

# No 139 July - September 2025

# What's Afoot

*The official  
magazine of*

**Devon Folk**  
DANCE SONG PUBLIC EVENTS



**NEWS, FEATURES  
AND LISTINGS**

PICTURE: MARY ROE

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# 2025

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Saturday 11 October 2025, 7.30pm



A multi-award-winning folk duo, who are impressing audiences across the country with their innovative and captivating take on the folk tradition.

Jon Whitley and Jay LaBouchardiere combine breath taking vocal harmonies and melodies, delivering songs that are inspired and rooted in the landscape and history of the British Isles.

*'An absolute joy'* The Morning Star

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*'Never have I seen so many people so completely and utterly spellbound... the most magical of experiences'*

The Irish Post



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**What's Afoot 139 Jul-Sept 2025**

**COVER PICTURE**

ON MAY morning, morris dancers are supposed to dance up the sun, not set the sky on fire. This spectacular picture by Mary Roe appears to show Grimspound Border Morris doing just that. Jonny Owen (pictured centre with torch) says: "We were dancing with our fire sticks in that moment. We got up to Haytor while it was still dark. As it became slightly lighter, we saw some mysteriously dark clouds in the not so far, distance! Soon, we saw lightning very close but only a bit of rain. We thought we'd squeeze in our original Wren dance with fire in case of worsening weather. Such a large audience had ventured out early to watch the May Day dancing, we thought the show must go on. The atmosphere was unparalleled!" Other sides also braved the lightning to dance up May Day on Dartmoor and there were some fine pictures. But we think our cover picture takes first prize.

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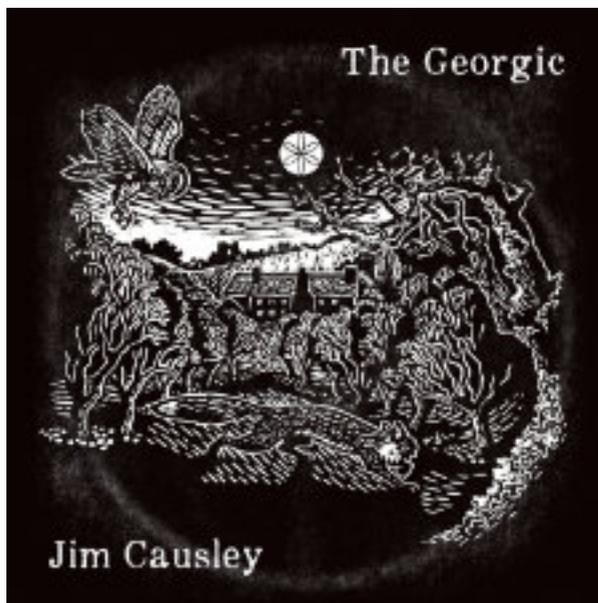
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What's Afoot is published four times a year by Devon Folk, covering April-June, July-September, October-December and January-March. To ensure readers get maximum benefit from listings that start on the first of the first month, we aim to start distributing in the middle of the month before. This means final copy dates for articles and adverts are: Feb 20th (April-June), May 20th (July-September), August 20th (October-December) and November 20th (January-March). The Editor and Devon Folk accept no liability for content of copy from advertisers. Views expressed are not necessarily those of the Editor and Devon Folk. We will always consider items for publication but reserve the right to edit them where necessary. Any material offered for consideration that needs to be returned to the sender should be accompanied by a prepaid, addressed envelope.

# Jim Causley steers a bold new course

**A new CD by Jim Causley is always well worth thorough examination. But his latest offering, *The Georgic*, deserves extra attention because it is so different from anything he has done before, writes JOHN FOXEN**



**T**HIS is more like a Radio Ballad than a collection of songs. The album takes its title from *The Georgics*, the collection of poems by Virgil on agriculture and Roman life. But I was reminded of Thomas Hardy's *Under The Greenwood Tree*, his portrait of a rural way of life in the West Country that he knew was vanishing.

Jim himself comments: "Unlike previous albums, which were mostly collections of traditional songs, this album is more of an art project than simply a folk-song album. It is not made to simply please the listener and give them what they want or indeed what they expect to hear; it is intended to challenge and surprise the listener."

*The Georgic* does that from the start. A listener coming cold to the first track, *Old Cider*, without reading the sleeve notes or hearing Jim talk about the album may wonder what the hell is going on. Instead of Jim's finely honed vocals, you find what at first

hearing sounds like an unruly bunch of fellows leaving the pub at closing time and bursting into song. Which is what it's supposed to sound like for this is a live recording of one of a set of wassail songs written by Jim, for a project by his friend Simon Pope. "Here's To Thee" set out to celebrate the unseen elements of traditional cider-making such as yeasts, moulds, bacteria and fungi. You may have read Jim's account of the project in *What's Afoot 128*. If not, you can find *Here's a Health to the Merry Microbe* on the *What's Afoot* Facebook page. Jim doesn't sing on this track but plays accordion. Vocals are provided by the Dartmoor shantymen *Mariners Away* with Bill Murray on the drum. The song was recorded live at Halstow Farm, scene of the *Here's To Thee* project.

Jim gives us his voice on track two, *Devon '87*, a heartfelt tribute to the country cottage where his parents brought up him and his sister.

He says: "My Mum was raised in

Doddiscombsleigh in an old thatched cottage in a very traditional Devon village. When their row of cottages (which was owned by the church) was condemned, her family and neighbours were moved into a new council estate in Pinhoe. It was still a village at that time but later became a suburb of Exeter.

“On that council estate mum met my Dad but she was determined to return to the country and that her children should grow up in the country as she did.

“Mum and Dad eventually achieved this, despite being told they could not afford such a house. They bought an old cottage outside of Whimble, which is where I grew up. All the neighbours were working country people who lived in a very traditional way.

“In this song I wanted to express how lucky I felt to have had such an upbringing around such people. Since our neighbours died, new people moved in from all sorts of places and the feel of the area has completely changed.”

Track three is another surprise. From rural Devon we are whisked away to the Netherlands with *Denkend Aan Stenen* (Thinking Of Stones). We get five verses in Dutch from Tim Verbeek before Jim sings in English. Jim and Tim composed the song together for a community theatre project that came about through their shared love of their home landscapes: the neolithic stone rows of Dartmoor and the neolithic standing stones (hunebedden) in Drenthe in the north-east Netherlands.

Track four brings us back to Devon with more from the Here's To Thee project. *The Halstow Wassail*, recorded live at Halstow Farm, is unique in celebrating the bacteria that help to create cider. As we said in What's Afoot 128: “How could we resist a song about apiculate yeasts and mycorrhizal?”

Track five is the rousing *Rise Sidwella*, a song about Exeter. I felt it showed a lot of anger with the way Exeter has changed because of the line: “The council's done more than the bombers in war.”

But Jim says: “I'm by far not the first person to express that sentiment. In fact I poached it from Devon historian W.G. Hoskins from his book *The Making of the English Landscape* – and he probably said it in his book *2000 Years*

*in Exeter*, too! This is a love song to my home city. I've got a lot of family roots to Exeter. It was where I was born and where my Dad was born and so on. I went to college in Exeter and fell in love and then was dumped and got drunk and all sorts of scrapes and japes so there's a lot of that in there.

“Also I have been involved with the St Sidwell's Community Centre over the years and the good work they do and wanted to share a sense of hope and pride that Exeter could become a city to be proud of despite the poor decisions of the city council over the years.”

Track six, the hymn-like *This Darkened Land*, evokes the countryside at night and how close we can feel to the land at that time. I was reminded of the opening of Hardy's *Under The Greenwood Tree* as Dick Dewey walks through the dark, identifying trees by the sounds of the branches in the wind. And the line “piping in the gates of dawn” calls to mind the meeting of Ratty and Mole with the great god Pan in *Wind In The Willows*.

My favourite track is number seven, the *Voice Of The People*. It's a masterful merging of Jim's music and spoken Devon dialect from members of the Devon Voice Group. I'm a blow-in but I love to hear my adopted county's dialect.

My good friend Tich Scott once told me that when he was a lad he could identify which Dartmoor village someone came from just by the way they spoke. Once that was even true of London. In Shaw's play *Pygmalion* (or *My Fair Lady*) Professor Henry Higgins could identify which part of London a person came from by their speech. (Higgins is fictional but he was based on a real philologist, Henry Sweet.)

Now the richness of our language is being diluted by estuary English from TV and the old dialects are vanishing across the country. So you should treasure this recording.

Track eight, *Elegy For Geraint*, takes us back to the seventh century and Geraint, the last king of Dumnonia, Dyneint or Devon, before he was defeated at a battle near modern day Langport and Dumnonia was reduced to the Cornish part which was called Cornubia.

Jim says: “I feel this is a part of Devon's history which is little known or discussed or

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**‘Since our  
neighbours died,  
new people moved  
in and the feel of  
the area has  
completely  
changed’**

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# ***Pennymoor Singaround***

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

## **Song and Music Sessions**

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

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

**Music Session:** Last Sunday 12 noon Half Moon Inn, Cheriton Fitzpaine, Contact Clare 01884860023

Visit Facebook: Pennymoor Singaround

To confirm updated venues or contact:

Biddy: 01271 373305 [biddy.mallabone@outlook.com](mailto:biddy.mallabone@outlook.com)

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

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

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

1<sup>st</sup> Tuesday 8.00pm Lamb Inn, Sandford  
Contact: Hazel or Paul 01363 776275

Last Tuesday 8.00pm The New Inn, Coleford  
Contact: Dave 01363 84914

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

even taught. We hear a lot about the Celtic history of Cornwall but nothing of Devon's when in fact Devon was the greater part of a large Celtic kingdom and Cornwall was simply the rump state at the end of the Saxon defeat and the spread/encroachment of Wessex."

This is Jim's setting of a poem from *The Black Book Of Camarthen*, which dates from the mid 13<sup>th</sup> Century.

Track nine, *The Blossail*, is yet another song from the Halstow project. When the covid lockdown meant a wassail could not be held in January, it gave birth to the spring "blossail", a hybrid event of Maying customs and wassail. This was recorded live at Halstow with the Sandford Singers.

Track 10, *Oh Cuckoo*, is Jim's take on a bird who has pushed its way into more folk songs than possibly any other, with variations spreading from the old world to the new. You can even hear Andres Segovia playing an arrangement of a cuckoo tune in John Duarte's English Suite for guitar.

But there's always room for one more, as a cuckoo might say while slipping her egg into another bird's nest. This track features Miranda Sykes duetting with Jim which is always a vocal delight.

"Where's everybody gone? Where have all the people gone?" are the opening lines of track 11, *The Imagined Village*. This is Jim's lament for a passing way of life and the fear that the people he knew when growing up are being pushed out by incomers who no longer respect the old Devon way of life.

*"It's Darwall's Dartmoor  
Now the right to own land  
Is the personal privilege of  
One wealthy man,"*

he sings. Well, sometimes the super-rich don't get it all their own way. See page 22.

I can understand Jim's sentiments but I did feel he'd got it wrong when he sang: "When I was young everyone said hello, now they just look away with faces hung low." I told him that I have lived all around the country and never felt so accepted and rooted anywhere as I am in Devon.

Jim replied: "You are speaking from your

experience but I can only write from my own personal experience.

"Yes there are friendly people, too, but what I was drawing on was that when the Whiteways Cider factory in Whimple was closed and eventually demolished, they built an estate of Bovis Homes on the site. It was so noticeable that the people who moved into these new houses were not accustomed to village life that they were given the nickname 'Bovis people' whenever you said hello to someone and they did not respond!

"I've also noticed it in the area I live in now. In this village there are either old locals who will never accept us because we are not of this village and never will be even though my

family are also Devonian. We are strangers from East Devon so in the eyes of the old locals, we are no different from people who have moved here from Surrey and Sussex!

"Conversely, the incomers/settlers from Surrey and Sussex don't speak to us either because we are not middle class enough for them and they consider us to be beneath them, like the rest of the yokel peasants! It is a fascinating dichotomy!"

Track 12, *Rogation Day*, is another song about a brand new custom created on Halstow Farm. Jim says: "It is a hybrid of beating the bounds which is normally around a parish boundary, not that of a farm and a rogation ceremony which is a crop blessing."

Tracks 13 and 16 take us back to Wassailing at Halstow Farm, in the Pound House and then in the Cider Cellar.

Track 14, *Poor Old Horse*, is Jim's re-writing of the old song to tell a new story, one that is all too common now as old farmhouses are turned into luxury dwellings.

Track 15, *Annie Appleseed*, gives a feminist and wassail twist to John Barleycorn. Interestingly, it was commissioned by Jim's friend Ben Tallamy for a video game Cradlemoor.

Track 17 *The Hidden Source* is about the tradition of spirituality in Devon. Jim says a big inspiration for this song was Terry Faull's book of the same title about the sacred springs and holy wells of Devon.

The final track, *Volks Roun' Yur*, is my

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***'Old locals will  
never accept us  
because we are  
not of this village  
although my  
family are  
Devonian'***

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## Review

personal second favourite song on this album – even though it pokes fun at blow-ins like me.

*“I’ll tell ee the truth though it sounds awful quare*

*Volks roun yur they bain’t vrum roun yur.”*

It was recorded on a memorable night at Whiddon Down Village Hall and I can probably be heard joining in the laughter.

Jim says: “I am very pleased with this song, not just because my Dad loved it but also because it conveys a serious message in a lighthearted package and possibly can make people think without them noticing it!

“One regret is that this song seems to imply that it’s only middle class people and higher who are fleeing the South East and the North of England to escape to the sunny climes of the West Country when in fact if you go into any supermarket or petrol station you will very often be served by someone with a very working class, cockney or similar accent.

“So I admit that I made a mistake, it is ALL classes of people who are re-populating Devon!

“I’m not saying that this is a bad thing, even though it is a sad thing in many ways. Just like the Iberians and the Celts then the Romans, Saxons, Angles, Danes, Frisians and Normans etc who have come and taken over this island over the centuries, it is the exact same story. It’s just that this modern example is more of an internal social displacement rather than people

coming from outside of this island but of course that is happening in other parts. Somebody once explained to me that (please forgive the massive oversimplification and stereotyping) Londonders fleeing the South East to come to The West is called ‘white flight’ which is a vile concept but I don’t doubt there is some truth in that too.

“I thoroughly recommend the podcast ‘The Reason Why’ by young Cornish artist Seamus Carey. It really gets to the heart of the matter in a very modern and open-minded way.

“I’ve tried to sum up all of these feelings in song, sometimes the detail and the nuance can get lost in oversimplifying issues to squeeze them into songs but I hope I’ve captured a mood and a feeling because the voice of the native is often a quiet voice and of course it is not the losers who write the history books.

“And unfortunately the natives of Devon tend to be a rather quiet people, not like our cousins across the Tamar who are far more vocal in their opinions!”

The Georgic looks back at the past but also casts a fearful eye at the future. How can the old Devon ways be preserved in times of such change? I can only hope that music will bring born and bred Devonians and the newcomers together.

*You can see Jim Causley in a suitable cider setting at Sandford Orchards on July 19.*

## Review

### 10 BY 3

#### The Vincent Burke Trio

JIM CAUSLEY’S new CD is quite challenging but this offering from Vincent Burke is very much the opposite. It’s very easy listening although some of the lyrics are dark in tone.

Vincent was born in Plymouth and attended Egguckland Community College before his dad was made redundant at the dockyard and they moved to London. The second track on his album, *Ice Cream Parlours*, is set at Henders Corner, Lower Compton. It’s about meeting his first girlfriend there.

Vincent plays guitar, sings and writes his own songs. He is backed by excellent musicians. Paul Southern on double-bass keeps the beat steady, putting in just the right notes

and not trying to take over, a grave fault of many electric bassists.

Hana Miyagi on violin is a revelation and worth seeking out in her own right. On the track *Birds In Flight* she really soars.

Vincent’s songs explore his emotions in contrast to Jim Causley’s new songs which explore the changes to the world around him. There is a lot to be said for emotional songs because they can often resonate with listeners who are going through similar turmoil in their lives.

My personal view is that I would like to hear Vincent exploring the world more and pushing boundaries because on the evidence of this album he is capable of that.

*John Foxen*

# Tiny taste of a festival

**T**HE Sidmouth Folk Festival is with us again in all its glory. From July 31 until August 8 you can find everything from step dancing to songs from the Steppes. We could fill the whole magazine with acts and not get everyone in. Here are just a few of the highlights.

As you might have expected, the pre-festival **Thursday** night concert with Fisherman's Friends was sold out long ago but Thursday also offers a rare chance to catch Sidmouth Traditional Mummers in action. Usually they perform only at Christmas in Sidmouth and its immediate surroundings. The folk week is a rare exception to this rule. Look out for them in the Market Square between 7.30pm and 9.30pm along with the Sidmouth Steppers and Great Western Morris.

**Friday** is your only chance to see a festival appearance this year by Fairport Convention – except of course for their own Cropredy festival.

At the Bulverton high above the town, the first Big Night Out features Elephant Sessions, followed by the Late Night Extra ceilidh with Juniper. As always, the dancers will get a breather while a morris side performs. With a myriad experienced dance enthusiasts watching there is no room for any morris side to make even the smallest mistake. So no pressure, Catseye Morris, who are making their Sidmouth debut as an invited side.

On **Saturday** watch out for swashbuckling street theatre as Sid Vale Community Productions give us their take on Indiana Jones. The company will be performing at 2pm and 4pm but as we went to press the location was being kept as secret as the whereabouts of the Ark of the Covenant. All will be revealed in good time on their page [Facebook.com/SidValecommunityProductions](https://www.facebook.com/SidValecommunityProductions).

Lovers of Irish music will have to choose between Sharon Shannon at the Ham and The Haar at The Manor Pavilion. Both 8pm.

**Sunday** is the big day for morris dancers from across the country who take over the promenade, dancing for the sheer fun of it. The other big event is the Sidmouth horse trials at the Hub from 1pm. Expect all manner of strange beasts. Sunday also offers a chance to see two legends at The Ham. At 3.15pm

festival patron Steve Knightley will be performing with his excellent friends. They include musician and songwriter Chris Hoban, who was featured in What's Afoot 138. At 8pm Richard Thompson will bring his brilliant songs and splendid guitar playing to the venue.

**Monday** at the Ham features a performance by John Tams, Daniel Hagman to some and to others the man who gave us such memorable ballads as Rolling Home, provided the songs for Sharpe and the new Radio Ballads.

**Tuesday** sees a special concert to celebrate Martin Carthy's new album, Transform Me Then Into A Fish. It's a reworking of his first album, released 60 years ago. Sadly, one track from the original album that has not been covered in the new one is The Queen Of Hearts, a song from out county which was collected by Baring-Gould on a train journey. Martin will be accompanied by his daughter Eliza and Sheema Mukherjee.

At 8.15pm at the Bulverton, Seth Lakeman and his band will be showcasing his new album, The Granite Way which draws heavily on Devon folklore.

At 8pm at the Manor Pavilion you can hear Lady Maisery and if you are really blown away by the harmonies of these talented young women and want to know how they achieve them then you're in luck.

On **Wednesday** Lady Maisery will be holding a song workshop. As we went to press the location had not been confirmed. Check with [Sidmouthfolkfestival.co.uk](http://Sidmouthfolkfestival.co.uk). And there also is a chance to see a third of Lady Maisery on stage. Rowan Rheingans will be playing with sister Anna at 3pm at the Manor Pavilion.

On **Thursday** at noon The Ham hosts Kerr Fagan Van Eyken. Nancy Kerr and husband James will also be helping out mum, Sandra Kerr, with a show that should appeal to all ages, *The Folk Roots of Bagpuss*. For date, time and location, see the Sidmouth FF website.

All too soon it's **Friday**. Those who went to workshops will be showing off what they have learned at The Ham at noon. Concerts include the Exmouth Shanty Men. Then there is the traditional torchlight parade along the front down to the sea.

# Let's hear it for the bands



**W**HILE you're whizzing round the dance floor at one of Sidmouth's many ceilidhs, spare a thought for the good folk who are providing the music.

Sidmouth regulars Vicki Swan and Jonny Dyer have done just that, putting together this video tribute to many of the players. You can hear and see them all in action on youtube at [https://youtu.be/a5F\\_cHv3TXU](https://youtu.be/a5F_cHv3TXU).

The tune Vicki chose for them all to play is

The Female Saylor and it's certainly a good one so with her permission we are printing the music here.

If you are interested in how the video was made, putting together clips from all around the country, there are detailed instructions at Vicki's music room:

<https://musicroom.nyckelharpa.me.uk/lesson/the-female-sailor-sidmouth-dance-band/>

## The Female Saylor



# Music makes the moor the merrier

Friday, August 8 to Sunday 10



**LEGENDS:**  
*Sultan of Squeeze John Kirkpatrick (left) and One-man Folk Industry Pete Coe will be playing at the Dartmoor Folk Festival*



**W**HILE the Sidmouth Folk Festival can be overwhelming, Dartmoor always has a friendly, local feel. And if you missed seeing some of your favourite artists at Sidmouth – perhaps because there were too many hard choices – this year Dartmoor offers a chance to see some of them up close and personal.

Rolling in from Sidmouth to headline this year's festival at South Zeal are The Demon Barbers led by Damien Barber (who got his Demon Barber nickname from folk legend Peter Bellamy). The band fuses traditional folk instruments with drums and electric bass and incorporates morris, clog and rapper dancing.

Two folk legends are also following on from Sidmouth. You can see squeezebox supremo John Kirkpatrick, a star in his own right who has played with just about everybody from the Albion Band to Leon Rosselson, Steeleye Span to Ralph McTell and Viv Stanshall and the Kipper Family. A former Hammersmith Morris Man, he is also a key figure in the border morris revival. So there is a chance he'll be keeping an eye on the morris sides

invited to the festival: Tinners Morris from South Zeal, Cogs and Wheels from Sticklepath and Exeter Morris.

The other legend is Pete Coe has been described as a one-man folk industry. He is a singer, multi-instrumentalist and step dancer. Those who saw him sing *The Loco Fireman* while playing bouzouki and step-dancing say they will never forget it. The weight of years may stop him performing it at Dartmoor but he is not an act to be missed.

Both John and Pete are not ones to stay away from sessions if they can help it. This year the sessions are being run on Saturday by Granny's Attic on Saturday. One of the most exciting and innovative acts on the UK folk scene, Granny's Attic are also playing for a ceilidh at the festival.

The Sunday session is being run by James Delarre and Saul Rose, who are known for their warmth and exquisitely delivered traditional tunes and songs.

There is a chance to hear Gilmore and Roberts, that's Katriona Gilmore on fiddle

## Dartmoor



**IN CONCERT:** *Katriona Gilmore and Jamie Roberts, left, and James Delarre and Saul Rose*

mandolin and vocals and Jamie Roberts on guitar and vocals. They are said to take English folk and scuff it up with indie rock drama. Jamie is the brother of Kathryn Roberts. Will his sister be coming to South Zeal to check up on her sibling?

There will be a welcome return to the festival by Delta Kenzie, an emerging Celtic folk singer who creates original songs alongside reworking traditional music, and the very funny globe trotting Geordie tall-tale-telling songwriter and guitarist Keith Donnelly as Rambling Elvis Donnelly.

The festival also features local talent. Two of the UK's most iconic voices, Jim Causley and Miranda Sykes, who collaborated on the recent Baring-Gould project, have joined forces again and will preview tracks from their new album.

Of course, The Dartmoor Pixie Band will be playing. Their banjo king Rob Murch will be keeping busy because he is also appearing with The Red Dirt Band.

Dartmoor shanty men Mariners Away will be performing at the King's Arms on Saturday between 11am and 12pm.

Many of the events and activities are free or by donation. This beautiful little festival includes concerts, workshops, ceilidhs, dance displays, family events, children's activities, stalls, food and drink, a church service, walk on Dartmoor, pub sessions, a duck race and much more. Highlights include the Dartmoor Broom Dance championships and Dartmoor Stepdance Championships.

For further details, or to buy tickets, visit the website: [www.dartmoorfolkfestival.org.uk](http://www.dartmoorfolkfestival.org.uk).

*Alan Quick*



**Granny's Attic** who will also be leading the session on Saturday

# Ones to Watch

## **TAVI PRIDE**

### **Tavistock Meadows**

**Saturday July 5**

THE Tavi Pride Festival, billed as celebrating the LGBTQIA+ community, is an inclusive, family-friendly event that does have a folk element. This is not surprising as two of the prime movers are Julu Irvine & Heg Brignall of Suthering. They also run the two folk choirs, The WheelHouse Folk Choir in Tavistock and the Great Sea Choir in Plymouth, and both of these groups will be performing on the main stage at the festival. There will also be appearances by folk singer Maddie Morris and dancers Dartmoor Border Morris. The event starts with a parade through the town at noon and runs from 1pm until 6pm.

[www.tavipride.org](http://www.tavipride.org)



*Picture by Mark Tregaskis (Treggie)*

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## **LYME DAY OF DANCE**

**Saturday July 12**

LYME Morris (actually based in Uplyme) will be hosting their annual day of dance with sides from the West Country and beyond. The day starts with the grand parade through the town,

followed by dancing on the seafront. The day will end with a beach party by the iconic Cobb Harbour. Sides confirmed as we went to press were Catseye, Sidmouth Steppers, Bradninch Millers, Otter Morris, Belles of London City – and of course, Lyme Morris.

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## **MATTHEWS HALL FUNDRAISER**

**Friday July 18**

MATTHEWS Hall in Topsham has been a good friend to folk music over the years, hosting many fine concerts for Topsham Folk Club. So it's good to see the folk world doing

something for the hall. This ceilidh to raise funds for the community hub features three-piece band Stepcote Hill and caller Rosie Baines. It runs from 7.30pm to 10.30pm. Tickets are £14 for adults and £8 for under-18s. The cafe will be open.

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## **MORRIS FEDERATION DAY OF DANCE**

**Exmouth**

**Saturday July 19**

GRIMSPOUND Border Morris are hosting this event at Exmouth. It's one of many being held across the country to celebrate the federation's 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary. The organisers plan to use a number of spots along the seafront and around

the town, including The Strand. Dancing should start around 10am with a grand finale around 5pm. You can expect a lot of sides to be out and about for this big day. As What's Afoot went to press, we heard they included Catseye, Dartmoor Border Morris, Wreckers Border Morris, Lodestone Border Morris and of course Grimspound.

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

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## **KINGSBRIDGE FAIR WEEK**

**July 19-26**

THIS event dates back to 1461 when the town was granted a royal charter for the fair. It has moved with the times and has all the funfair trappings you would expect. But it does retain one interesting link to the past. On the Wednesday evening of fair week when the

mayor reads the charter a stuffed and garlanded glove is hoisted on the Shambles in Fore Street to signify that the fair is in progress and to welcome back "villains, vagabonds and thieves" into the town for the duration of the fair. Despite this ancient granting of clemency, everyone should be on best behaviour for the fair.

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

## Ones to Watch

### CORNWALL FOLK FESTIVAL

21st - 25th August

SPREAD over four days, the festival at Wadebridge kicks off with a Cornish Nos Lowen (a night of Cornish dancing) on Thursday at the Town Hall. Concerts will feature Martha Woods, a very talented young performer from Lostwithiel, Jackie Oates and Mike Cosgrove, Wake The River and many other artists. There

is also plenty of street entertainment on offer during the day, particularly in "Shanty Street" the name for a project to fill Molesworth Street and the Saltbox in the middle of Wadebridge with music and dance throughout Saturday, Sunday and Monday. There will also be music sessions in pubs and workshops. You can buy tickets for separate events or a season ticket.

[cornwallfolkfestival.com](http://cornwallfolkfestival.com)

### WIDECOMBE FAIR

Tuesday September 9

9am until late

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

There was an old radio show called Country Meets Folk. This fair is more Folk Meets Country, when folkies from the town, who are

more acquainted with stock market shares than ploughshares and would probably try to milk a heifer, can mingle with real singing farmers such as the amazing Tich Scott.

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

Artists had not been confirmed as we went to press but expect to see Jim Causley, Bill Murray and Banned From The Moor. There will also be dancing from Beltane and Dartmoor border morris sides.

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



**60 Halsway**  
National Centre for Folk Arts

**Come and celebrate our 60th year!**

Book now for residential courses and workshops in folk music, craft, dance, nature and wellbeing at the National Centre for Folk Arts, a medieval Manor at the foot of the Quantock Hills in Somerset.

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

Halsway Manor, Halsway Lane, near Crowcombe, Somerset, TA4 4BD

**01984 618 274**

**THE** latest listings appear in the following section. The details in this section are believed to be correct at the time of compilation. We try to keep up to date but this magazine is looking three months ahead and a lot can happen in that time. Pubs can close or come under new and uncooperative ownership, organisers can fall ill or guests may have to cancel at the last minute.

Where possible we advise you to check with the venue before setting off for an event. We always urge event organisers to provide a contact phone number or an email or website address.

You can also check on our own website, [www.devonfolkdirectory.org](http://www.devonfolkdirectory.org). Either type the address into



your web browser or use your phone to scan the QR code provided here.

You can also use the magazine and the website to advertise your own events. Listings are free for Devon Folk members and for subscribers and advertisers in What's Afoot.

Coming events should be sent to [devonfolkwebmaster@gmail.com](mailto:devonfolkwebmaster@gmail.com) or [devonfolkeditor@gmail.com](mailto:devonfolkeditor@gmail.com)

If you submit an entry for the listings, it is your responsibility to ensure that details are up to date and that we are informed of any changes. One person can be the contact for multiple listings at no extra cost.

The editor cannot accept responsibility for changes by club organisers or because of unforeseen events.

Now the Flaxey-Green website has ended after more than two decades, the web Directory provides an alternative for all kinds of folk activity in the county. We are pleased that Trevor Paul, the former Flaxey-Green webmaster, is helping to run the directory and the new Devon Folk website.

### **Teignmouth Folk Club**

The Brass, Hollands Road  
Teignmouth TQ14 8ST

***First Monday in the Month***

8pm Free admission

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

**Guest Night – The Jay's**

**Monday 4<sup>th</sup> August**

**Singer's & Musician's Open Night**

**Monday 1<sup>st</sup> September**

**Singer's & Musician's Open Night**

Further details from

Martyn Hillstead

01626 778071/07904037812

[martynggh@aol.com](mailto:martynggh@aol.com)

# Song and Music

**Folk song clubs and sessions are sometimes forced to change venue at short notice. Please check in doubt. See also [www.devonfolk.org](http://www.devonfolk.org) for updates.**

## ASHBURTON

**2nd Monday** 7pm. Klezmer and Eastern European session. Ashburton Arts Centre, 15 West Street. TQ13 7DT. [bunelik@gmail.com](mailto:bunelik@gmail.com)

## BIDEFORD

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

## BISHOPSTEIGNTON

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

## BODMIN

**Friday:** Bodmin Folk Club. St Petroc's Parish Centre, Priory Rd, Bodmin PL31 2DP. [www.bodminfolk.co.uk](http://www.bodminfolk.co.uk)

## BRADNINCH

**2nd Tuesday** 8pm, Castle Hotel, 1 Fore Street, Bradninch EX5 4NN

## BRIXHAM

**4th Monday** 8pm. The Birdcage, New Road. TQ5 8LT  
**1st Friday** 7.30pm. Brixham Folk Cub. The Edge, Bolton Street, Brixham TQ5 9DH

## BUCKLAND

### MONACHORUM

**2nd Sunday** 7.30pm. The Drake Manor Inn, PL20 7NA  
**1st Wednesday** 8.30pm. The Drake Manor Inn, PL20 7NA

## COLEFORD

**Last Tuesday** 8pm. The New Inn. Dave 01363 84914  
**CHERITON FITZPAINE**  
**Last Sunday** noon. Half Moon. Clare Penny 01884 860023

## COLEFORD

**Last Tuesday:** 8pm The New Inn Coleford, Crediton EX17 5BZ Tel: Dave 01363 84914  
**CULLOMPTON**  
**Alternate Thursday** Crediton

West Gallery Quire. Sonja Andrews 01363 877216  
**South West Shape Note Singing**, Cullompton Steve 07976 605692

## DARTINGTON

**Last Monday:** 7pm New Lion Brewery, Meadowbrook, TQ9 6JD. Mark Jefferys [markjefferys7@gmail.com](mailto:markjefferys7@gmail.com)

## DENBURY

**Thursday** (weekly) 8.30pm. Denbury Folk. Union Inn, The Green, Denbury, TQ12 6DQ. Mostly sing-around but also tunes, stories and poems. Telephone 01803 812537

## ERMINGTON

**Last Monday:** 8pm Crooked Spire Inn, The Square, PL21 9LP. Acoustic session "Country meets Folk".

## EXETER

**Last Wednesday:** 7.30pm Cornish and Devonian Folk Music Session. The Mount Radford, 73-75 Magdalen Rd, Exeter EX2 4TA

**Last Friday:** Exeter Folk & Acoustic Music Club Victoria Park Tennis Club, St Leonards Peter Cornelius 01392 210983 Also guest nights [www.exeterfolkclub.org](http://www.exeterfolkclub.org)

## EXMOUTH

**4th Sunday:** 7pm. GWRSA Railway Club 3-5 Royal Avenue, Exmouth EX8 1EN. Chris Austin 07812 688432  
**1st Thursday** 7.45pm Bicton Inn Folk session 01395 272589

**3rd Thursday** 8.30pm Bicton Inn Folk session 01395 272589. Becky Brooks  
**4th Thursday** 8.30pm Bicton Inn Folk club night 01395 272589. Derek Brooks

## FROGMORE

**Alternate Wednesdays** 8pm The Globe Inn, Frogmore, TQ7 2NR. Nigel & Sarah 01548 531525

## GIDLEIGH

**1st Tuesday** (or 1st Wednesday) 8pm. Gidsong.

Gidleigh Village Hall. Check Gidleigh Village Hall Facebook page for announcements.

## IPPLEPEN

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

## KINGSTEIGNTON

**1st Wednesday** 7.30 pm Acoustic Warehouse – Music & Performance Club, Estuary Courtyard, Passage House Inn. Nigel 07989 180091

## LYMPSTONE

**4th Wednesday** 8pm. Lymptone Folk, Roots and Acoustic, The Swan Inn, The Strand, Town Centre, Exmouth EX8 5ET. 01395 225075/07741409265

## MARLDON

**3rd Friday** 7pm. Ye Olde Smokey House, Vicarage Road, TQ3 1NN. Folk Plus Acoustic Music Club. Paul 07894 961010

## MILTON COMBE

**Fortnightly Tuesday** 7.30pm. American Roots song and tune session. The Who'd Have Thought It Inn, Milton Combe, PL20 6HP [martinr.54@virgin.net](mailto:martinr.54@virgin.net)

## MORCHARD BISHOP

**1st Thursday** 12 noon. The London Inn, Morchard Bishop, nr Crediton EX17 6NW. Jon 0136383740

## PLYMOUTH

**2nd Monday** 7.30pm. Mixed tunes and songs. The Dolphin Hotel, 14 The Barbican, PL1 2LS. Jake Rowlinson 07805970075 [saxonjaxon@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:saxonjaxon@hotmail.co.uk)

**3rd Monday** 7.30pm. The Plymouth Singers Session, Providence Inn, 20 Providence Street, PL4 8JQ Unaccompanied folk songs, ballads and shanties. Jake Rowlinson 07805970075 [saxonjaxon@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:saxonjaxon@hotmail.co.uk)

## Song and Music

### PLYMOUTH

#### 2nd and 4th Tuesdays

7.30pm. Cafe Momus, 14 Manor Street, PL1 1TL. Song and instrumental session.

Marilyn Cowan 01752 309983

### ST DOMINICK

#### 2nd Saturday 7.30pm.

Who'd Have Thought It Inn, PL12 6TG Mike 07725 579718

### SANDFORD

#### 1st Tuesday 8pm Lamb Inn

Paul & Hazel 01363 776275

#### 3rd Wednesday 7.30pm

Lamb Inn Jon Shapely

0136383740 jon\_

shapley@hotmail.com

### SCORITON

#### 4th Sunday 7.30 pm.

Tradesman's Arms Sue & Simon Williams, Scorrilton Farmhouse

### SOUTH BRENT

#### 3rd Thursday 8pm Pack

Horse Inn. Mixed session.

mickbramich@gmail.com

### SOUTH ZEAL

#### 3rd Mon music session Kings

Arms markbazeleymobile

@gmail.com

### STICKLEPATH

#### 1st Sunday 8pm. Devonshire

Inn. Derek Moore 01837 840316

### STOKE CANON

#### 4th Wednesday 8.30pm.

Stoke Canon Inn. Paul and

Alison 07709324836

### TALLATON

#### 3rd Sunday noon. Mostly

English session. The Talaton

Inn, X5 2RQ.

jon@devonstrings.co.uk

### TEIGNMOUTH

#### 1st Monday 8pm. Teignmouth

Folk Club, The Brass, 3 Hollands

Rd, TQ14 8SR. Martyn

Hillstead, 01626 778071.

### TOPSHAM

#### 1st Monday 7.30pm. Mainly

English instrumental session

at The Bridge Inn, EX3 0QQ

Tuesday singers' night

7.45pm at The Globe, Fore Street, EX3 0HR.

### Monthly Concerts.

Matthews Hall, Fore Street,

EX3 0HF

### TOTNES

#### 2nd Thursday: Folk Song

Club. Dartmouth Inn. Steve

& Anne Gill, 01803 290427.

#### 1st & 3rd Tuesday 8pm. Bay

Horse. Music and Song

session (English)

#### 2nd & 4th Tuesday 8pm. Bay

Horse. Music session (Irish)

### WILLAND

Alt Thursdays Willand Club

Band Workshop. Willand

Chapel, Gables Road. Mary

Marker 01626 854141

### WOTTER

#### Sunday 7.45 pm. Folk on The

Moor. The Moorland Hotel in

Wotter, PL7 5HP (01752

839228). Anton Horwich, 4,

The Green, Milton Combe,

Yelverton, 01822 853620

## Social Dance

### BIDEFORD

#### Bideford Country Dance Club,

Northam Hall, Fore St, EX39

1AN. Fridays 8pm. 01237

476632.

#### Bideford Folk Dance Club,

Northam Hall, Fore St,

Northam, EX39 1AN. Last

Wednesday in September to

first in May. 01237 423554.

### BRIDPORT

#### Bridport Folk Dance Club, WI

Hall, North Street, DT6 3NW.

Monday except holidays.

7.15pm. 01308 863552.

### CHARD

#### Chard Folk Dance Club,

Combe St Nicholas Village Hall

Nr Chard TA20 3NY. Fortnightly

Thursday 7.30pm. Hilary & Bill

Durrant 01460 61996.

### CHUDLEIGH

#### Chudleigh Folk Dance Club.

Chudleigh Town Hall, Ma

rket Way, Chudleigh, TQ13

OHL. Mondays (not October

28, December 23 &30.

Musicians arrive 7pm, dancers

8pm Contact Mary Marker,

01626 854141.

### DARTINGTON

#### Dartington Folk Dance Club,

Dartington Village Hall. on

Fridays 8pm. 01822 852442.

### GITTISHAM

#### Gittisham Folk Dance Club,

Gittisham Village Hall, EX14

3AF nr. Honiton. Usually

Wednesdays. 8pm Telephone

Rosemary 01395 515403.

### LAUNCESTON

#### Launceston Folk Dance Club,

St John Ambulance Hall,

Westgate Street, Launceston.

Tuesdays 8pm.

Not July and August.

Tel: Rosemary 01566 774491.

### NEWTON ABBOT

#### Newton Abbot Irish Set

Dance, Jolly Farmer,

8 Market Street, TQ12 2RB.

Wednesdays: 01626204350.

<https://devonirishsetdancers.uk>

### SIDFORD

#### Sidford Folk Dance Club,

Sidford Social Hall, Byes Lane

EX10 9QX. Tuesdays 8pm

September to May.

Tel: 01395 514161

or 01395 568336.

### SOUTH HAMS

#### South Hams Folk Dance Club,

West Charleton Village Hall

TQ7 2AG. Wednesdays

7.45pm September to April.

Tel: Philip 01548 561415.

### TAVISTOCK

#### Tavistock Folk Dance Club,

Parish Centre PL19 8AU or

Methodist Church Hall,

PL19 8DX.

1st and 3rd Thursdays

2pm to 4pm.

Not June, July August.

Tel:01822 855858.

# Social Dance

## WHIMPLE

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

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

## WILLAND

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

Road, Willand, EX15 2PL.

Thursday (2nd and 4th) 8pm.

Tel: 01844 253546

or 01404 47200.

## Events

### JULY

#### WEDNESDAY 2

**Gittisham** Folk Dance Club  
Caller: Ali Highfield Band:  
Fresh Aire. Gittisham Village  
Hall, EX14 3AF  
Friday 4

**The Wellermen** on Drakes  
Island. Plymouth PL1 3RP

#### SATURDAY 5

**Willand** Folk Dance Club.  
Caller: Brian Stanton Band:  
Julia and Shane Day. Willand  
Village Hall, Gables Road,  
EX15 2PL

#### WEDNESDAY 9

**Gittisham** Folk Dance Club  
Caller: Robert Blackborow  
Band: Chris Toyne Gittisham  
Village Hall, EX14 3AF

#### THURSDAY 10

**Gianni Tbay** Otterton Mill,  
Fore Street, Otterton, EX9  
7HG

#### FRIDAY 11

**Wren** Music Singing for  
Wellness Conference - Body,  
Breath and Voice. Levinsky  
Hall, University of Plymouth,  
Drake Circus PL4 8AA

#### SATURDAY 12

**Bookends** - Simon &  
Garfunkel through the Years  
Pavilions Teignmouth The  
Den Crescent, Teignmouth,  
TQ14 8BG

**Jim Causley** Caroline's  
Kitchen, Churston Farm  
Shop, Dartmouth Rd,  
Brixham TQ5 0LL

#### SUNDAY 13

**Folk** on the Moor: John Ward  
Band Moorland Hotel,  
Wotter, Plymouth PL7 5HP

#### WEDNESDAY 16

**Gittisham** Folk Dance Club  
Caller: Jane Thomas Band:

Chris Jewell Gittisham Village  
Hall, Gittisham, EX14 3AF

#### FRIDAY 18

**Ceilidh** with Stepcothe Hill  
Mathews Hall, Fore Street,  
Topsham, EX3 0HF  
Albert Lee The Watermark,  
Erme Court, Leonards Road,  
Ivybridge PL21 0SZ

#### SUNDAY 20

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

#### TUESDAY 22

**Every** Folkin' Tuesday"  
Featuring The Weeping  
Willows, The Old  
Warehouse, Prince of Wales  
Road, Kingsbridge TQ7 1DY

#### WEDNESDAY 23

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

**Stomping** Dave and Lucy  
Piper, Otterton Mill, Fore  
Street, Otterton, EX9 7HG

#### SATURDAY 26

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

#### SUNDAY 27

**Folk on the Moor:** The Salts  
Moorland Hotel, Wotter,  
Plymouth PL7 5HP  
"Sunday Sessions": Chris  
Murphy The Old Warehouse,  
Prince of Wales Road,  
Kingsbridge TQ7 1DY

### AUGUST

#### FRIDAY 1 TO FRIDAY 8

**Sidmouth** Folk Festival

#### FRIDAY 1 AUGUST

**Three Acres** and a Cow  
Methodist Central Hall,  
Plymouth,  
PL1 1BA

#### FRIDAY 8 TO SUNDAY 10

Dartmoor Folk Festival

#### THURSDAY 14

**The Dunwells** Otterton Mill,  
Fore Street, Otterton,  
EX9 7HG

#### SATURDAY 23

**Wake the River** Ashburton  
Arts Centre, West Street,  
Ashburton TQ13 7DT

#### MONDAY 25

**Ye Vagabonds**, Exeter  
Phoenix, Gandy Street,  
Exeter EX4 3LS

#### THURSDAY 28

**Mim Grey** Otterton Mill,  
Fore Street, Otterton, EX9  
7HG

#### FRIDAY 29

Jake Xerxes Fussell Barrel  
House, 59 High St, Totnes  
TQ9 5PB

#### SATURDAY 30

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

#### SUNDAY 31

**This Flight Tonight** The Songs  
of Joni Mitchell Exeter  
Phoenix, Gandy Street,  
Exeter EX4 3LS

### SEPTEMBER

#### FRIDAY 5

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

#### SATURDAY 6

**Dartington Folk Festival**  
Dartington Hall Gardens,  
TQ9 6EL

**Willand** Folk Dance Club.

Caller: Jane Thomas Band:  
Chris Jewell and Nick Wyke  
Willand Village Hall, Gables  
Road, Willand, Devon,  
EX15 2PL

## Events

### SEPTEMBER

#### SATURDAY 6

**Big Yellow** Tambourine Man Band Gateway Theatre, Fore Street, Seaton EX12 2LE

#### TUESDAY 9

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

#### THURSDAY 11

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

#### FRIDAY 12

**Exeter** Folk and Acoustic Club: Steve Knightley  
Victoria Park Tennis Club,  
Lyndhurst Road, St.  
Leonards, Exeter, EX2 4NX

#### SATURDAY 13

**d'Accord** French & Breton dance and music: St James

Church Hall, Mount Pleasant Road, Exeter EX4 7AH

**Moscow** Drug Club Palace Theatre, Palace Avenue, Paignton TQ3 3HF Details

#### SUNDAY 14

September  
**Phil Beer** Galmpton Village Institute Hall, Greenway Road, Brixham TQ5 0LT  
**Folk on the Moor:** Luke Jackson Moorland Hotel, Wotter, Plymouth PL7 5HP

#### THURSDAY 18

**Bideford** Folk Club: Cider House Rebellion The Joiners Arms, Market Place, Bideford, EX30 2DR

#### FRIDAY 19

**Track Dogs** (2025) Beehive Arts Centre, Dowell Street, Honiton EX14 1LZ

#### SATURDAY 20

**Sarah McQuaid** The Watermark, Erme Court, Leonards Road, Ivybridge

PL21 0SZ

**Katie Spencer** Calstock Arts, The Old Chapel, Sand Lane, Calstock PL18 9QX

#### SUNDAY 21

**Filkins' Drift** St. Mary's Church, Denbury, TQ12 6DH  
**Martin Simpson** Ashburton Arts Centre, 15 West Street, Ashburton, TQ13 7DT

#### THURSDAY 25

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

#### FRIDAY 26

**Phil Beer Trio** Kenton Victory Hall, Exeter, EX6 8JA

#### SUNDAY 28

**Topsham Folk Club:** Leveret Matthews Hall, Fore Street, Topsham EX3 0HF

**Folk on the Moor:** Clive Carroll. Moorland Hotel, Wotter, Plymouth PL7 5HP

## Morris and Display Teams

**F - Morris Federation, R Morris Ring, Open Morris**  
Day: regular meeting

#### ALIVE & KICKING (F)

Appalachian. Jo Wright  
01392 462531

**AURORA** (Appalachian)  
auroradance18@gmail.com  
<https://auroraappalachian.wixsite.com/dance>

#### BELTANE (F)

beltaneborderbag@gmail.com

#### BIDEFORD PHOENIX

#### MORRIS (F)

Carolyn Bennion, 01237 473798

#### BLACKAWTON MORRIS (F)

Chris Janman, 01803 712362

#### BLACK BESS (F)

Jayne Thomas 01626 366844  
blackbessborder@gmail.com

#### BORDERLINE (F)

bag@borderlinemorris.org

#### BOVEY TRACEY MUMMERS (R)

Rod Wilkins 01803 812581

#### BRADNINCH MILLERS

#### MORRIS (F)

Duncan Harrington  
01884 855270

#### CATSEY MORRIS (F)

Tues Catseyebag@aol.com  
[www.catseyemorris.co.uk](http://www.catseyemorris.co.uk)

#### COGS & WHEELS (F)

Donna Tombs  
dtombs65@gmail.com (Thurs)

#### DARTMOOR BORDER (F)

Wednesdays Mark Tregaskis  
01752 299700

treggie@blueyonder.co.uk

dartmoorbordermorris.com

#### DARTINGTON MORRIS (R)

Martin Jones,  
bag@dartingtonmorris.uk

Dartingtonmorris.uk (Fri)

#### EXETER MORRIS (R)

Mike Painter, 19  
Marlborough Road, EX2 4TJ.  
01392 660444. (Thurs)

mikepainter25@gmail.com

#### GLORY OF THE WEST

#### MORRIS (F)

Pat Langman 07813625871  
gloryofthewest@gmail.com  
(Wed)

**GREAT WESTERN MORRIS (F)**  
bagman@greatwestern.org.uk  
(Thur)

#### GREEN WILLOW CLOG (F)

Jacqueline 07748 121093

#### GRIMSPOUND BORDER

#### MORRIS (F)

Lee Merry, 8, Waterside,

Bovey Tracey, TQ139SX

lmerry@live.co.uk

#### HARBERTON NAVY (F)

davidbeavis@tiscali.co.uk

#### ILFRACOMBE RED

#### PETTICOATS (F)

lindacorcoran@btopenworld.com

#### ISAMBARD GASKET RATS (F)

bag@isambardsgasketrats.co.uk

#### LODESTONE BORDER (F)

lodestonemorris@hotmail.co.uk (Thurs)

#### LYME MORRIS

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

LymeMorris

petemorton56@googlemail.com

## Morris and Display Teams

**MAJIDAH TRIBAL BELLY DANCE**  
majidah925@gmail.com  
**NEWTON BUSHEL MORRIS (F)**

Stephen Gill 01803 290427  
**OLD TOWN TWELVES**

Alison Chapman, 07541  
385463 Tuesdays

**OTTER MORRIS**  
bag.otter.morris@gmail.com

**PLYMOUTH CLOG (O)**  
plymouthclog@outlook.com

**PLYMOUTH MORRIS**  
bagman@plymouthmorris.uk

www.plymouthmorris.uk  
**RADDON HILL CLOG MORRIS (F)**

Triss Cummings 01626 376173  
**ROUGH DIAMONDS**

**APPALACHIAN**  
01460 220607

**SHUFFLE THE DECK (F)**  
Appalachian.

Kathy Houlihan 01752  
893335 or 07719 652885

**SIDMOUTH STEPPERS**  
**NW MORRIS (F)**

cath.nettleton@gmail.com  
**SIDMOUTH TRADITIONAL**

**MUMMERS**

Henry Piper, 01404 811491  
henry.piper@zoom.co.uk  
**TINNERS MORRIS MEN (F)**

andrew@frangleton.co.uk  
**TRIGG MORRIS MEN (R)**

Roger Hancock, 01208 73907  
**TUDOR DANCE GROUP**

Mrs Elizabeth Thurgood,  
01404 812185 (Sat)

**WINKLEIGH MORRIS (F)**  
Alexa Mason, 01647 277498

alexa@moormasons.plus.com (Tues)

**WRECKERS BORDER (F)**  
wreckers.bag@gmail.com  
Thursdays

## Callers

Colin Andrews  
bonnygreencolin@gmail.com  
01363 877216

**Steve Banks**  
steve@bluejewel.info  
07957 855458

Jeremy Child  
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07969 297633

Anne Gill  
01803 290427

Beryl Jukes 01209 712357  
Mary Marker  
01626 854141

**Kip Pratt**  
kipviolin@gmail.com  
07969123346

## Exeter Folk & Acoustic Music Club

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

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

Friday 29 <sup>th</sup> August	Open Club Night
Friday 12 <sup>th</sup> September	Concert Night: Steve Knightley
Friday 26 <sup>th</sup> September	Open Club Night
Friday 10 <sup>th</sup> October	Concert Night: Tom McConville
Friday 31 <sup>st</sup> October	Open Club night
Friday 07 <sup>th</sup> November	Concert Night: BarronBrady

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

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

## Bands

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

### ACCORDION TO TASTE

Brian Graham [accordion2bg@talktalk.net](mailto:accordion2bg@talktalk.net)  
07885427116

### BACKALONG

Steve Verge [stevejverge@gmail.com](mailto:stevejverge@gmail.com)  
07989068825

### BLUE JEWEL CEILIDH BAND

Kip Pratt [kipviolin@gmail.com](mailto:kipviolin@gmail.com)  
07969123346

### Dancing Keys

Hazel Ridd  
[hazelridd@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:hazelridd@hotmail.co.uk)  
Hips & Haws

Wendy Wilson [jnwpwilson@gmail.com](mailto:jnwpwilson@gmail.com)  
01363 866423

### Home Brew Band

Colin Andrews [bonyngreencolin@gmail.com](mailto:bonyngreencolin@gmail.com)  
01363 877216

### The Dawntreader Ceilidh Band

Mel Norris [melnorris@btinternet.com](mailto:melnorris@btinternet.com)  
01626 770238

### THE MOONCOIN BARN DANCE BAND

Anne Gill [anne.m.gill@icloud.com](mailto:anne.m.gill@icloud.com)  
01803 290427

### Winkeilidh Band

Colin Andrews  
[bonyngreencollin@gmail.com](mailto:bonyngreencollin@gmail.com) 01363  
877216

## Useful Contacts

### FOLK IN CORNWALL

John Tremaine,  
7, The Moors, Lostwithiel, PL22 0BX  
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[mail@folkincornwall.co.uk](mailto:mail@folkincornwall.co.uk)

### FOLKLIFE

Sam Simmons, [sam@folklife.uk](mailto:sam@folklife.uk)

### ENGLISH FOLK DANCE & SONG SOCIETY

[info@efdss.org](mailto:info@efdss.org) [www.efdss.org](http://www.efdss.org)

### THE MORRIS FEDERATION

Andrew Knight [secretary@morrisfed.org.uk](mailto:secretary@morrisfed.org.uk).  
[www.morrisfed.org.uk](http://www.morrisfed.org.uk)

### FOLK LONDON

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

### SOMERSET & DORSET

[www.folkmusicsomerset.co.uk](http://www.folkmusicsomerset.co.uk)  
[www.sadfolk.co.uk](http://www.sadfolk.co.uk)

### THE MORRIS RING

Peter Austin  
[bagman@themorrisring.org](mailto:bagman@themorrisring.org)

### OPEN MORRIS

Hetty Bevington [secretary@open-morris.org](mailto:secretary@open-morris.org)

### NATIONAL YOUTH FOLKLORE TROUPE OF ENGLAND

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# Old Crockern awakes to celebrate moorland victory



**A HIGH TIME ON HAYTOR: Musicians entertain the crowd while Old Crockern stands guard over the landscape that spiritually belongs to him and the people of Devon** Pictures: Keith Way

**T**HERE was plenty of music and singing when hundreds of people gathered on windy Haytor on May Bank Holiday Monday to celebrate the recent Supreme Court victory for public access on Dartmoor, *writes Keith Way.*

The multimillionaire, Alexander Darwall, had sought to place restrictions on wild camping on open moorland that he owns. Until the case was brought to court, the freedom to wild camp there had been taken as a public right. The Supreme Court decision confirming this right was a great relief, and a real cause for celebration.

When I arrived, there were already crowds of excited people gathered in the shadow of Haytor rock and there was a great sense of community. Old Crockern, the legendary protective spirit of Dartmoor, was there to join in, too.

It just might have been someone in a costume acting as his stand-in for the day but Dartmoor is such a magical place, who knows

what this apparition really was? He certainly added to our enjoyment

Many people held aloft stars they had made and on which they had written their hopes and wishes for the people's access to the land. There were representatives present from the Right To Roam campaign, the Dartmoor Preservation Society and the Open Spaces Society.

The speakers praised the court decision. They were hopeful that it will be the springboard for the Right To Roam on open land in national parks across England. People sang and chanted together which added to the sense of connection.

It felt great to be part of something so inspiring. Many times I heard the slogan: "The stars are for everyone."

Hopefully, the campaign will bring about a right to roam not just on Dartmoor but on open land right across England. This event might just be the start of something much greater.

# Who should own the land?

**A**FTER the Dartmoor Victory, it seems an appropriate time for a show on the history of land rights and protest with folk songs and stories to be touring Devon.

Three Acres And A Cow somehow manages to connect the Norman Conquest and Peasants' Revolt with current issues such as the housing crisis, reparations, climate breakdown and food sovereignty via the Enclosures, English Civil War and Industrial Revolution.

It has been described as part TED talk, part history lecture, part folk club singalong and part storytelling session and the audience are encouraged to participate.

The show takes its title from the slogan used by the liberal radical British land reform campaigners or the 1880s. It refers to the ideal amount of land everyone should hold to insure their independence.

Expect to hear such songs as Leon Rosselson's *The World Turned Upside Down* and *The Manchester Rambler* by Ewan McColl which became the anthem of the mass trespass movement in Derbyshire.

You can see it at:

The Roundswell Community Centre, Barnstaple, on July 24.

The Iver Potter Hall, Bude on July 25.

The Ockment Centre, Okehampton on July 27.

The Civic Hall, Totnes on July 31.

The Methodist Central Hall, Plymouth, on August 1.

Sidwell Street Methodist Church, Exeter, on August 2.

The Devon leg of the show's tour finishes up at Sidmouth Folk Festival. It's on at 3pm in the Manor Pavilion.

## News in Brief

### Brixham folk club seeks new venue

AS What's Afoot went to press, Brixham Folk Club organiser Mark Harrod was trying to sort out that ever-present problem: a new venue so for the moment the club is suspended. We wish him well and hope that by the time you are reading this printed issue he will have found a new home for his popular club. You can check his progress by contacting Mark at [mharrod@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:mharrod@yahoo.co.uk) or by going to the Devon Folk website.

### Change at the top at Chipshop

FOR the past eight or nine years popular duo Mike and Tilly have been hosting a monthly session at the Copper Penny Inn at Chipshop, near Tavistock. However, due to personal circumstances they have had to drop this commitment although they will be carrying on with their music-making when and where possible.

But the sessions are set to continue with

some of the regulars taking over the helm. As before, they plan to hold a session in the pub's skittle alley on the fourth Tuesday of the month from 7.30pm to 10pm. The format will be a singaround with contributions of all sorts welcome. In the past the session has seen acts of all types from unaccompanied songs to blues, jazz, and even jig doll dancing.

### Choirs head for recording studio

TWO folk choirs are working on four-track EPs to be released next year. Plymouth-based Great Sea Choir and Tavistock-based Wheelhouse Folk Choir, run by Julu Irvine and Heg Brignall of Sutherland, are each recording a four-track EP with Lukas Drinkwater.

The two choirs are planning to hold a joint concert on Thursday July 19 in Tavistock Town Hall. The audience will get to hear each choir perform individually, including their EP songs, as well as together as a mass choir of 100 voices with songs from the BBC folk award winning *Songs of Separation* album.

More details of the events can be found on the websites, [www.thegreatseachoir.co.uk](http://www.thegreatseachoir.co.uk) or [www.wheelhousefolkchoir.co.uk](http://www.wheelhousefolkchoir.co.uk)

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## Mark Radcliffe's Devon concert

YOU know the voice, now meet the man. An opportunity to see and hear Radio 2's Mark Radcliffe and his musical buddy, David Boardman is being offered at the Drewe Arms, Drewsteignton, on Thursday July 24. Mark has been on BBC national radio since the early Nineties and currently hosts the Radio 2 Folk Show and weekend breakfast on 6Music. He is also the author of five bestselling books. David is a consummate guitarist and visual artist and has toured his music across the UK, the USA and Canada. Their act is one of classic simplicity: two voices, two guitars, some great original songs, the odd carefully chosen cover and the occasional anecdote. Tickets at £14 each. The event runs from 7.30pm to 9.30pm.

## Fiddle course with Nick and Becki

POPULAR Devon duo Nick Wyke and Becki Driscoll are holding an Autumn Fiddle Weekend at Halsway Manor. On offer is an intensive course for fiddle players of all ages and abilities – with the exception of complete beginners. They warn that players will need a basic grasp of the instrument and to be able to play either from the music provided or to pick up tunes quickly by ear. The course runs from 4pm on Friday September 19 until 4pm on the Sunday. For more details see [halswaymanor.org.uk](http://halswaymanor.org.uk) or Nick and Becki's website [englishfiddle.com](http://englishfiddle.com)

## Totnes Folk Club

Dartmouth Inn, The Plains  
Totnes, TQ9 5EL



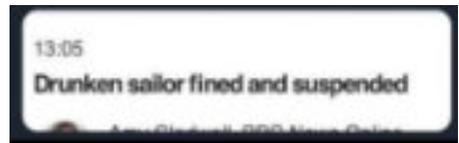
*2<sup>nd</sup> Thursday in the Month 7.30pm*

*Except August*

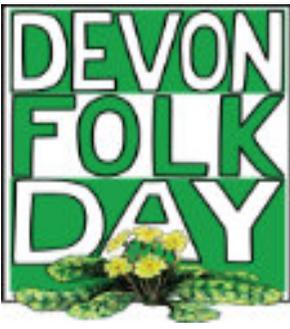
**10<sup>th</sup> July – Singers Night**  
**NO FOLK CLUB IN AUGUST**

**11<sup>th</sup> September – Singers Night**  
**9<sup>th</sup> October – Singers Night**

For more information contact  
Andy: [ndclarke6@gmail.com](mailto:ndclarke6@gmail.com)  
Anne: [anne.m.gill@icloud.com](mailto:anne.m.gill@icloud.com)  
Visit our Facebook page or contact  
Steve & Anne Gill  
01803 290427  
or Andy Clarke 01803 732312



THIS headline has been doing the rounds on social media, with the suggestion that it's a hitherto unknown verse for the old shanty. We understand it's due to numerous new directives from Human Resources. Apparently shaving his belly with a rusty razor contravenes his human rights.



# Dance and song treat for Topsham

**D**EVON FOLK held their second folk day on Saturday March 29. A big thank you to all those who contributed to Devon Folk Day 2025. We held a variety of sessions at the wonderful Bridge Inn at Topsham and hosted dance and shanty displays at the Quay.

The event followed the folk day held by the association at Morchard Bishop in March last year. This year was all about contribution and the supporters of Devon Folk really did just that! Devon has a wonderful mix of folk and we are so grateful that so many of you chose to

attend and contribute so there was quite a variety of entertainment on offer.

Thank you to all the singers, players and dancers who joined us and made the sessions so successful. Thank you to all those who contributed a song or a tune (or several).

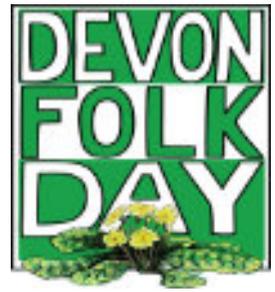
We would also like to thank our hosts at The Bridge Inn, Topsham and the session leaders Min Wild of Topsham Folk Club, Jon Shapley of Pennymoor Singaround, and Kat Blockley of Tale Valley Folk Sessions.

Many thanks go to our excellent friends Glory of The



***ABOVE: The Exmouth Shanty Men launch into another stirring song of the sea. RIGHT: The pub session also featured some stepdancing.***





West Morris, Dartington Morris, Exeter Morris, and The Exmouth Shanty Men for their highly enthusiastic performances (despite the brisk wind) at the Quay.



As mentioned, the important factor in a real folk event – as opposed to a concert in a big hall – is the contribution of the folk.

If Devon Folk is to hold another such event next year then your contributions will again be invaluable – before the event as well as during it.

We need your suggestions about what you would like to see and where the next folk day should be held.

There is a list of committee members on page 34 and you can always contact them to give them your ideas.

If we all pull together – as the shanties remind us we should – then next year's folk day could be even better.

**TOP PICTURE: *Glory of the West strut their stuff at the Quay.***

**MIDDLE: *The music continues at the pub***

**LEFT: *Dartington Morris in action***





**Pre-Festival Specials:  
Fisherman's Friends - Fairport Convention**

Artists joining us so far include...

Richard Thompson • Sharon Shannon • Dervish  
The East Pointers • Steve Knightley • Flook  
Elephant Sessions • Grace Petrie • Katherine Priddy  
Talisk • Peatbog Faeries • Seth Lakeman Band • Kris Drever

Stick In The Wheel • Banter • The Brothers Gillespie  
Camus • Ian A Anderson • The Haar • Jackie Dates • Jennifer Reid  
Jon Wilks • Kerr Fagan Van Eyken • Patakas • Rajasthan Heritage Brass Band  
Rheingans Sisters • Tarres • Narthen • Gadarene

Damien Barber • Dan Quinn & Mike Bettison • Sandra Kerr  
Pete Coe • Ellen Mitchell • Frankie Armstrong • Graham O'Callaghan  
Katie Howson • Keith Kendrick & Sylvia Needham  
Peter & Barbara Snape • Seb Stone • Sheila Miller • Charlie Cooper

200 years of the Squeezebox - John Kirkpatrick • Chopped Liver & Onions  
Fire & Dust - A Woody Guthrie Story with Reg Meurooss, Phil Beer, Geraint Watkins  
and Marion Fleetwood • Folk Roots of Bagguss with Sandra Kerr  
Grace Will Lead Me Home with Angeline Morrison,  
Cohen Braithwaite-Kilcoyne, Jan Bickley and John Palmer  
Lady Malsery and Jimmy & Sid - Wakelire • Three Acres and a Cow  
Where There's Brass - Tom Kitching

Banter • Bellows & Bows • Diatonics • Frog on a Bike • Lasair  
Relentless • Stepcote Hill • The Barber Band • The Glowworms • Whapweasel

Alex Cumming & Audrey Jaber • Box of Frogs • Brian Stanton  
Carol & Kevin Monaghan • Confluence • Contrasaarus • Elisabeth Hinchliffe  
Kerry Fletcher • Louise Siddons • Matt Norman & Paul Hutchinson • Oscina  
Rachel Shapiro-Wallace • Rhodri Davies • Step Ceilidh • Terry Mann • Tim Walker  
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*and many more*

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### **PHILIP WORTH** **Musician, folk dancer** **and organiser**

**IN 2001 Philip Worth, who has died at the age of 90, was presented with the Devon Folk Award by the district committee of the EFDSS, the forerunner of today's Devon Folk. The award recognised his outstanding contribution to folk dance in the Kingsbridge area over many years.**

**In the picture, Philip, left, is being congratulated on his award by Terry Underhill (in morris kit) who was then the EFDSS district president.**

**Philip had been associated with the South Hams Folk Dance Club since its formation in 1967, having been inveigled into attending a dance by his wife Judy.**

**He began calling in 1978 and brought many people into the world of folk dancing. Here, his friend PETER COWPER remembers him.**

**P**HILIP was born in Mousehole, Cornwall, where his father was a fisherman. He undoubtedly spent many hours at sea with his father. When he was 18, he did National Service. I'm not sure which service he was in, but it wasn't the Navy. One thing he mentioned was the nickname that people from Cornwall were given there, it was something like "swede bashers".

That was probably when he began some technical training, because he later worked for the GPO. A funny little story: when you went to visit Philip and Judy at home and darkness began to fall, all of a sudden the curtains closed on their own – much to everyone's surprise and Philip's amusement – as he had installed an automatic system.

His work for the GPO meant they moved to Hope Cove near Kingsbridge, and it involved being responsible for the secret government Cold War Nuclear Bunker near Hope Cove.

Every year Kingsbridge Fair Week began with a glove hanging ceremony. The tradition, which dates back to 1461 and continues today, involves hanging a glove garlanded with flowers in the town to welcome back "villains, vagabonds and thieves" into the town for a celebration or party until it is taken down four



days later. This was followed by a processional furry dance down the Fore Street, led by the Kingsbridge Silver Band, and this was always organised by Philip. This involved teaching the dance to local school children who joined in with members of The South Hams Folk Dance Group. This was followed by folk dancing for all on the Town Square – which Philip always referred to as "country dancing".

Hope Cove country dancing: on Wednesday evenings in late July and August throughout the school holidays, there was dancing in front of the pub every Wednesday. Very often there were 50 to 60 people there, from very young children to senior citizens, all joining in with the dance. Lots of the visitors to Hope Cove came year after year.

I think there were families who had danced as children and then came back with their own children. Members of the South Hams Folk Dance Group also came to join in. Philip provided the entire music broadcast system. One of these evenings also had a live band, often with Pete and Nicole Mac playing.

Each summer Philip also led members of the Folk Dance Group on a walk down the river from Aveton Gifford. We were always quite relieved when we got to the estuary and dry land!

There were also evenings of singing in the reading room at Hope Cove, where Philip played his accordion and provided the song sheets.

During the winter months the folk-dance club met each week in Charleton. The 50th anniversary of this club was in 2019. Each season finished with a dinner – and more dancing – at the Cottage Hotel in Hope Cove.

## In Memoriam

### **HUGH DIAMOND** Musician, singer and founder of Teignmouth Folk Club



**A** WELL KNOWN figure on the folk club and festival scene, Hugh Diamond passed away on May 20. Hugh was a singer and played guitar and piano accordion. He founded the Teignmouth Folk Club and Martyn Hillstead, who now runs the club, has many fond memories of him.

Martyn writes: "Hugh founded the club in October 2003 at the now gone, Ivy House. Soon the club moved to The Devon Arms Hotel. It was there that Hugh asked me to run the club on one occasion while he went away. On his return he said: 'Do you fancy carrying on? Now, more than 20 years later..."

"Hugh's version of *Wild Thing* was legendary. Once heard never forgotten!"

"Possibly my favourite memory of Mr D was a musical soiree with a few friends sitting around my kitchen table and Hugh singing a song, the title of which eludes me, that began seriously then gradually became more ridiculous. By the end I was crying with laughter.

"Mr Diamond, you were a force of nature and quite unique. You are going to be sorely missed. Our folk club is your legacy."

Hugh's daughter Amanda added: "He was funny, clever, had a very quick (and sometimes dark!) wit, he was talented, kind and generous. The world will be a different place without him. .. join that big session in the sky you Wild Thing."

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21 Sep	Singers' Night
28 Sep	Clive Carroll
5 Oct	Singers' Night

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### **JOHN TREMAINE** **Musician, dancer and** **editor of Folk in Cornwall**

**T**HE folk and morris scene in Cornwall has suffered a grievous loss with the death of John Tremaine. For the past eight years John (or JT as his friends always knew him), produced the magazine *Folk in Cornwall*, filling the void left by *Folknews Kernow*, produced by Chris Ridley. The first issue appeared in January 2017.

For JT the magazine was primarily intended to inform people about the various morris and other dance clubs as well as all aspects of the live music scene in the County. It always featured John's choice of a Tune For The Season along with interesting articles and CD reviews. It is hoped that someone else will continue his work.

Recently John was contacted by the BBC to ask if they could feature it as the "obscure publication" on the programme *Have I Got News For You* – top that *What's Afoot!*

John will be remembered as a top notch melodeon player and for his singing and guitar playing with his trademark songs of social comment.

He was an immense figure on the Cornish Morris dance scene. A dancer who migrated to being a musician when he got older, John was in the first border morris side to be set up in the West Country, the slightly notorious Tattered Swan based in Truro in the 1980s.

In John's own words: "Tattered Swan embraced the fact that traditionally Border Morris was not a respectable activity, being basically a way for peasants to extort money or drink from the gentry – and have a lot of fun in the process".

Tattered Swan demanded that all the musicians were also dancers – sometimes doing both at the same time. JT also had other talents. An old friend from the side described him as "the best mobile kitchen & bacon butty provider any Morris side could wish for."

JT was also a member of Trigg and Wreckers before becoming a founder member of Sunrise, Catseye and Tywardreath Morris. He was with Tywardreath for his last 15 years.

Live music was a passion for JT and he set up a number of inclusive sessions himself while enjoying others such as the Ancestor session in Callington and the more unlikely Par Ukejam, where he would contribute squeeze



box solos. JT once said that he just loved to hear people playing and singing together irrespective of the standard and he made it very clear that he wanted his sessions to be as inclusive as possible. He was always ready to help and support new players and was never one to desire the limelight.

John was born in 1952. He lived in Lostwithiel and was a highly respected water engineer, working first for South West Water and later for a subcontractor, Tecker.

In the autumn of last year he suffered a minor stroke from which he mainly recovered. However, in April this year he suffered a second stroke which he survived by about 10 days.

RIP John.

*David Quoroll*

# Could you edit What's Afoot?

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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# How you can help us maintain traditions

**D**EVON Folk is a non-profit organisation dedicated to promoting traditional music song and dance throughout the county.

It publishes this magazine and helps with festivals and other activities. You can support the association by joining it, using the form printed on the facing page or by subscribing to What's Afoot, published every quarter.

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

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

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

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

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

## WILLAND FOLK DANCE CLUB

SATURDAY DANCES

Willand Village Hall

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

September 6<sup>th</sup> Jane Thomas & Chris Jewell & Nick Wyke

October 4<sup>th</sup> Ray Goodswen & Pendragon

Admission £10.00 - Tea & Biscuits - Raffle

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

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



**DEVON FOLK MEMBERSHIP  
APPLICATION FORM**

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

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

**SUBSCRIPTION AND MEMBERSHIP**

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

Membership of Devon Folk is available to any individual, family at the same address, club, group or organisation paying  
Option No. 1 ..... £15.00 a year and receiving printed copy of WAF 4 times a year in the post  
Option No. 2 ..... £10.00 a year and receiving a pdf copy by email 4 times a year.

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

**APPLICATION FORM**

I wish to join Devon Folk as an Individual member

We wish to join Devon Folk as a family group

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

Name of individual, club, group or organisation \_\_\_\_\_

Contact person (for group, club or organisation) \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Postcode \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_

Cheque enclosed payable to Devon Folk

Post form together with cheque to the address above

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

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

Magazine to be sent by POST

EMAIL

Email address

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

## **ELECTED MEMBERS OF THE DEVON FOLK COMMITTEE**

### **PRESIDENT**

Jim Causley

### **VICE PRESIDENT**

Aileen Wills

### **CHAIR and**

### **MEMBERSHIP SECRETARY**

Anne Gill

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

01803 290427

### **VICE CHAIR/PUBLICITY**

Colin Andrews

Bonny Green,

Morchard Bishop, Crediton

EX17 6PG

01363 877216

bonnygreencolin@gmail.com

### **SECRETARY and TREASURER**

Eileen Conway

151 Kingsdown Crescent, Dawlish EX7 0HB.

01626 862312

### **WEBMASTER**

Trevor Paul

devonfolkwebmaster@gmail.com

### **MINUTE SECRETARY**

Kat Blockley,

kat@katblockley.com

### **COMMITTEE MEMBERS**

Steve Gill

Maleth, 11 Cleveland Road,

Torquay,

TQ2 5BD

01803 290427

Jane Snow

27 John Street,

Tiverton EX16 5JP

01884 259042

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

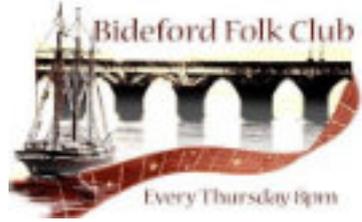
John Foxen

devonfolkeditor@gmail.com

129 Tamar Avenue,

Tavistock,

PL19 9HZ



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

Friendly weekly club – bring a song or tune, join in or just sit and listen. Everyone welcome.

Singarounds most weeks with eight guests per year.  
Upstairs in the skittle alley 7.30 for 8.00pm

### **GUEST NIGHTS**

18<sup>th</sup> September

Cider House Rebellion

16<sup>th</sup> October

Cohen Braithwaite-Kilcoyne

**John Purser**

**01237 424286**

**bidefolk@gmail.com**

### **The Mooncoin Barn Dance Band**



Available for  
Wedding Ceilidhs  
Birthdays  
Anniversaries etc.  
Own Caller

Instruments include Melodeon,  
Guitar, Bouzouki & Fiddle  
Available as a 2 or 3 piece band  
with caller

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

or Andy Clarke 07792009374

# Warwick FOLK FESTIVAL

24 – 27 July 2025



Richard Thompson



Le Vent du Nord



Kate Rusby

Fara • Chris Wood & Andy Cutting • Melrose Quartet  
Will Pound & Jenn Butterworth • Granny's Attic  
Hannah James & Toby Kuhn • Cahalen Morrison  
The English Fiddle Ensemble • Ellie Gowers • The Hunch  
Enda Kenny • Banter • Keith Donnelly • Lauren South  
Janice Burns & Jon Doran • Holly Clarke • Amit Dattani  
Heather Cartwright & Sam Mabbett • Rob Halligan &  
Homeward Hie • Wet The Tea • John Loomes  
...& Many More...

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

Music • Street Food • Morris Dancing • Ceilidhs  
Family Entertainment • Crafts and Independent  
Traders • Workshop • Yoga • Music • Sessions  
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Scan for Tickets



The heart of Folk

Castle Park, Warwick, CV34 6AX

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

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

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

### Downes & Beer

**Sunday 29 June 2025**

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

A welcome back to two highly respected musicians Paul Downes and Phil Beer



### Leveret

**Sunday 28 September 2025**

8pm £18 [www.leveretband.com](http://www.leveretband.com)  
Instrumental virtuosity from Andy Cutting  
Rob Harbron and Sam Sweeney



### Old Spot

**Sunday 19 October 2025**

8pm £14 [www.oldspotmusic.com](http://www.oldspotmusic.com)  
Old time Appalachian tunes and songs  
with Rowan Piggott and Joe Danks



### Kris Drever

**Sunday 16 November 2025**

8pm £18 [www.krisdrever.com](http://www.krisdrever.com)  
Award-winning guitarist, singer, songwriter  
and leading light on the UK roots scene



### Sandy Denny Project

**Sunday 7 December 2025**

8pm £20 [www.thesandydennyproject.co.uk](http://www.thesandydennyproject.co.uk)  
Fine interpretation of Sandy's wonderful  
work by impressive folk-rock lineup



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

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



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



Please note we close for August  
Our last singers' night before  
our summer break is Tuesday  
29 July. We start again on  
Tuesday 2 September

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

or via link from [www.topshamfolkclub.org](http://www.topshamfolkclub.org)  
also on singers' nights

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

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

all enquiries 01392 874718



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