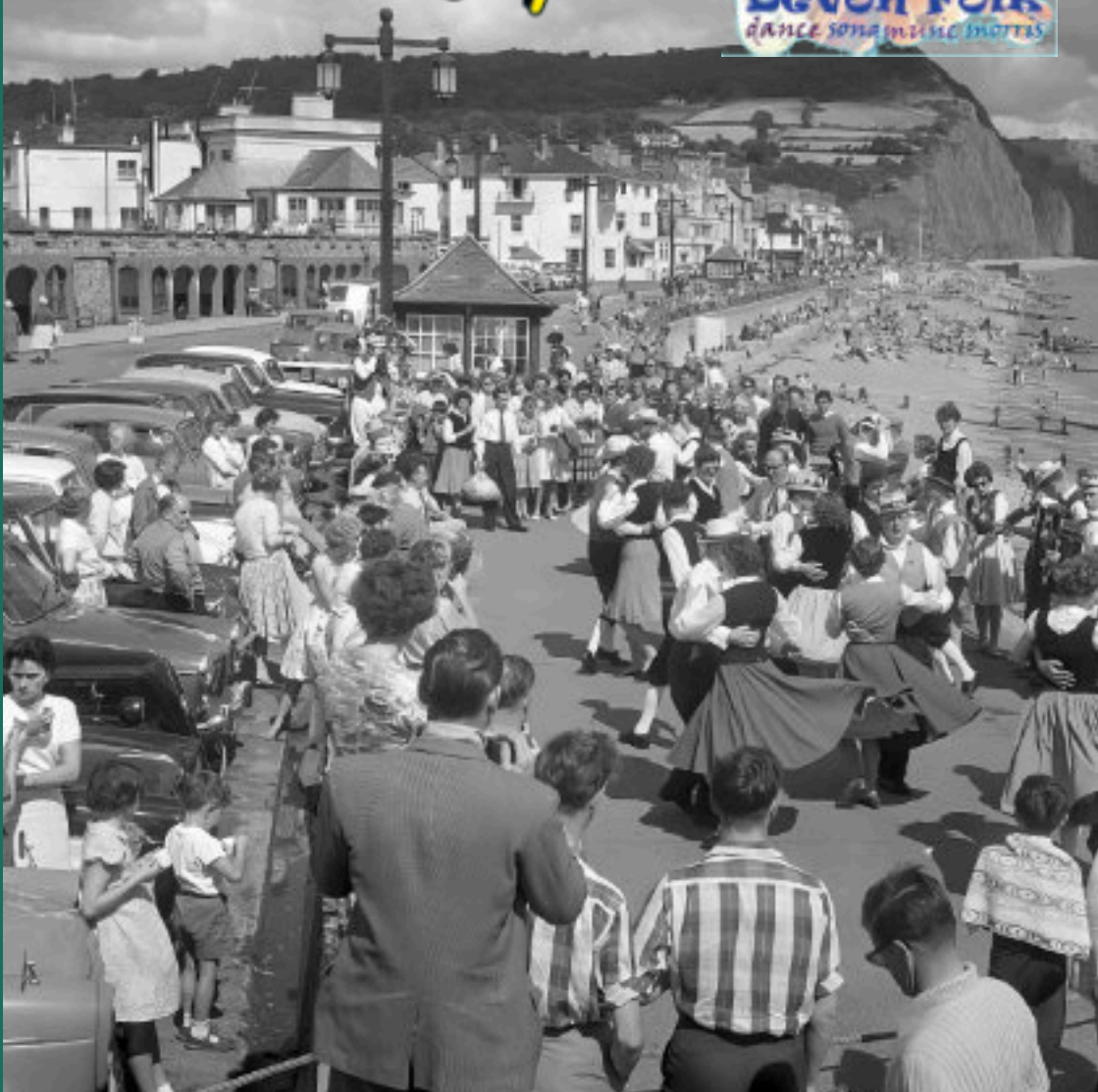


# No 135 July-September 2024

# What's Afoot

The official  
magazine of

**Devon Folks**  
DANCE SONG MUSIC MOTTS



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PLUS: NEWS, FEATURES AND LISTINGS

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Articles, features, news to:

**EDITOR**

John Foxen  
devonfolkeditor@gmail.com

129 Tamar Avenue,  
Tavistock, Devon,  
PL19 9HZ

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

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

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## EDITORIAL

IT WAS Jason Rice of the Dartmoor Pixie Band who got me pondering again the question: "What is folk music?" That wasn't his intention. He had merely posted on Facebook about his recent trip to London and going to see Barry Manilow. I posted the rather snarky comment: "I look forward to the Pixie's version of *Copacabana*." This came back to haunt me the next day while playing for Lodestone Border Morris at the Mount Edgumbe Green Man Weekend. We shared a spot with Boudica, a new side from Cornwall, who were dancing to *Jailhouse Rock* and *Sweet Home Alabama*, played on folk instruments – accordion, recorder – but with a heavy electric bass. It was a new way to do things – but not that new. For a good few years, Steampunk Morris is known have danced to acoustic, folkified versions of rock tunes such as *Paint It Black* and *Spirit In The Sky*. Both of these tunes are getting on for 60 years old, so do they qualify as folk songs? Tunes have to come from somewhere and *Golden Slippers*, a Pixie favourite, was huge pop song in its day (1880). So the idea of the Pixies playing *Copacabana* may not be that ludicrous. One thing we can be sure of is that they would make it a dance floor favourite.

**JOHN FOXEN**

### NEXT COPY DEADLINE: August 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.

# Dance takes squire on trip through time

## A chance encounter at a festival forges a link with an incredible 125-year old story

IT WAS a highly emotional moment for David Aylieff-Sansom, squire of Dartmoor Border Morris, when he found himself face to face with a living link to the events of 125 years ago that he had just been talking about.

DBM were at the Bovey Tracey Green Man festival and had performed *Porlock Hill*. The dance commemorates the heroic action of the crew of Lynmouth Lifeboat who dragged their boat up and down some of the steepest slopes in the West Country to launch from Porlock Weir and rescue a ship in trouble.

After the dance, a man came up to David to thank him for commemorating this feat. "My grandfather was on that lifeboat," he said. "He was presented with a watch as thanks for it. The watch was passed on to me and today I have just given it to my own grandson."

"I was thunderstruck," said David. "Before the dance I'd told the story of the lifeboat Louisa and her gallant crew. Then here I was face to face with the grandson of a man who had been on the lifeboat. I was so overcome I didn't even ask the man his name."

When DBM were due to perform at their next spot, David was still so emotional, he didn't think he could repeat the story of this coincidence when introducing the dance. A friend persuaded him to do it and now it is part of his standard introduction to the dance.

The incident has surprised the dance's creator, Barrie Cann of the now defunct Exmoor Morris who passed *Porlock Hill* on to DBM. "In all the years Exmoor have been dancing *Porlock Hill*, nothing like that has ever happened to me," he said.

The story behind the dance is a powerful one. On 12 January 1899, the Forrest Hall, a 1,900-ton ship, was sailing from Bristol to Liverpool when a storm threatened to blow her ashore at Porlock.

The vessel had been under tow but the cable had snapped and the rudder was washed away

in the strong winds. At 7.52pm, Lynmouth Lifeboat Station was alerted by telegram but the storm was blowing into the harbour and there was no chance of launching from Lynmouth.

So Coxswain Jack Crocombe proposed the lifeboat be dragged overland and launched from the more sheltered Porlock Weir. This 14-mile journey included a climb of 434m over Countisbury Hill and a trek across Exmoor.

Around 100 local people gathered to haul the Louisa, which was 10m long and weighed 10 tons. Eighteen horses were lent by a local farm and six men were sent ahead with shovels to widen parts of the road.

After the climb up Countisbury Hill, the crowd stopped for refreshments at the Blue Ball Inn, where they had to repair a carriage wheel that had fallen off. Most of the 100 helpers turned back, leaving just 20 men, including the 14 lifeboat crew, to control the boat down the swooping hill into Porlock.

AT ONE stage, the boat was dragged on skids, as the road was too narrow for the carriage and could not be widened. They even had to knock down part of a garden wall to let the carriage horses through.

The men finally reached the sea at 6.30am on 13 January, after nearly 11 hours. They were tired and hungry but immediately launched. It took another hour's rowing through rough sea and ferocious storm to reach the Forrest Hall. The ship had anchored close to Hurlstone Point and the lifeboat stood by, rowing continuously to keep a safe position.

At daylight, two tugs arrived and managed to get a rope across to tow the ship. Several lifeboat men went on board the Forrest Hall to help the exhausted sailors raise their anchors. The tugs towed the ship across the channel to Barry, accompanied by the lifeboat in case difficulties arose. They arrived safely at 6pm.

## A Living Tradition



**LIFESAVER: The lifeboat Louisa and crew in 1903. This sturdy open boat, powered only by oars, was always ready to brave the fiercest storms to rescue those in peril on the sea.**

The Lynmouth lifeboat crew then rowed back to Lynmouth that night, finally reaching home at 11.30am on 14 January.

Their heroic efforts meant the 18 crew of the Forrest Hall all survived. It still stands as one of the most challenging feats undertaken in RNLI history.

The owners of the Forrest Hall presented Coxswain Jack and the assistant coxswain with gold watches and gave silver watches to the rest of the crew. Thanks to the unknown spectator at Bovey Tracey, we now know that at least one of the watches and its story is being passed on.

David said with regret: "I wish I'd had the sense to ask the spectator his name. Now I don't know whether his grandfather got a gold or silver watch. He might even be the grandson of Coxswain Jack. I should have asked but I was so overcome. I still well up when I think of the story.

"When I tell the story the Louisa at an out, I can see how it resonates with the audience. They are gripped by it.

"I had another brush with the past when we danced out at Meavy recently. I got talking to a couple and mentioned how the watches were donated by the owners of the Forrest Hall, the Fry family of Bristol. The man went as white as a sheet and said, 'I just felt as though someone walked over my grave. My name is Fry and I know my family comes from Bristol. I must dig back into my family history and find

out if there is a connection'." So the story keeps growing. If you can fill in any gaps, please email [devonfolkeditor@gmail.com](mailto:devonfolkeditor@gmail.com)

Said David: "The side and I are honoured to carry on this wonderful dance and the link with the past." After they were seen performing it, DBM were invited to appear at Mothecombe House at a special fundraising event to celebrate 200 years of the RNLI on June 29. No doubt there will be other invitations. A businessman from Porlock has raised the possibility of inviting DBM to perform the dance there, which David says would be something really special.

**S**HOULD you wish to find out more about this incredible feat, the Louisa's journey is described in the book *The Overland Launch* by C Walter Hodges (Puffin). Although it's a children's book, it's a good read.

Acclaimed folk musician Tim Laycock collaborated with Steve Eaton Evans to produce *Storm Boy*, a play with music and song telling the Louisa's story.

The BBC Radio 4 play *Hard Row To Porlock* is a gripping account of the journey but unfortunately it is not available on BBC Sounds at the moment.

The overland launch was re-enacted in daylight on 12 January, 1999, to commemorate its centenary. Although the roads had improved, the weather was almost as poor as it was in 1899.

## A Living Tradition



PICTURE: Heather Newland

*Barrie's dance illustrates the efforts of the crew with a number of innovative moves. Here the dancers duck and dive under the sticks to represent the waves tossing the lifeboat. Other moves show the crew rowing, turning the capstan and hauling on ropes – a tricky move which involves passing their sticks from hand to hand. Joked one DBM dancer: "The wheel on the carriage came off during the journey. If we're not on our toes, that can happen to us during the dance."*

AFTER Barrie Cann taught the Porlock Hill dance to DBM, the side asked how they could repay his kindness. He asked them to make a donation to the RNLI. DBM used the Launch A Memory scheme. Donors can ask for the name of a deceased loved one to be printed on the RNLI decal on the side of a new lifeboat. The boat available at the time was at Whitby and it now bears the names of Coxswain Jack and EB Morris. This is fitting because the Yorkshire town has a similar story.

On the Saturday, 15 January, 1881, a storm wrecked the brig *Visitor* in Robin Hood's Bay, north of Whitby, leaving the crew stranded in a longboat unable to get through the bay's treacherous rocks. The local lifeboat was out of action for repairs and Whitby Lifeboat was summoned. But the crew faced the same problem as the men of Lynmouth would eight years later: the wind blowing straight into the harbour



made a launch impossible. In the teeth of a blizzard, the crew hauled the lifeboat eight miles over the moors to Robin Hood's Bay, digging their way through snow as they went. They launched and saved the crew.

If you would like to commemorate a loved one and help the RNLI, the new Exmouth lifeboat is part of the scheme. See <https://rnli.org/support-us/give-money/donate-in-memory/launch-a-memory>

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# Bearing witness to Baring-Gould



**This year is the centenary of the death of the energetic parson who collected so many West Country songs. JIM CAUSLEY tells us about his travelling show that celebrates the man and his songs and stories**

**L**AST year John Palmer approached me about his new idea for a show celebrating the centenary of the death of the Reverend Sabine Baring-Gould. He died at his home in Lewtrenchard on 2 January, 1924, just a few weeks short of his 90<sup>th</sup> birthday. (Unhelpfully, Cecil Sharp also died in 1924 but he was 25 years Baring-Gould's junior!)

John has produced two very successful shows in recent years. One celebrates the works of Edith Holden, whose book, *The Country Diary of an Edwardian Lady*, was originally written as a workbook to teach school children. The show combined her writings with songs collected by Cecil Sharp, whose book *English Folk Songs for Schools* was being used in schools at the same time.

John's most recent show, *From Pub to Pulpit*, celebrated the work of Ralph Vaughan Williams and mostly toured the cathedrals of England with performances of the traditional folk songs RVW collected alongside the classical pieces he composed which were performed the cathedral choirs in each town.

John became aware of Baring-Gould through these previous projects as Sabine was in contact with both Vaughan Williams and Cecil Sharp and in fact, co-created *English Folk Songs for Schools* with Sharp. John had become enthralled by Baring-Gould's books on various topics from folklore, travels in Iceland,

ghosts, werewolves, mythology, history and archaeology, folk-song collecting and of course, Baring-Gould's own, fascinating life story. Baring-Gould himself toured a show based on his *Songs and Ballads of the West*. He gave readings about the context of the songs which were performed by trained opera singers with a piano accompaniment.

The show became so successful that Baring-Gould set up a professional touring company so it could continue to tour without him, which it did for 10 years and even toured the United States. He also was a top-selling Victorian novelist, up there in the book charts of the day with Dickens and Hardy.

**J**OHAN had the idea of combining Baring-Gould's touring show with a new show that would be a mixture of his fascinating writings and peppered with songs from Baring-Gould's collection and songs SBG composed himself, that complemented the text. John first contacted me as he knew I was I great admirer of SBG.

We got chatting and decided we needed a female voice as part of the mix. Several names were discussed but we both felt Miranda Sykes would be a dream catch if she was up for it. I have worked with Miranda several times over the years on various Show of Hands projects and knew our voices worked well together.

We contacted Miranda and she was very



## Honouring the Parson



**THE ROAD SHOW  
CREW: Jim  
Causley, John  
Palmer and  
Miranda Sykes  
are taking their  
Baring-Gould  
show round the  
country**

keen to be involved from the get-go, which was fantastic news. So we've been busily rehearsing away and putting the show together. John has cleverly selected stories that have excellent song connections. Some of SBG's stories even feature songs already which is a great coup.

Sabine himself was an utterly compelling and seemingly contradictory character: a high church Anglican priest on one hand and yet completely beguiled by the occult and all things that go bump in the night!

Quite unusual you might think for a vicar but then the Victorians had quite different tastes and sensibilities to us in the 21st century. They may have been deeply offended by songs about young men mowing ladies' meadows but shockingly graphic blood and gore was quite acceptable. You only have to look at the early Victorian Christmas cards to realise that they had a very different outlook on the world to western folks today.

In the first half of our show, we focus on Baring-Gould's early life and his first post as a curate in Yorkshire where he collected his first folk song and composed *Onward Christian Soldiers* for the local children's Whit Sunday parade. We then follow him to Essex where he writes the gothic novel that made him a household name: *Mehalah*, set amongst the dreary Essex marshes. Then in the second half

of the show we focus more on Baring-Gould's spooky and macabre books with tales of ghosts, vampires and werewolves and some very choice songs that enhance the atmosphere perfectly!

We began the tour with an exclusive warm-up concert in the church of St Cyr & St Julitta in Newton St Cyres on 11 May then we had our official launch in Horbury, near Wakefield, where SBG wrote *Onward Christian Soldiers* and where he met his wife-to-be; Grace, (the 15-year-old daughter of a mill owner.)

**T**HE people of Horbury were very appreciative and they have a very special place in their hearts for Baring-Gould, so much so that they had an entire weekend of celebrations for the man himself, culminating in a recreation of the Whit Sunday procession for which SBG specially penned *Onward*. We have several dates on the tour that we are particularly looking forward to: Colchester is the closest concert to Mersea Island where SBG was posted for 10 years. He absolutely detested the area but wrote some cracking novels there.

We will of course be appearing at Sidmouth Folk Festival and Beautiful Days among others, as well as performing in SBG's native Devon and fittingly we end the tour around Hallowe'en time in the Samuel Worth Chapel

## Honouring the Parson

in Sheffield which is in the middle of a massive cemetery. This is going to be such a fun show to take around the country and showcase what an extraordinary and unique Englishman Baring-Gould was. I haven't heard of any major plans for a similar celebration of Cecil Sharp this year, but there have been a lot of projects about Cecil Sharp in the last two decades so perhaps it's SBG's time to shine.

### WHERE TO SEE JIM CAUSLEY'S BARING-GOULD ROAD SHOW

#### JULY

- 3 Penzance Literature Festival  
[www.pzlitfest.co.uk/](http://www.pzlitfest.co.uk/)
- 7 Lichfield Festival  
<https://lichfieldfestival.org/>
- 20 South Petherton, The David Hall  
[info@thedavidhall.org.uk](mailto:info@thedavidhall.org.uk)

#### AUGUST

- 3 Broadstairs
- 16 Beautiful Days Festival
- 21 Whitby Folk Week
- 25 Lyme Regis Folk Festival

#### SEPTEMBER

- 26 Torrington
- 27 Devoran Village Hall
- 28 Corsham

#### OCTOBER

- 6 Hartlepool
- 20 Bristol
- 21 Colchester
- 22 Swanton Novers
- 24 Calstock Arts Centre
- 25 London
- 26 Wotton under Edge
- 28 Exeter Phoenix Arts

- <https://exeterphoenix.org.uk/>
- 31 Chagford St Michael the Archangel

#### NOVEMBER

- 2 Barton upon Humber
- 3 Samuel Worth Chapel

**PS** WHAT'S Afoot has heard that South Brent Folk is planning a Baring-Gould-themed event for the autumn. More details when we get them.

We have also just been told about a series of shows and podcasts, *The Parson And The Songmen*, by Mike Bosworth. Check him out at The Parson and the Songmen on Facebook and his podcast at [theparsonandthesongmen.buzzsprout.com](http://theparsonandthesongmen.buzzsprout.com)

If you know of any more such events or podcasts, we would like to hear of them. Please email [devonfolkeditor@gmail.com](mailto:devonfolkeditor@gmail.com)

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**--- NO FOLK CLUB IN AUGUST ---**  
**12<sup>th</sup> September – Singers Night**

For more information contact  
Andy: [ndclarke6@gmail.com](mailto:ndclarke6@gmail.com)  
Anne: [anne.m.gill@icloud.com](mailto:anne.m.gill@icloud.com)  
Visit our Facebook page or contact  
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THE 70TH SIDMOUTH  
FOLK FESTIVAL  
2ND - 9TH AUGUST 2024

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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 Song Band | Catrin Finch & Aoife Ní Bhriain  
Melrose Quartet | O'Hooley & Tidow | The Breath | The Melsons (Melrose Quartet & The Wilsons)  
Saltsif forty | Granny's Attic | Stick In The Wheel | Zulu Tradition

Chris While & Julie Matthews | Fay Hield | Filkin's Ensemble | Jack Rutter  
Jo Freya 50th Special | Kiteewing | 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

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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  
Polkworks | Stepping Ceilidh | Tickled Pink | Chris Wood & Andy Cutting | Alison Rowley  
Bary Goodman | Erin Mansfield | Fee Lock | Gordon Poits | Ian Nichols | Jane Bird | Nancy Potts

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the box office on

# A festival old in years but young at heart

**O**UR cover photograph from long-gone days illustrates this festival's age. But Sidmouth's youthful vibe is underlined by the fact that Shooting Roots, Stream Of Sound, Halsway Young Folk and the National Youth Folk Ensemble will all be taking part this year.

Over its 70 years, the festival has inspired and encouraged many young performers who have gone on to become national names. This year, as well as watching great established performers such as Ralph McTell, Kate Rusby and Maddy Prior, keep an eye and an ear out for the next Jim Causley or Seth Lakeman. You might not see them on stage but in a session or on the street. For the past two years I have seen a couple of young lads busking on the promenade with guitar and vocals who struck me as very promising. See if you can pick them out and see if you think the same as I do.

A host of concerts, ceilidhs and workshops

are on offer (see our Rough Guide on page 14) but there are also the sessions at the Cricket Club (where many of us park for the day), the Bedford Hotel and other pubs around the town.

There will be a cavalcade of morris dancers on the promenade for Sidmouth Sunday and smaller morris events throughout the town during the week. Watch out also for the folk of Sid Vale Community Productions who will be performing their version of *Robin Hood* in various venues.

Best of all, bask in the community spirit of Sidmouth, which proved so strong last year that public donations managed to bring dancing back to the Bulverton and saved the Late Night Extras.

As ever, the festival will close on Friday evening with a torchlight procession. The spirit seems strong enough to keep those torches burning for another 70 years.



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

**PROGRAMME**

<b>7 JUL</b>	<b>CROWS</b>
<b>14 JUL</b>	<b>SINGERS' NIGHT</b>
<b>21 JUL</b>	<b>SIMPLY DYLAN</b>
<b>28 JUL</b>	<b>SINGERS' NIGHT</b>
<b>CLUB CLOSED IN AUGUST</b>	
<b>1 SEP</b>	<b>SINGERS' NIGHT</b>
<b>8 SEP</b>	<b>SINGERS' NIGHT</b>
<b>15 SEP</b>	<b>CHARLIE DORE DUO</b>
<b>22 SEP</b>	<b>SINGERS' NIGHT</b>
<b>29 SEP</b>	<b>BROOKS WILLIAMS / VERA V HEERINGEN</b>

**7.45pm**  
**SUNDAYS**  
Non-specified  
dates are  
Singers'  
Nights

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or email [folkonthemoor1@gmail.com](mailto:folkonthemoor1@gmail.com)

# Former editor of What's Afoot, Colin Andrews has been running singarounds at Sidmouth for years. We asked for his thoughts on festivals past and present

**S**IDMOUTH is 70 this year. That means it must be 60 years ago that I first went to the festival and I think I've missed only a couple of years since.

Memories of those early visits are rather vague – camping somewhere (not the present site!) with my cousin, chatting up a couple of young sisters from Sidford, exploring sessions at the former Horse & Groom, the Beach Store and the Drill Hall. I had only just become involved in folk song and I was truly inspired.

1969, the year after I left university, was the first time I was involved with any Morris dancing at the festival in workshop sessions, having joined Chanctonbury Ring Morris Men.

In 1973, my wife Sonja and I moved to Devon. For many years thereafter busking with Exeter Morris, then in the Nineties with Winkleigh Morris as well, became a regular part of the festival activities. I think Exeter were an invited side for the 25th Anniversary.

During the late Seventies, Sonja and I used to volunteer for stewarding, though the venues were rarely in town.

Once it was for a festival concert at Exmouth, at other times an evening function at Sidbury Village Hall. That was very convenient as we were camping opposite with a folk dance group, possibly Woodfidley, even though we weren't members. I can't remember how that arrangement came about.

After our son was born in 1981, we continued to attend the festival, not always camping but travelling each day from home. While folk song was still our main interest, we used to enjoy the international displays and concerts at the Arena, now sadly disused.

Our commitment to running events began in the early 2000s, the year after Steve Heap withdrew as festival director/organiser. In that



first post-Heap year everything was very ad-hoc. Sonja and I volunteered to run a themed singaround and a music session at the Woodlands Hotel, and, with the support of Winkleigh Morris, I ran a Morris workshop – at a marquee on the Ham, I think.

By the following year a new formal festival organisation had been set up. Because the themed singaround had proved very

popular, we were both happy to continue to run it and have done ever since. W

e had a few years at the Woodlands, then moved to the Rugby Club (rather too large for our purpose) then back to the Woodlands, briefly, before transferring to the Royal Glen Hotel, which has become our preferred venue.

**A** GOOD nucleus of singers has supported the themed singarounds over the years, so when Covid restrictions put the festival in limbo for two seasons, we set up a Zoom singaround with our regulars and other Zoom friends from the UK and in the US and Australia. Although the live themed sessions have resumed in Sidmouth Week, we still run the Zoom session monthly throughout the rest of the year.

We gave up camping many years ago, and ever since the Sidmouth themed singarounds started we have driven from home each day. More recently, we have found the travelling quite tiring.

Des and Maggie Redwood, regular live and Zoom singers from the Midlands, have helped us by hosting a couple of sessions in the last two years, and, from 2024, will be named hosts on the festival programme.

We haven't given up completely and I certainly intend to take part in as many sessions as possible. We will still be regular visitors but taking rather more of a back seat.

# A Rough Guide to Sidmouth at 70

*Certainly not a comprehensive list of what's on offer but some highlights to help you plan ahead*

## **THURSDAY 1**

### **HAM 3PM**

Fisherman's Friends.

Sold out already

### **HAM 8PM**

Ukulele Orchestra of Great Britain.

## **FRIDAY 2**

### **HAM 3PM**

Steeleye Span

### **HAM 8PM**

McGoldrick McCusker Doyle with Allison de Groot & Tatiana Hargreaves

### **BULVERTON FROM 7PM**

Skipinnish + Jack Rutter

LNE: Tickled Pink,

Caller Cate Haynes

### **BLACKMORE GARDENS**

### **MARQUEE CEILIDH 7.30PM**

Polkaworks

Caller Erin Mansfield

## **SATURDAY 3**

### **HAM 11.30AM**

Welcome Concert with Sidmouth Town Band, Halsway Young Folk and festival guests. Open to all.

### **3.15PM HAM**

The Melsons (Melrose Quartet & The Wilsons)

### **8PM HAM**

Blazin' Fiddles + support

### **BLACKMORE GARDENS**

### **MARQUEE CEILIDH 7.30PM**

Cock & Bull Band

Caller Michael Catovsky

### **BULVERTON FROM 7PM**

Sea Song Sessions with Jon Boden, Seth Lakeman, Ben Nicholls, Emily Portman & Jack Rutter + Frankie Archer  
LNE: Folk Camps Party Band.  
Caller Barry Goodman

## **SUNDAY 4**

### **12 NOON HAM**

Story of Sidmouth Concert:  
Local music groups and

festival guests in a concert reflecting the town's rich history.

### **3.15PM HAM**

Karine Polwart + support

### **8PM HAM**

Steve Knightley & Friends

### **BULVERTON FROM 7PM**

We Are The Monsters +

Saltfishforty

LNE: The Cock & Bull Band.

Caller Michael Catovsky

### **BLACKMORE GARDENS**

### **MARQUEE CEILIDH 7.30PM**

The Old Swan Band & Friends

Callers Fi Fraser & Jo Freya

## **MONDAY 5**

### **12 NOON HAM**

Daphne's Flight

### **3.15PM HAM**

Catrin Finch & Aoife ni Bhriain

### **BULVERTON FROM 7PM**

Mad Dog Mcrea + Oli

Matthews Band

LNE: Melrose Ceilidh Band.

Caller Fee Lock

### **BLACKMORE GARDENS**

### **MARQUEE CEILIDH 7.30PM**

Granny's Attic

## **TUESDAY 6**

### **12 NOON HAM**

Paul Downes & Phil Beer & Friends

### **3.15PM HAM**

Spooky Men's Chorale+

### **8PM HAM**

Ralph McTell

### **BULVERTON FROM 7PM**

Blowzabella + Re:Vulva

LNE: The Oyster Ceilidh Band with special guests. Callers Nancy & Gordon Potts.

### **BLACKMORE GARDENS**

### **MARQUEE CEILIDH 7.30PM**

Shooting Roots Celebration &

New Callers Showcase

Ceilidh: James Delarre, Saul

Rose & Dave Delarre

## **WEDNESDAY 7**

### **12 NOON HAM**

Blowzabella

### **8PM HAM**

Oysterband

### **BULVERTON FROM 7PM**

Kinnaris Quintet + support

LNE: See website

### **BLACKMORE GARDENS**

### **MARQUEE CEILIDH 7.30PM**

Morris Wednesday, hosted by Great Western Morris

## **THURSDAY 8**

### **12NOON HAM**

Jo Freya with Fi Fraser, Andy Cutting, Mary Macmaster, Tim Edey

### **2.45PM HAM**

Martin Simpson + The Breath

### **8PM HAM**

Kate Rusby

### **BULVERTON FROM 7PM**

Mànran + Filkin's Ensemble

LNE: Bedlam. Caller Gordon Potts

### **BLACKMORE GARDENS**

### **MARQUEE CEILIDH 7.30PM**

Sidmouth Seaside Stompers Ceilidh Band. Caller Nick Walden

## **FRIDAY 9**

### **12NOON HAM**

Festival Workshop Showcase

### **3.15PM HAM**

Chris Wood & Andy Cutting and National Youth Folk Ensemble

### **7.30PM HAM**

O'Hooley & Tidow + Angeline Morrison & the Sorrow Songs Band

### **BULVERTON FROM 7PM**

Brown Boots Boogie Band (Final LNE)

### **BLACKMORE GARDENS**

### **MARQUEE CEILIDH 7.30PM**

Celebration Contra with Hoik. Caller, Charlotte Rich-Griffin

## And more festivals

### DARTMOOR FOLK FESTIVAL

9th, 10th & 11th August

DARTMOOR Folk Festival can be seen as the perfect follow-on to Sidmouth (for folkies with real stamina) or a splendid little festival in its own right with a real village feel.

This year the event in South Zeal features local heroes Kathryn Roberts and Sean Lakeman alongside Track Dogs, Narthen, Tim Edey, Bryony Griffith and Alice Jones, The Stowes, Luke Daniels and Lucy Beattie, and Detta Kenzie.

The Dartmoor Pixie Band, heirs to festival founder Bob Cann, will, of course, be providing a ceilidh, as will folk veterans Flowers and Frolics, pictured right.

There will also be sessions in the King's Arms pub (home to the excellent third Monday music sessions every month).

A huge part of the festival is the Dartmoor Step Dance competition. There will be a workshop on Saturday morning (boards provided) and those who feel confident enough can take part in the competition in the afternoon.

A broom dance workshop on Saturday morning will be followed by a competition for primary school age children in the afternoon.

There will also be morris dancing from local



sides Tinnors Morris of South Zeal and Cogs & Wheels of Sticklepath.

While camping at Sidmouth requires a bus ride into town (hardy souls walk or cycle), the Dartmoor Festival The festival campsite is a five minute walk from the main festival site. It is strictly limited to Weekend Ticket holders and is an option for those buying a full weekend ticket.

The campsite opens 9am on Friday and must be vacated by noon on Monday. Dogs are allowed on the festival campsite but not at any of the festival venues. An exception is made for registered assistance dogs.

See [dartmoorfolkfestival.org.uk](http://dartmoorfolkfestival.org.uk)

### WIDECOMBE FAIR

Tuesday 10th September

9am until late

THIS is a proper old established country fair – famed in song – with plenty of folk music thrown in along with ferret racing (pictured), pony club displays and hay bale tossing. And of course there will be Uncle Tom Cobby and his grey mare (but please don't ask if seven of you can get up on her back).

There used to be an old radio show called Country Meets Folk. This fair is more Folk Meets Country, when folkies from the town, who are more acquainted with stock market shares than ploughshares and would probably try to milk a heifer, can mingle with real singing farmers such as the amazing Tich Scott (see page 24).

There will be live music performances all day in the main marquee and also at the Rugglestone Inn just down the road.

Artists had not been confirmed as we went to press but expect to see Jim Causley, Bill Murray and Banned From The Moor and

probably Geoff Lakeman and Rob Murch. There will also be dancing from Beltane and Dartmoor border morris sides. Last year, Dartmoor's dancers made a little bit of history by performing to the music of the Cornish Piper Fairground Organ which is a fixture at the fair. Can they do it again this year?

For details, see [www.widcombefair.com](http://www.widcombefair.com)



## And more festivals

### LYME DAY OF DANCE

**Saturday 13th July**

THIS year Lyme Morris are hosting their biggest day of dance yet in Lyme Regis with 30 morris sides – some 400 musicians and dancers – taking part. The fun starts at 11am with a procession down to the seafront followed by dancing at seven locations, including the main stage, until 5pm. There will be a seafront ceilidh with Teasing The Cat at 7pm and soul and blues music from Hot Java at 8pm.

Sides taking part include Beltane, The Belles of London City, Sidmouth Steppers, The Woodworld, Raddon Hill, Seven Champs,

Seven Sisters, Garson Gallopers, Black Swan, Grimspound, Otter, Black Bess, Lodestone, Wyld Morris, Mr Wilkins Shilling, Glory of the West, Bradninch Millers, Dartington, Barrel, Festus Derrimen, Westminster, Tinnors, Sarum, Bootstrap, Quayside Cloggers, Holly Copse Morris, Exeter, Wild Moon and Box Hill Bedlam.

Lyme Morris are still on the lookout for musicians. This seems to be a regular plea from the side, who seem to go through more musicians than Spinal Tap goes through drummers. If you can play a squeezebox, fiddle or whistle, give Lyme Morris a call.

### CORNWALL FOLK FESTIVAL

**22th - 26th August**

SPREAD over four days, the festival at Wadebridge starts with a Cornish Nos Lowen (a night of Cornish dancing) on Thursday. Concerts will feature Suthering (from Tavistock), Reg Meouss, Lady Maisery, Tarren (pictured) and other artists. There is also plenty of street entertainment on offer during the day, particularly in “Shanty Street” the name for a project to fill Molesworth Street and the Saltbox in the middle of Wadebridge with music and dance throughout the day, Saturday, Sunday and Monday

For more details see [cornwallfolkfestival.com](http://cornwallfolkfestival.com).



## And looking even further ahead...

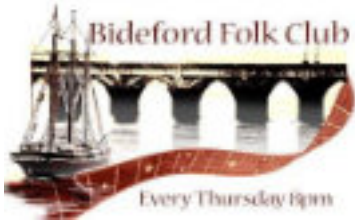
FOLLOWING the success of Devon Folk's first folk day for 16 years, the committee has agreed to hold another one next year.

Details have yet to be confirmed but the committee is looking at a date in March to coincide with the Devon Folk AGM.

This year's festival in March featured performances and workshops by Gadarene, a ceilidh with the Mooncoin Band, step dancing with Matt Norman and Jim Causley singing and talking about Baring-Gould (if you missed him, see page 10 for details of where to catch Jim's full Baring-Gould show next).

The event was held in Morchard Bishop but may be moved to a location more easily accessible by public transport. If you have strong feelings about this contact a committee member (list on page 35).

Thanks to all those Devon Folk who took part, particularly Anne and Steve Gill, Jim Causley, Colin Andrews, Kat Blockley and Jon Shapley.



**Bideford Folk Club**  
Every Thursday 8pm

**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**  
October 17<sup>th</sup> - Jim Causley  
December 5<sup>th</sup> - Donnelly and South's Christmas Cracker

**John Purser**  
01237 424286  
[bidefolk@gmail.com](mailto:bidefolk@gmail.com)



## 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](http://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](mailto:devonfolkwebmaster@gmail.com) or [devonfolkeditor@gmail.com](mailto: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 1<sup>st</sup> 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](mailto: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](http://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](mailto:bunelik@gmail.com)

## BIDEFORD

**Thursday** Bideford Folk Club. Joiners Arms - John Purser 01237 424286 or email [bidefolk@gmail.com](mailto:bidefolk@gmail.com)

## BISHOPSTEIGNTON

**Wednesday** 7.30pm. Red Rock Brewery, John Morey 07791 054773. [www.oldworkshop.org](http://www.oldworkshop.org).

## BODMIN

**Friday:** The Old Library, 10 Lower Bore Street, PL31 2JX [www.bodminfolk.co.uk](http://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, 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](mailto: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](mailto:markjefferys7@gmail.com)

## DENBURY

**Thursday** 8.30pm. Denbury Folk. Union Inn, The Green,t 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. Also guest nights. Tel: Peter Cornelius 01392 210983 [www.exeterfolkclub.org/](http://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

**Last Tuesday** (or Last Wednesday) 8pm. Gidsong. Gideligh Village Hall. See Village Hall Facebook page or

[email.dartmoorbill@yahoo.com](mailto:email.dartmoorbill@yahoo.com)

## IPPLEPEN

**4th Tuesday:** Shape Note singing Methodist Church, East Street, TQ12 5SX [jeremyjamesdonaldson@gmail.com](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto: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,**  
St John Ambulance Hall,

Westgate Street, Launceston.  
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.

### SOUTH HAMS

**South Hams Folk Dance Club,**  
West Charleton Village Hall  
TQ7 2AG. Wednesdays  
7.45pm September to April.  
Tel: Philip 01548 561415.

# Social Dance

## 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. [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

### JULY

#### MONDAY 1

**Bow Movement,**  
Teignmouth Folk Club,  
The Brass, Hollands Road,  
Teignmouth TQ14

#### TUESDAY 2

Bradfolk Bradninch Folk  
Club, Bar of the Castle Hotel,  
1 Fore Street, Bradninch.  
EX5 4NN

#### WEDNESDAY 3

**Gittisham Folk Dance Club.**  
Caller: Chris Jewell Band:  
Fresh Aire, Gittisham Village  
Hall, Gittisham EX14 3AF  
nr Honiton,

#### FRIDAY 5

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

**Bookends:** Simon &  
Garfunkel Through

The Years,

Beehive Arts Centre,  
Dowell Street, Honiton  
EX14 1LZ

#### SATURDAY 6

**Willand Folk Dance Club.**  
Caller: Brian Stanton Band:  
Deo Velente, Willand Village  
Hall, Gables Road, Willand,  
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, Gittisham  
EX14 3AF nr. Honiton

#### THURSDAY 11

**Kathryn Roberts & Sean  
Lakeman.** Modern British  
folk, Otterton Mill,  
nr Budleigh Salterton  
EX9 7HG

**Totnes Folk Club** Guest Night  
with husband-and-wife duo  
Flynn Cohen & Liz Simmons  
from the trio Low Lilly,  
Dartmouth Inn, 28 Warland,  
Totnes TQ9 5EL

#### FRIDAY 12

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

#### SATURDAY 13

**Harbottle and Jonas**  
Wildgoose album launch, St  
Mary's Church, 9 High Street  
Totnes TQ9 5NN

#### WEDNESDAY 17

**Gittisham Folk Dance Club.**  
Caller: Robert Blackborow  
Band: Ian and Margaret,  
Gittisham Village Hall,  
Gittisham EX14 3AF  
nr. Honiton

#### FRIDAY 19

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

#### SATURDAY 20

**Mad Dog Mcreea,**  
Morwellham Quay,  
Tavistock, PL19 8JL

#### SUNDAY 21

**Simply Dylan,** Folk on the  
Moor, Moorland Hotel,  
Wotter, Plymouth PL7 5HP

#### WEDNESDAY 24

**Gittisham Folk Dance Club.**  
Caller: Simon Maplesden

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

#### THURSDAY 25

**Martin Harley Trio.** Roots/  
Blues/Slide guitar, Otterton  
Mill, nr Budleigh Salterton  
EX9 7HG

#### FRIDAY 26

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

### AUGUST

#### FRIDAY 2 TO FRIDAY 9

**Sidmouth Folk Festival**

See pages 11-14

#### TUESDAY 6

Bradfolk Bradninch Folk  
Club, Bar of the Castle Hotel,  
1 Fore Street,  
Bradninch. EX5 4NN

#### FRIDAY 9 TO SUNDAY 11

**Dartmoor Folk Festival**

See page 15

#### FRIDAY 9

**Rory Mcleod,** Ashburton Arts  
Centre, West Street,  
Ashburton TQ13 7DT

#### THURSDAY 15

**Mark Harrison.** Singer-  
songwriter/Acoustic blues  
with folk influences, Otterton  
Mill, nr Budleigh Salterton  
EX9 7HG

#### FRIDAY 16 to Sunday 18

**Beautiful Days** 21st Festival,  
Escot Park. Ottery Saint Mary  
EX11 1LU

#### THURSDAY 29

**Edwina Hayes.** Singer-  
songwriter, English Folk and

## Events

Americana, Otterton Mill, nr  
Budleigh Salterton EX9 7HG

### SEPTEMBER

#### TUESDAY 3

**Bradfolk** Bradninch Folk Club, Bar of the Castle Hotel, 1 Fore Street, Bradninch. EX5 4NN

#### THURSDAY 5

**Veronica Sbergia & Max de Bernhardt.** Americana, ragtime, blues and country, Otterton Mill, nr Budleigh Salterton EX9 7HG

#### SATURDAY 7

**Willand** Folk Dance Club. Caller: Jane Thomas Band: Box of Frogs, Willand Village Hall, Gables Road, Willand, EX15 2PL

#### THURSDAY 12

**Willand** Folk Dance Club. Caller: Robert Blackborow Band: The More the Merrier, Willand Village Hall, Gables Road, Willand, EX15 2PL

#### SATURDAY 14

**Dan Whitehouse** A Night of Glass, The Flavel Arts Centre, Dartmouth TQ6 9ND  
**D'Accord's** French Music and Dance Sawney White Bird, St James Church Hall, Mount Pleasant, Exeter EX4 7AH

#### SUNDAY 15

**Topsham** Folk Club Concert Chris Wood, Mathews Hall, Fore Street, EX3 0HF  
**Charlie Dore Duo**, Folk on the Moor, Moorland Hotel, Wotter, Plymouth PL7 5HP

#### TUESDAY 17

**Jim Causley**, Bradninch Folk Club, Guildhall, Fore Street, Bradninch, nr Cullompton EX5 4NN

#### FRIDAY 20

**Martin & Eliza Carthy**, St Mary's Church, High Street, Totnes TQ9 5NN  
**Jez Lowe**, Exeter Folk and Acoustic Music Club Victoria Park Tennis Club, Lyndhurst

Road, St Leonards, Exeter, EX2 4NX

**Phil Beer** (Solo), The Plough Arts Centre, Gt Torrington EX38 8HQ

#### SATURDAY 21

**The FOS Brothers**, Beehive Arts Centre, Dowell Street, Honiton EX14 1LZ

#### THURSDAY 26

**Willand** Folk Dance Club. Caller: John Bone Band: Fresh Aire, Willand Village Hall, Gables Road, Willand, Devon, EX15 2PL

#### SATURDAY 28

**Mad Dog Mcrea**, Calstock Village Hall, The Quay, Calstock PL18 9QA

#### SUNDAY 29

**Suthering**, Tavistock Wharf, Canal Road, Tavistock, Devon, PL19 8AT  
**Brooks Williams and Vera V Heeringen**, Folk on the Moor, Moorland Hotel, Wotter, Plymouth PL7 5HP

## 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

Peter Austin bagman@themorrisring.org

#### OPEN MORRIS

Hetty Bevington secretary@open-morris.org

#### NATIONAL YOUTH FOLKLORE TROUPE OF ENGLAND

www.nyfte.org.uk

#### Halsway Manor Helen Astill

marketing@halswaymanor.org.uk.

## Callers

Colin Andrews  
bonnygreencolin@gmail.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

# Morris and Display Teams

**F - Morris Federation, R Morris Ring, Open Morris**  
**Day: regular meeting**  
**ALIVE & KICKING (F)**  
Appalachian. Jo Wright  
01392 462531  
**AURORA** (Appalachian)  
auroradance18@gmail.com  
<https://auroraappalachian.wixsite.com/dance>  
**BELTANE (F)**  
beltaneborderbag@gmail.com  
**BIDEFORD PHOENIX MORRIS (F)**  
Carolyn Bennion, 01237 473798  
**BLACKAWTON MORRIS (F)**  
Chris Janman, 01803 712362  
**BLACK BESS (F)**  
Jayne Thomas 01626 366844  
blackbessborder@gmail.com  
**BORDERLINE (F)**  
bag@borderlinemorris.org  
**BOVEY TRACEY MUMMERS (R)**  
Rod Wilkins 01803 812581  
**BRADNINCH MILLERS MORRIS (F)**  
Duncan Harrington  
01884 855270  
**CATSEY MORRIS (F)**  
Tues Catseyebag@aol.com  
[www.catseyemorris.co.uk](http://www.catseyemorris.co.uk)  
**COGS & WHEELS (F)**  
cogsandwheelsbag@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.  
**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  
**GRIMSPOND BORDER MORRIS (F)**  
Lee Merry, 8, Waterside,  
Bovey Tracey, TQ139SX  
lmerry@live.co.uk  
**HARBERTON NAVY (F)**  
davidbeavis@tiscali.co.uk  
**ILFRACOMBE RED PETTICOATS (F)**  
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](http://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](http://www.plymouthmorris.uk)  
**RADDON HILL CLOG MORRIS (F)**  
Triss Cummings 01626 376173  
**ROUGH DIAMONDS APPALACHIAN**  
01460 220607  
**SHUFFLE THE DECK (F)**  
Appalachian.  
Kathy Houlihan 01752  
893335 or 07719 652885  
**SIDMOUTH STEPPERS NW MORRIS (F)**  
cath.nettleton@gmail.com  
**SIDMOUTH TRADITIONAL MUMMERS**  
Henry Piper, 01404 811491  
henry.piper@zoom.co.uk  
**TINNERS MORRIS MEN (F)**  
andrew@frangleton.co.uk  
**TRIGG MORRIS MEN (R)**  
Roger Hancock, 01208 73907  
**TUDOR DANCE GROUP**  
Mrs Elizabeth Thurgood,  
01404 812185 (Sat)  
**WINKLEIGH MORRIS (F)**  
Alexa Mason, 01647 277498  
alexa@moormasons.plus.com (Tues)  
**WRECKERS BORDER (F)**  
wreckers.bag@gmail.com  
Thurs

## Bands

**BANDS in bold. See advert**  
Amber Fire 01803 862393  
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  
07790 760462  
Winkeilidh Band  
01363 877216

# Warwick FOLK FESTIVAL

25 - 28 July 2024

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Blair Dunlop • The Wilderness Yet  
Tarren • Lauren South • Old Spot  
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[warwickfolkfestival.co.uk](http://warwickfolkfestival.co.uk)



## Tich breathes new life into old song

IT'S one thing being a "folk performer" but being a real "folk singer" is a very different matter, writes *John Foxen*. I was reminded of this at a recent Gidsong session in Gidleigh Village Hall when Tich Scott got up to sing.

He came out with that old favourite, *We're All Jolly Fellows Who Follow The Plough*. It's such a common song. Back at the turn of the last century Cecil Sharp commented: "I find that almost every singer knows it, the bad singers often know but little else." I've heard it countless times but Tich, who has farmed all his life, gave me a new appreciation of it.

He introduced it by talking about ploughmen and horses: "My grandfather had six horses on his farm and eight horsemen. Horses were used for everything – not just ploughing.

"They hauled everything from hay to vegetables and manure. Some of those horses were old and needed rest days but you still needed the men to look after them and to plough with them.

"Ploughing was a very skilled job, keeping those furrows straight and ploughing one furrow at a time they would walk about seven miles to plough an acre. They used to say that a good ploughman ended up with one leg longer than the other because to keep the plough steady they had to have one foot in the furrow and one foot out. They'd start work at six in the morning and plough until two o'clock. Then they'd take the horses back, rub

them down and feed them. Then they'd be up at four the next morning to feed the horses and start all over again.

"But when my father brought the family to Fairhaven farm in 1958, we didn't have a single horse, just a tractor. All the work that was done by those horses could be done with a tractor with a link box. I spent so many of my young days on a tractor, carting things about.

"When my grandfather got a tractor, not only did those horses go but also all the horse men. Lots of other jobs went as well because people like farriers weren't needed so much."

The horses may be long gone but Tich is still able to name those owned by his grandfather, his relatives and his farming neighbours. As Tich points out, now everything about the song is outdated. Ploughmen don't even follow the plough any more, they pull it behind them.

This encounter with reality reminded me of a cartoon in *fRoots* magazine many years ago in which a "real" country singer is taken to a folk festival and is bemused by it. The cartoon dates from 1982 but in this age of Tictoc shanty viral hits and Zoom folk sessions, it seems even more relevant today. As we are in the festival season – Sidmouth is 70 – it seemed apt to reproduce it here. This cartoon appears by permission of its creator, Lawrence Heath. It was part of his fine series, *Borfolk*.

*\* Gidsong is usually the last Tuesday of the month in the village hall. All welcome.*

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# BORFOLK

Frank's source singing and sauce slinging friend, Old Vermin is somewhat amused at the sight and sound of 'young uns' performing folk music. Frank takes him to the Berkshire Festival to see more...

Here we are then. Look at all these events: morris workshops, clog practices, concert tents, song swaps, folk quiz, ceilidhs!

Well stack me with a full blown marrow, d'you mean to say this field's full of people doing nowt else, but folk music stuff?!!

Sure do - great to see our heritage being kept alive, eh?

Even if it's on a life support system? These ain't marguerites, they're oxygen tents.

But to dance and to sing is to live - what more is there to life but folk music?

Don't you really know Frank? Why you poor young idiot!!

**SCRAFTS**  
 THE CRAFTS SECTION IS THE BEST LITTLE BIT OF COUNTRY FOLK. I'VE FOUND THE MOST AWKWARD OF CRAFTSMEN, WHOSE 'WORK' ISN'T BEEN DONE AND NOT AT ALL.



Hey, there's a Profess™ discussion on the state of the folk scene, let's drop in and listen.

Sounds like it could be a really heavy session of self-stimulation if you were to ask me.

I think things are looking up on the folk scene ...

Yeah, the media's beginning to take notice of us.

There was that "Spot the Figure in the Bar Show"

And there are loads of folk mags nowadays.

I taped it and the Midsouth Festival series. I've had groups of mates round my place for evenings of video folk.

That's right - they're really useful - with all those ads you can pick and choose what nights to go along instead of turning up at a club on the off-chance.

With folk series' being promised on Channel 4 TV, we'll soon have folk music in our front rooms every night!

The reviews help me choose records even if I can't get to see new acts - in fact it saves me the bother! And all these mail order folk distributors save me from even having to go to a club to buy records.

With things going so well it beats me why people aren't turning out of their homes and into the song clubs in droves. Why don't they, after all ceilidhs and morris sides do well?

'Cos you can't dance in an armchair! They'll never be the spectator sport song's becoming. This discussion's just what I thought it'd be - nowt more than navel manoeuvres. Let's go to the bar in search of some normality.

Hell's dentures! It's a bloody Oxfam window display!! Hey, do any of you know the latest cricket score?

Cricket?! Goodness gracious no! We're all folk music fans here, no time for anything else.

**CAMRA BAR**  
 BETTER DEAD THAN KEG -

Hey, it's Vermin Valient. Come on Vermin, oblige us with a song or two.

WHY?

Because you're the real thing.

Real! What do you 'unreal things' know about reality? The only way you lot can recognise a real thing is by sticking a label on it - like with the ale you drink!

\* PROMOTE FOLK ESPECIALLY SONG STUFF

**LAUNCESTON  
FOLK DANCE CLUB 2024**

**Autumn Dance**

Launceston Town Hall, PL15 7AR

**Saturday 19<sup>th</sup> October**

**Starting 7.30 pm**

**Caller: Jane Thomas**

**Band: A Pair of Shears**

Bring and share supper

Raffle

Tickets £15.00 on the door

**Dates for 2025 17<sup>th</sup> May & 25<sup>th</sup> October**

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 1<sup>st</sup> July**

**Guest Night – Bow Movement**

**Monday 5<sup>th</sup> August**

**Singers/ Musicians Open Night**

**Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> September**

**Singers/Musicians Open Night**

**Monday 7<sup>th</sup> October**

**Club's 21<sup>st</sup> Birthday Night  
with Celtic Dawn**

Further details from  
Martyn Hillstead  
01626 778071/07904037812  
martyng@[aol.com](mailto:aol.com)

*Worthy Folk*

# Tribute to our website wonder

**F**OR MORE than 20 years, Trevor Paul has been keeping us informed online about what's happening in Devon's folk world. His Flaxey-Green website was the go-to reference point for so many enthusiasts and the source of the listings in What's Afoot.

And since the site had to close for technical reasons, Trevor has become the webmaster for Devon Folk's own website.

The sterling work of this musician and



**PRESENTATION: Trevor with the chairman of Devon Folk Anne Gill**

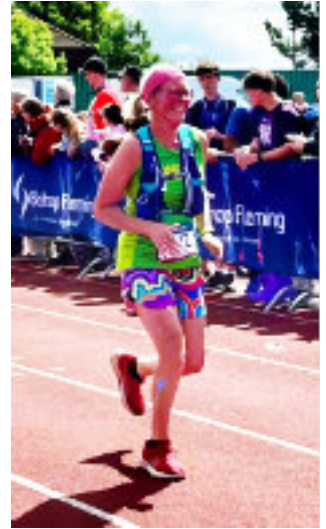
former morris dancer was recognised earlier this year with the presentation of the Devon Folk Award, by chairman Anne Gill at a music session in the Bay Horse, Totnes.

Anne said: "We we were all saddened when he decided to close his website, Flaxey-Green.

"The Devon Folk Committee are extremely grateful to Trevor for taking on the role of Devon Folk webmaster and setting up and servicing our new website and for his work in updating forthcoming events in various formats, including What's Afoot.

"It is these qualities that we recognise by the presentation of the Devon Folk Award for 2024."

You can find Trevor's hard work at [www.devonfolkdirectory.org](http://www.devonfolkdirectory.org)



**WONDER WOMAN! Alexa being encouraged by the Steppers then heading for the finishing line**

# Sidmouth Stepper's 26,000 steps

**H**ER FRIENDS might start calling her Amazon Alexa – unless that name has already been copyrighted by some tech giant. Alexa Baker of Sidmouth Steppers recently completed a half-marathon – roughly 26,000 steps – sandwiched between two morris dancing outs.

The event was the Great West Run on Sunday May 26. Alexa was not competing just to prove what a wonder woman she is but to raise money for Sidmouth Hospice at Home. This charity provides free care and support at home to anyone in the Sid Valley with a life-limiting illness. Its team of specialist nurses and specially trained volunteers provides a services, including sitting and befriending, transport and bereavement support

Alexa, 53, and her son Kyle, the fine photographer whose pictures of Sidmouth Festivals and regular folk events have often appeared in What's Afoot, joined Team Sidmouth Hospice at Home (ShaH) for the run.

She said: "All nine team SHaH runners – including Kyle's partner Nikita – finished in under two and a half hours and have raised more than £4,000, which will nearly cover the cost of 48 hours of their specialist palliative care nursing service."

Alexa has also had sterling support from her friends in the Sidmouth Steppers, who have chosen ShaH as the beneficiary of their

summer dance out collections. This means a great deal to Alexa and Kyle as their family is being supported by SHaH and they appreciate what a fantastic 24/7 service it provides.

The run was a personal best for Alexa: 2:05:25 – 20 minutes off her previous best. Kyle and Nikita managed 2:05:25. But Kyle is also head coach at Sidmouth Running Club.

It should also be pointed out that Kyle had not been morris dancing the day before. Alexa was out on Saturday dancing energetically with Otter Morris at Topsham Quay.

She claims not to be a natural runner and took it up only because her son and father were runners. Of the Great West Run she says: "None of us had run the race before and it was deceptively hilly. There was a cooling shower half way round which did not dampen the support from the crowds lining the streets."

After that, Alexa wasn't sure her legs would cope with her next dance out in Sidmouth with the Steppers on the following Tuesday. However, she said: "Bradninch Millers came over and despite the persistent drizzle we didn't seem to get too wet. We even had an audience who generously donated to SHaH."

So did she use that Bank Holiday Monday to recuperate between dances and running? "I've been a volunteer at Sidmouth International Jazz and Blues festival and had two swims." What an advert for dancing and fitness.

## THE UNEXPECTED POLKA & OTHER TUNES

Chris Jewell & Alastair Gavin

Folk Camps Society £15 + p&p

THIS new book containing more than 100 folk dance tunes is an unexpected delight in that it is far more than just another collection of folk music notation. It aims to be suitable for all levels. The first section contains a variety of generally well-known tunes all in the keys of G or D, or associated minor, ideal for a melodeon player. Audio tracks are available for download or listening on-line – a great help for players who struggle with learning from the notation.

For anyone still gaining confidence on the melodeon, video clips online and downloadable for tunes in the second section show very clearly Chris playing the fingering for both right and left hands.

While solo musicians may be content with the melody, those in a band have the option of second, and in some cases, third parts for all of the tunes and chords for rhythm instruments.



The second and main part of the book offers a very wide range of tunes in the different rhythms and styles, including a few from Playford and traditional Cotswold Morris. The vast majority are traditional. While a good proportion may be familiar to some extent, there are some very attractive and lesser known melodies from France, Denmark and other European countries, Israel and North America.

As a musician, I always appreciate a ring-binding in a tune book, making it far easier to accommodate on a music stand.

Chris Jewell is an accomplished multi-instrument musician and caller from Sussex who has lived in North Devon for many years. Alastair Gavin is a musical director, composer and arranger who has worked in London with many pop, jazz and classical musicians. Both have been very active in running workshops and playing for Folk Camps.

Buy a copy at [www.theunexpectedpolka.com](http://www.theunexpectedpolka.com)

*Colin Andrews*

---

## A SLIP IN TIME

Graham and Gail Harvey

GRAHAM and Gail are popular on the folk circuit round Tavistock thanks to his guitar playing – strongly influenced by Bert Jansch and John Renbourn – and her soft, pleasing vocals. They might reach a wider audience thanks to this home-produced CD featuring Graham's own songs.

The album has with a strong transatlantic feel, reminiscent of Pentangle's work in fusing British and American traditions. The American influence comes over strongest in the songs *Eliza* and *Double Six*. But Englishness is prominent in the *Beckamoor Cross*, a song inspired by the landmark on Dartmoor also known as Windy Post, and *Nettie Smith*, which tells of the dreams of a poor servant girl.

*Trees On The Bank Of The River Burn* recounts the Dartmoor legend of a fairy, who having transformed herself into a hare is caught in a snare. Two lovers pass her by, uncaring of her fate. When the angry fairy frees herself, she curses the two lovers who are transformed into trees fated to grow near each other but never able to touch.

The trees still stand on the banks of the Burn near Graham's home. I asked where he found the legend and was quite disappointed when he

confessed that he had made it up, inspired by the real trees. Ah well, legends have to start somewhere and this one could take root.

Graham is of a certain age and the song *Biscuits* reflects this with lyrics about drug-taking hippies of yesteryear and now the only joints they care about are their knees. There are a lot of us who would have to join in the chorus: "Give me the old days, please."

A more tender and touching view of ageing is given in the final song on the album, *Cathedral Square*, dedicated to Graham's wife Gail. They met in Cathedral Square in Exeter late in life but sometimes, as Robert Browning told us, "the best is yet to be".

I am impressed by this album because it is a true cottage industry production. Graham admits to putting it together at home using a Tascam DP-24 SD portable recorder and three condenser mics with his guitar in one hand and the instruction manual in the other. The actual CDs were produced by the excellent ABC Services of Tavistock, who also print *What's Afoot*. It is to be hoped that *A Slip In Time* will inspire other aspiring artists, young and old, to follow in Graham's footsteps and start recording their work.

You can obtain a copy for £4.99 from [g-harvey1@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:g-harvey1@hotmail.co.uk)

*John Foxen*

# ***Pennymoor Singaround***

## **Song and Music Sessions**

**Song Sessions:** 1<sup>st</sup> Thursday – 12 noon The London Inn, Morchard Bishop, Nr. CREDITON Contact:  
Jon 07840524318

3<sup>rd</sup> 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](mailto:biddy.mallabone@outlook.com)

Jon: 07840524318 – [jon\\_shapley@hotmail.com](mailto:jon_shapley@hotmail.com)

### **Also run by Pennymoor members:**

1<sup>st</sup> Sunday 8.00pm The Devonshire Inn, Sticklepath  
Contact: Derek 01837840316

1<sup>st</sup> 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

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

## As Johnny Walked Out

**H**ERE is a song to celebrate summer and commemorate the 100th anniversary of the death of the Rev Sabine Baring-Gould.

This is from the 1905 edition of the Songs of The West and the parson got it from James Parsons a hedger and thatcher of Lew Down. Parsons came from musical stock. His father, John, knew so many songs he was nicknamed the “Singing Machine”.

In his excellent book about Baring-Gould, *As I Walked Out*, Martin Graebe tells us that Parsons was a prolific source of songs. In an obituary for Parsons, Baring-Gould claimed to have collected some 200 songs from him.

While Baring-Gould approved of the singing, he might not have approved so much of Parsons' appetite for strong drink.

Parsons once told the cleric that one evening at a pub he had been singing and people were buying him drinks. In his words he “got a bit fresh” and was about to leave when a man offered a quart of ale for every new song he

could sing. “Well, your honour, I sat down again and I zinged on... I zinged 16 fresh songs and that chap had to pay for 16 quarts.”

But this consumption did take its toll. Parsons admitted: “I hadn't come to the end of my songs only I were that fuddled I couldn't remember no more.”

Baring-Gould noted that to be “feeling fresh” then consume a further 16 quarts and walk home demonstrated a remarkable capacity for alcohol.

The words and music are on the facing page. Baring-Gould admits he compressed the words and I have taken the melody down from the original key of F to D. Apparently Parsons was a bit of a stickler for precision when Baring-Gould noted his tunes so this, we hope, is close to what he sang.

• *Martin Graebe's As I Walked Out: Sabine Baring-Gould and the Search For The Folk Songs Of Devon And Cornwall is published by Signal (www.signalbooks.co.uk)*

# Exeter Folk & Acoustic Music Club

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

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

Friday 30 <sup>th</sup> August	Open Club Night
Friday 20 <sup>th</sup> September	Concert Night: Jez Lowe
Friday 27 <sup>th</sup> September	Open Club Night
Friday 11 <sup>th</sup> October	Concert Night: Geoff Lakeman & Rob Murch

For more information contact  
The Cornelius Family – [exeterfolkclub@outlook.com](mailto:exeterfolkclub@outlook.com) - Tel. 01392 210983

# As Johnny Walked Out

The image shows a musical score for the song 'As Johnny Walked Out'. It consists of seven staves of music in G major (one sharp) and 6/8 time. The lyrics are written below the notes. The score includes a key signature of one sharp (F#) and a time signature of 6/8. The lyrics are: 'As Johnny walked out one day, it was a summer morn, Him-self he laid be-neath the shade all of a twist-ed thorn And as he there lay laz-ily a shep-herd-ess passed by And 'twas down in yon-der val-ley, love, where the wat-er glid-eth by. And 'twas down in yon-der val-ley, love, where the wat-er glid-eth by.'

As Johnny walked out one day  
It was a summer morn,  
Himself he laid beneath the shade  
All of a twisted thorn,  
And as he there lay lazily  
A shepherdess pass'd by;  
And 'twas down in yonder valley, love,  
Where the water glideth by.

“O have you seen a pretty ewe  
That hath a tender lamb,  
A-strayed from the orchard glade  
That little one and dam?”

“O pretty maid,” he answered,  
“They passed as here I lie!”  
And 'twas down in yonder valley, love,  
Where the water glideth by.

She wandered o'er the country wide  
The sheep she could not find;  
And many times she did upbraid  
Young Johnny in her mind.  
She sought in leafy forest green  
She sought them low and high,  
And 'twas down in yonder valley, love,  
Where the water glideth by.

Turn to next page

## A Devon Song

“Oh silly maid, young Johnny said,  
“Alone why did you seek?”  
Her heart was full of anger, and  
The flush was in her cheek.  
“Where one alone availeth not,  
There two your sheep may spy,  
And ’tis down in yonder valley, love,  
Where the water glideth by.”

Then lo! they both forgot their quest,  
They found what neither sought,  
Two loving hearts long kept apart  
Together now were brought.  
He found the words he long had lacked,  
He found and held her eye;  
And ’twas down in yonder valley, love,  
Where the water glideth by.

Now married were this loving pair,  
And joined in holy band,  
No more they go a-seeking sheep,  
Together hand in hand.  
Around her feet play children sweet,  
Beneath the summer sky,  
And ’tis down in yonder valley, love,  
Where the water glideth by.

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Contact: Zena Roberts 01884 253546 [www.willandfolkdanceclub.co.uk](http://www.willandfolkdanceclub.co.uk)

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



# Ross Causley

Singer

**Y**OU KNEW were guaranteed a good time when Ross Causley appeared, *writes John Foxen*. His comic songs, delivered in his trademark deadpan fashion, were an asset to any folk club or session. Sadly, we won't see him perform these songs again. Ross died on March 20 at the age of 84 after a long battle with cancer.

Fortunately, those of us who saw him, have our memories. Jon Shapley of the Pennymoor Singaround recalls: "It was unusual to hear Ross repeat a song. He took pride in having something new to sing. A lot of his repertoire came from well known comic singers.

"I think that Ross also wrote a lot of funny songs; he wouldn't admit to this, but if it's not true then he was a master of finding songs that a whole room full of folkies couldn't attribute to anybody. I really hope some of them have been recorded or written down."

A number of Ross's comic songs came from the Kipper Family archives and it was a delight to hear those airs from the Far East (Norfolk) being given a South-western flavour.

**R**OSS was such a fine entertainer that many people thought he must have mentored his son, singer, songwriter and musician Jim Causley. This is stoutly denied by Jim, who maintains: "It's the other way round! Dad found his voice when I was a teenager and he was chauffeuring me around to Topsham Folk Club and Pennymoor and other places. He didn't sing much at home until then."

In fact, Ross's first musical influences were the crooners, who his own father loved – so much so that he wanted to name Ross "Bing". Says Jim: "Thankfully, Grandma had other plans, which spared me from being named James 'Bing' Causley and my nephew from being Hugo 'Bing-Ben' Cowley."

More than music, Ross's first love was football. This love was so strong that although he won a place at Hele's Grammar School in Exeter, his love of football proved stronger than his love of studying and he moved to the Episcopal School where football featured higher on the curriculum.

Ross, who was born in Exeter but grew up in Pinhoe, went on to become captain of the Pinhoe Football Team. He was also a lifetime



member of the Pinhoe Jubilee Club, where he learned to play snooker. He became an expert with the cue, winning many trophies.

Ross worked first as a typewriter engineer then moved on to work with offset litho printing machines. In 1965, he married Josephine Ann Watson and they had two children, first Kerry Jo, then Jim. For much of their married life, Ross Jo and their children lived in Whimple. This became an important part of his son's life and Jim is – and always will be – a staunch supporter of the Whimple Wassail.

As Jim's reputation grew in the folk world, Ross very much enjoyed being a roadie for Jim, taking him to concerts round the country.

Ross also took great pleasure in the social side of folk clubs where he met old friends and made new ones.

Jon Shapley recalls: "The social side of Pennymoor Singaround meant a lot to Ross. He loved to talk and so usually arrived early to chat with friends while the musicians played a few tunes for the first 30 minutes, often staying till well after the singing was over and catching up with all the people he knew."

In 2021, Ross was diagnosed with cancer. He was very fortunate in having an ex-nurse for a wife who cared for him at home until the day before he died.

Despite his declining health, he still went out to sing when he could. The last time I saw him was at a Whidsong session in Whiddon Down, organised by Bill Murray and Tich Scott, who also organise the Gidsong sessions. Bill recalls: "I probably introduced Ross to more unsuspecting audiences than anyone else. It

was always a pleasure to face-watch then listen to the laughter as it rapidly developed. He succeeded in getting away with things that other entertainers could not even contemplate. And Ross was high on my list of top entertainers, always a pleasure to see him come through the door at Gidsong, a very good friend and companion.”

At that Whidsong session I mentioned, Ross was with his son Jim who recorded some of the

songs so Jon – and many more of us – may perhaps get our wish to hear them again.

Just two weeks after we lost Ross, we also lost the Norfolk songster Chris Sugden, aka Sid Kipper, whose songs were such an inspiration to Ross. I’d like to think of the pair of them meeting up in the Great Session In The Sky and swapping a few songs. They are both such a great loss. In these troubled times we need all the laughter we can get.

## Ted Farmer

### Caller

**WE SAID** farewell to Ted Farmer in November 2023. He was diagnosed with bladder cancer in 2022 and had made a good recovery. Sadly in October last year he was admitted to hospital where he was diagnosed with a brain tumour which spread rapidly and Ted finally lost his battle with the dreaded cancer. He was 79.

Ted, who lived at Pinhoe, was a very popular caller with all the folk dance clubs in South and East Devon for many years. A carpet fitter by trade, he was also a Cub Scout leader and when he and his wife, Barbara, started taking caravan holidays in the Seventies, he was encouraged to do some calling at the SW Folk Group of the Caravan and Camping Club weekend meets.

He was a member of the Willand Folk Dance Club and both he and Barbara were committee members for some years. Ted then became a regular caller at the residential weekends organised by Willand Folk Dance Club where he shared calling for the weekend with Jane Thomas.

**TED AND** Barbara also took over and ran the Aylesbeare Folk Dance Club when the then current organisers, Mr and Mrs Foxwell, wanted to retire. This was “his” club and he liked to try out some of the more difficult dances that he had collected over the years. The club has been carried on since Ted first became ill by Zena Roberts and Alison Ramsay-Beattie and a few other people.

Teds’ interests did not stop at dancing and calling. He and Barbara also enjoyed walking. Many of you reading this will not know that he was also an accomplished lace maker. He is



pictured above with his equipment. While demonstrating lace at the Devon County Show one year, he was asked by a member of the royal family where he had learnt his skill.

His other interest was making scenery and track layouts for model railways with a group of friends in the Exeter area. Together they would sometimes travel all over the South-west to model railway events, taking a model railway layout with them.

Ted was given a good send-off by more than 90 friends from the various activities he was involved in. At the wake, David Bradley, Andrew Ramsay-Beattie and Brian Graham played popular folk dance tunes on their accordions – just what Ted would have liked.

So dear Ted, RIP. We will all miss you.

*Marilyn Broom,  
Willand Folk Dance Club*



# Help us keep our county's traditions alive

**D**EVON 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 (use the form printed here) or by subscribing to **What's Afoot**, which is 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.

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Maleth, 11 Cleveland Road,

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01803 290427

### VICE CHAIR/PUBLICITY

Colin Andrews

Bonny Green,

Morcharad Bishop, Crediton

EX17 6PG 01363 877216

[bonnygreencolin@gmail.com](mailto:bonnygreencolin@gmail.com)

### SECRETARY and TREASURER

Eileen Conway

151 Kingsdown Crescent,

Dawlish EX7 0HB.

01626 862312

### WEBMASTER

Trevor Paul

[devonfolkwebmaster@gmail.com](mailto:devonfolkwebmaster@gmail.com)

com

### MINUTE SECRETARY

Kat Blockley,

[kat@katblockley.com](mailto:kat@katblockley.com)

### COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Steve Gill

Maleth, 11 Cleveland Road,

Torquay, TQ2 5BD

01803 290427

Mary Marker

Cromartie, Oldway, Chudleigh,

TQ13 0JA 01626 854141

[ammarker5@btinternet.com](mailto:ammarker5@btinternet.com)

Jane Snow

27 John Street, Tiverton

EX16 5JP 01884 259042

### WHAT'S AFOOT EDITOR

John Foxen

[devonfolkeditor@gmail.com](mailto:devonfolkeditor@gmail.com)

129 Tamar Avenue,

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