

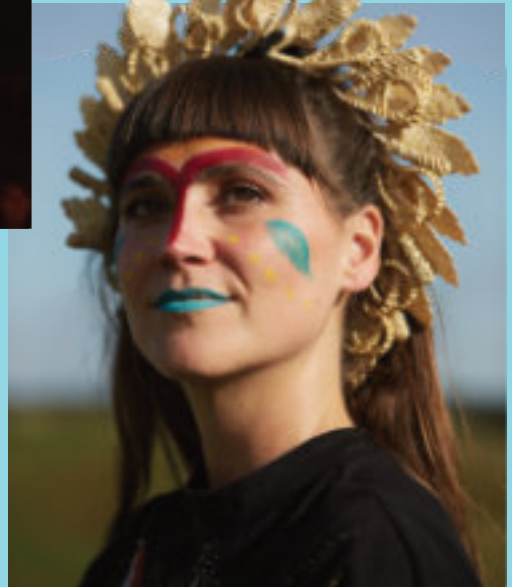
No 130

April-June 2023

What's Afoot



WHO'S THE BOSS?



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BELTANE, COMPARE
WITH THE BELLES
OF THE BRITS?**

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EDITORIAL

HOW do we reach out to the wider public and convince them our folk traditions are not something to be mocked or ignored? Adding a bit of rock and roll energy to performances is one way, as shown by our cover article about Beltane and Boss Morris. The Wellerman YouTube video gave a great boost to sea shanties while Seth Lakeman and Show of Hands have pushed the boundaries of folk music. But what can the rest of us do? One answer was provided by two contrasting events I attended recently, one in a pub and the other in a bowls club. Tavistock Sir Francis Drake Bowling Club sounds an unlikely venue for a folk event but the members ran a social evening with a ceilidh. Most of them hadn't done any folk dancing since their school days but, urged on by genial caller Jeremy Child, they soon got into the swing and were having a splendid time. There was no shortage of people willing to get up on the dance floor and no shortage of smiles and laughter. It may be that some of them will go on to join folk dance clubs. The other event was the polar opposite: an open mic night that will be nameless to protect the guilty. The MC didn't bother to say hello or introduce acts but seemed more interested in his equipment than the people. And the acts seemed more interested in stroking their egos than entertaining the audience. The moral is: if we want people to be interested in folk music, dance and song, we have to be interested in them. *John Foxen*

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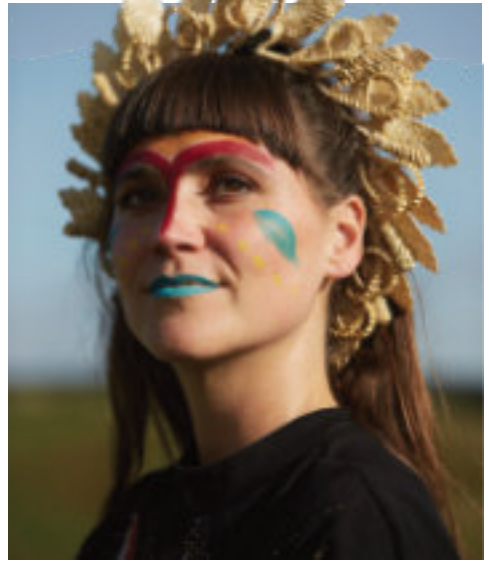
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CREATURES OF LIGHT AND DARKNESS: Ant of Beltane faces off a Boss dancer. The Boss picture by Aloha Bonser-Shaw comes courtesy of Ffern – Organic Eau de Parfum

Who's the boss?

The Brit Awards caused a flutter in the folk world when indie band Wet Leg asked Boss Morris to dance during their performance of Chaise Longue. This overshadowed Beltane's victory in a national dance competition organised by Tradfolk magazine. So let's even things up.

BOSS Morris, an all-women side based in Stroud, have come a long way since starting up in 2015, writes *John Foxen*. Appearances at the Barbican (London, not Plymouth), Sidmouth Folk Festival and the Brit Awards have seen them hailed as bringing new energy to morris.

But have they done more to make morris “cool” than our own Beltane, which began life as an all-women side, Iron Maidens, in 2000? The Maidens wanted to prove women could dance border morris with “attitude” and swapped traditional garb for short skirts and fishnet tights. They were also the first to reverse the trend that has seen all-male sides going mixed, by accepting men in 2001 and becoming Beltane.

The side has become famous for displaying the dark side of Dartmoor in its dances and for having a high-powered band that plays traditional and trad-inspired tunes with the

energy of a heavy rock band. The dancers move with the power and precision of an SAS team charging into action – necessary if you're facing up to the demons of Dartmoor.

Their passionate performance won them first place in a poll organised by trad folk to find the best morris dance of 2022. The dance was their own *The Cross Tree*, filmed at the White Thorn Inn at Shaugh Prior back in May 2022.

IT WAS an inspired choice because Beltane were on their mettle that night as they were dancing out with one of Devon's top sides, Dartmoor Border Morris (this is an unvarnished statement of fact and in no way biased just because the editor of What's Afoot happens to be the squire of Dartmoor).

Not only is the dancing fabulous but the hand-held camera work by Beltane squire Ant Veal is

Thoroughly Modern Morris

a master class in how to video a morris side in action. He knows the dance and the music intimately and constantly homes in on the action, whether moving from the violin playing a slow intro to a melancholy guitar chord or dancers hurtling into position or clashing sticks.

So how does it compare with the Boss Morris video? (If you haven't seen either video, they can be found on YouTube or by checking out the What's Afoot Facebook page. Also there is a link to an impressive drone video by Kyle Baker of Boss in action at Sidmouth).

Ant is generous in his praise of his "rivals", saying: "I was amazed. In terms of getting morris out to a broad audience I think its done really well. Also, I particularly like the fact that they are doing Cotswold. I used to do it and we would get ridiculed quite a lot for waving handkerchiefs. Boss are making it cool.

"Cecil Sharp always said morris is not a dance just for each other but a spectacular dance, only to be danced on special occasions. The Brit Awards is a special occasion. That stage is perfect for morris and the morris is front and centre of everything. They are just doing the traditional moves most of us do. But it fits perfectly with the band and the song.

"It's very hard to recruit the under-35s but with the Brit Awards you are probably going to get a couple of million people in their twenties watching and saying, 'Wow look at that dancing'. I'd imagine just that performance will inspire some people to give it a go."

The Brit Awards stage is certainly spectacular but Ant had a lot more scope for his video, using the whole of the road for his dance.

"It was a rare chance to do Cross Tree with

two sets of 12 dancers," he says. "I was watching the video again and my wife said, 'I can't believe, you did that. You broke the rule. You ran down between the two sets of dancers'."

It must be said that this is the high point of the video. It's a move fraught with danger. If his timing had been out by a second then a collision could have wrecked the whole dance and possibly caused a few nasty accidents.

Ant knows the risks only too well. "At the Teignmouth Festival in 2019 we had a film crew videoing us. We'd advised the cameraman to stay on the outside. He had this huge contraption

over his shoulders – a Steadicam – and was going right into the middle of the set. I had to give him a tap on the shoulder and say: 'Take a step back or you're going to get hurt'."

Ant's derring-do paid off and the video catches the energy and commitment of Beltane's dancers. It's impressive that half a dozen of the dancers had joined only in the previous October,

having never danced before and this was one of their first dance-outs. However, if you study the video carefully, you might catch a dancer almost breaking the Beltane golden rule and smiling. Always remember it's grim up on Dartmoor.

As for the music, *Chaise Longue* is a fun piece of pop. Nothing wrong with that. *Postman's Knock*, loved by Cotswold sides, was a piece of pop in its day and Sidmouth Steppers use the Buddy Holly hit *It Doesn't Matter Anymore* for Whitby Shindig. But to my ear, the tunes used by Beltane, *Indian Point* and *Paris Man*, are better.

In the end, the important thing is not whether one video is best – it's down to personal taste, – but that these videos may reach out to potential morris dancers or new folk fans.

THE impressive picture of a Boss dancer was kindly given to us by Ffern, the exclusive scent makers, who used Boss for a photo shoot. This will come as a surprise to those who think the only aroma associated with morris is a mixture of beer and sweat.

Why Health and Safety rules aren't pants

RUNNERS-UP in the Tradfolk poll were Earlsdon Morris from Coventry and the all-women Sheffield Steel Rapper. They are both fine sides who have given notable performances at Sidmouth Folk Festival.

I found Sheffield Steel particularly memorable – and not just for their excellent dancing.

A few years back, my wife Mab and I were with Wreckers Morris, sharing a

spot with Sheffield Steel in Sidmouth. The rappers were about to start when Mab heard an anguished squeal from one of the girls: "Oh no, I've forgotten my safety pants!"

These are, of course very necessary if you are in a very short skirt and about to perform the head-over-heels move. Fortunately, the dancer found her pants before the dance started.



Ukrainian girls sing for their homeland

TWO Ukrainian girls singing folk songs in national dress were the undoubted hit of a concert which raised £1,100 to help their beleaguered country. Liza Vorona and Mariia Maznikova, pictured above, appeared at an event organised by Folk on the Moor in February.

Club stalwart Anton Horwich was inspired to hold the concert at the Moorland Hotel, in Wotter after seeing a presentation by PUMA (Plymouth Ukraine Medical Aid), at Milton Combe village hall.

He said: “There were incredibly moving contributions from PUMA representatives and from Helen Vorona, a Ukrainian refugee, and the presentation finished with two songs, beautifully sung acappella by two young Ukrainian singers, Liza (Helen’s daughter) and Mariia Maznikova (pictured above). The audience was stunned by the quality of their singing and gave the girls a standing ovation.”

Anton persuaded his club to give over one of

their singers’ nights to a fundraising concert and rounded up a good local line-up of artists – Graham and Val Lobb, Steve Jenner, Ben Campbell and Silvington (Tricia Moore and John Connor) – which ensured the event was sold out. But once again it was Liza and Maria who blew the audience away. You can hear their songs at <https://youtu.be/16ZIZytrU4k> and <https://youtu.be/dK3ln04vAF8>. (Links have been posted on the What’s Afoot Facebook page).

SADLY, as What’s Afoot went to press we hadn’t got a translation of what the girls were singing but you don’t need to understand the words to find their voices and harmonies beautiful. Particularly enchanting is the little “yip” they give at the end of each verse of their fast song.

Mariia and Liza started singing together at kindergarten and have clearly developed a very

Charitable Folk

special rapport. They went on to win a talent show broadcast on First National Television Channel of Ukraine but had to part when they went to universities in different cities. Ironically, the war that forced them to flee their country has brought them together again in Plymouth. We hope to hear more of them. Other clubs in the county might consider inviting them along. Let us know if you do.

As the concert was being held on Sunday February 5, PUMA's fifth consignment of aid was en route to Prague, where it was transferred to contacts established during earlier trips, who would take it to a hospital in Ukraine or directly to the front line.

Anton said: "I personally know four of PUMA's trustees, three of whom have senior medical backgrounds, and can therefore vouch for their integrity.

"It was, in every sense, a hugely rewarding evening and a massive thank you must go to all who dug deep to raise such a fantastic sum."

PUMA has been planning its sixth trip, which will leave in April. You can learn more about the charity and make a donation or offer help at www.plympuma.co.uk

Raffle cash goes to earthquake appeal

TEIGNMOUTH Folk Club was quick to react when the earthquake struck in Turkey at Syria in February.

The club's organiser Martyn Hillstead immediately posted on Facebook: "We had a wonderful night last night in sharp contrast to the horrific scenes in Turkey and Syria. How would people feel about donating last night's raffle proceeds, exactly £50, to the inevitable disaster appeal fund? Let me know."

The immediate answer was a resounding "Yes!" and the raffle cash went straight to Oxfam disaster appeal.

Teignmouth Folk Club meets at The Brass, 3 Hollands Rd, TQ14 8SR, on the first Monday of the month

It's always heartening to hear of the charitable efforts of those in the folk world – clubs morris sides and individuals. What's Afoot is always happy to publicise events and happy outcomes. Keep us up to date with what you or your club are doing by emailing devonfolkeditor@gmail.com

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Steve faces the music

Steve Gill has been a fixture on the Devon folk scene for 45 years as a singer, musician and morris man. Last year he asked Jim Causley to help him record a CD of his own songs. During their sessions together, Jim took the opportunity to ask Steve about his life and music.



TELL me a bit about yourself and your background.

I WAS born in Torquay in 1955. My mum and dad were both born in Torquay and I was their only child. We lived all our time in Chelston until my father died at the age of 66, which, funnily enough, is my age now. Mum was 94 when she died and she lived with me here in Torre which was where my grand father was born in Laburnham Street.

I don't think I can get much more local than I am because I've only moved about a mile in my existence, from one side of the woods to the other.

I worked at the Imperial Hotel for 18 years as a tennis coach. When things changed I decided to have a go at gardening and did that for many years until I got slightly injured and found it very difficult to do manual jobs. So I ended back up in tennis working for Pro Direct.

But my greatest love – apart from Anne, my wife – is folk music. It's something I picked up at school when I walked into the sixth form room and somebody had the record *Babbacombe Lee* on with Fairport Convention singing *The Sailor's Alphabet*. I thought: "I rather like this."

So I ended up buying folk albums and one day somebody said: "There's a folk club in Torquay." I mooched along to the club which was at the Country House originally then they moved to the Devon Dumping in Shiphay. It was there I met

Anne and, as I played melodeon and concertina, she asked me to play for her ladies morris side.

I totally fell in love with anything folky. I did mummings at one point and I was also a founder member of Grimspond Border Morris. I was the only box player and used to dance as well as play which was a bit of a novelty. Couldn't do it now.

[While with Grimspond, Steve was involved with the creation of the now world-famous dance, Timmers Rabbits. He says: "I picked the Devon tune Hopscotch Polka (Fred Pidgeon from Stockland Devon 1954) to go with the dance Martin Gosling had written. Other sides now dance it to a hornpipe." For the full story of the creation of this dance, see What's Afoot 120.]

In more recent years I played for Heather & Gorse. Sadly they have now disbanded which was largely due to a mixture of politics and old age and people not wanting to practise in a cold hall and having to sanitise everywhere. I'm now playing for Newton Bushel as well as the ceilidh bands Mooncoin and Backalong.

HAVE you noticed the folk scene change over the years?

YES, I have I think. I think there are a lot more singer/songwriters around these days, which is a good thing in one sense but you lose the community side which I grew up with, with hundreds of chorus songs, where we all sang so you wouldn't ever feel "out of it". You could sing

Causley's Corner

all night and not do any of your own songs. I'm a great lover of the aural tradition of passing it on, that was how it was done originally. There's a lot of evidence of that with the names of tunes. When people say "It was Dennis Murphy's Polka" or "John Ryan's Polka", they didn't actually write down the name of the tune. They probably didn't know it or couldn't write it.

SO YOU don't consider yourself a singer/songwriter then?

NOT really. Often a lot of singer/songwriters tend to only do their own material whereas I nick stuff from everywhere. I'm a great fan of Graeme Miles and I've got about 12 of his songs that I do.

But I just take a song from anywhere, whether it's English, Irish, Scottish. I don't do many Scottish songs because the accent's difficult but I do a couple and I always enjoy the music from Newfoundland. I rather like some of the Galician stuff as well from northern Spain. I've got quite a wide range really. I've always liked Fairport, Steeleye and the Albion Band. Anne doesn't tend to like anything with bass guitar and drums but that's fine. I can live with that.

WHAT was it about folk music that appealed so much to you?

MINIMALISTIC backing so you can understand the song fully and the history of the songs and often the subject is powerful. I was also interested in the variety of instruments used.

WHO were your biggest musical influences? And what did you like about them?

MARTYN Wyndham-Read who can sing anything and make it come alive.

Barry and Robin Dransfield who produced fabulous material.

John Kirkpatrick for his playing and bringing simple tunes to life.

Not forgetting the ladies: Sandy Denny who always touched so many and I had a little soft spot for Cathy Le Surf and her lovely harmonies.

DO YOU think Devon folk music has any distinctive qualities relative to music from other regions of England and the British Isles?

Not sure about this. I have many favourite styles I love to play, and I pinch stuff from everywhere.

WHAT do you think of the current folk scene and where do you see it going?

BETTER musicianship among the younger folkies but in my opinion, they are weaker in the

vocals. I blame the schools for not having singing together on a weekly basis like we had. I don't know where the folk scene is going to go, I only hope it is on the up.

HOW would you like to see the folk scene in Devon change and evolve or are you happy with it as it is?

I WOULD like some of the "new folkies" to ask us "old folkies" for tips on performance in public and to recognise and respect this wonderful music of ours. Other nations like Ireland and Scotland do it. Ask and we will all help.

● *ALTHOUGH Steve does not consider himself a songwriter, the CD recorded with Jim comprises 10 of his own compositions, including a new version of Painted Stations which was on his first solo CD, Light And Shade. The album is called Not For Sale, because Steve didn't record it with the idea of selling it – just to preserve his songs. However, if anyone would like to buy a copy of Not For Sale, they can contact Steve at Maleth, 11, Cleveland Rd, Torquay, TQ2 5BD, call 01803 290427 or email anne.m.gill@icloud.com*



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To confirm updated venues or contact:

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Also run by Pennymoor members:

1st Sunday 8.00pm The Devonshire Inn, Sticklepath Contact: Derek
01837840316

1st Tuesday 8.00pm The Lamb, Sandford, Nr. CREDITON
Contact: Hazel or Paul 01363 776275

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

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

Watch out for the Wampanoag

THE Wampanoag tribe, also known as the People of the First Light, will be familiar to fans of Seth Lakeman thanks to his epic concept album, *A Pilgrim's Tale*, released to commemorate Mayflower 400.

Watch Out, the first track, tells of a Native American girl who dreams of a “floating island with trees”, an omen of the arrival of the European ships with their settlers who would change for ever the lives of America’s original inhabitants.

Seth was inspired to write the song after meeting members of the Wampanoag tribe while touring the US with Robert Plant. We can’t all go to North America with a rock legend but Devonians do have the chance to meet the people who saved the Pilgrim Fathers by sharing their food with them and ended up being forced into a

small corner of the land where they had lived for 10,000 years.

From **April 25 to 27**, Theatre Royal Plymouth is staging what it calls the Wampanoag Takeover, a series of events in which members of the tribe will present their songs, music, customs and history. It’s worth checking out all the events on the theatre’s website but there are two which are most likely to be of interest to folk fans.

On Tuesday April 25, there is an evening of Eastern Social Song and Dance with Wampanoag tribe members performing music, dance and stories. The audience is encouraged to join the performers in song and dance.

Thursday evening offers an array of Wampanoag singers and songwriters, musical improvisation, spoken word artists and Hip Hop artist, Asa Peters.

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Exeter 'morrised' again

EXETER is only just recovering from the Inter Varsity Folk Dance Day in February and now it faces another influx of dancers for the Joint Morris Organisation's Day of Dance.

On **Saturday April 22** at least 40 sides – and maybe even 60 – will descend on the city to perform in various spots selected by Devon's Beltane, who are organising the event. Jim Causley will open proceedings and there are plans for a ceilidh in the evening and a showing of the cult film, *Morris, A Life With Bells On*.

The planning has caused a few headaches for Beltane. It seems they had to change their original date on the advice of the police because of the local derby between Exeter City and Plymouth Argyle. Apparently there is some rivalry between the supporters of the two sides and things can get out of hand. A good job we don't see such behaviour from rival supporters of Cotswold and border morris.

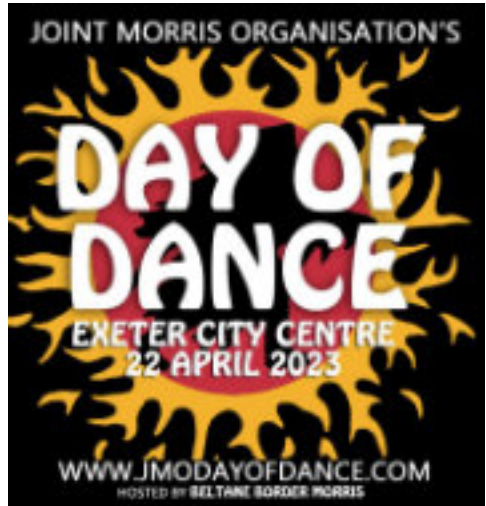
RICHARD DIGANCE,
Tiverton Community Arts Theatre
Saturday April 8

RICHARD DIGANCE has come a long way since he was a regular at the Toad Hall Folk Club in Ilford back in the late Sixties (which is where your editor first saw him). He's had his own TV show, been nominated for a BAFTA award and received a Gold Award from The British Academy of Composers and Songwriters. But Richard has stayed true to his roots and now he is touring a selected handful of his favourite venues. Here is a chance to see him live. tivertontheatre.com

MAD DOG MCREA WEEKENDER
Exeter Phoenix
April 28-30

PLYMOUTH'S folk rockers are hosting a weekend of music in Exeter. There will be a full programme of live music in the main auditorium of Exeter Phoenix, plus music in two other spaces within the theatre – in total more than 20 bands, artists, plus DJs and a beer festival. The lineup includes the Mad Dogs, of course, plus Tankus The Henge, Seán McGowan, the Bare Jame, The Cable Street Collective, Mr Tea and the Minions and Black Friday.

www.maddogmcrea.co.uk/mad-dog-mcrea-weekender



BRIXHAM PIRATE FESTIVAL 2023
29 Apr 2023 – 1 May 2023

“YOU can't be a pirate with all of your parts,” claims the song but even the able-bodied can take



part in “the annual gathering of the world's most infamous pirates and lowly scallywags”. There will be more sea shanties than you can shake a cutlass at with four official busking sites where shanty crews will perform 40-minute sets. They will include pirate and mermaid duo CASK (pictured left).

Devon's most famous pirate (according to

the Spanish) Sir Francis Drake is represented by a full-scale replica of The Golden Hind, which will be open to visitors. Brixhampirates.com

GREEN MAN FESTIVAL, Bovey Tracey
Saturday April 29

THIS event opens the morris season. A variety of sides will dance in Bovey Tracey and there will be plenty of music and singing in the pubs. The town

What's On

takes on a carnival atmosphere as streets are closed to vehicles and lined with stalls selling all manner of goods. If this is not enough morris for you, why not join the early risers on Monday when sides across the county will gather before dawn to dance up the sun. Contact your local side for details of where they will be.

LAKEMAN/ROBERTS Folk On The Moor

Sunday April 30

BACK in March, Kathryn Roberts and Sean Lakeman released their first album in five years, *Almost A Sunset*. There's a good chance you might hear a few songs from it when they appear at the Moorland Hotel, Wotter, PL7 5HP. 7.45pm

BOB FOX, JEZ LOWE AND JULIE MATTHEWS, Topsham Folk Club

Sunday May 14

THIS dynamic trio of fine artists in their own right will be performing songs from the new Radio Ballads, which were inspired by the groundbreaking work of Ewan MacColl, Peggy Seeger and Charles Parker. This is an event not to be missed. See Topsham Folk Club's advert on our back page for more details.

DART MUSIC FESTIVAL

May 19, 20 & 21

DARTMOUTH'S free festival has a number of folk musicians among the huge variety of acts. Watch out for Tavistock's Wheelhouse Folk Choir, Balkan Folk from Cut Throat Francis, Holly Ebony and the Captain's Beard among others. www.dartmusicfestival.co.uk

MARTYN WYNDHAM-READ

Exeter Folk and Acoustic Music Club

Friday May 19



VETERAN performer Martyn (inset) who always gives an excellent show, particularly when performing the songs of Graeme Miles and songs from his time working in Australia. In his interview in this issue, Steve Gill praises him as one of his favourite singers.

Victoria Park Tennis Club, St Leonards. Contact: Peter Cornelius, 01392 210983 www.exeterfolkclub.org

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

What's On

GRANNY'S ATTIC Folk On The Moor, Sunday May 21

IT'S good to see Granny's Attic still come to Devon – even after being ordered off the stage at Sidmouth Folk Festival. To be fair, they weren't misbehaving but the storm of August 2019 was threatening to blow down the Bulverton Marquee and it was evacuated on safety grounds. The talented trio should be on safer ground at the Moorland Hotel in Wotter. www.moorfolk.co.uk

TEIGNMOUTH FOLK FESTIVAL

Saturday June 24-25

THERE'S a change in format this year with the festival concentrating on morris dancing although there will be music acts performing in the Triangle. As What's Afoot went to press, 11 sides had confirmed they were coming and another nine were making up their minds.

There should be a good mix of Cotswold, Border and North West dancing in the Triangle and at various other locations on the promenade and in the town Saturday and Sunday. See the Teignmouth Folk Festival Facebook page for more details

Teignmouth Folk Club

The Brass, Hollands Road
Teignmouth TQ14 8ST

First Monday in the Month

8pm Free admission

Monday 3rd April

Guest Night

Amanda Diamond & Eddy Richards

Monday 1st May

Musicians/Singers Open Night

Monday 5th June

Musicians/Singers Open Night

Further details from

Martyn Hillstead

01626 778071/07904037812

martyng@ao.com

JIM CAUSLEY, Folk On The Moor

Sunday June 25

OUR main man Jim will be performing at the Moorland Hotel, Wotter. Expect a proper Devonian evening. www.moorfolk.co.uk

BOB FOX, Bideford Folk Club

Thursday June 29

IF YOU missed Bob Fox when he was at Topsham Folk Club in May here is another chance to see him. Bob is not only a legend in the folk clubs but has also played the Song Man in the National Theatre's production of War Horse. The Joiners Arms, Market Place, Bideford, EX30 2DR Contact John Purser, 01237 424286 or bidefolk@gmail.com

LOOKING FURTHER AHEAD...

COVID wiped out one of our favourite little festivals in 2020, the South Brent Folk Day. This was a real shame because the committee had managed to book Martin Carthy. Since then the festival has been dormant but it seems there are plans for a concert in July. More details in the next issue.

SIDMOUTH FOLK FESTIVAL

August 4-11

THIS is the big one. First names announced include The Unthanks, Quebecois livewires Le Vent du Nord, festival patrons and Devon folk icons Show of Hands, The Young'uns, Breabach, one of Scotland's most skilled and imaginative contemporary folk acts, McCusker McGoldrick Doyle, masters of flute, fiddle, song and guitar, and the uniquely captivating harmonies of Lady Maisery.

Also on the bill are The Fisherman's Friends, Seth Lakeman and Barbara Dickson.

sidmouthfolkfestival.co.uk

DARTMOOR FOLK FESTIVAL

August 11, 12, 13

HOT on the heels of Sidmouth comes the little festival in South Zeal that punches well above its weight. It's getting back to health after the covid lay-off and has announced the Saturday night headliner: the multi award-winning RURA, one of Scotland's most popular folk-based bands.

There will, of course, be the stepdancing and broom dancing workshops and the annual competition. And there is a strong rumour the Saturday night ceilidh band might just be the Dartmoor Pixies.

www.dartmoorfolkfestival.org.uk

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@gmail.com 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

16 APR	TOM KITCHING
30 APR	ROBERTS/LAKEMAN
7 MAY	SIMPLY DYLAN
21 MAY	GRANNY'S ATTIC
28 MAY	SANDERS & SAVAGE
11 JUN	CARRIVICK SISTERS
25 JUN	JIM CAUSLEY

7.45pm
SUNDAYS
Non-specified
dates are
Singers'
Nights

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

Folk song clubs and sessions some may change venue at short notice. Please check 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 NR. TAVISTOCKN

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, 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 Ausden 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

FENITON

Mixed session, tunes and songs. First Tuesdays (not August). The Nog Inn, Feniton, EX14 3BT 19:30 www.facebook.com/TaleValleyFolkSessions

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

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 marj.nr.54@virgin.net

PLYMOUTH

1st and **3rd** Tuesday 8.30pm. The Arjillery 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_shapley@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

Song and Music

SOUTH ZEAL

3rd Monday music session
Kings Arms
markbazeleymobile@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

TALATON

Third Sundays (except August) Session, tunes and songs. The Talaton Inn, EX5 2RQ noon-3pm www.facebook.com/TaleValleyFolkSessions
Jon Springall
jon@devonstrings.co.uk

TEIGNMOUTH

1st Monday 8pm. Teignmouth Folk Club, The Brass, 3 Hollands Rd, TQ14 8SR. Martyn Hillstead, 01626 778071.

TOPSHAM

1st Monday 7.30pm. Mainly English instrumental session at The Bridge Inn, EX3 0OQ.

Tuesday singers' night 7.45pm The Globe, Fore Street, EX3 0HR. Monthly concerts at Maðhews Hall, Fore Street, EX3 0HF. www.topshamfolkclub.org

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

WOTTER

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

VARIOUS VENUES

Bill Murray and friends host monthly singarounds at Whiddon and Gidleigh village halls. Ring Bill at 01647 231297 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

Darnton Folk Dance Club, Darnton Village Hall.

Weekly, Fridays 8pm. Tel: 01822 852442.

EXMOUTH

Exmouth Isca Scoo sh 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.

SEND CLUB DETAILS TO DEVONFOLKEDITOR@GMAIL.COM

Events

APRIL

SATURDAY 1

Phil Beer. Newton St Cyres Parish Hall, West Town Rd, Exeter EX5 5BW

Moscow Drug Club. Beehive Arts Centre, Dowell Street, Honiton EX14 1LZ

Seven Drunken Nights - The Story of the Dubliners.

Princess Theatre, Torbay Road, Torquay TQ2 5EZ

Willand Folk Dance Club.

Caller: Kim Smith Band: Pendragon. Willand Village Hall, Gables Road, EX15 2PL

SUNDAY 2

Folk on the Moor, singers' night. The Moorland Hotel, Woøer, PL7 5HP. 7.45pm

MONDAY 3

Amanda Diamond & Eddy Richards, Teignmouth Folk Club. The Brass, Hollands Road, TQ14 8ST

TUESDAY 4

Sidford Folk Dance Club. Caller: Aileen Wills, Band: Petronella. Sidford Social Hall, Byes Lane EX10 9QX

Exmouth Shanty Men. The Beach Pub, Victoria Road, Exmouth EX8 1DR

WEDNESDAY 5

GiO sham Folk Dance Club. Aileen Wills, Fresh Aire. GiP sham Village Hall, EX14 3AF

THURSDAY 6

Chard Folk Dance Club. Caller: Simon Maplesden, Band: Jeroka. Combe St Nicholas Village Hall TA20 3NY

SATURDAY 8

Richard Digance. Tiverton Community Arts Theatre, Bolham Rd, EX16 6SQ

SUNDAY 9

Folk on the Moor, singers' night. The Moorland Hotel, Woøer, PL7 5HP. 7.45pm

TUESDAY 11

Sidford Folk Dance Club. Janet Bulpin. Sidford Social Hall, Byes Lane EX10 9QX
Wednesday 12

GiO sham Folk Dance Club. Caller: TBA Band: Chris Toyne. GiP sham Village Hall, EX14 3AF
Thursday 13

Reg Meuross. The Great Hall, DarJ npton Estate, TQ9 6EL
Willand Folk Dance Club. Simon Maplesden, Brian Graham. Willand Village Hall, Gables Road, EX15 2PL

FRIDAY 14

Crows. Exeter Folk and Acousj c Club Victoria Park Tennis Club, Lyndhurst Road, St Leonards, EX2 4NX

Jackie Oates with Mike Cosgrave. The Great Hall, DarJ npton Estate, TQ9 6EL

SATURDAY 15

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

Exmouth Shanty Men. Lymptstone Village Hall, School Hill, Lymptstone, EX8 5JY

SUNDAY 16

Tom Kitching. Folk on the Moor, The Moorland Hotel, Woøer, PL7 5HP. 7.45pm

TUESDAY 18

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

WEDNESDAY 19

GiO sham Folk Dance Club. : Simon Maplesden, Band: Ian and Margaret. GiP sham Village Hall, EX14 3AF

THURSDAY 20

Chard Folk Dance Club. Caller: Mary & Robert Blackborow, Band: Merry Band. Combe St Nicholas Village Hall TA20 3NY

FRIDAY 21

Flats & Sharps. Beehive Arts Centre, Dowell Street, Honiton EX14

SATURDAY 22

Launceston Folk Dance Club Centenary Dance. Sarah Bazeley, with The Dartmoor Pixie Band. Launceston Town Hall, PL15 7AR
Exeter Joint Morris Organisaŉ on

Day of Dance hosted by Beltane Border. Jim Casley will perform at the opening ceremony. See arĴ cle page 14

SUNDAY 23

Chris Smither. Exeter Phoenix, Gandy Street EX4 3LS

Folk on the Moor, singers' night. The Moorland Hotel, Woøer, PL7 5HP. 7.45pm

TUESDAY 25

Sidford Folk Dance Club. Caller: Simon Maplesden. Sidford Social Hall, Byes Lane EX10 9QX

WEDNESDAY 26

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

THURSDAY 27

Daoiri Farrell. Calstock Arts, The Old Chapel, Sand Lane, Calstock PL18 9QX

Willand Folk Dance Club.

Caller: Ray Goodswen, Band: Pair of Shears. Willand Village Hall, Gables Road, EX15 2PL

FRIDAY 28 TO SUNDAY 30

Mad Dog McRea Weekender. Exeter Phoenix, Gandy Street EX4 3LS

SATURDAY 29

Phoenix (ceilidh). Kenn Centre, Exeter Road, Kennford, Exeter EX6 7UE

The Jamestown Brothers. The Palladium Club, Lower Gunstone, Bideford, EX39 2DE

SUNDAY 30 APRIL

Daoiri Farrell. Topsham Folk Club, Mathews Hall, Fore Street, EX3 0HF

Roberts/Lakeman. Folk on the Moor, The Moorland Hotel, Woøer, PL7 5HP. 7.45pm

MAY

TUESDAY 2

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

Wednesday 3

GiO sham Folk Dance Club.

Events

Jeremy Child. Band: TBA.
GiP sham Village Hall, EX14 3AF

SATURDAY 6

Willand Folk Dance Club.
Jerry and Alison Tucker with
Gigs for Gigs. Willand Village
Hall, Gables Road, EX15 2PL

SUNDAY 7

Folk on the Moor, Simply
Dylan. The Moorland Hotel,
Woøer, PL7 5HP. 7.45pm

TUESDAY 9

Sidford Folk Dance Club.
Aileen Willis. Sidford Social
Hall, Byes Lane EX10 9QX

WEDNESDAY 10

Show of Hands & Michael
Wood. Beehive Arts Centre,
Dowell Street, Honiton
EX14 1LZ

GiO sham Folk Dance Club.
Caller: Simon Maplesden
Band: Fresh Aire. GiP sham
Village Hall, EX14 3AF

THURSDAY 11

Jim Causley. The Great Hall,
Darġngton Estate, TQ9 6EL

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

Nick Dow Bideford Folk Song
Club. The Joiners Arms,
Market Place, EX30 2DR

SATURDAY 13

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

Keith James in concert The
Songs of Leonard Cohen.
The Flavel, Flavel Place,
Dartmouth, TQ6 9ND

SUNDAY 14

Songs from the Radio Ballads
(Bob Fox; Jez Lowe; Julie
Maøhews). Topsham Folk
Club, Mathews Hall, Fore
Street, EX3 0HF

Folk on the Moor, singers'
night. The Moorland Hotel,
Woøer, PL7 5HP. 7.45pm

Jim Moray. Calstock Arts,
The Old Chapel, Sand Lane,
Calstock PL18 9QX

TUESDAY 16

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

WEDNESDAY 17

GiO sham Folk Dance Club.
Ray Goodswen with Chris
Toyne. GiP sham Village Hall,
EX14 3AF

THURSDAY 18

Skerryvore. Exeter Corn
Exchange, George St, EX1 1BU

FRIDAY 19

Dart Music Fes val.
Dartmouth. See arġ cle
page 15

Martyn Wyndham-Read
Exeter Folk and Acousġc Club.
Victoria Park Tennis Club,
Lyndhurst Road, St Leonards.
EX2 4NX

SATURDAY 20

Noble Jacks. Exeter Phoenix,
Gandy Street EX4 3LS

Dart Music Fesġ val.

The Lost Sound. Calstock Arts,
The Old Chapel, Sand Lane,
Calstock PL18 9QX

GiO sham Folk Dance Club.
Dartmoor Pixie Band.
Broadclyst Victory Hall,
Broadclyst, EX5 3DX

SUNDAY 21

Dart Music Fes val.
Dartmouth

Granny's AO c. Folk on the
Moor, The Moorland Hotel,
Woøer, PL7 5HP. 7.45pm

TUESDAY 23

Sidford Folk Dance Club. Party
Night. Caller: Simon
Maplesden. Band: Pair of
Shears. Sidford Social Hall,
Byes Lane EX10 9QX

WEDNESDAY 24

GiO sham Folk Dance Club.
Caller: Robert Blackborow
Band: Ian and Margaret.
GiP sham Village Hall, EX14
3AF

THURSDAY 25

Gretchen Peters. Exeter Corn
Exchange, George St, Exeter
EX1 1BU

Willand Folk Dance Club.

Club Callers. Band: The More
the Merrier AGM. Willand
Village Hall, Gables Road,
EX15 2PL

SATURDAY 27

Flash Company (ceilidh). Kenn
Centre, Exeter Road,
Kennford, Exeter EX6 7UE

SUNDAY 28

Sanders & Savage. Folk on
the Moor, The Moorland
Hotel, Woøer, PL7 5HP.
7.45pm

Lindisfarne. Tavistock Wharf,
Canal Road, Tavistock, PL19 8AT

WEDNESDAY 31

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

JUNE

THURSDAY 1

Nancy Kerr & James Fagan.
The Great Hall, Darġngton
Estate, Totnes TQ9 6EL

FRIDAY 2

One Night in Dublin. Exmouth
Pavilion, The Esplanade,
Exmouth EX8 2AZ

SATURDAY 3

Willand Folk Dance Club.
Caller: Rosemary Hunt Band:
Orion's Ring. Willand Village
Hall, Gables Road, EX15 2PL

SUNDAY 4

Folk on the Moor, singers'
night. The Moorland Hotel,
Woøer, PL7 5HP. 7.45pm

WEDNESDAY 7

GiO sham Folk Dance Club.
Caller: Robert Blackborow
Band: Jeroka. GiP sham
Village Hall, EX14 3AF

THURSDAY 8

Willand Folk Dance Club.
Caller: Simon Maplesden
Band: Simon Maplesden own
music. Willand Village Hall,
Gables Road, EX15 2PL

FRIDAY 9 TO 11

Here for the Music Fes val.
The Big Sheep, Abbotsham,
Bideford. Devon, EX39 5AP

Events

Kris Drever Band. The Great Hall, Darlington Estate, Totnes TQ9 6EL

SATURDAY 10

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

SUNDAY 11

Carrivick Sisters. Folk on the Moor, The Moorland Hotel, Woŕer, PL7 5HP. 7.45pm

WEDNESDAY 14

GiO sham Folk Dance Club. Caller: Jeremy Child. Band: Mary Marker. GiP sham Village Hall, EX14 3AF

SUNDAY 18

Good Habits. Topsham Folk Club Mathews Hall, Fore Street, EX3 0HF

Folk on the Moor, singers' night. The Moorland Hotel,

Woŕer, PL7 5HP. 7.45pm

Taiko Drumming Workshop. Calstock Arts, The Old Chapel, Sand Lane, Calstock PL18 9QX
Simon & Garfunkel Through the Years. Northcoŕ Theatre, Stocker Road, Exeter EX4 4QB
TUESDAY 19

The Crows. Sidmouth Acousŕ c Folk Club. Blue Ball Inn, Stevens Cross Sidford, EX10 9QL

WEDNESDAY 21

GiO sham Folk Dance Club. Caller: Simon Maplesden Band: Dancing Keys. GiP sham Village Hall, EX14 3AF

THURSDAY 22

Willand Folk Dance Club. Caller: Aileen Wills Band: Iain Bryden. Willand Village Hall, Gables Road, EX15 2PL

FRIDAY 23

Burd Ellen. Calstock Arts, The Old Chapel, Sand Lane, Calstock PL18 9QX

SATURDAY 24

Skermish (ceilidh). Kenn Centre, Exeter Road, Kennford, Exeter EX6 7UE
Wednesday 28

GiO sham Folk Dance Club. Jane Thomas, Fresh Aire. Village Hall, EX14 3AF

SUNDAY 25

Jim Causley. Folk on the Moor, The Moorland Hotel, Woŕer, PL7 5HP. 7.45pm

THURSDAY 29

Bob Fox Bideford Folk Song Club. The Joiners Arms, Market Place, Bideford, EX30 2DR

FRIDAY 30

Glorious Chorus. The Great Hall, Darlington Estate,

Morris and Display Teams

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

Day: regular meeŕ ng

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

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)

Marŕ n Jones,
bag@darŕ ngtonmorris.uk
Darŕ ngtonmorris.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
gloryoPhewest@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@ŕ scali.co.uk
Ilfracombe Red PeO 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

Oŕ er Morris

bag.oŕ er.morris@gmail.com

Plymouth Clog (O)

plymouthclog@outlook.com

Plymouth Morris

bagman@plymouthmorris.uk
www.plymouthmorris.uk

Morris and Display Teams

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.ne@leton@gmail.com

Sidmouth Traditional
Mummers Henry Piper,
01404 811491 henry.
piper@zoom.co.uk
Tinners Morris Men (F)
andrew@frangleton.co.uk
Trigg Morris Men (R)
Roger Hancock,
01208 73907
Tudor Dance Group
Mrs Elizabeth Thurgood,

01404 812185 (Sat)
Winkleigh Morris (F)
Angela Haines, Hollaco,
Hollocombe, Chulmleigh
EX18 7QE
01837 83219
daveyhaines@binternet.com
(Tues)
Wreckers Border (F)
wreckers.bag@gmail.com
Thurs

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co.uk Tony & Peter's Folk Diary, email for list:
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Andrew Knight secretary@morrisfed.org.uk.
www.morrisfed.org.uk

THE MORRIS RING

Peter Ausin bagman@themorrisring.org
01926 339351 g

OPEN MORRIS

Heather Bevington secretary@open-morris.org

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	07969123346	Mooncoin	01803 290427	Spinach For Norman	
Dancing Keys	hazelridd@hotmail.co.uk	More The Merrier	01626 854141	Steve Gill & Andy Clarke	01803 290427
Hips & Haws	01363 866423	Mrs Midnight's Ceilidh Band	01392 874718,	Sÿ ck The Fiddle	01884 255356
		wildmin18@gmail.com			or 07790 760462
		Mugdock	01643 707294	Winkeilidh Band	01363 877216

Callers

Callers in bold have an advert in this issue

Colin Andrews	bonnygreencolin@gmail.com	01363 877216	Jeremy Child	jeremy.m.child@gmail.com	hĩ ps://barndancecaller.net	07969 297633	Mary Marker	01626 854141
Steve Banks	steve@bluejewel.info	07957 855458	Anne Gill	01803 290427	Beryl Jukes	01209 712357	Kip Praø	kipviolin@gmail.com
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How we made a new wassail

Whimble has a venerable wassail tradition while neighbouring Talaton had none. KAT BLOCKLEY explains how this has changed

ON JANUARY 21 villagers met at the Talaton Inn to begin their wassail. This was the first time in our knowledge that Talaton has held a public wassail – certainly in recent history. The wassail at the next village of Whimble is a well-established tradition held on old Twelfth Night, January 17, each year with a procession around local orchards.

We weren't looking to duplicate or rival Whimble but to create something of our own. One big difference is that Whimble's wassail has no room for morris dancing while the starting point for the Talaton wassail was a cancelled booking for Otter Morris (my side) which left them free to wassail – if we had a wassail.

So a quick wassail wish list was drawn up. It wasn't entirely certain we'd manage to run the event but it's heart-warming to experience how things can come together when everyone has a will and is so generous with their time.

First on the list was apple trees. Which trees would we wassail and how could we put together a village procession? The church has trees as do many private gardens in the village. The residents of Stoney Court, Ty Rowley and Rafik Taibjee offered their hospitality and Lizzie Pridmore approached the church of St James the Great, so a procession route was agreed starting at the The Talaton Inn.

We needed somebody to bless the wassail, Lizzie took this role and organised the blessing and collection of apples while Anissia Halwyn organised the toast to take to the trees.

There are so many wonderful wassail songs but we wanted something with a Devon connection. I had written a wassail inspired by Devon apple varieties – it references Devon cider apples Slack-Ma-Girdle, Crimson Queen, and Devon Quarrenden – so this become the Wassail for Talaton. We are very grateful to

Becky Springall and the members of Tale Valley Choir who joined us in such fine voice.

What about wassail royalty? Arwen Springall and Eira Halwyn along with their families designed and wore wonderful outfits including splendid headgear inspired by the hedgerow and lanterns to light the way. They learned their verse to recite at each tree we blessed and the villagers and band joined to create the noise required to wake the trees and clear the air.

A procession needs a processional tune. Whimble has its own specific tune but we needed our own. Jon Springall came up with *The Triumph* from the playing of Fred Pidgeon, the Stockland fiddler. It was played with vigour by local musicians and members of the Otter Morris band as we moved between venues.

WE ARE most grateful to Jill Courtney and Courtney's of Whimble for donating local Devon cider and apple juice for our toast and to Ty and Rafik for creating such tasty, mulled drinks.

Once Lizzie had blessed the wassail, Otter Morris gave us a good send-off from the Talaton Inn with Honiton Lacemakers which is danced to *The Triumph*. They also danced at the church. As we returned to the Talaton Inn after wassailing the trees, they danced *Brimfield* at the door before the pub opened and the wassailers crowded in to warm at the fire. We sang a last rousing Wassail before the folk session with regular musicians from the Tale Valley Sessions.

The wassail was a resounding success so we're encouraged to run it again next year as a "new old tradition" earlier in January. A warm and grateful "thank you" is extended to everyone listed above and all those who attended and who made the wassail such a joy. We wish everyone a fine harvest and a prosperous year. Wassail!

A Wassail for Talaton

by Kat Blockley



1. The leaf-less trees we'll tra-vel be-tween Ov-er hill and o-ver dale our
 2. We drink to health and wea-lth each year To-gether tread this well, worn trail For
 3. Raise a glass to eve-ry-one here... Gath-er round with ci-der and ale...



Was-sail bowl we'll pass a-round and bea-ve-ly we'll re-gale... The leaf-less trees we'll
 har-vest fine we'll spread good cheer Tra-di-tion ne-ver stale... We'll drink to health and
 Toast an-oth-er plen-ti-fal year and har-vest with-out fail... So raise a glass to



tra-vel be-tween Each or-ward bare we'll sing and shout and dance a-bout sto clear the air and
 wea-lth each year Good for-tune we will ne-ver spare and bring to sh-are the am-ber liqu-or
 eve-ry-one here May all your trees grow blo-ssom fair and ap-ples bear, be yond com-pare no



bless the fare As we join our jol-ly Was-sail... Was sail! Was-sail! we sing all o-ver
 gold and rare So you join our jol-ly Was-sail
 bas-kets spare When you join our jol-ly Was-sail



town... with our ap-ples tawney... red and gold the best you e-ver found... with our



Slack Ma Gird-le and Crim-son Queen, our Quarr-en-den to name. a few, we'll



wish you all... pros-per-i-ty, with our jol-ly, jol-ly Was-sail

Dancers put their hearts into it

SO who's this getting fresh with Fresh Aire? The ceilidh band discovered a whole new meaning to the Ladies' Excuse Me Dance while playing on Valentine's Night at Sidford Folk Dance Club.

With the lovers' day falling on their regular dance night, the club went the full nine yards, decorating their hall with hearts and flowers and large Valentine cards.

Whether there was any need for callers Gill Spence (pictured left) and Rosie Shaw to settle themselves on Mike Highsmith's lap is a question to be debated. Said Rosie: "I'm not sure



if he could stand up afterwards." The club, which meets at Sidford Social Hall, Byes Lane EX10 9QX on Tuesday nights from September to May, is planning another themed evening on April 18 as an advance celebration of St George's Day.

Launceston celebrates centenary

LAUNCESTON Folk Dance Club is celebrating its centenary with a special dance at the town hall Saturday April 22. Usually the club dances to recorded music on Tuesday evenings at Launceston Ambulance Hall. For the centenary the Dartmoor Pixie Band and caller Sarah Bazeley have been engaged. There will be a bring and share supper.

Despite problems caused by covid and other illnesses, Launceston has had a good few months after its summer break. The club has grown in number and the local Health Centre has also shown an interest in what the club offers in the way of friendship, fun and exercise.

Tuesday sessions are relaxed with English country dances, American squares, circle dances, barn dances and stately dances of long ago. Admission is £3.

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

In the good old mummer time

COLIN ANDREWS casts his eye over an old tradition that's making a comeback

MUMMING is the name given to ritual drama involving combat between good and evil forces, death and resurrection. There is often also some comic element usually involving the Doctor. Written references to these plays go back to at least the 17th century but their origins are almost certainly very much older.

Mummers Plays in Devon were performed at Christmas time, but in other parts of the country they are associated with different seasons and customs, for example Pace Egging in Lancashire at Easter, and Soul Caking in Cheshire around Halloween.

Mumming and similar ritual dramas are found across Europe and further afield. Disguise and dressing up are all part of the performance, and indeed, it is possible the word “mummer” may come from Dutch and Danish words, *momme* and *munne* respectively, meaning to disguise with a mask. It is customary for a collection to be made at the end of the performance.

From the latter part of the 19th century to the middle of the 20th, several plays were recorded from locations in Devon, often from the memory of persons who had taken part many years earlier. It suggests that mumming may at one time have been much more widespread across the county and an unknown number of texts may have been lost for ever.

While some collected texts were fragmentary, most were sufficiently detailed to enable the play to be revived, and in the past 50 years groups from Bovey Tracey, Dartington, Lypstone and Sidmouth have reintroduced the plays from those locations, with some modification where deemed appropriate.

In recent years also, various groups, including

several local Morris sides, have been performing mumming type plays various other traditional sources, or even developing their own text based on contemporary events or other Devon legends.

The traditional Ashburton text reappeared in the hands of Tarka Morris, from North Devon, while the North Devon Mummers adapted a play from Minehead, and the Sticklepath Mummers (many of whom dance with Tinnors Morris) have imported a play from Steyning in Sussex.

Hampshire plays have also travelled westwards in the form of a play from Crookham used by the former Ockington Morris, and a script from Titchfield adapted by Plymouth Morris. The latter now features a character closely associated with Plymouth, Sir Francis Drake, who also appears in a modern script performed by Dartmoor Border Morris.

From the various traditional texts it is clear that, to the “standard” text, reference to

local characters or topical events was often added, and this practice continues. Grimspound Border Morris, for example, have Covid and Sir Boris as the villain and hero respectively, and other plays performed in the last couple of years also make references to the pandemic .

IN RECENT years some entirely original plays have been written in the mumming genre. Winkleigh Morris produced a series of plays based on the Frankens Nights legend (late frosts in May are known in Devon as Frankens’ Nights*), while the Sticklepath Mummers have developed an interesting variation based on the Widcombe Fair song.

An all-female group from Sidmouth were working on a play for summer 2020 featuring

YOUR next chance to see a mummer's play is on St George's Day, Sunday April 23, when the King's Arms PaceEggers and Mummers will perform at the King's Arms in South Zeal – a folk friendly pub – at around lunch | me.

Traditional drama



UPDATING OLD THEMES: For the 2021 Sidmouth Festival, Sid Vale Community Productions decided St George should fight the Covid virus rather than the Turkish knight. **BELOW,** Dartmoor Border Morris perform their annual mummery play at Buckfast Abbey, home of Sir Francis Drake so the battle is between our local hero and the King of Spain. Pictures by Kyle Baker and Mark Tregaskis



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Traditional drama

famous women from the town – sadly the performance had to be adapted for a virtual presentation on zoom.

Mumming, like Morris dancing, has a long history, and in common with Morris, is a living tradition, with adaptation and innovation to reflect contemporary events. At one time Mumming was regarded as an exclusively male activity. That is definitely no longer the case.

FOR anyone interested in delving deeper into the tradition of Mumming in Devon – or further afield – the internet provides a valuable and easily accessible source of information. The website www.mastermummers.org is particularly useful.

I started out with the intention of writing a brief article for What's Afoot, but the wealth of information available has given me the inspiration to produce a book on Mumming in Devon Past & Present, which I hope will be available in the spring of 2023.

** Further information on the Frankens Nights legend can be found on Colin Andrews' website www.bonnygreen.uk/franken.html*

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PICTURES: Ian Atherton

MISCHIEF: At Wreckers Morris duck race day and with her timbrel at Chippenham Folk Festival

Mab Foxen **Singer, songwriter, musician and assistant editor of What's Afoot**

MAB FOXEN did not arrive on the folk scene until she was in her sixties, writes *John Foxen*. But when she did, she embraced it with her customary enthusiasm and energy, taking up singing, morris dancing, playing a variety of instruments, running a folk club and festival workshops, and helping to produce this magazine.

She had always loved music and for a large part of her life was involved in running a Salvation Army choir for young people. Ironically, the Army brought her very close to folk music but also kept her away from it.

Back in the Sixties, on a Friday night, in Sally Anne bonnet and uniform, she would tour the pubs of her hometown, Ilford, selling copies of the *War Cry* (an old folk custom that seem to have died out). One pub she called at was the General Havelock, which hosted the Toad Hall Folk Club. "You ought to go upstairs and sell to the folkies," pub regulars told her.

"Oh, I couldn't do that," she said. "What a fool I was. I'd always been told pubs were sinful. I had to hide it from my parents when my big sister Jean took me to a pub to see Wally Whyton and say he was at a youth club. If only I'd known how wonderful folk clubs in pubs were, my life would have been very different."

Very different, indeed. I was upstairs watching the likes of John Renbourn, John Martyn, The Young Tradition and Derek Brimstone and desperately trying to learn from them. Mab and I

were friends back then but didn't realise we shared such a strong love of music and went our separate ways. It would take 37 years before the funeral of a mutual friend brought us together again and a chance remark revealed that she could sing and I played guitar.

The mutual friend was Dave Hewitt, former squire of Lodestone Morris. In his memory Mab and I began playing for Lodestone, coming down from Essex, where we both then lived, whenever we could. We got sucked into the world of morris and ended up also playing for Wreckers, Widders, Enigma and Steampunk Morris.

WE BEGAN performing as a duo, taking the name Foxen after a song Mab wrote called *Fox 'n' Vixen*. This song, which Mab performed with puppets, usually went down very well, except one evening at Gidsong in Gidleigh Village Hall. We hadn't been warned that one of the farmers in the audience had lost a lot of chickens to a raiding reynard the previous night so a fox friendly song wasn't all that appropriate. But the evening's genial host Tich Scott attended Mab's funeral, representing Gidsong and also Whidsong, so it seems we were forgiven.

Mab's Sally Anne choir years had imparted a certain purity to her voice so when she performed saucy ballads such as Sid Kipper's *Unlaid Maid*, listeners often did a double-take: "Did she really just sing that?" But her voice that

In Memoriam

could create so much laughter was also capable of moving audiences to tears, particularly when she sang Henry Clements' *Needle And Thread*.

Mab played piano, guitar, bass ukulele, hammered dulcimer and bowed psaltery, but her two greatest strengths were her voice and her mastery of the tambourine, or timbrel as they call it in the Salvation Army. The SA has its own distinct style of playing this poorly regarded instrument, involving complex arm movements and flicks of the wrist, always keeping in time with the music.

Mab brought this style into folk world with stunning effect and ran workshops at the Whitby Folk Festival and the South Brent Folk Day. The best example of her folk tambourine style is in a video of us performing a song called *Fighting and Feuding* in which she uses the tambourine to commit extreme violence on me without missing a single beat. You can find it on the What's Afoot Facebook page.

When I retired in 2017, we moved from Essex to Tavistock because we had made so many friends in the South-west. At her urging, I accepted the editorship of this magazine and she supported me as a proofreader and researcher.

Her forte was genealogy which was useful when I needed to confirm whether the old Dartmoor fiddler was William Andrew or William Andrews (Andrew not Andrews as sloppily scribbled down by Baring Gould).

Covid and a decline in her health cut down Mab's folk activities in her final two years. Although she had been ill, her death from a pulmonary embolism was unexpected and sudden.

HER funeral at Tavistock's United Reformed Church was well attended by friends, musicians and morris dancers in kit. The hymn, *I'll Fly Away*, was sung to a track recorded specially for her by the Chicago-based bluegrass band the Henhouse Prowlers who stayed with us while touring in Devon and referred to Mab as a "shining star who gave comfort to musicians on the road". This is possibly the only time in Devon, if not England, that a funeral hymn has included a banjo solo.

At her wake, there were songs, laughter and a few quiet tears, the only way to mark her passing.

Mab Foxen 17 June 1945-11 January 2023



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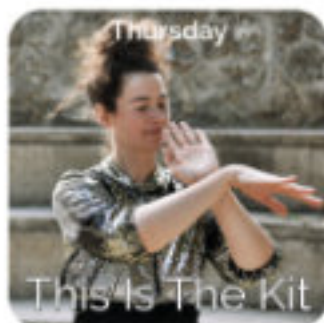
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Tavistock,

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Seconded by

I, the undersigned, am willing to stand for election to the Devon Folk Committee.

Name

Address

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Mrs A. Gill, Maleth, 11 Cleveland Road, Torquay, TQ2 5BD*



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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

Email

Cheque enclosed
 To Devon Folk

Details requested
 For BACspayment

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.

topsham folk club www.topshamfolkclub.org

Concerts at Matthews Hall • Fore Street • TOPSHAM EX3 0HF

Daoirí Farrell

SUNDAY 30 APRIL 2023

8pm £15 www.daoiri.com

'one of the most important traditional singers to emerge in the last decade'
- Dónal Lunny



singers nights at The Globe Fore Street Topsham EX3 0HR

We're at **The Globe** every **Tuesday** (apart from August) for our **singers' nights** from 7.45pm. Arrive by 7.45pm to book a slot if you'd like to perform. Non-performers are always most welcome

Songs from the Radio Ballads

SUNDAY 14 MAY 2023

8pm £18

with **Bob Fox, Jez Lowe
& Julie Matthews**

www.bobfoxmusic.com www.jezlowe.com
www.whiteandmatthews.com

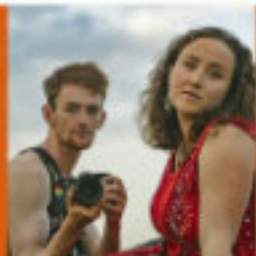


Good Habits

SUNDAY 18 JUNE 2023

8pm £10 www.goodhabitsband.co.uk

Bonnie Schwarz (cello + vocals)
and Pete Shaw (accordion), mix vivid
storytelling with eclectic sounds, drawing
on their diverse musical tastes



Our **monthly** (mainly English) instrumental **session** is on the **first Monday** at **The Bridge Inn** Topsham EX3 0QQ - 7.30pm - 9.30pm (not August)

Concert tickets can be bought online at www.topshamfolkclub.org

also on singers' nights or at concerts
or at Matthews Hall Café

www.facebook.com/topshamfolkclub

all enquiries 01392 874718

£5 - folk concerts

special offer for ages 18 -26
on all topsham folk club concerts 2023

- limited availability*

*more info at www.topshamfolkclub.org

coming later in the year

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