



Unicorn

SUPPORTING LOCAL FOLK MUSIC



IN THIS ISSUE:

- SPECIAL FIVE CD REVIEW FEATURE
- CLUB PROFILE: ST NEOTS FOLK CLUB
- FEATURES: BENSLOW MUSIC, WATFORD FC SONG COMPETITION 2014
- & MUCH MORE...

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EDITORIAL

KEEPING OUR BALANCE

We've recently touched on the folk club circuit and its financial woes, which stubbornly persist beyond the end of the recession. If it's any consolation, things were much worse a century ago, when folk music in England (and much of Europe) seemed on the point of extinction. Revivalists such as Cecil Sharp set about recording and archiving folk material, preserving it for posterity lest it should disappear. These archivists succeeded in creating a repository of folk material, but their forensic approach came with an unfortunate side effect - strict definitions of the conventions of folk discouraged innovation and self-expression, thereby hindering musical development and taking much of the fun out of it. Folk music came to be regarded as a quaint curiosity best confined to the museum.

Something was missing, and it took a second revivalist wave to provide it. From the 1960s musical activists - performers and participants - embarked on a drive to take folk music back into the clubs and concert halls. Moreover, they claimed the right to add new, contemporary material to the canon, and to perform traditional material in a modern style, often adopting a virtuosic approach typified by the barnstorming

improvisations of Swarbrick and Thompson. Audiences swelled and the folk music revival flourished.

Any living tradition needs to maintain a healthy balance between continuity and innovation, and the two waves of the revival each helped, in their different ways, to achieve this balance. Today, we have on one side the Full English digital archive, the kind of resource Sharp might have dreamed of. On the other side, the activists' urge to participate and perform is alive and kicking, as these pages regularly testify. Large, vibrant groups like English Miscellany and Bedford Gallery Quire (featured last time) excel in recruiting enthusiastic newcomers. Meanwhile, a host of soloists and bands ply their trade across our patch, covering a variety of styles from traditional to contemporary, from local to world, and in this issue we review a selection of their latest CDs. The archivists and the activists, the Sharps and the Swarbricks, are still helping English folk to pull off that all-important balancing trick - ample excuse, we feel to raise a glass in this festive season.

With best wishes for the New Year,

Simon, Clive & Mike



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Dunton Folk 2015

Fantastic Venue - Real Ale and Cider - Superb Music



Saturday 3rd January
4th Dunton Wassail
Church Farm - 6.30pm
Mummers Play in March Hare
Pub with Session later

13th March
Fred's House
Support - TBC



18th April
Miranda Sykes and
Rex Preston
Support - Zoe Wren



16th May
Russell and Algar
Support - Lewis Stockwell



This is the fourth season of concerts at Dunton Folk. We've had some great acts and have more to come. Thanks to everyone who helps put on the concerts and to John and Janice at the March Hare for providing our bar! See you soon.

St Mary Magdalene Church, Dunton, Biggleswade, SG18 8RR.

Doors open 7.30pm
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- 21/2 Doncaster Folk Club
- 22/2 Black Fen Folk Club, Cambridge
- 27/2 Seaford Folk Club, Sussex
- 1/3 Neptune Bar, Hove
- 6/3 Old Cinema Launderette, Durham
- 14/3 Grayshott Folk Club, Surrey
- 17/3 Great Knight Folk Club, Northampton
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Album Out 02/15



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CHATTERBOX

Unicorn team news: After seven issues and two years Mike Nacey is leaving the editorial team. He writes: "Since joining *Unicorn* I've been delighted with the generous support of so many readers, through contributions, suggestions, advice and encouragement. Working with Clive and Simon has also been hugely satisfying and a lot of fun, and I hope to maintain my *Unicorn* association as a contributor and distributor. Thanks very much to one and all."

Please send all editorial correspondence to Unicorn HQ at 10 Chapel St, Dunton, Biggleswade, Beds SG18 8RW or email: unicornmagazine@hotmail.co.uk

New Roots 2015: New Roots has been running since 2000 and the standard rises every year. Now the call is out again to musicians under the age of 25 who perform traditionally based music. Whether your style is traditional or contemporary folk, roots or world music, whether you perform traditional material or write your own, New Roots would like to hear from you.

There are two categories: under 18, and 18 – 24. Judges this year are Lynne Heraud, Andy Stafford, Alastair Anderson and Miranda Rutter, who together provide a wide spectrum of insights into the folk scene. They will listen to the entries and select performers to take part in the final on Sunday April 12 at Trestle Arts Base in St Albans, at which they will give constructive feedback to performers. There is no overall winner, the aim being to match performers to opportunities at folk festivals, clubs and other events offered to New Roots finalists.

Performers are invited to complete the entry form on the New Roots website and send it with a CD with up to 15 minutes of their music to Alison Macfarlane, 40 Warwick Road, St Albans, Herts AL1 4DL. The closing date is 31 January 2015.

For more information and an entry form see www.new-roots.org.uk, which also has a form for organisers wishing to offer performance opportunities. Further details also from email info@stalbansfolkmusic.org.uk or phone 01727 852111.

Folkstock: In a new strand of activity, Folkstock have started an 'F Spot Live Sessions' radio show from their Recording Studio, presented by Daria Kulesh of KARA and broadcast round the world

via Canadian Blues and Roots Radio. They are developing 'F Spot.com' to incorporate an 'Unsung Heroes' feature, providing inspiring insights and tips via video interviews from behind-the-scenes taste makers, to help independent folk and acoustic musicians make the most of their talents and opportunities.

A special compilation album is to be released on March 8th, International Women's Day. 'The F Spot' will open with a track by Peggy Seeger, who has just received a 'Women in Music Creative Inspiration' award from Music Week. Peggy is expected to become more involved with Folkstock as a mentor / Patron.

Local singer-songwriter Daria Kulesh, Russian-born but settled in Kings Langley, is making a name for herself with her "gorgeous voice" (Roots & Fusion) and "spirited performance" (The Living Tradition). On Saturday 31 January at The Old Town Hall Theatre in Hemel Hempstead, Daria will launch her debut solo album 'Eternal Child', on the Folkstock label. She will be joined by her band KARA (included in The Telegraph's 10 folk highlights of the autumn), multi-instrumentalist Jonny Dyer, rising singer-songwriter-cellist Kaity Rae, and video artist Kara Rose, who will blend colours and patterns into the flow of the music.

See www.daria-kulesh.co.uk and www.folkstockartsfoundation.com

Hitchin Staplers: Sunday 22 February will see 'Square Dancing with Style' at the Staplers' usual venue, St Ippolyts Parish Hall, SG4 7RB. Improve your technique and gain confidence with the basic moves and calls of American Square Dancing – and have some fun into the bargain.

Halsway Manor Society: On Saturday 7 February (12 noon – 11pm) at Cecil Sharp House, Halsway Manor will hold a showcase to celebrate their Golden Jubilee and publicise their wide range of courses and events. The day of sessions, workshops, discussions, music, dance, song and storytelling for all ages and all abilities will culminate in an evening dance featuring a 'Halsway Jubilee band'. Workshops and performances will feature Andy Cutting, Taffy Thomas, Pete Coe, Pauline Cato, Rob Harbron, Miranda Rutter, Boldwood, Fee Lock and Andrew Swaine, plus others to be announced.

Baldock & Letchworth Blues, Folk & Roots

Unless otherwise stated: £6 member cons ♦ £7 members ♦ £8 non-members ♦ under 16s free
8.30pm Wednesdays See website for full artiste info


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- Jan 21 Brooks Williams £9/10/12** www.brookswilliams.com
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- Jan 28 Open Floor Performers £2 audience £3/under 16s free**
- Feb 04 Franc Cinelli £8/9/10** www.francinelli.com
- Feb 11 session £2**
- Feb 18 Fred's House £6/7/8** <http://fredshousemusic.co.uk>
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- Feb 25 Open Floor Performers £2 audience £3/under 16s free**
- Mar 04 Causton & Walker £6/7/8** www.penniandbryan.co.uk
- Mar 11 session £2**
- Mar 18 Jeff Warner £8/9/10** www.jeffwarner.com
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3rd February: 'Singaround'

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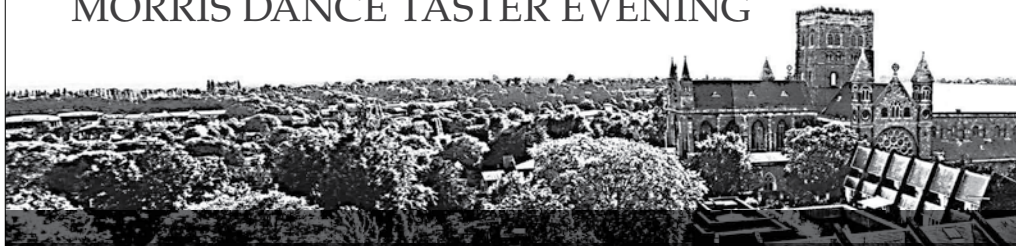
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www.fridayfolk.org.uk - 01727 856508
Standard Friday admission £3

Spring 2015

- | | |
|--------|---|
| 9 Jan | Helpful hints with Bob Barrett and The Turnabouts |
| 16 Jan | Colin Hume and FF Band |
| 23 Jan | Club callers' favourite dances |
| 30 Jan | Mike Bennett |
| 6 Feb | Eileen Sinden |
| 13 Feb | Friday Folk Band |
| 20 Feb | Bob Lilley |
| 27 Feb | Paul Garner |

6 Mar Friday Special, Linda Leslie from USA and Stick Shift 11pm finish

- | | |
|--------|---|
| 13 Mar | Red Nose Day with Suzanne Farmer and FF Band |
| 20 Mar | Tappalachian |
| 27 Mar | Zesty Playford with Mark Elvins, Mollie and Vic |
| 3 Apr | Closed for Easter |
| 10 Apr | New term starts |



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- January 13th - Blue Harbour / Malcolm Ogden**
January 27th - Karen Johnson & Tony Clarke
February 10th - Naomi Randall
February 24th - Brian Burke
March 10th - Adrian May
March 24th - Irish night with Pat Crilly
April 14th - Sea Song night with Shanty Keith
April 28th - David Cambridge / David Savage
May 12th - Woodcut
May 26th - Malcolm Hobbs

Contact Pat Crilly 07971804418
Email - patcrilly@hotmail.com

SESSIONS

SUNDAY LUNCHTIMES

- **STONY STRATFORD** • Vaults Bar (Weekly): Jane Armour, 01908 566407

SUNDAY EVENINGS

- **ASTON CLINTON** • Oak PH (8pm, 3rd): Roger Dorman, 01296 613742
- **MILTON KEYNES** • see www.mksessions.blogspot.com (Weekly)
- **MILTON KEYNES** • New Inn, New Bradwell (1st): Patsy, 07932 157610
- **OLD STRATFORD** • The Swan (3rd): Cliff Burt, 01908 564392
- **ST ALBANS** • Farmers Boy, London Rd (1st): Nick, 020 8953 5231

MONDAY EVENINGS

- **ASHWELL** • Rose & Crown (1st): Ian Chandler, 01462 743091
- **CHATTERIS** • Chatteris Folk Club, Honest John, 24a South Park St, PE16 6AR (3rd), Acoustic music and song: Keith Cheale, 01354 652868
- **SOHAM** • Cherry Tree, Fordham Rd (3rd): Claire White, 01353 720550
- **TOTTERNHOE** • Old Farm Inn (8.30pm, weekly): 01582 661294 (pub)

TUESDAY EVENINGS

- **ABINGTON PIGOTTS** • Village Hall, SG8 0SH (8-10.30pm, 3rd, admission £2 per person): George Norris, 01763 853062
- **DUNSTABLE** • Globe, Winfield St (Weekly): Maureen, 01582 512300
- **DUNTON** • March Hare, Dunton, nr Biggleswade (1st): John Pritchett, 01767 448093 (pub)
- **GT WILBRAHAM** • Memorial Hall Social Club (3rd): Dave, 01440 783280
- **HISTON** • Boot, Histon, nr Cambridge (1st): Dave Benford, 01223 880553
- **MARCH** • Georges Folk Club, 61 High Street, PE15 9JJ (1st), Acoustic music and song: Mark Gibson, 01354 652868
- **RICKMANSWORTH** • Conservative Club, Bury Lane (3rd): Michael, 01923 770425
- **ST ALBANS** • King Harry, King Harry Lane (1st, songs & tunes): Jenny, 01582 793164
- **TRING** • Kings Arms, (8.30pm, 1st, trad Irish songs & tunes, led by Chan Reid/fiddle, John Devine/pipes, Neil Stanton/guitar): Rob Muirhead (landlord), 01442 823318
- **WOOTTON (Beds)** • The Cock, MK43 9JT (8pm, broad acoustic & folk): Pub (Karen), 01234 930034

WEDNESDAY EVENINGS

- **ASTON (NR STEVENAGE)** • Rose & Crown, (8pm, 3rd, any acoustic instrument, vocal): Bruce Bullock, 07973 916574
- **BALDOCK** • Orange Tree, (8.30pm, sessions: 7/1, 11/2, 11/3, singarounds: 28/1, 25/2, 25/3): Al Hewson 01767 683583
- **BARTON-LE-CLAY** • Waggon & Horses (8.30pm, fortnightly, 7/1, 21/1, 4/2, 18/2, 4/3, 18/3): Ann 01582 560815
- **CAMBRIDGE** • Six Bells, Covent Garden (8.30pm, 2nd, Bluegrass & Old Time): Jim, 07803 158084
- **ELY** • Kings Arms, St Marys St (last): Liam, laimdebrun@outlook.co.uk, 07905 044932
- **MARCH** • March Folk Club, Royal British Legion Club, Rookswood, 27 West End, PE15 8DP (3rd), Acoustic music and song: Keith Cheale, 01354 652868
- **RADLETT** • Cat & Fiddle, Cobden Hill, WD7 7JR (8pm, 2nd): Nick, 020 8207 3057
- **ST ALBANS** • White Swan, Dagnall St (8.30pm, weekly, mainly music): Trevor Hacking, 01923 351739
- **TOWERSEY** • Village Hall (7.30 for 8pm, 3rd): Linda Dorman, 01296 613742
- **WELHAM GREEN** • North Mymms Social Club, AL9 7PQ (2nd): Alan Francis, 07774 859758

THURSDAY EVENINGS

- **CROXLEY GREEN** • The Shed, rear of Sportsman PH (8.15 - 11.00, 1st, song & acoustic music): Paul K, 07970 188026
- **HERTFORD** • Great Eastern, Railway Place (3rd): Keith Acheson, 07979 841079
- **HUNTON BRIDGE** • King's Head (4th): Tim, 01923 264536
- **KIMPTON** • White Horse (2nd & 4th): Doug, 07973 751039, jennerdouglas@me.com
- **LUTON** • Castle PH, LU1 3AA (weekly): Nigel Bailey, 07788 431470
- **TOWERSEY** • Three Horseshoes (last): Grant, 01844 212322
- **WOBURN SANDS** • Royal Oak (2nd & 4th): Vic Longhorn, 01908 582660

FRIDAY EVENINGS

- **ROYSTON** • Old Bull Inn SG8 9AW (2nd): Michael Farrow, 01763 249296, www.roystonfolk.org
- **ST NEOTS** • Chequers, St Mary's St, PE19 2TA (2nd, 8.30pm, (no session January, 13/2, 13/3), tunes): Sarah, 07857 311834, ssennett@theiet.org
- **STEEPLE CLAYDON** • Prince of Wales, MK18 2NP (2nd - Open Mic): Charlie, 07925 145062

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BOOK REVIEW

Book Review: Scandinavian Fiddle Tunes – 73 traditional pieces for Violin.

Vicki Swan; Schott Music

This book offers a good collection of interesting tunes, most of which are duets. This makes it enjoyable to play, either with a partner, or along with the accompanying CD. The CD is also pleasant to listen to as background music, because the duets give a fuller sound than solo fiddle. Vicki Swan plays nyckelharpa on the CD, which is great to hear, and fulfils the purpose of helping teach the tunes on the violin since it sounds similar.

The pieces are pleasingly challenging to sight-read, partly because of the different rhythms and scales used in Scandinavian music. The book's introduction explains how these scales originated from simple early instruments such as the cowhorn and willow flute. I love the images



evoked by the description of tunes with purposes such as to communicate across the hills, "I've lost my cow".

My only disappointment is that not every title has an English translation. Those that do, such as "Dance in the Field" and the amusing "Swing your Bottom" lent me an entertaining few minutes trying to translate some of the others. However, some are not obvious to pronounce, never mind understand, so one would have to be creative if wishing to introduce a tune in public...!

The book is aimed at fiddle players who can read music and play at Grade 3 upwards. Like most fiddle music it is played in first position.

A final bonus is that some of the tracks are available as online downloads played on cowhorn or Swedish bagpipes, showing the possibilities of playing the tunes on other instruments.

Caroline Riches

BOOK REVIEW

TURVEY MYSTERIES



THE PASSION

A community production of the second of Tony Harrison's celebrated cycle of mystery plays, with music composed by John Tams and The Home Service

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Tickets £8 (£5 concessions)

Available from Tim Brewster (07768 244826) or in person from Turvey Central Stores from mid-Feb 2015

Website: www.turvey mysteries.org.uk

E-Mail: info@turvey mysteries.org.uk

REDBOURN FOLK www.redbournfolkclub.org.uk UPCOMING HIGHLIGHTS

Jan.8TH Louise Jordan

Jan.27th Kelly Oliver

Feb.5th Allcock & Brown

Feb.19th Dauphin

Mar. 5th Ragged Staff

Mar. 19th Jonny Dyer

& Vicky Swan

Mar. 26th Rachel Harman Band

Other dates are Open Stage nights

Thursdays 8.00pm
in the Old School Room
Hollybush Pub
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Redbourn AL3 7DU



Hertfordshire Folk Association Spring Sing 2015

Saturday 21st March
12 noon – 6pm

At
THE CROWN

17 High Street, BUNTINGFORD
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ADMISSION £5
(food available from the bar)

For further information
See www.hertsfolkassn.org.uk
Call John Grey 01920 460553
Or email Libbybyne-grey@outlook.com

The Ceilidh Experience

January – March 2015

the stables
The Laine Dankworth Centre
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The Ceilidh Experience is for anyone interested in traditional and folk music who would like the chance to play in a band and play at a ceilidh. During the sessions you'll learn tunes and come together as small ceilidh bands, getting ready to perform at a final event for dancers and folk fans of all ages. You'll also have the opportunity to practice with a caller and work on a professional stage with sound equipment.

The course is suitable for any instrument, but acoustic instruments are especially welcome. You should already be able to play tunes from memory, ideally at dance speed and be prepared to do some tune practice between sessions.

For more information please contact education@stables.org

Dates: Sundays 18 and 25 January, 1 and 8 February, 1 March, 10am-12.30pm; 15 March afternoon rehearsal (4pm) and evening performance (7.30pm)

Course fee: £85 (£65 students) for six sessions



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To book a place please call The Stables box office, tel: 01908 280800

The Stables, Stockwell Lane, Wavendon, Milton Keynes MK17 8LU

Abbots Langley Winter Acoustic Concerts

<http://www.oldtimetim.com/alwac.htm>

Afternoon of Sunday 8th February 2015 at 3pm- £10.00*

The Melrose Quartet

Afternoon of Sunday 8th March 2015 at 3pm- £10.00*

Jeff Warner

Afternoon of Sunday 10th May 2015 at 3pm- £10.00*

Rodney Miller - Stringrays

a special additional concert featuring
Max Newman and Stuart Kenney

Abbots Langley Community Centre
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CRAFT STALLS

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Enquiries to ALConcerts@gmail.com
Or call Tim and Lesley Brooks on 01923 264536



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Singers and instrumentalists performing church and social music of the West Gallery period, around 1700 to 1850 in three and four part harmony.

New **singers and players of stringed or woodwind instruments** welcome, or, if you're a brass player **ask about learning the serpent or keyed bugle!**

Joining and concert enquiries through our website:

www.bedfordgalleryquire.org.uk

Or phone Ken Baddley 01234 310018

HADDENHAM CEILIDHS

at Haddenham Village Hall
Near Aylesbury, Bucks. HP17 8EE

Jan 3 **Random with Alan Simpson plus Chiltern Hundreds**
Feb 7 **Peeping Tom with Hugh Rippon plus Tappalachian**
Mar 7 **The Jam & Crumpet Band with Mary Panton plus Berkshire Bedlam**
Apr 4 **The Watch with Lisa Heywood plus Westminster Morris Men**

CONCERTS

Jan 3 **Haddenham Ukulele Group**
Feb 7 **Jez Lowe**
Mar 7 **Archie Fisher**
Apr 4 **Dan McKinnon**

For more details telephone 07717 047 039 email john@actionfolk.co.uk or write to Haddenham Ceilidhs, John's House 5 Church Street, Aylesbury, Bucks HP20 2QP

www.haddenhamceilidhs.co.uk

An evening with Cash & Young

Sunday February 2nd @ 8pm

An acoustic tribute to the songs of Neil Young and Johnny Cash
All funds raised on behalf of Garden House Hospice

No entry fee, a donation on the night appreciated

Viv Lucas invokes the unique sound of **Neil Young**. Since 2007 Viv has performed an acoustic tribute to Neil Young as '**Southern Man**' in venues from pubs to the Cottingham Springboard Festival and including a fund raiser for the Motor Neurone Disease Association and three Garden House Hospice fundraising gigs at the Letchworth Arts Centre.

Al Hewson has a varied & dynamic musical background. He has founded, fronted and toured widely with several concert bands and has collaborated with many award winning national and international musicians. Al has performed to thousands on national radio and at festivals and in the most intimate of venues in every county in England and Scotland. Al has been singing Cash songs for almost 50 years but he brought him to life for a special show at Broadstairs Festival in 2006, resulting in many more appearances at clubs and festivals, both solo as **John E Cash** and with the trio **Americano**.

The Orange Tree, Norton Rd, Baldock, SG7 5AW

Tel: 01767 683583 email: alan@madnanny.co.uk

Woburn Sands Ceilidhs

Summerlin Centre
138 Station Road, Woburn Sands, Milton Keynes MK17 8SG
(Next to the Station Hotel)

17th January Pinkers Spinney with Irene Entwhistle
14th February The Hairy Marys with Sue Malleson
14th March Hogsty Oak (caller TBA)

7.30pm until 11pm

Adults £7 (Accompanied under 16's Free). Licensed Bar & Free Parking
For further information
Phone 01908 582660 email: victor.longhorn@btinternet.com

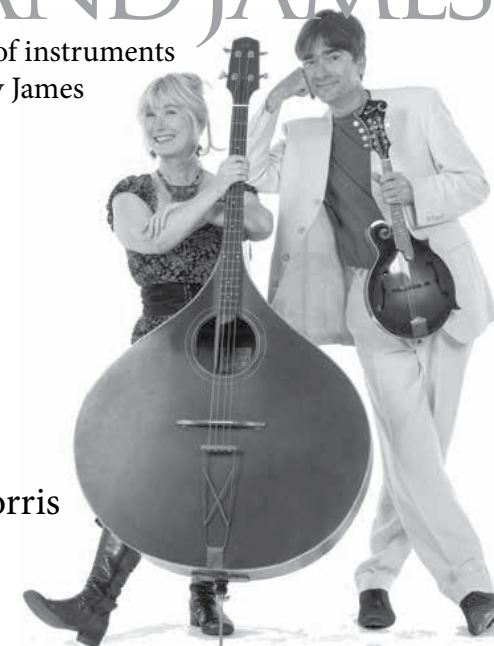
A concert in aid of the refurbishment of Abington Pigotts Village Hall

Featuring:

MAYOR AND JAMES

Playing an interesting combination of instruments
Simon Mayor on mandolin & Hilary James
singing and playing the double bass.

www.mandolin.co.uk/duo.html



With support from:

Joint Venture

Jennie Heard and George Norris

at
**Abington Pigotts Village Hall,
Royston SG8 0SD**

4th March 2015

from 8.00 until 10.30pm

There will be a licensed bar

**Tickets £10.00 in advance
(Call Tracy on 01763 853696)**

or £12.00 on the door.



Bedford Morris Men ~ Winter Programme



For a full programme listing go to www.bedfordmorrismen.org.uk
Come along to a practice night ~ Wednesdays 8:15-10pm at Ravensden Village Hall

Border Tour and Carols

		Approx. Times
The Three Cranes, Turvey	Wed 17th Dec	7.45pm
The Bell, Odell	Wed 17th Dec	8.30pm
The Sun Inn, Felmersham	Wed 17th Dec	9.15pm
The Bedford Arms, Souldrop	Wed 17th Dec	10.00pm

Boxing Day Events 2014

	Fri 26th Dec 2014	Approx. Times
Bedford Embankment (Opposite The Embankment Hotel) - Dancing	Fri 26th Dec	10.45am
Bedford Swan Hotel Dancing followed by the Boar's Head Ceremony	Fri 26th Dec	11.30am 12 Noon

Plough Monday - Mummers Play

	Plough Monday	Approx. Times
The Three Cups, Bedford	Mon 12th Jan 2014	8.00pm
The Castle, Bedford	Mon 12th Jan 2014	8.45pm
The Wellington Arms, Bedford	Mon 12th Jan 2014	9.30pm
The Burnaby Arms, Bedford	Mon 12th Jan 2014	10.15pm

Thur 1	BEDFORD • CLOSED REDBOURN • Open Stage	HERGA • Open Stage HITCHIN STAPLERS • 'Club Evening
Fri 2	CAMBRIDGE • Open Stage with David Cambridge WATFORD • Closed	LEASIDERS • Club Callers ST.ALBANS MORRIS • Morris Practice WALTHAM ABBEY • Singaround
Sat 3	HADDENHAM • Ceilidh: Random with Alan Simpson plus Chiltern Hundreds; Concert: Haddenham Ukulele Group	Tue 20 ST.NEOTS • Dave Ellis & Boo Howard WICKET BROOD • Border Morris practice 8pm
Sun 4	BLACK FEN, Cambridge • Open Stage	Wed 21 ENGLISH MISCELLANY • Country Practice LINSLEIGHDERS • Guest Caller Richard Ball
Mon 5	CHESHAM • Singers with Feature TBA HERGA • Open Stage HITCHIN STAPLERS • Club Evening LEASIDERS • No Club ST.ALBANS MORRIS • Morris Practice WALTHAM ABBEY • Singaround	Thur 22 BEDFORD • Singers Night – all welcome BEDFORD FDC • Caller: John Green BISHOP'S STORTFORD • Vicki Swan & Jonny Dyer
Tue 6	ST.NEOTS • New Year Singaround WICKET BROOD • Border Morris practice 8pm	Fri 23 REDBOURN • Kelly Oliver plus floor spots BEDFORD FINE • Club Night Visitors Welcome CAMBRIDGE • Open Stage with Jackson Creek Band CAMBRIDGE CONTRA • American Contra Dance (<i>NEW VENUE see Club Index</i>) FRIDAY FOLK • Club callers' favourite dances WATFORD • Singaround
Wed 7	ENGLISH MISCELLANY • Morris Practice LINSLEIGHDERS • Club Callers MOGGERHANGER • Singers, players and listeners WATFORD WOODSIDE MORRIS • Practice: 8pm The Pump House	Sun 25 BLACK FEN, Cambridge • Burns Night Open Stage HITCHIN • Bully Wee Band plus Phil Beer
Thur 8	BEDFORD • Local Singers & Musicians BEDFORD FDC • Caller: Keith Harrup BISHOP'S STORTFORD • Singers Night	Mon 26 CHESHAM • Singers HERGA • Open Stage HITCHIN STAPLERS • 'Club Evening LEASIDERS • Club Closed ST.ALBANS MORRIS • Morris Practice WALTHAM ABBEY • Keith Kendrick & Sylvia Needham
Fri 9	REDBOURN • Louise Jordan plus floor spots BEDFORD FINE • Club Night Visitors Welcome CAMBRIDGE • Showcase: Martin Kaszak, Sheri Kershaw, Kiss the Mistress CAMBRIDGE CONTRA • American Contra Dance (<i>NEW VENUE see Club Index</i>) FRIDAY FOLK • Bob Barrett & The Turnabouts ROYSTON • Showcase (pre-booked Open Mic) featuring Ragged Staff WATFORD • Spotlight Singaround featuring Watford Open Mic. Big Band	Tue 27 HERTFORD White Horse • Karen Johnson & Tony Clarke, 8pm ST.NEOTS • AGM + Round the Room WICKET BROOD • Border Morris practice 8pm
Sun 11	BLACK FEN, Cambridge • Andy Wall HITCHIN • Life & Times and Friends	Wed 28 ENGLISH MISCELLANY • Country Practice LINSLEIGHDERS • Club Callers WATFORD WOODSIDE MORRIS • Practice: 8pm The Pump House
Mon 12	CHESHAM • Singers HERGA • Steve Turner HITCHIN STAPLERS • 'Club Evening LEASIDERS • Club Callers WALTHAM ABBEY • Singaround	Thur 29 BEDFORD • Singaround BEDFORD FDC • Caller: Kevin Prigmore BISHOP'S STORTFORD • Geoff Higginbottom REDBOURN • Open Stage
Tue 13	HERTFORD White Horse • Blue Harbour / Malcolm Ogden, 8pm ST.NEOTS • Phil Beer £12 & £10 WICKET BROOD • Border Morris practice 8pm	Fri 30 BEDFORD FINE • Club Night Visitors Welcome CAMBRIDGE • Brooks Williams ROYSTON • Concert: Jimmy Lee & Edge of Chaos; support Beau Jangles FRIDAY FOLK • Mike Bennett WATFORD • Spotlight Singaround featuring Richard Stewart
Wed 14	ELY • Damien Barber & Mike Wilson ENGLISH MISCELLANY • Country Practice LINSLEIGHDERS • Club Callers WATFORD WOODSIDE MORRIS • Practice: 8pm The Pump House	
Thur 15	BEDFORD • Come All Ye BEDFORD FDC • Caller: Jane Edmett BISHOP'S STORTFORD • Sally Ironmonger REDBOURN • Open Stage	
Fri 16	BEDFORD FINE • Club Night Visitors Welcome CAMBRIDGE • Cahalen Morrison & Eli West FRIDAY FOLK • Colin Hume & Friday Folk Band WATFORD • Said the Maiden	
Sun 18	BLACK FEN, Cambridge • Open Stage ENGLISH MISCELLANY • Morris and Mumming Practice HITCHIN • Churchfitters	
Mon 19	CHESHAM • Life and Times	

**COPY DEADLINE FOR ISSUE 130
IS FRIDAY 13TH FEBRUARY 2015**

WWW.UNICORNMAGAZINE.ORG

FRIDAY 30th JANUARY

CHALKTOWN

with caller

SHEENA MASSON

Chalktown are an innovative dance band, with English folk meeting indie rock with a twist of modern jazz, producing music that is irresistible for dancing. The band has a wealth of dance music experience with three ex-members of the legendary Gas Mark 5. www.chalktown.co.uk

Sheena is rightly famous in the world of English Ceilidh as a top class caller, with huge enthusiasm for dance and an excellent repertoire of dances.

Interval: Red Cuthbert Morris

Dance the night away...

FRIDAY 27TH FEBRUARY

RANDOM

with caller

BARRY GOODMAN

Random's gutsy, melodic, folk-rock interpretation of tunes with traditional roots creates scintillating but subtle ceilidh music that will make you want to dance. www.randomband-agency.com

Barry plays and calls in his own band, but tonight he's calling from his vast knowledge of excellent dances - expect a great evening!

Interval: English Miscellany

LAST FRIDAY IN THE MONTH
www.unicornceilidhs.org.uk

Unicorn CEILIDHS

FRIDAY 27th MARCH

HOSEPIPE BAND

with caller

ADAM HUGHES

The band was formed in 1993, and currently has 4 members playing 11 instruments between them, with tunes from the British Isles and other European countries, plus their own compositions. See www.hosepipeband.co.uk

Adam calls regularly at Unicorn Ceilidhs, and has a fine rapport with all audiences, as well as a superb repertoire of dances.

Tickets **only £10.00** - Singles & groups welcome

The Old Town Hall, High Street, Baldock SG7 6AR

REAL ALE BAR

Doors open 7.30 p.m.
Dancing 8.00 to 11.30 p.m.

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Ampthill Town Mayor

invites you to his

Charity Ceilidh

Dancing to Time Of Your Life
Including an appearance by Redbornstoke Morris

17th January 2015

7.30pm

Parkside Hall, Woburn Street

Ampthill, Beds.

MK45 2HX

£10 per person

Tickets from

Ampthill Town Council

01525 404355

in aid of the Mayor's Charities



- Sun 1 BLACK FEN, Cambridge • Open Stage
ENGLISH MISCELLANY • Morris & Country Practice
HITCHIN • John Kirkpatrick
- Mon 2 CHESHAM • Singers with Feature TBA
HERGA • Hannah Sanders
HITCHIN STAPLERS • Club Evening
LEASIDERS • Club Callers
ST.ALBANS MORRIS • Morris Practice
WALTHAM ABBEY • Singaround
- Tue 3 ST.NEOTS • Gawkey
WICKET BROOD • Border Morris practice 8pm
- Wed 4 ENGLISH MISCELLANY • Morris Practice
LINSLEIGHDERS • Club Callers
MOGGERHANGER • Singers, players and listeners
WATFORD WOODSIDE MORRIS • Practice: 8pm
The Pump House
- Thur 5 BEDFORD • Local Singers and Musicians
BEDFORD FDC • Caller: Charles Day
BISHOP'S STORTFORD • Damien Barber & Mike Wilson
MILTON KEYNES ACOUSTIC MUSIC CENTRE • Roots guitar, fiddle & whistle tuition
REDBOURN • Allcock & Brown plus floor spots
- Fri 6 BEDFORD FINE • Club Night Visitors Welcome
CAMBRIDGE • Open Stage with Jon Betmead & Tom Ling
CAMBRIDGE CONTRA • American Contra Dance (NEW VENUE see Club Index)
FRIDAY FOLK • Eileen Sinden
WATFORD • Singaround
- Sat 7 HADDENHAM • Ceilidh:Peeping Tom with Hugh Rippon plus Tappalachian; Concert: Jez Lowe
- Sun 8 BLACK FEN, Cambridge • Gig tbc
HITCHIN • Vintage Songwriters with Mike Silver & Johnny Coppin
- Mon 9 CHESHAM • Two Old Oaks
HERGA • Open Stage
HITCHIN STAPLERS • Club Evening
LEASIDERS • Club Callers
ST.ALBANS MORRIS • Morris Practice
WALTHAM ABBEY • New Roots finalists Tom & Jessica Dalton
- Tue 10 HERTFORD White Horse • Naomi Randall, 8pm
ST.NEOTS • Tom McConville
WICKET BROOD • Border Morris practice 8pm
- Wed 11 ENGLISH MISCELLANY • Country Practice
LINSLEIGHDERS • Club Callers
WATFORD WOODSIDE MORRIS • Practice: 8pm
The Pump House
- Thur 12 BEDFORD • Come and join us Singaround
BEDFORD FDC • Caller: George Hearnden
BISHOP'S STORTFORD • Singers Night
REDBOURN • Open Stage
- Fri 13 BEDFORD FINE • Club Night Visitors Welcome
CAMBRIDGE • Liz Simcock
FRIDAY FOLK • Friday Folk Band
ROYSTON • Showcase (pre-booked Open Mic) featuring The Kitchenettes
WATFORD • Spotlight Singaround featuring Ray Owen & Debbie Marchant
- Sun 15 BLACK FEN, Cambridge • Valentine's song contest. Most romantic and vengeful songs win fabulous prizes!
ENGLISH MISCELLANY • Morris & Mummung Practice

- Mon 16 HITCHIN • Tannahill Weavers
CHESHAM • Jaywalkers
HERGA • Open Stage
HITCHIN STAPLERS • Club Evening
LEASIDERS • Club Closed
ST.ALBANS MORRIS • Morris Practice
WALTHAM ABBEY • Singaround
- Tue 17 ST.NEOTS • Broom Bezzums
WICKET BROOD • Border Morris practice 8pm
- Wed 18 ELY • Jennifer Crook
ENGLISH MISCELLANY • Country Practice
LINSLEIGHDERS • Guest Caller Mike Ruff
WATFORD WOODSIDE MORRIS • Practice: 8pm
The Pump House
- Thur 19 BEDFORD • Singers Night
BEDFORD FDC • Callers: Lorraine & Ced Morgan
BISHOP'S STORTFORD • Ron Trueman Border
MILTON KEYNES ACOUSTIC MUSIC CENTRE • Roots guitar, fiddle & whistle tuition
REDBOURN • Dauphin plus floor spots
- Fri 20 BEDFORD FINE • Half Term – no club
CAMBRIDGE • Kara
CAMBRIDGE CONTRA • American Contra Dance (NEW VENUE see Club Index)
FRIDAY FOLK • Bob Lilley
WATFORD • Spotlight Singaround featuring Liz Lawley
- Sun 22 BLACK FEN, Cambridge • Open Stage
HITCHIN • Jackie Dates & Tristan Seume
- Mon 23 CHESHAM • Singers
HERGA • Open Stage
HITCHIN STAPLERS • Club Evening
LEASIDERS • Club Callers
ST.ALBANS MORRIS • Morris Practice
WALTHAM ABBEY • Singaround
- Tue 24 HERTFORD White Horse • Brian Burke, 8pm
ST.NEOTS • Martin Carthy £12 & £10
WICKET BROOD • Border Morris practice 8pm
- Wed 25 LINSLEIGHDERS • Club Callers
WATFORD WOODSIDE MORRIS • Practice: 8pm
The Pump House
- Thur 26 BEDFORD • Singaround
BEDFORD FDC • Caller: Graham Foster
BISHOP'S STORTFORD • Rosewood
REDBOURN • Open Stage
- Fri 27 BEDFORD FINE • Club Night Visitors Welcome
CAMBRIDGE • Open Stage with The Larks
FRIDAY FOLK • Paul Garner
ROYSTON • Concert: Edward Alice Band; support Kelly Oliver
WATFORD • The Foxglove Trio

CAN YOU HELP US?

We desperately need help to distribute copies of Unicorn Magazine to the 60 or so distribution locations on our list.

If you could help by taking copies to your club, session or venue every quarter, please contact us.

Even small deliveries will help reduce the crippling postage & petrol bills!

- Sun 1 BLACK FEN, Cambridge • Open Stage
ENGLISH MISCELLANY • Morris and Country Practice
HITCHIN • Jim Moray
- Mon 2 CHESHAM • Feature Rosie Hodgeson
HERGA • Dan McKinnon
HITCHIN STAPLERS • Guest Caller Colin Hume with Spring Greens
LEASIDERS • Club Callers
ST.ALBANS MORRIS • Morris Practice
WALTHAM ABBEY • Singaround
- Tue 3 ST.NEOTS • Round the Room
WICKET BROOD • Border Morris practice 8pm
- Wed 4 ENGLISH MISCELLANY • Morris Practice
LINSLEIGHDERS • Club Callers
MOGGERHANGER • Singers, players & listeners
WATFORD WOODSIDE MORRIS • Practice: 8pm,
The Pump House
- Thur 5 BEDFORD • Singers Night
BEDFORD FDC • Caller: Kevin Prigmore
BISHOP'S STORTFORD • Singers Night
MILTON KEYNES ACOUSTIC MUSIC CENTRE • Roots guitar, fiddle & whistle tuition
REDBOURN • Ragged Staff plus floor spots
- Fri 6 BEDFORD FINE • Club Night Visitors Welcome
CAMBRIDGE • Barluath
CAMBRIDGE CONTRA • American Contra Dance (NEW VENUE see Club Index)
FRIDAY FOLK • Linda Leslie (USA) & Stick Shift – to 11pm
WATFORD • Singaround
- Sat 7 HADDENHAM • Ceilidh:The Jam & Crumpet Band with Mary Panton plus Berkshire Bedlam; Concert: Archie Fisher
- Sun 8 BLACK FEN, Cambridge • Gig: TBC
HITCHIN • Blair Dunlop
- Mon 9 CHESHAM • Singers
HERGA • Open Stage
HITCHIN STAPLERS • Club Evening
LEASIDERS • Club Callers
ST.ALBANS MORRIS • Morris Practice
WALTHAM ABBEY • Singaround
- Tue 10 HERTFORD White Horse • Adrian May, 8pm
ST.NEOTS • John Renbourn & Wizz Jones £15 & £13
WICKET BROOD • Border Morris practice 8pm
- Wed 11 ENGLISH MISCELLANY • Country Practice
LINSLEIGHDERS • Club Callers
WATFORD WOODSIDE MORRIS • Practice: 8pm
The Pump House
- Thur 12 BEDFORD • Local Singers and Musicians
BEDFORD FDC • Caller: Keith Harrup
BISHOP'S STORTFORD • Paul Cherrington & Pamela Ward
REDBOURN • Open Stage
- Fri 13 BEDFORD FINE • Club Night Visitors Welcome
CAMBRIDGE • Clive Carroll
FRIDAY FOLK • Suzanne Farmer & FF Band
ROYSTON • Showcase (pre-booked Open Mic); feature acts TBC
WATFORD • Dave Ellis & Boo Howard
- Sun 15 BLACK FEN, Cambridge • Open Stage
ENGLISH MISCELLANY • Morris and Mummung Practice
HITCHIN • Crauhb Rua
CHESHAM • Carrivick Sisters
- Mon 16

- HERGA • Open Stage
HITCHIN STAPLERS • Guest Caller Chris Turner
LEASIDERS • Club Callers
ST.ALBANS MORRIS • Morris Practice
WALTHAM ABBEY • Pete Coe
- Tue 17 ST.NEOTS • The Hut People
WICKET BROOD • Border Morris practice 8pm
- Wed 18 ELY • Gerry Colvin Band
ENGLISH MISCELLANY • Country Practice
LINSLEIGHDERS • Guest Caller Mark Elvins
WATFORD WOODSIDE MORRIS • Practice: 8pm
The Pump House
- Thur 19 BEDFORD • Singaround
BEDFORD FDC • Caller: John Green
MILTON KEYNES ACOUSTIC MUSIC CENTRE • Roots guitar, fiddle & whistle tuition
REDBOURN • Jonny Dyer & Vicky Swan plus floor spots
BISHOP'S STORTFORD • Rosa's Lovely Daughters
- Fri 20 BEDFORD FINE • Club Night Visitors Welcome
CAMBRIDGE • Phil Beer
CAMBRIDGE CONTRA • American Contra Dance (NEW VENUE see Club Index)
FRIDAY FOLK • Tappalachian
WATFORD • Singaround
- Sun 22 BLACK FEN, Cambridge • Open Stage
HITCHIN • O'Hooley & Tidow
- Mon 23 CHESHAM • Singers
HERGA • Open Stage
HITCHIN STAPLERS • Club Evening
LEASIDERS • Club Callers
ST.ALBANS MORRIS • Morris Practice
WALTHAM ABBEY • Singaround
- Tue 24 HERTFORD White Horse • Irish night with Pat Crilly, 8pm
ST.NEOTS • Open Stage
WICKET BROOD • Border Morris practice 8pm
- Wed 25 ENGLISH MISCELLANY • Country Practice
LINSLEIGHDERS • Club Callers
WATFORD WOODSIDE MORRIS • Practice: 8pm
The Pump House
- Thur 26 BEDFORD • Singers Night
BEDFORD FDC • Lynne Whapples
REDBOURN • The Rachel Harmer Band plus floor spots
BISHOP'S STORTFORD • Andy Smyth Trio
- Fri 27 BEDFORD FINE • Club Night Visitors Welcome
CAMBRIDGE • Bryan Causton
FRIDAY FOLK • Zesty Playford with Mark Elvins, Mollie and Vic
ROYSTON • Concert: John Kirkpatrick, support Steve Winch
WATFORD • Rachel Hamer Band
- Sun 29 BLACK FEN, Cambridge • Open Stage
ENGLISH MISCELLANY • Morris and Country Practice
HITCHIN • Brookes Williams plus Emily Slade
- Mon 30 CHESHAM • Gren Bartley
HERGA • Rachel Hamer Band
HITCHIN STAPLERS • Club Evening
LEASIDERS • Club Closed
ST.ALBANS MORRIS • Morris Practice
WALTHAM ABBEY • Singaround
- Tue 31 ST.NEOTS • Round the Room
WICKET BROOD • Border Morris practice 8pm

CLUB INDEX

○ **BEDFORD FDC • Bedford Folk Dance Club**

Putnoe Heights Church, Bedford MK41 8EB
Contact: Ron D. Law, 01234 825574
www.bedfordfolkdanceclub.com

○ **BEDFORD • Bedford Folk Music Club**

Daley's Club, Bedford Road, Kempston, Bedford MK42 8BB
Contact: Mike Blair, 01525 404513 or 01525 404304
 See us on Facebook

○ **BEDFORD • Bedford Fine Companions Folk Dance Club**

Hazeldene Lower School, Stancliffe Rd, Bedford MK41 9AT
Contact: David Cooke, 01234 823920
www.finecompanions.synthasite.com

○ **BISHOP'S STORTFORD • Stortfolk**

Royal British Legion, 28 Windhill, Bishop's Stortford CM23 2NG
Contact: Jon & Hilary McNamara, 01279 656664
www.beerfordbury.co.uk

○ **BRICKET WOOD • Wicket Brood (Border Morris)**

St Stephen Parish Centre, Station Rd, Bricket Wood AL2 3PJ
Contact: Gill Clough, bagman@wicketbrood.org.uk,
www.wicketbrood.org.uk

○ **CAMBRIDGE • Black Fen Folk Club**

Hot Numbers Café, Units 5 / 6 Dales Brewery, Gwydir St, Cambridge CB1 2LJ
Contact: Robin Gillan, 07847 680560
www.blackfenfolkclub.com

○ **CAMBRIDGE • Cambridge Folk Club**

Golden Hind PH, 355 Milton Rd, Cambridge CB4 1SP
Contact: Marion Treby, 01638 603986
www.cambridgefolkclub.org

○ **CAMBRIDGE • Cambridge Contra Dance**

St Andrew's Hall, St Andrew's Rd, Chesterton CB4 1DH
Contact: Hugh Stewart, 01223 368641,
www.cambridgefolk.org.uk/contra

○ **CHESHAM • Chesham Folk & Acoustic Music Club**

Whitehill Centre, Chesham HP5 1AG
Contact: Bob Templeman, 07771 727943
www.cheshamfolkclub.org.uk

○ **ELY • Ely Folk Club**

The Old Dispensary, St Mary's Street, Ely, Cambs CB7 4ER (no bar)
Contact: Ruth Bramley 01353 740999 / 664706
www.elyfolkclub.co.uk

○ **FRIDAY FOLK • Friday Folk Social Dance Club**

Methodist Church, Marlborough Rd, St Albans AL1 3XG
Contact: Bob Barrett, 01727 856508, www.fridayfolk.org.uk

○ **HADDENHAM • Haddenham Ceilidhs**

Haddenham Village Hall, near Aylesbury, Bucks HP17 8EE
Contact: john@actionfolk.co.uk
www.haddenhamceilidhs.co.uk, 07717 047 039

○ **HARPENDEN • English Miscellany**

East Hyde Village Hall, Lower Harpenden Rd (B653), nr Luton LU2 9QB
Contact: Helen Stamp, 020 8386 3779
www.englishmiscellany.com

○ **HERGA • Herga Folk Club**

Pinner Green Social Club, Rickmansworth Rd, Pinner, Middlesex HA5 3TJ
Contact: George Papavgeris, 07747 768868
www.hergafolk.org

○ **HITCHIN • The White Horse Folk Club**

White Horse PH, Castle St, Hertford SG14 1HH
Contact: Pat Crilly 07971 804418, patcrilly@hotmail.com

○ **HITCHIN • Hitchin Folk Club**

Sun Hotel, Sun St, Hitchin, SG5 1AF
Contact: Maureen Jones, 01462 812391
www.hitchinfolkclub.co.uk

○ **HITCHIN STAPLERS • Staplers Country Dance Club**

St John's Community Centre, St John's Rd, Hitchin SG4 9JP
Contact: Cecilia Mills, 01582 881966, www.staplers.org.uk

○ **LEASIDERS • Leasiders Folk Dance Club**

Blenheim Baptist Church Hall, Blenheim Cres, Luton LU3 1HB
Contact: Liz Patrick, 01582 732656

○ **LINSLADE • Linsleighders**

Forster Institute, Waterloo Rd, Linslade LU7 2NR
Contact: Mrs E.A. Corser, 01525 378010

○ **MILTON KEYNES • Milton Keynes Acoustic Music Centre**

Community Centre, Britten Grove, Old Farm Park, MK7 8QU
Contact: John Timpany, 07981 161261, www.mkamc.co.uk

○ **MOGGERHANGER • Village Folk**

Moggerhanger Village Hall, Blunham Rd, Moggerhanger, MK44 3RD
Contact: Chris Bashford, 01767 640242
chris@mainlinksystems.co.uk

○ **REDBOURN • Redbourn Folk Club**

Old School Room, Hollybush PH, Church End, Redbourn AL3 7DU
Contact: Jenny McNaught, 01582 793164
www.redbournfolkclub.org.uk

○ **ROYSTON • Royston Folk Club**

Old Bull Inn, 56 High St, Royston SG8 9AW
Contact: Mark Gamon 07738 183158, www.roystonfolk.org

○ **ST.ALBANS • St.Albans Morris Men (Men's Cotswold)**

Riverside Road, St Albans
Contact: Bagman, Andrew Torrington, 01727 833028,
www.stalbansmorrismen.org.uk

○ **ST NEOTS • St Neots Folk Club**

Priory Centre, Priory Lane, St Neots PE19 2BH
Contact: Roger Pitt, 01234 376278, www.stneotsfolkclub.co.uk

○ **WALTHAM ABBEY • Waltham Abbey Folk Club**

Royal British Legion, Brooker Rd, Waltham Abbey EN9 1HY
Contact: Jan Ayres, 01992 613987 or 07799 407363
www.walthamabbeyfolkclub.com, see us on Facebook

○ **WATFORD • Watford Folk Club**

Pump House, Local Board Rd, Lower High St, Watford WD17 2JP
Contact: Julian Mount, 07778 526489,
watfordfolkclub@outlook.com,
www.folkatthepumphouse.webs.com,
www.facebook.com/groups/watfordfolkclub

○ **WATFORD • Woodside Morris Men**

Pump House, Local Board Rd, Lower High St, Watford WD17 2JP
Contact: Nick Wilson (sec), Pete Bradshaw (publicity)
 07860 663033, www.woodsidemorrismen.org.uk

HITCHIN FOLK CLUB



THE SUN HOTEL
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 HITCHIN
 HERTS
 SG5 1AF

EVERY SUNDAY
 8.15 - 11.00pm

JANUARY

11th LIFE & TIMES
 and FRIENDS
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FEBRAURY

1st JOHN KIRKPATRICK
 8th VINTAGE SONGWRITERS
 with MIKE SILVER
 & JOHNNY COPPIN
 15th TANNAHILL WEAVERS
 22nd JACKIE OATES
 & TRISTAN SEUME

MARCH

1st JIM MORAY
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If you would like a full copy of the programme, send us an email and we will put you on our emailshot list.

For further details phone Maureen Jones
 on
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goodmusic@hitchinfolkclub.co.uk
www.hitchinfolkclub.co.uk



The Cock Hotel - Stony Stratford
 Milton Keynes MK11 1AH

Alternate Fridays - 8:15pm

January

Fri 9th PHIL UNDERWOOD £7
 Fri 23rd PERFORMERS' NIGHT with
 Mark Harrison £2
www.markharrisonrootsmusic.com

February

Fri 6th RAGGED STAFF £7
 Fri 20th PERFORMERS' NIGHT £2

THURS 26th TANNAHILL
 WEAVERS

£10 adv £12.50 on door

March

Fri 6th MIKE SILVER £7
 Fri 20th PERFORMERS' NIGHT with
 Sally Ironmonger £2
www.sallyironmonger.co.uk

April

Fri 10th CONCRETE COWBOYS £7

THURS 16th LUCY WARD

£10 adv £12.50 on door

Fri 24th PERFORMERS' NIGHT £2

www.thesongloft.co.uk
songloft@gmail.com
 Jane Armour 01908 566407

FEATURE



Benslow Music

For those of you who are not yet aware of who we are and what we do, Benslow Music is a thriving hot-bed of musical activity based in Hitchin, Herts. Our raison d'être is to "promote music education for the public benefit through the study and practice of music, especially in its social and co-operative forms, among students of all ages" and throughout the year we offer an unparalleled programme of both residential and day courses, all of which are designed for amateur musicians. Our courses cover a wide-range of musical genres including classical, jazz, folk and popular, and we have courses to suit (almost) any instrument and standard of playing. So no matter where you are in your musical progression, we are sure to have a course for you. And for those who do not play an instrument or sing, we also have a number of study weekends devoted to particular topics, so there really is something for everyone.

Highlights in our January – July 2015 programme which may be of interest to folk musicians include Pete Cooper's "Folk Fiddling by Ear" in February and the summertime Klezmer course in June. And in the New Year we will be releasing our July – December 2015 programme which contains a weekend during the summer devoted to the music of John Playford and a folk-weekend in October which includes "Fiddle Music of Scotland and Ireland" which runs alongside our annual Clarsach course. If you are interested in any of these courses please get in touch and we can add you to our mailing list.

For more information about Benslow Music please visit our website – www.benslowmusic.org – and if you have any enquiries please email us – info@benslowmusic.org.

Whether it is for a course, a concert or an event, we hope to see you at Benslow Music soon.



CLUB PROFILE

NO 8: ST NEOTS FOLK CLUB

Music type:

Eclectic: trad/blues/self-written/music & song – acoustic, PA only for certain guests.

Meets:

Every Tuesday except August and Xmas/New Year

Admission charge:

£2: Round the Room, £7.00 members/£8.00 non-members. Higher for certain guests up to £12-£14.

Guests:

Three guests a month with Round the Room on last Tues of the month. With five Tuesdays in a month we hold Open Stages or a Showcase night.

Venue name:

The Priory Centre

Venue address:

Priory Lane, St Neots, Cambs PE19 2BH

Parking:

Plenty nearby

Club contact:

Roger Pit

- 01234 376278
- stneotsfolkclub@aol.com/www.stneotsfolkclub.co.uk

Starting in March 1966 the Club has run continuously to the present day with various venues throughout the Town and has now settled in The Priory Centre.

The Club is run by Committee, and as well as

the Tuesday Club nights organises an annual Festival in June, plus other events during the year e.g. dances. We welcome singers and musicians both young and old to do floor spots on guest nights and take part in Round the Room and Open Stage evenings.

There is an annual Membership of the Club which gives cheaper admission to Members. This runs for one year from the time of joining and costs £15.00.



FOLK MUSIC COURSES FOR 2015

FOLK FIDDLE BY EAR, SUMMERTIME KLEZMER, BALKAN AND EASTERN EUROPEAN JAZZ, JOHN PLAYFORD WEEKEND, CLARSACH, FIDDLE MUSIC OF SCOTLAND AND IRELAND, ACCORDION DAY AND MORE...



www.benslowmusic.org

Benslow Music, Benslow Lane, Hitchin, Hertfordshire, SG4 9RB
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Folk Song in England: Level 1

18 January,
10.30am - 4.30pm

Ten Thousand Times Adieu:

Bob Copper
Centenary Event
24 January, from 2pm

Wesley Stace's Cabinet of Wonders

31 January, 7.30pm

Cara Dillon

12 February, 7.30pm

Ballad Nights: Broken Hearted

14 February, 7.30pm

Emily Portman

James Fagan

Paul Sartin

The Broadside Day

21 February,

10am - 5.30pm

Folk Guitar Workshop

22 February,

10am - 4pm

New Course

Ballad Nights: Borderlands

27 February, 7.30pm

Alasdair Roberts

Lisa Knapp

Kris Drever

Naomi Bedford

Eddi Reader

24 March, 7.30pm



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ST ALBANS FOLK FESTIVAL

June 27th & 28th 2015

Saturday June 27th

- Free music in the Old Town Hall
 - Concert with Brass Monkey
 - Day of Dance in the City Centre
- For further details see web site

Wednesday July 1st

- St Michael's Street folk evening: Dancing in the street and music in its two pubs & elsewhere

Email: info@stalbansfolkmusic.org.uk

Web: www.stalbansfolkfestival.co.uk

Enquiries: 01727 852111/ 833028

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Alison Macfarlane
40 Warwick Road
St Albans
Herts
AL1 4DL

SHALL WE DANCE ?

JANUARY

- Thur 1 • Anglo Scottish Dance with Andrew Kellet & Mary Bryan, 7.30-10.30 • WFD
- Sat 3 • Kelly's Eye with Callers John Symmonds, Maggie Fletcher & Alan Archer, 4pm • CFA
- Sat 10 • Caller: Ian Jones, Band: Kendal Green, 7.30-11pm • BFC
- Sat 10 • Mark Elvins, Fat Harry, 8pm • LBD
- Sat 10 • Cyril Jones' Birthday Dance with Brian Jones, 7.30-10.30pm • WFD
- Sat 17 • Pinkers Spinney with Irene Entwistle, 7.30-11pm • WS
- Fri 30 • Chalktown with Caller Sheena Masson, 7.30 for 8pm • UC
- Sat 31 • Black Abbot with Caller John Weaver • NC

FEBRUARY

- Sat 7 • Kelly's Eye with Caller Lynne Render • SC
- Sat 14 • Lynne Render, Chesapeake, 8pm • LBD
- Sat 14 • Sibby, 7.30-10.30pm • WFD
- Sat 14 • The Hairy Marys with Sue Malleson, 7.30-11pm • WS
- Sun 22 • Toucan Play with Caller Ted Morse, 2.30pm • CFA
- Fri 27 • Random with caller Barry Goodman, 7.30 for 8pm • UC
- Sat 28 • Knitters Jig with Caller Chris Turner • NC

MARCH

- Fri 6 • Stick Shift with caller Linda Leslie (USA) • FF
- Sat 14 • Caller: Lynne Render, Band: Kelly's Eye, 7.30-11pm • BFC
- Sat 14 • Linda Leslie (USA), Vertical Expression, 8pm • LBD
- Sat 14 • Anne Dunn, 7.30-10.30pm • WFD
- Sat 14 • Hogsty Oak (caller TBA), 7.30-11pm • WS
- Fri 27 • Hosepipe Band with Caller Adam Hughes, 7.30 for 8pm • UC
- Sat 28 • The Night Before with Caller Bob Morgan • NC

ORGANISERS & VENUES

- BFC** **Bedford Fine Companions:**
Newnham Middle School, Polhill Ave,
Bedford MK41 9DT
01234 823920
• finecompanions@huntspath.plus.com
• 7.30 - 11pm • Entrance £7 • Food available
- CFA** **Chiltern Folk Ass:**
Amersham Community Centre, Chiltern Ave,
HP6 5AH
Contact: Judith Inman, 01628 486845
• www.chilternfolk.org.uk
- FF** **Friday Folk:**
The Church Hall, Marlborough Road,
St Albans, AL1 3XG
Contact: Bob Barrett, 01727 856508
- LBD** **London Barndance:**
Cecil Sharp House, 2 Regents Park Road,
London NW1 7AY
Contact: Andrew and Jane, 01628 633962
• home@barndance.org • www.barndance.org
• Tickets: £10 (EFDSS £9, LBC & concs £8)
- NC** **Northampton Ceilidhs:**
Christchurch Hall, Christchurch Road,
Northampton NN1 5LL
Contact: John Green, 07760 197921
• 01933 397767
• www.northamptonceilidhs.co.uk
- SCD** **Staplers Country Dance Club:**
Parish Hall, Waterdell Lane,
St. Ippolyts SG4 7RB
Contact: 01582 881966
- UC** **Unicorn Ceilidhs:**
Town Hall, High Street, Baldock SG7 6AX
Contact: 01582 724261 • 07946 439095
• www.unicornceilidhs.org.uk
- WFD** **Winchmore Folk Dance Club:**
Trinity Church Hall, Church St/Gentleman's Row
Enfield EN2 6AN
(Also Tue mornings 10-12 noon, Grange Park
Methodist Church N21)
Contact: John Wood, 020 8926 7293
- WS** **Woburn Sands Ceilidhs:**
Summerlin Centre, 138 Station Road, Woburn
Sands, MK17 8SG (next to Station Hotel)
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MON 09 FEB

FALSE LIGHTS

[FEAT. SAM CARTER & JIM MORAY]

TUE 10 FEB

HUDSON TAYLOR

WED 11 FEB

**JIM BOYES WITH BELINDA O'HOOLEY:
SENSATIONS OF A WOUND**

TUE 17 FEB

THE STAVES

SAT 21 FEB

TRIO DA KALI [MALI]

SAT 28 FEB

DUB COLOSSUS

TUE 03 MAR

**MICHAEL MCGOLDRICK, JOHN MCCUSKER
& JOHN DOYLE**

SUN 22 MAR

MEGSON FAMILY FOLK SHOW

MON 23 MAR

JON GOMM

MON 30 MAR

MARTHA TILSTON

MON 20 APR

MEGSON

TUE 21 APR

BOO HEWERDINE & KRIS DREVER

SAT 25 APR

MARIANA SADOVSKA [UKRAINE]

SUN 26 APR

KATHRYN ROBERTS & SEAN LAKEMAN

SAT 13 JUN

EMILY MAGUIRE

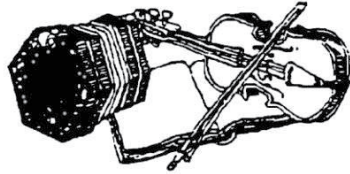
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St. Neots Folk Club



The Priory Centre,
St. Neots, PE19 2BH
Every Tuesday 8.00pm
Email - stneotsfolkclub@aol.com
Telephone - 01234 376278



www.stneotsfolkclub.co.uk

- | | | | |
|--------|-------------------------|--------|--------------------------------------|
| Jan 6 | New Year Singaround | Feb 3 | Gawkey |
| Jan 13 | Phil Beer £12 & £10 | Feb 10 | Tom McConville |
| Jan 20 | Dave Ellis & Boo Howard | Feb 17 | Broom Bezzums |
| Jan 27 | AGM + Round the Room | Feb 24 | Martin Carthy £12 & £10 |
| | Mar 3 | | Round the Room |
| | Mar 10 | | John Renbourn & Wizz Jones £15 & £13 |
| | Mar 17 | | The Hut People |
| | Mar 24 | | Open Stage |
| | Mar 31 | | Round the Room |

The Watford

FOLK CLUB

at The Pumphouse, Local Board Road, Watford WD17 2JP Fridays, 8-11pm



OUR FOLK SONG COMPETITION 2014 Winner was:

**Mike Excell with "Scorecards in Stone" and
Bob Hines was the worthy runner-up with "Dig"**

Congratulations to both & well done to all finalists and entrants.

FUTURE GUEST ARTISTS INCLUDE:

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Ray Owen & Debbie Marchant, Liz Lawley,
The Foxglove Trio, Dave Ellis & Boo Howard
and The Rachel Hamer Band. (See diary entries for dates)

DON'T FORGET our LEGENDARY SINGAROUNDS on non-guest nights!

Further club/artist info at: <http://folkatthepumphouse.webs.com>

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East Anglian Traditional Music Trust

SONG

'TILL LIGHT OF THE MOON

WORDS & MUSIC BY GRAEME MEEK

JOLLY,
DANCY



- Here they are gathered from miles around:
Some from the village and some from the town.
Ready to sing, ready to play,
Ready to dance all the evening away.
- There stands the fiddler so proud and so grand,
Holding his fiddler's bow in his hand.
His fiddle is poised right under his chin.
Waiting for all of the band to begin.
- In comes the flautist, his sound often shrill,
Ready to stir all the crowd with his skill.
Harmony with the fiddle so fair
Makes them a perfectly musical pair.
- There's the melodeon player so tall.
His is the sound that is fullest of all.
Leading the band with tunes short and long;
His music, so clear, entertaining the throng.
- Here is the man who will play the guitar,
Standing behind where the others all are.
In with the tune soon he will chime
Keeping the rhythm and keeping the time.
- There is the bass standing out at the side
Ready to thunder its sound far and wide,
Making a sound so full and so rich:
Mellow, the tone is, and low is the pitch.
- Out at the front is the caller, so fine,
Waiting to get all the dancers in line.
Soon he will try to get them to dance,
To lead them to caper and lead them to prance.
- Now we've assembled the band to begin,
Up plays the flute then the sweet violin.
Melodeon plays along with the tune;
All of the band will be joining them soon.

Copyright © Graeme Meek 2014



This is a kind of calling on song for a country dance band. It is not based on any particular band.

Graeme Meek is a member of song duo *Life and Times* and dance band *Time of Your Life*.
see www.lifeandtimes.info, www.lifeandtimes.org.uk, www.timeofyourlife.info, www.lifeandtimes.me.uk,
<https://soundcloud.com/lifeandtimes-uk>

London Barndance

Saturday 10th January 8 p.m.

Mark Elvins

Fat Harry

Saturday 14th February 8 p.m.

Lynne Render

Chesapeake

Saturday 14th March 8 p.m.

Linda Leslie (USA)

Vertical Expression

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www.barndance.org



All dances are held at
Cecil Sharp House
2 Regents Park Road
London NW1 7AY

Further details from
Andrew and Jane:
01628 633962
home@barndance.org

ADVERTISER INFORMATION

For a complete guide to advertising with us, including a full set of technical specifications and suggestions to ensure your ad looks as good as possible, please download a copy of our **Media Pack**, available from our website.

Advertisement Sizes:

Please note that from March 2013 we changed our advert sizes and prices to the following shown below.

Prices are for supplied, correctly-sized, press-ready artwork:

Quarter page (portrait) Trim size: 63.5mm (W) x 92mm (H)	£22.00
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Please note that we will be adding the black line around ad box shapes in-house – PLEASE LEAVE ANY BORDER LINES OFF YOUR AD DESIGN.

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These include free entry in the Club Index.

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INTRODUCTION

There's nothing quite like the buzz of a really good live gig. The band is in the groove, the packed audience listens, participates, appreciates - applause, acclaim, bravo, encore...

So why do so many of us choose to shut ourselves away in the forbidding recesses of the recording studio? It's a very different environment which tests your skill and nerve in ways that gigs don't.

Studio time is pricey and the meter is ticking all the time, so you need to get it as right as you can, as quick as you can. The financial rewards may be meagre - you'll bring in a few bob from sales, but it will probably take a good while just to recoup your costs, and it's never likely to fund that Caribbean cruise.

There's no doubting, though, that a well-played, expertly produced CD will open doors for you, helping to put your name around and secure more bookings; it also constitutes a lasting record of that fleeting live performance.

Here we present the views of our expert reviewers on a selection of CDs recently submitted for review. Our review policy is to concentrate on local performers, rather than the bigger national names, and focusing on our home patch of Beds, Bucks, Cambs, Herts and surrounding areas - mind you, when time and space permit we are happy to wander further afield, both geographically and musically

If you have a recent CD which you feel might interest our readers please send a copy to:

Unicorn Magazine,
10 Chapel Street
Dunton
Biggleswade
Beds SG18 8RW

or email unicornmagazine@hotmail.co.uk



Julie Bubbles with Dave Jolly "Just Friends"

I have to declare an interest, since Bubbles has been a regular at Bedford Folk Club for several years, so I know most of these 13 songs and tunes very well. This mainly traditional collection, from all seven verses of "Red River Valley" to the self-penned and wistfully cheerful title song "Just Friends", shows off her great voice and talent for arrangement on accordion and concertina.

The twinning of the tune "Balquidder Lassies" with "Wraggle taggle gypsies" was sheer inspiration; and the tune Bubbles wrote for the very sad poem "Two gypsy girls" couldn't be better.

The more obvious marriage of the tune and song "Oyster Girl" is beautifully played here by Dave Jolly on melodeon, as is "Jack in London City", identical to "Do-Me-Ama" from the singing of Bert Lloyd, but with a different tune.

I do wonder if the tunes to "False Knight" and John Conolly's "Towersey Fair" are the right ones, since the words seem hard to fit in; but it is good to hear "Bread & Fishes" sung slowly again, as it is often played too fast.

It would have been good, too, to hear more of Bubbles' brilliant music hall songs - but perhaps those are for the next album.

You should know that Bubbles plays her accordion and concertinas despite crippling arthritis in her fingers. Anyone with less talent and determination would have given up years ago.

CD direct from Bubbles at juliebeatty@hotmail.com or 07940 538726.

Mike Blair



Oka Vanga "Pilgrim"

Anyone who knows me will be well aware that I love instrumental guitar duos, so I was chuffed when Oka Vanga sent their new CD for review.

Oka Vanga comprises Angela Meyer & William Cox, both professional guitar tutors who run a private teaching school from their purpose built studio in Bengeo (www.parkhurstmusicstudio.co.uk).

The recording quality and production values on *Pilgrim* (their first album, I believe) are very high - both guitars have a crisp, trebly sound (lots of new strings used in recording, I suspect!) that cut through well. Differentiation between the two guitars is distinct and I particularly like the sound of the nylon string guitars on this album, always tricky to get right.

Stylistically the tracks exhibit a wide variety, from classical through exotic sounds, via traditionally-tinged ballads, to more modern fast-paced tunes. I recognise all sorts of possible influences in the mix - a pinch of Rodrigo y Gabriela, a smattering of Al Di Meola-type melodies, garnished with Renbourn-like finger picking and lots of pure classical technique. I personally prefer the slower, more contemplative tunes (*Abounding Grace*, *Wildflower* & *Wasteland* for example) but there are many other styles and tempos to keep one listening and interested.

Having played in several instrumental guitar units over the years, I know how hard it is to come up with non-vocal music that is pleasant to listen to and yet possesses enough interest to keep people involved, but without too much of the technical 'flash' which will only interest other guitar players. I think *Pilgrim* satisfies admirably in all of these areas.

I have yet to see these guys perform but I understand they have several gigs in the area over the next few months - I look forward to hearing the music of *Pilgrim* live very soon!

Clive Batkin



The Willows "Amidst Fiery Skies"

ELK013

The second album release from this Cambridgeshire quintet combines English and American folk influences into an accomplished and easily appealing contemporary offer likely further to brighten their star in the current music firmament.

Produced jointly with Sean Lakeman, with vivid clarity well befitting their sumptuous harmonising, they arrange traditional songs, covers and their own original folk inspired material across a range of songs from ballads to more uptempo folk rock in ways often richly tintured with bluegrass and country elements and also taking full advantage of evident skills in layering and melodic, mellow interplay.

Thus 19th century Irish ballad *Maid of Culmore* cohabits with Bill Staines' *Roseville Fair* (with its actively occupied 'front porch chair') and Bruce [Utah] Phillips' *Goodnight Loving Trail* about cowboy trail cookery where banjo and dobro are very perceptibly profiled.

Typifying their range and skills in pacing and movement, new pieces *The Visitor*, with its particularly catchy melody celebrating the remarkably heroic rescue of a shipwrecked crew at Robin's Hood Bay in 1881, and *Red Sands* and *Our Road* deal sophisticatedly with emotional subjects with an exceptional admixture of harmonies and fiddle of aching appeal.

Jade Rhiannon's tender and pure voice is especially winsome, and Prue Ward's fiddle work stirring and emotive. Deeper resonance is added to the carefully blended arrangements by guests including Ben Nicholls on double bass.

Unarguably rich with the suppleness and grace of the adjective derived from their name, only a few, I suspect, will find their winning formula a little too comfortably cosy and coloured with Americana in its alchemy.

Kevin T. Ward

CD REVIEW FEATURE CONTINUED



Gregg Cave "Old England Grown New"

Tweedm01 (2014)

Following folk-rock band Cave's *Welcome*, and limited edition duet album *Keep the Beggars Warm* with fiddler Nick Ellison (2012), Gregg Cave's new release combines mainly self-penned songs with thoughtful reinterpretations of traditional material.

Centred on his very pleasing voice and guitar accompaniment, either in confidently paced acoustic story mode or with backing extending into more uptempo folk-rock group arrangements, there is a satisfying purity and authenticity in its rootedness (whether with the folk tradition per se or its chapter of emergent period folk-rock) combined with contemporary edge: generally, a strongly credible sense of continuity.

Opening trad. piece *The Bonny Lass of Anglesey*, celebrating her victorious terpsichorean trouncing of several 'shameful' noble lords (undoubtedly a political message of significantly potent passion for GC), features the recognisably Whippersnapper-ish fiddle voice of Dave Swarbrick to great effect. Elsewhere Nick Ellison's wov'n embellishment of the melodies and tunes is equally richly sinuous.

Gregg's personal lyric theme is essentially and (given the contextual weight of history) timelessly the 'state of the nation': the deceitful crookedness and greed of the political system, the consequential 'struggle', and anxiety of pride with 'place are recurrent issues. Resonant cathartic counterpoints are the faith, hope and enduring relevance and vision of free thinking, poetry and song in keeping the heart's flame alight. *We need to sing, give life to this blood that forever flows through our veins and our rivers that run wild* (*We Need a Mother*), I'll sing my song to the last day... as it's the only way (*Last Day*, John Clare's poem on dreadful destruction and oblivion set to music). The final piece *William Morris-Wat Tyler*; with its conclusively apposite and heartfelt refrain *We'll Stand Fast*, we'll hold steady in this wind, is a brilliantly catchy culmination harmonically enriched by his wife, professional storyteller Jo Blake Cave. (www.greggcave.com)

Kevin T. Ward



KARA "Waters so deep..."

Kara is a four piece band featuring Daria Kulesh on vocals, Ben Honey on guitar, Gary Holbrook on accordion, and Kate Rouse on hammered dulcimer and backing vocals. They have been very busy on the scene since their formation and, having seen them live several times, I was interested to hear how their on-stage style and charisma translate to a recording.

Their debut CD "*Waters so deep...*" instantly has impact. The packaging is an eye-catching six panel, tri-fold paper affair, with gloss black, red and white artwork designed by Daria herself. A couple of large band photos, full track listings and an insert with both lyrics and a description of the story behind each song completes the whole package, giving one a lot to take in whilst listening to the tunes themselves!

The recording quality throughout is of a very high standard and quality - Daria's vocals in particular really stand out and her delivery and enunciation are excellent. The musicianship and arrangements are also top notch - the liberal use of accordion and hammered dulcimer give many tunes a distinctive, tonally interesting quality.

On the CD you will find a few Russian-influenced songs, a smattering of instrumentals, as well as lots of self-penned songs from the band - with the help of words by such luminaries as Pushkin, Kipling et al.

If I had to pick some highlights, I particularly liked the songs *Union Street* and *Hunter's Moon*, and their version of my old favourite *Music for a Found Harmonium* would also make the cut.

Whatever your personal taste, I think '*Waters so deep...*' should have something for most folk enthusiasts.

More information about both the band and the CD can be found at: www.karafolkband.com

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FEATURE FEATURE

Watford Folk Club Song Competition 2014

7.45pm on 14th November 2014 and it's standing room only for the start of Watford Folk Club's 3rd Annual Folk Song Competition, this year with the theme of "War & Peace".

We were privileged to have Gren Bartley, Liz Simcock and Caz Devine as our judging panel. They were faced with the unenviable task of choosing a winner and runner up from the 10 finalists selected by the club committee. There were a record 31 entries!

The evening began with the judges performing one song each, followed by a "warm-up" song from each of the finalists. These included not only club regulars and occasional visitors but some who were with us for the first time and some who had travelled many miles to take part.

A big surprise was a song by Bob Hinds about our 1st Song Competition. (We're thinking of adopting it as the competition theme song!)

After a short break, the competition started in earnest. The standard of writing and performance in previous years has always been high, and this year it was exceptional, making life difficult for the judges, as each singer's style and approach was very different.

After the last performer sang, Gren, Liz & Caz left the room to deliberate and decide. Emma Scarr then sang "Kathy O'Toole", the song that won her last year's competition.

The judges returned to announce that "Scorecards in Stone" by Mike Excell had won, while "Dig" by Bob Hines was the worthy runner-up. Congratulations to both Mike and Bob.

Emma then presented the trophy to Mike and after a photo call of the finalists, he closed the evening by reprising his song.

It was a fantastic evening, hosted by the competition organisers Kim Olyett and Alison Raymond who deserve compliment and thanks for all their wonderful organisation and hard work.

We are truly grateful to our judges Gren, Liz and Caz, not only for doing such a brilliant job but also for giving us their time and experience so willingly.

Finally thanks to all our entrants (without you, we wouldn't have a competition!) for giving us 31 new songs which will hopefully become firmly established in the folk canon.

(Videos, photos etc. can be found on our Facebook page www.facebook.com/groups/watfordfolkclub/)

The competition for 2015 is already being planned – look out for details to be announced in future issues of *Unicorn*!



Emma Scarr presents the Winner's Trophy to Mike Excell

Bob Hines - The Worthy Runner Up

Paul Carrack
from BBC radio2
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The Lankin Mummers' Play

On Boxing Day I was watching the local Mummers with Uncle Obadiah. He was not impressed with their ability to collect money and the plot seemed very complicated, "Too much like a panto," he commented. It appears Uncle Obadiah and various members of the Lankin clan used to go Guizing and a dig in the family archives soon revealed the script. The only stage direction was that they should form up in a circle with the audience in the middle.

Father Christmas (carrying bell and broom):

In comes I Old Father Christmas, with my bell and my broom I make some room. Give us your money and wish us no ill and health and happiness will stay with you still. If you don't believe what I do say step in King George without delay.

King George (carrying double handed sword):

I am King George a noble old knight, give us your cash or else we will fight. I'll cut you and stab you and lay you down low – so give us your money and then we will go. If you don't believe what I do say step in Bold Slasher without delay.

Bold Slasher (carrying two axes or hatchets):

I am Bold Slasher a man of great thirst, of beer and ale I think of the first. So give me a barrel and give me a pot – I will leave when I've drunk the lot. If you don't believe what I do say step on Old Mother without delay.

Old Mother (carrying an oversize rolling pin):

In comes I with my falsetto voice, I'd sing and dance if I had the choice. Give me cake or I'll break down your door and lay it flat upon the floor. If you don't believe what I do say step in Good Doctor without delay.

Good Doctor (with bag): I am a doctor with potion and pill, I can cure or make you ill. I can poison your sheep or even your cow so give me your money and bring it out now. If you don't believe what I do say step in Robin Goodfellow without delay.

Robin Goodfellow (with cudgel): My name is Robin but sometimes it's Puck, I can bring good or bad luck. I will curdle your milk and burn down your barn but give me some silver and you'll come to no harm. If you don't believe what I do say step in Jack O' Lantern without delay.

Jack O' Lantern (with sack and lantern): My name is Jack and I carry a pack and a lantern in my hand. I'll give you a fright if you go out at night so pay up and all will be grand. If you don't believe what I do say step in King Wren without delay.

King Wren: I am the wren, the king of all birds. I can send crows to pilfer orchards. Your apples will rot, your pears they will fall and you will have no cider at all. So bring me some bread and a full pot and then you will sleep safe in your cot. If you don't believe what I do say step in Beelzebub without delay

Beelzebub (carrying a gun and a cooking pot):

In come I with my gun and my pot, give me your jewels and you won't get shot. Throw in your watch, your rings and your gold, I'll shoot you down if you try to be bold. Just give us your wealth and we'll wish you good cheer, you won't see us again – until next year.

Uncle Obadiah explained that they would add or delete other characters depending upon how many Guizers they had and the threats they could dream up but Beelzebub always came last. "I usually carried a sawn off shot gun" he grinned:

With some trepidation I asked what happened if they didn't pay up – "A barrel of shot over their heads usually did the trick", he grinned, "They were good days!"

Happy New Year!



Long Lankin



FOLLOW LONG LANKIN ON 

CAMBRIDGE FOLK CLUB

Programme January to March 2015
Every Friday, 8pm, The Golden Hind, 355 Milton Road,
Cambridge CB4 1SP.

Tickets for main acts on our website, www.cambridgefolkclub.org or phone 01638 603986.



Fri 2nd Jan	Open Stage with David Cambridge Entry: £4(door), £2(members), £1(performers).
Fri 9th Jan	Showcase: Martin Kaszak, Sheri Kershaw, Kiss The Mistress Entry: £8(door), £7(advance), £6(members).
Fri 16th Jan	Cahalen Morrison and Eli West support from Nobodaddy Entry: £12(door), £11(advance), £10(members).
Fri 23rd Jan	Open Stage with Jackson Creek Band Entry: £4(door), £2(members), £1(performers).
Sat 30th Jan	Brooks Williams support from Kevin Taplin Entry: £10(door), £9(advance), £8(members).
Wed 4th Feb 7.30pm	Steve Knightley Grow Your Own Gig Tour at St Paul's Centre, Hills Road, Cambridge CB2 1JP Entry: £16(door and advance), £15(members).
Fri 6th Feb	Open Stage with Jon Betmead and Tom Ling Entry: £4(door), £2(members), £1(performers).
Fri 13th Feb	Liz Simcock support from Philip Marino Entry: £9(door), £8(advance), £7(members).
Fri 20th Feb	Kara support from Paul McLure Entry: £9(door), £8(advance), £7(members).
Fri 27th Feb	Open Stage with The Larks Entry: £4(door), £2(members), £1(performers).
Fri 6th Mar	Barluath Entry: £12(door), £11(advance), £10(members).
Fri 13th Mar	Clive Carroll support from Graham Harrison Entry: £12(door), £11(advance), £10(members).
Fri 20th Mar	Phil Beer Floor Spot: na mara Entry: £13(door), £12(advance), £11(members).
Fri 27th Mar	Bryan Causton support from Where's Spot Band Entry: £9(door), £8(advance), £7(members).

See www.cambridgefolkclub.org for details.

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