

What's Afoot

50p

No.79

Winter 2005/06

DEVON'S FOLK MAGAZINE

www.devonfolk.co.uk

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Contents What's Afoot No. 79

Features	
Devon Folk Awareness Month	4
T to China	5
Welcome Back to Folk Weekend	8
Summerfests	11
Footnotes	13
The Festival That Wasn't Meant to Happen	15
Playford Ball	16
Reviews	33 - 45
Morris Matters	46

Devon Folk	
Devon Folk News	17
Devon Folk Committee	18

Listings

Useful contacts	19 - 22, 29 - 33
Diary dates	23 - 28

Sometimes when I look around at the members of a folk song club, a folk dance club, or a men's morris side, I see the same faces that I saw twenty , thirty years ago, or more, and think, "Gosh, we're getting old!", and I worry about the fate of folk. But when I see the number of talented young musicians and singers, keen and able young morris dancers (male and female), and experience the enthusiasm of tinies, teenies & twenties at any number of barn dances I've called at recently, I feel much more confident that our folk heritage is in good hands for the future. When I consider the number of albums reviewed in this issue where the artists are in the bloom of youth, or the number of nationally recognised performers who are the new 'Young Tradition', I feel a sense of rejuvenation. (Who knows, perhaps one day I'll be collected, & recycled by them as a traditional old folkie !)

We can't be complacent however; we all know of clubs from all aspects of folk that are struggling to keep going with numbers depleted through age & infirmity. It is these clubs particularly that need to take a long hard look at themselves and learn a lesson from other clubs that have managed to attract vital new interest from the young generation.

Colin Andrews

Cover picture; John Blackburn & Bloatertown Band, in the Anchor Gardens during Sidmouth Folk Week

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DEVON FOLK AWARENESS MONTH

An appeal from Devon Folk President, Terry Underhill.

Imagine being handicapped or infirm and feeling that making music was beyond your current abilities. The committee of Devon Folk being aware of this problem, and the need to publicise all aspects of the folk world, are co-ordinating a "Folk Awareness Month" (1st April to 1st May 2006.) As President of Devon Folk, I am asking for your help to organise an event, collection or raffle during Devon Folk Month so that we can donate 'Soundbeams' to a number of hospices and homes for handicapped children across Devon, that have music advisors or tutors.

'Soundbeams', made in Bristol, convert movements into sound by using information from the interruption of ultrasonic pulses, and are looked upon as the greatest single technological advance in music access for people with disabilities. (Details available on www.soundbeam.co.uk).

As each Soundbeam costs just over £2,500, Devon Folk hope to raise, with help from Devon's singing clubs, storytellers, mummers, morris teams, sword dancers, folk dancers, musicians and callers, at least £10,000, while having an opportunity to publicise all aspects of the county's folk heritage. You might consider a special raffle, donating the proceeds of one of your events, or organising a public event, performance or demonstration in your locality to raise funds and give extra publicity to your own special club or events.

It will be fantastic if we can provide at least four 'Soundbeams' and bring music making into the lives of those far less fortunate than ourselves.

If you are willing to help please let me know via Devon Folk or personally (01364-72314 terry@terry-underhill.co.uk) so that we can also give you and your activities extra publicity.

THE CREDITON FOLK WEEKEND

31st March to 2nd April 2006

At Cheriton Fitzpaine Devon Centered at The Ring of Bells

Featuring:

John Morris ~ Claret ~ Anne Lennox Martin ~ Quartz

Hanging Johnny ~ Parker & Watts ~ Alhambra

Malcolm Gurnham ~ Fo'c'sle ~ Mick Tems & Olly Price

Shakespeare Mummers ~ Flaming Morris ~ Raddon Hill Morris

Shuffle The Deck ~ Sandford Hand Bell Ringers

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T to CHINA

Tarka Morris Men 'do' China

On Sunday, 4th September, a mini bus of bleary eyed Morris Men left Bideford, bound for the Peoples Republic of China. Why? A good question, and the credit or blame rests on one man - Baz Bix. Baz taught English in Beijing for two years having cycled across Mongolia. A return to the country last year to meet local musicians under the 'Far Flung Folk' project, turned into a personal 'reconnaissance mission' for Tarka Morris Men. His tireless enthusiasm, and hard organisational graft convinced us. Others in the side ferreted away at sponsorship, publicity (in English and Mandarin) and cheap flight deals over the next year. Our main sponsors were Arts and Business Working Together, East of the Orient Restaurant, and Bear Street Pharmacy owned by our Bagman Phil Hemmings, who met the entire cost of the air fares. Ironically Phil nearly dropped out at the last minute, after losing his passport. For the rest of us it was a year of paying into a weekly fund and marking down the days to September. The plan was to spend six days in the south west at Yangshuo, a popular destination for both Chinese and foreigners because of its spectacular river and mountain scenery, and four days in Beijing, culminating in a dance on the Great Wall itself. Fifty one hours after leaving Bideford (including twenty seven hours on the train from Beijing) we arrived at our hotel in Yangshuo.

The Climate - The heat and humidity were awe inspiring. From the moment we stepped out of doors in Yangshuo, we dripped; like a continual low level sauna. Eventually we became used to it and, strangely, energy levels did not suffer. Twice we finished a dance and immediately climbed to the top of the nearest pagoda. It rained only once, in an overcast Beijing.

The Dancing - Chinese traditional dancing tends to be very theatrical for men and very graceful and restrained for women. All are light on their feet. Fortunately they are a very polite people so if Morris Dancing came as a rude shock, they didn't show it! In our natural environment, the high

street or public park, we danced well, and felt sure the audience 'got it'. The sticking and more slapstick moves were always popular

For me, the most memorable dances were:

- The Duty Free area at Heathrow- they asked us to, honest!

-The Market Square at Fuli- a village down river from Yangshuo. The square was bare concrete and furnace like. All shade had been taken by the spectators. We were welcomed at the gates of the village by traditional dancers who went on to perform a morality tale about a farmer, his wife and two dragons. We were invited to join in, endlessly circling behind the dragons (this after several Morris sets) until a Tarka man was allowed to lead everyone off.

- The Great Wall, snaking endlessly down and up the mountains, disappearing and re-appearing away to the horizon. 'Dancing The Wall' has been done before, I believe, on its broad reconstructed back. However we deliberately headed for an unreconstructed part and scrambled our way up to an old hill fort. The roof was just big enough to hold us all. No one else around, just us and the mountains. A private celebration and vindication of what we had set out to do.

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or

Hazel 01884 820438

- A Solo Jig- At 32,000 ft somewhere above Mongolia. John Blackburn our foreman, danced in the galley of the aircraft while James Boyle played fiddle.

The worst dances? Nearly going through a thin plywood stage on national TV, and being escorted off the concourse of Beijing railway station after an impromptu performance of Swaggering Boney.

The Food - Very fresh, incredibly tasty and very, very different. Our first meal was within 200 yards of Beijing railway station. For twenty of us, it came to thirty two pounds. Try that in central London. Each meal was a dip into the unknown but none disappointed, and we ate both in smart restaurants, and roadside cafes. Yes, we were offered dog, though Steve thought it was 'duck' because of the pronunciation.

Most memorable was the Mongolian feast, when we were joined by some very gifted Mongolian musicians who were also a celebrated pop group. This probably explained the increase in young waitresses at our table. We drank tea made with mares milk and salted Yak butter, and watched as the meat was blessed with water and the wearing of blue silk scarves before being served.

The Beer or 'pijo', was of the continental lager type, but cold and cheap at 14p a bottle. We experimented with snake wine..... once.

The People- Without exception the Chinese were friendly, polite and interested in what we were doing. Despite being a vast country with a daunting population the human touch was never far away - even from those scraping a living by selling flowers or collecting empty drinks bottles. After every dance we were asked to pose with locals. As they were mostly young and attractive students, this was no hardship. However the Tarka men most in demand were either James Boyle, the youngest and most eligible, or Alan Whitbread and John Blackburn who had the greyest beards. (facial hair being a rarity).

Writing this article has been difficult; so much to tell, so few words. We saw a river show with 600 performers, we bought a 'Rolex' each for 80p, we played the Australians at cricket, we travelled in motorised tin sheds called phut-phuts, we watched the sun set behind fantastically shaped hills, we saw Cormorants and heard Cicadas. In short we had the trip of a lifetime and a Morris tour quite unlike any other.

John Wade, Tarka Morris Men

Oggle Band Advert

Topshame folk club advert

Welcome back to folk weekend

THE CREDITON FOLK WEEKEND IS BACK AT CHERITON FITZPAINE

After two years absence this popular folk event is back again in Cheriton Fitzpaine, over the weekend 31st March to 2nd April 2006. The new proprietors of the Ring of Bells public house Mr. & Mrs. Janes have invited the organisers to bring it back to the village. It seems that the festival has been missed and it is now hoped that it will become a more permanently established annual village event. A committee has been formed mainly of village people to assist with the organization, leading up to and throughout the folk weekend. This is obviously good news.

A little potted history

The first Folk weekend started off in March 1991 at the Swan Public House in Crediton High Street. This was originally intended as a folk party for friends of the organisers and proved so enjoyable it was decided to continue it the following year. From these small beginnings the Crediton Folk Weekend was born. In the three years when the festival was based at Crediton it developed a little larger than was originally expected, therefore a change of venue was in order. In the fourth year March 1994, it was moved to The Red Lion at Shobrooke. The reason for this move was that Shobrooke was ideal for camping and general expansion. After six successful festivals at Shobrooke we again needed more space and it was necessary to move to an even larger village. We chose Cheriton Fitzpaine, as it was favourable to our requirements.

The first one at Cheriton Fitzpaine being the 10th Crediton Folk Weekend in March 2000 was a great success. The festival accrued much popularity over the next three years among people in the folk scene up and down the country and established its reputation as the starter folk event of the festival season in the South West.

The 14th Festival 2006

Although still in its early stages of construction, the general agreement amongst the organizers is to run the weekend on similar lines to previous years. It will now be a free event with collections made for local charities. There will be performances at The Ring of Bells, The Half Moon, The Football Club, The Parish Church and the Methodist Chapel.

There will be the usual mixture of Morris dancing outside the two public houses.

Among the teams invited (not all confirmed) are local teams such as *Winkleigh*, *Raddon Hill* and *Great Western* (Exeter). And further afield, *The Crouch Vale*, *North West Clog Morris* from Benfleet, Essex, *Helston Tatters*, *Carnie Cloggers* from Cornwall, *Bourne River* from Poole Dorset and *Beltane Border*. Appalachian dancing is represented by *Shuffle The Deck* a team from Buckfastleigh. From Clacton On Sea, Essex we have *The Soken Molly Dancers*. These two forms of dancing have not been seen at the festival before. The *Shakespeare Mummers* from Stratford On Avon will be performing again. *The East Malling Hoodening Play* from Kent and the *Mari Lywd* from Wales are two horse traditions that will be performing at the festival also for the first time.

We are in the process of arranging a programme of events for singarounds, concerts, impromptu musician sessions and workshops and have contacted the following artists who have agreed to perform at the festival:

John Morris, *Claret*, *Anne Lennox Martin*, *Hanging Johnny*, *The Sandford Hand Bell Ringers*, *Quartz*, *Parker & Watts*, *Alhambra*, *Malcolm Gurnham*, *Fo'c'sle*, *Mick Tems & Olly Price*. More to be confirmed

We are also welcoming back *The Devon Medieval Combat Alliance*, *Knights Of Devonian & Knights Of Legend* together with *Mokker Heim Historical Re-enactment Group*.

We are looking forward to this coming folk weekend and hope it will be as enjoyable and successful as past events. The Crediton Folk Weekend committee.

For contact details, see the display advert on page 4

WILLAND FOLK DANCE CLUB

SATURDAY DANCES

8.00 pm - 11.30 pm in the Village Hall

Dec. 17th Christmas Dance: Aileen Wills & Pete Mac Band
(Aileen's final Saturday Willand Dance - make it memorable!)

Dec. 31st New Year's Eve Dance 8 - 12.30 am
Sarah Bazeley, Jane Thomas & Dartmoor Pixie Band
Bring & share supper. Admission £4, including mulled wine at midnight

Jan. 14th Robert Blackborow 7 Amycrofters Band

Feb. 11th Geoff Cubitt & Cruise Control

Mar. 11th John Meechan & Skylark

Apr. 8th John Turner & Meltdown

Admission £3.50 (except where stated otherwise) Refreshments & Raffle.

Contact : Vivien & David Challinor 01823 274810

Folk on the Moor advert

Watersons advert

Summerfests . . .

Bideford Folk Festival, August 2005

The first week long Bideford Folk Festival in August this year was blessed with glorious West Country weather. From the opening lunchtime session at the Joiners Arms on Monday to the final chorus at the Blacksmiths Arms on Sunday evening, everybody had a good time. Audiences at concerts heard great musicians play and sing, the sessions were rich with music, song and dance and the streets were full of colour and music with the fabulous Morris dancing sides on Saturday. The stars of the festival alongside all the West Country 'names' - Cornwall Songwriters, Tom and Barbara Brown, Roger Bryant, Salty Dogs, Dambuskers, Redwing, Bloatertown Band, Hearts of Oak and Ploughcappella - were our local singers, musicians and dancers and the lovely people who came from all over the West Country, Wales and further afield to sing, play and dance at sessions and give the festival a gloriously laid back feel. So thank you to everyone who came and made the festival what it was. The people of Bideford have been unanimous in their praise for the festival and the people who took part, 'saying how nice it was to see you all around the town'.

The template has been set; we are a West Country festival. We will try and remain true to our roots, a festival where people can come and be a part of the festival, enjoy the success and go home at the end of the week with a smile on their face.

Andy Knight

Teignmouth Folk Festival, June, 2005

The 7th Teignmouth Festival was the biggest and best so far. There were a variety of workshops, sessions and concerts providing something for everyone.

Jim Payne & Fergus O'Byrne from Newfoundland thrilled audiences with their singing, musicianship and dancing. Tim Laycock & Taffy Thomas provided excellent entertainment, and Sid Kipper caused many a laugh during the opening concert.

Emphasis was given to young talent this year. Not only did the festival put on a Showcase for Young Talent, but three local schools were invited to take part in a folk dance display in the town, and were presented with certificates by Taffy Thomas, MBE, at the end of their performance.

For the first time a Playford style workshop and a Tea Dance were included in the programme, with Valerie Webster as caller and Folk2 (Hilary

Teignmouth Folk Club

Last Thursday of every month
at

The Devon Arms Hotel
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8 pm.

For further details contact:

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any acoustic style.

Dec. 10th Seasonal theme &
Old Father Christmas.

Jan. 14th Come All Ye

Feb. 11th Afternoon workshop led by
Adrian O ~ 'Telling the Story'
Evening guest ~ Adrian O

Mar. 11th Miriam Backhouse the

Contact: Tom & Barbara Brown.
tel: 01271 882366 or e-mail :-
tomandbarbara@umbermusic.co.uk

Hudson & Liz Sidebotham) as music. Both events were sponsored by Devon Folk.

The festival committee had commissioned Tim Laycock to write a play for the festival and the Trafalgar celebrations. After coming to Teignmouth to research local history, Tim presented the festival with Jack Spratt Ashore: A Tale For Trafalgar. This was performed as a workshop reading and had the audience cheering Jack Spratt on to victory. It will be performed as a stage production on 22nd October in Teignmouth as part of the town's Trafalgar celebrations.

A new mummer's play was also written by Nikki Hillstead for this Trafalgar festival year, and was performed by the Grimspound Morris Men, much to the amusement of the crowds who saw the Battle of Trafalgar unfold before their eyes!

Keep your eyes open for the 2006 dates and be sure not to miss this friendly festival.

Patricia Reid

Dartmoor Folk Festival continues to maintain that friendly village fete atmosphere at South Zeal while presenting an impressive line up of top quality guests, which this year included Roy Bailey and the Sultans of Squeeze (John Kirkpatrick & Chris Parkinson).

Following straight on from the Sidmouth week, it's a natural focus for those wishing to squeeze in an extra couple of days of folk festival euphoria in Devon, with ceilidhs, concerts, singarounds, workshops, morris, and the ever popular Dartmoor stepdance and broom dance competitions. As always, the finals took place during the Saturday afternoon Dart-i-moor Fayre (this year opened by local medieval mystery author Michael Jecks), and the winners were, in the adult step dance, Sarah Crofts from Lewisham, in the junior stepdance, twelve-year old Zoe Davies from Starcross, a member of Firestone's junior display team. Local girl, Emily Booter, aged nine, was the 2005 broom dance champion.

Started by the late Bob Cann back in 1978, the festival has never outgrown or abandoned its roots, and many of his family are still very much involved in its organisation, and as his widow, Joyce Cann, declared, "This year was one of the best" and "it gets better every year".

Next year's festival dates are 11th, 12th & 13th August. Details from Publicity Officer, Alan Quick 01363 774263 or the website www.dartmoorfolkfestival.co.uk

Footnotes

The folk club and pub session scene once more shows a number of changes due to fluctuating support and change of landlord. **Brixham** (Maritime Inn) and **Brompton Regis** (George) no longer host folk music, and the long-established **Torquay Folk Club** at the Crown & Sceptre is to close after the December meeting.

After a 'trial run', mine hosts Bev & Kat at the **George Hotel, Hatherleigh**, are pleased to welcome the English Music Session formerly held at the Laurels, Petrockstowe. There's a lot more space with a choice of 2 bars and a restaurant area, and the beer and food are very good. For further details of the session held on the last Wednesday of the month, contact Kate Nye on 01837 810566. NB although primarily a music session, songs are permitted (no dirges!).

A few miles down the road, the **Torrige Inn**, at **Black Torrington**, hosts folk sessions every Monday. The evenings usually have an Irish flavour, and the audience in the bar are very appreciative.

In **Great Torrington**, at the **West of England**, just off the town square, there are fortnightly music sessions, on the 2nd & 4th Wednesdays.

A new acoustic roots music club kicked off at the **Blue Walnut Cafe, Chelston**, Torquay, on Saturday 17th September. 'Chelston Acoustic' will put on lesser-known names from the fields of folk, blues and country, with floor singers to start. The venue only holds 30 people, and there is an admission charge. Details: 01803 605955

The **Tradesman's Arms, Scoriton**, now hosts a monthly acoustic traditional song & music session on the 1st Monday, and the Trade Winds Dartmoor come-all-ye session on the 3rd Friday.

There's a new lunchtime session for folk singers and musicians from 1 pm on the last Sunday at **Kitty O'Hanlans**, St Andrews Street, **Plymouth**. Also in Plymouth at the **Hyde Folk Club** in the new year are guest nights with Andy Clarke, Pete Coe, and Grace Notes.

On the folk dance scene, the **Honiton Folk Dance Club** moves in January to a new venue, at the British Legion Club, Dowell Street, Honiton.

After running for many years, the **Pilton Folk Dance Club** has closed, although it's probable that an annual dance will be organised.

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James Boyle, fiddler with Tarka Morris Men, got through to the semi-finals of the BBC Radio 2 Young Tradition Award for the second year running, playing as a duo with his friend Kevon Lees from Newcastle. They played at various events during the Bideford Folk Festival. Although they had a great semi-final weekend at the Brewery Arts Centre, Kendal, and were highly commended, they unfortunately did not get through to the final. Third time lucky?

Totnes Folk Club

Dances at the Civic Hall, Totnes

Refreshments available. Sat. dances 8pm - 11.30pm

3rd December Ray Goodswen & Weston Band

10th December Christmas Party Jane Thomas

**New Year's Eve Dance, Saturday 31st December
Peter Moxom & Sundowners Admission for everyone £5.00**

4th February Jane Thomas & Amycrofters

4th March Chris Thorne & Pete Mac Band

All warmly welcomed

More information: June Prowse 01803 862435. Harry Lowe 01626 821045

*Club nights at Methodist Church Hall, Fore Street, Totnes, 8 pm to 10 pm
on 3rd Thursday of the month, except June, July & August*

PENNYMOOR SINGAROUND

Crwys Arms

Nr Tiverton, Devon

3rd Wednesday of the Month

Contact:- Clare Penney

01884 860023

The Festival that wasn't meant to happen

Sidmouth Folk Week 2005 After the 2004 festival ended, the prospect of anything happening at Sidmouth in 2005 beyond informal pub sessions and busking morris seemed pretty remote. All the more amazing, therefore, that with no finance, and nothing but hard voluntary work, grass-roots enthusiasm and co-operation amongst a multitude of individuals and organisations, the town hosted a comprehensive week-long folk extravaganza regarded by many festival-goers as one of the most enjoyable for years.

It would be unrealistic to have expected everything to run as perfectly as one would have liked, and I understand the festival questionnaire revealed some gripes, quite a few constructive suggestions, but largely a positive sense of appreciation. The following 'soundbites' are just a few of the comments that have been made to me:

It was great to know that there would be a festival in 2005, although we knew it would be different from those held in recent years. Yes, it was different, but what a pleasant surprise! True, there was no Arena, but we didn't miss it, as there was so much going on in the town. It was also good not to have a long trek for the evening ceilidhs. There were some great headline acts, but good use was also made of the abundance of talent to be found in local performers. For me, the most enjoyable Festival for several years. (John Blackburn., caller, singer, dancer, musician ...)

I enjoyed Sidmouth this year. Most of the booked guests had more to do with the folk music that I enjoy than in previous years - it was like going back 20 years. I actually found myself having to decide what to do in the evenings rather than finding I had only one choice. (Doug Bailey WildGoose Records and Studio)

I travelled to Sidmouth with a group of morris/folk friends I have joined up with in Kuwait. Some of them have been coming to Sidmouth for 20+ years. They headed to Sidmouth wondering how it would be after the super summer of 2004. They all said this was a better summer! I have never had such an enjoyable holiday. Friendly, warm people, great workshops, great music and feeling part of a cohesive bunch of people all in one place for the same thing. It is rare to find that feeling these days. Next summer I plan to bring my family, pleased to see children warmly welcomed at different venues. Over the week I met many people and look forward to coming again to see them all. It was like a big family reunion I want to be a part of. (Kristie Gould Al-Rashidi, Oregonian living in Kuwait).

I think the general impression I got from other dancers was that while we were grateful for all that was provided for us & thoroughly enjoyed the workshops & dances, we did not feel part of the festival & could have been dancing anywhere in the country! We had lost that special Sidmouth festival atmosphere as the venues were so far out of town. (Patricia Reid, folk dancer)

A relative newcomer to the festival, (only 5 years in attendance!) Sidmouth signifies to me an annual transportation to another world where music, song, dance, friends; old and new, sea and sun combine and live in harmony for seven days. A slightly smaller scale it may have been, but this was, in my opinion, no bad thing. It seemed that local talent was celebrated with enough big names to hold interest, giving a well rounded folk experience. Issues such as venues large enough to house popular guests can be addressed and looked into for 2006. I left Sidmouth this year with re-ignited passion towards all things folk, and an optimistic feeling for the future of Sidmouth Folk Week, borne out of the ashes of Sidmouth Folk Festival. (Heather Butt, steward).

There seemed to be more people arriving every day. In the past the first weekend has been busier... It would be a very good thing if we could find a way to get some international teams back ... We need more young blood, on the organising team, in the campsite, at the Bulverton & everywhere. (Pete McClelland, Hobgoblin Music) - a brief extract from detailed comments on the festival.

And the future? Plans for 2006 are well in hand. The Sidmouth Folk Week 'charitable trust' and 'trading company' are in the final stages of being set up, with management drawn from key members of the 2005 ad hoc steering committee and representatives of the Sidmouth business community. Feedback from 2005 will be taken on board and it is likely that some form of season ticket will be available.

Playford Ball 2005

Another successful and enjoyable Playford Ball, organised by The Devon Playford Club, took place on 25th June at Oldway Mansion, Paignton. The event is becoming very popular, and was attended not only by local dancers but by dancers from as far away as Leeds and Birmingham.



The musicians once again were Hilary Hudson and Gwyn George, who can always be relied on to provide music that is a joy to dance to. The MCs this year were Val & Ian McFarlane (*inset*) who provided a balanced programme of dances from the early Playford collections to modern dances in the Playford style.

Oldway Mansion provides the perfect setting for a ball, and dancers are already looking forward to another next year. Keep the third weekend in June free, and make sure you don't miss the opportunity to take part in 2006

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Have you any folk memorabilia or possible archive material sitting around in your attic? If so, please let us know at What's Afoot. Don't let it end up on the bonfire or tip !

What's Afoot operates a magazine exchange with folk publications from other counties. Copies of magazines from other areas are always welcome.



Bloaterstown

to book us contact

John Blackburn
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OR

John Stevens
at Barnstaple
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For further information visit our
website: www.bloaterstown.co.uk

North Devon's Premier Country Dance Band

Have you come across any interesting folk websites ?

Please let us know, so we can pass on the details to others.

Devon Folk News

AGM 2006

The next Annual General Meeting of Devon Folk is to be held on 8th April 2006 at 6pm in Broadclyst Victory Hall. Nominations are invited for a President and Treasurer (both elected annually) and for eight vacancies on the Committee. Six members of the present committee due to retire by rotation are eligible for re-election. A nomination form is included below and photocopies will also be accepted. All nominations, together with details of Proposer and Seconder, should be sent to me by 18th March 2006. Before the AGM there will be an Afternoon Folk Dance. Valerie Webster will be calling a mixed programme of dances and Petronella will provide the music. Tickets £3.

Devon Folk Soundbeam Appeal

Included in this edition of What's Afoot is a letter from our President, Terry Underhill. We are hoping to raise awareness of the amount of folk activity in Devon and at the same time help those less fortunate than ourselves. Please send any funds collected to our Treasurer, Brian Chappell. Cheques to be made payable to Devon Folk Soundbeam Appeal.

Donations

The Committee would like to thank Kingsteignton Country Dance Club for a donation of £30.

Devon Folk Award 2005

This year's recipient was John Blackburn, and the award, together with an engraved tankard, was presented to him during the Saturday evening ceilidh at the Bideford Folk Festival. The framed citation, signed by Devon Folk President, Terry Underhill, reads as follows:

"In recognition of thirty years contribution to the furtherance of folk activities in North Devon. Formerly a dancer and musician with the Barnstaple Morris Men, he is a founder member of Tarka Morris Men, and has served the club at various times as Foreman, Bagman and Squire, as well as being instrumental in establishing the regular performance of their Mummers Play. He is a keen promoter of English dance music to all age groups through music sessions and workshops, through the Bideford Ceilidh Club, and through playing and calling with the Bloatertown Country Dance Band, of which he is a founder member. He is also an accomplished singer and co-resident of the Bideford Folk Song Club. He is one of the organisers of the recently established Bideford Folk Festival."

Sheila Chappell

DEVON FOLK COMMITTEE PROPOSAL FORM

I propose the nomination of
to the Devon Folk Committee

Proposer

Seconder

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

Name.....

Address.....

Signature.....

**This form is to be returned by 18th March 2006 to
Sheila Chappell, 2, Penstone Barns, Lease Hill, Exeter, EX5 4QA**

Devon Folk Committee*

President

Terry Underhill

Vice-Presidents

Dennis Darke **Aileen Wills**
Jo Trapnell

Treasurer

Brian Chappell

2, Penstone Barns, Lease Hill, Hele, Exeter, EX5
4QA. 01392 882156

Members of the Committee

Chairman

Euphine Bromell

Rosala, 39, Blandford Road, Lower Compton,
Plymouth, PL3 5DS. 01752 221557
euphine-alan@netbreeze.co.uk

Vice Chairman

Anne Gill

Maleth, 11, Cleveland Road, Torquay, TQ2 5BD.
01803 290427

Secretary

Sheila Chappell,

2, Penstone Barns, Lease Hill, Hele, Exeter, EX5
4QA. 01392 882156
chappell@penstone.fsnet.co.uk

Membership Secretary

Pat Kenworthy

5, Allenstyle Road, Yelland, Barnstaple, EX31
3DX. 01271 860193

Minutes Secretary

Dick Little

Collaton Grange, Collaton, Malborough, Kings-
bridge, TQ7 3DJ. 01548 561352

Elected Members

Colin Andrews

Bonny Green, Morchard Bishop, Crediton, EX17
6PG. 01363 877216. bonnygreen@btinternet.com

Alan Bromell

Rosala, 39, Blandford Road, Lower Compton,
Plymouth, PL3 5DS. 01752 221557

John Brooke

Flat 2, 4, High Street, Totnes, TQ9 5RY. 01803
863802

Frances Franklin,

3, Stabb Close, Paignton, TQ4 7JA.
01803 843402

Steve Gill

Maleth, 11, Cleveland Road, Torquay, TQ2
5BD. 01803 290427

Nicole Mac

31, Scott Drive, Exmouth, EX8 3LF. 01395
266553 nicolemac@onetel.com

Pete Mac

31, Scott Drive, Exmouth, EX8 3LF. 01395
266553 petemacmusic@onetel.com

Sue Little

Collaton Grange, Collaton, Malborough, Kings-
bridge, TQ7 3DJ. 01548 561352

Patricia Reid

47, Sherwood Drive, Exmouth, EX8 4PX. 01395
265520

Brian Thomas

Higher Brithayes Farm, Silverton, EX5 4BY.
01884 855267

Jean Warren

51, Green Park Road, Plymstock, Plymouth, PL9
9HU. 01752 401732

Co-opted Members

John Culf (Webmaster)

West Lodge, Tristford, Harberton, TQ9 7RZ.
01803 863468 johnculf@harbertondevon.co.uk

Great with hops - Full of spirit - Goes down well

Home Brew Country Dance Band

Colin Andrews
Bonny Green, Morchard Bishop,
Crediton, EX17 6PG
Tel/fax 01363 877216

www.homebrewband.co.uk
email: bonnygreen@btinternet.com

Useful contacts (1)

**Affiliated to EFDSS*

Social Dance

Aylesbeare Folk Dance Club
Ted Farmer, 01392 466326. Alt. Fri.
Aylesbeare VH.

Beacon Wheel Chair Dancers
Sue Cummings 01803 554799

Bideford Ceilidh Club
John Blackburn, 01237 476632 . Fri.
Bideford Athletic Club, The Pill.

Bideford Folk Dance Club*
Miss Pat Kenworthy, 5, Allenstyle Road,
Yelland, Barnstaple, 01271 860193
Bridge Hall, Wed.

Chard Folk Dance Club
Details: 01460 62816. Alt.Thurs.,
Combe St Nicholas VH. 8 pm.

Country Dance, Plymouth*
Mrs Mary Wolton, 32, Treveneague
Gardens, Manadon, Plymouth. 01752
778544. Tues. Trinity United Reform Ch.
Hall, Tor Lane, Hartley, Plymouth. 8 pm.

D'Accord
French & Breton Dances, Ide Village
Hall, Nr. Exeter. 3rd Friday 8 pm. Pat
Tomkins, 01392 811593

Dartington Folk*
John Gibson, 15, Manor Rd, Bishop-
steignton. 01626 778058. Most Fridays,
7.30 pm. www.dartfolk.fsnet.co.uk

Devon Playford Club*
Mrs. J. Alderslade, 22, Rosehill Gardens
Kingskerswell, TQ12 5DN. 01803
873290. Monthly, Sat. 2.30 pm Bowhill
Primary School, Buddle Lane, Exeter.

Exeter Folk Dance Group*
Mr Chris Miles, 01395 275592. Last Fri
7.45, Baptist Ch. Centre, Palace Gate,
Exeter. chrisandhighbury7@zoom.co.uk

Exmouth Folk Dance Club*
Thursdays, Withycombe Rd. Methodist
Ch. Hall. 8 - 10 pm. Mr. Chris Miles, 25
Old Bystock Drive, Exmouth, EX8 5RB
chrisandhighbury7@zoom.co.uk 01395
275592.

Exmouth YWCA*
Wednesdays, 2.30 pm. Alexandra
House, 57, Imperial Rd. Mainly Playford.
Mrs S. Harper, Flat3, 6, Carlton Hill,
Exmouth, EX8 2AJ. 01395 267171.

Great Western Ceilidhs*
Monthly, Bowhill Primary (John Stocker)
Sch Exeter. Pete Langley 01392 491228

Halsway Folk Dance Club
Alt. Wed. Halsway Manor, Crocombe,
Somerset.

Hennock
Hennock & Teign Valley Folk Club, 3rd
Tues. Hennock VH. (Song & dance).
Trevor Instone, 1, Pool Mill Cottages,
Hennock, TQ13 9NS. 01647 277594

Honiton Folk Dance Club
Wednesdays, Gittisham VH.(until 14th
Dec). From Jan. 4th, British Legion
Club, Dowell Street, Honiton. 8 pm.
Andrew Mycroft, 4, Sycamore Close,
Honiton, EX14 2XP. 01404 46451
amycroft@onetel.com

Kingsteignton Country Dance Club*
Mrs M. Sainsbury, 202, Exeter Road,
Kingsteignton. 01626 367615. Twice
monthly, Tuesdays. Ch. Hall.

**Kingsteignton Irish Set Dancing
Classes, Wednesdays, 8.30 pm. Rydon
Community Hall. Anne Gill 01803
290427**

Launceston Folk Dance Club
St. John's Ambulance Hall, Tues. 8 pm
(not July & August). 01579 362423

Lucky Seven Folk Dance Club*
Mrs Margaret Moxom, 7, Newcourt Rd,
Topsham, Exeter. 01392 873606. Alt.
Tues., Liverton VH. 8 pm.

**Marldon & District Country &
Playford Society (MADCAPS)***
Mrs Jean Fillan, 29, Droridge, Darting-
ton. 01803 866380. Mon. Marldon New
VH.

Minehead Folk Dance Club
Peter Jackson, 01984 640763. Catholic
Ch. Hall, Minehead.

Useful contacts (2)

Newton Abbot

Irish set dancing, Wed. Jolly Farmer,
Market St. Maggie Daniel 01626 204350

Plymouth Group

Miss Gladys Cann, 27, Underlane,
Plymstock, Plymouth. 01792 401747.

Salcombe Regis Folk Dance Club*

Fri. Sidmouth College. Mrs D. Cooper,
6, Darnell Close, Sidmouth. 01395
513131

Sidford Folk Dance Club*

J. Westwood, 01404 813863. Tuesday,
Sidford VH. 8 pm.

Sidford Scottish Folk Dance Club

Brian Martin, 01404 850416. Mondays,
Sidford VH. 8 pm.

South Hams Folk Dance Club*

Philip Worth, Greenbank, Hope Cove,
TQ7 3HP. 015448 561415. Wednesday,
West Charleton VH.

The Sunday Club

Peter Boskett, 57, Park Lane, Pinhoe,
Exeter. 01392 468462.

Tavistock Folk Dance Club*

Mrs Margaret Williams, 14, Walters Rd.
St Budeaux, Plymouth. 01752 350498.
Thursday, Molly Owen Centre. (not July
& Aug)

Teign Playford Club*

Bob Franklin, 01803 843402.

Totnes Folk Dance Club*

Mr H Lowe, 12, Benedicts Rd, Liverton,
Newton Abbot, TQ12 6JL. 01626
821045. Third Thursday, Methodist Ch.
Hall, 8pm (Not June, July, August).

University of Exeter Folk Dance Club

Richard Mason, 3, Kingfisher Drive,
Exeter, EX4 4SN. 01392 411434.

Willand Folk Dance Club*

Miss H.J. Webb, Spindles, 6, Church
Road, Alphington, Exeter, EX2 8SB.
01392 270174. Alt. Thurs., Willand VH.

Willand Club Band Workshop

Mary Marker 01626 854141 or Hazel
Ridd 01884 820438. Willand Chapel,
Gables Road, Willand.

Song & Music

*Folk song clubs are sometimes forced
to change venue at short notice due
to a change in management of a
pub. Please check with contact given
if in doubt.*

Bampton

Tues., Bridge House Hotel. Bob Craig,
01398 361478

Bere Ferrers

3rd Sun. Old Plough. Contact Jane on
01822 841064

Bideford Folk Club

Jerry & Hilary Bix, 36, Lower Gunstone,
Bideford. Tel/fax 01237 470792. Thurs.
Joiners Arms, Market Place, Bideford.
8.30 pm.

Black Torrington

Mon, Torridge Inn. Music & song

Bodmin

Vic Legg, 01208 75261. Friday, Garland
Ox, Bodmin.

www.bodminfolk.freemove.co.uk

Bovey Tracey

Song & music session, 1st Sunday, 1
pm, King of Prussia. Chris Eccleshall,
01803 840758

Brendon

3rd Sat. Staghunters. Eileen Moore,
01643 709394.

Chulmleigh

3rd Sun. Red Lion. 01769 580384

Combe Martin

Shammick Acoustic, 2nd Sat. Top
George Inn, Combe Martin. Tom &
Barbara Brown 01271 882366

Dartington

Last Mon. Queens Arms. Chris
Eccleshall 01803 862364

Denbury

Thursday., Union Inn. Acoustic mixed
session. Vic Connell 01803 812535

Exeter, Barnfield Theatre.

1st Fri. Bedford Room. Acoustic open
mike session. Details: Jerry 07843
419178

Useful contacts (3)

- Exeter, Globe**
2nd Fri.. Globe Inn, Newtown, Exeter
Traditional song.
4th Fri. Music session.
- Exeter, Guitar Club**
2nd Fri., Whipton Community Centre
Roger Hutton, 01392 873729
- Exeter, Exe Folk Club**
3rd Fri., Three Horseshoes, Cowley,
Exeter, 8.00 pm. Peter Beer, 01884
253524 / 07775 811919
- Folk on the Moor, Wotter**
Sunday, Moorland Hotel, Wotter, nr
Shaugh Prior. Anton Horwich, 3, Wood-
side Cottages, Milton Combe, Yelverton,
Plymouth. 01752 261669 (day), 01822
853620 (eve).
- Halsway Manor (Crowcombe)**
1st Sun. Song & music session in the
bar lounge.
- Harberton**
3rd Mon. Church House Inn. Chris Ec-
cleshall, 01803 862364
- Hatherleigh**
Last Wed. George Hotel. Mainly English
music session. Kate Nye 01837 810566
- Holsworthy**
Kings Arms. Tues. Phil Williams 01288
341308
- Horndon**
3rd Wed. Elephant's Nest, Horndon, nr.
Tavistock.
- Ivybridge**
2nd & 4th Tue. The Sportsman, Exeter
Road. World Folk Music. 8.30 pm.
Nick Reilly 01752 895014
- Kingsbridge**
1st Thurs, Crabshell Inn. Bob & Brenda
Burnside, 01548 853351
- Luxborough**
2nd Fri., Royal Oak. George Ody 01463
704347
- Lympstone**
1st Wed. Swan Inn. Music, song &
words. Jenny Moon 01395 276569
- Malborough**
01548 561481. Wed. Royal Oak. Nigel
- Sture 01548 561975
- Minehead**
Acorn Folk Club, Old Ship Aground. 1st
Sat. Eileen Moore 01643 709394.
acornfolkclub@ntlworld.com.
www.exmoorfolkmusic.co.uk
- Newton Abbot**
Sun. Two Mile Oak. 01626 208116
- Pennymoor Singaround**
3rd Wed. Cruwys Arms, Pennymoor
- Plymouth, Artillery Arms**
Geoff Rodd, 36, Downham Gardens,
Tamerton Foliot, Plymouth. 01752
709809. Alt. Tues. Artillery Arms Pound
Street, Stonehouse.
- Plymouth, Hyde Folk Club**
Mon., Hyde Park Hotel, Mutley Plain
Denise Couch, 10, Short Park Road,
Peverell, Plymouth, PL3 4PZ . 01752
661367.
- Plymouth, Kitty O'Hanlans**
St. Andrews Street, Last Sun 1 pm.
- Plymouth, Minerva Inn**
Looe Street, Wed.
- Scoriton**
3rd Fri. Tradesman's Arms. Sue &
Simon Williams 01364 631308
- South Brent**
Pack Horse Hotel. Alt. Tues. Mostly
song Keith Beeby 01364 72587. Every
Wed. mostly music Caroline 01364
631308
- South Molton**
1st Sat. George Hotel. Kath Davey
01598 760354
- Sticklepath (Okehampton)**
1st Sun. Devonshire Inn. Bill Murray
01647 231286
- Teignmouth**
3rd Thurs., Oystercatcher Cafe, Teign-
mouth. Steve & Anne Gill, 01803
290427
- Teignmouth**
Last Thurs. Devon Arms Hotel, North-
umberland Place. Martyn Hillstead.
01626 778071

Useful contacts (4)

Thorverton

Last Friday, Ruffwell Inn (on A396)
Peter & Maggie Cornelius, 01392
210983

Tiverton

1st Tues., Racehorse Inn. Susannah
Billeter 01884 821286

Torquay

Fri. Crown & Sceptre, St Marychurch.
Details: 01803 328290.

Torrington

2nd & 4th Wed. Music session. West of
England bar.

Topsham

Sunday, Globe. Pete Hargrave, 01395
577605. www.topshamfolkclub.co.uk
8.30 pm (guest nights 8pm). Tickets for
guest nights available one month in
advance from Gill Lowry 01392 254021

Totnes

Tuesday, Kingsbridge Inn. Irish ses-
sion. Andy Clarke 01803 732312

Umberleigh

2nd Mon, Rising Sun. 01769 560447

Walkhampton (Yelverton)

Last Wed. Walkhampton Inn. Also live
mostly 'folky' live music, alt. Sats.

Storytelling

Mid Devon Story Club

3rd Sunday, Tom Cobley Tavern,
Spreyton. 01837 82719

Totnes Storytell

Quarterly, Kingsbridge Inn. Lin Bramich
01803 863558

All details of events are published in good faith,
but we cannot accept responsibility should
information given to us be wrong, or for any
subsequent changes. If in doubt, please contact
the organisers. Events start at 8.00 pm unless
otherwise stated. Weekly club meetings are not
listed unless so requested by the organisers.

**VH = Village Hall. Ch. = Church FDC = Folk
Dance Club FSC = Folk Song Club.**

School & Youth Goups

Exeter

Muriel Forrest, 109, Portland Street,
Exeter. 01392 257550

Exeter College (Special Needs)

Mrs H. Budd, 19, Springfield Road,
Exmouth, EX8 3JY

High St Primary School, Plymouth

Mrs J.M. Parry, High Street Primary
School, Stonehouse, Plymouth.

Rockbeare Primary School.

T.Green, Rockbeare CE Primary
School, Rockbeare, Exeter.

Quick guide to weekly clubs

(NB: folk song clubs are included but not
weekly pub sessions - see full listing for details.
Please let editor know of any changes)..

SUNDAY

SONG: Folk on the Moor, Wotter

SONG: Globe Inn, Topsham

MONDAY

SONG: Hyde Folk Club, Plymouth

DANCE: MADCAPS Club, Marldon

TUESDAY

SONG: Bridge House Hotel, Bampton

DANCE: Launceston FDC

DANCE: Country Dance, Plymouth.

DANCE: Sidford FDC, VH.

WEDNESDAY

DANCE South Hams FDC,

DANCE: Exmouth YWCA FDC,

DANCE Irish Set ,Kingsteignton

DANCE: Bideford FDC, Bridge Hall.

DANCE: Honiton FDC, British Legion Hall

THURSDAY

SONG: Bideford FC, Joiner's Arms

DANCE: Exmouth FDC,

DANCE: Tavistock FDC,

FRIDAY

SONG: Bodmin FC, Garland Ox

DANCE: Bideford Ceilidh Club,

DANCE: Dartington Folk at VH.

DANCE: Salcombe Regis FDC,

**FOR SALE : Citroen Romahome E Reg (1987).Petrol. Very well maintained. Ideal vehicle for
festivals. Sleeps 2. Fridge, 2-ring gas cooker & grill, sink & water tank, new leisure battery,
electrical hook-up facility. 4 new tyres, new master cylinder for brakes. MOT Feb 06, Tax July 06.
£3,000. Contact Sheelagh 01237 425740**

Diary Dates (1)

November

- Sat 26 DANCE**
Budleigh Salterton Public Hall.
 Robert Blackborow & Ivor Hyde
Tavistock College. Sarah Bazeley,
 Dartmoor Pixie Band
CEILIDH
 Plymouth Maids Ceilidh, College of St
 mark & St John. Fox Amongst The
 Chickens. Tickets: 01752 303939
- Sun 27 CONCERT**
 Ariel Centre, Totnes. Fairport Conven-
 tion.
SONG
 Folk on the Moor, Moorland Hotel,
 Wotter. Martyn Wyndham-Read.
- Mon 28 DANCE**
 MADCAPS Club, Marldon VH.
- Tue 29 DANCE**
Lucky 7 FDC, Liverton VH.
Sidford FDC at VH. Jane Thomas
Country Dance Plymouth, Trinity
 U.R. Ch. Hall, Hartley. Gil Jefferies
- Wed 30 MUSIC**
 Session, George Hotel, Hatherleigh.

December

- Thu 1 SONG**
 Crabshell, Kingsbridge.
DANCE
 Exmouth FDC, Withycombe Meth. Ch.
 Hall. Aileen Wills.
- Fri 2 SONG**
 Bedford Rm, Barnfield Theatre Exeter.
- Sat 3 DANCE**
 Civic Hall, Totnes. Ray Goodswen,
 Weston Country Dance Band.
SONG
Minehead, Acorn FSc, Old Ship
 Aground, Nancy Kerr & James Fagan
South Molton, George Hotel.
- Sun 4 SONG**
Folk on the Moor, Moorland Hotel,
 Wotter. The Amazing Mr Smith.
Sticklepath, Devonshire Inn
Bovey Tracey, King of Prussia, 1 pm.
- Mon 5 SONG**
 Scoriton, Tradesman's Arms
- Tue 6 SONG**
Holsworthy, Kings Arms
Tiverton, Racehorse Inn

- DANCE**
Sidford FDC at VH Eileen Nightingale
Lucky 7 FDC, Liverton VH. Christmas
 party.
- Wed 7 STORY & SONG**
 Lymptone, Swan Inn.
DANCE
 Honiton FDC, Gittisham VH
CONCERT
 Barnfield Theatre, Exeter, 7.30 pm.
 Martyn Joseph.
- Thu 8 SONG**
 Torquay FSC, Crown & Sceptre. Final
 meeting. Christmas special.
DANCE
Willand FDC at VH. Christmas Party.
 Peter Moxom, Amycrofters Band.
Exmouth FDC, Withycombe Meth.
 Ch. Hall. Muriel Forrest.
- Fri 9 SONG**
Exeter, Globe Inn, Clifton Street.
Luxborough, Royal Oak
- Sat 10 DANCE**
 Totnes FDC Christmas party, Meth.
 Ch. Hall. Jane Thomas.
 Fremington VH, Barnstaple. Sarah
 Bazeley, Dartmoor Pixie Band
CEILIDH
 Bowhill Primary Sch. (John Stocker),
 Exeter. Whapweasel.
CONCERT
 Abbotskerswell VH. St. Agnes
 Fountain. Tickets: 01803 813876
SONG
 Shammick Acoustic. Top George,
 Combe Martin. Christmas theme.
- Sun 11 SONG**
 Folk on the Moor, Moorland Hotel,
 Wotter.
- Mon 12 MUSIC**
 Umberleigh, Rising Sun.
DANCE
 MADCAPS Club Christmas Party.
 Marldon VH. Philip Worth, Pete Mac.
- Tue 13 DANCE**
Sidford FDC at VH. Christmas Party
 with Aileen Wills.
Country Dance, Plymouth, Trinity
 United Ref. Ch. Hall, Hartley. Christ-
 mas Party with Euphine and Alan
 Bromell.
- Wed 14 DANCE**
 Honiton FDC, Gittisham VH. Christ-
 mas Party.

Diary Dates (2)

January 2006

Wed 14 CONCERT

Sherwell Centre, Plymouth. Christmas Concert. Tickets £8 (con. £6 from Plymouth Music Shop, Tourist Info. Offices, or Marilyn 01752 564847.

CONCERT

Exeter, Barnfield Theatre, 7.30 pm. Songs for the Season, with Wren Music performers.

Thu 15 CONCERT

Exeter University Great Hall. The Levellers. Tickets Solo Music, or Guild Box Office.

DANCE

Totnes FDC, Meth. Ch. Hall.

Exmouth FDC. Christmas party with Aileen Wills & Chris Miles.

SONG

Teignmouth, Oystercatcher Cafe.

Fri 16 DANCE

D'Accord French Dance, Ide VH, nr Exeter.

SONG

Exeter, Exe FSC, Three Horseshoes, Cowley.

Scoriton, Tradewinds FSC, Tradesman's Arms

Sat 17 DANCE

Willand VH. Aileen Wills & Pete Mac Band.

SONG

Brendon, Staghunters Inn.

Sun 18 SONG

Folk on the Moor, Moorland Hotel, Wotter. Jez Lowe & The Bad Pennies
Bere Ferrers, Old Plough Inn

Mon 19 SONG

Harberton, Church House Inn

Wed 21 SONG

Pennymoor Singaround, Cruwys Arms

Horndon, Elephant's Nest

Wed 28 MUSIC

Hatherleigh, George Hotel.

Sat 31 NEW YEAR'S EVE DANCE

Civic Hall, Totnes. Peter Moxom & the Sundowners

Willand Village Hall. Jane Thomas, Sarah Bazeley & Dartmoor Pixie Band

Sun 1 SONG

Sticklepath, Devonshire Inn.

Mon 2 SONG

Scoriton, Tradesman's Arms

Tue 3 SONG

Holsworthy, Kings Arms

Tiverton, Racehorse Inn

DANCE

Sidford FDC at VH. Doreen Cooper

Lucky 7 FDC, Liverton VH

Wed 4 STORY & SONG

Lympstone, Swan Inn

DANCE

Honiton FDC. New Venue: British

Legion Hall, Dowell St, Honiton.

Thu 5 SONG

Kingsbridge, Crabshell Inn

Fri 6 SONG

Exeter, Bedford Rm, Barnfield Theatre

DANCE

Dartington FDC at VH. 7.30 pm

Sat 7 SONG

South Molton, George Hotel.

Minehead, Acorn FSC, Old Ship Aground. Pagan Gypsies.

Sun 8 SONG

Folk on the Moor, Moorland Hotel, Wotter. Mike Silver.

Mon 9 DANCE

MADCAPS Club, Marlton VH.

MUSIC

Umberleigh, Rising Sun.

Tue 10 DANCE

Sidford FDC at VH. Eileen Nightingale

Wed 11 DANCE

Honiton FDC, Br. Legion Hall.

Thu 12 DANCE

Willand FDC at VH. Ivor Hyde & Holly, Eileen Nightingale.

Fri 13 SONG

Exeter, Globe Inn, Clifton Street

Luxborough, Royal Oak.

Sat 14 SONG

Shammick Acoustic, Top George, Combe Martin.

DANCE

Willand VH. Robert Blackborow, & Amycrofters Band.

CEILIDH

Bowhill Primary School, (John Stocker) Exeter. Peeping Tom

Diary Dates (3)

- CEILIDH**
South Brent VH. Phoenix Band
- Sun 15 SONG**
Folk on the Moor, Moorland Hotel, Wotter.
Bere Ferrers, Old Plough Inn.
- Mon 16 DANCE**
MADCAPS Club, Marldon VH.
SONG
Harberton, Church House Inn
- Tue 17 DANCE**
Sidford FDC at VH. Aileen Wills.
Lucky 7 FDC, Liverton VH
- Wed 18 DANCE**
Honiton FDC, British Legion Hall
SONG
Pennymoor Singaround, Cruwys Arms
Horndon, Elephant's Nest
- Thu 19 DANCE**
Totnes FDC, Meth.Ch Hall.
SONG
Teignmouth, Oystercatcher Cafe
- Fri 20 SONG**
Exeter, Exe FSC, Three Horseshoes, Cowley
Scoriton, Tradewinds FSC, Tradesmans Arms
DANCE
D'Accord French Dance, Ide VH.
Dartington FDC at VH. 7.30 pm
- Sat 21 SONG**
Brendon, Staghunters Inn
PLAYFORD
Devon Playford Club, Bowhill, Primary Sch, Exeter. 2.30 pm Valerie Webster & Gwyn George.
CONCERT
Ariel Centre, Totnes. Simon Mayor & Hilary James.
- Sun 22 SONG**
Folk on the Moor, Moorland Hotel, Wotter. Sarah Grey.
- Tue 24 DANCE**
Sidford FDC at VH. Jane Thomas.
- Wed 25 DANCE**
Honiton FDC, British Legion Hall.
MUSIC
George Hotel, Hatherleigh
- Thu 26 DANCE**
Willand FDC at VH. Jane Thomas
SONG
Teignmouth, Devon Arms.
- Fri 27 DANCE**
Dartington FDC at VH. 7.30 pm
Exeter FDC, Baptist Church Centre, Palace Gate.
SONG
Exe Valley FSC, Ruffwell Inn, Thorverton.
MUSIC
Exeter, Globe Inn, Clifton Street.
- Sat 28 DANCE**
Public Hall, Budleigh Salterton. Sarah Bazeley, Dartmoor Pixie Band. 7.30 pm
CEILIDH
Burns Night. Pollyfield Centre, Bideford. Bloatertown Band with Gareth Kiddier.
- Sun 29 SONG**
Plymouth, Kitty O'Hanlans 1 pm
Folk on the Moor, Moorland Hotel, Wotter.
- Mon 30 SONG**
Dartington, Queens Arms
DANCE
MADCAPS Club, Marldon VH
- Tue 31 DANCE**
Sidford FDC at VH. Ted Farmer
Lucky 7 FDC, Liverton VH

February

- Wed 1 STORY & SONG**
Lymptone, Swan Inn
DANCE
Honiton FDC, British Legion Hall
- Thu 2 SONG**
Kingsbridge, Crabshell Inn
- Fri 3 DANCE**
Dartington FDC at VH. 7.30 pm
SONG
Exeter, Bedford Rm, Barnfield Theatre
- Sat 4 DANCE**
Civic Hall, Totnes. Jane Thomas & Amycrofters Band.
SONG
South Molton, George Hotel.
Minehead, Acorn FSC, Old Ship Aground.
- Sun 5 SONG**
Folk on the Moor, Moorland Hotel, Wotter. Pint and Dale.

Diary Dates (4)

- Sun 5 SONG**
Bovey Tracey, King of Prussia, 1 pm
Sticklepath, Devonshire Inn
- Mon 6 SONG**
Scoriton, Tradesmans Arms
DANCE
MADCAPS Club, Marldon VH
- Tue 7 SONG**
Holsworthy, Kings Arms
Tiverton, Racehorse Inn
DANCE
Sidford FDC at VH. Harry Turner
Lucky 7 FDC, Liverton VH
- Wed 8 DANCE**
Honiton FDC, British Legion Hall.
- Thu 9 DANCE**
Willand FDC at VH. Richard Mason
- Fri 10 SONG**
Exeter, Globe Inn, Clifton Street
Luxborough, Royal Oak
DANCE
Dartington FDC at VH
- Sat 11 DANCE**
Willand VH. Geoff Cubitt, Cruise Control.
SONG
Shammick Acoustic, Top George, Combe Martin. Also afternoon workshop with Adrian O.
- Sun 12 SONG**
Folk on the Moor, Moorland Hotel, Wotter.
- Mon 13 DANCE**
MADCAPS Club, Marldon VH
MUSIC
Umberleigh, Rising Sun
- Tue 14 DANCE**
Sidford FDC. Jane Thomas
- Wed 15 SONG**
Pennymoor Singaround, Cruwys Arms
Horndon, Elephant's Nest
DANCE
Honiton FDC, British Legion Hall
- Thu 16 SONG**
Teignmouth, Oystercatcher Cafe.
DANCE
Totnes FDC, Meth. Ch. Hall.
- Fri 17 SONG**
Exeter, Exe FSC, Three Horseshoes, Cowley.
Scoriton, Tradewinds FSC, Tradesmans Arms.
DANCE
Dartington FDC at VH. Robert Moir & Gwyn George. 7.30 pm
D'Accord French dance. Ide VH.
- Sat 18 PLAYFORD**
Devon Playford Club, Bowhill Primary Sch. Exeter, 2.30 pm. Robert Moir & Gwyn George.
CELLIDH
Bowhill Primary Sch. Exeter. Sarah Bazeley, Dartmoor Pixie Band
SONG
Brendon, Staghunters Inn.
- Sun 19 SONG**
Folk on the Moor, Moorland Hotel, Wotter. Alan Burke (tbc)
Bere Ferrers, Old Plough Inn
- Mon 20 DANCE**
MADCAPS Club, Marldon VH. Peter Moxom & Devonians.
SONG
Harberton, Church House Inn.
- Tue 21 DANCE**
Sidford FDC at VH. Doreen Cooper.
Lucky 7 FDC Anniversary, Liverton VH
- Wed 22 MUSIC**
Hatherleigh, George Hotel.
DANCE
Honiton FDC, British Legion Hall.
- Thu 23 SONG**
Teignmouth, Oystercatcher Cafe
DANCE
Willand FDC at CH. Mary Marker, club musicians.
- Fri 24 SONG**
Thorverton, Exe Valley FDC, Ruffwell
Teignmouth, Devon Arms
DANCE
Dartington FDC at VH, 7.30 pm
Exeter FDC, Baptist Church Centre, Palace Gate
CONCERT
Chittlehampton VH. Tom Napper & Tom Bliss
- Sat 25 DANCE**
Budleigh Salterton Public Hall, Peter Moxom, Weston Band. 7.30 pm
Launceston Eagle House Hotel.
Callers Swap. See display advert

Diary Dates (5)

- Sun 26** **SONG**
Plymouth, Kitty O'Hanlans, 1 pm
Folk on the Moor, Moorland Hotel,
 Wotter.
- Mon 27** **SONG**
 Dartington, Queens Arms
DANCE
 MADCAPS Club, Marlton VH.
- Tue 28** **DANCE**
 Sidford FDC at VH. Peter Moxom

March

- Wed 1** **STORY & SONG**
 Lympstone, Swan Inn
DANCE
 Honiton FDC, British Legion Hall
- Thu 2** **SONG**
 Kingsbridge, Crabshell Inn
- Fri 3** **DANCE**
 Dartington FDC at VH. 7.30 pm
SONG
 Exeter, Bedford Rm, Barnfield Theatre
- Sat 4** **DANCE**
 Civic Hall, Totnes. Chris Thorne, Pete
 Mac Band.
SONG
South Molton, George Hotel.
Minehead, Acorn FSC, Old Ship
 Aground.
- Sun 5** **SONG**
Folk on the Moor, Moorland Hotel,
 Wotter. Martin Carthy
Bovey Tracey, King of Prussia, 1 pm
Sticklepath, Devonshire Inn
- Mon 6** **DANCE**
 MADCAPS Club, Marlton VH
SONG
 Scoriton, Tradesmans Arms
- Tue 7** **SONG**
Holsworthy, Kings Arms
Tiverton, Racehorse Inn
DANCE
Sidford FDC at VH. Aileen Wills
Lucky 7 FDC, Liverton VH
- Wed 8** **DANCE**
 Honiton FDC, British Legion Hall.
- Thu 9** **DANCE**
 Willand FDC at VH. Peter Moxom,
 Bonnetts Band.

- Fri 10** **DANCE**
 Dartington FDC at VH, 7.30 pm
SONG
Exeter, Globe Inn, Clifton Street
Luxborough, Royal Oak.
- Sat 11** **DANCE**
 Willand VH. John Meechan, Skylarks
PLAYFORD
 Kingsteignton Community Hall, 2.30
 pm. Bob Franklin.
CONCERT
 Ariel Centre, Totnes. Aly Bain & Phil
 Cunningham.
SONG
 Shammick Acoustic, Top George,
 Combe Martin.
- Sun 12** **SONG**
 Folk on the Moor, Moorland Hotel,
 Wotter. Sarah Morgan.
- Mon 13** **DANCE**
 MADCAPS Club, Marlton VH. Philip
 Worth & Gwyn George.
MUSIC
 Umberleigh, Rising Sun.
- Tue 14** **DANCE**
Sidford FDC at VH. Nicole Mac
Lucky 7 FDC, Liverton VH
- Wed 15** **DANCE**
 Honiton FDC, British Legion Hall.
SONG
Pennymoor Singaround, Cruwys
 Arms
Horndon, Elephant's Nest
- Thu 16** **DANCE**
 Totnes FDC, Meth. Ch. Hall
SONG
 Teignmouth, Oystercatcher Cafe.
- Fri 17** **DANCE**
Dartington FDC at VH. 7.30 pm. Ken
 Sheffield & Gwyn George.
D'Accord French Dance, Ide VH
SONG
Exeter, Exe FSC, Three Horseshoes,
 Cowley
Scoriton, Tradewinds FSC, Trades-
 mans Arms
- Sat 18** **PLAYFORD**
 Devon Playford Club, Bowhill Primary
 Sch. Exeter. 2.30 pm. Ken Sheffield
CEILIDH
 Roundswell VH, Barnstaple. John
 Blackburn & Bursledon Band.
SONG
 Brendon, Staghunters.

Diary Dates (6)

- Sun 19 SONG**
Folk on the Moor, Moorland Hotel, Wotter.
Bere Ferrers, Old Plough Inn
- Mon 20 DANCE**
MADCAPS club, Marlton VH
- SONG**
Harberton, Church House Inn.
- Tue 21 DANCE**
Sidford FDC at VH. Jane Thomas
- Wed 22 DANCE**
Honiton FDC, British Legion Hall
- Thu 23 DANCE**
Willand FDC at VH. Robert Blackborow, Bridgwater Band.
- Fri 24 MUSIC**
Exeter, Globe Inn, Clifton Street
- DANCE**
Dartington FDC at VH
- Sat 25 CEILDH.**
Bowhill Primary Sch. Exeter. The Committee Band.
- DANCE**
Public Hall, Budleigh Salterton, 7.30 pm Nicole & Pete Mac Band
- Sun 26 SONG**
Plymouth, Kitty O'Hanlans, 1 pm
Folk on the Moor, Moorland Hotel Wotter. Guest tbc.
- Mon 27 SONG**
Dartington, Queens Arms
- DANCE**
MADCAPS Club, Marlton VH
- Tue 28 DANCE**
Sidford FDC at VH. Peter Moxom
- Wed 29 DANCE**
Honiton FDC, British Legion Hall.
- MUSIC**
Hatherleigh, George Hotel.
- Thu 30 SONG**
Teignmouth, Devon Arms
- Fri 31 SONG**
Exe Valley FSC, Ruffwell, Thorverton
- DANCE**
Exeter FDC, Baptist Ch. Hall, Palace Gate
- FESTIVAL**
Crediton Folk Weekend (till Sunday), Cheriton Fitzpaine. See display advert.

April

- Sat 1 CREDITON FOLK WEEKEND,**
Sun 2 CHERITON FITZPAINE



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Useful contacts (5)

* Affiliated to EFDSS

Ritual & Display Dance Groups (Morris, Sword, Clog, Appalachian, etc)

Alive & Kicking
Appalachian. Julie Page, 07815 966838

Beltane
Di Brooks, 01626 872903

Bideford Phoenix Morris
Martin Boyle, 01237 423716

Blackawton Morris
Chris Janman, 1, Castle Lane, Blackawton, Totnes. 01803 712362

Black Bess
Suzanne Lovell, 01803 873908

Bovey Tracey Mummers
Rod Wilkins 01803 812581

Cogs & Wheels
Fiona Elsworth, Sunopot, Liftondown, Lifton, PL16 7DB. 01566 784646
mandf.elsworth@btinternet.com

Dartmoor Border
Lis Richards 01822 853850

Dartington Morris Men
Brian Marks, 36, Powderham Road, Newton Abbot, TQ12 1EZ. 01626 360990
bagman@dartingtonmorrismen.org.uk

Exeter Morris Men
Nick Lambert, 6, Chrystal Close, Tipton St John, EX10 0AY. 01404 813787

Exmoor Border Morris
Lesley Wormald 01271 830759

Flaming Morris
Colin Payne, 01404 850503

Firestone*
(Appalachian & Irish). Richard Mason, 3, Kingfisher Drive, Exeter, EX4 4SN 01392 411434

Glory of the West Morris
Carol Mantell, Beggar's Roost, Higher

Ashton, EX6 7QR. 01647 252740

Great Western Morris Men
Trevor Cook, 1, Croft Cottage, Church Lane, Cheriton Bishop. EX6 6JU 01647 24307 bagman@great-western.org.uk

Green Willow Clog
Sue Fildes 07768 625333

Grimspound Border Morris
Don McMillan 01626 207600,
donmcmillan@netbreeze.co.uk

Harberton Navy
Nonnie Duncan, Little Cholwell, Harberton, Totnes. 01803 867650

Heather & Gorse
Jenny Gill 01626 779795

Ilfracombe Red Petticoats
Janet Ellis, 01271 342351

Lodestone Border
Steve Bussey, 01822 853085
steveandalisonbussey@tiscali.co.uk

Newton Bushel Morris Men
Anthony Job, 29, Innerbrook Road, Chelston, Torquay. 01803 607987

North Devon Mummers
Francis & Barbara Verdigi 01271 813843

Plymouth Maids
plymouthmaids@hotmail.com Jean Hawkins, 01752 303939

Plymouth Morris Men
Julian Kohler, 47, Dean Hill, Plymouth. PL9 9AP. 01752 402841

Raddon Hill Clog Morris
Lesley Downes, Lower Brocks, Dunsford, EX6 7AB 01647 252767

Shuffle the Deck Appalachian
Jenny Draper, Ladywell, Grange Road, Buckfast, Buckfastleigh, TQ11 0EH 01364 643320

Sidmouth Steppers NW Morris
Jean Salt 01395 516590

Sweet Coppin
Georgie Humble, 150 Henson Park, Chard, TA20 1NL. 01460 64569

Useful contacts (6)

Tarka Morris Men
Phil Heming 07785 478282
phil@bearstreetpharmacy.co.uk

Tormohun Morris
Frances Popley, 01803 322543
francespopley@hotmail.com

Trigg Morris Men
Roger Hancock 01208 73907

Tudor Dance Group
(16th Century Dance) Elizabeth Thurgood, Brookfield, Combe Water, Cotleigh, Honiton, EX14 9SQ. 01404 831512

Wheal Sophia NW Morris
Colin Baker, 01404 841359

Winkleigh Morris
Anne Bendix 01805 603599

National Organisations

EFDSS National HQ
Cecil Sharp House, 2, Regent's Park Road, London NW1 7AY. 020 7485 2206

The Morris Federation
Fee Lock, 28, Fairstone Close, Hastings, Sussex. 01424 436052.
www.morrisfed.org.uk

The Morris Ring
Charlie Corcoran, 70, Greengate Lane, Birstall, Leicestershire, LE4 3DL. Tel/fax 0116 267 5654. www.themorrisring.org

Open Morris
Tracey Good 01507 608364
secretaryoform@aol.com

National Youth Folklore Troupe of England*
Dave Leverton, Heathers, Stanton Wick, Pensford, Bristol, BS39 4BZ. 01761 490236 daveleverton@lycos.co.uk

Festivals

Bampton After The Fair
End of October. Clare Penney 01884 860023

Baring-Gould Festival
October Tel/fax 01837 53754
info@wrenmusic.co.uk

Festivals

Bideford Folk Festival
15th - 21st August 2005. Jerry Bix 01237 470792

Cornwall Folk Festival.
26th - 29th August 2005. 01736 850630
nialltimmins@tesco.net

Crediton Folk Festival
31st March - 2nd April 2006. Cheriton Fitzpaine. Pete Lister 01363 775695
creditonfolkfestival@yahoo.co.uk

Dartmoor Folk Festival*
5th- 7th August 2005. August. Mrs J White, Sunnyhill, South Zeal, Okehamp-ton EX20 2JL Tel 01837 840102
www.dartmoorfolkfestival.co.uk

English Country Music Festival*
Jason Rice, 12, Church Street, Crediton, EX17 5UU

Intervarsity Folk Dance Festival
Richard Mason, 3, Kingfisher Drive, Exeter, EX4 4SN. 01392 411434

Malborough Music Festival
Mid-August., 01548 561481
malborough.festival@ukonline.co.uk

Minehead Folk Festival
Early July. Mike & Di Dibble 01643 841597

Pennymoor Song & Ale
1st weekend in June. Jon Shapley, 9, Higher Ley Nymet Rowland, Crediton, EX17 6AJ

Plymouth Folk Festival
Marilyn Goldsbrough 01752 564847

Sidmouth Folk Week
29th July - 5th August 2005.
www.sidmouthfolkweek.org.uk

Sourton, Fox & Hounds.
Song weekend, May 2005. Kathy Wallis & Jon Heslop 01579 363505.
Kathy.wallis@nasuwt.net

Teignmouth Folk Festival*
June. Anne Gill, 01803 290427

Westcountry Storytelling Festival
- Aller Park, Dartington . August Details: 01803 863790. www.weststoryfest.co.uk

Useful contacts (7)

Bands

(Those in **bold type** have an advert. elsewhere in this magazine. * EFDSS affiliated).

Amycrofters Band*	01404 46451	Phoenix	01392 833088
Autumn Gold	01840 261708	Quantock Quarenders	01984 656459
Barnacles	01803 854496	Racing Demon	01626 864042
Barn Owls	01822 832002	Red Shed	01363 774339
Bloatertown Band	01237 476632	Redwing	01409 211492
Bonnetts Band	01458 443253	Redwing Duo*	01395 266553
Bridgwater Band	01823 322652	Reel Thing	01460 240411
Cavaliers	01288 341358	Rumpus	01548 561975
Chattering Magpies	01822 832507	Rusty Buckets	01398 323494
Country Style	01803 813555	Rusty Gulley	01803 290427
Dartmoor Pixie Band*	01837 840775	Seven Stars	01803 862393
Devil's Footsteps	01626 866257	Shams Band	01548 842231
Devonians	01752 221557	Sheer Hopody	01769 520595
Eel Grinders	01647 440020	Short Notice	01626 864042
Five Bar Gate	01626 866257	Silver & Gold	01752 265869
Flash Company	01392 274135	Slack Ma Gurdle	01823 680523
Folk Two	01548 550004	Smileyboots	01752 364596
Footloose	01647 433464	Somersets	01749 812207
Fox Amongst The Chickens	01579 351201	Spinach For Norman	01837 83347
Fresh Aire	01823 257488	Squeezum	01823 333567
Grumbling Old Men	01278 732202	Steve Gill & Andy Clarke	01803 290427
Haymakers	01288 361625	Sundowners	01647 440754
Hips & Haws	01884 855638	Tinners	01736 787951
Hobson's Choice	01823 272537	Troika	01803 862393
Home Brew	01363 877216	Walter Shortage & Hosepipe Banned	01837 840573
Hot Punch	01271 373128	Weston Country Dance Band	01934 813326
Ivythorn	01458 43906		
Ivor Hyde's Band	01460 65159		
Jiggerypipery	01647 433390		
Jocosity	07901 673004		
Long Odds & Short Straws	01460 61996		
Lucy Lastic	01884 881385		
Mac's Maggot	01752 404821		
Meltdown	01278 732202		
Monkey & The Chainsaw	01752 895054		
Mooncoin Ceilidh Band	01803 290427		
More The Merrier	01884 820438		
Mrs Crotty's Ceilidh Band	01803 762645		
Multitude of Sins	01398 324018		
Newlyn Reelers	01736 366284		
Occasion Ceilidh Band	01752 337501		
Oggle Band	01271 865030		
Old Boys	01752 345045		
Other Band	01326 563564		
Park Bench Aristocrats	01548 810038		
Perfect Cure	01823 432642		
Pete Mac Band*	01395 266553		
Petronella	01884 820438		
Pieces of Eight*	01395 513877		
Pigs Might Fly	01392 411434		
Pig's Whisper	01392 250355		

Amycrofters Band advert

Useful contacts (8)

Callers

Note: some callers will work with different bands, but others only with specific or single bands. Likewise, some bands will only work with certain callers. Check when you book !

Tom Addison	01392 420964
Colin Andrews	01363 877216
Graham Barrett	01823 461632
Sarah Bazeley	01837 840775
Robert Blackborow	01823 322652
John Blackburn	01237 476632
Peter Boskett	01392 468462
Adrian Brayley	01392 882036
Linda Breeze	01363 776184
Tom Brown	01271 882366
Les Burden	01840 261708
Dennis Cook	01822 832002
Ted Farmer	01392 466326
Marion & Alan Finch	01837 52458
Judy Forrow	01626 864042
Ray Goodswen	01872 560344
Sue Hamer-Moss	01805 601323
Susan Heard	01823 323490
Jan Hewett	01404 41182
Gil Jefferies	01752 844138
Beryl Jukes	01209 712357
Rosie Longhurst	01579 351201
Nicole Mac	01395 266553
Mary Marker	01626 854141
Richard Mason	01392 411434
Barry Moule	01288 361625
Peter Moxom	01392 873606
Eileen Nightingale	01297 23409
Frances Oates	01209 217918
Mike & Sheila Palmer	01647 433464
Christine Potter	01278 451665
Kate Powell	01626 866257
John Searle	01872 862360
Tom Stevens	01872 240826
John Tarling	01297 34804
Jane Thomas	01884 855267
Garry Thompson	01271 865030
Chris Thorne	01726 823275
Harry Turner	01823 664745
Fred Ward	01271 882626

Storytellers

M & W Dacre	01837 82719
Rough Magic (A.Oakley & D.Newton)	01837 810198
Jenny Moon	01395 276569
Clive Pig	01837 840089

Regional Contacts

Folknews Kernow
Chris Ridley, Trenillocs, St. Columb, Cornwall. 01637 880394

Avon Folk Diary
Dave Leverton, 9, Garden Ground, Tadley Acres, Shepton Mallett, BA4 4DJ . 01749 344517

Dorset Folk
Steve Hunt, Meadow Cottage, Chapel Lane, Woodlands, Wimborne, Dorset, BH12 8LU. 01202 814858

Folk London
Sheila Finn, 4a, Kenilworth Road, Petts Wood, Kent, BR5 1DY. 01689 825263

Folk South West
Eddie Upton, The Stables, Montacute House, Montacute, TA15 6XP. Tel. 01935 822911. Fax 01935 822024 folksw@folksw.org.uk

Halsway Manor Magazine
Alan Corkett, Greengarth, Nether Stowey, Somerset. 01278 732202 alan@bcorkett.freeserve.co.uk

Puddingstone (Herts)
Libby Byne-Grey, 01920 460553

Shreds & Patches (Shropshire)
Sheila Mainwaring, 1, Herbert Avenue, Wellington, Telford, Shropshire, TF1 2BT. 01952 240989

Somers Folklife
Sam Simmonds, 16, Barrett Rise, Malvern, WR14 2UJ. 01684 575704. somers.folklife@virgin.net

Taplas (Wales)
Keith Hudson, 182, Broadway, Roath, Cardiff, CF24 1QJ. 02920 499759

Wiltshire Folk
Geoff Elwell, 3, Sarum Avenue, Melksham, Wilts. SN12 6BJ . 01225 703650

Worcestershire Folk
Rosie McMinn 01527 854378

Reviews

PUT THE STARS TO FLIGHT

Sarah Morgan

Lyngham House ISBN 1 903963 16 8

What pleasure this book has given and will give in the future. When I opened it for the first time, I planned to play and sing one or two of the songs as a prelude to going through it gradually song by song. Instead I did not move from my seat until I had looked at every item. Since then I have sung all of the songs several times and learnt four by heart. Books of new songs do not appear frequently enough for me, books in which I like all the songs so much, seldom.

Of the seventeen songs both the lyrics and tune of many have been written by Sarah Morgan. Of the remainder for several she has set other people's words to her own composition, while for others she has put her own words to a familiar tune. Most of the songs reflect rural life, for example, *Another Harvest*, *Farm Dog*, and *Sheepdog Glory*. As well as *Another Harvest*, other seasonal songs include *Sing Out*, Sarah's words set to the tune *Russia*, from the Sacred Harp tradition of America, perfect for raising the temperature in winter, and *Solstice Carol*, the tune of which is another familiar Sacred Harp tune, *Jerusalem*. Reading the lyrics two items in particular evoke sentiments that many will relate to, *Room at the Top*, a reflection of the high expectations of modern society, and *View the Land*, about the consequences of not appreciating the value of the countryside. Having talked about a book of songs, there are two instrumental items included: *Muir Towers*, a hauntingly beautiful slow air written for Alison Muir with whom Sarah used to sing, and *Sloe Season*, a gentle tune which she describes as "a sloe air, to play while under the influence of sloe gin . . ."

The publication is excellent for several reasons: the music and words are clearly laid out and the format of the book makes it a joy to handle. At the foot of each item are one or two sentences giving the background to the song, something that enhanced each one for me. From this recommendation you may want to order a copy of *Put the Stars to Flight* immediately.

Jacqueline Patten

<p>beafordarts villagevoice</p> <p>Gordon Giltrap - guitar legend</p> <p>Guitarists are a breed apart and all have a respect for each other's abilities, Gordon Giltrap has earned that respect from many great guitar legends The George Hotel, South Molton Friday 9 December</p> <p>Seth Lakeman (fiddle, guitar & vocals) & Benji Kirkpatrick (bouzouki) "Seth Lakeman makes music that is urgent, thrilling & haunting" Nationwide Mercury Music Prize Panel Winkleigh Village Hall, Ashwater Village Hall & Rose Ash Village Hall All January dates</p> <p>An Evening with Isla - Isla St Clair</p> <p>Isla hosted shows such as the <i>Generation Game</i>, but she built her reputation as a notable singer. Her awards include 'Best Female TV Personality' and 'Best Female Folk Singer'. And her BBC television series <i>The Song and the Story</i> won the coveted European award 'Prix Jeunesse'. Just the thing to warm away the winter blues. Winkleigh Village Hall February</p> <p>Island Slices - Tom Napper & Tom Bliss</p> <p>Songs, tunes and tales of history, legend, myth & romance, from some of Britain's smaller islands. 2 hours of perfect entertainment. Ashwater Village Hall & Petrockstowe, Baxter Hall both February dates</p> <p>Fluxus - world folk from Belgium - British Tour</p> <p>Fluxus means both 'fluid' and 'moving' and is exactly what the band and its six members is all about! Contemporary music with traditional instruments and European origins Hartland (venue to be confirmed) & Winkleigh Village Hall both March dates</p> <p>For more information on any of the above please ring:</p> <p>01805 603201 www.beaford-arts.co.uk Beaford Arts is a registered charity</p>
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Reviews

VIEW THE LAND

Sarah Morgan
Lyngham House ISBN 1 903963 07 7

Within this book there are thirteen songs arranged in harmony plus two rounds. At the beginning there is an introduction by Sarah followed by a section entitled Learning and Singing the Songs in which Sarah gives advice about 'naming the parts', timing and rhythm, and dynamics. In the introduction Sarah writes of her involvement with harmony singing from the age of seven years old when she was in a Junior Choir, of her experience with folk harmony groups, of the workshops on harmony that she runs and of the community and village choirs that she leads or has helped start. She gives credit to Roger Watson, director of TAPS, himself a noted choir leader, for his encouragement and advice.

All the arrangements are by Sarah: most are traditional songs familiar to people with knowledge of the genre, such as *The Blacksmith*, *The Cruel Mother*, and *The Water is Wide*. In each case there is a note to explain the source from which she took the song. There are some from the research of Bob Copper or the repertoire of the Copper family: *Blow the Winds O*, *O Good Ale*, some collected by Ralph Vaughan Williams, some by Percy Grainger, some by Cicely Fox Smith, one by Peter Kennedy and another by Gardiner. The title song and the rounds are Sarah's compositions. In the introduction Sarah explains the methodology behind her arrangements. They are for three or four voices. Of those in three parts some are all written in the treble clef which allows for a variety of combinations, while in others there is a bass part in the bass clef. The melody or air is in the top part. In the introduction Sarah explains that for the four part items she has adopted a convention sometimes used in 'West Gallery' compositions of SATB with the tune in the tenor part. At the foot of most items there are suggestions for adapting the arrangements to add variation of performance.

As with other publications from Lyngham House, the format is clear and attractive, a fact that enhances the pleasure of using the book. It will please singers who enjoy singing with others, whether in small groups or larger choirs, and choir leaders who are seeking new material.

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Teignmouth.

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Anne & Steve Gill 01803 290427
email annemgill@tiscali.co.uk

TORQUAY FOLK CLUB

Final Christmas Party Night
Thursday 8th December

THE CROWN & SCEPTRE
2, Petitor Road, St Marychurch, Torquay

Many of the arrangements lend themselves to one voice to each part as well as appealing to the increasing number of community choirs.

Put The Stars To Flight and **View the Land** are available from Sarah Morgan, 2, South View Terrace, St. Mary Bourne, Andover Hants. SP11 6BZ 01264 738629 www.CMR-harmony.org.uk
mailto: sarah.bourne@andover.co.uk

If you are thinking of starting a community choir, would like to join one but want some initial tuition or would like to improve your a capella singing, try to attend one of Sarah's workshops or organise one yourself.

Jacqueline Patten

PEPPERS & TOMATOES

Craig Morgan Robson

RVRC06

Moira Craig, Sarah Morgan and Carolyn Robson are each highly regarded as talented singers with much musical experience. When, in 2003, they decided to form a trio they were bringing together this wealth of talent and a wide repertoire that was to please audiences around the country from the first performance they gave and will do so, hopefully, for many years to come. They have, deservedly, earned such accolades as "a joy to the

ear" and "a harmony master-class".

With knowledge of such a wide range of songs it must have been difficult to make choices. Whatever the criteria for those choices Peppers & Tomatoes is perfect as a debut album. There are ten traditional songs including a Child ballad, *The Laily Worm*, to which Sarah has put her own tune and songs from the collecting of Sharp, Gardiner and Vaughan Williams. Of the remaining items, the title track was written by Ralph McTell, *When the Snows of Winter Fall* by Graeme Miles, the final track *Only Remembered* is an excellent rendition of a Sankey and Moody hymn, while *Keep You in Peace* and *Kilkerran Shepherd* were composed by Sarah: the lyrics of the former were inspired by a Celtic blessing and those for the latter by a version of the twenty-third psalm.

Most songs are arranged for three-part harmony within which there is a variety and depth not often achieved by trios. At times one part has the tune, at others the three parts blend as one. Good use is made of a lone voice leading before the other parts enter. In all instances the combination and harmony is sympathetic to the tune and a joy to the listener. The intonation, dynamics and diction cannot be faulted, the perfection gives added thrill and 'excitement' to the ear. With Moira's Scottish roots, Carolyn's Northumberland background and Sarah's southern origins, the influences are diverse: brought together by three excellent singers these influences enhance each other. Each artist sings one accompanied solo, Moira, *Kilkerran Shepherd*, accompanied by a piano, Sarah, *Low Down in the Broom*, on which she plays the concertina and Carolyn, *Blow the Wind Southerly*, with piano accompaniment. Of the gentler tracks *When the Snows of Winter Fall*, *Keep You in Peace* and *Leaves of Life* linger in the mind, while the up-beat versions of *The Besom Maker* and *Rob 'em All* keep turning over in the mind for days. On *Only Remember*, the final song, the trio are joined by a chorus of family and friends, a fitting ending and tribute to those who have helped. Having said that Craig, Morgan and Robson are all singers of renown experience and that this is an asset, it could have also been an obstacle: three strong singers do not always blend harmoniously. This trio had no such problems and this album is an exemplar of what can be done with three first-rate female voices, whether solo, in duet or trio, in unison or harmony.

Jacqueline Patten

Sat. 3rd Dec. Harbour Inn, Axmouth. Hank Wangford & Reg Meuross. 8.30 pm £7. Details: Pat Trezise, 01297 20679

Rumpus

L:aunceston FDC ad

Reviews

TOADSTONE

Random WGS

Of course it has been said that the easiest way to judge the 'danceability' of a ceilidh band is to go their ceilidh. Making a CD of ceilidh tunes can be a disappointment to the lounge listener who may expect the adrenaline rushes associated with a good ceilidh.

Random have easily pulled it off, and their latest CD is not only a compelling advert which will have you jotting the next Random ceilidh in your diary, but stands on its own as a very listenable album which will have you bouncing around the confines of your home.

'Random' conjures images of chaos and energy, but from a musical viewpoint, one thing this band is not is chaotic. The seamless split-second timing, perfectly balanced textures and transient arrangements make for an overall sound which is both dynamic and sensitive.

The six musicians that make the band are Paul Nye on melodeon and harmonica, Roger Smith on drums, Saul Rose on melodeon and guitar cameo, Glen Burch on trombone, Keith Holloway on bass and Ian Woledge on guitar. As Random, they combine a heady mix of influences, drawing on folk tunes from Canada and America to France, Spain and the Celtic nations, and alluding to such giants in the folk world as Eliza Carthy, Tim Van Eyken and Andy Cutting, to create a sound that is both diverse and reassuringly English!

I am especially impressed with track 2 and the way the music seems to grow out of the ground, reaching skyward but held down by the steady and dominant bass and drums. The echo effect on the melodeon suggest a particular musical genius. This is my favourite track, but the tracks are so varied in arrangement and style that I think each listener would have their own favourite; each track is as impressive as the next, and this demonstrates the band's ability to, one minute lift you up in twirls and spasms of dance and the next immerse your world with the plaintive strains of a gentle waltz.

It is refreshing to hear such 'electric ceilidh music with guts' gracing the stage of the ceilidh world. We eagerly await more!

Tim Heather

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LIVE AT FERNEHAM HALL McDermott's 2 Hours

Very powerful stuff, this. In the 'angry young man' genre, the lyrics deal with political issues ranging from war, unemployment, homelessness and even fox hunting. All this combined with the quality of musicianship makes for an interesting listen, a sort of cross between Bob Dylan and the Pogues.

There is tremendous energy and passion in the CD. This kind of 'fullon' performance might not be to everyone's taste, but I am left with the impression that I would definitely go to see this band live. If you want to be wooed by easy listening, pick Mantovani, for this album is not for the faint hearted.

(Full details: www.burbridgearts.org)

Kate Nye

CAST THREADS AWAY Hocus Wren CD006

Hocus is a group of Devon teenagers who enjoy singing songs in a capella harmony. Nurtured by Wren Music, the group have performed at festivals in the U.K., and have toured to Germany, Italy, and, most recently, South Africa. They were semi-finalists in the 2002 BBC Radio 2 Young Tradition folk awards.

Though the sleeve photograph features six current members of Hocus, various combinations of voices are used amongst the ten tracks, and include other Hocus members. The material is all traditional, drawing heavily on the Baring-Gould collection, and there are interesting and unusual versions of some well-known titles, such as *The Handsome Cabin Boy* and *The Three Gypsies*. I particularly liked *The Snail*, quite unique. The singing is bright, obviously enjoyed by the performers, and the harmonies are most attractive. A most worthy production.

Colin Andrews

(Available from Solo Records, Exeter, or at £10 + £1 p&p from Wren Music, Okehampton)

Moon Coin advert

PACK OF JOKERS

Whapweasel ww 0006 (Whapweasel Music, 2005)

Whapweasel's fourth CD Pack of Jokers is a gem. Purely and simply. The eight piece band have taken the electric ceilidh formula invented by the Albion Dance band, E2K and other 80s /90s bands and extended the boundaries even further. What we have here is a collection of tunes with a rock/ ska/ jazz base and an icing of top quality ceilidh style music spread over the top and it is delicious!

From the first track *Hanging Off The Edge*, where a driving guitar/bass riff is augmented by melodeon and a rich middle section of twin saxes counter-pointed by electric guitar, you know that this album has been expertly mixed and arranged. So many well played albums are spoiled by poor production. But this one has class written all through it. And that's what lifts it above many of the rest. It's no surprise to find that this was produced (as were the band's 3 previous albums) by Rick Kemp Steeleye Span's bass player who is now their full time guitarist. Years of experience in a top line folk rock outfit have been brought to bear. Just listen to the intro of *To the Trees*, it's *Smoke on the Water* revisited. *Toots Suite* is as near as traditional as this CD gets. Its first tune is rooted firmly in the Scottish tradition the second is closely related to *The Blarney Pilgrim* and both will I am sure soon be favourites in sessions.

All tracks have clever riffs, inserts and surprise turns resulting in a record that you just can't stop playing. Many electric ceilidh bands have taken traditional tunes and attempted to turn them into rock music. Occasionally this works but often they fall between two stools, neither one thing nor the other. In writing new tunes in a ceilidh style, the members of Whapweasel have been able to marry the best of the two styles and the result is great music, danceable and easy on the ear. Obviously many others think so as well as the band captured the prestigious Radio2 Folk award for Best Dance Band in 2005.

Rob Jenkins

Available from record shops or Proper Music 0208 676 5141 or see www.whapweasel.com

Reviews

HOLSWORTHY FAIR Tom, Jean & Ashley Orchard Veteran VT151CD

I knew that it would be a pleasure to review this CD, the latest from Veteran, and I was not wrong - after all it's traditional, what is more it's local. Those of us who have been fortunate enough to attend an Orchard Family get together or to be in the bar of the Kings Arms at South Zeal during the Dartmoor Folk Festival will probably know what I mean...but listen...this is different...there's no chatter, no approximate accompaniments and no background hubbub... and what a difference it makes. The tracks have been well balanced - a melodeon tune from Tommy followed by a song from Jean and then a track with Tommy stepping to a hornpipe played by Ashley. Jean, who also plays the penny whistle on three tracks, sings with a confidence and strength to match the very best Gypsy ladies, full of emotion and expression but still with great clarity. Three of her songs are from her family tradition, *Over Yonder's Hill*, *Sixteen Come Sunday* and *A Wager, A Wager*, but then there are two that she learned from Foster and Allen recordings and *The Dark Eyed Gypsy* which Jean first heard sung by Chris Coe in the late 1970's. The Orchard Family have never been afraid to supplement their traditional repertoire with songs and tunes from other sources and why shouldn't they?

Tommy's style of melodeon playing is instantly recognisable as 'Gypsy' and Ashley has followed the tradition, playing with lots ofumph and adding twiddle bits whenever the opportunity arises. Some of the tunes are from the family tradition, *Holsworthy Fair* is one of Tommy's own compositions and the Jimmy Shand and Bob Cann influences are also evident.

The CD booklet includes a fascinating Orchard Family history compiled by Jean with several photographs. There are also notes on the tunes and songs and it is now possible to access the words to the songs on the Veteran website www.veteran.co.uk

Bill Murray

Irish Set Dancing Classes
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Function Room, The Jolly Farmer,
Market Street, Newton Abbot.
More details from Maggie Daniel 01626 204350

FRUITS OF THE EARTH Jim Causley WildGoose WGS326CD

If I'd heard this as an unfamiliar album playing at a friend's house, I would have surely taken notice and said, "That's a fine singer, who is he?". And I would probably have been surprised by the answer! For although I have heard a lot about Jim, know that he's quite in demand at festivals, plays the accordion, and is on the Folk Music degree course at Newcastle I've not yet seen him perform live. However, he did ask me to review his CD, and I suppose if I had any pre-conceived ideas, I would have been expecting the intricate instrumentals and up-beat vocals that seems to be in vogue amongst the new generation of singers of traditional material.

He's not like that at all. He's got a rich baritone voice with which he delivers the traditional songs, often unaccompanied, in a measured straightforward style that brings to mind some truly traditional singers of more mature years, such as George Withers. The accordion is used modestly on some tracks, mainly as chordal vamping, and further accompaniment, never intrusive, is provided by John Dipper on fiddle, and by former Waulk Electric member, James Dumbleton on guitar, mandolin, crowdcrann and shaky cans (that's what it says on the label!). James also sings a harmony line on a few tracks, while Jenny Sartin and WildGoose boss, Doug Bailey, fill out the chorus on the *Whimpe Wassail*, from Jim's home village.

What of the material? Apart from two worthy own compositions (*Rewind & Unwind*), the other eleven tracks are unashamedly traditional, with old favourites *John Barleycorn*, *Pricklie Bush* (I've lost count how many versions of this I've got on CD), *Sing Ivy*, and (*On Yonder Hill*, and the rarely heard, (nowadays) *Arscott of Tetcott*, collected by Baring-Gould. *The Carnal and the Crane* came over rather dirge-like, and seemed to be pitched too low, and *The Lusty Smith* didn't seem quite lusty enough in its treatment (but perhaps the cover photos will compensate!) , but otherwise I enjoyed listening to this album.

I still haven't heard Jim live, so I can't comment on how he comes over performing to an audience, but I think anyone hearing him for the first time on CD would want to go along and find out.

Colin Andrews

Reviews

HIGH SEAS
Cousins and Conrad **Witchwood**
Media WMCD 2025

If you are a fanatical Dave Cousins or Conny Conrad fan then you should go out and buy this CD now. If you are expecting a 'folk music' album from Dave Cousins then you may be disappointed. The album CD insert shows an inset picture of Dave and Conny, playing acoustic guitars and that is the album I would personally have liked to have heard.

Redwing advert

'High Seas' is heavily coloured by the instrumental hand of Conny Conrad whose passion is for orchestral, progressive rock. However the undoubted talent song writing that Dave Cousins and Conny Conrad possess is plain to hear. If you can listen past the 'prog rock sequences' or if you are a child of the 'Eighties' then the glimpses of 'Yes', 'Bowie', and 'Camel' will not put you off and you will grow to love this album.

The powerful lyrics and driving sound of *The Call to Action* my favourite track gets the album off to a powerful start. Dave Cousins's distinct vocal style sits perfectly amidst the driving sound. *The Rose* is one example of Dave Cousins excellent lyric writing that I feel would have been better set against an acoustic backing but this is a conscious collaboration with Conny Conrad and so the results should be judged as such. The song writing credits have been shared by Cousins and Conrad and the songs grow on you the more times you hear them. The album plays seamlessly as a 'concept' but I found some of the arrangements relied too much on musical clichés.

Exmouth YWCA FDC

The album drifts away into another genre during the final two tracks the Cousins written *Haiku* -which is self explanatory and a lovely concept - and Conrad's *The Feng Shui Symphony* but by that time you will have made up your mind whether to love it or hate it.

Reviewing this CD in a folk magazine and from a 'folk' point of view is probably unfair. However us folkies often worship in a broad musical church although we may not admit it in public. This album may fit into your collection particularly in the car for those long drives to festivals.

You can find the lyrics on www.strawbsweb.co.uk

Okay I secretly like it. It grew on me.

Andy Knight

Sales: Witchwood records 01304 369977

Reviews

HELL'S BELLES

The Witches of Elswick. SYNMCDD0006.

On the web site www.threescompany.org.uk, the group are described as, - " Four buxom lasses who in all honesty break wind, drink pints and when they're not arguing about who's turn it is to pay the rent, they sing songs."

Well, accepting the above observation, it is not made clear if their flatulence is in harmony, in unison, or as a group have a general tendency to incontinency. But frivolity apart, I can confirm that they can sing. And as a group in harmony, they sing extremely well.

I suspect that on the Folk scene, in the main, we are mostly accustomed to hearing male a cappella singing. It is therefore, a quite refreshing experience to listen to and enjoy, female a cappella singing of this quality.

The CD consists of thirteen songs, of which eleven are traditional and two of contemporary source. All the songs are sung with enthusiasm and vitality, a key ingredient of their singing. I particularly like the driving energy of the

harmonies in the opening track, Jan Knuckey and the arrangement of Jake Thackery's Old Molly Metcalfe is quite magical.

The strength of the groups singing is in their harmony work, which is excellent. It is precise, rich in tonal colour and imaginative. However, in comparison to the first rate harmony work, the solo voice singing is in many instances relatively poor. Nor do I like the arrangement of A Shepherd of the Downs. I feel it to be vocally harsh and musically lacking empathy with the subject matter of the song, which is love.

I am advised by a friend, who's opinion I hold in high regard, that the group are at their very best when seen live. I suspect that the recording notes to A Shepherd of the Downs confirms that view, - " If you've seen us do this live you will have experienced the smocks, hats and roller boots routine etc.etc."

So there you have it. If you wish to see 'The Witches of Elswick' at their very best, catch 'em live at the next Folk festival where you see they are appearing.

Ken Hinchliffe

Details: info@selwymusic.co.uk. Sales: Popper Music 08704 440805

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TUNES IN TATTERS
Hobos Morris Musicians

Now here's great value for a fiver if you like a bit of oomph in your music.

Hobos Morris are that female, feline-face-painted border side who dress in red, black and gold tatters and who make forays into Devon from time to time to dance at folk festivals (Teignmouth, Dartmoor, Bideford, for example) in a distinctive and entertaining style. The displays by these cool cats are by no small means enhanced by the lively music and powerful pulsating rhythms pumped out by their band (mostly male) on amplified violin, mandolin, guitar, trombone, melodeon and saxophone.

Obviously other spectators have taken to the foot-tapping tunes and, as a result of popular demand, the band have recorded 15 of Hobos dance tunes. None of them, with the exception of the *Rochdale Coconut Dance*, are normally associated with Morris, though there are several traditional melodies, such as the *Fairy Dance*, *Steamboat*, *Navvie on the Line* and *Michael Turner's Waltz*, all great to listen to and to dance to. It's on some of the more recently composed tunes, however, that the band really excel - the in-house *Amoco Stomp*, Peeping Tom's *Skylark*, *Silbaatno* from J. Segerstrom and *Lunch at the Pub*, courtesy of the Cock & Bull Band. I suspect that Hobos have an ear for a good tune and then make up a dance to fit, with some imaginative and fascinating results - I really don't know how they managed it to the *Earl of St Vincent*, an absolutely cracking tune in which Steve Tattum's fiddle gives an amazing driving force to the rhythm.

If Hobos Morris Musicians don't already play as a band for ceilidhs then they should seriously consider doing so. But don't wait for them to appear at a Great Western Ceilidh - get your copy of the CD now. Contact Bid Whittet, 01305 854365 or bid-whittet@hottage.freeseerve

Colin Andrews

Exmouth FDC

Reviews

**UNSUNG HEROES:
The Lost Gardeners of Heligan**
Cornwall Songwriters LYNG 224CD

The impact of the First World War, or the Great War as it is aptly known, on the way of life for future generations was immense. Unlike previous wars no community was left unscathed. As a consequence of the recruitment drive and eventual conscription, the country was left bereft of a generation of young men, many of whom never returned. With them died a way of life that had evolved over hundreds of years. Great changes resulted in the social and economic balance of the landed gentry and their employees. When peace returned the great houses could no longer afford nor find the number of staff previously employed: it became a struggle to maintain houses, and more significantly for this review, gardens, which demanded a large number of staff.

The story of the Lost Gardens of Heligan is a modern romance, the loss of the gardeners in WWI and the post-war social and economic changes meant that the necessary reclamation of the gardens failed to take place. In this beautifully written folk drama the Cornwall Songwriters tell the story of the 'Lost Gardens' and their lost gardeners. Setting the peaceful scene at before the war, especially poignant when the hard life of the labourer and gardener are evoked, it moves through song to the enthusiasm of the men going to war, to the horrors of battle field, to the homecoming and the injured, to the gradual and partial understanding by those left at home of what had taken place, to the aftermath of war and finally, to the rejuvenation of the gardens.

Twenty-two songs take the listener through these scenes. All the songs have been composed by the Cornwall Songwriters who also perform them. The format is based on the 'Radio Ballads' pioneered by Ewan McColl and Charles Parker, a format which is put to good effect on both CD and in the live performance. Some of the songs are accompanied on concertina, guitar, fiddle, autoharp, whistle or percussion. All performers lead songs, in turn, and all contribute to the harmonies and choruses. The songs are composed and performed with a sensitivity that means the audience becomes totally immersed in the story.

Traditional music and dance, oral traditions of any kind, were lost also to a greater or lesser extent. These songs are of a standard that suggests many

The
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East Cornwall

Dennis Cook

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will pass into the traditional repertoire that has evolved since then. Mike O'Connor's Singing in the May, one of the tracks, is already popular.

Following the excellent folk drama *The Cry of Tin* would have been difficult for most people, Cornwall Songwriters have risen to the challenge in a laudable way. The words of a former reviewer cannot be bettered: "Cornwall Songwriters are thought-provoking, entertaining and skilled, and reaffirm the message that Cornwall has much to sing about."

Jacqueline Patten

Unsung Heroes is available from Mike O'Connor, Lyngham House, St Ervan, Wadebridge, Cornwall PL27 7RT.

CRUX
Crucible WGS 327CD

With this, their second album, the young quartet from Sheffield continue to demonstrate an impressive range of styles and musicality in their choice of material.

For me, the voices of Richard & Jess Arrow-smith, Gavin Davenport and Helena Reynolds blend together superbly in harmony in their rendition of Sacred Harp style Psalm 91 (*Within The Shadowed Secrecy*), John Kirkpatrick's powerful song, *George's Son* (a lot more than a shaggy dog tale!) and, my favourite, the poignant gypsy song, *Old Horse*.

The variable instrumental line-up of melodeon, fiddles, guitar, cittern & bagpipes is used to very good effect on instrumental tracks, which include a morris set and a playford selection, and also in imaginative song accompaniments, occasionally overdone.

The group have many strings to their bow; certainly plenty to sustain interest on this CD.

Colin Andrews



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**HERITAGE AND HISTORY
 The Queensberry Rules ASCD003**

Singer-songwriters are two-a-penny in many folk clubs, often with instantly forgettable tunes and dismal lyrics of failed relationships or social hardship; if they make a CD, the effect is little better. From time to time, however, an album, such as *Heritage & History*, comes along which is clearly in a very different league, and a real pleasure to listen to.

Queensberry Rules are a trio from the Midlands that have played in a supporting role to some top names in the pop-folk-rock scene. Their material, all self-penned except for a Dick Gaughan cover (*Both Sides of the Tweed*), is well-written and interesting, social comment perhaps but never in your face. The accompaniments, on a variety of percussion & string instruments are melodic, powerful but in no way electric folk rock, and with good tunes and vocal delivery, altogether much easier on the ear!

The title, and opening track is brilliant - all that remains is Heritage & History when the traditional industries have gone, but it retains hope, like the imaginative *Mapman*. As another song title says, you can't please everyone, but this album should certainly satisfy many!

Colin Andrews

Details Acoustic Squeeze Records 07733 480640
gary.wilcox27@btopenworld.com

**BILLY BENNINGTON The Barford Angel
 Norfolk dulcimer & dialect VT152CD**

Once very popular as a folk instrument in East Anglia, the hammered dulcimer is still seen and heard in folk clubs & pub sessions, but has probably lost out amongst buskers & folk musicians to the more portable melodeon. This 24-track album from Veteran is particularly welcome as it features tunes and anecdotes from the last of the great Norfolk 'dulcimores' players, Billy Bennington. It is also quite rare to find a whole album featuring this as a solo instrument.

Having learnt to play as a youngster, the lifetime of experience is evident in the quality of the playing and variety of tunes. There's some folk favourites such as Flowers of Edinburgh and The Sailors' Hornpipe, and a wealth of less familiar polkas, hornpipes, etc. that I'd be quite keen to learn. This is a CD combines both important archival material with enjoyable music for listening.

The Barford Angel? Billy lived in Barford and with the dulcimer strapped to his back when cycling, it looked like the wings of an Angel.

Colin Andrews

Review note: due to limited space a couple of reviews have been held over until the next issue. All reviews published since 2001 can be found on www.bonnygreen.co.uk/reviewlist.htm

Devon Folk Membership form

Reviews

HEEL AND TOE Veteran VT150CD

Sometimes it's easy to get carried away with the idea that the repertoires of traditional singers and musicians were purely made up of ancient airs and ballads. Certainly if you look at what was noted down by the likes of Sharp, Vaughan Williams, Grainger etc you would get that impression. Now as the collectors were looking for specifics, they were naturally selective. In their notes, they mention time and again how a singer had many songs in their repertoire, sometimes they even listed the whole of a singer's repertoire, but as most were modern or music hall, they had decided not to note them down. (This is not intended as a criticism, by the way, I am wholeheartedly indebted to those who took the time and trouble to preserve the indigenous art of our country.) But because of their selectivity, we have a rarefied picture of what was actually going on. Most singers had a mixture. Some old, some new. People like Henry Burstow and Mrs Verral were exceptional in their knowledge of more ancient ballads and songs, but even they had more modern songs.

This new CD from Veteran perfectly illustrates the breadth of your "traditional" performer's repertoire. These are songs and tunes from Norfolk, Cambridgeshire and Essex. They were recorded by a Fenland school teacher, Sam Steele between 1959 and 1962. There are some lovely "traditional" tunes; *Heel and Toe Polka*, *Four Hand Reel* and the finishing *Step Dance medley*. This is functional music that had been handed down for people to dance to and ideally suited to the purpose, full of style and rhythm. These are alongside more modern tunes (for the time) e.g. *The Bluebell Polka*, a Jimmy Shand composition which was hugely popular on the wireless (radio for our younger readers) for years, and *Whistling Rufus*, a Minstrel band tune. There are also ancient ballads, *Outlandish Knight*, *Lamkin*, *Banks of Sweet Dundee*, with some nice variants of the normal tunes, illustrating how one particular version that might be written in a book isn't necessarily "how it goes". And then there are what, obviously, are music-hall songs: *So Was I*, *Remember me to...* and the delightful *It's nothing to do with me*. All the performers on the recordings, though perhaps known as such locally, were ordinary working folk: cowmen, a grave digger, a lorry driver, a tailor. This is what they got up to on a Saturday night up the pub.

It's true that songs like *Banks of the Clyde* are a little mawkish for modern tastes, and perhaps hasn't

John Tarling

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stood the test of time as well as the comic songs. But they fulfilled a necessary social function at a time when overseas war service and its perils had been part of every day life for ordinary people for successive generations.

As it says in the back of the CD, "a remarkable snap-shot of times gone by" These are field recordings with all the attendant "extras", folks chatting in the background, variations in sound quality, and the odd stumbled phrase. But for my money (and yes I did buy a copy) it's a delight. The instruments may be a bit ropey, especially Daisy Bulwer's piano, (one of the true pub pianos of old England), but the exuberance of the dance music, the love that the ballad singers have for their songs and the obvious enjoyment with which the comic numbers are delivered show how, though a precious thing this traditional music, it's all there to be played with and enjoyed. It's robust stuff and I love it.

Ed Rennie

A YORKSHIRE CHRISTMAS

The Watsons WMCD2029

This new release, from Witchwood Media (see display advert) was recorded in December 1980 for a Radio Tees Christmas programme. It features stories & readings from local Yorkshire folk Kit Calvert, Mabel Race & Norman Benson as well as many familiar seasonal favourites from the Watsonson family, whose singing and harmonies seem as fresh today as twenty five years ago. Enjoy their version of *While Shepherds Watched*, two *Wassail* songs, *Emmanuel*, and (incongruously on a Christmas album) the *Pace Egging* song, and many more. A great stocking filler for your folkie friends!

Colin Andrews



Morris Matters



Nighty Night: Followers of this BBC 3 black comedy may have spotted Morris dancers in the thick of the action in a recent episode. Winkleigh Morris spent a whole morning back in the summer in the village of Marhamchurch, repeating the same few figures of a couple of dances while being filmed from up to ten different angles with the stars of the show

Tarka Morris Men completed a successful visit to China this summer. John Blackburn now claims membership of the six-mile-high club after dancing a jig on the aircraft, while Alan Whitbread could be excused for not knowing whether he was coming or going, having only just returned from a trip to Mongolia with Chameleonic Morris Men.

Pub Challenge. Several years ago, for one of the Children in Need appeals, Exeter Morris Men danced at over 90 pubs in the space of 5 hours, setting a record which, as far as they know, has not been broken. The Devon Folk Awareness Month would seem a good opportunity for their record to be challenged, and raise money for the Soundbeam project. So, particularly for those sides in large urban areas, how about going for 100 pubs or more? There are, of course, a set of rules to follow to beat Exeter's record: every

dance to be performed within 2 yards of the pub entrance, no dance to be performed more than twice (though different tune counts as different dance!), no dance to start at one pub before the dance at the previous pub has finished (and, in Exeter's case, their Morris Ring staff of office was actually present throughout every display).

Those sides in more rural locations might like to consider some other eye-catching or innovative way of staging a major fund raising event.

Would it even be possible for Devon's Morris sides to perform at every pub in the county during the Folk Awareness Month?

Appalachian Controllee from South Devon are no longer operating, but **Shuffle The Deck** from Buckfastleigh are a newish Appalachian group making a name for themselves.

Tarka Morris Men in action in China. (Photo: George L)



WildGoose advert

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