Happy New Year to everyone!

I thought I would start off with a bit of an update on Bedworth Folk Festival, as so many people have been asking what is happening, well, the decision has been made that after missing a year, and with all the accommodation and financial problems we have had over the last few years, it is time to bring down the final curtain, and Bedworth Folk Festival will, alas, be no more. All is not totally lost though as we have been asked to join forces with The Ragged Bear Festival, held in October in Nuneaton and I will keep you updated with that as plans evolve.

So back to the early months of 2019 and a quick round-up of the regular folk events and concerts around the Warwickshire and Coventry area:

**Mondays:** Weekly, the Fox Acoustic sessions at The Fox, Atchelborough, Nuneaton, whilst fortnightly Bedworth Folk Club meets at their new home, The Racecourse Inn, just outside the town centre, guests there include Bill Bates & Friends (Jan 24), Flossie Malavialle (Feb 18) and Kevin Dempsey (March 18th), and on 1st Mondays Brenda Hart hosts the Nursery Tavern sessions, Coventry.

**Tuesdays:** Dave Sampson hosts the weekly Wurzel Bush Folk Club, which has moved again, now The West Indian Club, Railway Terrace, Rugby, the impressive guest list there includes January Sean Cannon (9th), Damian Barber and Mike Wilkon (29th), February Richard Gigance (5th), John Kirkpatrick (19th), March Merry Hell (5th) Leon Rosseleon (12th). On the last Tuesday of the month Stockton Folk Club at The Nelson Club, hosted by Away with the Fairies, with feature spots and floor spots - always a good night!

**Wednesdays:** continues to be North Warwickshire’s big folk music night, with the three local clubs ensuring top folk nights every week, 1st Wednesday. Nuneaton Folk Club ®, Queens Hall, Nuneaton, their guests are Kevin Dempsey (2nd Jan), Scarecrow (6th Feb) and Gerry Colvin Band (6th Mar), 2nd Wednesdays it is the turn of Bedworth Folk Club ®, The Newdigate Club, Smorall Lane, their guests are Daisybly (9th Jan), The Somervile Gents (13th Feb) and Granny's Attic (13th March). On to the 3rd Wednesday, over to The Rose at Baxterley for Atherstone Folk Club ® and their nights include New Year Sing (16th Jan), The Paper Circus (20th Feb) and Brian Phillips (20th Mar), then back to Bedworth, 4th Wednesday for Bedworth Folk Club's "Acoustic nights ®, usually Singers Nights with a feature spot, but a bit of a special night on 23rd January, when there will be a special Charity Night featuring the residents of the three North Warwickshire Clubs, Malc & Gill (Bedworth), Nunc (Nuneaton) and Finger in the Jar (Atherstone), all proceeds from the night to a charity nominated by each of the clubs and the beneficiary drawn on the night.

**Concerts:** As always a fair selection of concerts to keep you entertained in and around the area - Birmingham Town Hall, Barbara Dickson (23rd Feb), Loreena McKennitt (10th March), and the legendary Roy Harper (12th March, Symphony Hall) - The Musician, Leicester Edwina Hayes (6th Jan), Tim Edey (10th Jan), IOTA (17th Jan), and Merry Hell (7th March). De Montford Hall, Leicester, have a very folky flavoured March with Mike and the Mechanics (8th), Paul Carrack (15th) and K T Tunstall (22nd) and Steelye Span on 3rd April.

Kathryn Roberts and Sean Lakeman are in concert at the OSCA Centre, Atherstone on 1st Feb, and The Ric Sanders Trio are at The Guildhall, Lichfield (27th January) and IOTA same venue (16th Feb) as is Ashley Hutchings (31st March). So loads of fine music to keep you royally entertained for the early part of the year, plus of course many regular and impromptu music and song sessions around the county which you can usually find out about by visiting your local folk club!

**Keep safe,**

Go and have a look. Floor singers wishing to perform at the club, please contact Philip Benson at phil@atherstonefolkclub.org.uk in plenty of time, please. We fill up fast!

**NORTH WARWICKSHIRE INFO:** [http://nowfolk.org.uk](http://nowfolk.org.uk)

**ATHERTHORNE FOLK CLUB ®** Rose Inn, Main Road, Baxterley, Atherstone, CV9 2LE. 3rd Wed (except June), 8.00pm

Hosts **Finger in the Jar**. We aim to have something for everyone; traditional, modern, shanties, comedy, dance and sessions just for musicians.

**Entry free** for club nights, with a collection for the guests that night and a free raffle.

16 January, and a rousing entry into 2019 with our New Year Sing. The Paper Circus are our super guests on 20 February; Brian Phillips from 'Bedford' will have us entranced on 20 March, and Sally Ironmonger & Brian Carter will have us rolling in the aisle [sic] 17 April. Don't forget our Facebook page (see below) if you want to stay up-to-date with our news.

The website is being regularly been updated, with lots of photos from club events, dates now into 2020, and a new approach to the calendar.

**HAMMERED DULCIMER MEET®,** Studley. 2nd/4th Thu evenings Contact Sally Whytehead, 01527 64229; [http://dulcimer.org.uk/calendar.html](http://dulcimer.org.uk/calendar.html)

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[https://www.facebook.com/groups/atherstonefolkclub](https://www.facebook.com/groups/atherstonefolkclub)
FOLK AT THE LARDER ®
The Larder, 50 Long Street, Atherstone, Warks CV9 1AU.
1st Wed, 2:30 pm – 4:00 pm, all year
Happy Birthday to you ... October 3rd saw Nuneaton Folk Club head into its 4th year of operation at the Queen's Hall. This February, NFC were forced by sudden closure to quit The Crown, their home for three years. Fortunately, Richard Burlingham, who runs the nearby music venue The Crew, generously rehomed NFC within an hour of learning of their displacement. NFC passed another milestone in September 2018, the number of artists who had performed at either venue passed the one hundred mark, seventy of whom have been Midlands-based acts.

Hopefully, there will be many more years of work still to come, from both Nuneaton Folk Club, and from Anker Folk (= see right), supporting Folk and Roots music locally, nationally and internationally.

NFC “Live” Folk (Traditional and Contemporary), Blues, Acoustic and Open Mic-style performances. Free Admission! Parking nearby. Seating around 60, plus standing room. Featured guests usually take or share the main spot at the end of each half, with pre-booked floor spots.

Guests: 2 January, Kevin Dempsey; 6 February, Scarecrow; 6 March, Gerry Colvin Band; 3 April, Phil Hare; 1 May, Iota (It Anna Ryder; Sally Barker & Marion Fleetwood).

Anker Folk (Anker Radio Show) ®
Monday September 3rd saw Anker Folk celebrate its 2nd year of broadcasting on Anker Radio. Primarily a Hospital Radio programme, it is also available on 1386 AM and all over the world online, it is broadcast at 8pm twice monthly on Anker Radio. Most of the shows (including a 4-hour marathon broadcast on August Bank Holiday Monday) can be heard via an online Listen Again facility at MixCloud.

In those two years, Anker Folk has featured many unsigned artists, played “Live” performances recorded in the Anker Studios (or recorded at Nuneaton Folk Club), and has aired 312 different artists. 52 of those 312 could be described as “local.” Anker Folk has always embraced the very broadest spectrum of “Folk” and so has unashamedly played Country, Cajun, Blues, Gospel, Roots, Americana and World music as well as Traditional Folk. Besides all the well known and expected names featured, they have also showcased acoustic recordings by Stig, Led Zeppelin, Ocean Colour Scene, Jeff Beck, Jimi Hendrix, Rory Gallagher and Bryan Ferry! All (just!) inside the Blues or Folk genre.

Geoff Veasey, Folk on Anker Radio, www.ankerfolk.co.uk, Mixcloud: www.mixcloud.com/ankerfolk/playlists/anker-folk