

No 134 April - June 2024

What's Afoot

The official
magazine of

Devon Folk
DANCE SONG MUSIC MOTTS



JIGGERY POKERY

PLUS: NEWS, FEATURES AND LISTINGS

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THURSDAY 18TH APRIL 2024 7:30PM

REG MEUROSS

Award-winning singer, songwriter, storyteller and troubadour making his first Folk@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! Captivating audiences with his beautiful tenor voice, Reg has toured extensively since the 1980s across the UK, Europe, North America and the Antipodes. The Guardian's Robin Denselow described him as *"One of the more versatile, under-sung survivors of the English acoustic scene"*.

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. She has risen to be one of the best loved performers in any genre, and has won countless awards and accolades. Cara will be performing a number of pieces from her highly acclaimed new album and book 'Coming Home', released in February, as well as some of her old favourites from a considerable back catalogue.

STOP PRESS!

The Saturday, 14TH September

HARBOTTLE AND JONAS

performance is now postponed until 2025. Date TBC.

Articles, features, news to:

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EDITORIAL

IN THE previous issue of What's Afoot, I wrote about the problems of setting up a session or a folk club. This struck a chord with Eric and Eileen Payne, visitors from Worcestershire, who wrote: "We have sympathy with your difficulties and understand them. Honestly, it is not possible to please all the people all the time – you'll drive yourself crackers! Start the sort of Folk Club YOU want. You know your song/music preferences so, apply them, invite the like-minded and you'll have a club that is a pleasure to run and an audience that knows what to expect. Our own monthly club, Folk at the Fold in fair Worcestershire, is one of four local clubs, each different in character, format and running style. There is no rivalry. Each enjoys a decent footfall and there is frequent communication between organisers. Folk At the Fold has between 30 and 50 attendees, some of whom also regularly visit the other three clubs. Foremost in any club has to be the 'sharing' of the music/song that we love and the inclusion of a variety of ability levels. Attendances are inspired by enthusiastic, understanding organisers with who make contributors feel welcome, happy, comfortable and, above all, included, whether performers or not. The essence of 'folk' lies in its simplicity, why complicate things? Be yourself, enjoy your folk evenings and the company of friends. The audiences will follow." Thanks for that advice, Eric and Eileen. Enjoy your visit to Devon.

JOHN FOXEN

NEXT COPY DEADLINE: May 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.

Man overboard!

His grandfather's nautical jiggling doll led Mark Bazeley a merry dance at a recent performance

THE oldest member of the Dartmoor Pixie Band has had a serious accident, flying off the stage in mid-performance and falling flat on his face.

No, we're not talking about 90-year-old harmonica player and drummer Cyril May, who was featured in our previous issue. Cyril is a mere youngster compared with Sailor Jan, who has clocked up at least 130 years.

Jan is a true British sailor. Not just a heart of oak but totally made out of timber. He is, in fact, a jig doll. He stands about six inches tall with jointed arms and legs and a hole in his back for a stick to be inserted, as you can see from the picture on our front cover. His current owner – or should that be captain? – Pixie squeezebox player Mark Bazeley then balances him on a thin, bouncy board and gets him to dance to his tune.

Well, that's what should happen. But at the Dartmoor Entertainers in February (see report on Page 30) Mark was just getting into his stride, accompanied by the Red Dirt Band, when Sailor Jan lost his stride and went flying off the stick and onto the floor.

The band kept playing while Mark quickly retrieved Jan, checked him for damage and refitted the stick. He got Jan dancing again then decided to switch to his four-footed jig doll, Wonson the Wonder Dog, and successfully finished his set. You can find a video of the event on the What's Afoot Facebook page.

"It's never happened before," said a rueful Mark afterwards. "Not with Jan, anyway. Wonson did sustain a leg injury a while back at a show – one fell off in fact! But he had a successful operation involving a piece of



OLD HAND: Bob Cann with Sailor Jan in the Sixties or Seventies

wooden dowel and was soon dancing again."

The jig doll tradition dates back at least 150 years and is found in Britain, Ireland and North America. The dancing of dolls and making them is still thriving in East Anglia but it is not so common in the West Country. Mark has come across only a few other jiggers.

HE INHERITED his doll from Gramps – his grandfather, the legendary Bob Cann, founder of the Pixie Band. Bob had been given it by the family of the doll's maker, Harry Price of Fingle Bridge, Drewsteignton, who died in 1965. The family wanted the doll to go to someone who would take him out on show so Bob brought him into his act.

The baton was passed on to Mark who mainly uses Jan when he performs in folk clubs as Moor Music with his fellow Pixies Jason Rice and Rob Murch.

Jason was with Mark when he acquired Wonson. "We went up to London for a folk day at Cecil Sharp House to demonstrate Dartmoor step dancing. There was a chap making and selling dolls. That's where I met Wonson. I'd never seen anything like him before."

Wonson was Mark's secret weapon a few years back at the Whitby Folk Festival when he challenged the fine American singer and folklorist, Jeff Warner to The Great Transatlantic Jig Off. Sailor Jan and Jeff's all-American boy went head-to-head while Moor Music played. But while Jeff was distracted, Mark craftily swapped dolls and a very

Jiggery Pokery



THE DOLL AND HIS MAKER: Harry Price was born in Birmingham in 1877 but joined the Navy at 16. He liked the life but, irked by petty rules, led a minor mutiny. The authorities pardoned him (unlike poor Parker in our Song For Devon on page 32) and he rose to petty officer. In 1901 he crewed for the royal tour of the Duke of Cornwall, later George V. A talented artist and writer, he wrote and illustrated the book *The Royal Tour 1901, or the Cruise of HMS Ophir*. While training in Devonport, he discovered Drewsteignton, fell in love with it and fulfilled his dream to retire there. He died in 1965.



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mayheydays.org.uk

Jiggery Pokery



TAKING IT EASY:
Wonson the Wonder Dog and Sailor Jan take a break from dancing at Mark's home in South Zeal.



surprised Jeff found his doll dancing against a dog. The result was a victory for Britain. Fortunately, this performance was recorded for posterity and you can find a link to the video on the What's Afoot Facebook page.

It would be wonderful to see the jig doll tradition flourish in the West Country again. But be warned – jig dolls are addictive. My wife and I started off with one jig doll, a

dancing fox created by our friend and master craftsman, the late Bernard Pilgrim of Grays in Essex. Some of Bernie's jig dolls were featured in a video for Shirley Collins singing Pretty Polly. A link to this can be found on the What's Afoot Facebook page.

Yes, we started off with just one of Bernie's dolls. At the last count we have 21.

John Foxen

Exeter Folk & Acoustic Music Club

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

Friday 29 th March	Open Club Night
Friday 5 th April	Concert Night: Steve Turner
Friday 26 th April	Open Club Night
Friday 31 st May	Open Club Night
Friday 28 th June	Open Club Night

----- NO JULY CLUB NIGHT – SUMMER BREAK -----

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01392 422119 jeremy.m.child@gmail.com

www.barndancecaller.net

Exeter Ceilidhs

Mar 30th Chris Toyne

April 27th Banned from the Moor

May 25th Phoenix

Kenn Centre, Kennford 8pm – 11pm

07969 297 633 www.exeterceilidhs.net



Why Jan Stewer is still riding high

Most people know of Jan as one of the riders of the ill-fated mare borrowed for a trip to Widecombe Fair. But others know him as the pen name of AJ Coles, author, playwright, broadcaster and writer of songs such as *Out Stepped Mother and Me* and *What About A Little Drop of Cider?* JON SHAPLEY tells us how Pennymoor Singaround has been celebrating AJ for 40 years and BILL MURRAY explains how living in Puddington made Coles the writer he became.

IN THE summer of 2023 Pennymoor Singaround held its 40th Jan Stewer Evening in Puddington, Mid Devon. Jan's rise to fame as a Devonshire character was quite a feat, considering he was born in London in 1876. However, both his parents were born in Willand. AJ Coles had an extremely varied career but between 1898 and 1902 he was head of Puddington's one-room school which usually had between 40 and 50 children of all ages. He is reported to have been a popular teacher who took pride in the local dialect. He did not try to suppress it as long as the children learnt Received Pronunciation English as well.

Puddington School closed in 1951 and in 1956 the building was given to the parish as the village hall. Over 40 years ago the first "Jan Stewer Evening" was held in the hall, the brainchild of Ken and Clare Penney and Sam Richards. Sam and his partner at the time, Tish Stubbs, had been collecting folk songs, tunes and tales around Devon, often in dialect, so they encountered a huge array of talent. At Sam's request local musicians, entertainers and singers all gave their time freely. All proceeds went into a fund to pay for improvements to the hall that had been "Jan Stewer's classroom".

After the success of the first event, combined with the willingness of several stalwarts of Pennymoor Singaround, the Jan Stewer evening became an annual event. The wonderful Devon humour of people such as June Smith and Edna Dunning who performed as Ned and Martha, and the tales of Geoffrey Hannaford, were both memorable and proper

Devonshire entertainment. From very early on, the format of the evenings settled into a routine. There would be two halves, with an interval for a light supper. In each half there would be several songs, a few tales, maybe some jig doll dancing, a fair bit of music, when possible some Dartmoor step dancing, and/or broom dancing, generally a really good mix of entertainment.

Puddington people were very supportive, both because they enjoyed the evenings but also because the hall needed a lot of work and funds raised over the years really did make a difference. The seven events since 2016 have raised £2,500, for charitable causes.

PENNYMOOR Singaround formed as a club in 1979 in The Cruwys Arms, Pennymoor. Sadly this pub is likely to close in May 2024 when Pennymoor Singaround will be celebrating 45 years. Singing had frequently happened at The Cruwys Arms for a while before the club formed. Ken and Clare Penney lived locally and were regulars; they had both been involved with the 1960s folk revival in Exeter, especially at the Jolly Porter. Ken was a very fine and confident singer with a large pub-friendly repertoire.

Around this time, Len and Cissy Christopher acquired the Cruwys Arms, their first and only pub. They both enjoyed the singing, and Len soon became a fine singer. Just like Ken, Len had a big personality that shone through when he sang. He was a people person and a good organiser and motivator. Len and Cissy both

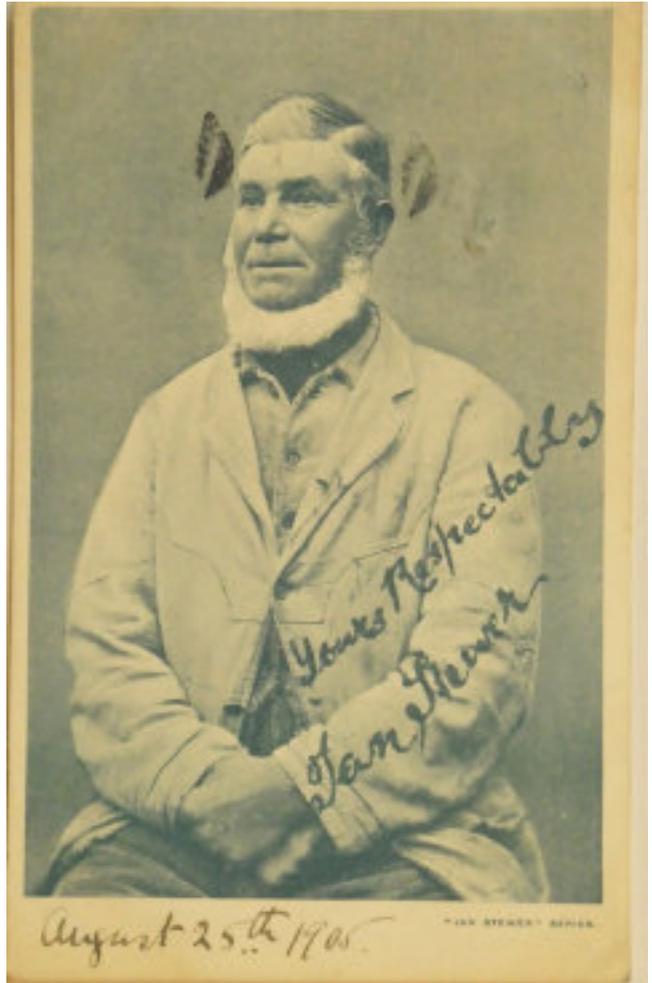
A Parcel of Ol' Crams

This postcard from 1905 with a picture of AJ Coles dressed as Jan Stewer was recently purchased by dedicated Stewer fan, Bill Murray. Jan appears to be wearing rabbit ears but Bill explains that these are actually the marks of a postal franking machine. Bill, who performs and has recorded a number of Stewer songs, believes that AJ Coles would have been amused by the addition of his 'ears'. He might even have written an article or song about it.

enjoyed the Jan Stewer evenings although it was hard in the early years of pub ownership for them to both get away. After they had sold the pub, Len and Cissy, who were by then committee members of Pennymoor Singaround, took on the main organising role of the Jan Stewer evenings.

A huge number of people have given their time and effort to make the Jan Stewer evenings so successful, such as the cake makers, washers up, raffle ticket sellers, etc. Most important is the very long list of performers, none of whom have ever received a penny, not even travel expenses. A great many of these people were Pennymoor Singaround members. Almost all of the Dartmoor Pixie Band, who still play in the traditional style absorbed from Bob Cann, turn up along with Bill Murray and very many others, far too many to list.

Quite a lot of Jan Stewer material is always included, often his songs, and sometimes short comic tales, or newspaper articles. The most important part of each half is always the Jan Stewer reading; this is often one of the longer stories, read in two halves, or two slightly shorter stories, one in each half. From very early on, we were very fortunate to have met and coerced John Babb to read these stories. He always dressed in country clothes suitable



for the time of his story and had a terrific ability to communicate with the audience. John used comical actions and facial expressions; this clowning often led him to losing his place in the text which just added to the hilarity.

In 2007, John Babb died and is greatly missed. His role was taken up by Jim Causley who has performed the readings with great aplomb ever since.

The Jan Stewer evening is a fabulous, small, local event, celebrating an extraordinary man. The next one will be in Puddington in a marquee near the hall which we have used since the Covid outbreak (the hall is very small). It will be on Friday July 12, 2024. Long may it continue.

Written with help from Clare Penney



ALL WEEKEND AT THE TEIGNMOUTH TRIANGLE:

OVER 20 DANCE SIDES • THE CITY OF PLYMOUTH PIPE BAND
TEIGNMOUTH YOUTH CHOIR • CELTIC DAWN
BACK BEACH BOYZ • MOTHER'S RUIN • THE ESTUARY BAND

PLUS
WORKSHOPS

AND

A 'BIG SING' WITH KITTY VERNON & DEREK BURGESS
TUNE SESSION HOSTED BY GRIMSBAND
MIXED SESSION HOSTED BY NORMAN BELLAMY



GRANNY'S ATTIC

Friday 21st June
8.00pm

St. James' Church

£18 in advance/
£20 on the door

Doors open at 7.30pm



SYKESMARTIN

Saturday 22nd June
8.00pm

St. James' Church

£18 in advance/
£20 on the door

Doors open at 7.30pm



FOLK ORCHESTRA OF EAST DEVON FAMILY CEILIDH

Sunday 23rd June
5.30pm

The Strand Centre, Dawlish

£10 - U16s £5

Doors open at 5.00pm



contact: info@teignmouthfolkfestival.co.uk

www.teignmouthfolkfestival.co.uk

 [@teignmouthfolkfestival](https://www.facebook.com/teignmouthfolkfestival)

Put it all down to the Puddington effect

ALFRID John Coles (1876-1965) became the Puddington schoolmaster in the late 1890s when he was in his early twenties, *writes Bill Murray*. He remained there until 1902 when he moved to Teignmouth with Florence, his wife.

During his time in Puddington he wrote his first dialect story, which was accepted by the editor of the Devon and Exeter Gazette. It was entitled *The Talk at Uncle Tom Cobleigh's Club* and signed Jan Stewer. Coles received seven shillings and sixpence for it (about £50 today).

And so it was from the people who lived in Puddington and the close surrounding area, that Coles moulded the characters that would feature in his stories for the next 50 years.

Puddington was Jan's Muddlecombe and he would travel the bumpy road to Witheridge or Tiverton in the carrier's cart with his cast of Mrs Snell, Mrs Endycott, Ned Annaferd, Lias Buzzacott and others. Tom the carrier had horses called Damzel and Prince.

"Way-ya! Jim, jump down an' put on the drug – right – Damzel-ah! Kimm-up 'oss. Prince-ah! Kim-eer-way. Yu maze toad – wat' matter with ee?"

YOU can see the point I am making. Were it not for Puddington, Jan would have never written many of his wonderful stories because from that little village in the middle of Devon, he moved to Teignmouth, Poltimore and Bovey Tracey to teach. Then in 1909 he left teaching to take on the editorship of the Mid-Devon Advertiser and the Torbay News.

From 1905, Jan Stewer and his unique Puddicombe characters, appeared regularly in the Illustrated Western Weekly News for 35 years.

AJ Coles' first book is *Jan Stewer's Devonshire Book*. I have a copy of the third edition published in 1915 by Besley & Copp Ltd, Exeter. According to Lois Lamplugh, the original edition, thought to be from 1902, had a "Prevaace" in which Jan Stewer, signing himself "Yours respectfully" (as he does on the postcard on page 9) and giving his address as Uncle Tom Cobleigh's Club, Muddlecombe-in-the Moor, confides that Uncle Tom has suggested that he should "taake an' rite a

buke". So after initial doubts he has "picked out aul they wat I thort yu wid like ta rade agean, an' eef yu likes thase yer, I'll mid-be led 'e 'ave zum more later on; us'll zee."

Some of the 18 prose stories and three narratives in verse are very short, no more than 350 to 500 words; others run to a thousand or more. Among the prose pieces are *Jan's Adventures with the Hot Water Bottle*, 'Arry 'Awks' Priuze Tetties, *Curing the Lumbago*; *Ow us med out the Census* and *Jan's Cricket Match*, which were to be included in considerably revised form in later books.

That is why Puddington is the very best place to hold this annual event and long may it continue.

● *Sources: Jan Stewer by Douglas Cock, Four Centuries of Devon Dialect by Lois Lamplugh and Jan Stewer's Devonshire Book by AJ Coles.*

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DEVON FOLK EVENT

Saturday 8th June 2024

Community Hall, Primary School
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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 ammarker5@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



THE 70TH SIDMOUTH FOLK FESTIVAL

2ND - 9TH AUGUST 2024

Pre-Festival Specials:

Thu 1 Aug: Fisherman's Friends • George Hinchliffe's Ukulele Orchestra of Great Britain
Fri 2 Aug: Steeleye Span

Kate Rusby • Ralph McTell • Oysterband • Karine Polwart • Spiers & Boden
Spooky Men's Choral • Steve Knightley & Friends introducing Dream In Colors
Sea Song Sessions (Boden, Lakeman, Nicholls, Portman & Rutter) • Mánran
Aly Bain & Phil Cunningham • Blowzabella • Chris Wood & Andy Cutting
Daphne's Flight • McCusker, McGoldrick & Doyle • Alasdair Fraser & Natalie Haas
Angeline Morrison & The Sorrow Songs Band • Catrin Finch & Aoife Ní Bhriain
Melrose Quartet • O'Hooley & Tidow • The Breath • The Melsons (Melrose Quartet & The Wilsons)
Saltfishforty • Granny's Attic • Stick In The Wheel • Zulu Tradition

Chris White & Julie Matthews • Fay Hield • Filkin's Ensemble • Jack Rutter
Jo Freya 50th Special • Kitewing • Ryan Young • Will Pound & Jenn Butterworth
Aaron Horlock & Nick Goode • Alden Patterson • Ben & Sel • Bird In The Belly
Bryony Griffith & Alice Jones • Cahalen Morrison • Camus • Charm Of Finches
Delta Kenzie • Emily Portman • Filkin's Drift • Geoff Lakeman & Rob Murch
Holly Clarke • Jali Bakary Konteh • Janice Burns & Jon Doran • Louise Rogan
Michell, Pfeiffer & Kulesh • Mikey Kenney • Miranda Sykes • Old Spot • Roswell
Teilhard Frost • The Wilderness Yet • Windjammer

Ewan Wardrop : Sweet Thames: The London Folk Club Heritage Project
Jim Causley And Miranda Sykes Present: Ghosts, Werewolves And Countryfolk
The Folk Detectives • Murder At The Grange

Chris Foster • Christine Kydd • Dan Quinn & Mike Bettison • Doc Rowe
Jack Lynch & Len Graham • Jennifer Reid • Jill Pidd • Lucy Wright • Macdara Yeates
Matthew Crampton • Mossy Christian & Megan Wisdom • Sara Grey • Seb Stone
Taffy Thomas • Thomas Mccarthy • Vic Legg

3 Sticks • Barber Band • Brown Boots Boogie Band • Cock & Bull Band
Folk Camps Party Band • Granny's Attic Ceilidh • Jigfoot • Melrose Quintet Ceilidh Band
Monster Ceilidh Band • Mrs Midnights • Old Swan Band And Friends • Oysterband
Polkaworks • Stepping Ceilidh • Ticked Pink • Chris Wood & Andy Cutting • Alison Rowley
Barry Goodman • Erin Mansfield • Fee Lock • Gordon Potts • Ian Nichols • Jane Bird • Nancy Potts

Adam Hughes • Bridgett Flett • Chris & Julie Dewhurst • Double Dichotomy • Daisy Black
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Get ready to go green



GREEN MAN FESTIVAL, Bovey Tracey Saturday April 27

THIS event, in which morris dancers and musicians take over the town for the day, has been captured by local artist Sarah McIntyre.

The picture above is a reasonably accurate portrayal of the madness of the day and shows the star attraction, the leaf-clad Green Man and his smaller companion (Twiggy?) as they stroll round the town before being ritually defoliated.

We've also spotted dancers and musicians from Black Bess, Grimspound, Dartmoor and Catseye. Anyone got any guesses about the flying fiddler?

Sarah created the drawing, when she first moved to Bovey Tracey. She then began working from a studio at Bovey Paradiso, right on the festival route, and the following year, sold cards with this image on it.

She has copies of the card for sale at her studio which is open Thursday to Saturday from

11am to 4pm. While locals know her best for her drawings of her fellow bellringers, her main job is writing and illustrating children's books, including the latest highly-illustrated series for ages five to seven, the Adventuremice books, created with her co-author Philip Reeve. You can find fun and free activities at Adventuremice.com.

The Green Man event, organised by Grimspound Border Morris, is often seen as the big gathering of the sides that opens the dancing season in the South-West. The council co-operates and the main streets are closed to traffic and lined with stallholders. There will be music sessions and singing in some of the pubs.

If this is not enough morris and ritual for you then you could rise before dawn on the following Wednesday when sides across the county will be dancing up the sun. Contact your local side (a list is on Page 24) for details of when and where they will be dancing.

What's Happening

MAD DOG MCREA WEEKENDER

Exeter Phoenix, May 3-5

FOLK rockers Mad Dog Mcrea are taking over the Phoenix for a third year. Mad Dog will be playing an acoustic set on Friday and going flat out on Sunday. Saturday's special treat is Ríoghach Connolly & Honeyfeet. Other guests include Man the Lifeboats, The Barefoot Bandit, Ushti Baba and Malavita.

[www.maddogmcrea.co.uk/
mad-dog-mcrea-weekender](http://www.maddogmcrea.co.uk/mad-dog-mcrea-weekender)

BRIXHAM PIRATE FESTIVAL

May 4-6

LOOK out for more pirates than you'll find in the Caribbean, shanties, tall ships and even taller tales at this free event.

www.brixhampiratesfestival.com

STEELEYE SPAN 55TH ANNIVERSARY TOUR

Monday May 13, Palace Theatre Paignton

CAN it really be Steeleye's 55th anniversary tour? That is really making some of us feel our age when we remember first hearing them.

Granted, like fellow folk rock pioneers Fairport Convention, the current band is a bit like Trigger's broom but it does still boast Maddy Prior at the helm, still singing at 76. Maybe age is just a number after all.

www.palacetheatrepaignton.co.uk

DART MUSIC FESTIVAL, DARTMOUTH

May 17-19

DARTMOUTH'S big event is back, this time promising more than 100 bands in 20 venues around the town. There's a wide range of music but folk acts include blues band Catfish, Feadog, Wychbury, Nastee Chapel, Ríoghach Connolly & Honeyfeet, Fraser Morgan and the Basketeers.

www.dartmusicfestival.co.uk

HUNTING OF THE EARL OF RONE

Combe Martin May 24-27

A TRADITION unique to Devon. A strangely garbed character, the Earl of Rone, is hunted through the village streets and shot several times before being cast into the sea. Legend claims the



FOLK ON THE MOOR

at
**The Moorland Hotel
Wotter**



GUEST LIST

14 APR	Mick Ryan & Paul Downes
28 APR	Linde Nijland & Bert Ridderbos
12 MAY	Boo Hewardine
19 MAY	Hilary Spencer
2 JUN	Joe Topping
16 JUN	Anthony John Clarke
30 JUN	Steve Tilston

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

What's Happening

victim was the rebellious Earl of Tyrone who fled Ireland in 1607 and was shipwrecked on the Devon coast where he was hunted down and shot. In fact, the Earl of Rone came nowhere near Combe Martin and escaped to France – but don't let that get in the way of a good story. The re-enactment of the false legend took place annually until 1837 when it was banned for being too rowdy. Fortunately it was reinstated with the help of the late Tom Brown and others. Now it has become an annual fixture that involves the whole village. For a full account of the revival see What's Afoot 117.

The ritual is carried out four times. Friday sees a procession with drums only, on Saturday the children's procession, on Sunday the full

procession and on Monday the procession with the Earl of Rone. Spectators are welcome.

Earl-of-rone.org.uk

TEIGNMOUTH FOLK FESTIVAL

June 21-23

AFTER a smaller festival last year, Teignmouth is back with a bang. More than 20 morris sides dancing round the town all day are promised along with concerts from Granny's Attic and SykesMartin. Song and music sessions are on offer and Sunday features a family ceilidh with the Folk Orchestra of East Devon. There will also be free music all weekend at the Teignmouth Triangle.

www.facebook.com/TeignmouthFolkFestival

Looking further ahead: Sidmouth at 70

IF READING about Steeleye Span's 55th anniversary tour made you feel old, the thought of Sidmouth celebrating its 70th birthday might make you feel even older. However, I've met only one person who attended the first Sidmouth – and she was in her mother's womb at the time.

If any readers have memories of visiting Sidmouth Festivals of very long ago, please send them to devonfolkeditor@gmail.com and we will print the best in the next edition.

To celebrate this anniversary, Sidmouth's organisers are putting together a top-notch festival for the week and those old folk rockers Steeleye will be there for the pre-festival concert on Friday August 2. Another veteran who will be performing is Ralph McTell, who many years ago wrote *When Maddy Dances* for Steeleye's songstress. Folk's much-loved grandmother, Peggy Seeger will also be there.

Other attractions include Seth Lakeman, Kate Rusby, Oysterband, Spiers and Boden, and O'Hooley & Tidow.

Festival co-director Tash Daly said: "We're absolutely thrilled to reach our landmark 70th festival and look forward to sharing the unique magic of Sidmouth, some amazing performances and immersive events, with music, song and dance lovers from near and far. Folk music is traditionally passed down through the generations and we pride ourselves on being a family-friendly festival. With that in mind, for 2024 we have introduced free tickets for all children aged 11 and under."

Back in the Fifties, street parties were a big part of life so the festival is organising one with contributions from the local community. The

original festival, organised by the EFDSS, concentrated on dance and there will of course be plenty of dance displays in and around the town. Invited morris sides include Dartmoor's own Beltane.

August 2-9 sidmouthfolkfestival.co.uk



Kick up the Dust

A friendly 5-piece band, based in the South-West. We specialise in Cornish music and dances, but we can make your event a real success with all popular types of traditional dances and songs, too.

Contact: Ian on 07742917101

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 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, PL20 7NA

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:

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.

IPPLEPEN

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 Paul & Hazel 01363 776275
3rd Wednesday 7.30pm Lamb Inn Jon Shapely 0136383740 jon_shapley@hotmail.com

Song and Music

SCORITON

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

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

TALATON

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 0QQ
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, EX39
1AN. Fridays 8pm. 01237
476632.

Bideford Folk Dance Club,

Northam Hall, Fore St,
Northam, EX39 1AN. Last
Wednesday in September to
first in May. 01237 423554.

BRIDPORT

Bridport Folk Dance Club, WI
Hall, North Street, DT6 3NW.
Monday except holidays.
7.15pm. 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. on
Fridays 8pm. 01822 852442.

EXMOUTH

**Exmouth Isca Scottish
Dancers,** East Budleigh Village
Hall, Wynard Road, East
Budleigh, Budleigh Salterton
EX9 7DU. Wednesdays 10am.
V.J.Tyler 01395 276913

Exmouth Playford Club, East
Budleigh Church Hall, Budleigh
Salterton. 2nd Sunday. 2.30pm.
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". Tuesdays 8pm. Not
July and August. Tel: Rosemary
01566 774491.

NEWTON ABBOT

**Newton Abbot Irish Set
Dance,** Jolly Farmer, 8 Market
Street, TQ12 2RB.
Wednesdays: 01626204350.
<https://devonirishsetdancers.uk>

SIDFORD

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

American St Peter's Church
Hall, England's Close, EX10
9QS. Friday, 2pm to 4pm Janet
01297 33019.

SOUTH HAMS

South Hams Folk Dance Club,
West Charleton Village Hall
TQ7 2AG. 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.

Whimble

Irish Set Dancing, Whimble
Victory Hall, School Hill EX5
2TS, (3rd Sun) 2pm. [https://
devonirishsetdancers.uk/](https://devonirishsetdancers.uk/)

Willand

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

Events

APRIL

TUESDAY 2

Sidford Folk Dance Club.
Janet Bulpin. Sidford Social
Hall, Byes Lane, EX10 9QX.
Wednesday 3

Gittisham Folk Dance Club.
Caller: Jeremy Child Band:
Jeroka. Gittisham Village
Hall, EX14 3AF.

FRIDAY 5

The Longest Johns. Exeter
Phoenix, Gandy Street EX4 3LS.

Steve Turner. Exeter Folk &
Acoustic Music Club, Victoria
Park Tennis Club, Lyndhurst
Road, St Leonards, EX2 4NX.

Sam Lee. St Mary's Church,
High Street, Totnes TQ9 5NN
Dartington Folk Dance Club.
Village Hall, Cott Lane,
Dartington TQ9 6HY

SATURDAY 6

Fisherman's Friends.
Plymouth Pavilions Arena,
Millbay Road, PL1 3LF

Ian Bruce & Silvington.

Bickleigh Suite, Woolwell
Community Centre, Darklake
Lane, Roborough, PL6 7TR

Willand Folk Dance Club:

Ray Goodswen Falconers.
Willand Village Hall, Gables
Road, EX15 2PL

Launceston Folk Dance Club

Jerry and Alison Tucker.
"Dancing Keys". Launceston
Town Hall, PL15 7AR

SUNDAY 7

Topsham Folk Club Concert
Gilmore and Roberts.
Matthews Hall, Fore Street,
Topsham, EX3 0HF

MONDAY 8

Feast of Fiddles. Exeter Corn
Exchange. EX1 1BW

TUESDAY 9

Sidford Folk Dance Club.:
Mary Marker. Band: Mary
Lea Shed Music. Sidford
Social Hall, EX10 9QX.

WEDNESDAY 10

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

THURSDAY 11

Willand Folk Dance Club.
Chris Jewell. Willand Village
Hall, Gables Road, EX15 2PL
Big Sing with Pennymoor
Singaround and Mariners
Away Shanty Men. Railway
Inn, North Tawton, EX20 2BE

FRIDAY 12

Old Time Sailors. Calstock
Village Hall, PL18 9QA

India Electric Co. Beehive
Arts Centre, Dowell Street,
Honiton EX14 1LZ

Dartington Folk Dance Club.
Village Hall, Cott Lane, TQ9 6HY

SATURDAY 13

Sound of Sirens. Exeter
Phoenix, Gandy Street EX4 3LS

Tarren. Ashburton Arts
Centre, West Street,
Ashburton TQ13 7DT

**D'Accord French Music and
Dance** Peter Clifton &
Richard Heacock. St James
Church Hall, EX4 7AH

SUNDAY 14

Concert by Mike Bosworth
the continuing Story and
Songs of Sabine Baring-
Gould. Sabine's two friends.

Denbury Church, East Street,
TQ126DH

**Mick Ryan and Paul
Downes.** Folk on the Moor,
Moorland Hotel, Wotter,
PL7 5HP

WEDNESDAY 17

Gittisham Folk Dance Club.
Sarah Clough, Dancing Keys.
Village Hall, EX14 3AF

TUESDAY 16

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

Si Barron. Bradninch Folk
Club, The Guildhall, Fore
Street, EX5 4NN.

THURSDAY 18

Reg Meuross. The Flavel Arts
Centre, Dartmouth TQ6 9ND

John Smith. Exeter Phoenix,
Gandy Street EX4 3LS

Bideford Folk Song Club
Bedstone Boys. The Joiners
Arms, Market Place, EX30 2DR

FRIDAY 19

**Kathryn Roberts & Sean
Lakeman.** Holy Cross Church,
Church St, Crediton EX17 2AH

Reg Meuross. Ashburton
Arts Centre, West Street,
TQ13 7DT

Dartington Folk Dance Club.
Village Hall, Cott Lane, TQ9 6HY

SATURDAY 20

Martin Simpson. Calstock
Arts, The Old Chapel, Sand
Lane, PL18 9QX

TUESDAY 23

Sidford Folk Dance Club.
Jane Thomas with Accordion
to Taste. Sidford Social Hall,

Events

Byes Lane EX10 9QX

WEDNESDAY 24

Gittisham Folk Dance Club.

Caller: TBC Band: Pair of Shears. Gittisham Village Hall, EX14 3AF

THURSDAY 25

Willand Folk Dance Club.

Caller: John Bone Band: Chris Toyne. Willand Village Hall, Gables Road, EX15 2PL

Kate Rusby: Est. 1973 Tour.

Exeter Corn Exchange - Market Street, EX1 1BW

FRIDAY 26

Dartington Folk Dance Club.

Village Hall, Cott Lane, TQ9 6HY

SATURDAY 27

Ceilidh with Banned from

the Moor. Kenn Centre, Exeter Road, Kennford, Exeter EX6 7UE

Seven Drunken Nights The

Story of the Dubliners.

Princess Theatre, Torbay Road, Torquay TQ2 5EZ

SUNDAY 28

Linde Nijland & Bert

Ridderbos. Folk on the Moor, Moorland Hotel, Wotter, PL7 5HP

TUESDAY 30

Sidford Folk Dance Club.:

Simon Maplesden and Jigs for Gigs. Sidford Social Hall, Byes Lane EX10 9QX.

MAY

WEDNESDAY 1

Gittisham Folk Dance Club.

Caller: Colin Andrews.

Band: Chris Toyne. Gittisham Village Hall, EX14 3AF

Old Baby Mackerel.

Livermead Cliff Hotel, Sea Front, Torquay, TQ2 6RQ

THURSDAY 2

Kathryn Priddy. Exeter

Phoenix, Gandy Street EX4 3LS

FRIDAY 3

Mad Dog Mcree Weekender.

Exeter Phoenix, Gandy Street, EX4 3LS

Dartington Folk Dance Club.

Village Hall, Cott Lane, TQ9 6HY

Keith James: The Songs of

Leonard Cohen. Calstock

Arts, The Old Chapel, Sand

Lane, PL18 9QX

SATURDAY 4

Mad Dog Mcree Weekender,

Exeter Phoenix, Gandy Street, EX4 3LS

Willand Folk Dance Club.

Nicola Scott and Pair of Shears. Willand Village Hall, Gables Road, EX15 2PL

Elephant Sessions. Pigs Nose Inn, East Prawle, Kingsbridge TQ7 2BY

SUNDAY 5

Mad Dog Mcree Weekender.

Exeter Phoenix, Gandy Street, EX4 3LS

MONDAY 6

Kathryn Roberts & Sean

Lakeman. Pavilions

Teignmouth, The Den, TQ14 8BG

TUESDAY 7

Sidford Folk Dance Club.

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

WEDNESDAY 8

Gittisham Folk Dance Club.

Simon Maplesden and Fresh Aire. Gittisham Village Hall, EX14 3AF

Finn Collision Band.

Ashburton Arts Centre, West Street, TQ13 7DT

Hayseed Dixie. Exeter

Phoenix, Gandy Street EX4 3LS

THURSDAY 9

Willand Folk Dance Club.

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

FRIDAY 10

Dartington Folk Dance Club.

Village Hall, Cott Lane, Dartington TQ9 6HY

Saturday 11

D'Accord French Music and

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

SUNDAY 12

The Fureys. Exmouth

Pavilion, The Esplanade, EX8 2AZ

Topsham Folk Club Concert

Nick Hart and Tom Moore.

Mathews Hall, Fore Street, EX3 0HF.

Boo Hewerdine. Folk on the Moor, Moorland Hotel, Wotter, PL7 5HP.

MONDAY 13

Steeleye Span. Palace

Theatre, Palace Avenue, Paignton, TQ3 3HF

Boo Hewerdine/Billie

Maree. Ashburton Arts Centre, West Street, TQ13 7DT.

TUESDAY 14

Sidford Folk Dance Club.

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

WEDNESDAY 15

Gittisham Folk Dance Club.

Jane Thomas and Mary Marker. Gittisham Village Hall, EX14 3AF

Gigspanner Trio. Pavilions

Teignmouth, The Den, TQ14 8BG

THURSDAY 16

Bideford Folk Song Club

Guest Night Hilary Spencer.

The Joiners Arms, Market Place, Bideford, EX30 2DR

FRIDAY 17

Dartington Folk Dance Club.

Village Hall, Cott Lane, TQ9 6HY

SATURDAY 18

Show of Hands: Full Circle

Part II. Exeter Cathedral

SUNDAY 19

Hilary Spencer. Folk on the

Moor, Moorland Hotel, Wotter, PL7 5HP

Saltlines: Gigspanner Big

Band & Raynor Winn. Exmouth Pavilion, The Esplanade, EX8 2AZ

MONDAY 20

Ferocious Dog. Exeter

Phoenix, Gandy Street, EX4 3LS

TUESDAY 21

Sidford Folk Dance Club.

Simon Maplesden and Pair of Shears. Sidford Social Hall, Byes Lane EX10 9QX

East Anglian band

Shackleton Trio. Bradninch Folk Club The Guildhall, Fore

Events

Street, EX5 4NN

The Irish House Party. Palace Theatre, Palace Avenue, Paignton TQ3 3HF.

WEDNESDAY 22

Gittisham Folk Dance Club. Caller: Ray Goodswen Band: Ian and Margaret. Gittisham Village Hall, EX14 3AF

THURSDAY 23

Willand Folk Dance Club. Club Callers and The More the Merrier + AGM | Willand Village Hall, Gables Road, EX15 2PL

FRIDAY 24

Dartington Folk Dance Club. Village Hall, Cott Lane, TQ9 6HY

Flight of Fancy Album Tour

Julie July Band. Barbican Theatre, Castle Street, Plymouth PL1 2NJ

SATURDAY 25

Ceilidh with Phoenix. Kenn Centre, Exeter Road, Kennford, Exeter EX6 7UE

WEDNESDAY 29

Gittisham Folk Dance Club.

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

JUNE

SATURDAY 1

Willand Folk Dance Club.

Caller: Frances Oates Band: Pendragon. Willand Village Hall, Gables Road, EX15 2PL.

Nick Wyke & Becki Driscoll, 8pm, The Plough Arts Centre, Fore Street, Torrington EX38 8HQ

SUNDAY 2

Jo Topping. Folk on the Moor, Moorland Hotel, Wotter, PL7 5HP

WEDNESDAY 5

Gittisham Folk Dance Club.

Sarah Clough and Pair of Shears. Gittisham Village Hall, EX14 3AF .

THURSDAY 6

Guy Tortora. Otterton Mill, nr Budleigh Salterton EX9 7HG

FRIDAY 7

Jacob & Drinkwater Barrel

House, 59 High St, Totnes TQ9 5PB

Dartington Folk Dance Club. Village Hall, Cott Lane, TQ9 6HY

SATURDAY 8

D'Accord French Music and Dance David Faulkner & Steve Turner. St James Church Hall, Mount Pleasant, Exeter EX4 7AH

Jacob & Drinkwater. Beehive Arts Centre, Dowell Street, Honiton EX14 1LZ

SUNDAY 9

Topsham Folk Club Concert

Bryony Griffith and Alice Jones . Mathews Hall, Fore Street, EX3 0HF

WEDNESDAY 12

Gittisham Folk Dance Club.

Caller: Ali Highfield. Band: Fresh Aire. Gittisham Village Hall, EX14 3AF

THURSDAY 13

Willand Folk Dance Club.

Ray Goodswen. Willand Village Hall, Gables Road, EX15 2PL

Bideford Folk Song Club

Guest Night John Kirkpatrick. The Joiners Arms, Market Place, Bideford, EX30 2DR

Charm of Finches. Exeter Phoenix, Gandy Street EX4 3LS

FRIDAY 14

Cara Dillon and Sam

Lakeman. The Flavel Arts Centre, Dartmouth TQ6 9ND

Dartington Folk Dance Club.

Village Hall, Cott Lane, Dartington TQ9 6HY

Topette 10th Anniversary

Tour. Matthews Hall, 3A Fore Street, Topsham, EX3 0HF

SATURDAY 15

The Bar-Steward Sons of Val

Doonican. Beehive Arts Centre, Dowell Street, Honiton EX14 1LZ

SUNDAY 16

Anthony John Clarke. Folk on the Moor, Moorland Hotel, Wotter, PL7 5HP

WEDNESDAY 19

Gittisham Folk Dance Club.

Jane Thomas and Jeroka.

Gittisham Village Hall, EX14 3AF.

THURSDAY 20

The Rigarollers. Otterton Mill, EX9 7HG

FRIDAY 21

Cara Dillon. Calstock Arts, The Old Chapel, Sand Lane, PL18 9QX

Dartington Folk Dance Club.

Village Hall, Cott Lane, TQ9 6HY

Teignmouth Folk Festival

Grannys Attic Teignmouth Folk Festival. St James Church, Bitton Park Rd, TQ14 9BTTQ14 9BT

SATURDAY 22

Cara Dillon. Calstock Arts, The Old Chapel, Sand Lane, PL18 9QX

Teignmouth Folk Festival

SykesMartin. St James Church, Bitton Park Road, West Teignmouth, TQ14 9BT

SUNDAY 23

Teignmouth Folk Festival

Family Ceilidh Wren Folk Orchestra of East Devon

Caller: Jon Dyer. The Strand Centre, 32 The Strand, Dawlish EX7 9PT

WEDNESDAY 26

Gittisham Folk Dance Club.

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

THURSDAY 27

Willand Folk Dance Club.

Simon Maplesden and Pair of Shears. Willand Village Hall, Gables Road, EX15 2PL

FRIDAY 28

Dartington Folk Dance Club. Village Hall, Cott Lane, TQ9 6HY

SATURDAY 29

Ceilidh with Red Shed. Kenn Centre, Exeter Road, Kennford, Exeter EX6 7UE

SUNDAY 30

Steve Tilston. Folk on the Moor, Moorland Hotel, Wotter, PL7 5HP

JULY

WEDNESDAY 3

Gittisham Folk Dance Club.

Chris Jewell and Fresh Aire.

Events

Gittisham Village Hall, EX14 3AF

FRIDAY 5

Dartington Folk Dance Club.

Village Hall, Cott Lane,

Dartington TQ9 6HY

SATURDAY 6

Willand Folk Dance Club.

Caller: Brian Stanton Band:

Deo Velente. Willand Village

Hall, Gables Road, EX15 2PL

SUNDAY 7

The Crows. Folk on the

Moor, Moorland Hotel,

Wotter, Plymouth PL7 5HP

WEDNESDAY 10

Gittisham Folk Dance Club.

Caller: Jane Thomas Band:

Mary Marker. Gittisham

Village Hall, EX14 3AF.

THURSDAY 11

Kathryn Roberts & Sean

Lakeman. Otterton Mill,

nr Budleigh Salterton

EX9 7HG

Useful Contacts

FOLK IN CORNWALL

John Tremaine, 7, The Moors, Lostwithiel,

PL22 0BX 01208 872124

mail@folkincornwall.co.uk

FOLKLIFE

Sam Simmons, sam@folklife.uk

FOLK LONDON

www.folklondon.co.uk

SOMERSET & DORSET

www.folkmusicsomerset.co.uk

www.sadfolk.co.uk

ENGLISH FOLK DANCE & SONG SOCIETY

info@efdss.org www.efdss.org

THE MORRIS FEDERATION

Andrew Knight secretary@morrisfed.org.uk.

www.morrisfed.org.uk

THE MORRIS RING

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Saving the songs of a true Devon man

BILL CRAWFORD tells us how he helped to record the songs of **Dave Lowry**

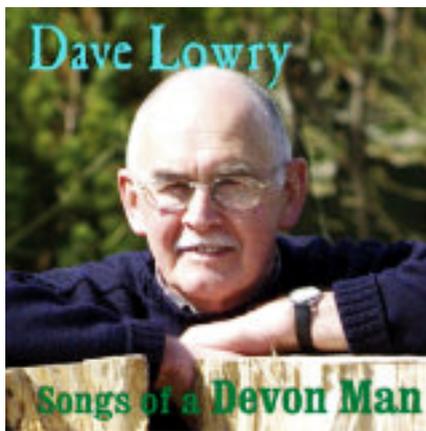
SOME years ago while I chatted to a local singer about repertoire, he stated that I had been lucky, because back in the 1960s, when I got involved in the folk scene, there were still many source singers around. He went on to say he regarded me and Dave Lowry as the closest he was going to get to a source singer. I was very flattered but thought no more of it for many years.

Dave's announcement that he had been diagnosed with Parkinson's disease brought that conversation to my mind again. His repertoire is unique, with many songs no one else sings and whose source was known only to him, songs he has made his own.

The early collectors such as Baring-Gould, Sharp, Grainger and others, saw the importance of preserving the words and tunes "from the mouths of the people". Indeed, Grainger went as far as making wax cylinder recordings of some singers to capture their style and nuances. Those collectors saw them as part of our cultural heritage. The songs often described in detail local and national events along with everyday chores and a way of life.

The folk revival saw the emergence of many new singers building their repertoires from the archives of those earlier collectors. In the 60 or so years since the folk boom, many of those revival singers have developed their own style and interpretation of the old songs, giving them new feeling and importance. A few have evolved into modern-day "source" singers. As those people become older and we lose them, so too, do we lose their songs.

I realised that just like the songs of those



original singers, we were in danger of losing Dave's repertoire as his illness advanced. My first thoughts were to sit him down around a table with a few pints of beer and a tape recorder and capture as many as we could before it was too late. This was in 2018.

During a meeting with Tom and Barbara Brown, I expressed my concerns and plans regarding the preservation of Dave's songs. Tom and Barbara immediately suggested it

was something their charitable company, S & A Projects, could take on. One of the aims of the company was the preservation of the vernacular arts. It was agreed that the project was to be an archive of Dave's songs and his singing so the print run would be limited. Tom and Barbara arranged a recording session in Doug Bailey's Wild Goose Studio and managed to record some 21 tracks of Dave and added some choruses. Doug also added five tracks from previous recordings of the Claque and Barry Lister in which Dave had a prominent role. In the meantime, I spent time with Dave researching the provenance of the songs and how he came across them.

THEN came Covid and Tom's health problems so the project stalled until early 2023 when Tom asked me, in view of their health problems, if I could complete it. In June, with Barry Lister and Eileen Conn, we added more choruses with another studio session.

Around this time we discovered that many years earlier Phil Beer had recorded Dave in his studio. Phil agreed to let us have these recordings, made long before Dave's illness.

There were three tracks, one of which was additional to the Wild Goose recordings and these were included in the final CD. *Songs of a Devon Man* was completed in December 2023 and far exceeded my original hopes for the preservation of Dave's repertoire.

Dave is just one of several unrecorded singers whose songs and style would have been lost without action. Think about it – if you know anybody “collect” them before it is too late.

I am exceedingly grateful to Tom and Barbara for enabling this project and am deeply saddened that Tom died before its completion.

Review

MANY of you will have heard and enjoyed Dave's singing as a solo performer or as part of Isca Fayre and more recently, The Claque.

Of the 27 tracks here, most are of Dave singing from his own repertoire, ably backed by chorus support from the late Tom Brown, Tom's wife Barbara and also Bill Crawford, Barry Lister and Eileen Conn. That roll-call guarantees that this CD should be in your playlist of fine unaccompanied singing with a traditional slant.

This is a treasure-house treat. It contains some of the many West Country songs, mainly from the Baring-Gould collection (although not exclusively), which formed Dave's repertoire. All are beautifully sung, with genuine warmth and authority, in his “proper-job” accent, happily shared with his chorus partners.

Songs range from hunting songs – *Drink, Puppy Drink* and *The Cheerful Horn* – through light-hearted offerings – *Old Farmer Buck* and *The Crafty Farmer's Son* – to more serious stuff such as Tony Goode's *Caledonia* and *Wreck Off Scilly*.

It's a CD full of entertainment (like a Dave Lowry concert) with top quality production values, including source notes for each song. It is a fine and lasting tribute to the talent and authenticity of this real Devon Man. This needed to be done and shared, so “Well done!” to all concerned.

Dave Lowry – *Songs of a Devon Man* can be purchased from S&A Projects, c/o tomandbarbarabrown@btinternet.com or www.wildgoose.co.uk £9.99 + postage £2.60.

Al Cruse

Remembering the finest modern-day collector

BILL CRAWFORD makes a strong case for recording the songs of the old singers while we still can. It's worth remembering the work of Bob Patten, possibly the best collector of songs and folk lore in the West Country since Baring-Gould.

Over nearly 50 years, Bob and his wife Jacqueline amassed thousands of hours of tape, recording everything from songs to ceremonies. Bill Murray said of Bob: “I don't think I ever heard him sing but he was always there at concerts listening and appreciating. And he was always ready to record anything. We always need people like him.”

Bob died in 2018 but his work lives on. A small proportion of his work is preserved by the British Library at <https://sounds.bl.uk/World-and-traditional-music/Bob-and-Jacqueline-Patten-Collection>

Unfortunately, at the time of writing this collection cannot be accessed because of a cyber attack on the library by hackers. Work is under way to restore this valuable resource which is well worth many visits by any folk enthusiast.

The British Library describes the archive as: “A very large collection of field recordings of traditional songs, music, storytelling and customs made between 1969 to 2001 mainly in the south west of England, in Somerset, Dorset, Devon and Cornwall. The collection features unique performances of West Gallery Music and Shape Note singing, English carols during house-visiting wassailing and children's rhymes, songs and games.”

When Bob started collecting back in 1969, he used a reel-to-reel tape recorder. Now anybody can record performances using their phones. So please do and if you feel you have recorded something unique and worth preserving, let us know and we will publicise it in this magazine and post it on the What's Afoot Facebook page. Email your videos or links to Devonfolkeditor@gmail.com

John Foxen

NEW FOREST
FOLK
FESTIVAL

July 3 - 7 (2024)

Powells Farm, Plaitford,
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Feast of Fiddles - Oysterband - Steeleye Span

Jacqui McShee's Pentangle - Gerry Colvin Band - The Sandy Denny Project

Hatful of Rain - The Haar - Dream In Colors - Gilmore & Roberts

Reg Meuross - 3 Daft Monkeys - Slim Chance - Roving Crows - Brian McNeill

Daphne's Flight - Edwina Hayes - Sarah McQuaid - Katie Spencer

Plumhall - Banter - Southampton Ukulele Jam - Matt Black

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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

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The Brass, Hollands Road
Teignmouth TQ14 8ST

First Monday in the Month

8pm Free admission

Monday 1st April

Guest Night

Guest to be announced

Monday 6th May

Singers' and Musicians' Open Night

Monday 3rd June

Singers' and Musicians' Open Night

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

**Mariners haul in
£2,500 for hospital**

SHANTY singers Mariners Away have raised £2,500 for Royal Devon and Exeter Hospital after several of their members were treated there.

Most of the money came from the Cream of Devon concert they held at Exeter Corn Exchange last October.

The shanty men were joined by Windjammer, Jim Causley, magical harpist Elizabeth-Jane Baldry and Devon-born funny man and compere Jonno.

Additional funds were generated through souvenir programme sales, a lottery and a bucket collection on the night. The total was rounded up to £2500, thanks to generous private donations. Eric Partridge, who spent five weeks on the hospital's Avon Ward recovering from a cardiac arrest, said the "Cream of Devon" concert took many months of planning.

The shanty men are based well inland at South Zeal. Their name is derived from the Mariners' Way, a route used by sailors to travel between the ports of Bideford on the North Devon coast and Dartmouth on the South Devon coast. South Zeal lies en route. The King's Arms in the village is believed to have been one of the hostels used by the old mariners and is now well known for supporting folk events, particularly the popular Third Monday music session every month.

**Gidleigh goes back
to good old days**

THERE was a splendid display of Dartmoor talent past and present at Gidleigh in February. A showing of the 1979 TV film *The Dartmoor Entertainers* featured Bob Cann and the Pixies, Ned and Martha Annaford and many other gifted performers.

The screening was arranged by the Dartmoor Society, whose chair, Bill Murray, was instrumental in setting up the filming by Westward Television. Although many of the entertainers in the 1979 film are no longer with us, their traditions live on. The evening also featured live performers. They included Bob Cann's grandson Mark Bazeley, who appears in the film as a very young concertina player. Mark is now carrying on Bob's Pixie Band.

News in brief

There was music from the Red Dirt Band, whose fiddle player Carl Allerfeldt appears in the film with the Kelly Quarry Blasters.

Proving the tradition is alive and well and still growing, 23-year-old Christabel White gave some step-dancing which would surely have got a nod of approval from Bob Cann who did so much to keep the art alive.

Gidleigh village hall is also host to the monthly Gidsong sessions.

Sagalouts set for seaside singalong

THE Sagalouts, Paul Watts and Hazel Underwood are planning to sing and swim the coast of Devon this summer. Paul and Hazel met 20 years ago through Pennymoor Singaround and are celebrating their 70th birthdays by



combining the things they love best, promoting folk song and music, swimming and Devon.

Following the Pennymoor Song and Ale, on June 7-9, they will be spending the rest of the month busking and swimming at various venues along the Devon coast while collecting for a local charity. Starting at Hartland Quay they will travel east along the north coast to Lynmouth then drop down to Seaton and move west along the south coast to finish at Plymouth. They may even be dropping into a folk club near you along the way. They'd like to invite others to join them for their daily busk, either to participate or listen, with an optional sea swim afterwards.

For details of times, venues and fund raising see the Pennymoor Singaround facebook page or email sagalout1@gmail.com

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Totnes, TQ9 5EL



2nd Thursday in the Month – 8pm

11th April – Singers Night

9th May – Singers Night

13th June – Singers Night

11th July – 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

The Death of Parker

JUNE sees the 226th anniversary of the execution of Exeter man Richard Parker. The event divided the country: for some he was a treacherous mutineer and dangerous Jacobite, to others he was a working class hero.

There were enough who thought of him as a hero to keep his name alive in ballads. Baring-Gould collected the version printed here from Samuel Fone, a mason from Blackdown.

Parker was seen as the ringleader of the Nore Mutiny when Royal Navy sailors seized control of their ships on May 12, 1797. They were following the example of sailors of the fleet at Spithead who had rebelled against the poor pay and conditions. Britain was at war with Napoleon at the time and although the Navy was feted as a heroic bulwark against France, this was not reflected in the rewards for seamen.

The Spithead mutiny was quelled peacefully, with the men winning a pay rise and pardons. But the men at the Nore set up a blockade to stop ships sailing to London. This was a step too far for the British Government. When the mutiny collapsed, there were no pardons and Parker,

who had been elected President of the Delegates of the Fleet – he later claimed his shipmates had done this without his knowledge – was put on trial for “making and endeavouring to make mutinous assemblies”, “disobeying the lawful orders of his superior officers, and treating his superior officers with disrespect”. He was found guilty and sentenced to death.

Parker, the son of a successful Exeter baker and corn factor, had gone to sea at the age of 12. But his career had more than its share of ups and downs and he had been discharged from service and nearly imprisoned for debt.

He considered himself a gentleman and his wife Ann Parker, who watched him being hanged at the yardarm, was determined he should be buried like one. She secretly retrieved his coffin from the naval burying ground at Sheerness. His body was taken to London and crowds gathered to see it until magistrates ordered his burial in St Mary Matfelon Church, Whitechapel.

An Exeter hero or villain? Whatever you decide, it's still a good song.

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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

The Death of Parker

Ye powers a - bove pro - tect the wid - ow
4 and with pit - y look on me O help me, help me
7 out of trou - ble and out of my ca - lam - it - y. For
10 by the death of my brave Par - ker For - tune to me has
13 prov'd un - kind. Tho' doomed by law his death to suf - fer
16 can not cast him from my mind.

Ye Powers above protect the Widow,
And with pity look on me!
O help me, help me out of trouble
And out of my calamity.
For by the death of my brave Parker
Fortune to me has prov'd unkind.
Tho' doomed by law his death to suffer,
I can not cast him from my mind.

O Parker was the truest husband,
Best of friends, whom I love dear.
Yet when he was a-called to suffer,
To him I might not then draw near.
Again I ask'd, again I pleaded,
Three times entreating, all in vain,
They ever that request refused me,
And ordered me ashore again.

The yellow flag I saw was flying,
A signal for my love to die,
The gun was fir'd, as was requir'd
To hang him on the yardarm high.
The boatswain did his best endeavour,
I on the shore was put straightway,
There I tarried, watching, weeping,
My husband's corpse to bear away.

Then farewell Parker best below'd
That was once the Navy's pride.
And since we might not die together,
We separate henceforth abide.
His sorrows now are past and over,
Now he resteth free from pain.
Grant O God his soul may enter,
Where one day we may meet again.

Paul Snow

Singer, musician and folk organiser

PAUL SNOW, who has died of cancer aged 84, was born in Exeter and came to the Folk World through learning guitar to play cowboy song, then in skiffle groups before discovering folk at various venues in London.

He became friends with many of our most influential singers, including Bert Lloyd and, in later years, was sad that he could recall only a few of the “shaggy dog stories” he’d learnt from him. Paul really enjoyed those early days in the Sixties when there were hundreds of clubs and only a few professional folk singers doing the rounds.

After Dave Robbins finished working for EFDSS for Folk Song in the South-West, Bill Rutter was concerned there would be a gap in representation. Although the paid role had ended, he asked Paul to fill in on the basis of expenses only to help continue the development of folk club circuits and introduce folk singers from elsewhere to the South-west. Bill had a forceful personality, so it was no surprise that Paul also got involved in some of the practical areas of Sidmouth Folk Festival’s early years.

Paul began to scale back his professional work and teamed up as roadie and occasional performer with Alex Campbell – not so lonely as travelling alone, though friction can build up in close quarters 24/7! Eventually, Paul gave up professional performance but continued to sing and play in local clubs and was always happy to pass on his knowledge to others.

Paul never recorded an album and it is a great loss that his version of Kipling’s *Cells* to Martin Winsor’s tune among many other standout performances is not available. His own exacting standards meant he felt his voice and guitar playing were no longer as good as they had been so he refused to record them in later years when we tried to persuade him to do so.

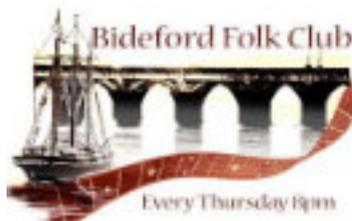
His son Stephen learnt to play the violin and began to sing and play around the clubs. Paul asked him how to play then joined Wren Music’s Folk Orchestra and learnt as they played. The violin became his passion and going to the many music sessions around the country, learning and sharing tunes, remained important until the last few weeks of his life. He learned from the best and his enthusiasm, encouragement and support for others was



legendary. His wit and humour remained with him to the end.

**PAUL SNOW 2 OCTOBER 1939 –
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Jane Snow



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Name of individual, club, group or organisation

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topsham folk club www.topshamfolkclub.org

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

Tom McConville & Michael Biggins

Sunday 24 March 2024

8pm £15 www.tommconville.co.uk
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



Gilmore & Roberts

Sunday 7 April 2024

8pm £14 www.gilmoreroberts.co.uk
Katriona Gilmore (fiddle, mandolin) and Jamie Roberts (guitar) combine award-winning songwriting with astounding musicianship and their trademark harmonies



Nick Hart & Tom Moore

Sunday 12 May 2024

8pm £15 www.nickhartmusic.com
Tom's fiddle and viola playing has been called 'irresistible' (The Independent) and Nick has been described as '...probably the finest interpreter of traditional English folk songs this generation has produced...' (tradfolk.co)



Bryony Griffith & Alice Jones

Sunday 9 June 2024

8pm £15 www.bryonyandalice.com
Hailing from West Yorkshire Bryony and Alice accompany themselves on fiddle and harmonium/guitar and share lead vocals
"Straight up, beautiful and bold folk singing"
- Mark Radcliffe, BBC Folk Show



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)



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

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

www.facebook.com/topshamfolkclub

all enquiries 01392 874718



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

coming later this year: Sunday 15 September - Chris Wood

Sunday 3 November - A dance with Blowzabella