

No 132 October – December 2023 **What's Afoot**

*The official
magazine of*

Devon Folk
dance song music stories



**RINGING FOR
A BELT AND
A HAT LACED
WITH GOLD**

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SATURDAY 7th OCTOBER 2023 AT 7:30

JIM CAUSLEY

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. Since the release of his debut album, *Fruits of the Earth* in 2005, Causley's voice and persona have helped him become one of the most well-loved and respected figures of today's contemporary roots and folk scene. Jim, who has cooperated with, amongst many, Show of Hands and Kate Rusby, has a busy touring schedule and has fifteen acclaimed albums to his name. Jim was described as "*Spearheading the West Country folk revival*" by *The Guardian*.

FRIDAY 3RD NOVEMBER 2023

MARTIN SIMPSON

One of the greats of the folk world, renowned guitarist Martin Simpson will be making his fifth visit to the Flavel. Equally at home playing English traditional and American folk and blues and his own compositions, he is consistently named as one of the very finest acoustic and slide guitar players, and a fine banjo-picker to boot. Martin has collaborated with a dazzling array of people from across the musical spectrum. In recent years, he has been a linchpin in the award-winning band Full English. He has released 21 solo albums over his career and in his most recent has included tracks inspired by his visits to the Dartmouth area. Martin has been recognised many times at the Radio 2 Folk Awards including twice winning best musician. "*Simpson has become a fine interpreter of traditional and other songs, as well as a notable writer of his own.*" *The Times*

STOP PRESS

We are working on our programme for 2024 and we can confirm two great concerts. Tickets for these will go on sale shortly.

15th March: Sykes/Martin: Miranda Sykes, bass player with the legendary *Show of Hands* has teamed up with Hannah Martin of the BBC Folk Award winning duo *Edgelarks*.

18th April: Reg Meuross: Legendary Somerset based singer songwriter plays his first Flavel gig.

Plans are being developed for further 2024 gigs by **Cara Dillon, Harbottle and Jonas** and possibly a return visit of **Fairport Convention**.

What's Afoot 132 Oct-Dec 2023

Articles, features, news to:

EDITOR

John Foxen

devonfolkeditor@gmail.com

129 Tamar Avenue,
Tavistock, Devon,
PL19 9HZ

All diary dates, events,
club & other listings to:
devonfolkwebmaster
@gmail.com

All advertising enquiries
& copy to:
Anne Gill
01803 290427
anne.m.gill@icloud.com

Rates

Full page £30 (portrait)

Half page £18 (landscape)

Quarter page £12 (portrait)

*Eighth page £6
(landscape)

(*min. 3 issues)

Premium rate for colour,
and discount for repeat
ads—please enquire

Subscription/distribution
enquiries:

Steve Gill

Maleth, 11, Cleveland Rd,
Torquay, TQ2 5BD

01803 290427

email

anne.m.gill@icloud.com

Individual copies: £2 + SAE.

Bulk orders – please
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Cheques to 'Devon Folk'
for
adverts & subscriptions

Electronic payment: please
enquire or see website
www.devonfolk.org.uk

Printed by:
ABC Services
of Tavistock

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FAREWELLS AND A WISH FOR THE FUTURE

SADLY in this edition we bid farewell to two people who did so much for folk music in our county: singer, musician and folklorist Tom Brown and Eileen Mckee, who founded the South Brent folk festival. Tributes appear on pages 31 and 32. It is the enthusiasm and energy of them and many more like them that powered the folk revival and kept it going. Who will carry on their work? I was heartened to see young Christabel White, a fine broomdancer, pushing a broom round the hall floor at the Dartmoor Folk Festival to get it ready for the next workshop. It proves there are people in the next generation who understand that the folk scene needs more than performers and listeners if it is to survive.

And on the topic of survival, you will have noticed we have had to raise the price of the magazine and subscriptions to keep pace with the cost of living crisis which has forced up printing and posting costs. We hope you will keep supporting the printed version of the magazine and contributing items where possible. Remember, this is your magazine and part of Devon's folk community. **JOHN FOXEN, EDITOR**

NEXT COPY DEADLINE: November 20th 2023

What's Afoot is published four times a year by Devon Folk, covering April-June, July-September, October-December and January-March. To ensure readers get maximum benefit from listings that start on the first of the first month, we aim to start distributing in the middle of the month before. This means final copy dates for articles and adverts are: Feb 20th (April-June), May 20th (July-September), August 20th (October-December) and November 20th (January-March). The Editor and Devon Folk accept no liability for content of copy from advertisers. Views expressed are not necessarily those of the Editor and Devon Folk. We will always consider items for publication but reserve the right to edit them where necessary. Any material offered for consideration that needs to be returned to the sender should be accompanied by a prepaid, addressed envelope.

Wringing the truth out of a bellringing song

The Bell-Ringing is a hugely popular song but how many people really understand it? The action leaps about from Devon to Cornwall as the men of Northlew battle it out with the men of Broadwood and many technical terms are used. We asked veteran bell-ringer and singer Geoff Hill to fill in the gaps in our knowledge

“THE contest could possibly have taken place in the reign of King George III,” says Geoff Hill, a Lamerton farmer. He is a trustworthy authority as he has been a bell-ringer since he was 15. “We moved to Court Barton farm in 1963, next to Lamerton church and I fell in love with the sound of the bells,” he says. Geoff also rings at St Eustachius in Tavistock – “I went to school with the son of the bell captain at St Eustachius so I got drawn in” – and has rung in churches all over the country.

He is also a fine singer and some years ago performed *The Bell-Ringing* at the church of St Peter Ad Vincula in Ashwater which hosted the first historic contest between the men of Northlew (known as North Lew when the song was composed) and the ringers of Broadwoodwider (shortened to Broadwood in the song). The occasion was a concert to raise money for the restoration of their famous church bells. “And I wore a hat laced with gold,” he says. In 2003 for Dartmoor Changes, a celebration of bell-ringing on and around Dartmoor, he was recorded singing the song at St Peter’s Church, Peter Tavy.

His view of the possible date of the contest is borne out by the first line of the song:

*One day in October,
Neither drunken nor sober,
O'er Broadbury Down I was wending
my way
When I heard of some ringing,
Some dancing and singing,
I ought to remember that Jubilee Day.*

The jubilee celebrations for George III were held on October 25, 1809, and if Geoff’s supposition is correct then such a contest might

have been part of the local festivities. At this time, he says, bell-ringing was a hugely popular form of entertainment and whole villages would have turned out to enjoy the contest.

Indeed, Sabine Baring-Gould, who collected the song, wrote: “Bell-ringing was a pastime dearly loved and much practised in Devon at the time. There were contests between the ringers of various churches, and challenges, the prize being either money or a hat laced with gold. All over the county one comes on old songs relating to these contests.”

The parson also left us the words to a song about the ringers of Torrington but did not provide a tune. (One has been written by Nick Wyke and Becki Driscoll and a link to their performance is given on the What’s Afoot Facebook page)

In the first edition of his *Songs Of The West*, Baring-Gould says he heard *The Bell-Ringing* from an old moorland farmer William George Kerswell at Two Bridges and also from James Down, a blacksmith at Broadwoodwider.

HE HAD two musicians to help him note down the tunes and they offered two versions which both differ from the one commonly known today. The folk process has worked well here because the version currently sung is better than those of the two academics who may well have made mistakes. Also, they were not above “improving” the tunes they heard, sometimes to their detriment.

They both admitted it was a strong tune – certainly so strong, that one of them, Reverend Henry Fleetwood Sheppard, said it invaded

A Devon Song



Geoff and his wife Valerie are both keen handbell ringers and you can hear them play in a video on the What's Afoot Facebook page. For the past 50 years they have been organising a handbell ringing festival in Lamerton community centre, each year raising money for a different charity. This year's festival will be held on Saturday October 14, starting at 7pm. Their house is full of handbells as you can see from the cover picture. A prized possession is a four-octave fully chromatic set – that's 48 bells. Such a treasure did not come cheap and Geoff financed it through his hobby of repairing handbells, tuning them and replacing their leather straps. He has been sent bells from all over the country.

every song Mr Kerswell sang for them afterwards which put a bit of a damper on their song-collecting for that evening.

Baring-Gould theorised the air could be based on an old bell-ringing pattern and it certainly rolls like a peal of bells.

Back to the contest: Geoff says the first contest would have been held at Ashwater because it was neutral ground. "If you ring at your home church, you have an advantage because you know the bells." He believes other sides were probably involved but only the top two teams get mentioned in the song.

As for the prize money: "It might well have been put up by one of the local publicans who would have been the first to benefit from such a big event. The crowds would have been in and out of the pub all day and the prize money and more would soon have been made."

This fits in with the narrator saying he was neither drunken nor sober. The Rev Sheppard wrote rather sniffily: "The narrator is unhappily slightly intoxicated but no one thinks the worse of him." Unhappily? He sounds quite happy.

What form did the contest take? Back then it

would have involved a seven-minute peal of round-ringing by each team. Round-ringing was gradually replaced in the late Victorian period by change-ringing in which a peal on six bells can take half an hour or more – and can be considerably longer. For example, in 1996, Geoff and his daughter took part in a "long peal" at St Eustachius. This involved 5,040 changes and took around three hours. "Once you get into the rhythm of bellringing it's not hard to keep it up for long periods," says Geoff.

BUT for the longer peals, teams of ringers are needed. The record for ringing changes was set in Loughborough in 1963 and took 17 hours and 58 minutes. At that rate a change-ringing contest between half-a-dozen sides would have taken well over a week.

During marathon bell-ringing stints you need a good captain to ensure mistakes do not creep in. Although the men of Broadwoodwidger were good, the song tells us that in the first contest an error was made: they gave "a blow on the tenor should never have been". "It's likely that mistake was the tenor

A Devon Song



St Thomas of Canterbury Church in Northlew where the victorious ringers were based. There is a plaque in the church bearing the first verse of the song. Picture courtesy of devonchurchland.co.uk, a website dedicated to the beautiful and historic church buildings of the county.

ringing when the peal should have stopped,” says Mr Hill.” That would have been a full fault and would have lost them the match.”

It’s worth noting that some singers wrongly give the line as “a peal on the tenor” which would have been far longer than the fault that cost the men of Broadwoodwidge the match.

Those men of Broadwoodwidge might have been good ringers but not good losers: the song, as the parson wrote it, continues:

They of Broadwood being naughty

Then said to our party,

We’ll ring you a challenge again in a round,

We’ll give you the chance in

St. Stephen’s or Launceston.”

So another neutral ground had to be found and St Stephen’s was proposed. Here Geoff points out two mistakes made by Baring-Gould. For Launceston the parson should have used the old spelling of Lanson because then it rhymes with “chance in”.

Neither is it “St Stephen’s or Launceston”. These are not two separate places. The correct line is “St Stephen’s by Lanson”. St Stephen’s is the parish church of that Cornish town and at that time had a fine set of bells cast by Pennington of Cornwall. However, Geoff says, they were heavier than the bells the ringers of Northlew and Broadwoodwidge were used to so the match was switched to Callington. There is no verse to tell us this, the location just switches. The verse may have been lost or perhaps the writer decided that it slowed down the action. In Callington, the parish church, St Mary’s had recently

acquired a fine ring of six bells cast by Mears of Whitechapel in London, says Geoff. They were lighter than those of St Stephen’s and more like those at Northlew and Broadwoodwidge. Sadly, those Callington bells were lost in a fire in 1895.

There is no clue in the song to tell us when the rematch took place but we do know that once again the men of Northlew proved the better side and won that five-pound note – not a bad prize for the six ringers as it would have been worth about £380 today.

IT’S to be hoped that this article might not only get you thinking about and singing the song with more appreciation but also that some of you might even try bell-ringing and help keep this old tradition alive. Asked what makes a good ringing side like that of Northlew, Geoff says the secret is unity and comradeship.

Are young people keeping up the tradition? Geoff says: “Over the years there has always been a balance of older and younger people ringing church bells, although recently numbers had dropped. A national recruitment drive took place leading up to the Coronation to encourage people of all ages to ‘Ring for the King’. This was very successful and more youngsters are joining nationally now.”

And he knows that bell-ringing keeps you young. Geoff is very proud to be a member of the Ancient Society of College Youths, the most prestigious bell-ringing order. “Not only is it a great honour,” he says, “but it’s flattering to be called a youth at 74.”

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The Bell-Ringing



One day in Oct - o - ber nei - ther drunk - en nor



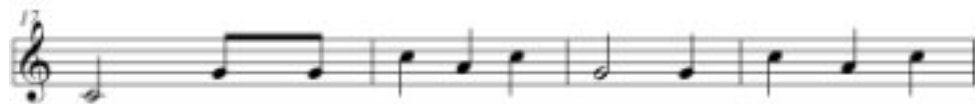
so - ber o'er Broad - bur - y Down I was ma - king my



way when I heard of some ring - ing some danc - ing and



sing - ing I ought to re - mem - ber that ju - bil - lee



day. 'Twas in Ash - wa - ter town, the bells they did



sound they rang for a belt and a hat laced with



gold. But the men of North Lew rang so stead - y and



true that there ne - ver were bet ter in Dev - on I hold.

The Bell-Ringing

One day in October
Neither drunken nor sober
O'er Broadbury Down I was making my way
When I heard of some ringing
Some dancing and singing
I ought to remember that jubilee day

*Chorus: 'Twas in Ashwater town, the bells they did sound
They rang for a hat and a belt laced with gold
But the men of North Lew rang so steady and true
That there never were better in Devon I hold.*

'Twas misunderstood
for the men of Broadwood
Gave a blow on the tenor ne'er ought'a been
But the men of North Lew
Rang so faultlessly true
A difficult matter to beat them 'twould ha' been

Chorus:
They of Broadwood being naughty
Then said to our party
We'll ring you a challenge again in a round
We'll give you a chance in

St Stephen's by Lanson,
The prize to the winners a note of five pound
Chorus: 'Twas in Callington Town the bells next did sound etc.

When the match it came on
At good Callington
The bells they rang out o'er the valleys below
Then old and young people
The hale and the feeble
They came out to hear the sweet bell music flow.

Chorus: 'Twas at Callington town the bells they did sound etc.

Those of Broadwood once more
Were obliged to give o'er,
They were beaten completely and done in a round.

For the men of North Lew
Pull so steady and true
That no better than they in the West can be found

Chorus: 'Twas in Ashwater town then in Callington Town They rang etc.

Exeter Folk & Acoustic Music Club

Victoria Park Tennis Club, Lyndhurst Road, St. Leonards, Exeter,
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Saturday 14 th Oct	Concert Night: Geoff Lakeman & Rob Murch
Friday 27 th Oct	Open Club Night
Friday 3 rd Nov	Concert Night: Pete Morton
Friday 24 th Nov	Open Club Night
Friday 22 nd Dec	Christmas Night

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

Our patron saint took me to Europe

JIM CAUSLEY tells us how St Boniface helped him to bring Dartmoor music and culture to cities in Holland and Germany

MANY moons ago I received an invitation to come and perform at Munich Irish Folk Club from its organisers Frank & Alison. I was very flattered but I couldn't think of how on earth I could justify getting myself to Munich for one gig and I had no idea how you obtain other gigs in Europe.

I politely said to them: "Thank you very much for your interest in booking me but I don't play Irish music." Frank replied: "Oh don't worry about that, we only call it an Irish folk club so that people will come!"

He explained that their audience don't necessarily have a huge understanding of various folk musics and while they love English music when it is presented to them, they just wouldn't initially know that it existed before hearing it. Which is similar to the average English person on the street I find!

Anyhow, fast-forward several years and I had become involved with the Boniface Link Association in Crediton through my efforts to create an annual day to celebrate Devon and our native-born saint, good old Boniface.

Through working with the BLA I have met several interesting people from across the continent including a party of visitors from Fulda in Germany who came to visit Boniface's birthplace (he's a big deal in Germany and known as "The Apostle of the Germans"). They invited me to their city to join in their St Boniface Day celebrations. I also met a young theatre group in the Netherlands who were writing a show about the story of St Boniface with a modern twist.

I'd also encountered some other lovely people in Belgium during my touring with Derbyshire folk group Narthen. So between one contact and another, a plan for an

adventure was forming! In late May I had a booking with Simon Pope, Old Uncle Bill Murray et al at the British Library in London followed by a solo gig at Horsham Folk Club. Then the next day I headed for Folkestone.

I was a little trepidatious because even though I had driven to Belgium the previous year, this was the first time I had attempted to drive so far on my own through multiple foreign countries!

After arriving in Calais, I headed for Breda in the south of the Netherlands to stay with an old school friend who had married a Dutch lady. I stayed with him for a few days and then I drove down to Fulda for their St Boniface weekend. I was put up by a young couple who were very much involved with cultural life in their small city.

IHAVE to say, what I experienced there really blew me away and made me feel that us back home really need to pull our socks up when it comes to celebrating our home-grown, local culture!

The celebrations began at 7:30am in their village on the outskirts of Fulda, where we met a large crowd of people with lots of brightly coloured flags and a brass band. We processed into town singing the hymn of St Boniface, taking in turns to sing a verse unaccompanied followed by an instrumental verse played by the band.

As we progressed along the route – police stopping the traffic – we were joined by other groups from neighbouring villages, each with their own brass band too, and by the time we got into the historic centre of Fulda there was a massive crowd of people all singing away. It was quite a spectacle!

Everyone gathered outside the cathedral

Causley's Corner



CAREFUL WITH THAT AXE, ST BONIFACE: No, Devon's patron saint is not about to chop up Jim's accordion – holy men aren't allowed to do that. The story says that he used it to fell the tree of Thor in Germany. For that he is honoured in Germany and the Netherlands and Jim profited in both countries from the high esteem in which Boniface is held.

where there was more singing than an open air mass, followed by a procession of lots of local flags representing various organisations followed by a massive outdoor BBQ lunch with steak and sausages and everything else a body could want accompanied by a jolly oompah band playing local and popular hits. It made our small gathering at the statue of St Boniface in Crediton on June 5 seem quite insignificant by comparison!

There I met a large party from Dokkum in the north of the Netherlands who had also travelled down for the celebrations as they too have a historic claim to a chapter of Boniface's life. I was very honoured but also quite embarrassed to be the only representative from Crediton and England and I decided then and there to make it my mission to fix this discrepancy for future years.

After being given some wonderful tours of Fulda, which is a gorgeous historic city with a stunning baroque cathedral I said goodbye to my new friends there and travelled down the autobahn to Munich.

I had been filled with scary tales of the autobahn by "friends" before my trip but actually I was relieved to find it was nothing

like what they had foretold! For the most part it was just dual carriageway and the speed limit changed so frequently, there were very few places where it was actually speed-limit free for very long.

I could write a whole essay on how stunning Munich is and all the historic buildings and cathedrals etc etc but needless to say I had a wonderful time there and Alison and Frank were excellent tour guides.

DEPENDING on the various acts they book, they hire suitable venues for the concerts but they decided that a house concert would be ideal for my first time there and I had a really enjoyable night playing to an enthusiastic and interested crowd in their cavernous basement.

Also Alison outdid herself on the catering side of things and we were still eating the leftovers the night after!

It was a wonderful experience to play my music to people who had for the most part, never heard anything like it before, with perhaps only Irish or Scottish as a reference point. It is also very humbling when you consider that most of them speak your

Causley's Corner

language very well and yet you are very limited in theirs. This is another area for the English to improve on!

After Munich I drove up to Stuttgart to visit a family I had stayed with 10 years ago when I visited the town of Besigheim which is twinned with Newton Abbot when I was dancing with Raddon Hill Clog Morris. It was lovely to catch up with them and they had fond memories of visiting Devon and Dartmoor.

After that I headed for Weisenhiem to visit my old university chum Andrew Cadie of Broom Bezzoms fame – a Northumbrian who married a German lady and who now mostly earns a living by playing English folk music to the people of Germany!

I couldn't stay with Andy long as he also had gigs to get to so the next day I headed for Utrecht to stay with my friend Tim who runs the Dutch theatre troupe I mentioned earlier.

I had a wonderful time being shown around the delights of Utrecht, to my mind a better version of Amsterdam without the hordes of tourists and objectively more beautiful.

And of course everyone cycles everywhere. I was lent a bicycle and I had a wonderful time. Much as I love Dartmoor, it did make me yearn to live somewhere more flat!

FROM Utrecht Tim and I made our way up to Dokkum in the north to take part in their St Boniface Day celebrations which are always held a week after those in Fulda so people from both countries can attend each other's celebrations. So thoughtful!

Dokkum's celebrations were like a scaled-down version of those in Fulda but still just as much fun and as colourful. One thing I observed was that while in Fulda they had a Bonifatius ice cream shop, in Dokkum they have Bonifatius beer instead. Cultural differences I guess!

After that I made my way down to Flanders where I visited my friend Alfred Den Ouden who is basically like the Flemish Martin Carthy! A hugely talented and respected musician and an unfathomable well on information on Flemish folk music and song.

Alfred and his wife took me to their local folk festival in Dranouter which was an

education it itself. Similar to Cambridge or Towersey perhaps in the way that its remit has spread beyond that of traditional folk and has a much wider selection of genres on offer.

But my favourite part was the tune sessions where I got to hear (and attempt to join in with) tunes from Flanders, France, Germany, Italy and even some tunes I thought were English but they knew them by different names! There were a lot of bal-folk tunes I could recognise and some early music tunes as well.

One thing struck me that had never dawned on me before; we often compare English tunes to our Celtic neighbours and very often you get the sense that English music is the poor relation and quite unlike some the pacey Irish and Scottish tunes which are so popular these days. But hearing these continental tunes, they sounded so much closer to English tunes to me than any I had heard before.

IT SEEMS really obvious when you think about it but musically, we have so much more in common with the rest of Europe than we do with modern "Celtish" culture. Even though the English have equally as much "Celtic" ancestry but that is another dissertation!

My Dutch friend Tim recommended a great book to me, *The Edge Of The World* by Michael Pye which is all about the countries which are historically and culturally linked by the North Sea. It perfectly describes how culture, including music, was exchanged and shared between the countries of northern Europe and how the sea was not a divider but a unifier. Fascinating stuff.

There is so much more I would love to tell you about my grand tour of the continent – for one I am hugely proud of my little Citroen who did a stellar job getting me safely to every destination – but the overarching sense I have returned with is that there is a universality in the local and to take joy and pride in local culture, instead of being introverted, is to be truly global.

Because unless you celebrate your own culture – while embracing and enjoying that of others – then you have nothing to share with anyone else. And sharing and comparing our cultures is a fascinating and delicious thing to do!



**In Fulda they
have Bonifatius ice
cream, in Dokkum
Bonifatius beer**

Birthday at the Brass

CONGRATULATIONS to Teignmouth Folk Club which celebrates its 20th birthday on **Monday October 2**. The festivities will include a guest appearance by the fine singer and guitarist Si Barron and there will be a limited number of floor spots. Join in the celebrations at The Brass, Hollands Road, Teignmouth, GB TQ14 8SR, from 8pm. For more details contact Martyn Hillstead on martyng@ AOL.COM. Or 07904 037812 .

Salcombe festival changes format

FOR three years the Salcombe Live festival has provided a feast of free entertainment around the town, thanks to sponsors and a small but dedicated band of volunteers. This year the organisers say the format has to change in order to be able to continue the festival in future years. Over the weekend of **Friday October 6 to Sunday October 8** there will be a small number of ticket-only events. These include a concert on Saturday by Dartmoor folk choir The Lost Sound (5pm at the Salcombe Harbour Hotel) and a concert on Sunday by Seth Lakeman (Holy Trinity Church). See salcombe-live.co.uk for more details.

Fairport will get Beehive buzzing

MORE than half a century ago Fairport Convention pushed British folk music into a new direction and the band (despite many line-up changes) is still rocking on. There is a chance to see them at the Beehive in Honiton on **Friday October 20**. A friend of What's Afoot who attended this year's Cropredy Festival reports that the band still packs a punch. Expect lots of new material among the old favourites. See Beehivehoniton.co.uk.

The hunt for Tom's Old Grey Mare

STICKLEPATH will again be celebrating its connection with the song Widecombe Fair on Halloween night, **Tuesday October 31**. There is

a Tom Pearse buried in a local graveyard so locals insist that the ill-fated journey to the fair, celebrated in song, started from their village. In a tradition dating all the way back to 2017 (traditions have to start somewhere), the children are sent on a quest round the village to find Tom Pearse's Grey Mare. On the way they meet up with the ghosts of characters mentioned in the ballad and get directions. They eventually catch up with the ghostly grey mare before she returns to the moor for another year. The search starts at 6pm from the village hall but, when the search is completed, the adults and ghosts retire to the Devonshire Inn (where there is an evening singaround on the first Sunday of the month) to enact a "Miracle Play" and share some traditionally ghoulish songs. For more details, please contact Derek Moore at 01837 840316 or derekmoore60@hotmail.com.

Let's roll out those blazing tar barrels

HOW can bog-standard bonfires compete with the old Devon custom of tossing or towing blazing tar barrels through the streets of otherwise peaceful villages? At 7pm on **Saturday November 4**, Ottery St Mary will see the start of the tar barrel ritual. It is certainly spectacular but not an event for the faint-hearted or the foolhardy. Don't go if you're nervous of fire or crowds and stay away if you are the type who thinks it might be interesting to grab a blazing barrel as it passes. If this is not enough flaming tar for you, then visit Hatherleigh's Carnival on the following weekend, **Saturday November 11**. The day begins with the dawn run when blazing tar barrels are dragged through the streets on a sledge. There is a splendid carnival during the day and in the evening there is a carnival parade. There is fierce competition among the floats so the standard is amazingly high. And just to finish off the day, there is another blazing barrels sledge run. To give you an appetizer or a warning, a video clip of the morning run can be found the the What's Afoot Facebook page.

Miranda throws in her Hand

IT'S your last chance to see Miranda Sykes perform with Show Of Hands. Steve Knightley

The Mooncoin Barn Dance Band



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BACKALONG FOLK DANCE BAND

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plus caller
melodeon/fiddle/guitar
contact
Steve Verge 07989068825

stevejverge@gmail.com

Diary Dates

and Phil Beer will be performing as a duo next year before cutting back on touring but in the autumn they are touring with Miranda. Their concert at the Beehive Honiton on **Wednesday November 8** has already sold out (keep an eye out for returns) but they will be at Exmouth Pavillion on **Thursday November 30, Friday December 1** and **Saturday December 2**.

Morris dancers to perform for Pudsey

MORE dancers than you can shake a morris stick at will be spilling into Tavistock on **Saturday November 18** for the annual Pudsey Day event. Last year the organisers, Dartmoor Border Morris, raised £1,916 for Children In Need. Can they and the other invited sides pass the £2,000 mark this year? Drop by to see morris dancers from all over the South-west and drop a few coins into the collecting buckets if you can. If you've fallen out of the habit of carrying cash, the buckets now sport a QR code for electronic donations. This was brought in last year and helped boost the funds. The event will run from 10am to 4.30pm and as well as an appearance by Pudsey we may well see Grimspound's award-winning Grimbear (see page 27).

The Hard times of old England

THE stone-breaker Robert Hard of South Brent was a major source of songs for Baring-Gould, providing him with such songs as *The Broken Token*, *The Hearty Good Fellow* and *Green Bushes*. On **Saturday November 18**, South Brent will be paying tribute to him with an evening entitled Robert Hard, The Dartmoor Songmen And Their Songs. Singing and discussing the songs of Mr Hard and other singers will be Sam Richards, who compiled the book *The English Folksinger* with Tish Stubbs. They were also part of the group Staverton Bridge with Paul Wilson. Appearing with Sam at South Brent is Martin Scragg. The event at the Old School Community Centre starts at 7.30. See the advert on page 29 for more details.

A Dickens of a night out

THERE will be dancing from border morris sides Lodestone and Wreckers Morris along with other street entertainment at Tavistock's

Diary Dates

Dickensian Evening on **Friday December 1**. Late-night shopping will also allow you to chase up those last-minute Christmas presents. Celebrations start at 5pm.

Jim brings us his Christmas cheer

THE Causley Christmas concerts have become a popular annual event and this year Jim is starting early with a 2pm concert at St Mary's Church, Denbury on **Sunday November 26**. There is another at St Mary's Church, Cheriton Bishop on **Saturday December 9**. Jim is sharing the stage with broadcaster and after-dinner speaker Sally Sedgman for Christmas concerts at St Nicholas Priory, Exeter on **Tuesday December 19**, Dartington Great Hall on **Thursday December 21** and Endecott House, Chagford on **Saturday December 23**. For more details, see jimcausley.co.uk

AND with Christmas out of the way, you might feel you need to dance off those yuletide calories. Fortunately the advert just below offers a New Year's Eve shindig.

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WILLAND FOLK DANCE CLUB

SATURDAY DANCES Willand Village Hall

October 7th Robert Blackborow & Petronella
November 4th Ivan Aitken & Pair of Shears
December 2nd Sarah Bazeley & Dartmoor Pixie Band
December 31st New Years Eve Dance – 8pm – 12.30am
John Bone & Chris Toyne's Big Band

Admission £10.00 - 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
As from September
Members £4.00 / Non-members £4.50 – See Diary Dates for more information
Contact Marilyn Broom 01404 47200 or Zena Roberts 01884 253546

What's On

THE latest listings appear in the following section. We try to keep up to date but events can be subject to change. Also, some clubs close during the holiday seasons. Do check before setting off, either by ringing organisers, going to the venue's website or consulting our new website, 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 provides an alternative for all kinds of folk

activity in the county. We are pleased that Trevor Paul, the former Flaxey-Green webmaster, is helping to run the directory and the new Devon Folk website.

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.

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

Song and Music

Clubs and sessions are sometimes forced to change venue at short notice. Not all operate during the holiday seasons. Please check. See also www.devonfolk.org for updates.

AWLISCOMBE NR HONITON

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

BIDEFORD

Thursday. Bideford Folk Club, 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: St Petroc's Parish Centre, Priory Rd, PL31 2DP. www.bodminfolk.co.uk

BRIXHAM

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

BUCKLAND MONACHORUM

2nd Sunday 7.30pm. The Drake Manor Inn, The Village, PL20 7NA

1st Wednesday 8.30pm.

The Drake Manor Inn, The Village, Buckland Monachorum, PL20 7NA

CHERITON FITZPAINE

Last Sunday, noon. Half Moon. Inn Clare Penny 01884 860023

CHIPSHOP

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

COLEFORD

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

CULLOMPTON

Alt 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) 8.30pm. Denbury Folk. Union Inn, The Green, Denbury, Newton Abbot TQ12 6DQ. Mostly song, in a sing-around style 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 music Session (and some tunes from elsewhere). The Mount Radford, 73-75 Magdalen Rd, Exeter 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 Austin 07812 688432

1st Thursday 7.45pm Bicton Inn Folk session 01395 272589

3rd Thursday 8.30pm Bicton Inn Folk session 01395 272589. Becky Brooks

4th Thursday 8.30pm Bicton Inn Folk club night 01395 272589. Derek Brooks

FENITON

First Tuesdays (except August). Mixed folk session, tunes and songs. The Nog Inn, EX14 3BT 7.30pm

facebook.com/TaleValleyFolkSessions

FROGMORE

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

IPPLEPEN

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

KINGSTEIGNTON

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

LYMPSTONE

4th Wednesday 8pm. Lymptstone Folk, Roots and Acoustic, Redwing Inn. Church Rd, 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, PL20 6HP martinr.54@virgin.net

MORCHARD BISHOP

1st Thursday 12 noon, The London Inn, EX17 6NW. Jon 0136383740

PLYMOUTH

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

ST DOMINICK

2nd Saturday 7.30pm. Who'd Have Thought It Inn, PL12 6TG Sylvia Watts 01579 382711 sylvwatts@aol.com

SANDFORD

1st Tuesday 8pm Lamb Inn Paul & Hazel 01363 776275
3rd Wednesday 7.30pm Lamb Inn Jon Shapely

Song and Music

0136383740 jon_shapley@hotmail.com

SCORRITON

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

SIDMOUTH

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

SOUTH BRENT

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

SOUTH ZEAL

3rd Monday music session
Kings Arms email
markbazeleymobile@gmail.com

STICKLEPATH

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

STOKE CANON

4th Wednesday 8.30pm.

Stoke Canon Inn. Paul and
Alison 07709324836

TALATON

3rd Sunday 12pm-3pm (not
August) Mostly English
session. The Talaton Inn,
EX5 2RQ.
facebook.com/
TaleValleyFolkSessions
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, Topsham
EX3 0QQ

Tuesday singers' night
7.45pm at The Globe, Fore
Street, Topsham EX3 0HR.

Monthly Concerts.

Matthews Hall, Fore Street,
EX3 0HF (see advert on back
page)

TOTNES

2nd Thursday: Folk Song
Club. Dartmouth Inn. Steve
& 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 Rd.
Mary Marker 01626 854141

WHIDDON DOWN

1st Tuesday (or 1st
Wednesday) 8pm. Whidsong.
Whiddon Down Village Hall,
EX20 2TQ. Email
dartmoorbill@yahoo.com

WOTTER

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

Social Dance

BIDEFORD

Bideford Country Dance

Club, Northam Hall, Fore St,
Northam, EX39 1AN.
Fridays 8pm. Tel: 01237
476632.

Bideford Folk Dance Club,

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

BRIDPORT

Bridport Folk Dance Club,
Wl Hall, North Street, DT6
3NW. 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

Dartington Folk Dance Club,
Dartington Village Hall. 8pm
Fridays. Tel: 01822 852442.

EXMOUTH

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

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

GITTISHAM

Gittisham Folk Dance Club,
Gittisham Village Hall, EX14
3AF Wednesdays. 8pm
Tel: Rosemary 01395
515403.

LAUNCESTON

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

NEWTON ABBOT

**Newton Abbot Irish Set
Dance,** Jolly Farmer, TQ12
2RB. Weekly Wednesdays.
Tel: 01626204350.

SIDFORD

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

SOUTH HAMS

**South Hams Folk Dance
Club,** West Charleton Village
Hall TQ7 2AG Weds 7.45pm
September to April.

Social Dance

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.

Events

OCTOBER

SUNDAY 1

Colum Sands, Huw Williams,
Folk on the Moor, Moorland
Hotel, Wotter, PL7 5HP
Martin Alvarado with
Gerardo Villar & Los Aguirre
Ashburton Arts Centre, West
Street, TQ13 7DT

MONDAY 2

Teignmouth Folk Club
Si Barron The Brass,
Hollands Road, TQ14 8ST

TUESDAY 3

Sidford Folk Dance Club:
Aileen Wills & Chris Toyne
Sidford Social Hall, Byes Lane
EX10 9QX

WEDNESDAY 4

The Haar Ashburton Arts
Centre, West Street,
TQ13 7DT

Gittisham Folk Dance Club.
Jeremy Child, Pair of Shears
Gittisham Village Hall,
EX14 3AF

THURSDAY 5

The Haar Beehive Arts
Centre, Dowell Street,
Honiton EX14 1LZ

FRIDAY 6

Moscow Drug Club The
Flavel Arts Centre,
Dartmouth TQ6 9ND

Cosgrave and Banks

Brixham Folk Club, The Edge,
Bolton St TQ5 9DH

Flats and Sharps Pavilions
Teignmouth, The Den
Crescent, TQ14 8BG

Juan Martin The Great Hall,
Dartington Estate, Totnes
TQ9 6EL

Music in the Library with
Hands of the Heron, Exeter

Library, Castle Street, Exeter
EX4 3PQ

SATURDAY 7

Jim Causley The Flavel Arts
Centre, Dartmouth TQ6 9ND
Leveret Calstock Arts, The
Old Chapel, Sand Lane,
PL18 9QX

Willand Folk Dance Club.

Robert Blackborow and
Petronella, Willand Village
Hall, Gables Road, EX15 2PL

Exmouth Shanty Men

present Tall Ships and Tavern
Tales, Bradninch Guildhall,
Fore Street, EX5 4NN

TUESDAY 10

Sidford Folk Dance Club.

Caller: Mary Marker, Sidford
Social Hall, Byes Lane
EX10 9QX

WEDNESDAY 11

Gittisham Folk Dance Club.

Jane Thomas and Ian and
Margaret. Gittisham Village
Hall, EX14 3AF

THURSDAY 12

Willand Folk Dance Club.

Caller: Bridgett Flett Band:
Fresh Aire, Willand Village
Hall, Gables Road, EX15 2PL

Bruce Watson Bideford Folk
Song Club, The Joiners Arms,
Market Place, EX30 2DR

FRIDAY 13

Kathryn Williams & Polly

Paulusma Ashburton Arts
Centre, West Street,
TQ13 7DT

SATURDAY 14

**Exeter Folk and Acoustic
Music Club** Geoff Lakeman
and Rob Murch, Victoria Park
Tennis Club, Lyndhurst Road,
St. Leonards, EX2 4NX

SUNDAY 15

Folk on the Moor Daoiri

Farrell, Moorland Hotel,
Wotter, PL7 5HP

MONDAY 16

**Sidmouth Acoustic Folk
Club,** open performers night.
7.30pm The Blue Ball,
Stevens Cross, EX10 9QL

TUESDAY 17

Sidford Folk Dance Club.

Caller: Chris Jewell, Sidford
Social Hall, Byes Lane
EX10 9QX

Foxwillow Bradninch Folk
Club The Guildhall, Fore
Street, EX5 4NN

WEDNESDAY 18

Gittisham Folk Dance Club.

Simon Maplesden and
Dancing Keys Gittisham
Village Hall, EX14 3AF.

FRIDAY 20

Fairport Convention Beehive
Arts Centre, Dowell Street,
Honiton EX14 1LZ

Stornoway Exeter Phoenix,
Gandy Street EX4 3LS

The Cream of Devon Exeter
Corn Exchange, George St,
EX1 1BU

SATURDAY 21

Elizabeth-Jane Baldry

Calstock Arts, The Old
Chapel, Sand Lane, PL18 9QX

Jesca Hoop St Mary's
Church, High Street,
Totnes TQ9 5NN

SUNDAY 22

Ward Knutur Townes

Calstock Arts, The Old
Chapel, Sand Lane, PL18 9QX
Granny's Attic. Topsham Folk
Club, Matthews Hall,
Fore Street, EX3 0HF

Blue Rose Code Deco
Lounge, The Jolly Farmer, 8
Market Street, Newton
Abbot TQ12 2RB

Events

TUESDAY 24

Sidford Folk Dance Club.

Caller: Jeremy Child,
Sidford Social Hall,
Byes Lane EX10 9QX

WEDNESDAY 25

Gittisham Folk Dance Club.

Ray Goodswen and Jeroka,
Gittisham Village Hall,
EX14 3AF

THURSDAY 26

Reg Meuross Livermead Cliff
Hotel, Torbay Road, Torquay
TQ2 6RQ

Willand Folk Dance Club.

Mary Marker and Chris
Mary's Musicians, Willand
Village Hall, Gables Road,
EX15 2PL

FRIDAY 27

India Electric Co. Barrel
House, 59 High St, Totnes
TQ9 5PB

SATURDAY 28

Ceilidh with Vertical

Expression (Contra Dance)
Kenn Centre, Exeter Road,
Kennford, EX6 7UE

Launceston Folk Dance Club

Autumn Dance, Jane Thomas
and A Pair of Shears,
Launceston Town Hall,
PL15 7AR

SUNDAY 29

Folk on the Moor The
Quiggs, Moorland Hotel,
Wotter, PL7 5HP

TUESDAY 31

Sidford Folk Dance Club.

Halloween Celebration
Caller: Jane Thomas
Sidford Social Hall,
Byes Lane EX10 9QX

NOVEMBER

WEDNESDAY 1

Gittisham Folk Dance Club.

Caller: Simon Maplesden
Band: Dancing Keys
Gittisham Village Hall,
EX14 3AF

THURSDAY 2

Emily Portman & Rob

Harbron Exeter Phoenix,
Gandy Street EX4 3LS

FRIDAY 3

Martin Simpson The Flavel
Arts Centre, Dartmouth
TQ6 9ND

Exeter Folk and Acoustic

Music Club Pete Moreton
Victoria Park Tennis Club,
Lyndhurst Road,
St Leonards, EX2 4NX

Sarah McQuaid

Pavilions
Teignmouth, The Den,
TQ14 8BG

SATURDAY 4

The Salts: On The Trafalgar
Way Exeter Phoenix,
Gandy Street EX4 3LS

Willand Folk Dance Club.

Caller: Ivan Aitken Band: Pair
of Shears Willand Village
Hall, Gables Road, EX15 2PL

TUESDAY 7

BRADFOLK 1st Tuesday
Bradninch Folk Club's in the
round music and song
session in the bar The Castle
Hotel, 1 Fore Street,
Bradninch, Devon. EX5 4NN

Sidford Folk Dance Club.

Caller: Simon Maplesden
Sidford Social Hall,
Byes Lane EX10 9QX

WEDNESDAY 8

Gittisham Folk Dance Club.

Caller: TBA Band: Chris Toyne
Gittisham Village Hall,
EX14 3AF

Show of Hands, Full Circle,
Part 1 Beehive Arts Centre,
Dowell Street, Honiton
EX14 1LZ

Sarah McQuaid Bridge Inn,
Topsham, Exeter EX3 0QQ

THURSDAY 9

Willand Folk Dance Club.

Ian Ludbrook and A Tight
Squeeze, Willand Village
Hall, Gables Road, EX15 2PL

FRIDAY 10

Matthew and the Atlas St
Mary's Church, High Street,
Totnes TQ9 5NN

SATURDAY 11

D'Accord's French Music and

Dance. St James Church Hall,
Mount Pleasant, Exeter EX4
7AH

Harbottle & Jonas Barrel
House, 59 High St, Totnes
TQ9 5PB

The Swamp Stomp String

Band Brentor Village Hall,
Tavistock, PL19 0LZ

The Ukulele Orchestra of

Great Britain Exeter Corn
Exchange, George St, EX1
1BU

SUNDAY 12

Folk on the Moor Jez Lowe,
Moorland Hotel, Wotter, PL7
5HP

TUESDAY 14

Sidford Folk Dance Club.

Caller: Mary Marker, Band:
Mary Lee Shed Folk Sidford
Social Hall, Byes Lane EX10
9QX

A Taste of Ireland Exmouth
Pavilion, The Esplanade,
Exmouth EX8 2AZ

WEDNESDAY 15

Gittisham Folk Dance Club.

Jane Thomas and Jeroka
Gittisham Village Hall, EX14
3AF

THURSDAY 16

Track Dogs Beehive Arts
Centre, Dowell Street,
Honiton EX14 1LZ

Flook The Great Hall,
Dartington Estate, Totnes
TQ9 6EL

FRIDAY 17

Moscow Drug Club Barrel
House, 59 High St, Totnes
TQ9 5PB

Saltlines Barnfield Theatre,
Barnfield Road, Exeter EX1
1SN

SATURDAY 18

South Brent Folk presents
"Robert Hard, the Dartmoor
song men and their songs"
The Old School Community
Centre, South Brent TQ10
9BP

MONDAY 20

**Sidmouth Acoustic Folk
Club**, open performers night.

Events

7.30pm The Blue Ball,
Stevens Cross, EX10 9QL

TUESDAY 21

Angeline Morrison

Bradninch Folk Club, The
Guildhall, Fore Street,
EX5 4NN

Sidford Folk Dance Club.

Ray Godswen and Chris
Toyne Sidford Social Hall,
Byes Lane EX10 9QX

WEDNESDAY 22

The Mary Wallopers Exeter
Phoenix, Gandy Street
EX4 3LS

THURSDAY 23

Sheelanagig Barrel House,
59 High St, Totnes TQ9 5PB

Mikey Kenney Beehive Arts
Centre, Dowell Street,
Honiton EX14 1LZ

Willand Folk Dance Club.

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

FRIDAY 24

Angeline Morrison Calstock
Arts, The Old Chapel, Sand
Lane, PL18 9QX

**Peter Hamilton Memorial
Ceilidh** with Red Shed: caller
Pete Langley Sandford Parish
Hall, EX17 4NA

John Kirkpatrick: Carolling &
Crumpets The Great Hall,
Dartington Estate,
Totnes TQ9 6EL

House Concert: Cosgrave &
Banks, Hatch Court,
Churchstow

SATURDAY 25

Ceilidh with Spinach for
Norman Kenn Centre, Exeter
Road, Kennford, EX6 7UE

SUNDAY 26

Sykes Martin. Topsham Folk
Club, Matthews Hall, Fore
Street, EX3 0HF

Folk on the Moor Gerry
Colvin Moorland Hotel,
Wotter, PL7 5HP

Talisk Exeter Phoenix, Gandy
Street EX4 3LS

TUESDAY 28

Sidford Folk Dance Club.

Caller: Jeremy Child
Sidford Social Hall,
Byes Lane EX10 9QX

WEDNESDAY 29

Gittisham Folk Dance Club.

Caller: Ray Goodswen Band:
Chris Toyne Gittisham Village
Hall, EX14 3AF

THURSDAY 30

Show of Hands Final Tour -
Full Circle Part I and II
Exmouth Pavilion, The
Esplanade, Exmouth EX8 2AZ

DECEMBER

FRIDAY 1

Show of Hands Final Tour -
Full Circle Part I and II
Exmouth Pavilion, The
Esplanade, EX8 2AZ

SATURDAY 2

Show of Hands Final Tour -
Full Circle Part I and II
Exmouth Pavilion, The
Esplanade, Exmouth EX8 2AZ

Martin Harley Barrel House,
59 High St, Totnes TQ9 5PB

Willand Folk Dance Club.

Caller: Sarah Bazeley Band:
Dartmoor Pixie Band Willand
Village Hall, Gables Road,
EX15 2PL

Mad Dog Mcreea Gateway

Theatre, Fore Street,
Seaton EX12 2LE

TUESDAY 5

Sidford Folk Dance Club.

Caller: Jane Thomas.
Sidford Social Hall,
Byes Lane EX10 9QX

WEDNESDAY 6

Gittisham Folk Dance Club.

Caller: Jane Thomas, Band:
Fresh Aire, Gittisham Village
Hall, EX14 3AF

SUNDAY 10

Folk on the Moor The
Gigantics Moorland Hotel,
Wotter, PL7 5HP

The Furrow Collective The
Great Hall, Dartington Estate,
Totnes TQ9 6E

MONDAY 11

**Sidmouth Acoustic Folk
Club,** Winter Wonderband.

7.30pm The Blue B all,
Stevens Cross, EX10 9QL

TUESDAY 12

Sidford Folk Dance Club.

Christmas Bring and Share
Party Caller: Simon
Maplesden Band: Chris Toyne
Sidford Social Hall, Byes Lane
EX10 9QX

WEDNESDAY 13

Gittisham Folk Dance Club.

Colin Andrews & Chris Toyne.
Gittisham Village Hall,
EX14 3AF

THURSDAY 14

St Agnes Fountain Beehive
Arts Centre, Dowell Street,
Honiton EX14 1LZ

Willand Folk Dance Club.

Caller: Robert Blackborow
Band: Ian Bryden. Bring and
Share Supper, Willand Village
Hall, Gables Road, EX15 2PL

FRIDAY 15

St Agnes Fountain The
Watermark, Erme Court,
Leonards Road, Ivybridge
PL21 0SZ

SATURDAY 16

The Contra Band Marldon
Christmas Tree Farm The Nor
Westerland, Compton
TQ3 1RR

WEDNESDAY 20

Gittisham Folk Dance Club.

Caller: Simon Maplesden
Band: Ian and Margaret
Gittisham Village Hall,
EX14 3AF

Mad Dog Mcreea Tavistock
Wharf, Canal Road,
PL19 8AT

THURSDAY 21

Mad Dog Mcreea Tavistock
Wharf, Canal Road, PL19 8AT

Jim Causley The Great Hall,
Dartington Estate, Totnes
TQ9 6EL

SUNDAY 31

New Years Eve Dance

Willand Folk Dance Club.
Caller: John Bone Band: Chris
Toyne's Big Band. Willand
Village Hall, Gables Road,
EX15 2PL

Morris and Display Teams

(F - Morris Federation, R Morris Ring, Open Morris)
Day: regular meeting

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
Wednesdays

dartmoorbordermorris.com

DARTINGTON MORRIS (R)

Martin Jones,
bag@dartingtonmorris.uk
Dartingtonmorris.uk (Fri)

EXETER MORRIS (R)

Chris Burhouse.

burhouse@btinternet.com,
01395 277719 Thurs.

FIRESTONE

(Appalachian & Irish).
Email info@firestonedance.
co.uk

**GLORY OF THE WEST
MORRIS (F)**

Pat Langman 07813625871
gloryofthewest@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@tiscali.co.uk

ILFRACOMBE RED

PETTICOATS (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

petemorton56@googlemail.
com

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

OTTER MORRIS

bag.otter.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.nettleton@gmail.com

SIDMOUTH TRADITIONAL

MUMMERS

Henry Piper, 01404 811491

henry.piper@zoom.co.uk

TINNERS MORRIS MEN (F)

andrew@frangleton.co.uk

TRIGG MORRIS MEN (R)

Roger Hancock,

01208 73907

TUDOR DANCE GROUP

Mrs Elizabeth Thurgood,

01404 812185

(Sat)

WINKLEIGH MORRIS (F)

Alexa Mason, 01647 277498

alexa@moormasons.plus.

com (Tues)

Useful Contacts

FOLK IN CORNWALL

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

FOLKLIFE

Sam Simmons,
16, Barrett Rise, Malvern,
WR14 2UJ. 01684 561378
sam@folklife.uk

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Useful Contacts

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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info@efdss.org www.efdss.org

THE MORRIS FEDERATION

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

THE MORRIS RING

Peter Austin bagman@themorrisring.org
01926 339351 g

OPEN MORRIS

Hetty Bevington secretary@open-morris.org

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Bands

BANDS in bold have an advert in this issue

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Backalong

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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

Kick Up The Dust

Ian 07742 917101

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

Stick The Fiddle

01884 255356

or 07790 760462

Winkeildh Band

01363 877216

Callers

Colin Andrews

bonnygreencolin@gmail.com

com

01363 877216

Steve Banks

steve@bluejewel.info

07957 855458

Jeremy Child

jeremy.m.child@gmail.com

barndancecaller.net

07969 297633

Anne Gill 01803 290427

Beryl Jukes 01209 712357

Mary Marker

01626 854141

Kip Pratt

kipviolin@gmail.com

07969123346

AT WHAT'S AFOOT we try to keep our listings as up to date as possible but we need your help. If you have changes to your club venue, your band line-up or your morris side, please get in touch as soon as possible. For changes and news items, contact devonfolkeditor@gmail.com or devonfolkwebmaster@gmail.com

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First Monday in the Month

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Monday 6th November
Singers' and Musicians' Open Night

Monday 4th December
Singers' and Musicians' Open Night

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martyngh@aol.com



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Non-specified
dates are
Singers'
Nights

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Ben on 01752 708770, Keith on 01752 493360, John on 07939 411985
or email folkonthemoor1@gmail.com



***Musician
Martin
steps up
for artist***

As a melodeon player for the Sidmouth Steppers, Martin Pratt is used to being in the background while the dancers hold the public gaze. Now his vital contribution to the side has been recognised and captured on canvas by local artist Jules Montgomery. You may have seen the painting in the window of the Ferne Animal Sanctuary charity shop in Sidmouth during festival week. Jules, who dances with Catseye Morris, donated the painting to the shop but it was immediately snapped up by Martin. Jules is available for private commission work and you can contact her by email at montymillsdesign@gmail.com. Picture by kylebakerphotography.com

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3rd Wednesday 7.30pm The Lamb, Sandford, Nr. CREDITON Contact: Jon 0136383740

Music Session: Last Sunday 12 noon Half Moon Inn, Cheriton Fitzpaine, Contact Claire 01884860023

Visit Facebook: Pennymoor Singaround

To confirm updated venues or contact:

Biddy: 01271 373305 biddy.mallabone@outlook.com

Jon: 01363 83740 – jon_shapley@hotmail.com

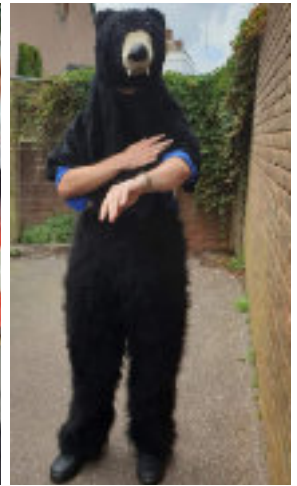
Also run by Pennymoor members:

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



A SHOCK for the bookies when this year's Sidmouth Horse Trials was won by Grimspound Morris's break-dancing bear. Rumour says he was trained by Jonathan Owen, dancer and karate black belt.

A triumph for ordinary folk

PROBABLY the most remarkable thing about this year's Sidmouth Folk Festival was that the Late Night Extra Ceildhs in the Bulverton went ahead.

The organisers had cancelled them because they had not got the funds to provide a dance floor.

But the folk world sprang into action and a crowd-funding campaign on social media raised more than £25,000 to provide a dance floor and possible levelling work on the site for next year's dances.

This is the true spirit of the folk world. The scene as we now know it sprang out of the hard work of all those volunteers who set up the first folk clubs way back in the middle of the last century.

This vital support goes on all over the county so remember: volunteering is not just for Sidmouth. Help out when and where you can and keep our music and dance traditions alive.



KYLE BAKER has provided splendid photos of Sidmouth for years. Here he is on the other side of the camera for once at his Sidmouth stall. To see if his roving lens caught you at Sidmouth, visit www.kylebakerphotography.com

Expect the unexpected

SIDMOUTH offers a feast of folk but other genres creep in. It was an unexpected pleasure to find a Hot Club session in the Cricket Club one morning playing some very tasty jazz (there is a clip on the What's Afoot Facebook page). And at a Playford session featuring Vicki Swan and Jonny Dyer, some chords crept in to Jonny's accompaniment that were more Thelonius Monk than Playford but so tastefully done the dancers never missed a beat.

Matt wins his sixth stepdance victory

STEPDANCING is the traditional heart of the Dartmoor Folk Festival and one man at the heart of that tradition is Matt Norman who took the stepdance title for the sixth time this year.

Matt, brought up in Sticklepath, has won in 2008, 2011, 2015, 2017 and 2021. He is pictured right, stepping on his 15-inch square board on top of a cart.

Christabel White came second with Jenny Read third and Beth Frangleton fourth.

The Junior Dartmoor Step Dance winner was Stanley Frangleton, aged 15, from South Zeal, who won last year's competition in 2022. Second was Jacob Rennie.

Equally important is the Broom Dance Championship, won by Dorothy Parker-Groom, aged 11, from South Zeal.

An interesting “mash-up” of the two styles was brought to the festival by highly experienced dancer, Lisa Sture. On the Sunday her workshop showed how two dancers or more dancers could compete against each other – or interact socially – dancing around or over a broom lying on the floor. A link to a video showing this technique is on What’s Afoot’s Facebook page.



Picture by Alan Quick



WE BID a fond farewell to Bill the Bodger who has been demonstrating pole lathe wood turning at festivals including Dartmoor to raise money for charity. Even the storm of 2019 which wrecked their gazebo couldn't stop Bill and wife Hillary but sadly age has forced them to retire.

YOU get a better class of busker working the food queues at this festival. Maggie Lane heard the lady at West Coast Caterers was upset as she couldn't get to their concert so they came to serenade her. A video clip can be found on the What's Afoot Facebook page.



THE FOLKLORE OF DEVON

Mark Norman, University of Exeter Press

FOLK song and folklore go together naturally as author Mark Norman has proved by teaming up with Jim Causley for a series of concerts in Devon. His new book offers a feast of old tales, customs, superstitions, rhymes and songs.

He warns us: "The study of folklore does not set out to prove the existence of anything from a scientific perspective... Folklorists are interested in why people tell the stories that they do, how those stories relate to place, how they transmit and form variants, and other social history interactions." However, he turns a suitably forensic eye on some of the stories and the unlikely explanations for them.

His book covers a huge amount of ground, including sketches of the folklore collectors such as Beatrice Chase who is said to have started the custom of leaving flowers on Kitty Jay's grave and also had a hand in reviving the fortunes of Widecombe Fair.

There are sections on calendar customs and it is interesting to see how some have changed. For example, there was once a Green Man in Tavistock on May Day. A pyramid of greenery and flowers was built which was worn by a man who would dance as part of the May procession.

That has long gone but the Green Man Festival is now a very popular event on or around May Day in Bovey Tracey.

Wassailing has been revived across the county and the trees are "awakened" and treated kindly. Mr Norman points to a more threatening wassail song from Kingsbridge:

*Apple-tree, apple-tree,
Bear good fruit,
Or down with your top
And up with your root.*

He also gives the words to a song by the wassailers, bemoaning the fact that they are working hard while the farm owners stay at home. It seems ripe for a tune from Jim Causley.

Halloween's trick or treating is seen as a US import but Devon had Lent-crocking. Householders were asked for food. If they refused, shards of pottery were thrown at their homes.

And the first published version of the classic children's nursery tale The Three Little Pigs comes from Dartmoor in 1853. But here, the pigs are pixies and the villain of the piece is a fox rather than a wolf.

The book examines the demon black dog stories of Dartmoor, including the legend of Lady Mary Howard and her hell hound, but Mr Norman says its is difficult to pinpoint one



SOUTH BRENT FOLK

presents

'Robert Hard, the Dartmoor song men and their songs'



An evening with **Sam Richards** and **Martin Scragg** who will sing and discuss the songs of South Brent's Robert Hard, along with those of other Westcountry song men who sang to the Victorian folk song collector, Rev Sabine Baring-Gould.

on

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<http://southbrentfolk.org.uk>

Reviews

which may have inspired Conan Doyle to write the *Hound of the Baskervilles*.

Is folklore confined to the past? Not at all, says Mr Norman in his final chapter. He points out that the internet, far from being the source of all knowledge actually helps to spread “modern folklore” such as sightings of “alien spacecraft” and fairies and ghosts. That means this invaluable book may well need updating in a decade or two.

MUMMING IN DEVON

Colin Andrews

WE ARE heading towards Christmas, the traditional season for many mummings plays so this book by Colin Andrews, former editor of *What's Afoot*, is very timely.

For those thinking of reviving an old play, creating a new one or refurbishing a current play, this book offers a wealth of information. There are scripts and music from traditional plays ranging from Ashburton to Tiverton – 17 in all, including shorter and longer versions of some – with notes on their history and who is performing them now.

There are also 19 plays based on traditional or modern texts. It's worth noting that even the “traditional plays” have elements that would have been modern when they were first performed with the old villains such as the

Turkish Knight being replaced or aided and abetted by one of Napoleon's warriors.

The Sidmouth play sees the Prince of Orange fighting King James. This would have had local echoes as William of Orange landed at Brixham to oust the last of our Catholic kings.

The play also includes Admiral Nelson, the Duke of Wellington and King Tipu, a reference to Tipu Sultan who resisted the advance of the East India Company into his country. It's a real hotchpotch of history with plenty of patriotic speeches and songs. The book provides notes on the various characters who crop up in all the different plays.

Modern plays feature more modern villains. For example, Grimspound Morris produced a Corona play. Sadly, this villain shows no sign of being consigned to the past any time soon.

Mumming is not just for Christmas. Sticklepath Mummings and other groups perform at Easter, traditionally the time of pace-egging plays and on St George's Day. Colin is the author of a play for Winkleigh based on the folklore of the Franken Nights as the late frosts around the third weekend in May are known in Devon. This valuable resource can be ordered from Colin's website, bonnygreen.co.uk, at a price of £12.

Reviews by John Foxon

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Tom Brown

Singer, musician and folklorist

TOM BROWN, who died on August 30 aged 75, was a hugely influential figure on the Devon folk scene. An accomplished singer and player of guitar, mandola, concertina and melodeon, he performed all over the country with his wife Barbara and they recorded a wealth of fine albums. They also ran the highly regarded Shammick folk club in Combe Martin for many years.

Perhaps their most important achievement is their part in the restoration of the Hunting of the Earl of Rone ceremony at Combe Martin. This event, which dates back to the “flight of the Earls” from Ireland in 1607, had been part of village life until 1837, when it was banned by local bylaw due to “licentious and drunken behaviour”. In 1970 an old member of the North Devon Folk Club told Tom and other young members a little about the ceremony and they began avidly researching it.

According to legend the Earl of Tyrone fled Ireland to avoid arrest for treason against the English Crown. It was said he was shipwrecked at Rapparee Cove, just outside Combe Martin and was captured by a troop of Grenadiers, taken to Exeter and executed. In fact, Tyrone landed safely in France and lived out the rest of his life in Spain.

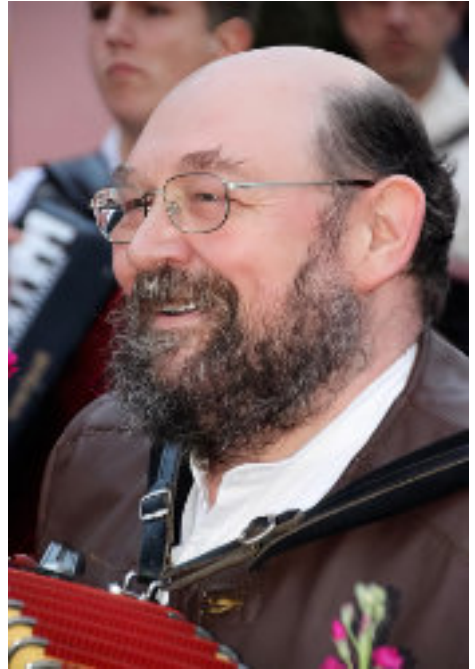
But the villagers of Combe Martin preferred the legend and acted out the hunting of the Earl and his capture. He was then paradesitting backwards on a donkey, down through the village to the beach, and “shot”.

Tom and his fellow enthusiasts reconstructed the custom and were asked to take part in the Combe Martin carnival. Interest grew and in 1978 the Hunting of the Earl of Rone became an established festival on the early spring bank holiday and has continued ever since.

Born of a Scottish father and a London mother, and raised in Sussex, Tom escaped school and went to work on the land in Cornwall where he encountered the song and music tradition of the South-west through people such as Charlie Bate, Mervyn Vincent and Bob Cann.

He met Barbara at the Padstow Mayday celebrations in 1969 and they married in 1970.

After moving from North Devon to Exeter in 1980, when Tom succeeded Bill Rutter as Regional Development Officer, for the English Folk Dance and Song Society, they teamed up



with Charley Yarwood to form the a capella trio Regalia. By this time they had two daughters to raise, and when Tom was made redundant they moved to London to get work, Tom in Local Government Arts and Barbara in Community Transport.

Pressures of work, raising the daughters and Tom enrolling as an Arts Management student at City University all but halted their performance work for several years but in 1998, they settled again back home in North Devon. Tom gained a PhD and they became full-time performers.

Tom and Barbara’s granddaughter Matilda “Tilly” Riley has followed in their footsteps by becoming an accomplished melodeon player. She passed her Music GCSE on melodeon despite being told by her teacher that this was a totally unsuitable instrument.

Barbara asked that for Tom’s funeral, his friends should bring their voices, not their tears to help celebrate his life. There is certainly a great deal to celebrate.

Tom Brown

May 18, 1948- August 30, 2023

Eileen Mckee

Singer and festival organiser

EILEEN MCKEE, who died on June 29 this year aged 76, was the driving force behind South Brent Folk, which organised concerts, ceilidhs and most importantly, The South Brent Festival. This little festival always punched well above its weight, drawing in such folk luminaries as Craig; Morgan; Robson, Steve Ashley, Jackie Oates, Granny's Attic and O'Hooley & Tidow. Her big coup was signing up Martin Carthy for the 2020 festival but, sadly, covid shut down that event as it did so many others.

For some years Eileen had been running Tuesday singarounds at the Packhorse Inn but in 2011 she decided the village could do with a festival. She formed South Brent Folk then obtained seed funding from the Parish Council. Thanks to that and other fund-raising events the first South Brent Folk Festival was held in 2012. Further Folk Days, concerts and twice-yearly ceilidhs followed until the pandemic.

She had just begun to start the ball rolling again, organising folk events for 2023 when she died. After a successful spring ceilidh, she set up the concert by Jim Causley and Bill Murray which was held in July. Jim Causley, who sang the *Farewell Shanty* at her funeral, the song Eileen used to close her singaround sessions, described her as "clearly a wonderful organiser and one of those invaluable people who makes things happen! She will be sorely missed".

Eileen was born in Bolton, one of five children. After grammar school, she studied horticulture at Studley College in Warwickshire. There her passions for gardening and folk singing took hold, passions that lasted all her life.

She met her lifelong partner Jill White in 1966 and in 1970 began a postgraduate course at the Institute of Park and Recreation Administration in Pangbourne, Berkshire. This was normally an-all male preserve for only 20 students but Eileen and Jennifer, who became a lifelong friend, were the first two female students on the course.

Eileen's desire to help people led her into horticultural training, initially at Lancashire College of Agriculture, then at the London Borough of Merton where she set up the South West London Horticultural Training Centre. In 1984 she joined the Local Government Management Board as Adviser for



Eileen Mckee on her 70th birthday

qualification development for local government staff throughout England and Wales. However, she had suffered from a heart condition since the Eighties and in 1997 had to take early retirement from a successful career in which she was very highly regarded.

Local government's loss was Devon's gain because she and Jill moved from their home in the Cotswolds to South Devon. Here they lived happily together with their beautiful dogs and Eileen continued to support Jill in her peripatetic international development work.

Eileen became a valued member of the Devon Folk committee and in return the organisation supported South Brent's folk events. The organisation's most recent meeting was hosted by Eileen in South Brent.

Her friend John Rawlinson said: "Colleagues from both South Brent Folk and Devon folk have been hugely saddened by the loss of Eileen's energy, huge commitment and input to folk activities. South Brent Folk in particular, will have to regroup and consider its organisation without Eileen."

Eileen McKee

December 22, 1946 – June 29, 2023

Mary Blake

Morris musician

MARY BLAKE, who has died aged 95, was a musician for Exeter Morris, Plymouth Morris and Dartmoor Border Morris. She became involved in morris in the 1950s when her husband Tony joined Exeter, then an all-male side, as a dancer and she played accordion for them.

She became a long-standing member of Dartmoor Border Morris, playing piano accordion for them and is pictured right with them and other sides at their annual Pudsey Day in Tavistock. She helped Dartmoor set out their tune book. Former lead musician Greg Bradfield-Smith said: "Mary was immensely helpful to me when I started playing with DBM. I had no experience at all of playing for dance. She was a very generous teacher. Whatever skill I have now is largely down to Mary. She was a very capable player for dancing, with a great grasp of tempo, which I never quite got to her satisfaction. I could often hear her mantra of 'Steady! Steady!' when I got carried away." On her 80th birthday Dartmoor members performed a dance created in her honour, *Hail Mary*, in her garden.

Members of Dartmoor, Exeter Morris new side Boscastle Morris – formed by dancers at Dartmoor who had known Mary – attended her funeral at Sampford Spiney Church on June 15 and at the invitation of her family danced at her wake at the Rock Inn, Yelverton.

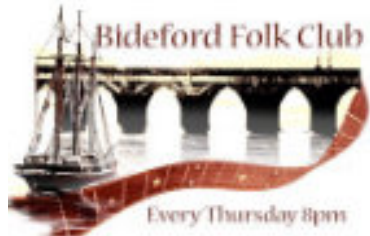
Mary was also a passionate choral singer and continued singing well into her eighties.



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Maleth, 11 Cleveland Road,

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VICE CHAIR/PUBLICITY

Colin Andrews

Bonny Green,

Morchard Bishop, Crediton

EX17 6PG

01363 877216

bonnygreencolin@gmail.com

SECRETARY and TREASURER

Eileen Conway

151 Kingsdown Crescent,

Dawlish

EX7 0HB.

01626 862312

WEBMASTER

Trevor Paul

devonfolkwebmaster@gmail.

com

COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Kat Blockley,

2, End Cottages, Talaton, EX5

2RJ. katblockley@hotmail.

com.

Steve Gill

Maleth, 11 Cleveland Road,

Torquay, TQ2 5BD

01803 290427

Mary Marker

Cromartie,

Oldway, Chudleigh,

TQ13 0JA

01626 854141

ammarker5@btinternet.com

Jane Snow

27 John Street,

Tiverton EX16 5JP

01884 259042

WHAT'S AFOOT EDITOR

John Foxen

devonfolkeditor@gmail.com

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16th Oct & 20th Nov 2023.

*£2 Entrance Fee

THE BLUE BALL

Stevens Cross, Sidford EX10 9QL

11th Dec, **WINTER WONDERBAND**

in concert – look out for more details.

Contact Jan on 07850163241 or email
janet.strapp@outlook.com

Totnes Folk Club

Dartmouth Inn, The Plains

Totnes, TQ9 5EL



2nd Thursday in the Month – 8pm

No Folk Club in August

For more information contact

Andy: ndclarke6@gmail.com

Anne: anne.m.gill@icloud.com

Visit our Facebook page or contact

Steve & Anne Gill

01803 290427

or Andy Clarke 01803 732312



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 £15 a year you will receive four copies of the magazine through the post. PDF editions can be emailed for £10.

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 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 all parts of Devon.

Full committee meetings are usually held at Ide near Exeter four times a year on a Saturday morning in addition to the business meeting after the annual general meeting, which is usually held in March.

DEVON FOLK 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

autumn concerts 2023

Martin Simpson

Sunday 24 September 2023
8pm £20



www.martinsimpson.com

'conveys his diverse treasure trove of material with rare subtlety and honesty'

Granny's Attic

Sunday 22 October 2023
8pm £16



www.grannysattic.org.uk

'Great tunes, great energy, great arrangements, great stuff!' - Jon Boden

SykesMartin

Sunday 26 November 2023
8pm £16



www.edgelarks.co.uk/sykesmartin

Two of British folk's finest voices, Miranda Sykes and Hannah Martin

Concert tickets can be bought online at www.wegotickets.com or via link from www.topshamfolkclub.org also on 'singers' nights or at concerts or at Matthews Hall Café www.facebook.com/topshamfolkclub all enquiries 01392 874718

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



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



£5 - folk concerts
special offer for ages 26 and under on all topsham folk club concerts - limited availability