

HEREFORDSHIRE:

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 ❖			
3rd Tue Herefs LONGTOWN	CROWN INN FOLK EVENINGS	http://blackhilltales.blogspot.com	John/Jane Baxter	01981 510388
Weekly Wed Herefs LEDBURY	PRINCE OF WALES FOLK SESSION	[pub site] www.powledbury.com/page6.html	John Burton	01531 630159

❖ MEMBERS LIST 2: PERFORMERS ❖ Pf.1 Folk Music & Song – Pf.2 Folk Dance – Pf.3 Spoken Word ❖

Pf.1a Folk Music & Song - Bands/Groups				
Herefs ROVING CROWS		www.rovingcrows.com	Paul O'Neill	07896 327069
Pf.1c Folk Music & Song - Solo				
Herefs PAUL CHIEF O'NEILL		www.chief-oneill.com	Paul O'Neill	07896 327069

❖ MEMBERS LIST 3: MEDIA ❖ MEMBERS LIST 4: SERVICES ❖ MEMBERS LIST 5: WORKSHOP LISTINGS ❖

M.1 ONLINE FOLK MAGAZINES & LISTINGS				
Herefordshire	TALES FROM UNDER BLACK HILL BLOG	http://blackhilltales.blogspot.com/search/label/FolkWorkshops	John & Jane Baxter	

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

TALES from under BLACK HILL



folk music in S-W Herefords & nearby ... by our Correspondents

John & Jane Baxter

Just to give you an idea of what lies behind a *Folk Night at the Crown Inn, Longtown*®, we thought we might make an attempt to give you a brief insight.

Firstly, Longtown itself is only one community from which the Folk Night draws its support. In local terms, it is quite a metropolis in that it has a shop, a school, pub, Village Hall and a Baptist Chapel, with its Anglican church a short distance down the road at Clodock. This same road leads to the A465 and Abergavenny. This is an important link as several of our supporters come from South Wales.

The largest number of supporters come from St. Margarets, which is a parish in the hills reached by a challenging network of narrow lanes where we started a folk evening some nine years ago. Even further up in the hills is Craswall where a few more supporters hail from.

Singing still forms an important part of church and chapel life, although St. Margarets lost its Methodist Chapel and its assembly room earlier this year. Black Hill Voices which often sing at a Folk Night has evolved from these different sources, and is now a community choir of nearly 20 singers. Various other collaborations like *2 Tenors and a Fiver*, and *Red Darren Skiffle* have grown alongside these developments.

There is also a small choir, drawn from the 6 Churches of the Black Mountain Group of Parishes, with some singers singing with this and Black Hill Voices. For such folk, singing at the Crown Folk Night is another opportunity to sing.

The roads over the hills via Craswall or Michaelchurch link several farms, and eventually allow impressive views into Wales. Both routes lead to Hay and the Brecon road along which one of our supporters regularly travels to join us. And, finally, by taking another road out of Longtown, up and over yet another ridge you get to Eywas Harold and Pontrilas. Again, supporters travel these roads for Folk Nights with some making their way across country from the A49 which meets the M50 at Ross on Wye. In the summer months, there will be guests at the pub who are walking the Offa's Dyke path, but once winter comes you can imagine how we all keep a weather eye open to make sure that our

narrow lanes are not filling with snow while we are singing our hearts out in the bar. Surprisingly, the sessions seem to survive even bad winters like the last, but meeting only once a month gives time for the occasional snow plough to do its job, and for local 4x4 and tractor drivers to restore a road network of sorts.

So, who is it that makes up our supporters? The vast majority are retired people who have either retired from farming or other local jobs, or moved to the area for work or retirement. There are a few who work from home, run B&B's, and of course, being Herefordshire, actually farm the land. Although there are quite a lot of people locally who commute to jobs in Cardiff and Newport, our only commuters are nurses with jobs in Hereford. And once a year we are pleased to welcome Sam and Ellie from this great publication who call by on one of their many visits to Wales.

And what do all these budding singers and musicians do apart from *Folk Night at the Crown*? Singers in both **Blackhill Voices** and the **Church Choir** had a busy weekend with a concert given by Blackhill Voices in aid of the **Farming Community Network** entitled *Farmers, Miners & Iron Workers*. followed the next day by the St. Margaret's Church Flower Festival.

The church choir will be back in action for **Harvest Festivals**, but the declining rural church, even in an area which has been noted as one of the most church going areas in England, is inevitably having an effect. While our young people tend to leave the rural life behind them, the remaining ageing population is left with fewer services of all kinds, not just in church. We have detected a noticeable nostalgia for the more uplifting worship songs. Inspired by a session included at the **Halsway Manor**® weekend *From Albion to Appalachia*, we will be holding **A Gospel Sing** in Longtown Village Hall on **October 20th** starting at 7pm. Aimed at anyone who enjoys a good sing, irrespective of theology, it will combine songs from various traditions including Anglo-American folk songs as well as Sankey hymns.

Another event already being planned is the **Longtown Wassail** which has been fixed for **Saturday 12th January**. **Foxwhelp Morris** will be in attendance and the procession will leave Longtown Village Hall at 7pm. Hot refreshments, bar, and singing and dancing will follow in the Hall.

John & Jane

® John and Jane Baxter

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<http://blackhilltales.blogspot.co.uk>



ROVING CROWS® *Roving Crows* are an original must-see act, with roots in Folk and Celtic music. Renowned for their high-energy live performance, their shows pull together funky up traditional tunes and catchy original song.

October Sat 13 Colwall Village Hall, WR13 6EQ. Tickets: our Webshop
 Sat 27 Ripple Parish Hall, GL20 6EU. Tickets: our Webshop
 or Pam 01684 592060

November Thu 15 Arlington Arts Centre, Newbury, RG14 3BQ. Venue

Fri 23 Chapel Arts Centre, Bath, BA1 1QR. Venue / Tickets

December Sat 1 The Acorn, Penzance, Cornwall, TR18 4BU. Venue / Event Page

Sat 8 Caryford Community Hall, Somerset, BA7 7JJ. Venue / Tickets

Sat 15 St. Katherine's Barn, Ledbury. Details TBA.

Sat 22 Watson Hall, Tewkesbury, GL20 5PX, Tickets: our Webshop

® Paul O'Neill, 07896 327069, cait@at>globe-ents.co.uk, www.rovingcrows.com,

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PAUL CHIEF O'NEILL®

Paul is a performer of the highest standard, a deeply moving singer songwriter and excellent raconteur. Paul fronts the multi-award winning Celtic folk rock band

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'At The Prince' © Eden Tanner

 ® **THE PRINCE OF WALES FOLK SESSIONS,**

Prince of Wales (01531 632250), Church Lane
Ledbury HR8 1DL. Every **Wednesday**, 9pm
 Every Wednesday evening, kick-off around 9pm.

This acoustic session has been running for 24 years! We have mainly folk songs and music, with some blues, but anything goes.

The session is always enjoyable, with a relaxed atmosphere - aided by some of the best beer in the region (plus food for performers, on the last Wednesday of each month).

Contact ® **John Burton** 01531 630159

Pub's session page:

www.powledbury.com/page6.html

THE HOMEND POETS & MUSICIANS, Ice Bytes Cafe & Ledbury TIC, 38 Homend, Ledbury, HR8 1BT

Last Tuesday *but sometimes other Tuesdays, please check website, 6.30-8.30pm*

Stimulating poetry and song! Next meetings 23 October; 27 November; December tba (see website).

Nick Halligan, 01684 563281; Ice Bytes Cafe 0844 567 8650 www.folklife.org.uk/homend-poets.html

'Homend Poets' © Liz Johnson

