

No 136 October-December 2024
What's Afoot
The official
magazine of
Devon Folks
DANCE SONG MUSIC ARTS

FROM THE STREET TO THE ALL-STAR STAGE



**STEVE KNIGHTLEY BRINGS IN BUSKER
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CHANGED A SINGER'S CAREER**

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EDITORIAL

TWO articles in this issue show the importance of chance in moving artists on in their career. It was a chance encounter with Steve Knightley that led to busker Tina Bridgman appearing on the big stage at the Sidmouth Folk Festival. And it was well against the odds that Seth Lakeman would end up on stage at the Mercury Prize show. Of course, luck is no good without talent and hard work and it is more than chance that has taken Seth on to a glittering career. But I can think of a number of performers I have really rated who never got the big breaks they deserved. There are also artists who don't realise what they have got until they get a lucky nudge. Ralph McTell – who is coming to Tavistock in November – thought *Streets Of London* was far too miserable to be included on his first LP. It took a call from Derek Brimstone to tell him the song was going down a storm with audiences everywhere to make him include it on his second album. There is a similar story about Ewan McColl and one of his most popular songs, *The Shoals Of Herring*. He didn't intend it to be a song, it was just a series of musical interludes for the Radio Ballad *Singing The Fishing*. It took Ian Campbell to splice the song together. The moral? Sometimes talent needs a nudge. So keep going to clubs and concerts and watch out for talent. You might be in a position to give a future star the lucky nudge they need.

JOHN FOXEN

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When the busker met the superstar

How street singer Tina played on the big stage at Sidmouth festival thanks to Steve Knightley

IT'S the stuff of folk tales: a busker singing on the street is spotted by a big star who asks her to share the stage with him. But it did really happen at the Sidmouth Folk Festival this year when Steve Knightley saw Tina Bridgman singing and playing her guitar and found her voice beautiful and authentic. It brought him back to his time as a teenager busking in Sidmouth during the festival. He saw in Tina the same spirit that had inspired him to play many years ago and set him on the road to becoming a patron of the festival where he once busked. He invited her to perform a song with his new band Dream In Colours during their Sunday night concert.

In a way it's not surprising that Steve was captivated by Tina. Many others have been, including my wife and I. Eight years ago at the festival we were taking a break at the cafe in Libra Court where Tina was performing. We had our backs to her and were enjoying her music. It was only when I turned round that I saw Tina had lost her left hand but was still able to play the guitar.

We chatted to her during her break and even accompanied her when she sang *Wayfaring Stranger* then went our separate ways. I was delighted to hear about her success and even happier that we made contact again and I could share her story.

Tina was brought up in Devon but her music took her all round the world. It was in 2004, while she was in New Zealand, that she lost her hand. "I was a passenger in a car that lost control on black ice," she said. "I'm very lucky to be here and pleased to say the driver was



uninjured. When I came round in hospital and realised my hand was gone, my first thought was, 'Oh no, I won't be able to play the guitar again'."

Up until then she had been quite a successful musician.

"My career as a guitarist started at 13, teaching myself and jamming with friends. I joined my first band, Catch 22, at 17 as a backing vocalist and keyboard player performing in the south-west of Britain every weekend for two years. The years that followed saw me playing guitar, songwriting and performing with another songwriter, David Hill.

"In 1990 I travelled around Australia and New Zealand, songwriting all the way with my guitar as a constant companion. There, I performed my own material to sit-down audiences.

"In 1999, I recorded my first album, *Hearth*, with two gifted musicians, Richard Osborne and Matt Tweed. The release of this was successful and established me as a singer/songwriter in my own right.

THE three of us became known as *Hearth* and in 2002 a second album was released called *Deep Sun Inside*. We performed at many festivals and events around the UK including Cambridge Folk, Jersey Festival of World Music, Lewes Guitar Festival and again, Glastonbury."

Immediately after her accident, it might have seemed that her musical career was over, but despite the loss of her hand, Tina managed to return to music.

"It took about 18 months before I found a way to play the guitar. I was out walking and

A Folk Tale



TINA'S TRIUMPH:
Despite her injury Tina Bridgman can play the guitar, pressing down the lower strings to change chords. She favours the DADGAD tuning which was popularised by the hugely influential guitarist Davy Graham.

could hear a tune in my head so I went home and retuned the guitar until I found a tuning I was happy with and then wrote a song.

"I started having a lot of fun with that tuning and it kickstarted a whole new batch of songs which then became my first solo album which I called *In The Company Of You*. After that I started to explore more established alternative tunings, particularly the DADGAD tuning. I found that one the most versatile.

"I use a capo to change the key. Then I hold down the bass strings on different frets with the end of my left arm to make a change of chord. I then try to make sure that the picking or strumming style with my right hand makes the most of that chord. I really just work with dynamics.

"I was still in New Zealand when I recorded that album and it saw me returning to play live music as well. I gradually started playing at festivals and some of the songs from that album got played on radio stations.

"When I returned to Britain, I found the best place for me to start networking and just getting out there and playing lots was through street performance, a totally new thing for me.

"I started playing round the cathedral in Exeter which is a gorgeous place. I had to audition to play in Princesshay, the big shopping centre in Exeter. I found that I really loved the grass roots of busking. I love the fact that people felt more able to come up and have a chat and I realised that not everyone can go to festivals or gigs at night so it was good to be able to bring music to the people.

"Then I realised there were so many markets and village fetes that I could play at. I did have a couple of gigs at Glastonbury in the Green

Futures Field but I realised that in Devon alone there's a huge network of local markets and festivals that I could tap into."

Devon certainly has no lack of very special festivals, especially at Ottery St Mary where Tina lived for a few years: on November 5 flaming tar barrels are carried round the village and thrown about. Tina remembers: "One year I was on the women's team carrying a barrel. It was quite an experience carrying a flaming tar barrel on my back. I loved it – but I did have two hands then."

For details of this year's Ottery St Mary fire festival, see page 16.

ABIG draw for Tina was the Sidmouth Folk Festival where she has been playing off and on for many years. This year was the breakthrough. "I was playing in Church Street near the cafes and I was singing my last song, which happened to be one of my own, *Take To The Sky*, and this gentleman came over and said something along the lines of, 'That was lovely. I know this is a bit random but I've got a gig at the Ham Marquee tonight. Would you like to come up and do that song?'"

"I looked at him and said, 'Are you Steve Knightley of Show Of Hands?' And he said, 'Yes'. And at that point I think I pulled a few funny faces and garbled something. Eventually I managed to say yes.

"He said he had a really great band and they could play along so I should go along at six o'clock for a sound check."

Steve's new band is Dream In Colours, featuring percussionist Johnny Kalsi of the Dhol Foundation, violinist Bennett Cerven, who left his high-powered job with a Wall

A Folk Tale

Street hedge fund to follow his dream of music, and flautist Eliza Marshall, from folk group Ranagri, who has also played as a soloist with the Royal Philharmonic Orchestra.

DID Tina get any rehearsal time with them? “We did – probably about 10 minutes. But they are such amazing musicians, they are world-class, and they picked up the song instantly. It blew me away.”

That’s how Tina ended up on stage in front of a huge and enthusiastic audience.

Her performance was captured on camera by a friend of Steve Knightley and you can find a link to it on his Facebook page or the What’s Afoot Facebook page. The ovation Tina received was a huge boost to her confidence. So where does she go from here?

“I’m currently working on some new songs

and I would like to record a new album. I’ve actually got five albums now. I have two with my old band and I’ve done two more solo albums since *In The Company Of You*. You can listen to them all on Bandcamp.

“But playing with Dream In Colours has really whetted my appetite for playing with other musicians again. So it would be really good to find the right musicians to work with.

“It’s also always been a dream of mine to arrange my songs for a choir or an orchestra so I’ll just see where the music takes me next.”

I’m sure the music will take Tina a very long way. Festival, folk club and concert organisers should note that they can contact Tina through her Bandcamp or Facebook page. You can also find links to her work on the What’s Afoot Facebook page.

John Foxen



I DISCOVERED Tina Bridgman is not the only guitarist to have recovered from a life-changing handicap. I mentioned her to Gareth Hedges, the veteran guitarist from Milton Abbot who has played just about everywhere with just about everyone, and he recalled meeting the American guitarist Sally Spring in Italy back in the late Sixties when he was gigging round Europe and she was studying music in Asolo. Sally, pictured left, was born without a left hand but has developed her own style using open tunings and carved out a career in music.

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Sessions aid Dartmoor Rescue

TWO open mic sessions at the Two Bridges Hotel near Princetown raised more than £200 for Dartmoor rescue. The open-air sessions in June and July attracted a wealth of local talent and were much appreciated by the punters. They were run by veteran guitarist and singer Gareth Hedges, pictured with David Stoneman, chairman of Dartmoor Rescue Ashburton, and Thomas John, Two Bridges general manager, after the cheque presentation at a special session night in August.



It's a striking success for young bell ringers

ONE of Devon's most popular songs is The Bell-ringing (see What's Afoot 132 for the history of this song) so it's good to know that this traditional art is flourishing among the county's youngsters.

In July, a team of young ringers from Devon took part in the National Youth Contest in London, organised by Ringing World, the

bellringers' weekly magazine. It was the first competition for all but one of them and although they did not win a belt and a hat laced with gold, they came a creditable joint sixth with Cornwall out of 14 entrants. One of their instructors, Mark Williams, who rings at Buckland Monachorum church said: "We do have an exceptionally young team so we are very much looking to benchmark this year and try to ascend from that if we can keep the team together for following years."



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Musical triumph from mystery grave



ON THE ROAD: Seth Lakeman, centre, with his Kitty Jay band. From the left, Ben Nicholls, bass, Cormac Byrne, drums, Alex Hart, guitar and vocals, and Benji Kirkpatrick, bouzouki and vocals

THE GRAVE of Kitty Jay is a well known Dartmoor landmark on the Ashburton to Chagford road. It's said to be that of a servant girl who hanged herself and so could not be buried in consecrated ground but nobody knows for sure. For years fresh flowers have regularly appeared on her grave but no one ever admits to putting them there.

Outside of Devon the legend is not so well known. So back in 2004, no one expected great things from a CD whose title track was a song about Kitty Jay and concentrated on other ballads inspired by Dartmoor stories.

Certainly no one expected an album by a relatively unknown young musician from Buckland Monachorum to be nominated for

the 2005 Mercury Prize for the best album from a British or Irish musician. And the person who certainly didn't expect a tsunami of interest was the artist himself, Seth Lakeman. But suddenly he found himself up on the big stage with Coldplay, the Kaiser Chiefs and KT Tunstall with the TV cameras focusing on him.

"It was an incredible shock for me," says Seth. "It was something I didn't really have any kind of idea about. I remember I was driving away from a show up in Wales when I had a call from a lady I was working with who was doing some publicity for that album and she said, 'You've been nominated'.

"Very quickly things changed for me as I

went up there and performed that title track. It seemed to be a stand-out song because of everything it represented and the immediacy of it. And I guess a person playing the violin and singing which they hadn't seen before."

The powerful fiddle riff that introduces the song *Kitty Jay* is a trademark Seth Lakeman sound and grabbed the attention even of those listeners whose nearest previous exposure to folk music was hearing *Greensleeves* played from an ice cream van.

SETH lost out to Antony and the Johnsons but the exposure was life-changing. "It was a big, big thing for me and I remember there was a Piers Morgan documentary being made and they were using me as an example of a skilled musician alongside the Celebrity Big Brother world that was going on. So they thrust me into that and then all sorts of other tabloid bits.

"Quite quickly I was signed up and things moved quite fast. That album was so important for me as an artist because it was that huge stepping stone in a long-standing career. I guess it was the launch pad."

Even more remarkably, *Kitty Jay* was not a lavishly produced album. It was recorded by Seth's brother Sean for an estimated £300 – probably far less than a studio's bill for coffee and doughnuts for some of the bigger bands.

"In a way you don't tally up the costs for an album you did in just two weeks," says Seth. "It was pretty much an experimental concept album about Dartmoor that I threw together and Sean very kindly recorded it for me and we experimented with some of that Nineties real world production. It was a meeting of minds that seemed to work really well."

No fancy studio was involved in recording *Kitty Jay*. "We did it in the kitchen with an eight-track machine. It was basic and we still have the ADAT tapes."

The ADAT (Alesis Digital Audio Tape) was an eight-track recording machine introduced in 1992. The first, rather quirky, ADAT recorders played a key role in wresting the levers of power from major labels and commercial studios.

Back then, multitrack digital recorders from Sony and Mitsubishi cost about the same as a house but for a few thousand pounds an ADAT opened up huge possibilities to budding

producers and musicians. With the digital revolution and computer software such as Cubase, ADAT seems old fashioned which is perhaps fitting for the album *Kitty Jay* which had an eye on the past as well as the future.

What attracted Seth to the story of *Kitty Jay* as the subject for a song? "It was one of the most well known stories from Dartmoor and I had been to the grave many times. The mystery of the fresh flowers appearing by an unknown hand really conjured up something quite magical when I was writing it."

The album can almost be seen as a love letter to Dartmoor. How much did the area where he was brought up influence Seth as an artist?

"Enormously. It's running through my veins you could say. I still live on the edge of the moor, I feed off it as an artist all the time, musically and lyrically and I certainly did then. Rather than using a personal side of songwriting, I like to use history and those local myths and legends. I've been listening to folk music all my life and when I was writing *Kitty Jay* I was following the idea of folk song and how it can look outside that personal side of the introspective writer and look beyond. I became more of a narrator."

Seth grew up surrounded by music. His mother is a classical violinist, father Geoff is a folk singer (see page 12 to find out what dad's been up to) and his brothers Sean and Sam have also carved out careers in folk music.

"We were very much plugged into folk music," says Seth, "but also music generally. In those teenage years we were also listening to bands like Counting Crows and U2 and lots of dance music. I was a big clubber, I used to go to Plymouth all the time. *Kitty Jay* is not just a folk song – it's basically a dance song. And this is where you're crossing two genres, because you've got that hypnotic rhythm that people from outside folk music understand.

"It's important not to be too precious when it comes to music. It's there to be explored."

Seth has been celebrating the 20th anniversary of the release of *Kitty Jay* with a tour. "We toured in February and the whole tour sold out. There's obviously an appetite for that album. We played the whole album in the first half of the touring show then carried on with more familiar songs in the second half

'Kitty Jay is not just a folk song – it's basically a dance song'

Kitty Jay

because it is a dark album so we tried to lighten the tone.

“On the tour it feels like an all-star band with Ben Nicholls, Benji Kirkpatrick and Cormac Byrne. It’s the original album line-up – apart from my brother Sean, who is busy, busy with his wife Kathryn Roberts.”

The gap in the band has been filled by Alex Hart and the team is out again in October, playing at Tavistock Wharf on October 20. Sadly, at the time of writing all the tickets for the Tavistock gig have been sold but you can watch out for returns. There is also a concert at the Cheese And Grain in Frome, Somerset, on October 17. If you can’t get to either event and missed Seth’s gig in Exeter in February, the Kitty Jay concert has been recorded and put on Youtube. See <https://www.folkscape.live/>.

Seth cemented his success with *Freedom Fields* in 2006 – in two separate editions when he changed record labels. His formula of bringing a powerful dance beat to traditional songs and songs composed in traditional style has won him fans in both worlds. A string of acclaimed albums to his name proves *Kitty Jay* was no flash in the pan and worth celebrating.

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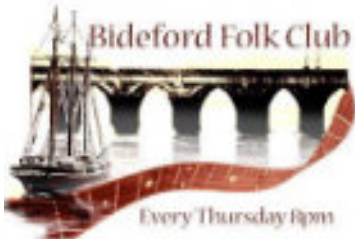
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A pleasant plucker and a saucy squeezer

Meet Geoff Lakeman and Rob Murch

BANJOS and squeeze boxes are all too often the but of bad jokes. For example: what's the definition of perfect pitch? When you throw a banjo into a tip and it hits a squeezebox. But even the most hardened pluckophobes and anti-squeezers could find themselves won over by the duo of Geoff Lakeman and Rob Murch, also known as the Titans of Twang.

It may help that they play unconventional instruments in an unconventional fashion. Geoff doesn't play the most popular type of concertina – the Anglo which changes note when pushed in or pulled out – but the much rarer Crane duet. And Rob plays a floorboard – but more of that later.

Their popularity has grown so much that in July this year they were paid to play on a folk cruise down the Rhone in the company of Show of Hands. Nice work if you can get it. *What's Afoot* managed to catch up with them after one of their two gigs at the Harbour Hotel at this year's Sidmouth Festival and before they set off for the Dartmoor Folk Festival, to ask them about their instruments and their styles of playing them.

After the Anglo concertina, the most popular type is the English. On this type of instrument the note doesn't change when you push in and pull out and it is fully chromatic whereas the Anglo is usually limited to two major keys.

"I play the duet which is the most sophisticated of the three instrument styles and that's fully chromatic," says Geoff. "You play the tune on the right-hand side and the bass on the left. It's a bit like a piano. It's not like a piano accordion – piano accordion players are cheats. They press one button and you get a whole chord. With the duet, you have to push down the triad, the three chord notes, to get a chord so it's a bit more complicated."

The Salvation Army once had concertina bands as well as their brass bands and they favoured the Crane system because they claimed the system was particularly suited to sacred music. "I'm not carrying on that

tradition," says Geoff. "But I bought this concertina, a Wheatstone duet, from the Salvation Army.

"I bought it for £35 from the Salvation Army headquarters near King's Cross – and I'm not going to tell you what it's insured for now. It's the one I learned from, a beautiful instrument.

"The Salvation Army liked the duet because it was so loud. You can play it softly but when you play it fully, chordally then it's like a mini band in itself. Also it could contend with the brass instruments in your Sally Army bands.

"When Rob and I met up and decided to start playing together we found it can compete with the strident twanginess of the banjo."

The words "strident twanginess" draw a sharp intake of breath from Rob. He prides himself on playing a very different style from the more popular bluegrass and frailing pluckers.

"Everybody takes banjo playing to be American," says Rob. "I play a very traditional English style that was around at the turn of the last century when there were a lot of banjo bands around. It was very music hall and it was very show-offy pieces. It was a bit like the classical guitar of the time. I play with nylon strings and these set pieces show the banjo off at its best really."

MOST of the banjo composers of that era sold their compositions as sheet music, and Rob is a fluent music reader as well as being a great ear player. Geoff plays by ear and Rob was able to help him out during lockdown when Geoff decided to while away that tedious time by learning all the sections of that classic ragtime piece by Scott Joplin, *The Entertainer*. Rob took him through it note by note over the phone. Now it's part of their joint repertoire.

Rob's banjo style works beautifully with the Murch Lakeman duo and equally well with his other band, the Dartmoor Pixies.

"I've been playing with the Dartmoor Pixies since I was 11 – that's," Rob pauses then says,

Titans of Twang



GOOD OLD DAYS: Geoff Lakeman and Rob Murch find a lot of their material is about 100 years old – a period when their instruments, concertina and banjo, were at the peak of their popularity

“that’s a long time.” Eventually he confesses that it’s something like 40 years.

“It’s jigs and reels and we play for dances all around the South-west and beyond really. It’s good fun but it’s totally different music from what I do with Geoff.”

“We do tunes,” says Geoff, “but our act is more song-based. The key thing – which we found by accident – is that the material that we do, which is very eclectic, tends to come from about 100 years ago, which were when both our instruments were made.”

THEIR material ranges from Americana to music hall – and a few modern numbers such as Geoff’s own composition, *Tie ‘Em Up* from his solo CD, a song about the rigidly imposed regulations on fishing that persuaded many boat owners in the West Country that it was time to sell up.

Rob’s favourite banjo has an interesting history. “I found my banjo pot here in a junk shop in Sidmouth for £40. The pot is the round rim where the drum is clamped on. The guy in the shop didn’t really know what he had. I bought it and I had the neck made from an old

floorboard in my old village hall by a company called Brook Guitars in Hittisleigh, who are local to me. And it’s amazing and it’s the best sounding banjo I’ve got.”

Are there any recordings?

“No,” says Geoff, “I did my album, *After All These Years*, just before covid and Rob made a fantastic album, *Still Fretting*, 10 years ago and it’s sold out. The man who produced and recorded it has sadly died and I’m not sure if we can get some more copies of it.

“Covid has got in the way of us recording and Rob has suffered a couple of episodes of carpal tunnel syndrome. And I had a very sick wife so everything has conspired against us.

“I do have two sons [Sam and Sean] who have studios and are producers of gold and silver selling records. But they make their living by it. And although Sean produced my album, I don’t want to put upon him again when we do our duet album.

“He has said, ‘Find some time and come in’ but it’s so difficult. The landscape of music has changed and people who are full-time musicians have to go out and travel a lot. To ask Sean or Sam to put aside a week or two to

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or Andy Clarke 01803 732312

Titans of Twang

make a decent recording is asking a lot. Also people say because what we do is so dynamic, 'Why don't you do a live album?'. What they don't realise is when you bring out a live album, what's happened is that someone has recorded half-a-dozen different gigs and cherry-picked the best bits. And that requires a lot of production work.

"So we'll find a time when it's right and we'll make an album.

"But at the moment we have an almost a unique selling point in that people have to come and see us live. It's made us a bit mysterious. So come and see us live. We enjoy playing together."

THEY certainly have a good chemistry on stage and Geoff's playing the spoons is something that no CD could really capture. "No," says Geoff. "It's the same as you can't do tap dancing on radio. You've got to go and see it in the flesh.

"The other thing about live music is that every gig is always different. Even if you've recorded what you think is a super album, you want to change it."

"You're constantly evolving," agrees Rob. "You always find a different approach in the way to play something."

While we wait for that album from the pair of them, there are always the live gigs: two upcoming ones this year are listed below. For more gigs, keep an eye on future *What's Afoot* listings pages, the Devon Folk website and Geoff's Facebook page.

One bootleg recording of a song from Geoff and Rob's concert at the Harbour Hotel does exist. It has flaws because the room was like a sauna on that day and it was distracting for the musicians but their good humour when mistakes are made is infectious. There is also some enthusiastic chorus singing. We think it's well worth a listen and you can find a link to it on the What's Afoot Facebook page.

Friday October 11

Exeter Folk and Acoustic Music Club

Victoria Park Tennis Club, Lyndhurst Road,
St Leonards, Exeter, EX2 4NX

Sunday November 24

Denbury Folk: St Mary's Church,
12 South Street, Denbury TQ12 6DH

John Foxen

Winter Warmers

SALCOMBE LIVE FESTIVAL

Friday 4 - Sunday 6 October

SALCOMBE is holding its fifth festival this year. The only details of the programme released as we went to press were that singer-songwriter John Smith will be headlining with a concert at the Holy Trinity Church on Sunday. This will be a ticketed event but in previous years there have been free music events around the town. See <https://salcombe-live.co.uk/> for details.

HUNTING THE GREY MARE

Sticklepath Friday November 1

WHERE did Tom Pearse's Grey Mare end up, with her skirting and groans? Somewhere up on Dartmoor, of course, but did she get back close enough to home for Tom Pearse to find her sitting on her stone?

That is the problem set for children in Sticklepath, where the villagers believe the mare was hired for her ill-fated journey to Widescombe Fair with seven selfish and reckless riders on her back.

The children are sent on a quest round the village to find the mare and on their way will meet the penitent ghosts of Uncle Tom Cobleigh and all as well as householders who will hand out clues to the mare's whereabouts – as well as goodies.

Eventually, with luck and a little bit of help, they will find the Grey Mare and Tom Pearse (pictured right) who will greet them before retiring to the moor until the next weekend closest to Halloween.

This new tradition has become hugely



popular since it was inaugurated in 2017. Families meet in the Village Hall at 6pm to search the darkened village before bedtime. Then the adults and ghosts retire to the Devonshire Inn at 8pm for a Mummers/Miracle Play and some rousing choruses.

For more details about the event contact: derekmoore60@hotmail.com or 01837 840316

TRAFALGAR NIGHT AND PICKLE NIGHT

October 21 and November 4-7

THE battle of Trafalgar is certainly Britain's most famous naval victories but will you be celebrating it this year with a few stirring songs?

The Royal Navy thinks Nelson's defeat of the far bigger Franco-Spanish fleet is good enough to commemorate twice. Trafalgar Night, October 21, the date of the battle, is an officers-only affair, including the Parading of the Beef and chocolate ships known as Ships of the Line.

For the lower decks, there is Pickle Night, not a reference to the body of Lord Nelson being pickled in brandy to be carried home, but to HMS Pickle, which raced back to Plymouth to bring the news of Nelson's death and victory. But the date of the night varies

between the 4th and the 7th. Outside the Navy, the victory at Trafalgar will be celebrated at Bicton Inn, Exmouth on Saturday October 19 with rousing songs from Wrecked Again. Organiser Derek Brooks says: "I know it should be on the 21st but I'm sure it will be a great night as it always is."

You'll find a number of the Exmouth Shanty Men at that event. They have also been booked to sing at a Pickle Night in Plymouth on November 7 but that's a strictly naval affair.

Shanty crew Mariners Away are not specifically celebrating Trafalgar night but will include a number of appropriate songs in their concert at the Plough Arts Centre in Torrington on October 19.

If you can't make the public gigs at least sing *Nelson's Blood* very loudly on October 21.

Winter Warmers

FIRE FESTIVALS

Ottery St Mary

Tuesday November 5

Hatherleigh

Saturday November 9

FORGET Guy Fawkes night. It can't compare to the spectacle of blazing tar barrels flying through the streets of a Devon village.

Our county is home to two unique English festivals. At Ottery St Mary every November 5 teams of men and women run through the village bearing blazing barrels of tar, as pictured right. The origins of this ritual are unknown but some say it may have started after the Gunpowder Plot of 1605. Alternative suggestions include fumigation of cottages or as a warning of the approach of the Spanish armada.

This is not a festival for the fainthearted and the organisers warn that spectators must watch the barrel movement at all times. It could change direction at any given moment.

- Do not attempt to run from the barrel as it approaches just take a step back and lean away from it. Attempting to run away will cause a crowd surge.
- Do not try to touch the lit barrel.

The festival at Hatherleigh, which is held on the second Saturday in November, is a little more restrained – but not very much. On the



Friday before the big day, tar barrels strapped to a sledge are pulled up Market Street accompanied by musicians and entertainers and are left ready for 5am on Saturday.

At dawn, the barrels are set alight and run through the village at a fair pace – somehow not igniting any of the thatched cottages they pass.

During the day there is a carnival and a display of floats. Competition between the floats is said to be as heated as the tar barrels.

At 6pm the float parade gathers in the Market Place and by 7.30 is joined by a torchlit procession in Market Street. At around 9.30 the rest of the barrels are lit and sped through the town. At speed amid the crowd Afterwards the barrels form the nucleus of the bonfire at the Market.



PUDSEY DAY OF MORRIS

Tavistock Saturday November 16

ONCE again Tavistock will be swamped with morris dancers – and Pudsey Bear – giving their all to raise money for BBC Children In Need. The ninth Pudsey Day organised by Dartmoor Border Morris from Meavy has attracted 16 sides who will be performing in Bedford Square, outside the Guildhall and in the Pannier Market by the Craft Shop.

The dancers will be coming from as far away as Falmouth (Oryon Morris) in the west and Somerton in the east (Wild Moon). Both Oryon and Wild Moon are newly formed sides but both are keen to take part in what is seen as the South-west's last big morris meet of the dancing season – as well as being a big fund-raiser for a very worthwhile cause. So far the Pudsey Days have raised a total of £11,412.

Other invited sides include Grimspound, whose Grimbear is pictured cuddling up to Pudsey, Catseye, Enigma, Otter and Plymouth Clog.

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.

Friday 4th October – Guest Night

Reg Meuross – Support by Maggie Duffy

Tickets £10 (£8 concessions) payable in cash on the door or in advance Jo on jocastle_4@hotmail.com

or Chris on cvebovey@gmail.com

Please bring your own refreshments

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 East European session. Ashburton Arts Centre, West Street. bunelik@gmail.com

BIDEFOLD

Thursday Bideford Folk Club. Joiners Arms - John Purser 01237 424286 or email bidefolk@gmail.com

BISHOPSTEIGINTON

Wednesday 7.30pm. Red Rock Brewery, John Morey 07791 054773. www.oldworkshop.org.

BODMIN

Friday: St Petroc's Parish Centre, Priory Road, Bodmin, Cornwall, PL312DP www.bodminfolk.co.uk sylvwatts@aol.com.

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 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,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/

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. Gidleigh Village Hall. See Village Hall Facebook page or

email.dartmoorbill@yahoo.com

IPPLEPEN

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

KINGSTEIGINTON

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.

CHUDLEIGH

Chudleigh Folk Dance Club.
Chudleigh Town Hall, Ma
rket Way, Chudleigh, TQ13

OHL. Mondays (not October
28, December 23 &30.
Musicians arrive 7pm, dancers
8pm Contact Mary Marker,
01626 854141.

DARTINGTON

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

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.

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.

Social Dance

WHIMPLE

Irish Set Dancing, Whimple
Victory Hall, School Hill EX5
2TS, (3rd Sun) 2pm. <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

OCTOBER

TUESDAY 1

Bradfolk Bradninch Folk
Club, Castle Hotel, 1 Fore
Street, Bradninch. EX5 4NN
Hands of the Heron + Anna
Anise, Ashburton Arts
Centre, TQ13 7DT

Sidford Folk Dance Club,
Denis's 90th birthday party.
Jane Thomas and Chris
Toyne, Sidford Social Hall,
Byes Lane EX10 9QX.

FRIDAY 4

Brixham Folk Club Guest
Night. Reg Meuross with
Maggie Duffy. The Edge,
Bolton Street, TQ5 9D

Zervas & Pepper present
'This Flight Tonight': The
Songs of Joni Mitchell. The
Beehive Arts Centre, Dowell
Street, Honiton, EX14 1LZ
Phil Beer, Church of St Mary,
Totnes

SATURDAY 5

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

MONDAY 7

Celtic Dawn. Teignmouth
Folk Club, The Brass,
Hollands Road, TQ14 8ST

TUESDAY 8

Sidford Folk Dance Club,
Mary Marker, Sidford Social
Hall, Byes Lane EX10 9QX.

THURSDAY 10

Willand Folk Dance Club.
Caller: Mary Marker Band:
Pair of Shears. Willand
Village Hall, Gables Road,
Willand, EX15 2PL

Afro Celt Sound System.
Exeter Phoenix, EX4 3LS

James Patterson & John

Dipper. Totnes Folk Club,
Dartmouth Inn, 28 Warland,
Totnes TQ9 5EL

Jim Causley. Talaton Parish
Hall, nr Whimple
EX5 2RF

FRIDAY 11

Steve Knightley. The Plough
Arts Centre, Gt Torrington
EX38 8HQ

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

The Ciderhouse Rebellion.

Ashburton Arts Centre, West
Street, TQ13 7DT

**Sherburn, Bartley, Sanders
and Phil Beer**. Beehive Arts
Centre, Dowell Street,
Honiton EX14 1LZ

SATURDAY 12

While & Matthews. Village
Hall, Silver Street,
Ipplepen, Newton Abbot
TQ12 5SB

Mayor & James. Cygnet
Theatre, Friars Gate, Exeter
EX2 4AZ

**D'Accord's French Music and
Dance** Philippe Plard + Mark
Prescott - celebrating our
30th anniversary.

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

'**Hungrytown**' Village Hall,
Noss Mayo PL8 1EU

Peggy Seeger in conversation
with Sam Richards.

Ashburton Arts Centre, West
Street, Ashburton TQ13 7DT

Steve Knightley, Barbican
Theatre, Plymouth.

SUNDAY 13

Whiles and Matthews. Folk
on the Moor, Moorland
Hotel, Wotter, PL7 5HP

Jim Causley: Afternoon Tea
Concert. Talaton Parish Hall,
EX5 2RF

Mayor and James.

Ashburton Arts Centre, West
Street, Ashburton TQ13 7DT

Taiko Drumming Workshop.
Calstock Arts, The Old
Chapel, Sand Lane, PL18 9QX

Denbury Folk: Nick Wyke &
Becki Driscoll. St Mary's
Church, 12 South Street,
Denbury TQ12 6DH

TUESDAY 15

Chloe Matharu. Bradninch
Folk Club The Guildhall, Fore
Street, Bradninch EX5 4NN

Sidford Folk Dance Club,
Simon Maplesden, Sidford
Social Hall, Byes Lane EX10
9QX. Tuesdays 8pm

THURSDAY 17

Bideford Folk Song Club
Guest Night Jim Causley. The
Joiners Arms, Market Place,
Bideford, EX30 2DR

FRIDAY 18

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

SATURDAY 19

Mariners Away. The Plough
Arts Centre, Gt. Torrington
EX38 8HQ

Jackie Oates & Jon Wilks.

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

Autumn Ceilidh with
Ashburton Community Folk
Orchestra, Caller Dave
Faulkner. South Brent Village
Hall, Station Approach,
South Brent TQ10 9JL

Events

Gigspanner Big Band.

Beehive Arts Centre, Dowell Street, Honiton EX14 1LZ

Launceston Folk Club

Autumn Dance. Caller: Jane Thomas Band: A Pair of shears. Launceston Town Hall, PL15 7AR. 7.30pm. Bring & Share supper. Raffle. Entry £15 on door

3 Daft Monkeys.

Barrel House, 59 High St, Totnes TQ9 5PB

SUNDAY 20

Seth Lakeman, The Wharf Tavistock.

Topsham Folk Club.

Lady Maisery. Mathews Hall, Fore Street, Topsham, EX3 0HF

Jackie Oates and John Wilks.

Exeter Phoenix, Gandy Street, Exeter EX4 3LS

Steeleye Span. Exeter Corn Exchange - Market Street, EX1 1BW

TUESDAY 22

Sidford Folk Dance Club, Brian Heaton, Sidford Social Hall, Byes Lane EX10 9QX.

WEDNESDAY 23

Ranagri, Ashburton Arts Centre, West Street, Ashburton TQ13 7DT

THURSDAY 24

Budapest Cafe Orchestra. The Flavel, Flavel Place, Dartmouth, TQ6 9ND

Willand Folk Dance Club.

Caller: Chris Jewell. Willand Village Hall, Gables Road, EX15 2PL

National Baring Gould

Centenary concert tour.

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

FRIDAY 25

Rozi Plain. St Mary's Church, High Street, Totnes TQ9 5NN

SATURDAY 26

Launceston Folk Dance Club

Caller: Jane Thomas, Band: Pair of Shears. Launceston Town Hall, PL15 7AR

Exeter Ceilidhs: Slack ma Girdle. Kenn Centre, Exeter Road, Kennford, EX6 7UE

Mugenkyo Taiko Drummers.

Exeter Northcott Theatre, Stocker Road, EX4 4QB

SUNDAY 27

Ghosts, Werewolves & Countryfolk

Jim Causley & Miranda Sykes Celebrate Sabine Baring-Gould's Centenary. Exeter Phoenix, Gandy Street, EX4 3LS

Lynne Heraud & Pat Turner

Folk on the Moor. Moorland Hotel, Wotter, Plymouth PL7 5H

MONDAY 28

Sidmouth Acoustic Folk Club

special concert Tom Lewis. The Blue Ball, Steven's Cross, Sidford, EX10 9QL

TUESDAY 29

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

NOVEMBER

FRIDAY 1

Banter. The Flavel Arts Centre, Dartmouth TQ6 9ND

SATURDAY 2

Willand Folk Dance Club.

Caller: Ivan Aitken Band: Brian McMinn and Mike Green. Willand Village Hall, Gables Road, EX15 2PL

SUNDAY 3

Topsham Folk Club, a dance with Blowzabella. Matthews Hall, Fore Street, EX3 0HF

TUESDAY 5

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

Sidford Folk Dance Club,

Janet Bulpin, Sidford Social Hall, Byes Lane EX10 9QX.

THURSDAY 7

Budapest Cafe Orchestra

Beehive Arts Centre, Dowell Street, Honiton EX14 1LZ

FRIDAY 8

Mick Ryan & Paul Downes.

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

South Brent Folk: War and Peace in Devon in Song An evening with Sam Richards and Martin Scragg. The Old School Community Centre, South Brent TQ10 9PB

SATURDAY 9

D'Accord's French Music and

Dance Dave Shepherd and Anna Pack. St James Church Hall, Mount Pleasant, Exeter EX4 7AH

Ceilidh with Fox Amongst

the Chickens. Princetown Community Centre, Tavistock Road, PL20 6QE

SUNDAY 10

Dan McKinnon Folk on the Moor. Moorland Hotel, Wotter, Plymouth PL7 5H

TUESDAY 12

Sidford Folk Dance Club, Zena Roberts, Sidford Social Hall, Byes Lane EX10 9QX

WEDNESDAY 13

Steve Knightley. Exeter Phoenix, Gandy Street, Exeter EX4 3LS

THURSDAY 14

Martyn Joseph. Calstock Arts, The Old Chapel, Sand Lane, PL18 9QX

Totnes Folk Club guest night James Patterson and John Dipper.

Dartmouth Inn, The Plains, TQ9 5EL

Willand Folk Dance Club.

Caller: Simon Maplesden. Band: Chris Toyne. Willand Village Hall, Gables Road, EX15 2PL

SATURDAY 16

Granny's Attic. Calstock Arts, The Old Chapel, Sand Lane, PL18 9QX

SUNDAY 17

The Big Yellow Tambourine Man Band. A Tribute to Joni Mitchell And Bob Dylan. The Wharf, Canal Road, Tavistock, PL19 8AT

TUESDAY 19

Bellowhead. Plymouth Pavilions Arena, Millbay Road, PL1 3LF

Events

Alasdair Roberts and Donald WG Lindsay. Dartington Hall, Dartington, Totnes, TQ9 6EL

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

THURSDAY 21

Hannah James and Toby Kuhn. Exeter Phoenix, Gandy Street, EX4 3LS

Christine Collister. Beehive Arts Centre, Dowell Street, Honiton EX14 1LZ

SUNDAY 24

Denbury Folk: Geoff Lakeman & Rob Murch. St Mary's Church, 12 South Street, Denbury TQ12 6DH

Phil Beer Trio, Exmouth Pavilion, EX8 2AZ

Hunter Muskett Folk on the Moor. Moorland Hotel, Wotter, PL7 5H

TUESDAY 26

Sidford Folk Dance Club, Ali Highfield, Sidford Social Hall, Byes Lane EX10 9QX.

WEDNESDAY 27

Ralph McTell, Tavistock Wharf, Canal Road, PL19 8AT

THURSDAY 28

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

SATURDAY 30

Exeter Ceilidhs: Spinach for Norman. Kenn Centre, Exeter Road, Kennford, EX6 7UE

DECEMBER

SUNDAY 1

Topsham Folk Club Concert. Eliza Carthy and the Restitution. Matthews Hall, Fore Street, Topsham, EX3 0HF

All On A Winter's Night (Johnny Coppin, Dik Cadbury & Paul Burgess). Exeter Folk and Acoustic Music Club

Newton St Cyres Parish Hall, West Town Road, EX5 5BU

MONDAY 2

Oysterband. Exeter Phoenix, Gandy Street EX4 3LS

Sidmouth Acoustic Folk Club special concert: Tarren.

The Blue Ball, Steven's Cross, Sidford, EX10 9QL

TUESDAY 3

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

Oysterband. Exeter Phoenix, Gandy Street EX4 3LS

Sidford Folk Dance Club, Christmas bring and share party. Jane Thomas, Simon Maplesden and Chris Jewell. Sidford Social Hall, Byes Lane EX10 9QX.

THURSDAY 5

Bideford Folk Song Club. Guest Night: Donnelly and South's Christmas Cracker. The Joiners Arms, Market Place, Bideford, EX30 2DR

FRIDAY 6

Mad Dog McCrea. The Watermark, Erme Court, Leonards Road, Ivybridge PL21 0SZ

Janice Burns & Jon Doran. Calstock Arts, The Old Chapel, Sand Lane, PL18 9QX

SATURDAY 7

Phil Beer, Launceston Folk Club. Eagle House Hotel

An evening with Mark Chadwick. Calstock Village Hall, The Quay, PL18 9QA

Willand Folk Dance Club. Caller: Sarah Bazeley,

Band: Dartmoor Pixie Band. Willand Village Hall, Gables Road, EX15 2PL

SUNDAY 8

Keith Donnelley's Christmas Cracker Folk on the Moor. Moorland Hotel, Wotter, PL7 5H

THURSDAY 12

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

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

Steve Turner. Ashburton Arts Centre, West Street, TQ13 7DT

SATURDAY 14

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

SUNDAY 15

Christmas Party Folk on the Moor. Moorland Hotel, Wotter, Plymouth PL7 5H

TUESDAY 17

The Unthanks in Winter. Exmouth Pavilion Esplanade, EX8 2AZ

FRIDAY 20

Jim Causley: A Causley Christmas. St Pancras Church, Widecombe in the Moor

SUNDAY 22

Mad Dog McCrea. Tavistock Wharf, Canal Road, PL19 8AT

MONDAY 23

Mad Dog McCrea. Tavistock Wharf, Canal Road, PL19 8AT

FRIDAY 27

Twixt Christmas and New Year Ceilidh with The Offshoot Band and Kip Pratt. South Brent Village Hall, Station Approach, TQ10 9JL

SATURDAY 28

Exeter Ceilidhs: Barnstormers. Kenn Centre, Exeter Road, Kennford, EX6 7UE

SATURDAY 31

Willand Folk Dance Club. Caller: John Bone Band: Pair of Shears. Willand Village Hall, Gables Road, EX15 2PL

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



Saturday 19 October 2024

AUTUMN CÉILIDH

with

Ashburton Community Folk Orchestra



**Calling by
David Faulkner**



at South Brent Village Hall

at 7.30pm; (Doors open 7.00pm) Reel Ale Bar

Entry £8 Tickets on the door or from artworks 01364 649424, South Brent

For further information contact 01364 73117

<http://southbrentfolk.org.uk>

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
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
 petemorton56@googlemail.
 com
MAJIDAH TRIBAL BELLY
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NEWTON BUSHEL MORRIS (F)
 Rod Shute, 01803 403153

rod@newtonbushelmorris.uk
OLD TOWN TWELVES
 Alison Chapman,
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PLYMOUTH MORRIS
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 uk www.plymouthmorris.uk
RADDON HILL CLOG
MORRIS (F)
 Triss Cummings 01626 376173
ROUGH DIAMONDS
APPALACHIAN
 01460 220607
SHUFFLE THE DECK (F)
 Appalachian.
 Kathy Houlihan 01752
 893335 or 07719 652885
SIDMOUTH STEPPERS
NW MORRIS (F)
 cath.nettleton@gmail.com
SIDMOUTH TRADITIONAL
MUMMERS
 Henry Piper, 01404 811491
 henry.piper@zoom.co.uk
TINNERS MORRIS MEN (F)
 andrew@frangleton.co.uk
TRIGG MORRIS MEN (R)
 Roger Hancock, 01208 73907
TUDOR DANCE GROUP
 Mrs Elizabeth Thurgood,
 01404 812185 (Sat)
WINKLEIGH MORRIS (F)
 Alexa Mason, 01647 277498
 alexa@moormasons.plus.
 com (Tues)
WRECKERS BORDER (F)
 wreckers.bag@gmail.com
 Thurs

Bands

Those in bold text have an
 advert elsewhere in
 this magazine. * EFDSS
 affiliated.

Abacus – email Julie Mason
 mason.je@btconnect.com

Accordion To Taste

07885 427116

Amber Fire 01803 862393

Babelfish 07971 148531

Backalong Steve Verge

07989068825

stevejverge@gmail.com

Barnstormers 01392 882036

Blue Jewel

07957 855458

Bridgwater Band

01278 691370

Choughed to Bits

01752 851990

Chris Toyne Band chris.

toyne@btinternet.com

Classic Ceilidh Band 07778
 105739

Dartmoor Pixie Band*

01837 840775

Dancing Keys 01884 820438

Eel Grinders 01647 440020

Flash Company 01392 851496

Flash Jack 01566 785233

Folk Two 01548 550004

Fox Amongst The Chickens

01566 785233

Bands

Fraich 'Airs'* 01392 811593	Mrs Midnight's 07469 773353	Reel Thing 01460 240671
Fresh Aire 01823 257488	Mullachabu 01626 871260	Scratchbox 01803 847689
Full English 01271 866907	New Vintage Band 01363 774426	Sheer Hopody 01769 520595
Haymakers 01288 361625	Occasion Ceilidh Band 01752 337501	Slack Ma Girdle 01823 680523
Hips and Haws 01392 861466	Oggle Band* 01271 865030	Spinach For Norman 07970 151059
Hobson's Choice 01823 272537	Old Boys 01726 837432	Squeezum 01823 333567
Home Brew 01363 877216	Other Band 01326 563564	Steve Gill & Andy Clarke 01803 290427
Hot Punch 01271 373128	Paddy's Whiskers* 01803 520798	Stick The Fiddle 07790 760462
Jeroka 01460 54568	Park Bench Aristocrats 01548 810038	Stringaccord 016430707294
Jigs For Gigs 01460 241326	Petronella 01626 854141	Tinners 01736 787951
Kick up the Dust 07742917101	Pigs Might Fly 01392 465462	Up The Creek 01548 531525
Lucy Lastic 01884 258892	Pig's Whisper 01392 250355	Walter Shortage & the Hosepipe Band 01837 52174
Meltdown 01278 732202	Piping Hot 01803 528234	Winkeilidh Band 01363 877216
Meter Rite 01823 401271	Phoenix 07971220462	Weston Country Dance Band 01934 813326
Mischief & Mayhem* 01395 514291	Quantock Quarenders 01984 656459	
Mist The Boat 01409 211340	Rakes Adrift 01271 865030	
Mooncoin Ceilidh Band* 01803 290427	Red Shed 01363 774339	
More The Merrier 01626 854141		



SOUTH BRENT FOLK

presents

'War and Peace in Devon in Song

An evening with **Sam Richards** and **Martin Scragg**.





on

Friday 08 November 2024

in The Old School Community Centre, South Brent

at 7.45pm; Doors open 7.15pm.

Tea, coffee, soft drinks & snacks available.

Tickets £8 from [artworks](#) in South Brent, or by BACS - contact mavis.bewith@southbrentfolk.co.uk or on the door (if any left).

email shop@southbrentartworks.co.uk or phone 01364 73117.

<http://southbrentfolk.org.uk>



A question of etiquette

A TRICKY question for any morris side. What to do if you are at a festival waiting for your showcase spot when another side steps in before you and performs your signature dance which you were about to do?

This happened to the Widders of Chepstow at Teignmouth Folk Festival this year. Winterbourn Down went on before them and performed *Severn Tunnel Junction*, which they had learned from Widders.

At one time the Widders might have had more than a few words to say but they bit the bullet and performed their version when their turn came.

Squires I've spoken to agree that Winterbourn blundered badly and the first rule of dancing is: Don't tread on anyone's toes.

PICTURED above is the unusual spectacle of a morris side – Lodestone – dancing to the Plymouth Pipe Band. The editor of What's Afoot is proud to say he convinced the traditions to combine at the Buckland Monachorm Summer Fair back in June. By happy chance, Marai's Wedding fits the Dartmoor dance Tinnners' Rabbits perfectly. So far, I've also managed to persuade Wreckers Morris to dance Tinnners to a street organ and Dartmoor Morris to dance it to a fairground pipe organ. While I'm looking for my next challenge, can anyone else boast of making a side dance to an unusual backing?



Friday 27th December 2024

Twixt Christmas and New Year



CÉILIDH

Chill out and enjoy the music after the Christmas festivities
or dance your (new) socks off

with

THE OFFSHOOT BAND

with caller **KIP PRATT**

(from 'Spinach for Norman')

at **South Brent Village Hall**

at **7.30pm**

Doors open 7.00pm Reel Ale Bar

Entry £8 (includes one free non-alcoholic drink)

Tickets on the door or from artworks 01364 649424, South Brent

For further information contact 01364 73117



<http://southbrentfolk.org.uk>

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

Tour and new album keep Steve busy

STEVE KNIGHTLEY may have paused his touring with Show of Hands but he hasn't gone into retirement. As well as touring nationally, he is playing at Torrington's Plough Arts Centre on Friday October 11 and the Barbican Theatre in Plymouth on October 12. Then it's the Exeter Phoenix on Wednesday November 13.

He has also been planning a tour with his new band Dream In Colours and has brought out his first solo album since 2007. The Winter Yards is released in October. We hadn't received a review copy by the time *What's Afoot* went to press. However, Steve has released a video of the title track and you can find it on his Facebook page or the What's Afoot Facebook page.

His "other half", Phil Beer isn't resting on his laurels either. Following a fine show at Sidmouth Folk Festival with old pal Paul Downes, Phil is on tour and playing locally at St Mary's Church, Totnes, on Friday October 4;

with his trio at Exmouth Pavilion on Sunday November 24; and at Launceston Folk Club on Sunday December 8.

Folk legends visit

THERE'S a chance to see some folk legends in the coming months. Gigspanner, the band formed by former Steeleye Span fiddler Peter Knight, will be at Launceston Town Hall on Friday October 18 and the Beehive, Honiton on Saturday October 19. Peter's old band Steeleye Span will be at Exeter Corn Exchange on Sunday October 20.

Fairport Convention, who kickstarted the electric folk revolution, will be at Launceston Town Hall on Thursday October 31. On Saturday November 16, the town hall will host Martin Carthy – there's no need to say any more about him.

And at Tavistock Wharf on Wednesday November 27 Ralph McTell will be appearing with his old friend Dave Pegg from Fairport Convention. If you think Ralph only ever wrote *Streets Of London*, it's a chance to find out just how many other great songs he has written during his career of more than 60 years.

Fourth win for Alice

ALICE Knight scored her fourth victory in the Dartmoor Stepdancing Championship at this year's Dartmoor Folk Festival. She took the title in 2022 and 2019 and was junior champion in 2017.

In second place was Christabel White and in third, Beth Frangleton. The step dance competition, performed on a 15-inch board, is one of the main traditions associated with the festival which was founded by legendary Dartmoor musician Bob Cann.

Dance clubs close

WE ARE sorry to announce that two dance clubs have closed: Exmouth Isca Scottish Dancers who met in East Budleigh Village Hall and the Exmouth Playford Club who met in the Church Hall at Budleigh. They were both run by Mr and Mrs Tyler.

Band rebranded

THE BAND Mugdock has had a change of name. They now appear in *What's Afoot* – and everywhere else – as Accordion To Taste.

The Mooncoin Barn Dance Band



Available for
Wedding Ceilidhs
Birthdays
Anniversaries etc.
Own Caller

Instruments include Melodeon,
Guitar, Bouzouki, Fiddle, Bodhran &
Uilleann Pipes

Available as a 2, 3 or 4 piece band
with caller

To book the band contact:
Anne & Steve Gill 01803 290427
Email: anne.m.gill@icloud.com

or Andy Clarke 07792009374

Halsway Christmas

Come and start your Christmas celebrations at **Halsway Manor**, where we'll be hosting our very first 'Festive Festival'. Take some time away from the December hullabaloo or bring in the New Year with dancing, singing, music and games.

The main event ...

A Very Halsway Christmas

Fri 20 Dec - Mon 23 Dec, 2024

Over the weekend three brilliant bands will perform festive gigs - **The Winter Wonderband** (Fri), **The Rosie Hood Band** (Sat) and **Jackie Oates and John Spiers** (Sun) plus workshops during the day.



Festive Courses

Fri 29 Nov - Sun 1 Dec, 2024
Christmas Carols and beyond with Narthen

Mon 9 - Fri 13 Dec, 2024
Festive Retreat

Fri 13 - Sun 15 Dec, 2024
Gaudete! Renaissance Music for the Festive Season

Sun 29 Dec, 2024
- Thurs 2 Jan, 2025
New Year House Party

Fri 3 - Sun 5 Jan, 2025
GreenMatthews' Midwinter Getaway

HALSWAY
MANOR

National Centre for Folk Arts

www.halswaymanor.org.uk

How to be sure of yuletide harmony

You could spend the festive season at the only residential centre for folk arts

FROM the main road to Minehead, the only clue that Halsway Manor exists is a brown sign pointing up the winding lane, hinting that the National Centre for Folk Arts is hidden in the trees at the foot of the Quantock Hills. As you reach the top of the lane, the manor comes into view, with its impressive frontage of local red stone and its parapet protected by an impressive variety of hunky punks.

Halsway Manor is the only residential centre in the country dedicated to the Folk Arts and welcomes thousands of people every year to take part in courses, retreats and holidays involving music, dance, craft, well-being and nature. Tutors and participants come from all over the world, and the friendships and musical partnerships fused at Halsway can last a lifetime.

The manor offers a range of accommodation options for participants, from private ensuite rooms and larger shared and semi-private rooms (popular with groups of friends) to the recently installed ensuite garden cabins, as well as options to camp or take part as a non-resident. Meals take place in the communal dining room, and are a great chance to get to know everyone, over delicious home-cooked meals and the much-loved Halsway cream tea.

PEOPLE are often surprised to learn that Halsway Manor operates year-round, with courses running every week of the year from early January through to the New Year House Party at the end of December. A dedicated house and kitchen team keeps everyone fed and happy, seven days a week.

This year, there's a bit of a change to the regular December programme, with the team taking a break over Christmas week after working hard all year. Instead, guests can enjoy a mini Festive Festival, with three bands visiting the manor for A Very Halsway Christmas (December 20-23). If you've always



COMING FOR CHRISTMAS: Jackie Oates and John Spiers will be at Halsway for the long weekend of December 20-23

fancied a Christmas House Party but like to be at home on the 25th, this is your chance to experience all the magic of a Halsway Christmas while still getting back in time to put out the carrot for Rudolph.

For 2024, host Gareth Kiddier will be joined by:

The Winter Wonderband, with spellbinding vocal harmonies backed by a beautiful combination of instruments. Saul Rose, Maclaine Colston, Beth Porter and Jennifer Crook sing of wintery tales and festive times, both traditional and original.

The Rosie Hood Band: Rosie Hood, Nicola Beazley, Rosie Butler-Hall and Robyn Wallace perform gems from their first album, alongside other delights, including some special festive treats.

Jackie Oates and John Spiers: the duo's festive concerts are a heart-warming antidote to the materiality that can be a feature of the Christmas season.

As well as performing (one band per night), the guest artists will be leading workshops for instrumentalists, singers and dancers, both festive-themed and otherwise. The manor itself

Christmas at Halsway

will be decked out in its Christmas finery, from the huge decorated tree in the Hall, to the fireplaces covered in greenery, with log fires roaring in the hearth.

There will even be an early Christmas dinner with all the trimmings and festive tipples. And guess what? No washing up!

If you're local to Halsway and just want to pop in for the performances, gig tickets are on sale already. There are a whole range of gigs throughout the year that are open to the public, so it's well worth checking out who's playing when.

Can't make the festival but still interested in a festive break at Halsway Manor? There are a host of other options from November through to January to tempt you away from home for a short folkie holiday.

Narthen (Jo Freya, Fi Fraser, Sarah Matthews, Doug Eunson) are back for another joyous weekend of polyphonic unaccompanied singing in four-part harmony, with a tutor to lead each section of the choir (Friday November 29 to Sunday December 1).

Perhaps you're looking for an opportunity to

take some time away from the December hullabaloo? Then look no further than our Festive Retreat (Monday December 9 to Friday 13) with Laurel Swift and Matt Norman.

WILLIAM Lyons and Richard Thomas from The City Musick will be heading to Halsway for the very first time for Gaudete! Renaissance Music for the Festive Season, bringing with them all the joys of the festive season during the Renaissance (Friday December 13 to Sunday 15).

A couple of rooms are still available for the New Year House Party (Sunday December 29 to Thursday January 2), where you can celebrate the New Year in style – folk style that is! It's a chance to see out the old year and bring in the new with dancing, singing, music and games.

Or you could kickstart the new year by joining the GreenMatthews Midwinter Getaway – a relaxing weekend of fun and festivities with hosts Chris Green and Sophie Matthews (Friday January 3 to Sunday 5).

WILLAND FOLK DANCE CLUB

SATURDAY DANCES

Willand Village Hall

October 5 th	Rosemary Hunt & Orions Ring
November 2 nd	Ivan Aitken & Brian McMinn & Mike Green
December 7 th	Sarah Bazeley & Dartmoor Pixie Band
December 31 st	New Year's Eve Dance - 8pm - 12.30am (Bring and Share Supper) Admission £12.00 John Bone & Pair of Shears

Admission £10.00 - Tea & Biscuits - Raffle

Contact: Zena Roberts 01884 253546 www.willandfolkdanceclub.co.uk

Club Nights 2nd & 4th Thursdays 8.00 – 10.30pm in the Village Hall
Members £4.00 / Non-members £4.50 – See Diary Dates for more information
Contact Marilyn Broom 01404 47200 or Zena Roberts 01884 253546

Louisa's Journey

IN THE previous issue of What's Afoot (136), we recounted the story of how in 1899 the Lynmouth lifeboat could not be launched to save a ship in trouble because a howling gale was blowing directly into the harbour. So the Louisa was dragged across Exmoor to be launched at Porlock Weir.

Exmoor Morris created a dance to celebrate this heroic journey and after the side folded, it was passed on to Dartmoor Border Morris. DBM were performing it at the Bovey Tracey Green Man festival when the squire was approached by the grandson of one of the lifeboatmen who thanked him for keeping this piece of history alive.

He also said that his grandfather had been presented with a watch by the owners of the Forest Hall, the vessel in distress. The watch had been passed on to him and that same day at the Bovey festival he had just presented it to his own grandson.

After publication we were contacted by

Barbara Brown who had recorded a song about the rescue with her late husband Tom. She had put to music a poem written by Rachelle Jeffs, a resident of Combe Martin, Barbara and Tom's home for many years.

The song can be found on Barbara and Tom's CD *Prevailing Winds*, which, unfortunately, is very hard to get hold of these days.

Barbara has kindly donated the song to *What's Afoot* and the words and music are on the facing page. The Browns' recording of the song will be going up on the What's Afoot Facebook page.

Tom and Barbara had a long and distinguished career as folk singers and musicians. They also ran the Shammick Acoustic Club in Combe Martin for many years and attracted top-class guest artists. Sadly, Shammick closed a few years back but it is to be hoped that someone will pick up the torch and set up a new folk club in north Devon. Any takers?

Exeter Folk & Acoustic Music Club

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

Friday 11 th October	Concert Night: Geoff Lakeman & Rob Murch
Friday 25 th October	Open Club Night
Friday 8 th November	Concert Night: Mick Ryan & Paul Downes
Friday 29 th November	Open Club Night
Sunday 1 st December	Concert Night: "All On A Winter's Night" (Johnny Coppin, Dik Cadbury & Paul Burgess)
	Venue: Newton St. Cyres Parish Hall
Friday 20 th December	Christmas Club Night

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

A Devon Song

Louisa's Journey

WORDS: RACHELLE JEFFS
MUSIC: BARBARA BROWN

Day was turn ing in to night when Lou - is - a's name was called, A —
ship in troub - le in the bay but the life - boat's launch was stalled. 'The
sea's too wild, the blind - ing rain, we'll nev er get her off. The
on - ly way is ov - er land but the go - ing will be tough.' A -
- way men a - way We'll launch from Porlock Bay. 'Tis far I know but a -
- way we'll go. We'll launch from Por lock Bay. We'll launch from Por lock Bay.

Day was turning into night when Louisa's name was called,
A ship in trouble in the bay, but the lifeboat's launch was stalled;
'The sea's too wild, the blinding rain – we'll never get her off;
The only way is overland, but the going will be tough.'

CHORUS: 'Away, men, away! We'll launch from Porlock Bay;
'Tis far I know, but away we'll go; we'll launch from Porlock Bay,
We'll launch from Porlock Bay.'

So overland they started out, a hundred men or so,
With eighteen horses harnessed up, some fourteen miles to go;
The hills were steep, the going rough, and one by one they failed
Till only twenty men were left to face the storm and gale.

Up and up to County Gate and on into Somerset,

These brave and fearless men went on, their destination set;
Ten hours and a half they journeyed on, these men who showed no fear
To take Louisa to her launch at the calmer Porlock Weir.

The crew of the Forest Hall were amazed to see Louisa's bow
As she rode the mighty waves – their rescue had come now;
So long they'd waited for this time, for these men so brave and bold,
All heroes to the Forest Hall, they came through the wind and cold.

It was twenty-four hours or maybe more before they were all home;
Louisa's men were hungry, tired, and frozen to the bone,
But heroes of their time they were; none will forget this tale,
How the Lynmouth men saved the Forest Hall in the rain and the cold and gale.

LEAVE A LIGHT ON

Suthering

HEG Brignall and Julu Irvine are two strong women. Since they moved to Devon they have built up two folk choirs – The Great Sea Choir of Plymouth and the Wheelhouse Choir in Tavistock – to be good enough to get gigs at the Sidmouth Folk Festival for two years running. And they've now released their second CD as Suthering. So it's no surprise that strong women should feature on this new album. The opening track, *Maggie*, is a strong affirmation of a woman's right to choose.

Warrior tells of villagers finding an ancient grave with weapons in it so they automatically assume this must be the grave of a man. This is a mistake that some archaeologists have made as tests on the bones of warriors, first thought to be men, found in Sweden, Spain and South Kazakhstan have proved that they were women who probably fought alongside men.

Other songs, all but one written by Julu and Heg deal with love, loss and loneliness. The sometimes sad subject matter is buoyed up by their strong harmonies and guitar and keyboard playing. There are some excellent guest musicians, Lukas Drinkwater, double bass, and Olivia Dunn, fiddle, and fine production by Sean Lakeman. Glimmers of light run through it, offering hope, as in the song *When You Go*:

*When you go, I'll leave a light on
Shining out across the distance,
That lies 'tween you and me.*

Julu and Heg have certainly written some good songs but my favourite track has to be the final one, a traditional Hebridean song, *Seagull of the Land Under the Waves*. Just two voices soar together in glorious harmony. Sometimes less is more.

John Foxen

BARING-GOULD SONGS

Jim Causley and Miranda Sykes

AS REPORTED in the previous issue of What's Afoot Jim Causley and Miranda Sykes are on the road with John Palmer, taking their show Ghosts, Werewolves and Country Folk round the country to commemorate the 100th anniversary of the death of Sabine Baring-Gould, the energetic parson who collected so many songs from the West Country.

The album of the show features songs written and collected by SBG (John's narration is not included). Jim says it's intended primarily as a souvenir of the show but it does

work well as a stand-alone collection. Jim has recorded some of the songs before but his collaboration with Miranda adds a new charm to old favourites such as *The Bellringing* and *A Cottage Well Thatched With Straw*.

I particularly like the way they "converse", swapping verses on the courtship song *The Jovial Heckler Boy*. It's nice to hear Miranda succumbing to Jim's charms. By the way, a heckler in this case is not someone interrupting their show but a man who combed flax fibres to prepare them to be spun.

Their rendition of *Blackingstone Ravens* is toned down from the gory version that appears on Jim's *Songs Of Dartmoor* album.

The show does include SBG's "greatest hits": *Widcombe Fair* and *Onward Christian Soldiers*. It's interesting to hear Jim and Miranda use the tune that SBG originally intended for *Soldiers*. Interesting, yes, but it does lack the punch of the Arthur Sullivan tune that made the hymn so popular.

Jim and Miranda work so well together that it's to be hoped there will be more close collaborations after the SBG show ends.

John Foxen

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DEVON Folk is a non-profit organisation dedicated to promoting traditional music song and dance throughout the county. It publishes this magazine and helps with festivals and other activities. You can support 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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