

**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**

Hi everyone, it seems only a few days ago that I was writing the report for the October edition. We are now back to dark evenings and colder weather and I must confess I have spent time curled up by the fire with **© Martin Graebe's** excellent book on the **Reverend Sabine Baring Gould**. It is well worth reading and contains fantastic detail on him and some of his singers.

In September I managed to get along to the first **Eli's session** of the season (3rd Saturday), The Rose and Crown, Huish Episcopi. It was a capacity crowd with some excellent singing from Rod Harrington and Mary Lepley, John Waltham and Dave Lowry who came up from Exeter to mention a few.

The first weekend in October saw the **Pennymoor singaround** **©** hosting a weekend in Brixham. The intention was for it to replace the Bampton 'After the fair' event and to include Breton and Irish friends, but unfortunately none of them could make it. Friday night and Saturday morning and lunchtime were 'jump in' sessions. 'Ollie' Holland was in charge on Saturday night for a more organised song and music session, and he ran a good evening, despite having to put up with some people wandering in and out whilst people were singing. **Pennymoor Singaround** meets every 3rd Wednesday in Pennymoor.

Halloween night saw the second 'Old Grey Mare' event at Sticklepath, near Okehampton. Regular readers will know I wrote

about this last year as the first evening of a new tradition. There were slightly fewer people there this year, largely due to the heavy rain showers we had, but the community is certainly getting behind this event. For those of you who don't know, Tom Pearce's grave is in Sticklepath and many of the characters in the *Widdecombe Fair* song lived in the village. I suspect however that the old singers used the names of people who happened to be around any given night they sang the song and the well-known names are those used on the night some collector heard it and wrote it down!

The **Sticklepath group** were asked to take the event to **Halsway Manor** **©**, in the Quantocks, over the weekend of 2nd - 4th November for a weekend of **Dartmoor Folklore and Fakelore**. The performance of the event and 'mummers play' went down well and prompted a lively discussion on what is tradition and what is folklore. It was a great weekend ably hosted by **Tom and Barbara Brown** **©**, with some fascinating archive film from **Doc Rowe** **©** who also gave a brilliant presentation on 'The Mortonhamstead Dancing Tree' - No I had never heard of it either.

Although it is a bit out of my patch, I attended the November 'Inn on the Green' song and music session in Bristol (Horfield) which is normally the 1st Monday. There was some fine music and singing in a well-supported evening run by Harry Langston. Do try to get along to that and other sessions near you and let me know of anything you are planning, and I will include it in the next edition, until then I hope you had a good Christmas and have some great folky sessions in 2019

*Cheers me dears*

*Bill Crawford*

© 01278 450838

© 07815 195863

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

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

**HALSWAY MANOR** **©** **concerts**

**and dances**, Halsway Lane, near Crowcombe TA4 4BD.

*Various dates & times*

- **Sun. 13 Jan**, 6-9pm, **Midwinter Fires**. Seasonal Feast and Celebration. Free family event. Share food, stories, customs, songs and more. <https://halswaymanor.org.uk/event/midwinter-fires-a-seasonal-feast-and-celebration/>
- **Sat. 19 Jan**, 8-10pm **Token Women Ceilidh**: Jo Freya, Alice Kinlock\*, Heather Horsley, Jo May, Linda Game, Fi Fraser. <https://halswaymanor.org.uk/event/token-women/>
- **Sat. 26 Jan**, 8-10pm **Mandolin** concert. Virtuoso **Simon Mayor**, singers **Hilary James & Janet Giraud**. <https://halswaymanor.org.uk/event/simon-mayor-hilary-james-and-janet-giraud/>
- **Thu. 7 Feb**, 8-10pm **Faustus**: **Benji Kirkpatrick, Paul Sartin & Saul Rose**. <https://halswaymanor.org.uk/event/faustus-3>
- **Sat. 9 Feb**, 8-10pm **Hurdy Gurdy & Bagpipes**. Music (and dancing). Gilles Chabenat, Francesco Giusta (Italy) Claire Dugué, Joel Turk, David Faulkner, Olle Geris. <https://halswaymanor.org.uk/event/hurdy-gurdy-bagpipes-3/>
- **Sun. 10 Feb**, 7-9pm **Kevin Dempsey & Joe Broughton**. Emotive songs, unrivalled instrumental capability, spectacular show. <https://halswaymanor.org.uk/event/kevin-dempsey-joe-broughton/>
- **Thu. 14 Feb**, 8-10pm **Lady Maisery**. Intimate informal concert. <https://halswaymanor.org.uk/event/lady-maisery-4>
- **Tue. 19 Feb**, 8--9.30pm **Piva - The Renaissance Collective**. Bagpipes, hurdy gurdies, recorders, viol, curtals, rauschpfeifen, crumhorns, shawms, violin. <https://halswaymanor.org.uk/event/piva-the-renaissance-collective/>
- **Sat. 2 Mar**, 8-10pm **Northumbrian Smallpipes** concert, Pauline Cato, Andy May, Alice Robinson, Chris Evans. <https://halswaymanor.org.uk/event/northumbrian-smallpipes-2/>
- **Sat. 13 Apr**, 8-10pm **Hannah James, Nicola Lyons, Jim Molyneux** concert - tunes in bonkers time signatures, stereo clog dancing, mayb yodelling! <https://halswaymanor.org.uk/event/hannah-james-nicola-lyons-jim-molyneux/>



- **Sunday Club**: 1<sup>st</sup> Sun., 8pm, free. See **VENUE LISTINGS**.

**© Rachel Hill**

**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**

**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](http://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.

**➔ THE ACOUSTIC CALENDAR** **©**

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

**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>

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

**DETAILED LISTINGS** in [www.folklife-directory.uk/West-Country](http://www.folklife-directory.uk/West-Country) — our **online Members DIRECTORY**  
 ⇒ our **Membership** (only **£15** 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* ❖

<b>Day Varies</b>	Som.	CROWCOMBE	<b>HALSWAY MANOR</b> <i>conc., dances</i>	<a href="http://www.halswaymanor.org.uk">www.halswaymanor.org.uk</a>	All enquiries	01984 618274
<b>Day Varies</b>	Som.	PRIDDY	<b>KIZZY MUSIC CONCERTS</b>	<a href="http://www.kizzymusic.co.uk">www.kizzymusic.co.uk</a>	Dean Collier	01749 678949
<b>1st Sun</b>	Som.	CROWCOMBE	<b>HALSWAY MANOR SUNDAY CLUB</b>	<a href="http://www.halswaymanor.org.uk">www.halswaymanor.org.uk</a>	All enquiries	01984 618274
<b>4th Fri</b>	Som.	ASHILL	<b>ASHILL SINGAROUND /MUSIC SESSION</b> <i>(no website)</i> .....		Tony Watts	01823 480414

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

<b>Pf.1c</b>	<b>Folk Music &amp; Song - Solo</b>					
Somerset		<b>BILL CRAWFORD</b>	<i>(no website)</i>	.....	Bill Crawford	01278 450838

## ❖ MEMBERS LIST 3: MEDIA ❖

<b>M.1</b>	<b>ONLINE FOLK MAGAZINES &amp; LISTINGS</b>					
Somerset & Dorset		<b>SOMERSET AND DORSET FOLK DIARY</b>		<a href="http://www.sadfolk.co.uk">www.sadfolk.co.uk</a>	Steve Cunio	
South-West, + part SE		<b>THE ACOUSTIC CALENDAR</b> <i>(was: A.C. for Wessex)</i>		<a href="http://sanchobramble.weebly.com">http://sanchobramble.weebly.com</a>	Tony Watts	
West County [+ W Mids, Wales]		<b>FOLKLIFE MEMBERS' ONLINE DIRECTORY</b>		<a href="http://www.folklife-directory.uk">www.folklife-directory.uk</a>	Sam Simmons	01684 561378
<b>M.3</b>	<b>FOLK RADIO</b>					
Somerset		<b>JOHNNY COPPIN (BBC Somerset)</b>		<a href="http://www.bbc.co.uk/gloucestershire">www.bbc.co.uk/gloucestershire</a>	<b>Johnny Coppin</b>	<b>01453 885088</b>

## ❖ MEMBERS LIST 4: SERVICES ❖

<b>S.2</b>	<b>AGENTS, MANAGERS, PROMOTERS, MCs &amp; STAGE MANAGEMENT</b> • <i>for Dance or Concert Series: see "LIST 1: VENUES"</i>					
Somerset		<b>BILL CRAWFORD</b>	<i>(no website)</i>	Bill Crawford		01278 450838

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