

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

BILL CRAWFORD

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

Bill Crawford



I write this following a highly successful weekend at **Halsway Manor @**, in the Quantocks. Lots of song sessions, presentations a fun events. One of the presenters and singers was Somerset born **Chris Foster**, a big name on the folk scene in the '70s, now living in Iceland, so he is not often seen in this country let alone in the South West. The good news is, he and his wife **Bara Grimsdottir** will be touring in the UK in the autumn and appearing at the **Wren Trust's 'Baring Gould festival' @** in Okehampton over the weekend of 25th to 27th October. A rare chance to see this great singer and possibly learn about Icelandic harmonies.

On my doorstep we have **The Bridgwater Arts Centre** and I am sad to report that due to urgent repairs being needed to the roof, the auditorium is closed for a while. The centre is now entirely run by volunteers and they continue to programme acoustic nights and free events in the bar, pending the reopening of the auditorium. Check out their website and give them some support.

The David Hall, in South Petherton, has a strong programme for the spring ranging from **Peter Knight's Gigspanner** (May 3rd), **Richard Digence** (May 11th), **Steve Turner @** (May 31st) and the

indomitable **Les Barker** (June 8th) to mention a few. If you've never experienced genuine **Spanish Flamenco** they have an evening on May 11th – prepare to be amazed. June 15th sees the **Petherton Folk Festival** in the hall and on the streets. It is great to see this festival back on its feet again, albeit in a shortened form.

The following weekend, 21st to 23rd June, is **Teignmouth Folk Festival @**. This is a small, vibrant festival under the capable management of **Anne and Steve Gill**. For a small festival they have a cracking line up this year with **Jim Causley, Geoff Lakeman, Peter and Barbara Snape** (from Lancashire and fast making a name for themselves on the folk scene), **Paul Wilson/Marilyn Tucker**, and all the way from Newfoundland, **Jim Payne**. It is well worth a visit – check out their website.

There are of course the usual song and music sessions and regular clubs around Somerset and Devon such as **Eli's** at Huish Episcopi, Nadderwater (near Exeter) and Sidmouth (**Anchor**). The latter had a superb evening on the first Wednesday in March. They all need your support. Finally, **The Pennymoor singaround @** celebrates its 40th anniversary this year with a weekend of events based on the London Inn, Morchard Bishop, over the weekend of 6th – 8th September.

That about wraps it up for now folks, so I'll wish you a good festival season

Cheers me dears

Bill Crawford

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✉ billcrawford@phonecoop.coop

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

Somerset Yer 'tis ~ for N. Somerset, and Bath & NE Som. districts, see "Bath, Bristol, Nearby"

HALSWAY MANOR @, Halsway Lane, near Crowcombe TA4 4BD.

Various dates & times

- **Mel's Melodeon Club**. Monthly lessons for beginners, intermediate and advance melodeon players with Mel Biggs. New joiners welcome. **10 May, 7 June, 6 Sept, 4 Oct, 1 Nov, 13 Dec**.

<https://halswaymanor.org.uk/2018/12/06/new-mels-melodeon-club/>

- **Fri 17 May - Sun 19 May**, 4pm-4pm, **Andy May Trio Weekend**. Musicians are invited to a weekend to be inspired by the traditional music of the North-East of England. Andy May, Ian Stephenson, and Sophie Ball will lead workshops on content, style and technique to help improve your repertoire.

<https://halswaymanor.org.uk/event/andy-may-trio-weekend/>

- **Young musicians 13-18 and 18-25** wishing to develop their skills and experience, and find their unique sound in folk music are encouraged to join the Halsway Manor Young Folk Programme with residential weeks in **July and August**.

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

- **Halsway Music and Song Club**: 1st Sundays, see **NEWS ON RIGHT**.

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

- Tickets, info **01984 618274** or **event websites above**
- www.halswaymanor.org.uk • www.wegotickets.com

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



HALSWAY MANOR MUSIC & SONG CLUB @, Halsway Manor, Halsway Lane, near Crowcombe, Somerset TA4 4BD.

1st Sundays (not Jul & Aug), 8pm till late

Halsway Manor open their doors to all on the 1st Sunday evening of each month for an evening of folk and acoustic music. Singers and musicians of all abilities are invited. If you're curious about folk music and just want to listen with a drink from the bar you are also welcome.

There's been a "Sunday Club" meeting at Halsway Manor for many years. It's Spring now and time for a refresh, and so we're relaunching our open-door event as "Halsway Manor Music and Song club".

This 'Sunday Club' for musicians and singers is informal and relaxed. We have a folk theme, but all types of acoustic music, song and poetry are welcome. The evening generally combines some playing together with individual spots. We don't frown on you having your own words or music in front of you, and certainly encourage beginners.

Just come along or give Roger a call if you would like to find out more.

Halsway Music and Song Club is held 8pm on the 1st Sunday of each month (with the exception of a short summer break).

Free to attend – donations welcome.

5 May, 2 June, 8 Sept, 6 Oct, 3 Nov, 1 Dec.

Contact the Manor: 01984 618274 www.halswaymanor.org.uk
halswaymanor.org.uk/2019/03/27/new-halsway-music-and-song-club

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

➔ **THE ACOUSTIC CALENDAR @**

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>

Bristol, Cornwall, Devon, Dorset, Glos, Hampshire, Somerset, Wilts



Somerset 1-Line Summaries (= 1st line of detailed online listings)

DETAILED LISTINGS in www.folklife-directory.uk/West-Country — our online Members DIRECTORY
→ our Membership (only £16 a year! see p 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 ❖	
Day Varies	Som.	CROWCOMBE	HALSWAY MANOR conc., dances	www.halswaymanor.org.uk	All enquiries 01984 618274
Day Varies	Som.	PRIDDY	KIZZY MUSIC CONCERTS	www.kizzymusic.co.uk	Dean Collier 01749 678949
1st Sun	Som.	CROWCOMBE	HALSWAY MANOR MUSIC & SONG CLUB	www.halswaymanor.org.uk	All enquiries 01984 618274
4th Fri	Som.	ASHILL	ASHILL SINGAROUND /MUSIC SESSION (no website)		Tony Watts 01823 480414
❖ MEMBERS LIST 2: PERFORMERS ❖		Pf.1 Folk Music & Song — Pf.2 Folk Dance — Pf.3 Spoken Word ❖			
Pf.1c		Folk Music & Song - Solo			
Somerset		BILL CRAWFORD	(no website)	Bill Crawford 01278 450838
❖ MEMBERS LIST 3: MEDIA ❖					
M.1 ONLINE FOLK MAGAZINES & LISTINGS					
Somerset & Dorset		SOMERSET AND DORSET FOLK DIARY		www.sadfolk.co.uk	Steve Cunio
South-West, + part SE		THE ACOUSTIC CALENDAR (was: A.C. for Wessex)		http://sanchobramble.weebly.com	Tony Watts
West Country [+ W Mids, Wales]		FOLKLIFE MEMBERS' ONLINE DIRECTORY		www.folklife-directory.uk	Sam Simmons 01684 561378
M.3 FOLK RADIO					
Somerset		JOHNNY COPPIN (BBC Somerset)		www.bbc.co.uk/gloucestershire	Johnny Coppin 01453 885088
❖ MEMBERS LIST 4: SERVICES ❖					
S.2 AGENTS, MANAGERS, PROMOTERS, MCs & STAGE MANAGEMENT • for Dance or Concert Series: see "LIST 1: VENUES"					
Somerset		BILL CRAWFORD	(no website)	Bill Crawford	01278 450838
❖ see DIARY-LISTINGS PAGES (follows these news pages) for ❖ List 5 : WORKSHOP DIARY ❖ List 6 : FESTIVAL DIARY (NEXT 12 MONTHS) ❖					

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

→ 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.

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 winter rumbles (none too gently) towards its end, the apparent lethargy of the local folk world is deceptive. While I keep looking somewhat anxiously at the increasing average age of the members of our dance teams in the area, there's no doubting the enthusiasm and ambition of their programmes for the new season. And there are even signs of some mellowing of attitudes among the most conservative-minded morris sides. I would never have thought that a particular Dorset-based men's morris side would ever vote to allow women's teams to join the Morris Ring. Personally, I was delighted to hear this, especially as I was taught at primary school by a former member of the original Esperance Morris ladies team (that shows my age!).

I haven't made it to as many local sessions as I'd hoped this winter for lots of reasons but the ones I've attended have been good, including our own evenings at the Trooper (last night's was exceptional, with almost as much laughter as singing and a refreshingly low body count). One highlight for me was an invitation to attend a significant birthday celebration in Falmouth. Ben Lang will be well known to singers around the country, and especially in his native Cornwall, and the afternoon session, held in the Waterfront pub on Falmouth docks, was an outstanding event, featuring a number of old friends and some first rate singing. It's always enjoyable to visit Cornish singing events, with their very distinctive repertoire and wonderful chorus tradition, so thank you all for your company, and to Ben and Heather for their hospitality.

One question — why is it that every Cornishman knows where the only good pasties can be found, but it's never the same ones as the next man's?

John Waltham

01963 362890 • jhnwaltham<at>yahoo.co.uk

See the Folklife Traditions pages for John's article, *Travels in Donegal*; which includes the song *Pat O'Donnell*.

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 Lol 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.

If you would like to be publicised in FW ~ it's only £16 a year!

• your membership includes FW posted to you, each issue!

• We can set up your publicity:

~ the £16 can include several listings & news items ~

~ we help by drafting LISTINGS, for you to approve/change before we list them on www.folklife-directory.uk (+ summaries in FW)

~ once listings are confirmed, we then use those details setting up NEWS ITEMS, again for you to approve/change; and

~ we help setting up ADVERTS from your emailed text & images

Contact Sam@folklife.co.uk / see p.3

Next deadline: 19 Jul for 1 Sep issue

**Dorset 1-Line Summaries** (= 1st line of detailed online listings)**DETAILED LISTINGS** in www.folklife-directory.uk/West-Country — our **online Members DIRECTORY**⇒ our **Membership** (only **£16** a year! see p 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 3628904th 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

❖ MEMBERS LIST 3: MEDIA ❖ MEMBERS LIST 4: SERVICES ❖

M.1 ONLINE FOLK MAGAZINES & LISTINGSWest Country [+ W Mids, Wales] **FOLKLIFE MEMBERS' ONLINE DIRECTORY** www.folklife-directory.uk Sam Simmons 01684 561378❖ 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★★★ **BRIDPORT FOLK SONG & DANCE FESTIVAL**

Back for its third year on 26th-28th July 2019. Plenty to see and do including outdoor stages, workshops, sessions and headline concerts, more details coming soon!

www.bridportfolkfestival.co.uk ⇒ See **FESTIVAL DIARY PAGES**