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EAST/MID DEVON & EAST SOMERSET REPORT



BY OUR CORRESPONDENT FOR
EAST / MID-DEVON & EAST SOMERSET

BILL CRAWFORD

Traditional singer (solo; and with The Claque) & MC - West Country born and bred. He is a regular performer at Sidmouth, Dartmoor and Chippenham Folk Festivals.

The Claque

As many of you will know I have a keen interest in calendar customs, things that happen once a year because they always have. Last Halloween I took part in the first staging of what I hope will become a tradition. To my mind something becomes a tradition when the youngest participants can't remember it not happening. The event in question took place in **Sticklepath, Devon** and involved a search for **Tom Pearce's grey mare** of Widdecombe Fair fame. It appears Tom Pearce and some of the characters mentioned in the song, lived in Sticklepath. A band of musicians, ably led by Martyn Babb, and a group of 'seekers' processed through the village searching for the ghost of the mare. En route they encountered the ghosts of all the riders mentioned in the song who led them to various houses where treats and drinks were exchanged for soul cakes. Eventually arriving at Tom Pearce's (Jim Causley) old stable building the Mare (a Mari Lwyd type horse's skull figure) was coaxed out and processed back through the village. Stopping at the Finch Foundry, the riders all apologised for abusing the mare and shortly after the ghosts and mare melted away back onto the moor for another year. There then followed a 'mummers' play, first in the Taw River Inn, then in The Devonshire Inn, where it was followed by a great music and song session where alcohol was taken. It was a brilliant night, the brainchild of Derek Moore and the

Sticklepath heritage group. So, if you are free next Halloween I would strongly recommend you visit this new 'tradition.'

I have just been sent the 2018 programme for the **Exeter Folk and Acoustic music club**, organised by the Cornelius family it is held at the Victoria Park Tennis Club, St Leonards, Exeter. The last Friday of every month is an open house session, but on 16th February they have old favourite, **Steve Turner**®, who has been around on the scene for as long as I have I think. The 9th March sees relatively local performer **Geoff Lakeman**. Both those nights will be good, so book your tickets asap. The website is www.exeterfolkclub.org

I have not been around much to visit clubs and informal gatherings since the summer, but would remind you all of the usual sessions such as **The Devonshire Inn, Sticklepath**® (1st Sunday) run by Derek Moore, **The Lamb Inn, Sandford**® (1st Tuesday) run by Paul and Hazel Underwood, **The Anchor, Sidmouth** (1st Wednesday) & **The Royal Oak, Nadderwater** (3rd Tuesday) both run by Barry Lister and friends, **The Pennymoor Singaround**®, at The Cruwys Arms Pennymoor (3rd Wednesday), and **The New Inn, Coleford**® on the last Tuesday, not forgetting one of my favourites, **Eli's (The Rose and Crown), Huish Espicopi**, 3rd Saturday run by Rod Harrington. *Please let me know of any events you may be organising for inclusion in this column.*

Just leaves me to wish you all a happy new year and good folkling in 2018.

Bill Crawford

© 01278 450838

© 07815 195863

✉ billcrawford@phonecoop.coop

- Your news is welcome from **East and Mid Devon** and from **East Somerset clubs and sessions.**

SOMERSET (INCLUDING NORTH SOMERSET AND BATH & N.E.SOMERSET)

Yer 'tis

Our SOMERSET NEWS print pages: read ONLINE and DOWNLOAD, on folklife.org.uk/Somerset

BRIDGWATER ARTS CENTRE®, 11-13 Castle St,
Bridgwater, TA6 3DD

BACRoom Bar, various dates & times all year.

REGULAR EVENTS: • **Folk Night**, 2nd Wednesdays, 7.30pm, excluding August; **Acoustic Session**, 3rd Thursdays; **Jazz Session**, 4th Thursdays; **all free!** And **Storytelling Sharing Night**, 2nd Thursdays, £2 entry.

CONCERTS:

• **Barn Dance, Saturday 19 January**, 7:30pm, *Free*. Burn off that turkey tyre! Join **Hobson's Choice** for a Foot Stomping, Fun and Free night of Barn Dancing.

• **Louise Jordan: No Petticoats Here, Saturday 3 February**, 8pm, £13. Singer, songwriter and musician Louise Jordan tells the stories of inspirational women who challenged expectations.

• **Wille and the Bandits, Saturday 10 February**, 8pm, £12. Classic blues-rock three-piece, much in the vein of Cream or The Jimi Hendrix experience.

• **Rachel Newton, Thursday 22 February**, 8pm, £13.50 full, £12.50 members. Singer and harpist Rachel Newton specialises in interpreting traditional folk songs in both English and Scottish Gaelic, as well as writing and performing her own instrumental pieces.

• **Fairytales Gone Bad, Saturday 10 March**, 10:30am & 1:30pm, £6. Joseph Coelho unwinds fairytales, and gives us the true tales behind the happy-ever-afters.

• **Knight and Spiers, Tuesday 27 March**, 8pm, £15, £13 members. Legendary fiddle player Peter Knight (ex-Steeleye Span) and melodeon player extraordinaire John Spiers join together for this wonderful tour.

www.bridgwaterartscentre.co.uk
box office: 01278 422700

Louise Jordan, 3/2.



Bridgwater Arts Centre

- above left, **Knight & Spiers**, 27/3;
- above right, **Rachel Newton**, 22/2;
- left, **Wille and the Bandits**, 10/2.

→ **SaDFolk, SOMERSET AND DORSET FOLK DIARY**®
www.sadfolk.co.uk Steve Cunio

Subscribe or email via website. The **Somerset and Dorset Folk Diary** (or **SaDFolk**) is based around a weekly email service, listing 'folk' events in Somerset and Dorset. The term 'event' covers concerts, barn dances, sessions, workshops and any other folk related activity.

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

NAILSEA FOLK CLUB®, Nailsea, North Somerset. **Tithe Barn** [unless stated *Ring of Bells*], 8pm; and **Singers/Musicians nights: 2nd Tuesdays**, Grove Sports Centre, 8.30pm, free! • see **ADVERT ON RIGHT**
19 Jan, Jackie Oates, £12. BBC Folk Award best newcomer and best traditional track, synonymous with the reinvigoration of English folk music, beguiling audiences with a delicate balance of tradition and reinvention
27 Jan, Swarb: A tribute: It suits him well. £15. Celebrating the talent of Dave Swarbrick, fiddle player extraordinaire, featuring Martin Carthy, John Kirkpatrick, Jason Swarbrick and the Jason Wilson Band.

2 Feb, Jez Lowe, £10. Sony award winning songwriter from Durham, a double nomination in the 2015 BBC Folk Awards for best singer and best new song. His songs are widely sung by other performers.

1 Mar, Keith Christmas, Ring of Bells, £5 (door). Stunning pedigree, phenomenal guitar techniques and a passion for storytelling, philosophy and politics, someone with true class and style.

15 Mar, St Patrick's Night with Fougere Rouge, Ring of Bells. Fundraiser for the Barn's dementia projects, £8 (door). Classic Irish favourites to sing along to, and bundles of fiery gigs and reels.

18 Mar, Phil Beer, 7.30, £15. One half of Britain's most successful duo *Show of Hands*, instrumental wizardry well documented and utilised by countless artists (Rolling Stones to Mike Oldfield). Sublime fiddle player, for many years he was lead guitarist and singer with the Albion Band and co-wrote many of their songs. He's a thoroughly charming man and a consummate performer.

15 Apr, Moore Ross and Rutter. 20 May, Jim Causley.

© David Francis

For up to date news: www.nailseafolkclub.co.uk; David 01275 540231, nailseafolkclub@hotmail.co.uk

Ticket Info Line: 01275 790915 Tickets on line from: www.ticketsource.co.uk/nailsea-folk-club

NAILSEA FOLK CLUB

Tithe Barn, Nailsea, N. Somerset
 also Singers+musicians nights:
 Grove Sports Centre, 2nd Tues

At **Tithe Barn** except § **Ring of Bells**

19 Jan	Jackie Oates
27 Jan	Swarb: A tribute: It suits him well
2 Feb	Jez Lowe
1 Mar	Keith Christmas §
15 Mar	St Patrick's Night with Fougere Rouge §
18 Mar	Phil Beer
15 Apr	Moore Ross and Rutter
20 May	Jim Causley

Ticket Info. Line: 01275 790915

- nailseafolkclub@hotmail.co.uk
- Dave Francis 01275 540231
- www.nailseafolkclub.co.uk

BATH FOLK CLUB®

see <http://bathfolkclub.org>, www.facebook.com/bathfolk

- For **Bath Folk Festival**, see **LISTINGS: WORKSHOPS DIARY** and **LISTINGS: FESTIVAL DIARY**

HALSWAY MANOR®

HALSWAY MANOR® concerts

and ceilidhs, Halsway Lane, near Crowcombe TA4 4BD.

Various dates & times

Gigs unless otherwise stated

- Sat 6 Jan, 8pm. Brian Peters, Martin Graebe, Shan Graebe. £10 / £4
- Sat 20 Jan, 8pm. Gig/Dance: An Evening with The Old Swan Band. Join the legendary OSB for an informal evening of dancing and tunes. We'll dance for about an hour before retiring to the bar for tunes, memories & merriment. 10 / £4
- Sat 27 Jan, 8pm. Hilary James, Janet Giraud & Simon Mayor. An evening of fiery-fingered mandolin playing and stunning singing. £10/£4
- Sat 10 Feb, 8pm. Hurdy-Gurdy & Bagpipe. Hurdy-Gurdy: Matthias Loibner (Austria), Cecile Delrue-Birot (France), Joel Turk (UK). Bagpipe: Julian Cartonnet (France), Callum Armstrong (UK). £10 / £4
- Tue 20 Feb, 8pm. PIVA. Early music at its most entertaining! £10 / £4
- Sat 4 Mar, 8pm. Andy May, Pauline Cato, Alice Burn, Chris Evans, Francis Wood. An evening of music from our great team of NSP Workshop tutors! £10 / £4
- Sat 10 Mar, 8pm. Vicki Swan & Jonny Dyer. Vicki & Jonny effortlessly blend traditional material with contemporary sounds. Expect songs with a high death count, unusual instruments, and free smiles with every performance. £10 / £4
- Thu 15 Mar, 8pm. Maddy Prior, Rose Kemp, Christina Shewell. An informal evening of words and song. £10 / £4
- Sat 24 Mar, 8pm. Vicki Swan & Jonny Dyer: Smörgåsbollad. An evening of music and tales from Sweden, the land of the midnight sun. Nordic Noir, love and drinking! £10 / £4

○ **Sunday Club:** 1st Sun., 8pm, free.

○ **Halsway Manor Sessions:** 2nd Sun., 8pm, free. See **VENUE LISTINGS**.

© Rachel Hill

Contact: Halsway Manor, Halsway Lane, near Crowcombe TA4 4BD.

• Tickets, info 01984 618274

• www.halswaymanor.org.uk • www.wegotickets.com

○ **Amazing range of courses**, see **LISTINGS: WORKSHOPS DIARY**

SOMERSET-BASED PERFORMERS



ACORN SHANTY CREW®

You may like to follow The Acorn Shanty Crew on www.acornshantycrew.co.uk, as we have many bookings which can be attended by the public, and you can follow us on **facebook** too.

THE ACORN ACOUSTIC MUSIC CLUB®, United Reformed Church Hall, Banks St, Minehead TA24 5DJ. Meets **4 Sats a year**, 7.00 for 7.30 pm Professional guests, floor spots. A warm welcome; bring own refreshments; £7.00 (£3.50 full-time students, or 16 and under). Phone 07811 744158 (especially for a floor spot), otherwise just come along.

Great Spring and Summer with Pete Harris and Jon Vaughan, Issy and David Emenev, and Jez Lowe, looking forward to:

- **Saturday 20th January: Party Night, American Flavour:** Alice and David Wylde, Appalachian Duo, Ballads, Old Time, Traditional Gospel and Country Songs; Roger Smith, great Cornish Banjo player, sensitive and amusing songs; **The Acorn Shanty Crew**, shanties from local Yankee Jack of Watchet. *Floor spots welcome. Bring own drinks, and food to share. Decorated hat competition with prizes. Raffle.*

• **Sunday 18th March: Informal Singaround** at our home with tea and cakes, and raffle as a fund raiser for the Club. Phone 07811 744158 if you would like to come.

• **Saturday 19th May: Flossie Malavialle**, legendary French Blues/Jazz Singer. Not to be missed! Floor spots.

• **Saturday 11th August: Bob Wood**, Scottish solo singer and superb finger-style guitarist with fine sense of humour for Eileen Ann (Founder's) birthday party. Floor spots and cake!

Please put all these dates in your diary, coming to the Acorn is a great treat!

Eileen Ann & Jim

© Eileen Ann Moore & Jim Parham 07811 744158

acornfolkclub@googlemail.com

Our website name remains www.acornfolkclub.co.uk

THE ACOUSTIC CALENDAR®

formerly *The Acoustic Calendar For Wessex*

Bristol, Devon, Dorset, Gloucester,
 Hampshire, Somerset, Wiltshire

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>

ASHILL SINGAROUND / MUSIC SESSION®

Ashill Inn (01823 480 471), Ashill, near Ilminster, TA19 9ND

4th Fri, 8.30pm.

Very friendly unplugged singaround / music session. All styles, all ages, all abilities, all welcome. Free chips for performers!

© Tony Watts, 01823 480414