

The monthly calendar of folk clubs, singarounds, acoustic sessions & open mics: all about DIY music (not concerts, gigs, ceilidhs, etc). Its purpose is to keep you informed of all the places where you can take your voice and/or instrument and join in or do your own thing.

It has three parts: (1) **monthly Calendar of events**; (2) **alphabetical Venues List**, giving a fuller description & contact details for each venue; (3) **list of Festivals** for the coming months (updated as details become available). Each part can be downloaded in pdf format. The **Calendar** can also be downloaded in a Word version so you can customise it according to your local requirements.

If you'd like my more-or-less twice monthly **Acoustic Calendar Updates** delivered to your inbox, let me know, using the contact form on the website.

® **Tony Watts**, <http://sanchobramble.weebly.com>

• DORSET 1 •

NORTH DORSET & SOUTH SOMERSET REPORT

BY OUR CORRESPONDENT FOR
NORTH DORSET & SOUTH SOMERSET

JOHN WALTHAM

Dorset born singer, song collector and organiser of Trooper Song Sessions, Dorset Song Weekends and occasional one-off events, as well as guesting at a few Scots and Irish festivals.

Trooper Song Sessions

As I write, the local session scene has wound down somewhat as the festival season peaks. At least one local session (currently at Charlton Musgrove, near Wincanton) is looking to re-locate due to the landlord's proposal to initiate a £100 charge for the room! No news of a fresh venue yet. My own local tends to shut around 10.00pm most nights due to a lack of late trade, although as yet they've not asked us to finish early or imposed early closure on us. But I guess it's only a matter of time – life's pretty tough for rural pubs.

Which is a roundabout way of suggesting that, if we want to retain the venues we use, then we need to support them, even if you don't feel like singing or playing – go along and have a pint, chat with your friends and come home with a nice, warm feeling. It's far better than driving past a closed pub and remembering the wonderful nights you used to have there! The new session season will have kicked off by the time you read this, and I'm hoping to make it round a few more venues than has recently been possible for me. Among others, I'm looking forward to getting down to Rainer Wittlin's music night at the **King William, Barn Street, Crewkerne**, TA18 8BP, on the first Monday of the month. Rainer's number is 01460 75576 if you want to know more. Incidentally, Meg Rose put on a superb night in the King Billy a month or so ago with Phil Beer as the guest – sold out, as you might expect.

Another, long-time favourite is **Eli's**, at Huish Episcopi (Somerset and Dorset have some of the best village names in the country) on the third Saturday from September to May (and not just because the landlady always gives me a kiss!) I think this'll be our 21st season there. If you're looking for concert-type entertainment, try the **Wessex Acoustic Folk Club at the RBL Club, Blandford**. Always a good guest list – see their website for dates and guests.

Having failed to get down to **Sidmouth** last year, I took the motorbike

North Dorset & South Somerset Clubs & Sessions: your details welcome

King William, Barn St, Crewkerne, Somerset, 1st Monday of the month. Music session, but they did allow me a song! And the music's lively.

Baker Arms, Child Okeford, Blandford, Dorset 2nd Thursday of the month, charles@childokeford.plus.com. A long established and usually very enjoyable evening of music and song

The Plough, Manston, Sturminster Newton, DT10 1HB. 4th Thursday of the month. 01963 363816. Popular evening of mixed music and song.

Eli's (Rose & Crown), Huish Episcopi, Langport. 3rd Saturday of the month, not June, July, August. 01823 481253. "And on the 8th Day, He created Eli's, and Lo! there was singing"

Camelot Music Nights, Davis Hall, West Camel, Yeovil. See the web for details. Concert nights to a high standard, pre-booked slots only, but good listening and a broad range of material.

Wessex Acoustic Folk Club, RBL, Blandford. See web for details. Fridays monthly. First rate guests with excellent support acts. Not cheap, but worth it.

Chalk & Cheese, Maiden Newton. 3rd Sunday, usually. Starts around 5.00pm for an early finish - check with 01300 321396. Mainly music, with some songs. Always interesting and fun.

Unicorn, Bayford, Wincanton, BA9 9NL 1st Wednesday of the month, music only. 07788 517827. Can be very good, and the cider's excellent.

The Trooper Inn Stourton Caundle, near Sturminster Newton, Dorset DT10 2JW. 2nd Sunday of the month, **The Trooper Folk Song Night** ®, 8.30pm. not July or August. John Waltham, 01963 362890, jhnwaltham@yahoo.co.uk. Songs mostly - but musicians welcome too. Contrary to popular belief, John does not lynch anyone who sings non-traditional stuff!

And 4th Sunday of the month, **The Trooper Folk Music Night** ®, Mandy Waltham, 01963 362890, jhnwaltham@yahoo.co.uk Emphasis will be on tunes rather than songs. All welcome, to join in or listen.

down there for the Monday. As usual, I got little further than the Volunteer, where I was able to catch up with a lot of people I wanted to see, and a few who I'd not expected as well (including Roisin White, who I must get over here again – a really great singer). Will Noble offered me free tickets for the UK Ploughing Championships as it's "down your way this year". Turns out it's in Warwickshire – however big does he think Dorset is??

John Waltham

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• DORSET 2 •

Our **DORSET NEWS** print pages: read **ONLINE** and **DOWNLOAD**, on folklife.org.uk/Dorset

DORSET: **1-LINE SUMMARIES.** For full details, see our online Members **DIRECTORY**, www.folklife-directory.uk
⇒ our Membership (only **£15** a year! see page 3) includes listings & your publicity & FW posted to you

❖ MEMBERS LIST 1: **VENUES** ❖ Song – Music – Poetry – Story – Dance ❖ Clubs – Concerts – Singarounds – Sessions – Dance Clubs & Ceilidhs ❖

2nd Sun	Dorset	STOURTON CAUNDLE	THE TROOPER FOLK SONG NIGHT	www.thetrooperinn.co.uk/events	John Waltham	01963 362890
4th Sun	Dorset	STOURTON CAUNDLE	THE TROOPER FOLK MUSIC NIGHT	www.thetrooperinn.co.uk/events	Mandy Waltham	01963 362890

and (not listed online in our Directory because various events pop up from time to time - please check their online calendar)

various Dorset BRIDPORT **FESTIVAL EVENTS & FUNDRAISERS** at various venues www.bridportfolkfestival.com/events.html

❖ see **DIARY-LISTINGS PAGES** (follows these news pages) for ❖ **LIST 5 : WORKSHOP DIARY** ❖ **LIST 6 : FESTIVAL DIARY (NEXT 12 MONTHS)** ❖



BRIDPORT FOLK FESTIVAL ® FUNDRAISERS, various dates & venues

Please check the website for various Festival fundraisers. All proceeds go towards putting on Bridport Folk Festival.

www.bridportfolkfestival.com/events.html

★★★ **Jul tbc, Bridport Folk Song & Dance Festival**

⇒ See **FESTIVAL DIARY PAGES**

⊛ **ABOVE IS TBC, AND WAS COMPILED BY THE EDITORS ON BASIS OF PREVIOUS ENTRIES**

