

# *No 138 April-June 2025* **What's Afoot**

*Official magazine of*

**Devon Folk**

*ANCESTRAL MUSIC & DANCE*

**STEVE KNIGHTLEY CLAIMS THIS MAN IS  
THE GREATEST UNKNOWN SONGWRITER  
IN BRITAIN. SO WHO IS CHRIS HOBAN?**

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## EDITORIAL

I WAS at a barn dance recently where the excellent Dartmoor Pixie Band were playing. "Ah," said a friend, "that's not really the Pixie band. I remember when Bob Cann brought the band to our village years ago but he's long gone." I had to explain that Mark Bazeley might not have the Cann name but his mother was Bob Cann's daughter. Jason Rice's dad was a founder member of the band, and Rob Murch's dad was a long-time member of the Bob Cann line-up. Mark's wife Sarah has been calling with the band since she was 16 so there is an unbroken line. This, I told my friend, was the real Dartmoor tradition. Then I noticed Sarah doing a sound check, walking round the hall with her iPad and adjusting the amplifiers through a Bluetooth connection. OK, I had to admit, this wasn't quite traditional. But then it wasn't technology taking over. The band weren't "sampling" sounds, using loopers or scratching record decks. This was technology aiding tradition. When the dancing started it was good old-fashioned musicianship and pure Pixie magic that was pulling dancers young and old onto the floor. The folk world has seen many changes since the days of Baring Gould and Cecil Sharp and arguments have raged over the years and will rage for years to come over what has been for the better and what for the worse. Although traditions may change, at least they are continuing.

**JOHN FOXEN, EDITOR**

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# It's time for Chris to show his hand

**A long-time associate of Steve Knightley and Phil Beer is now taking centre stage**

**S**TEVE KNIGHTLEY, no less, has called Chris Hoban the greatest unknown songwriter in Britain. And there may well be many people who hear Show Of Hands performing *Katrina*, *The Lily And The Rose*, *Along The Old Lych Way* or *Hallows Eve* without realising these songs were written not by Steve but by Chris. He is also the man who wrote the arrangements for some of their numbers and helped to put together their *Centenary* album.

You have probably seen him on stage with them at some time. He performed with them at their last concert at the Albert Hall and at their

final farewell concert at Exeter Cathedral. Not only was it a historic moment for all concerned but it also left Chris with more time for his composing, arranging and other musical projects. And there are plenty of those.

His work with Show Of Hands is a far cry from Chris's musical beginnings as a chorister in one of London's top church choirs. His classical music background is due to his father, John, who was the choir master at Brompton Oratory in London, from 1971 to 1995. Chris, who was born in 1967, and his brothers all sang in the choir. Chris describes his father as quite conventional in many ways – a bowler-hat wearing, World Service listener. But John Hoban was also an innovator, introducing a girls' choir to the Oratory in 1973 – a move as radical and shocking at the time as introducing women into morris dancing.

Back then Chris was being directed towards a very different musical future. "I was destined to be a cellist," says Chris, "but I developed back problems. Bending over the cello wasn't feasible so I had to find something else to do. I grew up writing music – my mother wrote down a song I made up when I was three years old and I've been doing it ever since."

His back has improved and he has managed to take up the cello again but it is no longer his main instrument. As a teenager he got a guitar and started writing songs with it – he describes his early efforts as rubbish. The guitar has led many people to folk music – often via Dylan, Donovan or Steeleye Span. But Chris's guides were the classical composers Vaughan Williams, Butterworth and Percy Grainger who had all turned to British folk music for their inspiration. He also became interested in the folk tunes used in John Gay's *The Beggars' Opera*. Then, like so many others he came across The Penguin Book Of Folk Songs and a new world opened up for him.

However, he was also attracted to writing for

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## **A MOMENT TO COMPOSE: Chris Hoban at work at home**

the world of musical theatre and this literally took him round the globe. “I have worked in Scotland, Moscow, Australia, New Zealand and Rio De Janeiro – although I was teaching English in Rio. I went there because I love Brazilian music.”

Musical theatre also took him to Africa and this set him on a new musical path. “We were taking a show to Africa about David Livingstone and I needed a portable organ. The most portable near equivalent I found was an accordion. I already played piano so I was able to learn the accordion but I wouldn’t class myself as one of the better players.”

You can judge the standard of Chris’s playing from video clips of his songs posted on his website.

From the shows, he moved into musical education and got a job in Devon some 15 years ago. “I’d wanted to be by the sea and ended up in Topsham.”

This move proved to be another life changer because his son and Steve Knightley’s went to the same school and became friends. One one occasion, Steve was collecting his son from Chris’s house and stopped for a glass of wine and a chat. They got talking about music and Chris happened to mention a song he’d just

written about Hurricane Katrina which devastated New Orleans in 2005. Steve was impressed *Katrina* appeared on Show of Hands’ *Wake The Union* album and even won praise from a writer on the crusty old Daily Telegraph (although it has to be said that the Daily Telegraph has had some good folk music writers, in particular Colin Randall).

This led to Chris being involved in Show Of Hands’ *Centenary* album to commemorate the 100th anniversary of the start of the First World War with a mixture of songs old and new and poetry. He played piano and contributed the songs *The Padre* and *Love Will Make The World Go Round*. But he is particularly proud of his work arranging Steve’s song *The Gamekeeper* and weaving the traditional songs *The Keeper* and *The Water Is Wide* into the mix.

One of Chris’s most moving songs is *The Lily And The Rose*, woman’s lament for her love who was lost in the First World War. He wrote it specifically for Miranda Sykes to sing and is very proud of her performing it with Devon’s Lost Sound choir. This song appears on Show Of Hands’ *Roots 2* album – although it doesn’t feature Steve and Phil Beer at all.

*The Lily And The Rose* has been recycled,

along with *The Padre*, now that Chris has struck out on his own after the retirement of Show Of Hands. He has gone back to his early love, musical theatre and has been producing his own shows in the folk tradition. In 2023 he brought *1918 – The Untold Stories Of The Great War* to the Sidmouth Folk Festival, backed by the Sidmouth Town Band. An advantage of being a classically trained arranger is that you can whip up sheet music for the big forces when you need them.

**A**S WELL as *The Padre* and *The Lily And The Rose*, the show also featured his songs *The Christmas Truce* and *Along The Lanes And O'er The Lea*. Chris says that the inspiration for this show were the people who did not come back from the conflict, the empty spaces in the pews in the churches.

He joined forces again with Sidmouth Town Band at last year's Sidmouth Festival for his show *Cartography*, about the relationship between people and the land and how this has shaped the English race. Chris is passionate about the land. Among other things he is a wild swimmer.

The show features the song *All Away*, a heartfelt protest against the efforts of some landowners to restrict the right to roam on Dartmoor. It is reminiscent of *The Manchester Rambler*, Ewan MacColl's anthem for the mass trespass on Kinder Scout in 1932 that led to improved rights of access to the countryside. Chris's song is even angrier.

He has also put together a two-man show. *A Yuletide Ramble*, with actor Martin Reeve

telling seasonal stories while Chris provides the songs and music and leads the audience in carol singing. This was performed at Topsham Folk Club in December last year. As with such seasonal shows, we will have to wait for the appropriate time, winter, to see this again.

Another show, *Riverain*, about life along rivers, is in the works.

Much of Chris's work is inspired by stories he comes across so we can expect another show now that he has been given access to a wealth of material. He has been appointed as a Cultural Fellow at Exeter University for 2025 for the project Wills as Windows onto Past Lives.

"Their history department is undertaking a mammoth project, 'The Material Culture of Wills' and I'm writing lyrics and songs inspired by the wills themselves which date from 1540-1790.

"I will be drawing from their language, place, characters, and of course their possessions. Each will is a unique, hand written document which is unmistakably personal in both intent and tone."

Enthusiasts for family history will know how much wills can tell us about how our ancestors lived so we can expect some fascinating songs.

*You can find examples of Chris's work on his website [Chrisoban.com](http://Chrisoban.com). There is also a chance to buy his arrangements of his own songs and folk songs. These range from solo parts to choir settings to full-blown arrangements for brass band.*

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# ***Pennymoor Singaround***

**Please check venue and time changes in red**

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

**3rd Thursday 7.30pm The London Inn, Morchard Bishop  
Nr Cridton Contact: Jon 07840524318**

**Music Session:** Last Sunday 12 noon Half Moon Inn, Cheriton Fitzpaine, Contact Clare 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 New Venue being arranged**  
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

# Duo celebrates 30 years of harmony

**Kathryn Roberts and Sean Lakeman have come a long way since meeting at Sidmouth**

**T**HE Wisdom Of Standing Still is a song by Kathryn Roberts and Sean Lakeman but it's not advice they are heeding at the moment. In March, they set off on a tour round Britain that takes them from the wild west, Truro to the far east – Colchester – then north to Scunthorpe and beyond before eventually heading back to their home in West Devon. The tour is to celebrate 30 years of working together, first as bandmates then as duo and happily married couple.

Just before they began their tour, I managed to chat to Kathryn, writes *John Foxen*. Sean was knee-deep in tedious admin work. It's certainly not a glamorous job being a folk artist. "Mornings are for answering and writing emails," Katherine said. "With local newspapers closing down, we rely so much on social media for publicising gigs. Sometimes you feel you are nagging people, sending email after email saying 'come and see us'. Especially at a time when money is tight."

Their afternoons are given over to the proper job for musicians: rehearsals. But they also have to fit in looking after their twin daughters who are fast approaching 18 and their A-levels. One daughter plays piano, the other guitar and both sing. They have even performed with their parents on stage at Sidmouth and the Beautiful Days festivals.

The family live at Horrabridge, between Tavistock and Plymouth. Sean was raised nearby at Buckland Monachorum, which must have something in the water as it has produced three outstanding artists in him and his brothers Seth and Sam. Kathryn hails from Barnsley, which can also be proud of its local talent. It's the home of Kate Rusby as well. Yorkshire folk are fiercely proud of their county so how does Kathryn feel about Devon? "I still love South Yorkshire. The countryside around Barnsley is lovely but once Dartmoor gets into your soul, you can't imagine living anywhere else." Her

love of the area is shown in her song *Pew Tor*, dedicated to that beauty spot just a few miles from Tavistock. "Between Pew Tor and Vixen Tor there is a place where we always hear the first cuckoo of spring."

Katherine is now part of Horrabridge village life. "I told the manager of our local pub, The Leaping Salmon, that if they got a piano in there, I'd come and play Christmas carols. They got a piano and now it's become an annual tradition. I play carols and the locals sing. It's wonderful to hear people singing. It's so good that there is a resurgence of community choirs."

There is a strong choral tradition in Yorkshire but Kathryn did not grow up with that. Her parents were both morris dancers and she grew up in the folk world. "After a dance session it was off to the pub and I'd fall asleep hearing the old songs."

**K**ATHRYN became quite a nifty dancer herself, performing clog and Irish dancing to a high level. She and Kate Rusby formed a dance side that they took to the Whitby Folk Festival years ago. "We did some rapper which was looked down on by some people as rapper wasn't seen as dancing for women back then."

But despite her dance expertise and her love of Devon's moorland, Kathryn has never been tempted to enter the Dartmoor Step Dancing Championships. "We go to the Dartmoor Folk Festival, I've tried the workshop and I love watching it but I'm afraid I'd be far too flamboyant for the competition."

Kathryn and Kate Rusby joined forces to produce an acclaimed album. Their touring took them to Sidmouth in 1993 where they bumped into the three Lakeman brothers who were also creating quite a stir on the folk scene. "We started hanging around together because we were around the same age," said Katherine.



## Love Song

**IN TUNE: Kathryn  
Roberts and Sean  
Lakeman**



The musical mix was good and they formed the band Equation. The name comes from the initials of the five members: SL3 + KR2. It's a far better equation than those dreadful quadratic ones that were the terror of maths lessons at school. In fact, it seems to be the formula for love.

The band toured very successfully, with a few changes along the way. Kate Rusby left to be replaced by Cara Dillon, who married Sam Lakeman. Kathryn moved down to Devon, initially because it was easier for rehearsals and Sean was her best friend. In time, as we know, he became so much more and when Equation eventually broke up Kathryn and Sean started touring the folk club circuit as a duo.

Sean is, of course, Devon born and bred – although his father, the redoubtable Crane duet concertina player Geoff, is still a proud Cornishman, despite years of living in Devon. Sean is an impressive guitar player but that can have a downside. “He’s always bringing new guitars home,” says Kathryn. “But he always tells me that each new guitar has a specific purpose.” I point out that you would not expect a carpenter or mechanic to turn up for a job with just one screwdriver. “Don’t give him an excuse to get another guitar,” cried Kathryn.

But she has to admit there is an upside. “It

can be tricky working with a singer, especially finding the right key. Folk fiddlers like to play in D, G and A but sometimes I need a key like Eb minor. That can be hard on the guitar but I’m lucky that Sean is a real master of the guitar and the capo and always so adaptable. He will always find a way to make a song work.”

As well as being a fine musician, Sean has an impressive CV in the recording studio. A notable achievement was his brother Seth’s breakthrough album, *Kitty Jay*. Seth remembers it being recorded in the kitchen but the album went on to be nominated for a Mercury Prize in 2005 (as recounted in What’s Afoot 137).

Now Sean has an impressive home studio and recently he produced the new album by Tavistock-based duo Suthering, *Leave A Light On*. Heg and Julu of Suthering have high praise for Sean. “He thought of so many things that we didn’t and they made the album so much better,” they said.

Sean’s studio work helped keep things going when Kathryn stopped touring for a while to concentrate on raising the family. But Kathryn and Sean came back with a bang, winning the best duo titles in the BBC Folk Awards in 2013 and 2016. Kathryn said: “This really helped with getting bookings because even if people

## Love Song

haven't heard of you, the awards are a real seal of approval from a trusted source."

The folk world is littered with married couples who performed together then split up. Performing with the person you love can be the biggest thrill ever but little niggles can grow into big problems when amplified by the pressure of life on the road.

To give an example, an amateur musician friend who performs with his wife recently told me: "I've just spent a month struggling to learn a Bert Jansch song that I still can't play and now she tells me she doesn't really like it! I wish she'd told me a month earlier."

There's no chance of that couple breaking up but the story does illustrate one of the problems that duos can have. I asked Kathryn how she and Sean deal with such artistic disagreements.

"We know each other well enough to be honest. If one of us suggests a song but it doesn't tickle the other's fancy, we can discuss it reasonably and frankly. If we can't agree then the deciding factor is: what would a member of the public think of it?"

Public approval is vital to Kathryn and Sean. But Kathryn pointed out that it's not for commercial reasons. "The whole point of

being up on stage is reach the audience. You asked us about the highlights of touring together and the highlight of any show is when people come up to you afterwards and talk about how they were moved by a particular song – because music can comfort you, make you laugh and even make you cry.

"It's wonderful to think that someone needed to hear you sing that song tonight."

**I**F THERE is a song by Sean and Kathryn that you really need to hear, their tour is coming back again to the West Country and there is a chance to see them at the Minack Theatre in Porthcurno on April 23 or at Calstock Arts on April 24.

During their tour they will be promoting their new live album *Another Day At The Circus*. Ten tracks were recorded while they were providing the musical entertainment at a musical walking holiday run by the Dorset folk duo Ninebarrow. The other six tracks were recorded at other venues, including a gig in Den Haag, Netherlands. If you can't make one of Sean and Kathryn's concerts, you can find the CD (or a download) at their website, [kathrynrobertsandseanlakeman.com](http://kathrynrobertsandseanlakeman.com).

## Exeter Folk & Acoustic Music Club

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Friday 25 <sup>th</sup> April	Open Club Night
Friday 30 <sup>th</sup> May	Open Club Night
Saturday 21 <sup>st</sup> June	Concert Night: Johnny Coppin & Phil Beer (A Newton St. Cyres Parish Hall & Exeter Folk Club Presentation)
Friday 27 <sup>th</sup> June	Open Club Night

----- NO CLUB IN JULY --- SUMMER BREAK -----

**All events are at Victoria Park Tennis Club, Exeter, unless otherwise stated.**

For more information contact  
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# Mum's the word

**RODERICK DENLEY-JONES**  
tells how he helped to revive an old custom



**PLAYING FOR LAUGHS:** *The Valiant Mummers*

**W**HEN I moved to Buckfastleigh from Wales two years ago, I wanted to continue my involvement in the folk world. I have spent 40 years dancing, leading and teaching Welsh Folk dancing, with a 10-year interlude living in Greece. It did not seem right to start a Welsh folk dance group in Devon. So, what to do?

I had always been interested in other folk traditions and had briefly participated in a mummers play in Wales as well as Maypole dancing. I had also been instrumental in helping to revive the Welsh tradition of the Mari Lwyd in Pontypool. This custom involves a “grey mare” – a man under a sheet holding a horse’s skull on a stick – going from door to door in a village begging for food and drink.

While working as a volunteer in the Valiant Soldier Museum in Buckfastleigh, I came across a photograph of some mummers performing in the town in Edwardian times. There was no information relating to them and they were not connected to any other group of the time so far as we could discover. However, I found mummers plays in Dartington and Ashburton and other places further afield.

I formed the Buckfastleigh Folk Tradition Group which has developed into the Valiant Mummers of Buckfastleigh. We meet every Monday evening in the Valiant Soldier Museum in Buckfastleigh.

We performed our first Mummers play at Easter 2024. It was an adaptation of several plays but all in the tradition. We decided to perform all year round and adapt the play accordingly. We also wrote a new play about

harvest and autumn time called the “Valiant Harvest”, a play about death and renewal in relation to the land at harvest time.

One feature of all our adaptations has been our local hero the Valiant Soldier – John Prettyjohns. Born in Dean Prior adjacent to Buckfastleigh, he won the first Victoria Cross awarded to a Royal Marine during the Crimean War. At the battle of Inkerman he led a division to clear out a cave of enemy snipers. The Valiant Soldier appears as a character in many plays of this type, but John Prettyjohns is ours.

In the Dartmoor Border Morris mummers play, their local hero, Sir Francis Drake replaces St George and fights the King of Spain. John Prettyjohns, does not replace our St George but features in the second fight sequence and chases the Turkish Knight home.

The group has gone from strength to strength and we have branched into performing a mystery play for next year as well as other Christmas traditions such as “Hunting the Wren” and adding a Grey Mare to the Wassail. In the spring, we teach Maypole dancing.

Since we formed, we have performed in local pubs, the Scorrington Show and our town Christmas Fair. You can see us at Buckfastleigh Town Hall on Saturday May 3. The play will be out spring version with a Green Man replacing Father Christmas. We will also be performing at the Tredegar House Folk Festival, Newport, on Saturday May 10.

Closer to home, there is another chance to see us on Sunday May 25 at the Woolfest on the Millennium Green, Buckfastleigh. We will

be Maypole dancing at the Buckfastleigh Summer fair on June 29. Our Valiant Harvest Play can be seen at Scorrilton Show on August Bank Holiday Monday. The final session of the year will be at our Buckfastleigh Christmas Fair, the full Christmas version.

Reviving and demonstrating old folk traditions adds to the rich tapestry of our culture after all: "Folklore is passed from one generation to the next to teach us about our

past, if we lose it, we lose the links to our past."

*If you fancy reviving the mummers play in your area, a good source of information is Colin Andrews' book **Devon Mumming Past & Present**. It contains details of mumming groups across the county and numerous scripts, traditional and new. See Colin's website [www.bonnygreen.uk](http://www.bonnygreen.uk) for more details.*

## Refining a young tradition is hard work

**I**F YOU are starting a traditional mummers side, there are plenty of sources to fall back on and adapt where necessary. But if you are taking the mummers tradition into a whole new realm of interactive entertainment then there's a lot more thinking to be done.

Back in 2017 the Dartmoor village of Sticklepath took on this task, creating its own Grey Mare event. There is a Tom Pearce in the graveyard and the villagers insist this really is the man who lent his grey mare to the seven revellers who wanted to go to Widecombe Fair – with disastrous results for the poor beast. Every year around Halloween the ghosts of the mare and its ruthless riders return to the village to delight the children – and adults.

There is a showbiz saying that you should never work with kids or animals. The Sticklepath event has both (OK the mare is an elaborate giant puppet with a human inside) so a lot of planning is needed and every year the event is altered and refined.

There is some way to go before Hallowe'en but Derek Moore, the event's guiding hand, and a few of his team met in February to examine what went right and what went wrong in previous years.

Derek says: "The event started out with the children hunting for the ghost of the Grey Mare. They went round the village meeting in turn each of the ghosts of the seven riders who would direct them on to the next ghost and eventually the Grey Mare.

"On the way they called at certain selected houses where they would get instructions and soul cakes. Somewhere along the way witches

– not part of any tradition – got involved. But they have proved a welcome addition."

Then Derek and his team found the event worked better if the children followed the Grey Mare around Sticklepath, hunting for the ghosts. "The whole point of the exercise is for the children to find the ghosts and get them to apologise for their thoughtless and cruel behaviour. It is a good life lesson to drum into the children as well."

But guiding a mass of children through the dark village streets can prove a problem and at the planning meeting a lot of thought was given to making the exercise as safe as possible.

Last year a pub car park was used as one of the places where the children meet the ghosts. However, one of the team pointed out that with cars coming in and out and children running around – as they do – it was a bit of a safety hazard. Sadly, the team had to rule out the car park as a meeting point.

Because the event is being held on Hallowe'en night this year, the team also need to ensure children don't detach themselves from the main group and randomly knock on doors to go trick-or-treating. Some people welcome Hallowe'en visitors but some prefer peace and quiet.

Special lighting effects along the way were also discussed. Originally songs had been planned but it had proved too difficult to get the children – and some of the cast – to learn them. They have been dropped and could be replaced with a simple slogan for the children to chant along the way.

There will be more work and refining before the big event on October 31 but Derek is confident that it will be all right on the night.



**The Grey Mare will be ready to rise again**

# Club's £9k aid for Ukraine

**Folk on the Moor members send vehicles and medical supplies to the war zone**



**MERCY MISSION:** *Nightingales members hand over to Ukrainians*

**F**OLK on the Moor organisers and club members have raised nearly £9,000 to help embattled Ukraine. Another event – a concert on April 13 – might push the total to over £10k.

The cash comes from a series of concerts held since 2022. The first, organised at the Moorland Hotel in Wotter by Folk on the Moor stalwart Anton Horwich, featured two lovely young Ukrainian singers Liza Verona and Masha Mazhnikova and brought in £1,100.

The fund-raising became focused when Nightingales UK, an aid organisation dedicated to helping embattled Ukraine, was formed in Milton Combe in 2023. Anton, also a member of Nightingales, has rallied Folk on the Moor behind the charity.

He said: “A concert in Milton Combe and another last April in St Andrew’s Church in Buckland Monachorum, with club resident singers and the Ukrainian Singers of Plymouth, raised a combined total of just under £3,000. Generous donations from Folk on the Moor club members amounted to a further £5,000. So in total, Folk on the Moor singers and members have raised more than £9,000 for aid to Ukraine, a fantastic achievement for a small folk club.”

The concert on April 13 will feature songs by Liza Verona and Masha Mazhnikova as a duo and also as members of the Ukrainian Singers of Plymouth. Snacks prepared by the local Ukrainian community will be served. Entrance to the evening will be by a suggested donation of £10 a head. All proceeds will be donated to

Nightingales UK. Anton will give a presentation at the concert about Nightingales.

He said: “I will include video clips from trips to Ukraine, where we deliver long-wheelbase 4x4 vehicles (big enough for a stretcher) full of medical aid. Since the 18 months from our launch in August 2023, we have driven nine such vehicles to Uzhhorod, some 15 miles into Ukraine from the Hungary/Ukraine border. We then hand the 4x4s over to trusted contacts, who travel for almost 24 hours from Dnipro in the east to collect them. They are then used as emergency response vehicles on the frontline, taking both injured soldiers and civilians to hospital. We fly home from Kosice in Slovakia.

“We also have a donated transit van and have delivered three van-loads of humanitarian aid to Koridor UA, our excellent partners in Prague, who can deliver it where it is needed most. In late March, we will be delivering a further van-load and have decided the van would be used more often by an aid organisation based in Ukraine, so we will be driving it and leaving it there.

“Another trip is planned for April.”

*If you can't make the April concert but still want to help Nightingales, scan this QR Code or go to <https://www.gofundme.com/f/Nightingales-UK>*





# Orchestras unite to help fight motor neurone disease



*Nick Hanbury presents the cheque to Philippa Knox*

ASHBURTON Community Folk Orchestra and Moorland Mandolins joined forces to raise £1,539 for the Motor Neurone Disease Association.

Jasmine Tanner, a leading player in Moorland Mandolins, was diagnosed with the debilitating condition two years ago. To help fund research to find a cure for MND, the two orchestras gave a concert in St Andrew's Church, Ashburton, in November. Jasmine was able to attend the event which began with a set from the Ashburton Community Folk Orchestra.

The orchestra has more than 30 members who play a wide range of instruments to perform folk tunes from the British Isles and beyond.

In the second half, the 18-piece Moorland Mandolins played a variety of popular pieces drawn from both their classical and contemporary repertoire. Both orchestras were

conducted by multi-instrumentalist David Faulkner.

There was no entry fee for the event but a raffle and donations from the public raised the substantial total.

In January Philippa Knox attended a rehearsal of the Ashburton Community Folk Orchestra and was presented with a cheque for the MNDA by Nick Hanbury, the event organiser. Philippa works for Plymouth NHS Trust and is also funded by the MNDA. She provides help and care for patients throughout South Devon.

Ashburton Community Folk Orchestra is an open and welcoming group and you can join at any point during the term. It meets from 10.30am to 12pm, on Thursdays at Ashburton Arts Centre.

Moorland Mandolins holds rehearsals in Dolton and Modbury. For details, see [www.moorlandmandolins.uk](http://www.moorlandmandolins.uk).

## Back Beach Boyz make memories

FOUR of Teignmouth's Back Beach Boyz shanty crew, plus two ex-members, entertained customers of The Wild Goose on New Year's Eve in Combeinteignhead.

The landlord's £200 donation to the Boyz was passed on to the Alice Cross Centre in Teignmouth, as they are struggling with funding for the Memory Club that they run. Ten of the crew were able to attend and entertain members, carers and volunteers. A good time was had by all.

For this special occasion, an extra verse was added to Bob Freshwater's local song *Ode To An Oyster*:

"I'm Sid the Pacific Oyster, my mates like cups of tea,

"And a good old natter with friendly company,

"Without this comfy centre we would be at a loss

"So raise your cups to the mem'ry of the founder Alice Cross."

You can see the Boyz at the Beer Festival at Teignmouth Rugby Club on April 18; at Teignmouth's Ship Inn Festival on May 23; at Bovey Tracey Craft Festival on June 7; and at the Falmouth Shanty Festival on June 13, 14 and 15.

# Jeremy Child

*Barn Dance Caller*



[www.barndancecaller.net](http://www.barndancecaller.net)

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

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

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

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

01392 422119 [jeremy.m.child@gmail.com](mailto:jeremy.m.child@gmail.com)

# Exeter Ceilidhs

Apr 26<sup>th</sup> Flash Company

May 31<sup>st</sup> Skermish

Jun 28<sup>th</sup> Crowdy Kit

Kenn Centre, Kennford 8pm – 11pm

07969 297 633 [www.exeterceilidhs.net](http://www.exeterceilidhs.net)



# In addition to our listings page, here are some of the highlights for your calendar

### **GREEN MAN FESTIVAL, Bovey Tracey**

**Saturday April 26**

THIS is seen by many as the event that opens the morris season in Devon. After a winter practising – interspersed with wassails and other events – sides from across the county and beyond converge on Bovey Tracey to celebrate the spring. The star attraction is the leaf-clad Green Man and his smaller companion (Twiggy?) who stroll round the town before being ritually defoliated.

Grimspound Border Morris organises the festival with help from the council and the main streets are closed to traffic and lined with stallholders. There will be music sessions and singing in some of the pubs.

If this is not enough morris and ritual for you then you could rise before dawn on the following Wednesday when sides across the county will be dancing up the sun. Contact your local side (a list is on Page 23) for details of when and where they will be dancing.

### **MAD DOG MCREA WEEKENDER**

**Exeter Phoenix, April 4-5**

FOLK rockers Mad Dog Mcrea are taking over the Phoenix for a fourth year. Their guests Molotov Jukebox are headlining on Friday while Mad Dog will be taking the stage in their inimitable way on Saturday. As we went to press other guests were still to be confirmed. Check the website for more details.

[www.maddogmcrea.co.uk](http://www.maddogmcrea.co.uk)

### **BRIXHAM PIRATE FESTIVAL**

**May 3-5**

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

[www.brixhampiratesfestival.com](http://www.brixhampiratesfestival.com)

### **DART MUSIC FESTIVAL, DARTMOUTH**

**May 16-18**

DARTMOUTH'S big event is back, this time promising more than 100 bands in 20 venues around the town. [www.dartmusicfestival.co.uk](http://www.dartmusicfestival.co.uk)

### **PLYMOUTH PIRATES WEEKEND**

**Barbican May 17-18**

The Jolly Roger will be flying again over the

Ocean City as the rogues of the sea gather for a weekend of yo-ho-ho on the waterfront.

[www.visitplymouth.co.uk](http://www.visitplymouth.co.uk)

### **HUNTING OF THE EARL OF RONE**

**Combe Martin May 23-26**

A STRANGELY garbed character, the Earl of Rone, is hunted through the village streets and shot several times before being cast into the sea. Legend claims the victim was the rebellious Earl of Tyrone who fled Ireland in 1607 and was shipwrecked on the Devon coast where he was hunted down and shot. In fact, the Earl of Rone came nowhere near Combe Martin and escaped to France – but don't let that spoil a good story.

The re-enactment of the false legend took place annually until 1837 when it was banned for being too rowdy. It was reinstated with the help of the late Tom Brown and others. Now it is an annual fixture involving the whole village. The ritual is carried out four times. Friday sees a procession with drums only, on Saturday the children's procession, on Sunday the full procession and on Monday the procession with the Earl of Rone.

[Earl-of-rone.org.uk](http://Earl-of-rone.org.uk)

### **DARTMOOR TORS FESTIVAL**

**May 23-25**

A NEW festival focusing on the beauty and power of natural landscapes will be held in Ashburton. In addition to musical performances by Martha Tilston (Friday) and Seth Lakeman (Saturday), Beltane Border Morris will be performing and discussing how the dark side of Dartmoor has influenced their dancing. Other events include a discussion on who holds the power on Dartmoor and displays by artists.

[dartmoortorsfestival.co.uk](http://dartmoortorsfestival.co.uk)

### **TEIGNMOUTH FOLK FESTIVAL**

**June 20-22**

THIS year the festival celebrates its 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary. Among the artists performing are Nancy Kerr and James Fagan, the Rosie Hood Band and The Lost Sound. As usual plenty of morris dancers will be around the town and there's free music in the Triangle. There will also be music sessions in pubs and a barn dance.

[www.facebook.com/TeignmouthFolkFestival](http://www.facebook.com/TeignmouthFolkFestival)  
[teignmouthfolkfestival.co.uk/](http://teignmouthfolkfestival.co.uk/)

## 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 if doubt. See also [www.devonfolk.org](http://www.devonfolk.org) for updates.**

## ASHBURTON

**2nd Monday** 7pm. Klezmer and East European session. Ashburton Arts Centre, 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:** St Petroc's Parish Centre, Priory Road, Bodmin, Cornwall, PL312DP [www.bodminfolk.co.uk](http://www.bodminfolk.co.uk)  
[sylvwatts@aol.com](mailto: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](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, 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

## FENITON

First Tuesdays (August). The Nog Inn, Feniton, EX14 3BT

## 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](mailto: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 07840 524318

## 3rd Thursday

7.30pm London Inn. Jon Shapley 07840 524318  
[jon\\_shapley@hotmail.com](mailto:jon_shapley@hotmail.com)

## 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



## Song and Music

### SANDFORD

**1st Tuesday** New venue. Call Paul & Hazel 01363 776275

### 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** 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**, Whimble  
Victory Hall, School Hill EX5  
2TS, (3rd Sun) 2pm. <https://>

[devonirishsetdancers.uk/](http://devonirishsetdancers.uk/)

## WILLAND

**Willand Folk Dance Club**,  
Willand Village Hall, Gables

Road, Willand, EX15 2PL.

Thursday (2nd and 4th) 8pm.

Tel: 01844 253546

or 01404 47200.

## Events

### APRIL

#### TUESDAY 1

##### **Sidford Folk Dance Club.**

Caller: Kim Smith Band:  
Dancing Keys. Sidford Social  
Hall, Byes Lane EX10 9QX

#### WEDNESDAY 2

##### **Gittisham Folk Dance Club**

Caller: Jane Thomas Band:  
Pair of Shears. Gittisham  
Village Hall, EX14 3AF  
**Irish Set Dancing**. Jolly Farmer,  
Newton Abbot TQ12 2RB

#### THURSDAY 3

**The Fureys**. Exeter Corn  
Exchange, George St, EX1 1BU

#### FRIDAY 4

**Mad Dog Mcree Weekender**.  
Exeter Phoenix, Gandy Street  
EX4 3LS

**Rachael McShane & The  
Cartographers**. Calstock Arts,  
The Old Chapel, Sand Lane,  
PL18 9QX

##### **Dartington Folk Dance Club.**

Dartington Village Hall,  
Shinners Bridge, TQ9 6JD

#### SATURDAY 5

**Mad Dog Mcree Weekender**.  
Exeter Phoenix, EX4 3LS

**Marldon Wonky Donkeys**  
and Exmouth Shanty Men.  
Marldon Village Hall, Village  
Road, Marldon, TQ3 1SJ

##### **South Brent Folk present**

Maggie Duffy and Bob  
Thomson Old School  
Community Centre, Totnes  
Road, TQ10 9BP

##### **Willand Folk Dance Club.**

Caller: Kim Smith Band: The  
Falconers Willand Village  
Hall, Gables Road, EX15 2PL

#### SUNDAY 6

**Folk on the Moor**: Liz  
Simcock. Moorland Hotel,  
Wotter, Plymouth PL7 5HP

#### MONDAY 7

##### **Teignmouth Folk Club:**

Graham Butterfield. The  
Brass, Hollands Road,  
Teignmouth TQ14 8ST

#### TUESDAY 8

**Feast of Fiddles**. Exeter Corn  
Exchange, George St, EX1 1BU  
**Sidford Folk Dance Club.**

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

#### WEDNESDAY 9

##### **Gittisham Folk Dance Club**

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

##### **Irish Set Dancing.**

Jolly Farmer, Newton Abbot  
TQ12 2RB

#### THURSDAY 10

##### **Willand Folk Dance Club.**

Caller: Robert Blackborow  
Band: A Tight Squeeze.  
Willand Village Hall, Gables  
Road, EX15 2PL

##### **Charlie Dore & Julian**

**Littman**. Ashburton Arts  
Centre, West Street, TQ13 7DT

#### FRIDAY 11

**Keith James**: The Music of  
Yusuf, Cat Stevens. Calstock  
Arts, The Old Chapel, Sand  
Lane, PL18 9QX

##### **Exeter Folk and Acoustic**

**Club**: Steve Tilston and Hugh  
Bradley. Victoria Park Tennis  
Club, Lyndhurst Road,  
St Leonards, EX2 4NX  
tel 01392 210983

##### **Dartington Folk Dance Club**

Dartington Village Hall,  
Shinners Bridge, TQ9 6JD

#### SATURDAY 12

**d'Accord French & Breton  
dance and music**: Poisson  
Groove. St James Church

Hall, Mount Pleasant Road,  
Exeter EX4 7AH

**Sarah Yeo**. Calstock Arts,  
The Old Chapel, Sand Lane,  
PL18 9QX

#### SUNDAY 13

**Folk on the Moor: Ukrainian  
Night** Moorland Hotel,  
Wotter, PL7 5HP

#### TUESDAY 15

##### **Sidford Folk Dance Club.**

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

#### WEDNESDAY 16

##### **Gittisham Folk Dance Club**

Caller: Colin Andrews Band:  
Ian and Margaret. Gittisham  
Village Hall, EX14 3AF

**3 Daft Monkeys** The Old  
Warehouse, 9-11 The  
Warehouse Prince Of Wales  
Road, Kingsbridge TQ7 1DY

**Keith James**: The music of  
Yusuf, Cat Stevens. The  
Watermark, Erme Court,  
Leonards Road, Ivybridge  
PL21 0SZ

**Irish Set Dancing**. Jolly Farmer,  
Newton Abbot TQ12 2RB

#### THURSDAY 17

##### **Simon & Garfunkel Through**

**The Years**. The Plough Arts  
Centre, Gt Torrington  
EX38 8HQ

##### **The Jamestown Brothers.**

Livermead Cliff Hotel,  
Seafont, Torbay Road,  
Torquay TQ2 6RQ

#### FRIDAY 18

**Old Time Sailors**. Calstock  
Village Hall, PL18 9QA

##### **Dartington Folk Dance Club.**

Dartington Village Hall,  
Shinners Bridge, TQ9 6JD

#### SATURDAY 19

**Harbottle and Jonas** and The  
Wild Goose Choir. The Flavel,

Flavel Place, Dartmouth,  
TQ6 9ND

## SUNDAY 20 APRIL

**Irish Set Dancing.** Whimble  
Victory Hall, School Hill,  
Whimble EX5 2TS

## TUESDAY 22

**Maggie Arc.** Exeter Phoenix,  
Gandy Street, Exeter EX4 3LS  
**Sidford Folk Dance Club.** St.  
George's night. Wear a  
splash of red and white.  
Sidford Social Hall, Byes Lane  
EX10 9QX

## WEDNESDAY 23

**Irish Set Dancing.** Jolly Farmer,  
Newton Abbot TQ12 2RB  
**Gittisham Folk Dance Club**  
Caller: Jane Thomas Band:  
Jeroka. Gittisham Village  
Hall, EX14 3AF

## THURSDAY 24

**Kathryn Roberts & Sean  
Lakeman.** Calstock Arts, The  
Old Chapel, PL18 9QX  
**Willand Folk Dance Club.**  
Caller: Ray Goodswen Band:  
Petronella. Willand Village  
Hall, Gables Road, EX15 2PL

**Daisy Rickman.** Outside,  
Bantham, Devon, TQ7 3AA  
**Bideford Folk Club:** Steve  
Turner. The Joiners Arms,  
Market Place, EX30 2DR

## FRIDAY 25

**Dartington Folk Dance Club.**  
Dartington Village Hall,  
Shinners Bridge, TQ9 6JD

## SATURDAY 26

**Exeter Ceilidhs:** Flash Co.  
Kenn Centre, Exeter Road,  
Kennford, EX6 7UE  
**Gigspanner Big Band** Album  
Launch Tour. The Watermark,  
Erme Court, Leonards Road,  
Ivybridge PL21 0SZ

**Gittisham Folk Dance Club**  
Spring Dance Caller: Sarah  
Bazeley. Band: Dartmoor  
Pixie Band. Gittisham Village  
Hall, EX14 3AF

**Chris Roberts.** St. Mary's  
Church, Denbury, TQ12 6DH

## SUNDAY 27

**Topsham Folk Club:**  
Gigspanner Big Band - Album

Launch Tour. Matthews Hall,  
Fore Street, Topsham EX3 0HF  
**Folk on the Moor:**

The Magpies. Moorland  
Hotel, Wotter,  
Plymouth PL7 5HP

**Hafren** (Chris Roberts).

St Mary's Church, Denbury,  
TQ12 6DH

## MONDAY 28

**Sidmouth Acoustic Folk Club:**  
Coracle. Blue Ball Inn,  
Stevens Cross Sidford,  
EX10 9QL

## TUESDAY 29

**Sidford Folk Dance Club.**  
Caller: Simon Maplesden.  
Band: Jigs for Gigs. Sidford  
Social Hall, Byes Lane  
EX10 9QX

## WEDNESDAY 30

**Irish Set Dancing.** Jolly Farmer,  
Newton Abbot TQ12 2RB  
**Gittisham Folk Dance Club**  
Caller: Bridget Flett Band:  
Dancing Keys. Gittisham  
Village Hall, EX14 3AF

## MAY

## SATURDAY 3

**Saltlines:** The Gigspanner Big  
Band & Raynor Winn (author  
of The Salt Path). The Plough  
Arts Centre, Gt Torrington  
EX38 8HQ

**Ceilidh:** The Valiant Ceilidh  
Band. Caller, Rod Denley-  
Jones. Buckfastleigh Town  
Hall, 33 Bossell Road, TQ11

**Willand Folk Dance Club.**

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

## SUNDAY 4

**Track Dogs.** Exmouth  
Pavilion, The Esplanade,  
Exmouth EX8 2AZ

**Old Time Sailors.** Brixham  
Theatre, New Road, Brixham  
TQ5 8TA

## TUESDAY 6

**Sidford Folk Dance Club.**  
Caller: Jeremy Child. Sidford  
Social Hall, Byes Lane  
EX10 9QX

## WEDNESDAY 7

**Irish Set Dancing.** Jolly Farmer,  
Newton Abbot TQ12 2RB  
Gittisham Folk Dance Club.  
Caller: Simon Maplesden  
Band: Petronella, Gittisham  
Village Hall, EX14 3AF

## THURSDAY 8

**Bideford Folk Club:** Sherburn  
Bartley Saunders. The  
Joiners Arms, Market Place,  
Bideford, EX30 2DR

**Willand Folk Dance Club.**

Caller: Chris Jewell. Band:  
Fresh Aire. Willand Village  
Hall, Gables Road, EX15 2PL  
**The Haar.** The Barrel House,  
59a High Street, Totnes,  
Devon TQ9 5PB

## FRIDAY 9

**Daphne's Flight.** The  
Watermark, Erme Court,  
Leonards Road, Ivybridge  
PL21 0SZ

**3 Daft Monkeys + The  
Kahunas.** The Plough Arts  
Centre, Gt. Torrington  
EX38 8HQ

**Dartington Folk Dance Club.**

Dartington Village Hall,  
Shinners Bridge, TQ9 6JD

## SATURDAY 10

**d'Accord French & Breton  
dance and music:** Shivelight.  
St James Church Hall, Mount  
Pleasant Road, Exeter EX4 7AH  
**Folk on the Moor:** Kit Hawes  
and Aaron Catlow. Moorland  
Hotel, Wotter, PL7 5HP

## TUESDAY 13

Sidford Folk Dance Club.  
Caller: Mark Moran. Band:  
Jeroka. Sidford Social Hall,  
Byes Lane EX10 9QX

## WEDNESDAY 14

**Irish Set Dancing.** Jolly Farmer,  
Newton Abbot TQ12 2RB  
**Diaspora:** "Family Matters".  
Shaftsbury Theatre,  
Brunswick Place, Dawlish,  
EX7 9PB

**Gittisham Folk Dance Club**

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

## THURSDAY 15 MAY

**Keith James** - The Songs of Nick Drake. Lynton Town Hall, Lee Road, EX35 6BT

## FRIDAY 16

**Dartington Folk Dance Club.**

Dartington Village Hall, Shinnars Bridge, TQ9 6JD

## SATURDAY 17

**Martin Simpson.** Great Hall, Dartington Trust, Totnes TQ9 6EL

**Pirates Weekend:** Sea Shanty Bands. Plymouth

**Keith James** - The Songs of Nick Drake. The Plough Arts Centre, Gt. Torrington EX38 8HQ

**Launceston Folk Dance Club:**

Caller Sarah Bazeley. Band The Dartmoor Pixie Band. Launceston Town Hall PL15 7AR

## SUNDAY 18

**Irish Set Dancing.** Whimble Victory Hall, School Hill, Whimble EX5 2TS

**Folk on the Moor:** Harbottle and Jonas. Moorland Hotel, Wotter, Plymouth PL7 5HP

**Topsham Folk Club:** Huw Williams + Si Barron (Support). Matthews Hall, Fore Street, Topsham EX3 0HF

**Pirates Weekend:** Sea Shanty Bands. Plymouth

## TUESDAY 20

**Sidford Folk Dance Club.** End of season party. Bring and Share Supper. Sidford Social Hall, Byes Lane EX10 9QX

## WEDNESDAY 21

**Irish Set Dancing.** Jolly Farmer, Newton Abbot TQ12 2RB

**Gittisham Folk Dance Club** Caller: Jane Thomas. Band: Ian and Margaret. Gittisham Village Hall, , EX14 3AF

## THURSDAY 22

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

## FRIDAY 23

**Dartington Folk Dance Club.** Dartington Village Hall, Shinnars Bridge, Dartington, TQ9 6JD

## SATURDAY 24

**The Black Feathers.** Brixham Theatre, New Road, TQ5 8TA

## WEDNESDAY 28

**Irish Set Dancing.** Jolly Farmer, Newton Abbot TQ12 2RB

**Gittisham Folk Dance Club.**

Caller: Bridget Flett. Band: TBA. Gittisham Village Hall, Gittisham, EX14 3AF

## FRIDAY 30

**Dartington Folk Dance Club.**

Dartington Village Hall, Shinnars Bridge, TQ9 6JD

## SATURDAY 31

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

**Ellie Gowers.** Ashburton Arts Centre, West Street, Ashburton TQ13 7DT

## JUNE

## SUNDAY 1

**Jon Boden and the Remnant Kings.** Exeter Phoenix, Gandy Street, Exeter EX4 3LS

**Folk on the Moor:** Grainger and Parkinson. Moorland Hotel, Wotter, PL7 5HP

## WEDNESDAY 4

**Irish Set Dancing.** Jolly Farmer, Newton Abbot TQ12 2RB

**Gittisham Folk Dance Club**

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

## THURSDAY 5

**Bideford Folk Club:** Winter Wilson. The Joiners Arms, Market Place, Bideford, EX30 2DR

## FRIDAY 6

**Dartington Folk Dance Club.**

Dartington Village Hall, Shinnars Bridge, Dartington, TQ9 6JD

## SATURDAY 7

**Willand Folk Dance Club.**

Caller: Geoff Cubitt. Band:

Portland Duo. Willand Village Hall, Gables Road, EX15 2PL

## SUNDAY 8

**Mark Waistell.** St. Mary's Church, Denbury, TQ12 6DH

## WEDNESDAY 11

**Irish Set Dancing.** Jolly Farmer, Newton Abbot TQ12 2RB

**Gittisham Folk Dance Club**

Caller: Jane Thomas. Band: Petronella. Gittisham Village Hall, Gittisham, EX14 3AF

## THURSDAY 12

**Willand Folk Dance Club.**

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

## FRIDAY 13

**Dartington Folk Dance Club.**

Dartington Village Hall, Shinnars Bridge, TQ9 6JD

## SATURDAY 14

**d'Accord French & Breton dance** and music: Eelgrinders St James Church Hall, Mount Pleasant Road, Exeter EX4 7AH

## SUNDAY 15

**Irish Set Dancing.** Whimble Victory Hall, School Hill, Whimble EX5 2TS

**Folk on the Moor:** Tom Lewis. Moorland Hotel, Wotter, PL7 5HP

## WEDNESDAY 18

**Irish Set Dancing.** Jolly Farmer, Newton Abbot TQ12 2RB

**Gittisham Folk Dance Club**

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

## FRIDAY 20

**Dartington Folk Dance Club.**

Dartington Village Hall, Shinnars Bridge, Dartington TQ9 6JD

**Teignmouth Folk Festival**

## SATURDAY 21

**Teignmouth Folk Festival** Exeter Folk and Acoustic Club: Johnny Coppin and Phil Beer. Victoria Park Tennis

## Events

Club, Lyndhurst Road, St.  
Leonards, Exeter, EX2 4NX.

### **SUNDAY 22 JUNE**

Teignmouth Folk Festival

### **WEDNESDAY 25**

**Irish Set Dancing** Jolly

Farmer, Newton Abbot

TQ12 2RB

### **Gittisham Folk Dance Club**

Caller: Patricia Donnithorne.

Band: Pair of Shears.

Gittisham Village Hall,

EX14 3AF

### **THURSDAY 26**

#### **Willand Folk Dance Club.**

End of Season Party: Caller:

John Bone Band: Iain Bryden

Willand Village Hall, Gables

Road, EX15 2PL

### **FRIDAY 27**

#### **Dartington Folk Dance Club.**

Dartington Village Hall,

Shinners Bridge, Dartington,

TQ9 6JD

### **SATURDAY 28**

**Exeter Ceilidhs:** Crowdy Kit.

Kenn Centre, Exeter Road,  
Kennford, EX6 7UE

**SykesMartin.** The Beehive  
Arts Centre, Dowell Street,  
Honiton, EX14 1LZ

### **SUNDAY 29**

#### **Topsham Folk Club:**

Downes and Beer,

Matthews Hall, Fore Street,  
EX3 0HF

**Folk on the Moor:** John  
Kirkpatrick. Moorland Hotel,  
Wotter, 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

### **ENGLISH FOLK DANCE & SONG SOCIETY**

info@efdss.org www.efdss.org

### **THE MORRIS FEDERATION**

Andrew Knight secretary@morrisfed.org.uk.

www.morrisfed.org.uk

### **FOLK LONDON**

www.folklondon.co.uk

### **SOMERSET & DORSET**

www.folkmusicsomerset.co.uk

www.sadfolk.co.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**

marketing@halswaymanor.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

### **CATSEYE MORRIS (F)**

Tues Catseyebag@aol.com

www.catseyemorris.co.uk

### **COGS & WHEELS (F)**

Donna Tombs

dtombs65@gmail.com

(Thurs)

### **DARTMOOR BORDER (F)**

Mark Tregaskis

01752 299700

treggie@blueyonder.co.uk

Wednesdays

dartmoorbordermorris.com

### **DARTINGTON MORRIS (R)**

Martin Jones,

bag@dartingtonmorris.uk

Dartingtonmorris.uk (Fri)

### **EXETER MORRIS (R)**

Mike Painter,



## Morris and Display Teams

19 Marlborough Road, EX2  
4TJ. 01392 660444. (Thurs)  
mikepainter25@gmail.com

### GLORY OF THE WEST MORRIS (F)

Pat Langman 07813625871  
gloryofthewest@gmail.com  
(Wed)

### GREAT WESTERN MORRIS (F)

bagman@greatwestern.org.  
uk (Thur)

### GREEN WILLOW CLOG (F)

Jacqueline  
07748 121093

### GRIMSPOUND BORDER MORRIS (F)

Lee Merry, 8, Waterside,  
Bovey Tracey, TQ139SX  
lmerry@live.co.uk

### HARBERTON NAVY (F)

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 DANCE

majidah925@gmail.com

### NEWTON BUSHEL MORRIS (F)

Stephen Gill 01803 290427

### OLD TOWN TWELVES

Alison Chapman, 07541  
385463 Tuesdays

### OTTER MORRIS

bag.otter.morris@gmail.com

### PLYMOUTH CLOG (O)

plymouthclog@outlook.com

### PLYMOUTH MORRIS

bagman@plymouthmorris.  
uk

www.plymouthmorris.uk

### RADDON HILL CLOG

### MORRIS (F)

Triss Cummings 01626 376173

### ROUGH DIAMONDS

### APPALACHIAN

01460 220607

### SHUFFLE THE DECK (F)

Appalachian.

Kathy Houlihan 01752  
893335 or 07719 652885

### SIDMOUTH STEPPERS

### NW MORRIS (F)

cath.nettleton@gmail.com

### SIDMOUTH TRADITIONAL

### MUMMERS

Henry Piper, 01404 811491

henry.piper@zoom.co.uk

### TINNERS MORRIS MEN (F)

andrew@frangleton.co.uk

### TRIGG MORRIS MEN (R)

Roger Hancock, 01208 73907

### TUDOR DANCE GROUP

Mrs Elizabeth Thurgood,  
01404 812185 (Sat)

### WINKLEIGH MORRIS (F)

Alexa Mason, 01647 277498  
alexa@moormasons.plus.  
com (Tues)

### WRECKERS BORDER (F)

wreckers.bag@gmail.com  
Thursdays

## Bands

**BANDS** in capitals have adverts in this issue

### ACCORDION TO TASTE

Brian Graham accordion2bg@talktalk.net  
07885427116

### BACKALONG

Steve Verge stevejverge@gmail.com  
07989068825

### BLUE JEWEL CEILIDH BAND

Kip Pratt kipviolin@gmail.com  
07969123346

### Dancing Keys

Hazel Ridd  
hazelridd@hotmail.co.uk  
Hips & Haws

Wendy Wilson

jnwppwilson@gmail.com  
01363 866423

### Home Brew Band

Colin Andrews bonnygreencolin@gmail.com  
01363 877216

### The Dawntreader Ceilidh Band

Mel Norris melnorris@btinternet.com  
01626 770238

### THE MOONCOIN BARN DANCE BAND

Anne Gill anne.m.gill@icloud.com  
01803 290427

### Winkeilidh Band

Colin Andrews  
bonnygreencollin@gmail.com 01363  
877216

## 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



**This year's Devon Folk Day on Saturday 29<sup>th</sup> March 2025 is all about participation.**

**Come and join us in Topsham to celebrate folk song, tunes and dance.**

**We are based in the Malthouse at the historic Bridge Inn, Topsham, EX3 0QQ.**

**All events free admission with the option to pay as you feel.**

Time	Location	Details
12:00-14:30pm	The Bridge Inn (Malthouse)	Folk Club in the Malthouse. Host: Min Wild of Topsham Folk Club. Bring your songs and tunes to perform or come to listen, all welcome.
15:00-17:00pm	The Quay	*To Be Confirmed* Morris Dance Display
17:00-17:45pm	The Bridge Inn (Malthouse)	Devon Folk AGM. All welcome.
18:00-19:45pm	The Bridge Inn (Malthouse)	Singaround in the Malthouse. Host: Jon Shapley of Pennymoor Singaround. Come and enjoy a friendly singaround with a range of songs and contribute your own.
20:00-22:00pm	The Bridge Inn (Malthouse)	Mixed folk session. Host: Kat Blockley of Tale Valley Folk Sessions. Expect tunes and songs from Devon and further afield, come and play, sing, dance, or listen with good cheer!

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## Totnes Folk Club

Dartmouth Inn, The Plains  
Totnes, TQ9 5EL



*2<sup>nd</sup> Thursday in the Month 7.30pm*

*Except August*

**10<sup>th</sup> April – Singers Night**

**8<sup>th</sup> May – Singers Night**

**12<sup>th</sup> June – 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**

**Steve & Anne Gill**

**01803 290427**

**or Andy Clarke 01803 732312**

## News in Brief

### Bassless rumours turn out to be true

YOU can't rely on anyone these days! In the last issue of What's Afoot we lauded Miranda Sykes as "the Ace of Bass". Then we find this review of her concert with Jim Causley on Sunday February 23 posted on Facebook by Topsham Folk Club.

NO DOUBLE BASS?! The sell-out audience piling into Matthews Hall last night to see Miranda Sykes and Jim Causley on their Devon home ground were rubbing their eyes as they looked at the stage. It was true. Instead of a night of traditional song with Miranda's double bass, as suggested by the duo's Sabine Baring-Gould tour last year, we were suddenly at a brilliantly orchestrated mixtape evening of songs from some of the finest contemporary British and American songwriters.

Miranda and Jim's travelling playlists from 2024, the motorway belters, turned out to be a shrewd and committed selection of thoughtful, funny, wry, heartfelt songs from the likes of Alison Krauss, Ed Pickford, Chris While, Karine Polwart, Cindi Lauper and Roger Wilson. Jim's keyboard skill is well-beloved and beyond doubt, and Miranda did wonders with an array of guitars, including of course (hooray!) a small but formidable acoustic bass.

Harmonies, though? Oh yes indeed, and a rockout to close the first set. A standout was Gillian Welch's *Lowlands*, their voices blending powerfully in a starkly percussive song that had little to do with a drowned sailor — and if last night was anything to go by, their post-tour recording session is going to create wonders.

*Our thanks to Topsham for another fine review. Keep them coming.*

### Recording task for the duo Cask

FATHER and daughter duo, Steve and Kathryn Collings who perform as Cask, have been busy building up a reputation on the maritime song circuit but have found time to go into the recording studio.

Steve, from Teignmouth, says: "We recorded 12 tracks back in October and 16 this month (February). Three tracks are on SoundCloud. You can find them at C.A.S.K.ShantyDuo. We

are investigating costs related to producing CDs.”

Their hard work is inspiring because Kathryn has kept performing despite being in wheelchair. She suffers from Functional Neurological Disorder, a condition in which can cause symptoms such as weakness, movement disorders, sensory symptoms and blackouts. Her story was featured in What's Afoot 123.

You can see Cask at the Brixham Pirate Festival, May 4-5, Plymouth Pirate Day, May 17 and the Falmouth International Shanty Festival on June 15.

## Intro to folk music

YOUNG musicians from a classical or pop background are being offered the chance to discover the world of folk music with fiddlers Becki Driscoll and Rosie Butler Hall and mandolinist Matt Norman.

The course at Halsway Manor runs from Monday April 7 until Friday and is for children aged 11 to 16. They will spend the week working together to learn, arrange and rehearse new repertoire, developing musical skills and performance technique, and creating their own interpretations of traditional material. The group will live, work and play together, with opportunities for informal rehearsals and social gatherings to enrich their experience and understanding of the folk arts.

The course costs £240, for board, meals and tuition. For more details, see [halswaymanor.org.uk](http://halswaymanor.org.uk).

## Clogs help dogs

IN BETWEEN their dances at pubs and festivals, the Sidmouth Steppers will be rattling their collecting tins this year for ARC, the animal rescue centre at Ottery St Mary. The charity, which has been rehoming unwanted animals since 1972, is in desperate need of new fencing around its premises to ensure that its dogs can be walked safely.

## Shanties for scouts

EXMOUTH Shantymen are putting on a special performance of their Tall Ships & Tavern Tales show to help raise funds for the 3rd Exmouth Scouts. The event will be at Exmouth Rugby Club on Friday April 25 at 7.30pm. For tickets, ring 07971 688616.



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

**PROGRAMME**

6 Apr Liz Simcock

13 Apr Ukrainian Night

20 Apr Singers' Night

27 Apr The Magpies

4 May Singers' Night

11 May Kit Hawes & Aaron Catlow

18 May Harbottle & Jonas

25 May Singers' Night

1 Jun Grainger & Parkinson

8 Jun Singers' Night

15 Jun Tom Lewis

22 Jun Singers' Night

29 Jun John Kirkpatrick



**Club meets every Sunday at 7.45pm**

For directions or more information, check our  
website: [www.moorfolk.co.uk](http://www.moorfolk.co.uk)  
or email: [folkonthemoor1@gmail.com](mailto:folkonthemoor1@gmail.com)

## LAUNCESTON FOLK DANCE CLUB 2025

### Spring Dance

Launceston Town Hall, PL15 7AR

Saturday 17<sup>th</sup> May 2025

7.30 - 11.00pm

Caller: Sarah Bazely

The Dartmoor Pixie Band

Bring and share supper

Raffle

Tickets £15.00 on the door

Date for Autumn Dance

25<sup>th</sup> October 2025

The Mooncoin Barn Dance Band

For further information ring  
Rosemary Phillips  
01566 774491



NEW FOREST  
**FOLK**  
FESTIVAL

**July 2 - 6 (2025)**

Powells Farm, Plaitford,  
Romsey Hampshire, SO51 6EE



**Lindisfarne** - **Skipinnish** - **Joe Broughton's Conservatoire Folk Ensemble**  
**Ralph McTell** - **TRADarr** - **The Longest Johns** - **Track Dogs**  
**Deborah Bonham Band** - **The Young'uns** - **Ruth Angell Trio** - **Phil Beer Solo**  
**Reg Meuross** - **Mad Dog Mcrea** - **Jim Cregan Acoustic** - **Joshua Burnell Band**  
**Banter** - **Chris Leslie** - **Honey & The Bear** - **Jez Lowe & The Bad Pennies**  
**UFQ** - **Ken Nicol & Wendy Ross** - **Southampton Ukulele Jam** - **Matt Black**

**5 Day Adult Ticket - £125**

**From June 1<sup>st</sup> - 5 Day Ticket - £135**

Children aged 5 to 15 - 5 Day ticket £50, under 5 free  
Motorhomes, Caravans & Tents £10 per pitch per night  
Limited amount of Day Tickets £



**Small Family Run  
Folk Festival  
With Camping**

**Wide variety of food  
Real Ale & Wine  
Somerset Cider  
Lots of Stalls**



**Live Music - Singarounds - Workshops - Ceilidhs - Meditation & More**

**Wednesday - Singaround  
Morris Dancing & BBQ**



**Thursday - Local  
Artist Showcase**

**Enjoy a variety of  
free workshops**



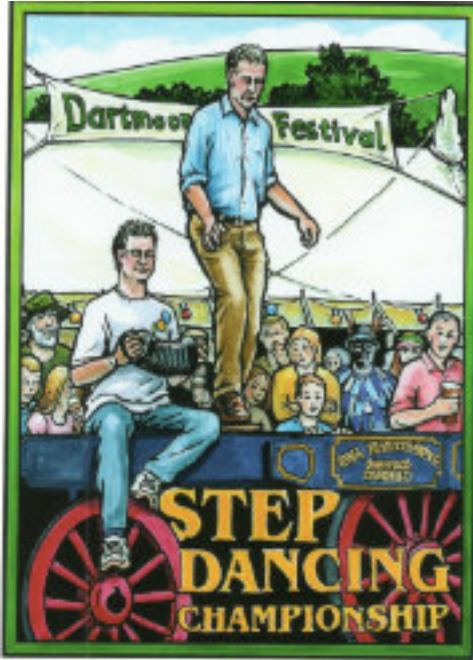
**[www.newforestfolkfestival.co.uk](http://www.newforestfolkfestival.co.uk)**



**AIF**



## Farewell to a Fair



THIS picture serves two purposes. For a start, it reminds us that summer is on its way and once again the Dartmoor step dancing championships will be held at the Dartmoor Folk Festival (this year from August 8-10, the weekend after the Sidmouth festival). As always, the contest will be held on Saturday.

The picture also a reminder of the talents of artist Karen Cater. It shows local hero Mark Bazeley with his concertina. But the dancer is Simon Ritchie from Essex. Karen is based in Essex but was a regular at the Dartmoor Festival – and Sidmouth – with

her Hedingham Fair stall, selling her cards, calendars and books and all manner of folk items. Her work has many admirers in Devon, in particular Jim Causley who asked her to design the covers for his Dartmoor, Devonian and Devonshire Roses albums.

Age catches up with us all and Karen has retired. She stopped touring her Hedingham Fair stall a few years back and has now closed down her internet shop. However, there will be a closing down sale in April so keep an eye on the Hedingham Fair Facebook page.

## HALSWAY MANOR

National Centre for Folk Arts

Enjoy year-round residential courses and workshops focusing on traditional folk arts from around the world.

A warm welcome awaits you at Halsway, a medieval Manor at the foot of the Quantock Hills in Somerset dedicated to folk music, arts and dance.

[www.halswaymanor.org.uk](http://www.halswaymanor.org.uk)

Halsway Manor, Halsway Lane,  
near Crowcombe, Somerset, TA44BD

01984 618 274

Charity No: 247230



# Teignmouth Folk Festival



20th - 22nd June 2025



The Rosie Hood Band



City of Plymouth  
Pipe Band



Nancy Kerr and James Fagan



The Lost Sound



25 YEARS AND COUNTING!

Between 20th-22nd June 2025, Teignmouth's successful folk festival will be back, celebrating its 25th year with a bang.

The usual mix of concerts, sessions and dance team displays will ensure a lively and entertaining weekend for all. Among the artistes performing during the event are Nancy Kerr & James Fagan, The Rosie Hood Band and The Lost Sound. In addition, a ceilidh/barn dance will be held and, as ever, free performances will be held in the town's Triangle.

Further information can be obtained from

[www.teignmouthfolkfestival.co.uk](http://www.teignmouthfolkfestival.co.uk) or the festival's Facebook page.

# Could you edit What's Afoot?

I TOOK over as editor of this magazine in November 2017 and it's been a very enjoyable time. The job has given me the chance to meet, interview and in some cases become close friends with many of the wonderful people who make up the Devon folk scene. It has been a chance to put something back into the music world that has given me so much pleasure since I discovered it as a teenager.

However, I feel it is time to pass on the reins to younger hands who can bring a fresh vision and energy to the magazine. I will be staying on as editor until the end of the year, by which time I hope to hand on the torch – if not before.

Whoever takes over will need some experience of desktop publishing and, of course, a good command of English. But most important is a passion for all aspects of the county's folk scene. They will need to be interested in everything from shouts and shanty nights to tune sessions and singer-songwriter singarounds, in all types of morris from Cotswold to border and the dark side exemplified by Beltane, and in social dance,

storytelling and folklore. The new editor need not be an expert in all these fields but should know where there are gaps in their knowledge and where to find contributors who can write well about those subjects.

This is a rewarding job but can also be highly frustrating when people don't reply to your emails or ignore deadlines. Hopefully, there will not be another crisis like the covid year when all the clubs – our main distribution point – closed and I had to suspend publication while bringing out samizdat editions to keep subscribers happy.

On the editorial side, I have been working alone but have had excellent support from Anne and Steve Gill who handle the advertising and distribution, and from Trevor Paul, our webmaster who does a sterling job keeping the listings up to date. But it could be better if the editorial side was run by a team.

If you are interested in editing the magazine, then you can message me at [devonfolkeditor@gmail.com](mailto:devonfolkeditor@gmail.com) and we can discuss everything.



## **SOUTH BRENT FOLK**

presents

### **Maggie Duffy & Bob Thomson**



Wonderful Brixham-based singer, songwriter and poet, [Maggie Duffy](#), with her long-time collaborator, guitarist Bob Thomson, draw from a varied repertoire of songs and stories.

(Hear a sample of her work at [www.southbrentfolk.co.uk/DE009/EH014](http://www.southbrentfolk.co.uk/DE009/EH014))



on

**Saturday 5 April 2025**

**in The Old School Community Centre, South Brent**

at 7pm; Doors open 6.45pm.

Tea, coffee, soft drinks & snacks available.

Tickets £8 from [artworks](#) in South Brent, or by BACS - contact [mas.via.hewitt@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:mas.via.hewitt@hotmail.co.uk) or on the door (if any left).  
email [shop@southbrentfolk.co.uk](mailto:shop@southbrentfolk.co.uk) or phone 01364 73117.

<http://southbrentfolk.org.uk>



# How you can help us maintain traditions

**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 it, using the form printed on the facing page or by subscribing to What's Afoot, published every quarter.

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

We particularly need young people to take an active interest in pushing forward

ideas to Devon Folk and helping to run activities. If we cannot pass the tradition on to young hands then it will eventually fade and die.

Full committee meetings of Devon Folk are usually held at Ide near Exeter four times a year on a Saturday morning.

This is in addition to the business meeting after the annual general meeting, which is usually held in March. This year's is on March 29 not March 22 as stated in the previous issue of What's Afoot. That date was found to clash with other activities so the meeting was moved to our Devon Folk Day at Topsham. See the advert in this issue for details of the folk day +

## WILLAND FOLK DANCE CLUB

SATURDAY DANCES  
Willand Village Hall

April 5<sup>th</sup> Kim Smith & Falconers

May 3<sup>rd</sup> Simon Maplesden & Chris Toyne's Big Band

June 7<sup>th</sup> Geoff Cubitt & Portland Duo

July 5<sup>th</sup> Brian Stanton & Julia & Shane Day

Admission £10.00 - Tea & Biscuits - Raffle

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

Club Nights 2<sup>nd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup> 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



## DEVON FOLK MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION FORM

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

Email [anne.m.gill@icloud.com](mailto:anne.m.gill@icloud.com) Phone 01803 290427

### SUBSCRIPTION AND MEMBERSHIP

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

Membership of Devon Folk is available to any individual, family at the same address, club, group or organisation paying  
Option No. 1 ..... £15.00 a year and receiving printed copy of WAF 4 times a year in the post

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

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

### APPLICATION FORM

☐

I wish to join Devon Folk as an Individual member

☐

We wish to join Devon Folk as a family group

☐

We wish to join Devon Folk as a Group, Club or Organisation

Name of individual, club, group or organisation

Contact person (for group, club or organisation)

Address

Postcode

Telephone

Email

Cheque enclosed payable to Devon Folk

☐

Post form together with cheque to the address above

I wish to pay by BACS Payment: NatWest Bank – Sort Code 56-00-49 – Account No.71468161

Please use reference : Membership & Name on your payment and email a copy of this form to membership secretary

Magazine to be sent by POST

☐

EMAIL

☐

Email address

I/We agree to Devon Folk contacting me/us as indicated above and for occasional notifications. Your email will not be passed to any third party. Signed \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_



## ELECTED MEMBERS OF THE DEVON FOLK COMMITTEE

### **PRESIDENT**

Jim Causley

### **VICE PRESIDENT**

Aileen Wills

### **CHAIR and**

### **MEMBERSHIP SECRETARY**

Anne Gill

Maleth, 11 Cleveland Road, Torquay, TQ2 5BD.

01803 290427

### **VICE CHAIR/PUBLICITY**

Colin Andrews

Bonny Green,

Morchard Bishop, Crediton

EX17 6PG

01363 877216

bonnygreencolin@gmail.com

### **SECRETARY and TREASURER**

Eileen Conway

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01626 862312

### **WEBMASTER**

Trevor Paul

devonfolkwebmaster@gmail.com

### **MINUTE SECRETARY**

Kat Blockley,

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

Jane Snow

27 John Street, Tiverton EX16 5JP

01884 259042

### **WHAT'S AFOOT EDITOR**

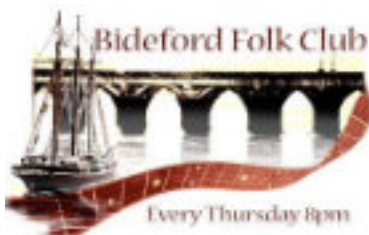
John Foxen

devonfolkeditor@gmail.com

129 Tamar Avenue,

Tavistock,

PL19 9HZ



### **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**

24<sup>th</sup> April Steve Turner

8<sup>th</sup> May Sherburn, Bartley &  
Sanders

5<sup>th</sup> June Winter Wilson

**John Purser**

**01237 424286**

**bidefolk@gmail.com**

### **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

# Warwick FOLK FESTIVAL

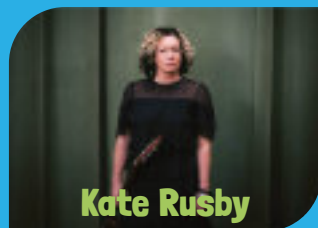
24 – 27 July 2025



**Richard Thompson**



**Le Vent du Nord**



**Kate Rusby**

**Fara • Chris Wood & Andy Cutting • Melrose Quartet**

**Will Pound & Jenn Butterworth • Granny's Attic**

**Hannah James & Toby Kuhn • Cahalen Morrison**

**The English Fiddle Ensemble • Ellie Gowers • The Hunch**

**Enda Kenny • Banter • Keith Donnelly • Lauren South**

**Janice Burns & Jon Doran • Holly Clarke • Amit Dattani**

**Heather Cartwright & Sam Mabbett • Rob Halligan &**

**Homeward Hie • Wet The Tea • John Loomes**

**...& Many More...**

Beautiful greenfield festival located in medieval town of Warwickshire, a short walk from Warwick castle

**Music • Street Food • Morris Dancing • Ceilidhs  
Family Entertainment • Crafts and Independent  
Traders • Workshop • Yoga • Music • Sessions  
Camping • Real Ale Bar • Luxury Showers & Loos**

Scan for Tickets



**The heart of Folk**

Castle Park, Warwick, CV34 6AX

**warwickfolkfestival.co.uk**

folk music & song at  
**topsham folk club** [www.topshamfolkclub.org](http://www.topshamfolkclub.org)

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

**Chris Wood**

**Sunday 23 March 2025**

8pm £16 [www.chriswoodmusic.co.uk](http://www.chriswoodmusic.co.uk)

'a rarefied talent, both as writer  
and interpreter' - *MOJO* \*\*\*\*



**Gigspanner Big Band**

**Sunday 27 April 2025**

8pm £24 [www.gigspanner.com](http://www.gigspanner.com)

'Gigspanner work together in musical genius'  
- *EFDSS Magazine*



**Huw Williams**

+ Si Barron -support

**Sunday 18 May 2025** 8pm £16

[www.facebook.com/HuwWilliamsmusic](http://www.facebook.com/HuwWilliamsmusic)  
Excellent singer songwriter whose songs  
have been covered by many artists -  
joined here by bassist Ben Tunnicliffe



**Downes & Beer**

**Sunday 29 June 2025**

8pm £18 [www.pauldownes.com](http://www.pauldownes.com)

[www.philbeermusic.co.uk](http://www.philbeermusic.co.uk)

Two hugely experienced and highly  
respected musicians - talented guitarist  
and singer of songs, Paul Downes  
and multi-instrumentalist Phil Beer



**singers nights  
at The Globe  
Fore Street  
Topsham EX3 0HR**

We're at The Globe every  
Tuesday (apart from August)  
for our singers' nights from  
7.45pm. Arrive by 7.45pm to  
book a slot if you'd like to  
perform. Non-performers  
are always most welcome



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



Concert tickets can be bought online at  
[www.wegotickets.com](http://www.wegotickets.com)

or via link from [www.topshamfolkclub.org](http://www.topshamfolkclub.org)

also on singers' nights

or from Matthews Hall Café (Tue-Sat 9am-2pm)

[www.facebook.com/topshamfolkclub](http://www.facebook.com/topshamfolkclub)

all enquiries 01392 874718



**half price - folk concerts**

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

coming later this year: 28 Sept - Leveret

19 Oct - Old Spot

16 Nov - Kris Drever