterian minister, although *Fall of a Leaf* came from the Lake District.

I can thoroughly recommend this CD, not only for the interesting songs and their background but also for the quality of the singing and accompaniment. The CD costs £10. See www.thesnapes.org.uk for details.

Colin Andrews

DEVON artists who would like their CD reviewed in What's Afoot should send a copy to John Foxen at 129 Tamar Avenue, Tavistock, PL19 9HZ, for passing on to our reviewers. If you would like the CD returned then please enclose a suitable stamped addressed envelope. Or you can email sound files and sleeve notes to devonfolkeditor@gmail.com.

Sidmouth Acoustic Folk Club



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month 7.30pm

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16th Jan & 20th Feb 2023.

*£2 Entrance Fee

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Saturday 22nd April 2023
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The Dartmoor Pixie Band
Bring and share supper
November Dance details to follow

For further information ring
Rosemary Phillips
01566 774491



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VICE PRESIDENT

Aileen Wills

CHAIR and

MEMBERSHIP SECRETARY

Anne Gill

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Tavistock,

PL19 9HZ

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 by 11th February 2023 to:
Mrs A. Gill, Maleth, 11 Cleveland Road, Torquay, TQ2 5BD*



Help us to help Devon's traditions

Devon Folk is a non-profit organisation dedicated to promoting traditional music song and dance throughout the county.

It publishes this magazine and helps with festivals and other activities. You can support us by joining the association, using the form printed here or by subscribing to What's Afoot, published every quarter. For just £10 a year you will receive four copies of the magazine through the post.

If you want to do more 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 on the facing page 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.

This year's AGM is at 6pm on March 25, 2023 at South Brent Village Hall followed in the evening by a Ceilidh with Spinach for Norman organised by South Brent Folk.

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 £10

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

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Cheque enclosed
 To Devon Folk

Details requested
 For BACspayment

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Jim Causley

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Daoiri Farrell

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coming later in the year

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Blowzabella SUNDAY 24 SEPTEMBER 2023 www.blowzabella.co.uk

Granny's Attic SUNDAY 22 OCTOBER 2023 www.grannysattic.org.uk

SykesMartin SUNDAY 26 NOVEMBER 2023 www.edgelarks.co.uk/sykesmartin

concert tickets can be bought online at www.topshamfolkclub.org
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www.facebook.com/topshamfolkclub all enquiries 01392 874718

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at **The Bridge Inn**
Topsham EX3 0QQ
- 7.30pm- 9.30pm
(not August)