

No 133 January–March 2024

What's Afoot

The official
magazine of

Devon Folks
DANCE SONGS MUSIC MOTTS

**STILL NIFTY
AT NINETY!
MEET THE
DRUMMER
WHO CAN
BEAT TIME**

**PLUS: A NEW DEVON
FOLK DAY, NEWS AND
LISTINGS**

£2



FOLK AT THE FLAVEL

***THE 2024 PROGRAMME IS NOW CONFIRMED. TICKETS AVAILABLE ON
01803 839530 OR ONLINE AT WWW.THEFLAVEL.ORG.UK***

FRIDAY 15th MARCH 2024 7:30PM

SYKES/MARTIN

The new collaboration from two of the UK's finest folk singers, Miranda Sykes (Show of Hands) and Hannah Martin (Edgelarks, Gigspanner Big Band).

THURSDAY 18th APRIL 2024 7:30PM

REG MEUROSS

Award-winning singer, songwriter, storyteller and troubadour making his first Folk at the Flavel appearance. Reg was introduced onto the stage of the Albert Hall by Mike Harding as "One of this country's finest". He certainly is!

FRIDAY 14th JUNE 2024 7:30PM

CARA DILLON

One of the most outstanding performers on the UK folk scene, Cara makes her fourth visit to Flavel, accompanied by husband and musical partner Sam Lakeman. Cara will be performing from her highly acclaimed new album and book 'Coming Home', released in February.

SATURDAY 14th SEPTEMBER 2024 7:30PM

HARBOTTLE AND JONAS

Dynamic, Devon based duo, partners in life and music, and one of the most exciting acts on the UK circuit, combining a love of the richness of traditional folk with their own original and powerful songwriting. Multi-instrumentalists and fabulous vocals. Another F@F debut.

What's Afoot 133 Jan-Mar 2024

Articles, features, news to:

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EDITORIAL

How do you reconcile the folk factions?

IT'S always fatal to mention that you once ran a folk club. Immediately the pressure starts: "Well why don't you start one here?" I've made that mistaken confession and now friends and acquaintances are gently nudging me to get a club or a session running in Tavistock. The problem is that I'd have satisfy a lot of different needs. The folk world is not homogeneous. We are a loose – sometimes very loose – collection of different tribes. I have friends who are die-hard session fans. They like to turn up with their instruments and belt through tune after tune with everybody (even spoon players) joining in. Then there are the unaccompanied singers who revel in the old ballads, the longer the better. The shantymen (and women) also fall into this category. The more choruses, the better. But I also know a lot of open mic people who like to take it in turns to perform and prefer the audience to listen quietly and respectfully to what they are doing. Finally there are those who like to see guest artists and are prepared to pay a few quid to get good acts. And some of them, if they've paid good money, don't want to see a local lad or lass get up and sing a song indifferently. I've got a foot in all these camps and fear that if I set up a club or session, I'm going to offend one clan or another. Suggestions please. . **JOHN FOXEN, EDITOR**

NEXT COPY DEADLINE: February 20th 2024

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.



PARTY PIECE: Cyril May on mouth organ playing along with (from left) fiddler Richard Helston, Mark Bazeley on melodeon, Rob Murch on banjo and Jason Rice on piano accordion

The last man standing

‘Just look at Cyril May on the mouth organ – ninety years young and the only one in the band standing up to play.’ JASON RICE tells us how the Dartmoor Pixie Band’s former drummer defies the years.

CYRIL MAY, who lots of readers will know as the “the Mad Drummer” with The Dartmoor Pixie Band for many years celebrated his 90th birthday on December 15, 2023, in the only way he knows how: by hosting a party followed by a “wingding” – his name for a folk music jam session.

As always he was right in the middle, playing his mouth organs or “gob irons” as he calls them. He was joined by some of his old Pixie Band friends: me on piano accordion, Mark Bazeley on melodeon and Rob Murch on banjo.

When we change tunes, Cyril often has to swap harmonicas so Mark and I call out the keys. G and D are to easy to mishear. That’s why you’ll hear us calling “Grass” for G, or “Donkey” for D so he gets the right instrument.

Cyril also invited Richard Helston, a fiddler from Dorset whom he got to know through his friendship with The Yetties. Bonny Sartin of The Yetties was invited too and was looking forward to it. Unfortunately he had to withdraw at the last minute due to getting Covid.

Cyril drummed with the Pixies until his late seventies. Even when he “retired”, he would

still dep for us from time to time. I would drive him to the gigs and help unload the drum kit and set it up. It’s only fair. When I started in the band at the age of 21 he would pick me up for every gig.

I found a Facebook post from 2017, recording one of the last times he played drums for us. His wife of 66 years, Hazel, says after that gig, it took him three days to recover so that’s why he sticks to the mouth organ. However, if there had been a drum kit at the party, I’m sure he would have given it a go.

THE party was organised by his daughter Karen, who used to call for the Pixies occasionally, and son-in-law Peter, at the Waie Inn, Zeal Monachorum. For many years Cyril has lived in Crediton with Hazel, and they married the day before his birthday. He often refers to their marriage as his birthday present that year.

It was in 1974 that Cyril joined Bob Cann and the Dartmoor Pixie Band, originally playing both mouth organs and melodeon. That was the year the band played at a New Year’s Eve party at Fingle Bridge, near Drewsteignton, a



THEN AND NOW: The first picture shows Cyril May, left, with Bob Cann and the Pixies pre-1981 and his daughter Karen, right. The second shows Karen and Cyril at his 90th birthday party

picturesque location at the bottom of a deep valley on the edge of the moor.

Several inches of snow fell and the band and all the dancers were stranded there for two days. Fortunately, only about half the guests had made it due to the weather so there was quite a lot of food left over after the dance.

This incident didn't put Cyril off one bit and in 1981 he took over as drummer. His style was absolutely perfect for country dancing and gave the music plenty of "Lift" which is just the way Bob liked it.

Playing with the band took Cyril and Hazel to nearly every village hall all over Devon and Cornwall, and further afield, even making an appearance with the band on the BBC Pebble Mill programme.

Cyril loved to dress up and often used his skills as a carpenter to build fancy sets for the stage or a practical joke such as a pretend cake that he would jump out of in front of an unsuspecting audience.

I remember Sarah Bazeley, Mark's wife and the Pixie Band's resident caller, often telling the band before the next tune "not to play too fast". Cyril would say in jest to the other band members in a quiet voice: "Go like hell!" Of course, Sarah has long forgiven Cyril for this "insubordination" and was at the party to wish him well.

Cyril also tells stories in dialect, sings



SUSPICIOUS MIND: Cyril doesn't look very pleased about being in Jason's selfie in 2017.

songs and tells jokes. He's a star. If we in the Pixie Band see him at festivals and concerts – particularly the Dartmoor Folk Festival – we always invite him up on stage to play mouth organ with us. Cyril is amazing but so modest. He often says after he has been playing with us: "Thank you for letting me 'spoil' your music".

He never lowers the standard of the music, he only ever enhances it, and everyone who knows him hopes that he continues "spoil" the music for many more years to come!

Jeremy Child

Barn Dance Caller



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

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

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

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

www.barndancecaller.net

01392 422119 jeremy.m.child@gmail.com

Exeter Ceilidhs

Jan 27th Dartmoor Pixies

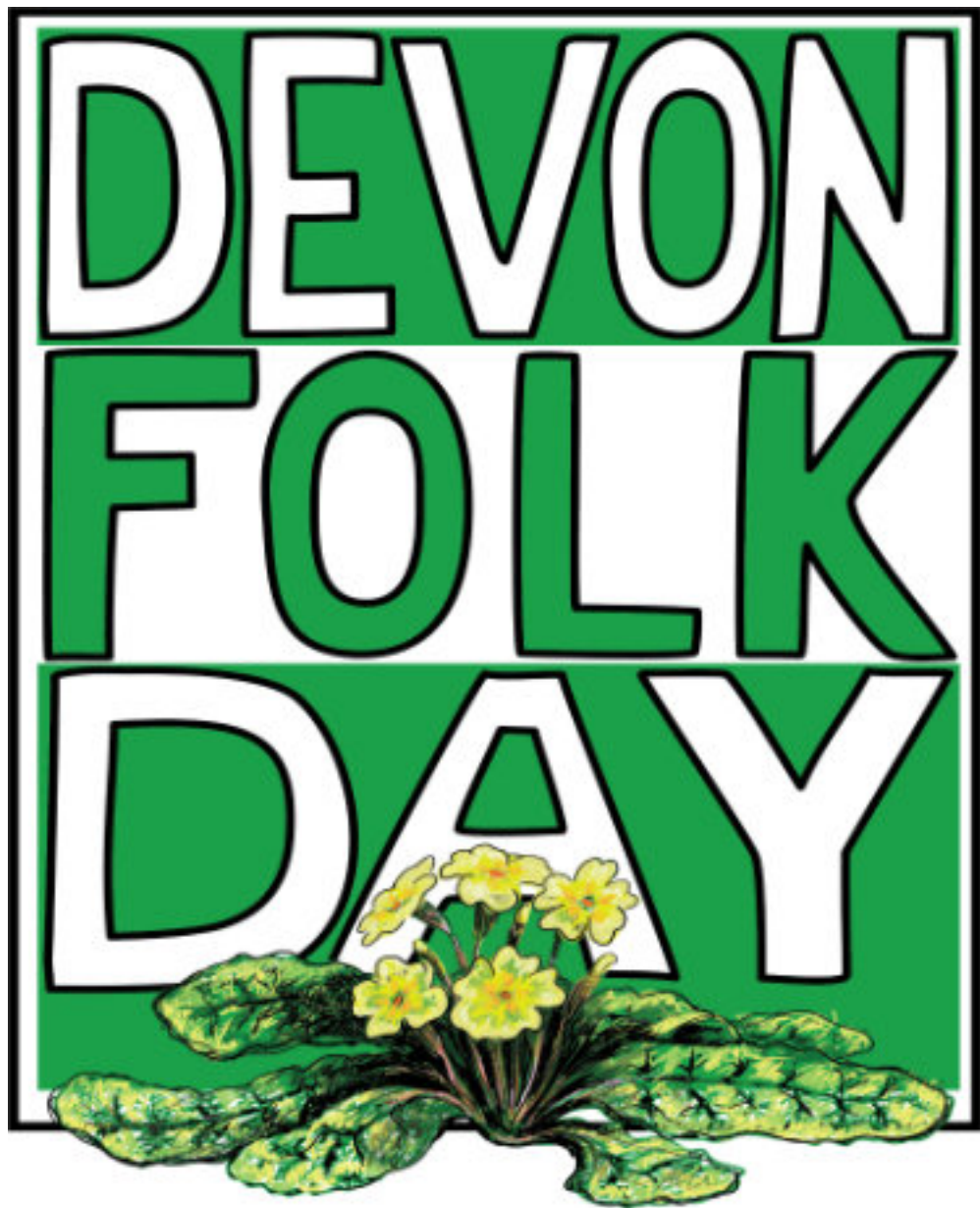
Feb 24th Amber Fire

Mar 30th Chris Toyne

Kenn Centre, Kennford 8pm - 11pm

07969 297 633 www.exeterceilidhs.net





Devon Folk invite you to a day of exciting and varied workshops and sessions with a wonderful evening concert (Gadarene) and ceilidh (Mooncoin Band). This will be an excellent value showcase of Devon folk with chances to join in, listen, play, and dance in good company.

Book now to reserve your place.

Come and sing into Spring

AFTER a break of sixteen years, the Mid-Devon village of Morchard Bishop will once again be hosting a whole day of folk activities, organised by Devon Folk. In 2003, 2005 and 2008 the “Singing Spring” day, as it was called, focused on various folk song activities and featured nationally known guests such as Crucible, New Scorpion Band, Sarah Morgan and Eddie Upton, as well as local performers.

The Devon Folk Day in March, 2024, will follow a similar pattern, with three sessions of three concurrent workshops during the day, a lunchtime pub session, and both a concert and ceilidh in the evening. The scope, however, will be much wider and workshops will include not only song topics but also folklore, storytelling, mumming and morris dance.

The evening concert will feature the popular folk band, Gadarene, whose members will also

be running some of the daytime workshops. Devon Folk President, Jim Causley, will lead another workshop session on songs collected in Devon by Sabine Baring-Gould. Details of leaders of all workshops and the evening ceilidh are shown on the featured advert in this issue of What's Afoot.

Morchard Bishop is fortunate to have some excellent venues: the Memorial Hall, the Emmanuel Methodist Church Hall, and of course the village pub, the London Inn, which has also been the venue in recent years for the Pennymoor Song & Ale.

It is hoped that the occasion will be at least as popular and well-supported as those held many years ago, so reserve your place early and take advantage of the discount on tickets purchased before the end of January.

Colin Andrews

What's on offer

Dartmoor Step Dancing with Matt Norman

AS A six-times winner at the Dartmoor Folk Festival's stepdancing championships – he came out on top yet again last year – Matt Norman can claim to know more than a thing or two about this traditional activity. He'll be sharing his knowledge and offering tips and tricks to newcomers and old hands (and feet) at his morning workshop.



The Baring-Gould Collection

JIM CAUSLEY'S knowledge of Devon song is not only extensive but also beautifully expressed in his voice. He will be discussing and demonstrating the songs

collected in our county by the prolific parson, Sabine Baring-Gould at his morning workshop.

The Spoken Word

MORCHARD Bishop's own Travelling Talesman – also known as Cliff Eastabrook – will bringing a selection of folk tales from the county.

A Taste of Morris

IF YOU are new to morris or would like to explore this wonderful dance form, let Colin

Andrews, former editor of What's Afoot, be your guide. Colin is a stalwart of Winkleigh Morris with many years dancing under his boots and is an experienced teacher.

Devon Songs

JON DYER from Wren Music will be leading this workshop with help from his bandmates in folk group Gadarene. Bring your voices.

Devon Folklore:

FOLKLORE researcher and author Mark Norman who has been touring with Jim Causley now has a spot on his own. His excellent new book *The Folklore of Devon* was reviewed and praised in the previous issue of What's Afoot and we dipped into it again for the article on Shrove Tuesday customs which appears on page 12.

Mumming in Devon

COLIN ANDREWS, who has recently produced an extensive book about the county's mumming plays, will be running a workshop on the subject. Look out for St George, Turkish knights and dubious doctors.



Devon Folk Day

Devon Tunes

MASTER fiddler Nick Wyke is well known for his tasty arrangements of tunes (along with his partner Becki Driscoll). In this workshop, he will take you through a selection of tunes from the county, aided and abetted by his bandmates in Gadarene.

Songwriters' Circle

THE acclaimed singer-songwriter Greg Hancock will be passing on some of the tricks of his trade.



Evening concert

GADARENE are due to pop up at various workshops during the day. If you want to hear a full concert by them then they will be appearing at the Methodist Church Hall at 7.30pm. Expect fast and furious music with lots of effects pedals from Mark Norman on mandolin, Nick Wyke on fiddle, Jon Dyer on flute, Laurel Swift on bass and Si Paul on drums.

Evening ceilidh

IF A little stepdancing and a bit of morris aren't enough for you then the splendid Mooncoin Ceilidh Band with caller Anne Gill will be at the Memorial Hall from 8pm until 11pm.



Devon Folk Day 23rd March 2024: Outline of the Day

The day will be based in Morchard Bishop. Most sessions are participatory workshops. Further details on www.devonfolk.org Numbers may be limited for some workshops—first come first served! There will be a table for sale of artist's books & CDs in the Memorial Hall.

Ample car parking is available in the car park opposite the church and at the London Inn

Time	Event	Venue
10:00	Registration, refreshments available	Memorial Hall
10:30-12:00	A1: Dartmoor Step Dancing: Matt Norman	Memorial Hall
	A2: The Baring-Gould Collection: Jim Causley	Methodist Church
	A3: The Spoken Word: Cliff Eastabrook, the Travelling Talesman	Memorial Hall Upper Room
Lunch	12:00-14:00 lunchtime session	London Inn
14:15-15:45	B1: A Taste of Morris: Colin Andrews	Memorial Hall
	B2: Devon Songs: Jon Dyer/Gadarene	Methodist Church
	B3: Devon Folklore: Mark Norman	Memorial Hall Upper Room
16:00-17:30	C1: Mumming in Devon: Colin Andrews	Memorial Hall
	C2: Devon Tunes: Nick Wyke/Gadarene	Methodist Church
	C3: Songwriter's Circle: Greg Hancock	Memorial Hall Upper Room
17:45	Devon Folk AGM open to all	Memorial Hall Upper Room
19:30-22:00	Evening Concert: Gadarene	Methodist Church
20:00-11:00	Ceilidh: The Mooncoin Ceilidh Band	Memorial Hall

Food & drink available

Village Shop (hot & cold snacks & drinks until 2 pm).

London Inn (normal opening hours - advance booking recommended for evening take-away & dine in).

Memorial Hall (morning coffee, afternoon teas, evening bar). Catering van (late afternoon, early evening).

TICKETS

Day ticket: 3 workshops + evening ceilidh and/or concert	£35
Early Bird Day Ticket (purchase by 31 st January 2024)	£30
Evening Ticket (ceilidh and/or concert only)	£15
Early Bird Evening ticket (purchase by 31 st January 2024)	£12
Single workshop ticket	£8

Complete the booking form and send to Anne Gill by email or post (details below). Take advantage of our Early Bird prices before the end of January. Pre-paid tickets will be available for collection on the door on the day.

Mrs Anne Gill: anne.m.gill@icloud.com Maleth, 11 Cleveland Road, Torquay, TQ2 5BD

Bank transfer to: Devon Folk Account No. 71468161 Sort Code: 56-00-49

Cheques payable to: Devon Folk

Devon Folk Day 2024: Booking Form

Complete one booking form per person to ensure workshop places are secured.

Name	
Email	
Phone	
All Day ticket £35 (<i>£30 early bird if before 31st January</i>)	
Evening Ticket £15 (<i>£12 early bird if before 31st January</i>)	
Individual workshop £8 each	

Workshops – please indicate your choice. *Day ticket holders can attend a combination of workshops 1 from list A, 1 from list B and 1 from list C.*

**A1: Dartmoor
Step Dancing**

**A2: Baring-
Gould**

**A3: Spoken
Word**

**B1: A Taste of
Morris**

**B2: Devon
Songs**

**B3: Devon
Folklore**

**C1: Mumming in
Devon**

**C2: Devon
Tunes**

**C3: Song
writer's Circle**

Day tickets and Evening tickets gain entry to either or both of the evening events.

Please indicate your preference:

Concert with Gadarene (19:30-22:00)

--

Ceilidh with the Mooncoin Ceilidh Band (20:00-23:00)

--

Please make your payment and send this form to Anne Gill by email or post (details below).

Mrs Anne Gill: anne.m.gill@icloud.com Maleth, 11 Cleveland Road, Torquay, TQ2 5BD

Bank transfer to: Devon Folk Account No. 71468161 Sort Code: 56-00-49

Cheques payable to: Devon Folk

Trick-or-treating in the old Devon style

ARE you one of those people who grumble that trick-or-treating is an American import that has no place in good old England? Are you glad to see the back of those little darlings in the neighbourhood who turn up at your door dressed as zombies, vampires or even Disney princesses while holding out their bags and demanding candy – and looking very disdainfully at what you put in it?

If you are and you hope to be left in peace until next October 31 then you will have to hope the local kids don't read Mark Norman's new book *The Folklore Of Devon*. For in this extensive study of the county's traditions he points out that this is very much an old Devon custom – but not for Hallowe'en.

The literate lads and lasses could appear on

your doorstep again with their begging bags on Tuesday February 13.

Shrove Tuesday, Mr Norman writes, is not just for pancakes. This was a hungry time of year for labouring folk as it was a long way from harvest and the time of year when food supplies were running low.

Out of this need grew a custom, known in Devon as Shroving or Lent crocking. The hungry would go from door to door on Shrovetide, the evening before, or on Shrove Tuesday morning, to beg for food.

Mr Norman quotes an old song – sadly without music – from Bridestowe, near Okehampton:

Lean crock, give a pancake,

Or a fritter, for my labour,

*Or a dish of flour, or a piece of bread,
Or what you please to render.*

I see, by the latch,

There's something to catch;

I see, by the string,

There's a good dame within.

Trap, trapping throw,

Give me my mumps, and I'll be go.

With luck, the hungry might get their "mumps" (which the Devonshire Dialect Dictionary – a splendid resource now available on the Devonshire Dialect Facebook page – tells us are the alms begged by children and not a disease).

At the least they might get a morsel or two or at least some ingredients. If they didn't get a handout then here's where we find the

similarity to today's trick-or-treating. The punishment for householders who did not give food was originally the throwing of stones at the door. As an old rhyme warns:

Give a cake, for I've none;

At the door goes a stone,

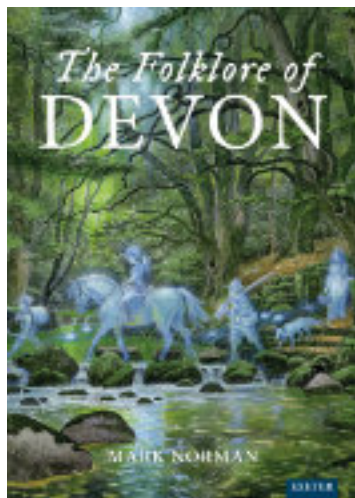
Come give, and I'm gone.

In some cases some cases shards of pottery were thrown instead of stones.

And what of Shrove Tuesday pancakes?

Mr Norman tells us tossing pancakes was a part of the old Shrove Tuesday celebrations, and this time was treated as a holiday by farmers, who ensured that their staff had plenty of pancakes. Everyone would gather around the fire and would have to toss their pancake before eating it.

However, those who were not so skilled at this would still be told to eat theirs, even if they failed to catch it and it fell into the fire, much to everyone's amusement.



WE REVIEWED Mark Norman's book in *What's Afoot 132* and discovered a treasure trove of the county's customs and superstitions. Some may find it a little expensive at £45 but Mr Norman is offering a discount if you buy it through his website. Check out www.thefolklorepodcast.com

Time to wake the trees

It's a custom that's been going on since time immemorial – or in some cases just a year or so: gathering in orchards across the county to make as much noise as possible to ensure a good crop of apples this year. Be warned: Most of these wassails – with the honourable exception of Whimble – feature morris dancing. Here are the wassails we've been told about

JANUARY 1

CORNWOOD

SHAKE off any New Year's Eve hangover with this event. From 3pm there will be dancing by Dartmoor Border Morris outside the Cornwood Inn followed by a procession to the community orchard for a wassail. Come prepared to make plenty of noise.



with dancing and a mummers play from Dartmoor Border Morris. Unless you are a National Trust member, there will be a charge to enter the grounds. From 1pm.

SATURDAY JANUARY 6

ASHGROVE FARM

LODESTONE Border Morris will be helping to wake up the trees at the farm on Crowndale Road, Tavistock, PL19 8FF, from 12 noon.

TALATON

THIS wassail debuted only last year (see What's Afoot 130 for details on how to create a wassail). Meet at The Talaton Inn at 5:30pm. Bring your pots and pans and a torch. Tale Valley Folk Sessions will run a music session in the pub after the procession.

BRIDFORD

MEET up in Bridford Woodland Park at 5pm. Grimspound Border Morris will be there, hopefully with their amazing dancing bear.

SUNDAY JANUARY 7

BUCKLAND ABBEY

THERE will be a wassail at Sir Francis Drake's old home, now a National Trust property, along

SATURDAY JANUARY 13

TIVERTON

A WASSAIL with a difference at Tiverton Community Orchard as it will also be combined with some maintenance. Meet at 10am.

LUSTLEIGH

BELTANE Border Morris will be gathering at The Cleave pub from 7.30pm to get the ball rolling.

SATURDAY JANUARY 13

COMPTON VALE

MEET at the Orchard in Lower Compton at 6pm. As well as the wassail, there will be stalls, live music and dancing from Dartmoor Border Morris.

JANUARY 17

WHIMBLE

THIS wassail, in the village that was once the proud home of Whiteways Cyder, dates back for well over 100 years (See What's Afoot 118 for its history). It is very traditional with a

Traditions

procession to the Whimble wassail tune but no morris dancers. Jim Causley, Whimble born and bred, says: "They have plenty of other opportunities to dance but this is our wassail." Gather at 6.30 at the New Fountain Inn.

JANUARY 19

HALSTOW

MEET at the Grays Devon Cider Halstow Farm, This is another of our newer wassails helped into life by Jim Causley. See What's Afoot 128 for details and his song that praises cider-making bacteria.

SATURDAY JANUARY 20

STOKE GABRIEL

THIS begins at 4pm with a procession, led by children from Stoke Gabriel Primary School with their willow and paper lanterns, through the community orchard. This is not for those of a nervous disposition as the dramatic finale is the firing of shotguns to wake the trees from their winter slumber and chase away any evil spirits which might be lurking in the branches. After the procession entertainment will be provided by Effic the Jester, Beltane Border Morris Dancers, the Bovey Tracey Mummers

Players, bands and the Wassail Singers. Story telling will take place in the Old School Rooms on Church Walk with Paul Sharman.

SATURDAY JANUARY 20

SANDFORD WASSAIL

GATHER outside the Lamb Inn 7pm. Wassail song and music session upstairs at the Lamb from 8.30pm. Exeter Morris will be there.

BERE FERRERS

FROM 6.30pm. Meet at the Church Hall opposite the social club. Dartmoor Border Morris and the Tavy Tars will be there to add to the entertainment.

SUNDAY JANUARY 21

BICKINGTON

GRIMSPOUND will be there from 4pm to 5pm. See their Facebook page for more details.

SATURDAY FEBRUARY 3

LITTLEHEMPSTON

A LITTLE later than the others is Littlehempston's wassail in the community orchard which will be attended by a Green Man and Dartington Morris. See Littlehempston.com for more details.

Exeter Folk & Acoustic Music Club

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

Friday 26 th Jan	Open Club Night
Friday 23 rd Feb	Open Club Night
Sunday 10 th March	Concert Night: Show of Hands (Full Circle Tour) (A Newton St. Cyres Village Hall and Exeter Folk Club Presentation)
Friday 15 th March	Concert Night – John Kirkpatrick
Friday 29 th March	Open Club Night
Friday 5 th April	Concert Night: Steve Turner

For more information contact

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

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

Folk song clubs and sessions are sometimes forced to change venue at short notice. Please check if in doubt. See also www.devonfolk.org for updates.

ASHBURTON

2nd Monday 7pm. Klezmer and Eastern European session led by Družba. Ashburton Arts Centre, 15 West Street. bunelik@gmail.com

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: 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. Brixham 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, The Village, PL20 7NA

COLEFORD

Last Tuesday 8pm. The New Inn. Dave 01363 84914

CHERITON FITZPAINE

Last Sunday 12 noon. Half Moon. Clare Penny 01884 860023

CHIPSHOP (NR.

TAVISTOCK)

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

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 8.30pm. Denbury Folk. Union Inn, The Green, Denbury, Newton Abbot TQ12 6DQ. Mostly sing-around but occasional tunes, stories and poems.

Telephone 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 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

FROGMORE

Alternate Wednesdays 8pm The Globe Inn, Frogmore,

TQ7 2NR. Nigel & Sarah 01548 531525

GIDLEIGH

1st Tuesday (or 1st Wednesday) 8pm. Gidsong. Gideligh Village Hall. Check Village Hall Facebook page.

IPPLEEN

4th Tuesday: Shape Note singing Methodist Church, East Street, 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. Lymptone Folk, Roots and Acoustic, The Swan Inn, The Strand, Town Centre, Exmouth EX8 5ET. 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

martinr.54@virgin.net

MORCHARD BISHOP

1st Thursday 12 noon, The London Inn, Morchard Bishop, nr Crediton 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, St Dominick, Saltash PL12 6TG Mike 07725 579718

SANDFORD

1st Tuesday 8pm Lamb Inn

Song and Music

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, Scorrison

Farmhouse, Scorrison

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 Mon music session Kings

Arms markbazeleymobile@

gmail.com

STICKLEPATH

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

STOKE CANON

4th Wednesday 8.30pm.

Stoke Canon Inn nr Exeter.

Paul and Alison 07709324836

TALLATON

3rd Sunday 12 noon. Mostly

English session. The Talaton

Inn, Talaton, EX5 2RQ.

jon@devonstrings.co.uk

TEIGNMOUTH

1st Monday 8pm.

Teignmouth Folk Club, The

Brass, 3 Hollands Rd, TQ14

8SR. Martyn Hillstead, 01626

778071.

TOPSHAM

1st Monday 7.30pm. Mainly

English instrumental session

at The Bridge Inn, EX3 0OQ

Weekly Tuesday singers'

night 7.45pm at The Globe,

Fore Street, Topsham EX3 0HR.

Monthly Concerts.

Matthews Hall, Fore Street,

Topsham, EX3 0HF

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 Road.

Mary Marker 01626 854141

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. Weekly

on Fridays 8pm. Call 01237

476632 to check details.

Bideford Folk Dance Club,

Northam Hall, Fore St,

Northam, EX39 1AN. Weekly

from last Wednesday in

September to first in May.

Telephone 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 Nr Chard TA20 3NY.

Fortnightly Thursday

7.30pm. Hilary & Bill Durrant

01460 61996.

DARTINGTON

Dartington Folk Dance Club,

Dartington Village Hall.

Weekly on Fridays 8pm.

Telephone 01822 852442.

EXMOUTH

Exmouth Isca Scottish

Dancers, East Budleigh

Village Hall, Wynard Road,

East Budleigh, Budleigh

Salterton EX9 7DU. Weekly

on Wednesdays 10am.

Telephone Mr. & Mrs. V. J.

Tyler 01395 276913

Exmouth Playford Club, East

Budleigh Church Hall,

Budleigh Salterton. 2nd

Sunday. 2.30pm. Telephone

Mr & Mrs VJ Tyler 01395

276913

GITTISHAM

Gittisham Folk Dance Club,

Gittisham Village Hall, EX14

3AF nr. Honiton. Usually

Wednesdays. 8pm Telephone

Rosemary 01395 515403.

LAUNCESTON

Launceston Folk Dance Club,

Edymead Hall, Tower Street,

PL15 8BQ "Subject to further

notice". Weekly 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 on Wednesdays. Tel:

01626204350. [https://](https://devonirishsetdancers.uk/)

devonirishsetdancers.uk/

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

Social Dance

September to April. Tel:
Philip 01548 561415.

TAVISTOCK

Tavistock Folk Dance Club,
Parish Centre PL19 8AU or
Methodist Church Hall PL19
8DX. 1st and 3rd Thursdays

2pm to 4pm. Not June, July
August. Tel:01822 855858.

WHIMPLE

Irish Set Dancing, Whimple
Victory Hall, School Hill EX5
2TS, (3rd Sun) 2pm till 5pm.
<https://devonirishsetdancers.uk/>

WILLAND

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

Events

JANUARY

TUESDAY 9

Sidford Folk Dance Club.

Caller: Jeremy Child, Sidford
Social Hall, Byes Lane EX10
9QX 8pm

WEDNESDAY 10

Gittisham Folk Dance Club.

Caller: Simon Maplesden
Band: Fresh Aire, Gittisham
Village Hall, EX14 3AF

SATURDAY 13

D'Accord's French Music and Dance Local bands night. St

James Church Hall, Mount
Pleasant, Exeter EX4 7AH

THURSDAY 11

Willand Folk Dance Club.

Caller: Mary Marker Band:
Mary Marker Band, Willand
Village Hall, Gables Road,
EX15 2PL

WEDNESDAY 17

Gittisham Folk Dance Club.

Caller: Jane Thomas Band:
Pair of Shears, Gittisham
Village Hall, EX14 3AF

THURSDAY 18

Martyn Joseph, Exeter

Phoenix, Gandy Street
EX4 3LS

SATURDAY 20

Sandford Wassail, Lamb Inn,
The Square, Sandford,
Credton, EX17 4LW

WEDNESDAY 24

Gittisham Folk Dance Club.

Caller: Robert Blackborow
Band: Jeroka, Gittisham
Village Hall, EX14 3AF

THURSDAY 25

Willand Folk Dance Club.

Alison Ramsey-Beattie with

Brian and Andrew. Burns
Night Theme, Willand Village
Hall, Gables Road, EX15 2PL

SATURDAY 27

Ceilidh with Dartmoor Pixie

Band, Kenn Centre, Exeter
Road, Kennford, EX6 7UE

SUNDAY 28

Centenary Concert Given By
Mike Bosworth, celebrating
the life of Sabine Baring-
Gould in story & songs,
Denbury Church, East Street,
Denbury, TQ126DH

Sarah McQuaid, Tavistock
Wharf, Canal Road, PL19 8AT

Topsham Folk Club Concert
Reg Meuross, Mathews Hall,
Fore Street, EX3 0HF

WEDNESDAY 31

Gittisham Folk Dance Club.

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

FEBRUARY

SATURDAY 3

Moscow Drug Club, Palace

Theatre, Palace Avenue,
Paignton TQ3 3HF

Willand Folk Dance Club.

Caller: Simon Maplesden
Band: Jigs for Gigs, Willand
Village Hall, Gables Road,
EX15 2PL

WEDNESDAY 7

Gittisham Folk Dance Club.

Caller: Bridget Flett Band:
Fresh Aire, Gittisham Village
Hall, EX14 3AF

THURSDAY 8

Willand Folk Dance Club.

Caller: Club Callers Band:

Petronella, Willand Village
Hall, Gables Road, EX15 2PL

Totnes Folk Club Guest Night
Vicki Swan and Jonny Dyer,
Dartmouth Inn, The Plains,
TQ9 5EL

SUNDAY 11

The Magpie Arc, Exeter
Phoenix, Gandy Street EX4
3LS

WEDNESDAY 14

Gittisham Folk Dance Club.

Caller: Jeremy Child, Band:
Ian and Margaret, Gittisham
Village Hall, Gittisham EX14
3AF nr. Honiton

TUESDAY 20

Seth Lakeman, Exeter Corn
Exchange - Market Street,
EX1 1BW

WEDNESDAY 21

Gittisham Folk Dance Club.

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

THURSDAY 22

Willand Folk Dance Club.

Caller: Ray Goodswen Band:
Jeroka, Willand Village Hall,
Gables Road, EX15 2PL
Saturday 24

Ceilidh with Amber Fire,
Kenn Centre, Exeter Road,
Kennford, Exeter EX6 7UE

SUNDAY 25

Fairport Convention, Exeter
Corn Exchange - Market
Street, EX1 1BW

Topsham Folk Club Concert

Ben Walker and Kirsty
Merryn, Mathews Hall, Fore
Street, EX3 0HF

Wednesday 28

Gittisham Folk Dance Club.

Caller: Jane Thomas, Band:

Events

Dancing Keys, Gittisham
Village Hall, EX14 3AF

MARCH

SATURDAY 2

Willand Folk Dance Club.

Caller: Bridget Flett Band:
Fresh Aire, Willand Village
Hall, Gables Road, EX15 2PL
Show of Hands, The Plough
Arts Centre, Gt. Torrington
EX38 8HQ

Wednesday 6

Gittisham Folk Dance Club.

Caller: Robert Blackborow,
Band: Fresh Aire, Gittisham
Village Hall, EX14 3AF

SUNDAY 10

Exeter Folk and Acoustic

Club: Concert Night Show of
Hands Full Circle Tour,
Newton St Cyres Village Hall,
EX5 5BL

Wednesday 13

Spiers & Boden, Exeter
Phoenix, Gandy Street
EX4 3LS

Gittisham Folk Dance Club.

Caller: Simon Maplesden,
Band: Pair of Shears,
Gittisham Village Hall,
EX14 3AF

Thursday 14

Willand Folk Dance Club.

Caller: Colin Andrews, Band:
The More the Merrier,
Willand Village Hall, Gables
Road, EX15 2PL

Friday 15

Sykes Martin, The Flavel Arts
Centre, Dartmouth TQ6 9ND
Exeter Folk and Acoustic
Music Club Concert John
Kirkpatrick, Victoria Park
Tennis Club, Lyndhurst Road,
St Leonards, Exeter,
EX2 4NX

Saturday 16

Baron Brady, Marldon
Christmas Tree Farm, The
Nor Westerland, Compton
TQ3 1RR, Tel: 07894961010
Mad Dog Mcreea St Patrick's,
Plymouth Pavilions, Millbay
Road, Plymouth, PL1 3LF

Sunday 17

Lazy Divide, Old Plough Inn,
Bere Ferrers Yelverton,
PL20 7JL

Monday 18

Sidmouth Acoustic Folk Club
Concert Rattle on the Stove
Pipe, Blue Ball Inn, Stevens
Cross Sidford, EX10 9QL

Wednesday 20

Gittisham Folk Dance Club.

Caller: Jane Thomas, Band:
Ian and Margaret, Gittisham
Village Hall, EX14 3AF

Friday 22 March

Miranda Sykes & Hannah
Martin, Church House, South
Tawton, nr Okehampton
EX20 2LQ

Grace Petrie, Exeter Phoenix,
Gandy Street EX4 3LS

Saturday 23 March

Devon Folk Day,
Morchard Bishop,
Registration 10am. See Page
Sunday 24

Spirit of the Drum, Exeter
Phoenix, Gandy Street EX4
3LS

Topsham Folk Club Concert
Tom McConville and Michael
Biggins, Mathews Hall, Fore
Street, EX3 0HF

Wednesday 27

Gittisham Folk Dance Club.

Caller: Ray Goodswen, Band:
Dancing Keys, Gittisham
Village Hall, EX14 3AF

Thursday 28

Willand Folk Dance Club.

Caller: Simon Maplesden,
Band: Fresh Aire, Willand
Village Hall, Gables Road,
EX15 2PL

Saturday 30

Ceilidh with Chris Toyne,
Kenn Centre, Exeter Road,
Kennford,
Exeter EX6 7UE

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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

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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

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Triss Cummings 01626 376173

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Kathy Houlihan 01752
893335 or 07719 652885

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cath.nettleton@gmail.com

SIDMOUTH TRADITIONAL

MUMMERS

Henry Piper, 01404 811491
henry.piper@zoom.co.uk

TINNERS MORRIS MEN (F)

andrew@frangleton.co.uk

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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)

WRECKERS BORDER (F)

wreckers.bag@gmail.com
Thurs

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
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Useful Contacts

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secretary@morrisfed.org.uk.
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Peter Austin bagman@themorrisring.org
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Bands

BANDS in bold have an advert in this issue

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Backalong

07989 068825

Blue Jewel

kipviolin@gmail.com

07969123346

Dancing Keys

hazelridd@hotmail.co.uk

Hips & Haws 01363 866423

Home Brew 01363 877216

Irish band The O'Marleys

mac.moulton@gmail.com

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

Calstock's folk act booker is moving on

CALSTOCK Arts Centre, just across the Tamar, has hosted some fabulous folk acts as part of its highly varied and always top quality programme. Now the man who over the past few years has brought such artists as the Askew Sisters and Seth Lakeman to the venue, is stepping down from the job.



Steve Hunt has been involved in booking folk acts for 40 years and was press officer at Sidmouth Folk Festival. He is also a talented singer and instrumentalist who has performed and recorded with Alan Burton, The Saboteurs, Leski, Dalla, Corncrow, Neil Davey and numerous others.

He and his wife Carmen are also heavily involved with Cornish folk dance and other projects. Steve says although he has thoroughly enjoyed his time with the arts centre, which is run by volunteers, he has only time for so many things. He also feels that it's time for fresh blood at the centre, especially if his successor is from the younger generation.

ALTHOUGH he is proud to have brought Seth Lakeman and his trio to a tiny venue like Calstock, Steve has got most satisfaction from introducing audiences to acts that other venues aren't booking. "These acts are not being booked because they're not good but because they are still under the radar of a lot of promoters," he says. "I know I'm going to get a good audience for Lady Maisery or Cara Dillon or Sean Lakeman and Kathryn Roberts but the real thrill is bringing artists the audience don't know. Like Janice Burns and Doran who were astonishingly good. In three or four years time everyone will be raving about them."

Steve, 61, was born in the Isle of Man but moved around Britain a fair bit before settling in Liskeard. He got into the business by chance when he started going to the Load of Hay folk club in Uxbridge back in 1983. "The booking secretary for the club, Terry Silver, talked me

into taking over from him. So I became that rare beast – a folk club organiser in his twenties. Not long after that I also got involved in putting on shows at the Windsor Arts Centre which is where I met my wife Carmen.

"When I ended up in Cornwall 23 years ago, I became a stalwart of the Bodmin Folk Club and

was involved in booking acts for them."

He also worked as an MC for the Cornwall Folk Festival and this led to an invitation to MC at Sidmouth. At the time he was working for fROOTS folk magazine (the printed edition is long gone but it continues as a podcast), having taken over the reviews from Sarah Coxson. She became press officer for the Sidmouth Festival and when she moved to Wales, suggested Steve should take over. And her suggestion was accepted, much to Steve's astonishment.

Says Steve: "I thought 'Do they realise I'm out of my depth here?' but you learn how to do it. It worked well mainly because the performers at Sidmouth were all incredibly accommodating. For BBC Spotlight I was able to line them up with Ralph McTell and Billy Bragg and it was wonderful to do.

"I would still love to be doing it today. But when fRoots ended, it became necessary for me to get a proper job and I couldn't get the time off in the summer to do all the festivals."

He is keen to see young people taking folk clubs and venues such as Calstock but adds: "We old people say we want young people to take over and then we lay down the ground rules and say, 'You have to do it the same as us', which of course they don't. They can do it exactly as they like."

But he would like to see more folk clubs being run by performers as they often were back in the Sixties and Seventies. "You had the Watsonsons' folk club in Hull and the Spinners in Liverpool and Tony Rose in Exeter. If you

Behind The Scene

had good singers in charge of the club, you were always sure of a good night. And they would bring in their mates to perform.

“With costs of touring and hotels and I would very much like to see a return to that DIY way of doing things, away from this constant push to professionalism which is not financially sustainable for most people.”

Steve is very hopeful about emerging talent. “There’s a 15-year-old lad in Padstow, Finley Bray who’s an extraordinary instrumentalist: tenor banjo mandolin guitar – anything with strings. He’s already released a first EP that’s had a bit of radio play. Another great performer from Lostwithiel, Martha Woods has put out a Christmas EP. She’s a good composer and has already had one of her tunes picked up by Kathryn Tickell, which isn’t bad going.”

In Devon, he’s impressed by Sutherland and Windjammer – “although they’re young but not as young as Finley and Martha”.

As What’s Afoot went to press, there was no word about Steve’s successor. However, by the next issue we should be able to tell you who will be flying the folk flag at Calstock.



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DEVON FOLK EVENT

Saturday 8th June 2024

Community Hall, Primary School
Lawn Drive, Chudleigh TQ13 0LS

MUSIC WORKSHOP

Tunes for Folk Dancing

Workshop led by Mary Marker 1.00 – 5.00 p.m.
Music available beforehand £15

Dance with Simon Maplesden 6.30 – 10.00 p.m.

Booking Forms 01626 854141 ammarkers@btinternet.com
Mary Marker Cromartie, Oldway, Chudleigh TQ13 0JS

Dance in aid of Air Ambulance

Saturday 8th June 6.30 – 10.00 p.m.

Caller: Simon Maplesden

The Workshop Big Band

Entrance: minimum donation to Air Ambulance £5

Bring and Share Supper 5.15 – 6.15 p.m. Raffle

WILLAND FOLK DANCE CLUB

SATURDAY DANCES
Willand Village Hall

- December 31st New Years Eve Dance – 8pm – 12.30am
John Bone & Chris Toyne's Big Band
- January 7th NO DANCE
- February 3rd Simon Maplesden & Jigs for Gigs
- March 2nd Bridget Flett & Fresh Aire
- April 6th Ray Goodswen & Falconers

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

LAUNCESTON

FOLK DANCE CLUB 2024

Tuesday Club Nights
8.00 – 10.00 pm (Not July & August)
Edyemead Hall, Tower Street
Launceston, PL15 8BQ
"Subject to further notice"

Spring Dance

**Launceston Town Hall
PL15 7AR**

**Saturday 6th April 2024
7.30 – till late**

Band and Caller to be confirmed
Bring and share supper
Tickets at the door or online through
launceston-tic

For further information ring
Rosemary Phillips
01566 774491

Teignmouth Folk Club

The Brass, Hollands Road
Teignmouth TQ14 8ST

First Monday in the Month

8pm Free admission

Monday 8th January

Guest Night

Guest to be confirmed

Monday 5th February

Singers' and Musicians' Open Night

Monday 4th March

Singers' and Musicians' Open Night

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



FOLK ON THE MOOR
at
**The Moorland Hotel
Wotter**



GUEST LIST

14 JAN DETTA KENZIE

28 JAN GEOFF LAKEMAN / ROB MURCH

11 FEB VICKI SWANN / JONNY DYER

25 FEB KIT HAWES / AARON CATLOW

10 MAR JOHNNY COPPIN

24 MAR THE LOST TRADES

**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, John on 07939 411985
or email folkonthemoor1@gmail.com

Pennymoor Singaround

Song and Music Sessions

Song Sessions: 1st Thursday – 12 noon The London Inn, Morchard Bishop, Nr. CREDITON Contact:

Jon 07840524318

3rd Wednesday 7.30pm The Lamb, Sandford, Nr. CREDITON Contact: Jon 07840524318

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: 07840524318 – 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



MASSED MORRIS: Just some of the dancers and musicians who turned out for Children in Need cluster round Pudsey Bear in Tavistock's Bedford Square for the annual fundraising event

Pudsey and pals push past the £2k barrier

THESE may be the hard the hard times of old England but the good folk of Tavistock are still willing to put their hands in their pockets for a good cause. The annual morris day of dance for Pudsey back in November managed to raise a record £2,062 for Children in Need.

This was well up on 2022's record total of just over £1,800.

A total of 16 morris sides descended on Bedford Square for the event organised by Dartmoor Border Morris and their enthusiastic performances were well received by the majority of the townsfolk. The sides, who came from as far away as Penzance (or Pensans as they like to call it) and South Petherton in Somerset, enjoyed themselves too.

The day was due to end with one one mass dance with as many sides as possible joining in. But the dancers still found the energy for at least three more and would have gone but a concerned council official had to ask them to disperse (very nicely) because a wedding was due to take place in the town hall.

Those who were still feeling energetic went

back to the Stannary Arms whose wonderful staff had allowed the back room to be used as base camp for the day.

They had even allowed the sale of beer donated by Dartmoor Brewery - all proceeds going into the Pudsey funds.

A song and music session quickly developed and there was even a solo jig in the crowded room. Then the landlady came in and asked the musicians to move on – not into the street but into the main bar because she thought her regulars might enjoy the music. And they did.

So here's a special thank you to the StannaryArms in Market Street. At a time when many pubs are closing or turning up their noses at folk music, it is heartening to find an inn that welcomes our music and dance.

Credit for the success of Pudsey Day has to go to Mark Tregaskis – better known as Reggie – the indefatigable bagman of Dartmoor Border Morris. He spent most of the year trying to organise the event and will no doubt already be working on the 2024.

Troubles for Reggie came thick and fast last



RUNAWAY STICK: Don't you just hate it when your stick decides it's had enough for one day and takes off on its own? Chris Ball of Tinnors Morris had this problem at Pudsey Day

year. With 16 sides taking part at least three dance spots are needed and one of those was cancelled by the council. This had Treggie frantically searching for new venues or facing the prospect of scaling down the event.

Fortunately, the council came up trumps and three spots were available in Bedford Square, outside the Guildhall and in the Pannier Market.

Then there were a couple of late cancellations by sides who had said they would come. Timetable troubles came when some sides needed to be paired up spots because they shared musicians and/or dancers. Things could have got very fraught for Treggie without the support of his long-suffering wife, Kath, who is now foreman for Dartmoor Border Morris.

In the end, everything came together and lobbying has already started from sides who want to be invited to this year's Pudsey Day.

The sides who attended this year were: Pensans Bordering on Morris, Catseye Morris, Winkleigh Border Morris, Black Bess Border, Glory of the West, Otter Morris, The Old Town Twelves,

Tinnors Morris, Plymouth Clog, Cogs & Wheels Ladies Morris, Boscastle Morris, Lodestone Border, Enigma Morris, Grimspound Border Morris and Wreckers Border Morris

An exhausted but happy Treggie commented: "Many thanks to the kind people of Tavistock who donated £2,062 to the BBC Children in Need appeal. Thanks also to Dartmoor Brewery for the free kegs of charity ale, Bob's East End Cafe for the free hot drinks, the Stannary Arms for the use of their function room, Tavistock Market for allowing 200 morris dancers and musicians to perform and of course the BBC for allowing Mr Pudsey Bear to attend."

Pudsey Day is seen by many the last big "gathering of the morris clans" of the season in the South-west. The next big "gathering" in the county will be the Green Man Festival at Bovey Tracey hosted by Grimspound on Saturday April 27. See the next issue of What's Afoot for more details.

The Months Of The Year

AT THE beginning of 2024 it seemed appropriate to pick out a song that takes us right through the year. It comes from Sabine Baring Gould's *Songs of the West* and the parson noted in his 1905 edition that it was still popular with labouring men in Devon.

He collected three versions of the song from

South Brent, Belstone and Postbridge and settled on the air sung by J Potter, a farmer at Merripit in Postbridge.

Baring-Gould noted that there were other versions of the song. A far shorter Carol of The Months from Cornwall can be found in the book *Canow Kernow*.

First comes Jan - u - a - ry when the
sun lies ver - y low. I see in the farm - er's
yard — the cat - tie feed on straw. The
weath - er be - ing so cold while the snow lies on the
ground, there will be an - oth - er change of moon be -
- fore — the year comes round —

The Months Of The Year

First comes January
When the sun lies very low.
I see in the farmer's yard
The cattle feed on stro;
The weather being so cold
While the snow lies on the ground
There will be another change of moon
Before the year comes round.

Next is February,
So early in the spring,
The farmer ploughs the fallows
The rooks their nests begin.
The little lambs appearing
Now frisk in pretty play.
I think upon the increase
And thank my God, to-day.

March it is the next month.
So cold and hard and drear.
Prepare we now for harvest,
By brewing of strong beer.
God grant that we who labour,
May see the reaping come
And drink and dance and welcome
The happy Harvest Home.

Next of Months is April,
When early in the morn
The cheery farmer soweth
To right and left the corn.
The gallant team come after
A-smoothing of the land.
May Heaven the farmer prosper
Whatever he takes in hand.

In May I go a-walking
To hear the linnets sing'.
The blackbird and the thristle
A-praising. God the King.
It cheers the heart to hear them
To see the leaves unfold
The meadows scattered over
With buttercups of gold.

Full early in the morning
Awakes the summer sun,
The month of June arriving,
The cold and night are done,
The Cuckoo is a fine bird
She whistles as she flies
And as she whistles, Cuckoo,
The bluer grow the skies.

Six months I now have named
The seventh is July.
Come lads and lasses gather
The scented hay to dry,
All full of mirth and gladness
To turn it in the sun.
And never cease till daylight sets
And all the work is done.

August brings the harvests
The reapers now advance
Against their shining sickles
The field stands little chance .
"Well done!" exclaims the farmer.
"This day is all men's friend.
"We'll drink and feast in plenty
"When we the harvest end."

The middle of September.
The rake is laid aside.
'The horses wear the breeching
Rich dressing to provide
All things to do in seasons
Me-thinks is just and right.
Now summer season's over
The frosts begin at night.

October leads in winter.
The leaves beg-in to fall.
'The trees will soon be naked
No flowers left at all.
The frosts will bite them sharply,
The elm alone is green.
In orchard piles of apples red
For cider press are seen.

The eleventh month November,
The nights are cold and long.
By day we're felling timber,
And spend the night in song.
In cozy chimney corner
We take our toast and ale,
And kiss and tease the maidens,
Or tell a merry tale.

Then comes dark December
The last of months in turn.
With holly, box, and laurel
We house and Church adorn.
So now, to end my story,
I wish you all good cheer.
A merry, happy Christmas,
A prosperous New Year.

INLAND

Strandline

TRUMPET, concertina and double bass seem the most unlikely combination you could ever come across. The trumpet is certainly not an instrument most people would associate with the British folk scene.

So an immediate reaction Strandline's line-up might be: this is not going to work. But consider how well Howard Evans's trumpet worked with John Kirkpatrick's squeezeboxes in Brass Monkey and how brilliantly Annie Whitehead's trombone paired with Alistair Anderson's English concertina in Northern Lights. It all depends on the musicians.

Fortunately the three musicians of Strandline are well up to the task of blending together. Trumpeter Claude Lamon has a classical and jazz background – as well as playing for Otter Morris – and is never intrusive. Sometimes his muted trumpet is reminiscent of Miles Davis at the master's mellowest.

He provides some splendid counterpoint to Kat Blockley's English concertina and Lizzie Pridmore's double bass and violin.

Kat and Lizzie share the vocals on the mostly self-penned tracks which celebrate the life and history of Devon and Cornwall. My immediate favourite is *Cookworthy Knapp*, a tribute to the landmark "homecoming tree clump" just outside Lifton.

I was also very taken with the more elegiac *The Sun Still Rises* and the jaunty *What Changes*.

The artists are Devon-based (with Cornish connections) so you should have plenty of opportunities to see them this year. In the

meantime, check out their album on Bandcamp.

John Foxen

BLACKBIRD

Julie Atkin with Gavin Atkin

I MUST say I was pleased to be asked to review an album of traditional material except for one track *The Brookside* written by Monckton Milne.

It was good to be reminded of some of our best loved songs and this shows they are still worth singing, and I know my elderly friend from the States, John Blane will be as delighted as I am with her choice of material as he thinks no one is singing the old songs any more.

Many of the songs are unaccompanied and others backed by her husband Gavin on guitar and melodeon.

The Turtle Dove and *The Tanyard Side* are my two favourite tracks but there is nothing on the CD that I felt didn't work well. As a box player myself, maybe I am being hypercritical in saying the accompaniment was a little too predictable and I personally feel he could have held on to the chords longer.

Julie has a very clear voice with excellent diction and phrasing, possibly she has had training.

A well-presented package with excellent details on each of the tracks.

To order a copy: Call 07985522734 – email gmatkin@gmail.com or

<https://gavinatkin.bandcamp.com/album/blackbird>

Steve Gill

A rare conundrum

Strandline's Kat Blockley sent me a pdf file of her artwork for the Inland album, reviewed above. Unbidden, Adobe Acrobat provided the description: a black and white image of a person riding a bike. I might offer a prize to whoever can find the person or the bike in the picture.



Euphine Bromell

EUPHINE BROMELL, a former director of Halsway Manor and accordion player with the band The Devonians, died on Saturday October 7, 2023. She was 77.

Born in Seaton, Devon, she first became involved with folk dance through her school, Honiton Secondary Modern. There she became a member of the folk dance team which performed at Sidmouth Folk Festival and at the Albert Hall.

She had piano lessons from the aTed Farmer

We are sorry to hear that the Devon ge of seven but gave up when she was 14. Her interest in music was rekindled when she married her first husband and they moved to Plymouth.

In an interview recorded at Halsway Manor the national centre for folk arts, she recalled: “My first husband and I were desperately broke at the time and we saw a dance club advertised. It was only 10p each – 20p – and we could just about manage that.

“We hadn’t been out for a long time and we decided we’d go.

“Then they roped my husband in as a morris dancer and I went back to social dancing.”

Around that time she took up the piano accordion and went round the folk and dance clubs “picking the brains of other musicians”. She said that through her piano lessons she could understand the right hand but at first the left hand basses were a bit of a mystery.

Euphine got involved with Halsway Manor in 1972 when Hugh Rippon organised a “young people’s weekend” there. She recalled: “It was for people up to 29. I was 27 so I was one of the oldest of the young people.”

This started a long relationship. She eventually became one of the directors, retiring from the role in 2014. She said that she was amazed so much had been achieved for so many years by volunteers like herself.

From Plymouth, Euphine moved to Week St Mary in North Cornwall. Her funeral was held in St Mary’s Church there on October 24.



The Joiners Arms
Market Place, Bideford, EX30 2DR

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

GUEST NIGHTS
April 18th - Bedstone Boys
May 16th - Hilary Spencer

John Purser
01237 424286
bidefolk@gmail.com

TED FARMER

WE ARE sorry to hear that the well known caller Ted Farmer passed away on November 24, 2023, at the age of 79.



How you can help us maintain 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 the association 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. An application form is printed on the facing page.

If you want to do even 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 active interest.

A nomination form is printed below 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.

This year's meeting will be held on Saturday March 23 during the Devon Folk Day at Morchard Bishop at 5.45pm. All are welcome.

DEVON FOLK COMMITTEE NOMINATION FORM

Nominee

Proposed by

Seconded by

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

Name

Address

Telephone Email

*Please return this form by 10th February 2024 to:
E. Conway, 151 Kingsdown Crescent, Dawlish, Devon, EX7 0HB.
Email: conway@kingcres.eclipse.co.uk*



**DEVON FOLK MEMBERSHIP
APPLICATION FORM**

Please complete and return to the Devon Folk
Membership Secretary
Anne Gill, Maleth, 11, Cleveland Road,
Torquay, TQ2 5BD

Email anne.m.gill@icloud.com Phone 01803 290427

SUBSCRIPTION AND MEMBERSHIP

Devon Folk supports all kinds of folk activity throughout the County and publishes the magazine What's Afoot four times a year.

Membership of Devon Folk is available to any individual, family at the same address, club, group or organisation paying

Option No. 1 £15.00 a year and receiving printed copy of WAF 4 times a year in the post

Option No. 2 £10.00 a year and receiving a pdf copy by email 4 times a year.

The membership includes four issues per year of What's Afoot and free listings in the Devon Folk Directory.

APPLICATION FORM

<input type="checkbox"/>	I wish to join Devon Folk as an Individual member
<input type="checkbox"/>	We wish to join Devon Folk as a family group
<input type="checkbox"/>	We wish to join Devon Folk as a Group, Club or Organisation

Name of individual, club, group or organisation

Contact person (for group or club or organisation)

Address

Postcode

Telephone

Email

Cheque enclosed payable to Devon Folk <input type="checkbox"/>	Post form together with cheque to the address above
--	---

I wish to pay by BACS Payment: NatWest Bank – Sort Code 56-00-49 – Account No.71468161
Please use reference : Membership & Name on your payment and email a copy of this form to membership secretary

Magazine to be sent by POST <input type="checkbox"/>	EMAIL <input type="checkbox"/>	Email address
--	--------------------------------	---------------

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. Signed _____ Date _____



ELECTED MEMBERS OF THE DEVON FOLK COMMITTEE

PRESIDENT

Jim Causley

VICE PRESIDENT

Aileen Willis

CHAIR and

MEMBERSHIP SECRETARY

Anne Gill

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Torquay, TQ2 5BD.

01803 290427

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devonfolkeditor@gmail.com

129 Tamar Avenue,

Tavistock, PL19 9HZ

Sidmouth Acoustic Folk Club

3rd MONDAY each
month 7.30pm



OPEN PERFORMERS NIGHTS*

15th Jan & 19th Feb 2024

*£2 Entrance Fee

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18th March, **Rattle on the Stovepipe**
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

11th January – Singers Night

8th February – Guest Night

Vicki Swan & Jonny Dyer

14th March – Singers Night

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

topsham folk club www.topshamfolkclub.org

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

Reg Meuross with Cohen Braithwaite-Kilcoyne & Suntou Susso

Sunday 28 January 2024

8pm £18 www.regmeuross.com

Stolen from God - a folk song cycle
about England and the transatlantic slave trade



Ben Walker & Kirsty Merryn

Sunday 25 February 2024

8pm £15 www.benwalkermusic.com
www.kirstymerryn.com

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Tom's fiddle and Michael's piano and
accordion playing is amongst the finest there is
with a range of songs performed in great style



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Sunday 7 April 2024

8pm £14 www.gilmoreroberts.co.uk

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and Jamie Roberts (guitar) combine
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astounding musicianship



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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)



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

Please note that there will be
no singers' night on Tuesday
26 December 2023

£5 - folk concerts

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