

No 141 January; March 2026
What's Afoot
The official
magazine of
Devon Folk
dance song music stories



£2

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plus

NEWS, FEATURES AND LISTINGS

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What's Afoot 141 Jan-Mar 2026

COVER PICTURE

THIS picture was taken by our good friend Kyle Baker on May Day morning last year but the image of a morris musician (Martin Pratt of Otter) silhouetted against the rising sun definitely says new beginnings so it seems appropriate to publish it now. 2025 had its ups and downs. We lost some good people – see the In Memoriam section – but new talent has emerged on the scene (see page 10 for one prime example). The weather has been uncertain but there were no August storms to disrupt Sidmouth and Dartmoor Festivals. This year we have a number of fine events to look forward to. And there is hope that a prodigal son of the folk world will return (see page 4). At What's Afoot we wish you a very happy new year.

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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.

Whatever happened to

Back in the Seventies Sam Richards was an avid folk song collector and performer. His work with Tish Stubbs produced the book *The English Folksinger* which inspired and informed performers across the country. Then in the late 1980s he abandoned the folk scene. JOHN FOXEN talked to him to find out why he left and if he would ever come back

THESE days Sam Richards teaches piano in Totnes, gives occasional recitals of improvised music and last November found himself introducing concert performances in Totnes of *The Rite Of Spring*, talking about the folk influences in Stravinsky's orchestral work. It's a far cry from his days in the folk world when he toured the clubs with Tish Stubbs and the trio Staverton Bridge and spent hours collecting folk songs and tunes in pubs from sheep farmer and others.

He now says that he no longer feels part of the folk world: "I abandoned the folk scene in the late 1980s – found it limiting. I had so many other musical areas I needed to explore. I began to be suspicious of 'folk' as a cultural construction."

You can take the man out of the folk world but can you take the folk world out of the man? In recent years he has given a few folk performances. So is there hope he could return to the scene, if only occasionally?

To understand Sam's position, we have to go back to his early days. He was born in 1949 and although he started classical piano lessons at around the age of seven, there was a strong folk influence at his home in London. "My mother's father was a renowned pub singer in Preston and I heard her singing his songs such as *The Golden Vanity*."

Young Sam was already feeling the need to improvise. "If I couldn't play part of a classical composition then I would fill in with something I made up."

They had a player piano, one you pumped with your feet and the keys moved up and

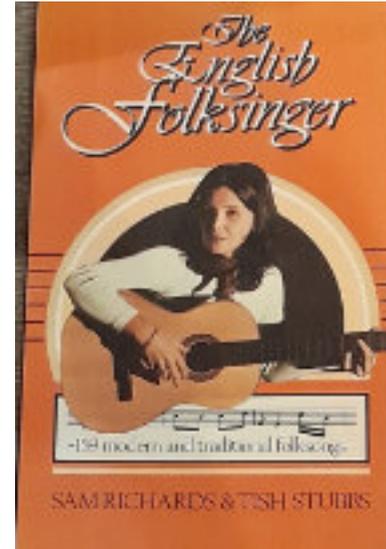
down to play from a piano roll. The young Duke Ellington and Fats Waller both learned to play the stride piano classic *Carolina Shout* by memorising the way the keys moved. Young Sam went one better: joining in with the piano and improvising his own parts to the music.

He might have cheated here and there with his improvisations but Sam's musicianship was good enough to win him a place at the Guildhall School of Drama and Music. But he was more attracted to experimental music than the classical side. "I knew I was never going to be a true classical pianist." After a year he moved to Dartington College of Arts where he found the freer syllabus much more to his taste.

DURING Sam's teenage years the folk world was undergoing huge changes with guitarist Davy Graham and Pentangle pushing the boundaries, mixing traditional songs such as *Bruton Town* with Mingus compositions such as *Better Git It Into Your Soul* and *Goodbye Pork Pie Hat*. Fairport Convention introduced a rock beat and The Incredible String Band brought in other-worldly influences

In Devon, Sam immersed himself in this new world, forming the trio Staverton Bridge with Tish Stubbs and Paul Wilson, co-founder of Wren Music. They toured clubs and festivals across the UK and recorded an LP for Saydisc. This recording can still be found in CD and download format Prestomusic.com. It mixes traditional songs such as *Tom Barbary* and *Eynsham Poaching Song* with what could be termed protest songs such as *The Travellers Came To Redbridge*. The Sixties were also a

the English folksinger?



boom time for political songs although Sam remembers visiting the Jolly Porter Folk Club in Exeter and after singing being quietly taken to one side and told "we only do traditional songs here" ie "nothing political, thank you".

However, Sam has very strong views that influence his work. In 2013 he wrote the book *The Engaged Musician*, a passionate call to musicians, of whatever genre or discipline, to rescue themselves and us from the commercial tyrannies and dictates currently forming our musical life.

"Protest songs" also feature in *The English Folksinger* alongside traditional songs. Sam, Tish and Paul did a lot of collecting work across the country, recording singers wherever they could in pubs or their homes. Sam used a Uher tape recorder, called a portable but better described as luggable. Before the digital revolution, it was standard equipment for BBC radio reporters and the old joke was that you could always tell a BBC radio reporter because they had one shoulder lower than another from carrying the Uher everywhere.

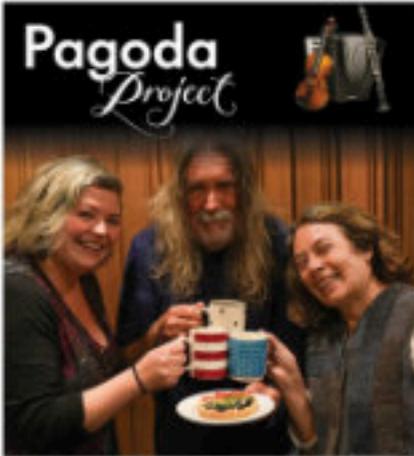
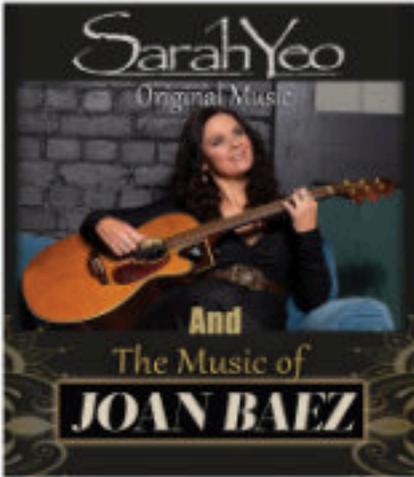
Sam amassed some 600 hours of tape and remembers wonderful sessions, particularly with musicians such as Bill Hingston of

Dittisham, melodeon player and singer. A fine article by Sam about Bill and folk singing in Dittisham can be found at Jstor.org.

There is a tendency among some people to think that there are fixed forms of certain songs but Sam noted a lot of improvisation among singers and players. One example is given in *The English Folksinger*. *As I Was Out A-Walking* was collected by Sam, Tish Stubbs and Paul Wilson in 1977 from Jack Gard of Calverleigh.

In the notes the editors write: "All his melodic variations are given because they were used so freely and so integrally the collectors found it impossible to designate one set as the definitive tune. Jack Gard was a magnificent singer who emigrated to Canada in the 1920s but remembered his English songs perfectly. The collectors felt lucky to meet him on a trip home."

Sam also says that many singers would perform differently in their homes or their local pubs from the way they would sing in a folk club where, as he puts it, they were wrenched out of context. One notable exception to the rule is the Norfolk singer Walter Pardon. Sam arranged for him to perform in a club at



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Bradninch Guildhall
2nd Tuesday/week, Sept - May

TIGHTROPE MOON create innovative soundscapes that fuse traditional and experimental elements. Composer and fiddler Seth Bye and viola player Cori Smith combines hypnotic harmonies and electronic texture for a unique listening experience.

20 JANUARY

SARAH YEO, Exeter singer-songwriter known for her warm voice and acclaimed songwriting, will perform selections from her diverse catalogue/ new material. The main feature will be a tribute to the music of Joan Baez, which Sarah is touring across the UK in 2026.

17 FEBRUARY

PAGODA PROJECT, Paul Hutchinson (Accordion), Karen Kimhurst (clarinets), and fiddle singer Hannah Cumming. Drawing from UK folk traditions, their music blends experimentation, boldness, and improvisation which means no two evenings are ever the same.

17 MARCH

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SILANTIES

The Castle Hotel
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Profile

Torquay and found that Walter performed there with the same assurance as if he had been singing in his own living room.

Sam's collecting work was sponsored by a regional arts council but he sometimes found it difficult to deal with what were called "standards of excellence". He remembers taking someone from the arts council to a session on the moor where sheep farmers were singing their hearts out. "The fellow suddenly started on about standards of excellence. I said; 'Look, that chap singing now has his whole local community in the palm of his hand. You can't get more excellence than that'."

Sam also disagrees with some attitudes in the folk world. He says: "Ewan MacColl was always talking about folk disciplines. I look at all my hours of recording real folk artists and you won't find any folk disciplines there."

Sam's tapes have been donated to the British Library Sound Archive but the digital transcriptions are currently unavailable thanks to the vandalism of cyber hackers. We have to hope that access can be restored soon.

After Staverton Bridge broke up, Sam toured with Tish Stubbs and they recorded two albums. They then formed the band Threeway Street and recorded an album. Threeway Street moved in a very different direction from any of Sam's previous folk work and it's worth seeking out one track, *Marvo The Mighty Magician*, which Sam wrote. It is on Youtube.

SAM was also teaching music at his alma mater Dartington College. One student was Pentangle guitarist John Renbourn, who, after the super group broke up, came to study composition. "He was a lovely guy and a good member of the class," says Sam. "He could have lorded it over the other students but he never did."

Sadly, Sam's time at Dartington ended in acrimony because of the decision to move the college to Falmouth. He was a staunch opponent of the idea. He went on to teach music at Plymouth University.

During this period, Sam had been moving musically towards more experimental compositions and felt frustrated by folk music. He briefly put together an 18-piece orchestra dedicated to playing the space-travel-inspired jazz of Sun Ra's Arkestra. The project was short-lived because of the difficulties and expense of keeping an 18-piece band together.

From the 1990s to the present he has devoted

most of his time to composition, improvisation and some jazz. He plays improvised solo piano and with the Occasional Collective (one album issued in 2024). A solo piano album called *Freedom is more than a word* was issued in November 2025.

So is there any possibility that Sam could find his way back to the folk world, something he says he no longer feels part of? There is a glimmer of hope. While we were talking, I detected a rekindled spark of enthusiasm as Sam talked about the songs in *The English Folksinger*, some of which could be dusted off for performance.

OVER the past few years he has been tempted to perform in South Brent. In 2023 he and Martin Scragg gave a performance based around the repertoire of the South Brent stone breaker Robert Hard who gave Baring Gould some 80 songs, such as *A Frigate Well Manned*. This was followed by an evening of songs from the Baring Gould collection.

Then in 2024, again in South Brent, he and Martin presented *War and Peace* in Devon in Song. Last November the pair returned to South Brent for *Rising Voices: Songs of Struggle and Survival*.

John Rawlinson of South Brent Folk says: "When I first met Sam, he was playing jazz and I had no idea he was once heavily involved in folk music. Then I found a copy of the play Sam wrote and directed for Radio 3 in 1980, which focused on Baring-Gould collecting songs from Robert Hard in South Brent. This took place in a house opposite Lydia Mill, a few hundred yards down the lane from where we live. Colin Campbell, who is also part of the organising group for South Brent Folk (founded by the late Eileen McKee), then contacted Sam and the series began.

"It was evident, when Sam got going with Martin on these projects, that none of his old enthusiasm for folk music had evaporated."

At present there are no plans for a South Brent concert with Sam this year but John does not rule out the possibility if Sam and Martin are willing. We can but hope that other event organisers will also find room for Sam.

* John Rawlinson sent us a sound file of Sam and Martin at South Brent performing one of Sam's compositions, *We'll Sing An Old Song*. [Click here](#) to find it on the *What's Afoot Facebook page*.

Pennymoor Singaround

Song and Music Sessions

Mostly Song Sessions: 1st Thursday except August and December. 12 noon till 3 pm

January 2026 moved to 8th January

The London Inn, Morchard Bishop, Nr. Crediton Contact:
Jon 07840524318

Music Session: Last Sunday 12 noon Contact Clare or Jon for details of new venue
Clare 01884 860023 – Jon 07840524318

Visit Facebook: Pennymoor Singaround
To confirm updated venues or contact:

Biddy: 01271 373305 biddy.mallabone@outlook.com

Jon: 07840524318 – jon_shapley@hotmail.com

Also run by Pennymoor members:

1st Sunday 8.00pm The Devonshire Inn, Sticklepath
Contact: Derek 01837840316

1st Tuesday 8.00pm The Lamb, Sandford, Nr. Crediton
Contact: Hazel or Paul 01363 776275

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

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

Dialect society honours Tich

HATS off to Tich Scott who was presented with the Devonshire Dialect Cup for 2025. Tich, who is well known in folk circles as a singer, raconteur and regular MC at Widecombe Fair and other events, is a worthy winner. He has done so much to keep the Devon dialect alive.

Tich once told me that when he was a young man, growing up on Dartmoor, he could tell which village a man was from the moment he opened his mouth. Back then all the villages had slightly different dialects.

Tich has been farming at Fairhaven on Whiddon Down all his life. His father moved there in 1958 when Tich was one year old. He says his family has farmed on Dartmoor for 400 years and he can remember his grandfather keeping horses for ploughing. But there were no workhorses at Fairhaven. All their work was done by one tractor.

If you haven't had the pleasure of hearing Tich tell one of his very shaggy dog stories or want to be reminded of it, [click here](#) to check out the What's Afoot Facebook page for a video of him doing his garden gate act (as pictured right).

Or better still, sign up for one of his Proper Dartmoor Tours and learn something new about this wonderful part of Devon (www.properdartmoortours.co.uk).



Exeter Club celebrates two anniversaries

TWO big occasions are coming up at Exeter Folk Club in February: the tenth anniversary of moving to its current premises at the Victoria Park Tennis Club in Exeter and the celebration of Martyn Cornelius's 40 years as a folk performer.

Martyn is the son of Peter and Maggie who have been performing in the folk world for 50 years and running clubs since 2005 when they set up the Exe Valley Folk Club at the Ruffwell Inn, Thorverton. They were there for a year then had a nomadic period, moving to the Seven Stars Inn in Kennford in October 2006, while November 2012 saw them at the Ley Arms in Kenn, as the Ley Arms Folk & Acoustic Music

Club. In February 2016 they came to the Victoria Park Tennis Club.

They are well settled in the club with Peter and Martyn both keen tennis players and members of the committee. The tenth anniversary celebration is planned for Friday February 27. This will be an open night for their singers who may be requested to sing the first song they ever sang at the club or perhaps a song that has a special association with the club. Peter says they are not planning a massive celebration but they will be laying on a bit more food than usual, particularly cakes, which are a club speciality. Martyn says that some people who are hesitant about coming

into the club are persuaded by the cakes. His celebration concert is being held on Saturday February 21 and proceeds will be donated to the Devon Wildlife Trust.

One song Martyn, pictured right, may perform that night is Alan Bell's *Bread And Fishes*, the first song he ever sang in public. "I was three years old," he says, "and I got up at Topsham Folk Club to sing *Bread And Fishes* with my parents, joining in on the chorus.

Martyn still sings with his parents but has branched out on his own, accompanying his



songs with guitar, mandolin and mandocello. He performs a wide variety of material and particularly enjoys finding suitable songs from other genres and then "folkifying" them. One example is his version of John Lennon's *Imagine*. In a folkier vein, one song he will probably sing at his concert is *Bluenose*, a Canadian song recorded by the Houghton Weavers. Martyn also writes his own songs.

His influences include Show Of Hands, Stan Rogers and Sandy Denny.

For more information about the Exeter Club and its concerts, see the advert on page 27.

Happy birthday dear Otters

OTTER Morris are relative youngsters on the dance scene but they have made quite an impression in a relatively short time. The side, which had its inaugural meeting on December 14, 2015, and its first practice in January 2016, is planning a number of events to celebrate its 10th birthday.

Otter, which practises at Younghayes Centre, Cranbrook, having outgrown two halls, Feniton and Topsham, was being quite tight-lipped about its plans but What's Afoot used modern technology to spy on them. We asked Alexa. She said: "Otter are holding their own

wassail on Saturday January 31 at Springwater Farm, Columbjohn Farm, Exeter EX5 4ER. It starts at 4pm and is open to the public, family and friends.

"On Saturday February 21 they are having a 'tarts' ale at America Hall, Exeter, inviting sides that Otters also dance and play with. Tarts will be eaten.

"In the summer they are going on tour, visiting and dancing at 10 sites along the river Otter, from its source in Taunton to its mouth at Budleigh Salterton. This will be done in stages, not all in one go. There will be anniversary tour T-shirts with a special logo.

"A day of dance is planned for 10th October (as it's our 10th). Our fore, Connie, has put together and taught us a new anniversary dance, called *Decadance*. It's for 10 people and it has 10 moves." That's all Alexa could tell us for now so keep an eye on Facebook.com/ottermorris for more details.

* It's worth mentioning that the Alexa we used is not the electronic one but Alexa Baker, the squire of Otter.

Our Jim finds fame at last

WE ARE delighted to record that Jim Causley has at last received some recognition from an impeccable source: Facebook's AI.

Jim posted on Facebook: "Amazing news: after 22 years of touring, Facebook has now officially recognised me as an 'emerging

talent'. I really am lost for words, it's such an incredible honour."

It might have been better had Facebook's AI not decided to pose one of its extremely annoying questions underneath Jim's post. "What does emerging talent mean?"

Well if you don't know, Facebook...

Kinder was Kathryn Roberts' remark: "It's your youthful complexion and demeanour. I would swear you are only just 21!"

We like to think that Kathryn was being perfectly sincere and that her finger slipped at this point and she did not mean to add a laughing face emoji after her remark.

Pennymoor drops evening session

WITH regret Pennymoor Sessions has decided to drop its regular Thursday evening sessions at the London Inn, Morchard Bishop. Jon Shapley of Pennymoor says: "The numbers of people attending were just not good enough to make it worthwhile. It's a shame because the evening sessions at the now defunct Cruwys Arms in Pennymoor back in 1979 started us off.

"But I must point out that all our other sessions are still thriving. Pennymoor has now become an umbrella organisation, helping the sessions run by other members. See our advert on page 8 for details."

Special thanks to Teignmouth

TEIGNMOUTH Folk Club has always been a strong supporter of Devon Folk, not only taking an advert in every issue but also in other ways. At a singers' night at The Brass last December, club members raised £25.99 for Devon Folk funds which the club committee rounded up to £30. Our thanks to Martyn Hillstead and other club organisers for their help.

Lodestone repeat ceilidh success

LAST year Lodestone Border Morris of Tavistock celebrated 20 years of dancing with a ceilidh. It was so successful that they are repeating the event this year. You can join them at Tavistock Town Hall at 7pm on Saturday

March 28 to strut along to the band Four Feet First. There will of course be an interval performance from Lodestone.

Tickets at £10 each are available direct from Lodestone (lodestonebm@gmail.com) or from WeGotTickets.com at £11 (this includes a handling fee).

Where there's a will ...

IN What's Afoot 138 we reported that singer and songwriter Chris Hoban had been appointed as a Cultural Fellow at Exeter University for 2025 for the project Wills as Windows onto Past Lives. He has been ploughing through a mass of documents dating from 1540 to 1790 and writing songs inspired by their contents.

You can sample the first fruits of his labours at a concert at Topsham Folk Club on Sunday January 18. He will be supported by the double bass and vocals of Miranda Sykes. For details, see Topsham Folk Club's advert on the back page of this issue.

LAUNCESTON FOLK DANCE CLUB 2026

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Launceston Town Hall, PL15 7AR

Saturday 25th April 2026

7.30 - 11.00pm

Caller: Sarah Bazeley

The Pixie Band

Bring and share supper - Raffle

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Autumn Dance 2026

Saturday October 17th

Jane Thomas & 'Pair of Shears'

For further information ring
Rosemary Phillips. 01566 774491

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AND HAPPY PARTY WE
HAVE EVER HAD. WE
DANCED OUR HEARTS OUT!"



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How a poet was beguiled by our county's lovely girls

THIS Devon song comes to us courtesy of the Lancashire Dialect Society with words by the Romantic poet John Keats, better known for such high-flown works as *Ode To A Nightingale*.

Our Dartmoor entertainer, Bill Murray, was at the National Dialect Weekend in Blackpool last October and heard his friend Michael Higgins of the Lancashire Dialect Society sing a poem by Keats, *Oh where be ye going, you Devon Maid?*

Michael had researched the poem, which uses the Devon dialect, and found it was written while Keats was visiting Teignmouth in March 1818 to nurse his brother Tom, who was suffering from tuberculosis. Just three years later the same disease would claim Keats' life at the age of only 25.

Michael said during Keats' visit it had rained for a fortnight and his experiences with the Devon locals were at first hostile. Then he took advantage of the dry weather to wander into the fields as far as Dawlish fair where he tasted the local cream and barley bread and ginger bread.

According to Stephen Coote in his book *John Keats A Life*, Keats noticed the way the furze prickles picked at the girls' dresses and the way they spoke at the close of day in the village streets. One of these girls perhaps inspired the charming *Where be ye going, you Devon Maid*.

Keats sent his verses to his friend, the Plymouth-born painter Benjamin Haydon, describing them as *bitcherel* – presumably female doggerel. But the lyrics certainly have a merit all of their own.

They are also firmly in the folk tradition. They are very close in form and feeling to the highly popular song known as *Dabbling in the Dew* or *Rolling In The Dew Makes The Milkmaids Fair*.

According to Roud 109 versions of the song have been collected. George Butterworth found it in Sussex, Ralph Vaughan Williams noted it down in Cambridgeshire and Herefordshire and Cecil Sharp discovered it to be particularly popular in the West Country: between 1904 and 1907 he noted it down from nine singers in Somerset alone.

In Inglesham, Wiltshire the song was also

used as a finale to the Christmas Mumming play. There is even a Norfolk version, preserved by those staunch guardians of East Anglian folklore, the Kipper family. Their song, *The Milkmaid's Oath*, has the chorus "Rolling in the dew makes the milkmaid swear" so perhaps we will draw a veil over that one.

On his album *Devonia*, Jim Causley sings a version that was collected by Baring Gould from James Parson of Lewdown. His tune is similar to that used in Cornwall where the song is known as *Delyow Sevi*. It is well worth listening to Brenda Wootton's fine rendition in Cornish on her album *Starry Gazy Pie*.

LIKE to think that Keats knew the song *Rolling In The Dew* or had unconsciously picked it up from some singer in a tavern. The original song is a battle of wits between a young man and girl he is trying to seduce and is often best sung as a duet with a man and a woman singing alternate lines.

Keats' version is far more romantic and tells the story from the man's point of view. It is full of lovely lines such as:

*But o, on the heather to lie together
With both our hearts a-beating!*

However, when Bill Murray posted on Facebook about the song, one of his more practical and hard-headed friends pointed out: "Obviously Keats was unaware of the ticks that also lie on the heather."

I have not yet been able to hear Michael Higgins' tune but Bill assures me that it is a very suitable one. In the meantime, I have found that adapting Jim Causley's tune into 3/4 waltz time makes this piece of "bitcherel" very singable and suitable for a solo singer. However, you can force it into the standard 4/4 time or seek out Michael Higgins' tune.

Keats wrote other pieces in dialects – for example his Scottish poem *A Galloway Song* – so I'd like to think he would be pleased that one of his works could enter the tradition. We also know he had a sense of humour because the Irish scholar Myles na Gopaleen tells us that Keats and his friend Chapman would often trade outrageous puns. Let's hope this song makes his ghost smile.

Oh where be ye going, you Devon Maid?

Words by John Keats

Melody

Oh where be ye go - ing,

3
you Dev - on Maid And what have ye

6
there in the bask - et? Ye tight litt - le

10
fair - y just back from the dair - y will ye

13
give me some cream if I ask - it?

Oh where be ye going, you Devon Maid?
And what have ye there in the basket?
Ye tight little fairy just fresh from the dairy,
Will ye give me some cream if I ask it?

I love your meads and I love your flowers
And I love your junkets mainly
But 'hind the door I love kissing more
O look not so disdainly.

I love your hills and I love your dales
And I love your flocks a-bleating
But o, on the heather to lie together
With both our hearts a-beating!

I'll put your basket all safe in a nook,
Your shawl I hang on the willow.
And we will sigh in the daisy's eye
And kiss on a grass green pillow.

Ear players can [click here](#) to find a sound file of the song on the *What's Afoot Facebook page*

Review

OVER the years I've seen music delivered in many formats – records, of course, then cassettes, CDs and then streaming (a format that is not always fair to the artists). But this is a first: Father and daughter duo C.A.S.K sent us their new album, *First Tipple* on a memory stick. After recording their album, they



found this was the cheapest and easiest way to distribute it. Steve Collings said he looked at burning CDs at home but found it was time-consuming and not always reliable. The memory stick comes in a plastic folder with a

FIRST TIPPLE C.A.S.K.

FIRST TIPPLE is a collection of songs by father and daughter Steve and Kathryn Collings from South Devon. Their band name C.A.S.K. stands for Collings' Acapella Shanty Krew, and, appropriately, they sing all but one without instrumental accompaniment.

Although sea shanties were originally used by sailors to help with the many hard manual tasks on board ship, their acapella delivery is also ideal for storytelling. In this case, C.A.S.K. have chosen a fine range of tales to perform which makes for fascinating listening.

Steve and Kathryn's voices blend and complement each other wonderfully well. There seems to be special quality of tone when people from the same family sing together harmoniously and this is certainly the case here.

When performing Steve wears a pirate outfit and Kathryn is dressed as a mermaid. Although this might seem to be something of a gimmick, Kathryn suffers from a number of severe debilitating health issues and is confined to a wheelchair. The mermaid costume fits in well with having to sit all the time and helps to keep her legs straight. Her love of performing means that despite considerable difficulties, she together with Steve, still want to share their wonderful songs and shanties with us.

Unsurprisingly, the opening track on *First Tipple* is connected with alcoholic refreshment, as are the second and third too.

printed notes about the album and also about friends, the support group for Functional Neurological Disorder from which Kathryn suffers. Steve says that the memory sticks have been selling well at gigs although some people balked at them and wanted an old-fashioned CD. The format aside, what does the music sound like? Read Keith

Way's review below and if you are tempted, you can buy a memory stick from C.A.S.K at one of their gigs or contact them via their Facebook page – <https://www.facebook.com/CaskShantyDuo> **John Foxen**

Bring Us A Barrel humorously lists the names of the various sizes of beer barrels that might be called upon to fuel a night out, although in the end, only the largest will do. C.A.S.K. cheekily add a final verse to Keith Marsden's song, explaining why their name means they have to sing a drinking ditty.

Kathryn gives a lively rendition of *Ale Or Rum*, which concludes that "either one should be good for me"!

Gray's Medium Cider Booze praises the superiority of a drink that has been made at Halstow Farm near Moretonhampstead for nearly 400 years by 13 generations of the Gray family.

With *Adieu Sweet Lovely Nancy*, C.A.S.K. now turn to sea-related songs which make up the rest of the album. Their rendition of this poignant song features some lovely harmonies with Kathryn's pure clear soprano voice being enhanced by Steve's rich deep tones.

Eliza Padden's 5 Guineas, sensitively rendered by Kathryn, is about a woman wishing for her love to be kept safe at sea, and the sad dashing of her hopes.

Boat Building, sung by Steve, is about the grand boat he wishes he could build for his love and the small one he can actually make for her. Steve's interpretation conveys the wistfulness of the song.

In *Drake's Drum*, Devonians overseas feel the call of their native land as signified by the beating of the legendary drum. This is the song by Maggie Duffy, not to be confused with the

Review

poem by Henry Newbolt set to music by Heather Wood and sung by Jim Causley.

A sailor idealises the perfect dockside pub in *Heaven's A Bar*, where there's always a warm welcome and the liquor is free!

Twiddles is a saucy song, jauntily sung by Kathryn, as a response to the old saying that a sailor has a girl in every port. In this song, the women who are left behind also have their fun.

Life on board ship and on land in port are the subject of *Sailing Over The Dogger Bank*. This rousingly gets faster and faster as it goes along. It is a wonder how Steve and Kathryn manage to keep together, but they do, and it's a real joy.

C.A.S.K. have put their own stamp on the *Skye Boat Song* with distinctive harmonies. This gives new interest to what might otherwise be a too familiar song to many.

In *Wavesoaked Maiden*, Kathryn sings about what happens when a sailor becomes obsessed with an alluring but deadly mermaid/monster. In folklore mermaids can be creatures of bad luck and terror rather than those we may be more familiar with through Disney films. Kathryn's voice here is much lower which suits the subject.

A Mermaid's Smile is about a mermaid who appears after a ship has been badly damaged after a storm (did she cause the storm?) and demands that a member of the crew marries her. It's clear that an encounter with a mermaid has definite consequences...

Steve and Kathryn's voices once again work well together on *The Mollymawk*, which is named after a type of albatross which roams freely across the southern ocean. According to the song's author Bob Watson: "Legend has it that these big birds (usually encountered far from land) were embodiments of the souls of sailors who died at sea".

A Valediction is an adaption of a poem by Poet Laureate, John Masefield, which vividly conveys the excitement of voyaging on a sailing ship heading out to sea.

The final track on the album, *Icy Acres*, is a recording of a live performance at Harwich in 2024. It is about weary whalers homeward bound from Greenland's icy waters. C.A.S.K. start the song alone but it soon sounds like everyone in the hall is joyfully joining in. It is a touching conclusion to a fine album, enthrallingly sung, which immerses the listener in its watery, seafaring world.

Keith Way

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Winter Warmers

A selection of special dates for your diary

WEDNESDAY JANUARY 1 CORNWOOD

SHAKE off any New Year's Eve hangover with this event. From 3.15pm there will be dancing by Dartmoor Border Morris outside the Cornwood Inn followed by a procession to the community orchard for a wassail. Bring drums, pots and pans to bang to make sure the trees are well and truly woken up.

SOUTH ZEAL

RAMSLEY Mummery will be performing their version of the deeds of St George at the Kings Arms in South Zeal at lunchtime. This is notable because St George will be played by Professor Nick Green of the University of Macau, who is flying in from China specially for the occasion. There will also be morris dancing by the lovely ladies of Cog & Wheels and some songs and music afterwards.

SATURDAY JANUARY 3 TALATON

THIS wassail is in its fourth year. Meet at the parish hall at 5.30pm to practise the wassail song and begin the procession. Bring a torch, pots and pans to make plenty of noise and wear apple colours – greens, gold and reds. The procession ends at the Talaton Inn. Tale Valley Folk Sessions will run a music session. We are also promised a mummery play.

SATURDAY JANUARY 17 LUSTLEIGH

BELTANE Border Morris will be performing outside The Cleave pub from 7.45pm to get the ball rolling then it's into the orchard for the blessing of the apple trees. There will be more dancing afterwards and Beltane may well perform their celebrated fire dance with blazing torches.

FRIDAY JANUARY 17 WHIMPLE

THIS wassail, in the village that was once the proud home of Whiteways Cyder, dates back for well over 100 years (See What's Afoot 118 for its history). It is very traditional with a procession to the Whimple wassail tune but no

morris dancers. Jim Causley, Whimple born and bred, says: "They have plenty of other opportunities to dance but this is our wassail." Gather at 6.30 at the New Fountain Inn. As always there will be a music session in the pub afterwards.

SATURDAY JANUARY 17 BERE FERRERS

A WASSAIL featuring Dartmoor Border Morris runs from 6.30pm until 9pm, starting at the church hall and is organised by the Tavy & Tamar apple group. The £5 entry fee includes a pasty supper, plenty of Morris dancing, singing by the Tavy Tars and poetry, with a bit of apple tree blessing!

SATURDAY JANUARY 24 STOKE GABRIEL

THIS begins at 4pm with a procession, led by children from Stoke Gabriel Primary School with their willow and paper lanterns, through the community orchard. This event is not for those of a nervous disposition as the finale involves the firing of shotguns to wake the trees from their winter slumber and to chase away any evil spirits which might be lurking in the branches. After the procession, entertainment will be provided by Elfic the Jester, Grimspound Border Morris, and folk-rock band Linney Magic.

SATURDAY JANUARY 31 TEIGNMOUTH

A SEA Shanty Festival in aid of the RNLI is being held at New Quay Inn from 2pm until 7pm. Organised by the Out Of Tunas, it will feature CASK, Wonkey Donkey Shanty Crew, The Barrel Seagals, The 85ers and Wrecked Again Shanty Crew. Bring some change to throw into the bucket to support the RNLI.

SATURDAY FEBRUARY 28 TAVISTOCK

A SHANTY Saturday to raise funds for Children's Hospice South West is being held at Tavistock's Town Hall. Starting at 7.30pm it features the Stuns'ls Shanty Group and The Countrymen. Tickets cost £20 and are available at Book Stop Tavistock or via email: jane362@btinternet.com.



Exmouth shanty band's show offer

The Exmouth Shanty Men, "Devon's "original buoy band", have developed a stage show which has proved a winner for village fund raisers.

Called "Tall Ships and Tavern Tales – a voyage in song from the high seas to a dockside ale house", it is presented in two halves, usually of 45 minutes. The first half offers traditional sea shanties, with the audience invited to help hoist sails or lift an anchor. The second half is set in a tavern, under the watchful eye of a strict landlady.

"Village halls are the perfect setting for our show", says Ship's Cook Sam Minella, "and we're happy to perform for a 50% share of the door proceeds."

The show has already gone down well in many villages across Devon and Somerset – several have put it on twice!

The Shanty Men are a popular act at maritime festivals, having played often in France, Belgium, Holland, Germany and Poland as well as Ireland.

For further information e-mail exmouthshantymen@gmail.com
www.exmouthshantymen.com

Bear dancers raise nearly



BARELY VISIBLE: Pudsey almost vanishes amid the mass of morris dancers in Bedford Square

SOME 200 morris dancers and musicians from 16 sides invaded Tavistock on Saturday November 15 for Pudsey Day, the Children In Need fundraiser organised by Dartmoor Border Morris. The event raised £1,897 for the charity.

It's not quite up to the record £2,824 raised in 2024 but still very respectable, considering how tight money is these days. The event has been running for 10 years now and has given Children In Need a grand total of £16,133.

The event has become extremely popular in the South-west because it is a last chance to meet old friends before sides disappear into their village halls for the practice season. This year it

attracted sides from as far away as Penzance (Pensans Morris) and Stoke Sub Hamdon in Somerset (Enigma). And of course Pudsey turned up for the occasion as well.

As usual the event was strongly supported by Dartmoor Brewery who contributed two kegs of Jail Ale to be sold off raise funds. And once again, Clair and Martyn of the Stannary Arms generously allowed their back room to be used as a rest room/singing and dancing spot for the morris sides and allowed the charity ale to be sold in their back bar.

Thanks are due to Dartmoor Border Morris and their bagman Mark Tregaskis for their heroic efforts in organising this great event.

£2k for Children in Need



Let's hear it for the maid behind the bar

EVENTS such as Pudsey Day would not be possible without the support of those people who are prepared to do the drudge jobs: putting up the marquees, sending out invitations and most importantly on Pudsey Day serving the ale to dry dancers. So raise a glass to Debbie Crewe who gave up a day's dancing to help out behind the bar at the Stannary Arms. And here's to all the other helpers who throughout the year do all those little – and sometimes very big jobs – at folk clubs and festivals that keep all these events going.



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. 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 or devonfolkeditor@gmail.com

If you submit an entry for the listings, it is your responsibility to ensure that details are up to date and we are told 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

BIDEFORD

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

Singers' nights 7pm for 7.30pm. Guest nights 7.30pm for 8pm

BISHOPSTEIGNTON

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

BODMIN

Friday: Bodmin Folk Club. St Petroc's Parish Centre, Priory Rd, Bodmin PL31 2DP. www.bodminfolk.co.uk

BRADNINCH

Bradfolk 2nd Wednesday 8pm, Castle Hotel, 1 Fore Street, Bradninch EX5 4NN

BRIXHAM

4th Monday (not December) 7.30pm. The Brixham Singaround at The Railway Inn, Churston Ferrers. Martin Sidebotham 01626 362528.

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. Moving to new venue. Call Clare Penny 01884 860023 or Jon Shapley 07840 524318

CHIPSHOP (Nr Tavistock)

Tuesday: 7pm The Copper Penny Inn. Singaround. copperpennysessions@gmail.com

COLEFORD

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

DENBURY

Thursday (weekly) 8.30pm. Denbury Folk. Union Inn, The

Green, Denbury, TQ12 6DQ. Mostly sing-around.

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

EXMOUTH

4th Sunday: 7pm. GWRSA Railway Club 3-5 Royal Avenue, Exmouth EX8 1EN. Steve Edlin 07958943645

1st Thursday 7.45pm Bickton Inn Folk session 01395 272589

3rd Thursday 8pm Bickton Inn Folk session 01395 272589. Becky Brooks

4th Thursday 8pm Bickton Inn Folk club night 01395 272589. Derek Brooks

FENITON

1st Tuesday The Nog Inn, Feniton, EX14 3BT 7.30pm. Mixed song and music session. Details Facebook

FROGMORE

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

HONITON

1st Sunday 5pm Phoenix Folk Club, Honiton Golf Club, EX14 9TR 07974 368920.

KINGSTEIGNTON

1st Wednesday 7.30 pm Acoustic Warehouse – Music & Performance Club (not Folk), Estuary Courtyard, Passage House Inn. Nigel 07989 180091

3rd Wednesday 7.30pm. Singaround at the Passage

House Inn, Kingsteignton. Not December. Contact Martin Sidebotham 01626 362528.

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 John Thacker 07778618652

KEHAMPTON

1st Thursday 8.30pm. Wren Music Folk Club, The Plume of Feathers, 38 Fore Street, EX20 1HB. www.wrenmusic.co.uk

PLYMOUTH

2nd Monday 7.30pm. Tunes and songs. The Dolphin Hotel, 14 The Barbican, PL1 2LS. Jake Rowlinson 07805970075 saxonjaxon@hotmail.co.uk.

PLYMOUTH

3rd Monday 7.30pm. The Plymouth Singers Session, Providence Inn, 20 Providence Street, PL4 8JQ Unaccompanied folk songs. Jake Rowlinson 7805970075 saxonjaxon@hotmail.co.uk.

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

Teignmouth Folk Club

The Brass, Hollands Road Teignmouth TQ14 8ST

First Monday in the Month

8pm Free admission

Monday 5th January

Guest Night with Five Finger Eddie

Monday 2nd February

Singer's & Musician's Open Night

Monday 2nd March

Singer's & Musician's Open Night

Monday 6th April

Guest Night with The Cornelius Family

Further details from

Martyn Hillstead

07904037812

martyng@aol.com

Song and Music

3rd Wednesday 7.30pm
Lamb Inn Jon Shapley
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.
Steve Dart – Facebook The
South Brent Sessions

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 Tuesday 7.30pm. Mostly
English session mixed song
and music. The Talaton Inn,
Talatton, EX5 2RQ.
jon@devonstrings.co.uk

TEIGNMOUTH

1st Monday 8pm. Teignmouth
Folk Club, The Brass, 3 Hollands
Rd, TQ14 8SR. Martyn
Hillstead, 01626 778071.

TOPSHAM

1st Monday 7.30pm. Mainly
English instrumental session
at The Bridge Inn, EX3 0QQ
Tuesday singers' night
7.45pm at The Globe, Fore
Street, EX3 0HR.

Monthly Concerts.

Matthews Hall, Fore Street,
EX3 0HF

TOTNES

1st Monday: 7pm The Albert

Inn, Bridgetown. Acoustic
music session. Mark Jefferys
markjefferys7@gmail.com

2nd Thursday: Folk Song
Club. Dartmouth Inn. Steve
& Anne Gill, 01803 290427.

1st & 3rd Tuesday 8pm. Bay
Horse. Music and Song
session (English)

2nd & 4th Tuesday 8pm. Bay
Horse. Music session (Irish)

WILLAND

Alternate 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,
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
TA20 3NY. Fortnightly Thurs
7.30pm. Hilary & Bill Durrant
01460 61996.

CHUDLEIGH

Chudleigh Folk Dance Club.
Chudleigh Town Hall, Market
Way, Chudleigh, TQ13 0HL.
Mondays (not October 28,
December 23 & 30). 8pm Sally

Payton 07973278403

DARTINGTON

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

EXETER

Exeter Ceilidhs. Kenn Centre,
Kennford 8pm-11pm. Jeremy
Child 07969 297 633 www.
exeterceilidhs.net

GITTISHAM

Gittisham Folk Dance Club,
Gittisham Village Hall, EX14
3AF Usually Wednesdays. 8pm
Tel: Rosemary 01395 515403.

LAUNCESTON

Launceston Folk Dance Club,
St John Ambulance Hall,
Westgate Street. 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.

TAVISTOCK

Tavistock Folk Dance Club,
Methodist Church Hall, PL19
8DX. 1st and 3rd Thursdays
2pm to 4pm. Not June, July
August. Tel: 01752 774484.

WHIMPLE

Irish Set Dancing, Whimble
Victory Hall, School Hill EX5
2TS, (3rd Sun) 2pm.
[https://devonirishsetdancers.
uk/](https://devonirishsetdancers.uk/)

WILLAND

Willand Folk Dance Club,
Willand Village Hall, Gables
Road, Willand, EX15 2PL.
Thursday (2nd and 4th) 8pm.
Tel: 01844 253546
or 01404 47200.

Events

JANUARY

SUNDAY 4

Folk on the Moor: Phil Beer
Moorland Hotel, Wotter,
Plymouth PL7 5HP

MONDAY 5

Teignmouth Folk Club: Five
Finger Eddie The Brass,
Hollands Road, TQ14 8ST

TUESDAY 6

Sidford Folk Dance Club
Jeremy Child Sidford Social
Hall, Byes Lane EX10 9QX

WEDNESDAY 7

Gittisham Folk Dance Club
Caller: Simon Maplesden
Band: Jason and Rob
Gittisham Village Hall,
Gittisham, EX14 3AF

THURSDAY 8

Willand Folk Dance Club.
Caller: Ray Goodswen Band:
Petronella Willand Village
Hall, Gables Road, EX15 2PL

SATURDAY 10

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

TUESDAY 13

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

Sidford Folk Dance Club.

Simon Maplesden Sidford
Social Hall, Byes Lane EX10
9QX

WEDNESDAY 14

Martyn Joseph Exeter
Phoenix, Gandy Street,
Exeter EX4 3LS

Gittisham Folk Dance Club
Jane Thomas and Chris Toyne
Gittisham Village Hall,
EX14 3AF

FRIDAY 16

Dartington Folk Dance Club
Dartington Village Hall,
Shinners Bridge, TQ9 6JD
Hedera Calstock Arts, The
Old Chapel, Sand Lane,
Calstock PL18 9QX

SATURDAY 17

Whimble Wassail Lockyers
Linhay, Church Road,
Whimble, EX5 2TA

SUNDAY 18

Folk on the Moor: Simon
Barron Moorland Hotel,
Wotter, Plymouth PL7 5HP

Topsham Folk Club: Chris
Hoban + Miranda Sykes
Matthews Hall, Fore Street,
Topsham EX3 0HF

MONDAY 19

Sykes Martin Ashburton Arts
Centre, West Street,
Ashburton TQ13 7DT

TUESDAY 20

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

WEDNESDAY 21

Irish Set Dancing Jolly
Farmer, Newton Abbot TQ12
2RB

Gittisham Folk Dance Club

Caller: Gill Spence Band: Ian
and Margaret Gittisham
Village Hall, EX14 3AF

THURSDAY 22

Willand Folk Dance Club.
Mary Marker and A Tight
Squeeze. Willand Village
Hall, Gables Road, EX15 2PL

FRIDAY 23

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

SUNDAY 25

Burns Night Celebration The
Grand Hotel, Sea Front,
Torbay Rd, Torquay TQ2 6NT

Klezmer Ceilidh with Ruach
Exeter Phoenix, Gandy
Street, Exeter EX4 3LS

TUESDAY 27

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

WEDNESDAY 28

Gittisham Folk Dance Club
Caller: Jeremy Child Band:
Dancing Keys Gittisham
Village Hall, EX14 3AF

SATURDAY 31

Exeter Ceilidhs: Dartmoor
Pixie Band Kenn Centre,
Exeter Road, Kennford, EX6 7UE
Zeffe Klezmer Band Beehive
Arts Centre, Dowell Street,
Honiton EX14 1LZ

FEBRUARY

SUNDAY 1

Topsham Folk Club: Jim
Moray. Matthews Hall, Fore
Street, Topsham EX3 0HF

Folk on the Moor: Coates
and Cotterell Moorland
Hotel, Wotter, PL7 5HP

TUESDAY 3

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

WEDNESDAY 4

Gittisham Folk Dance Club
Rosie Shaw. Band: TBC
Gittisham Village Hall, EX14
3AF

The Irish House Party Palace
Theatre, Palace Avenue,
Paignton TQ3 3HF

BUDAPEST CAFE

ORCHESTRA New Hall,
Barrington St, Tiverton EX16
6QP

FRIDAY 6

Sarah Yeo sings The Music Of
Joan Baez Ashburton Arts
Centre, West Street,
Ashburton TQ13 7DT

Lazy Divide The Artillery
Arms. Plymouth PL1 3RH

SATURDAY 7

Exeter Ceilidhs: Contra
(American) Kenn Centre,
Exeter Road, Kennford,
Exeter EX6 7UE

**Exeter Folk and Acoustic
Club:** Special Concert Night
Simon Mayor and Hilary
James. Jubilee Hall, Stoke
Canon, EX5 4AR (Exeter Folk
Club and Folk @ The Stoke
collaboration

Willand Folk Dance Club.
Caller: Bridget Flett Band:
Fresh Aire Willand Village
Hall, Gables Road, EX15 2PL

Events

SATURDAY JANUARY 7

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

Sound of the Sirens Barbican Theatre, Castle Street, The Barbican, Plymouth PL1 2NJ

Brooks Williams Livermead Cliff Hotel, Seafront, Torbay Road, Torquay TQ2 6RQ

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

WEDNESDAY 11

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

THURSDAY 12

John Otway & Wild Willy Barrett Livermead Cliff Hotel, Torbay Road, Torquay TQ2 6RQ

Willand Folk Dance Club.

Caller: Robert Blackborow Band: Brian Graham Willand Village Hall, Gables Road, EX15 2PL

FRIDAY 13

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

SATURDAY 14

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

SUNDAY 15

Folk on the Moor: Roswell. Moorland Hotel, Wotter, Plymouth PL7 5HP

TUESDAY 17

Sidford Folk Dance Club. Valentine Dance. Caller: Patricia Donnithorne Band: Fresh Aire Sidford Social Hall, Byes Lane EX10 9QX

WEDNESDAY 18

Gittisham Folk Dance Club Caller: Ray Goodswen Band: Pair of Shears Gittisham Village Hall, EX14 3AF

THURSDAY 19

Fishermans Friends Princess Theatre, Torbay Road, Torquay TQ2 5EZ

SykesMartin (Miranda Sykes & Hannah Martin) Ashburton Arts Centre, West Street, Ashburton TQ13 7DT

FRIDAY 20

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

SATURDAY 21

Exeter Folk and Acoustic Club: Martin Cornelius celebrates 40th anniversary of performing. Victoria Park Tennis Club, Lyndhurst Road, St Leonards, Exeter, EX2 4NX

The Often Herd Ashburton Arts Centre, West Street, Ashburton TQ13 7DT

TUESDAY 24

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

WEDNESDAY 25

Irish Set Dancing Jolly Farmer, Newton Abbot TQ12 2RB

Gittisham Folk Dance Club

Caller: Simon Maplesden Band: Chris Toyne Gittisham Village Hall, EX14 3AF

THURSDAY 26

Willand Folk Dance Club.

Caller: Gill Spence Band: Chris Toyne Willand Village Hall, Gables Road, EX15 2PL

FRIDAY 27

Cole Stacey Beehive Arts Centre, Dowell Street, Honiton EX14 1LZ

Blackbeard's Tea Party

Barbican Theatre, The Barbican, Plymouth PL1 2NJ

FRIDAY 28

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

Exeter Ceilidhs: Flash Co. Kenn Centre, Exeter Road, Kennford, Exeter EX6 7UE
Feast of Fiddles Beehive Arts Centre, Dowell Street,

Honiton EX14 1LZ

The Songs of Nick Drake

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

Club Ceilidh with Freedom Fields Ceilidh Band Cafe Momus, 14-17 Manor St., Stonehouse, Plymouth PL1 1TL

MARCH

TUESDAY 3

Sidford Folk Dance Club.

Caller: Mary Marker Sidford Social Hall, Byes Lane EX10 9QX

WEDNESDAY 4

Gittisham Folk Dance Club

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

THURSDAY 5

Bideford Folk Club:

Anthony John Clark TBC The Joiners Arms, Market Place, Bideford, EX30 2DR

SATURDAY 7

Bella Hardy Exeter Phoenix, Gandy Street, Exeter EX4 3LS

Willand Folk Dance Club.

Rosemary Hunt and Orion's Ring. Willand Village Hall, Gables Road, EX15 2PL

SUNDAY 8

Topsham Folk Club: Spiers and Boden Matthews Hall, Fore Street, EX3 0HF

Folk on the Moor:

Williams and Catlow. Moorland Hotel, Wotter, Plymouth PL7 5HP

Denbury Folk:

Barron/Brady. St Mary's Church, 12 South Street, Denbury TQ12 6DH

TUESDAY 10

Sidford Folk Dance Club.

Caller: Simon Maplesden Sidford Social Hall, Byes Lane EX10 9QX

Wednesday 11

Gittisham Folk Dance Club

Caller: Patricia Donnithorne Band: Jeroka. Gittisham Village Hall, EX14 3AF

Events

THURSDAY 12

Willand Folk Dance Club.

Caller: Jane Thomas Band: The More the Merrier Willand Village Hall, Gables Road, EX15 2PL

The Breath The Flavel, Flavel Place, Dartmouth, TQ6 9ND

FRIDAY 13

Hannah James & Toby Kuhn Calstock Arts, The Old Chapel, Sand Lane, Calstock PL18 9QX

SATURDAY 14

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

Sound of Sirens Teignmouth Pavillions The Den Crescent, Teignmouth, TQ14 8BG

SUNDAY 15

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

TUESDAY 17

Sidford Folk Dance Club.

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

Byes Lane EX10 9QX

WEDNESDAY 18

Gittisham Folk Dance Club

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

Beans on Toast

Exeter Phoenix, Gandy Street, Exeter EX4 3LS

FRIDAY 20

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

SATURDAY 21

Exeter Ceilidhs:

Contra (American) Kenn Centre, Exeter Road, Kennford, Exeter EX6 7UE

SUNDAY 22

Folk on the Moor: Dana Robinson Moorland Hotel, Wotter, Plymouth PL7 5HP

TUESDAY 24

Sidford Folk Dance Club.

Caller: Katherine Ward Band: Stokey. Sidford Social Hall, Byes Lane EX10 9QX

WEDNESDAY 25

Gittisham Folk Dance Club: Alison Ramsay-Beattie and Dancing Keys. Gittisham Village Hall, EX14 3AF

THURSDAY 26

Fairport Convention Exeter Corn Exchange, George St, Exeter EX1 1BU

Willand Folk Dance Club.

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

SATURDAY 28

Exeter Ceilidhs:

Phoenix. Kenn Centre, Exeter Road, Kennford, Exeter EX6 7UE

Kathryn Roberts & Sean

Lakeman Crediton Arts Centre, East St, Crediton EX17 3AX

SUNDAY 29

Topsham Folk Club:

Daoirí Farrell. Matthews Hall, Fore Street, Topsham EX3 0HF

TUESDAY 31

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

Useful Contacts

HARBERTON FOLK

John Culf <http://www.harbertonfolk.co.uk/> and free email circulation covering southern half of Devon

ENGLISH FOLK DANCE & SONG SOCIETY

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<https://unicornfolk.uk/>
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OPEN MORRIS

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Rhodri Davies, email opsdirector@nyfte.org.uk

Telephone: 0161 442 9682

www.nyfte.org.uk

HALSWAY MANOR

marketing@halswaymanor.org.uk.

<https://halswaymanor.org.uk/>

SUSSEX FOLK ASSOCIATION

(SusFA) Folk Dance and Song in Sussex www.susfa.interfolk.co.uk

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BANDS in bold text have an advert elsewhere in this magazine.

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Barnstormers 01392 882036
Barnbuskers barnbuskers@gmail.co.uk
Blue Jewel 07957 855458
Bridgewater Band 01278 691370
Choughed to Bits 01752 851990
Chris Toyne Band
chris.toyne@btinternet.com
Classic Ceilidh Band 07778 105739
Dartmoor Pixie Band 01837 840775
Dancing Keys
07813 774967 hazelridd@gmail.com
Dawn Treader Ceilidh Band 01626 770238
Eel Grinders 01647 440020
Flash Company 01392 851496
Flash Jack 01566 785233
Folk Two 01548 550004
Fox Amongst The Chickens 01566 785233
Fraich 'Airs' 01392 811593
Freedom Fields Ceilidh Band. 01752 938175
Fresh Aire 01823 257488
Hips & Haws 01392 861466
Hot Punch 01271 373128
Jeroka 01460 54568

Jigs For Gigs 01460 241326
Kick up the Dust 07742917101
Mist The Boat 01409 211340
Mooncoin Barn Dance Band 07951 785107
More The Merrier 1626 854141
New Vintage Band 01363 774426
Occasion Ceilidh Band 01752 337501
Oggle Band 01271 865030
Other Band 01326 563564
Petronella 01626 854141
Piping Hot 01803 528234
Phoenix 07971220462
Rakes Adrift 01271 865030
Red Shed 01363 774339
Scratchbox 01803 847689
Slack Ma Girdle 01823 680523
Spinach For Norman 07970 151059
Squeezum 01823 333567
Stepcote Hill Ceilidh Band
stepcotehillceilidhband@gmail.com
Steve Gill & Andy Clarke 01803 290427
Stringaccord 016430707294
Tinnars 01736 787951
Up The Creek 01548 531525
Walter Shortage & Hosepipe Band
01837 52174
Winkeilidh Band 01363 877216

Exeter Folk & Acoustic Music Club

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

Friday 30th January – Open Club Night

Saturday 07th February - Special Concert Night Simon Mayor & Hilary James

Venue: Jubilee Hall, Stoke Canon, EX5 4AR (Exeter Folk Club & Folk @ The Stoke Collaboration)

Saturday 21st February - Concert Night: Martyn Cornelius 40th Anniversary of Performing) (Charity Night)

Friday 27th February - Open Club Night (10th Anniversary)

Friday 20th March - Concert Night: Bob Fox

Friday 27th March - Open Club Night

Friday 10th April - Concert Night: Silvington

Friday 24th April - Open Club Night

All events are at Victoria Park Tennis Club, Exeter, unless otherwise stated. 8.00pm

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

In Memoriam

CYRIL MAY Musician and member of the Dartmoor Pixie Band

WE WERE sorry to hear of the death of Cyril May, drummer and mouth organ player for the Dartmoor Pixie Band. Cyril died last November, a few weeks before what would have been his 92nd birthday on December 15.

As well as his musicality, Cyril was famous for his unfailing good humour and his energy. As we recorded in the previous What's Afoot, at 91 Cyril was enjoying himself at the Dartmoor Folk Festival, playing his "gob iron" in his unique style wherever he could and judging the Dartmoor step dancing.

Fellow Pixie Mark Bazeley said: "He was an example to us all. So much positivity. If we could have bottled up his energy and sold it, we would have made a fortune."

We celebrated Cyril's 90th birthday in What's



Afoot 133 and you can read this in the What's Afoot archive on the Devonfolk.org website or on the [What's Afoot Facebook Page](#).

In Memoriam

DAVE LOWRY Singer

IT IS with much sadness that I report the death of one of Devon's finest and most respected traditional singers, David Lowry, *writes Bill Crawford*.

David was born in Peverell, Plymouth, on June 11, 1943. He lived in Peverell until the age of nine, then Goosewell, Plymstock, with his mother Dorothy and adoptive father, Jack Lowry who was in the Royal Navy.

He took a great interest in singing from an early age, joining the church choir. David went to Plymstock secondary modern school and on leaving he worked in the Plymouth branch of Horne Brothers, men's outfitters, training as a shoe specialist.

As a teenager and young man, he played in a skiffle group, gigging in various pubs and clubs. He developed a liking for Clancy Brothers material around this time.

In 1964, David transferred to the Exeter branch of Horne's as departmental manager. He soon found the Exeter Folk Song Club in the Jolly Porter pub. It was there, on his first night, that I met him and so began a friendship that was to last more than 61 years.

David quickly established himself as a popular member and singer. I will remember him singing *Courting in the Kitchen*, one of his favourite songs, in those early days. It was at the club that he met his future wife and soulmate Gill Causley, a keen folk dancer. They went to many of Bob Cann's ceilidhs and other dances and were married on July 11, 1970.

In the mid-Sixties his love of harmonies led to him joining The Oakleaves, the first of several harmony groups he was to feature in. He left them to join The Journeymen for a short time but in early 1969 he rejoined a reformed Oakleaves. The group was again short-lived and was followed by Isca Fayre bursting on the scene. They produced an LP and toured both in England and Germany. They disbanded when two members left to form another group, Hollinmoor.

David continued to perform solo and would always be around to fit in harmonies with anyone singing at folk events. I will remember singing with him whenever I was on a home visit. For many years we jointly hosted the song sessions at Dartmoor Folk Festival.



Dave's last group was The Claque, formed from some of the Exeter-based people asked to sing at the funeral of Cyril Tanney. They toured extensively including appearances at Sidmouth, Tenterden and Whitby folk festivals.

Of course, Gill and singing were not the only loves of David's life. He was a very keen sportsman, playing for and ending up as president of Clyst St George Cricket Club, a post he held until his death. He was also a keen countryman with a vast knowledge of birds and the countryside.

In July 2012 Gill died and shortly after that David was diagnosed with Parkinson's disease. This prompted the production of a CD, *Songs of a Devon Man*, at the suggestion of Tom Brown. Containing 27 tracks, it is a fitting memorial to this exceptional singer, sportsman, countryman and friend. The album was produced by Wildgoose Studios and is available on download from <https://wildgoose.co.uk/>.

As his Parkinson's advanced, David became less mobile and ended his days in a residential home where he developed a chest infection which hospitalised him and from which he didn't recover. He died on October 22.

He leaves a son, Peter, daughter Claire and two grandsons, Joe and Max. He was an exceptional person, who always put other people's welfare before his own. His passing leaves an enormous hole in our community; he will be greatly missed.

DAVID LOWRY
11/6/1943 – 22/10/2025



New year, new courses!

Book now for residential 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

Halsway Manor, Halsway Lane, Somerset, TA4 4BD

01984 618 274



In Memoriam



BOB FRESHWATER Musician, singer, member of the Back Beach Boyz, songwriter, and so much more

SS Bretagne – Teignmouth Coalboat, inspired by the wreck off Teignmouth where he used to go sea-fishing. He was interested in the boat's history, especially when he discovered that it had been sailing from Barry Dock, Bob was a Cardiff lad. The song was a great success with the Boyz and our audiences. In November that same year he also wrote *HMS Empress Of India*, another wreck off Teignmouth, a good spot for catching cod, conger, pollack, bass, etc.

On the wall of The Ship Inn, next to Teignmouth's Back Beach (that our crew were named after), is a notice board which has a picture of a Seine fishing boat with a large catch of salmon which was the focus of his third song *The Old Photograph*, written in April 2015.

Also in 2015, my daughter Kathryn was honoured to be given his fourth song to sing entitled *Eliza Padden's Five Guineas* – aka *The Larry*, which references the Fisherman's Mission and the work they do, while weaving in the unusual fog bank (called The Larry) that rolls up and down the Teign estuary.

IN 2016 Bob took us on a musical pub crawl of Teignmouth, with his song *Coming Back Home*. In his words: "After fishing for cod in the North Atlantic off Newfoundland for many months in the 1850s, the crew are thinking about coming home to Teignmouth and having a tankard or two of ale to rinse away the salt. Maybe more than a couple..."

Then in time for the release of the film, shot mainly in Teignmouth, about Donald Crowhurst's ill-fated attempt for the Golden Globe, his song *The Lament Of The Electron* was from the perspective of the abandoned boat.

Our second CD is named *Captain Baerman's Dog* after Bob's song written in 2017, with the very popular chorus "Don't Forget The Pomeranian", a true story of the

"DON'T Forget The Pomeranian" and you won't forget Bob Freshwater. The Back Beach Boyz, Teignmouth's maritime folk crew, will miss the cry "Who'll have a beer with Bobby?" during the chat before rehearsing on a Thursday at Teignmouth Rugby Club, *writes Steve Collings*.

Where to begin? Robert "Bob" Freshwater, sadly passed away on Thursday October 30, at the age of just 69, after a long battle with cancer. He would have been 70 on December 5. He had been a member of The Back Beach Boyz, since its formation in 2013.

I first met Bob in the Seventies when he was a fellow member of Dawlish Repertory Company and a PE teacher in Dawlish. He became head teacher at Widecombe Primary School, then head teacher support officer at Devon County Council. Many more schools in Cornwall and Devon knew him as Childline Schools Area Coordinator for NSPCC.

There are so many ex-pupils who continued to call him Mr Freshwater as their mark of respect for such an inspiring person.

In his youth Bob and his wife worked in hospitality in Perranporth, where he became very keen on surfing. He later gained more experience with the surf lifesaving club in Bantham.

His skill at surfing led him to join the British Surfboard Union and rise to be one of the head judges in UK and International competitions, while also teaching surfers to become world champions.

The greatest impact Bob has had on me is as a local historian, poet, musician (guitar, mandolin and bouzouki) and song writer. On August 2, 2014 Bob introduced us to his song

In Memoriam

crew of the Tehwija who were rescued by the Teignmouth RNLI. Of course, the Pomeranian was also rescued.

Bob was on the original committee for the Teign Shanty Festival 2018, which meant his next song *Fourteen* was delayed until March 1, 2019. This was triggered by a blue plaque on the Back Beach naming the 14 Teignmouth sailors who fought with Nelson at the Battle Of Trafalgar. This composition also gives a glimpse of his humour. Where else would you get a chorus starting: "There's 14 legs on a woodlouse...?"

Bob was back again in May 2019 with *Ode To An Oyster* detailing the characters who worked off Back Beach. Then in November he produced *The Monk Of Lidwell Chapel*, the haunting tale of Robert de Middlecote.

November 2020 and we have the story of Salcombe Grace which ran aground below Shaldon Ness.

In June 2021 Bob went further down the coast to relate the tale of the great storm of 1866 in his song *The Angel Of Brixham*.

Back to Teignmouth in 2023 with a tale of

Nelson's "Golden Boy" Commander Young in *A Disappointed Man*. In 2024 he celebrated the Morgan Giles shipyard with one of the little ships of Dunkirk, Lady Cable then finally *An Old Salt's Advice* (to a Younker/Peggy)" about the superstitions on board ship. Sadly he never completed the song he was working on, relating to Napoleon's enforced visit to Torbay, initiating the tourist trade of boat trips round the bay.

THERE were still more strings to Bob's bow, he was also a game keeper in the Haldon Hills, plus owning sheep, rare breed Devon Longwools being his favourite. Never one to rest, during his time with the Boyz he would also regularly volunteer at St Petrock's in Exeter, cooking and serving meals to the homeless, raising awareness and garnering donations of items for them.

Bob has touched so many lives over his lifetime, dedicated, compassionate and caring. He was talented in so many ways. What a legacy of memories and wonderful songs he has left us to enjoy.

WILLAND FOLK DANCE CLUB

SATURDAY DANCES

Willand Village Hall

December 31st New Year's Eve Dance – 8.00pm – 12.30am

Simon Maplesdon & Chris Toyne's Big Band

(Bring & Share Supper – Tickets £12.00 on the door)

January 3rd No Dance

February 7th Bridget Flett & Fresh Aire

March 7th Rosemary Hunt & Orion's Ring

Admission £10.00 - Tea & Biscuits - Raffle

Contact: Zena Roberts 07929257180

www.willandfolkdanceclub.co.uk

Club Nights 2nd & 4th Thursdays 8.00 – 10.30pm in the Village Hall
Members £4.00 / Non-members £4.50 – See Diary Dates for more information
Contact Marilyn Broom 01404 47200 or Zena Roberts 07929257180

How you can help us maintain traditions

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

It publishes this magazine and helps with festivals and other activities. You can support the association by joining 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 for £10.

If you become a member of the association or have already joined and want to do even more to help revitalise Devon's folk scene after the covid crisis and to spread the joy of the music, song and dance

we love, there are vacancies on the Devon Folk committee and people with a strong interest in folk, energy and enthusiasm and ideas are asked to sign up.

We particularly need young people to take an active interest. If we cannot pass the tradition on to young hands then it will eventually fade and die.

A nomination form is printed below and applications are welcome from those in every area of folk and all parts of Devon.

Full committee meetings 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 28.

DEVON FOLK COMMITTEE NOMINATION FORM

Nominee

Proposed by

Seconded by

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

Name

Address

Telephone Email

*Please return this form by 8th February 2026 to:
Anne Gill, Maleth, 11 Cleveland Road, Torquay, TQ2 5BD
Email: anne.m.gill@icloud.com*



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 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**

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Jim Causley

VICE PRESIDENT

Aileen Wills

CHAIR and

MEMBERSHIP SECRETARY

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WHAT'S AFOOT EDITOR

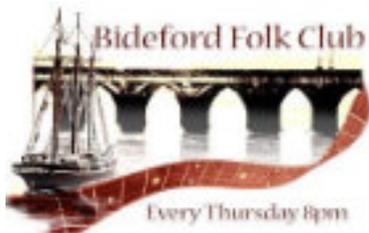
John Foxen

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

GUEST NIGHTS (7.30 for 8.00pm)

5th March

**Anthony John Clark
(subject to confirmation)**

16th April

Dan McKinnon

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



**Folk award
for Mary**

MUSICIAN, caller and workshop
organiser Mary Marker has been
presented with the 2025 Devon Folk
Award.

Mary is pictured receiving the
award from Chairman Anne Gill
(centre) and Vice President Aileen
Wills at Willand Folk Dance Club
night on October 23.

Mary joined the Devon Folk
committee as a full member in 2008.
Previously she had taken workshops
and taught folk dance and music in
schools and clubs and started several bands and
regular folk dance clubs.

While on the committee, she organised very
successful workshops in Chudleigh covering
various styles of music and dance. This gave so
many people the opportunity to learn tunes in
the morning as part of a band and play for a
dance in the afternoon.



Mary still runs her More the Merrier Band
and regularly plays at the Willand Folk Dance
Club. Although she has stepped down from the
Devon Folk committee, she still has an interest
in the groups she started and hopefully can
continue to do so. It is these qualities that
Devon Folk celebrated with the presentation of
this award.

Totnes Folk Club

Dartmouth Inn, The Plains
Totnes, TQ9 5EL



2nd Thursday in the Month 7.30pm

Except August

8th January – Singers Night
12th February – Singers Night
12th March – Singers Night
9th April – Singers Night

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

FOLK ON THE MOOR
The Moorland Hotel
Wotter

PROGRAMME

4 Jan	Phil Beer
11 Jan	Singers' Night
18 Jan	Simon Barron
25 Jan	Singers' Night
1 Feb	Coates & Cotterell
8 Feb	Singers' Night
15 Feb	Roswell
22 Feb	Singers' Night
1 Mar	Singers' Night
8 Mar	Williams & Catlow
15 Mar	Singers' Night
22 Mar	Dana Robinson
29 Mar	Singers' Night

Club meets every Sunday at 7.45pm
For directions or more information, check our
website: www.moorfolk.co.uk
or email: folkonthemoor1@gmail.com

TOPSHAM FOLK CLUB topshamfolkclub.org

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

Chris Hoban + Miranda Sykes

Sunday 18 January 2026

8pm £16 chrishoban.com

Chris has crafted a unique evening retelling in song the moving, joyful and absorbing stories of local and national wills



Jim Moray + Maz O'Connor

Sunday 1 February 2026

8pm £18 jimmoray.co.uk

Known for his innovative approach to traditional folk music, Jim has become one of the key figures in the English Folk Revival



Spiers & Boden

Sunday 8 March 2026

8pm £22 spiersandboden.com

At the forefront of the English Traditional folk scene for the last 25 years, bringing their high energy sound back to Topsham



Daoirí Farrell

Sunday 29 March 2026

8pm £18 daoiri.com

'Daoirí is singlehandedly spearheading a resurgence of the authentic in Irish folk music' - Irish Music



Jez Lowe

Sunday 17 May 2026

8pm £15 jezlowe.com

Award winning songwriter Jez Lowe is one of the busiest live performers on the UK folk and acoustic music scene



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 that there will be no singers' night on Tuesday 30 December 2025

concert tickets available from wegottickets.com/TopshamFolkClub or via link from topshamfolkclub.org or from Matthews Hall Café (Tues- Sat 9am-2pm) or Tuesday folk evenings at The Globe all enquiries 01392 874718 [facebook.com/topshamfolkclub](https://www.facebook.com/topshamfolkclub)



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