



aroundkent folk



Issue 129
June / July 2025



Your **FREE** Guide to Folk Events
in **Kent**, **Surrey**, **Sussex** and beyond



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Promoting folk song, music, dance, crafts and traditions.

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SANDWICH
Folk & Ale
 FESTIVAL 2025

4th-6th JULY

A.D. SCRUFFS

The
 Ashen
 Keys

**SAM
 BROTHERS**



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Welcome to issue 129 June/July 2025 issue of Around Kent Folk

The legacy of Tenterden Folk Festival:

It was a very sad day when the Trustees of Tenterden Folk Festival had to make the decision that, mainly due to financial restraints and risks, they could not promote further festivals after October 2024. Now however we are starting to see what the legacy of running the festival for over 30 years might be.



Barn dances:

For the last couple of years we have been running the occasional Barn Dance at The Old Dairy Tap Room near the town centre railway station. The most recent barn dance was held on 22nd March with Swing the Bridge and Martin Young as caller. We were hoping for 50 or 60 people so were very excited when we sold about 125 tickets in advance and more on the door. There was a good mix

of experienced dancers, people who had never been to a barn dance before and all age groups were represented. One group of locals came to celebrate a friend's birthday and it was also Pip Ives, one of the band's, birthday, so there was a large cake cut and handed round. The atmosphere was amazing and we are planning to hold similar events in the future. Photos by Brannan Cowley.

Day of Dance:

Just after the last festival, there was quite a bit of talk amongst the local Morris community about the possibility of holding a Day of Dance in Tenterden and I am very pleased to report that Romney Marsh Morris now have this in hand. They tell me that it will be a relatively small event on Saturday 4th October with dancing at The Old Dairy, the Kent and East Sussex Railway Station and hopefully one or two other sites around Tenterden. The website lists Invicta Morris, Motley Morris, Wolfshead & Vixen, Kits Coty Morris and Wild Women as taking part but I believe they have now added a couple more sides too. You will be able to find out more at <https://www.romneymarshmorris.com/> where you can also watch a video of Romney Marsh Morris dancing outside the Vine Inn

All Day Folk Song and Music Session:

Some of the regular venues in Tenterden have been asking us do something to mark what would have been the festival weekend this year so we have decided to hold an All day folk song and music session. This free event will take place in the upstairs bar of The Tenterden Club from 11:30 a.m. to 10:30 p.m. on Saturday 4th October. The day will be run by Alan Castle, Dave & Eileen Masterson, John & Di Cullen, Roger Resch, Sue Watson & others. You can come along and take part or you are welcome to just sit and listen. A collection will be made to fund the event so please give generously. See our advert elsewhere in this issue for more details of visit <https://tenterdenfolkfestival.com/Events-coming-up/>.

Folk @ the Platform 2 Bar:

Dave and Eileen Masterson have recently started a day time song session known as Folk

Continued Overleaf...



@ the Platform 2 Bar in the front bar of the Tenterden Club on the first Tuesday of the month from 11:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. It has only been running for a couple of months but is already attracting over 20 singers from across Kent. The bar is known as Platform 2 as it is popular with the volunteers from the steam railway. This is in addition to our regular evening sessions on the second Wednesday of the month from 7:30 p.m. See adverts for both these events elsewhere in this issue.

Folk events at Tenterden Museum:

Tenterden and District Museum has been a welcoming festival venue for a number of years and I understand that they are planning to hold a series of folk lore and tradition related events including talks and demonstrations of local crafts. When details are known you will be able to find out more at <https://tenterdenmuseum.co.uk/>.

Ceilidh and Harvest Supper:

Friends of St Mildred's Church are holding a Ceilidh and Harvest Supper in the Church on Saturday 4th October with the Rejigged Ceilidh Band and a caller. Tickets are £25 each and include a fish and chip supper. This event is in aid of Transforming St Mildred's for the 21st Century. Check out My Tenterden at <https://www.mytenterden.co.uk/events/> or <https://www.rejigged.co.uk/> for more details in due course.

Ashford Folk, a group of musicians based in Ashford was formed to encourage the playing and enjoyment of folk music. They have regularly played on the Free Music Stage at the festival and then gone on to join in some of the open music sessions in the pubs. I understand that they are looking for a venue to hold a music session in Tenterden on Saturday 4th October. This will be a good addition to the various events confirmed so far. Details will be available at <https://ashfordfolk.org/>

Hopefully more people will organise more events to keep the legacy of Tenterden Folk Festival alive..

Alan Castle (Editor)

PS: You can make a donation to Tenterden Folk Festival or this magazine via our websites or by post (see payment details on last page). Thank you.

www.tenterdenfolkfestival.org.uk www.aroundkentfolk.org.uk

Find us online at www.aroundkentfolk.org.uk

You can also find us on social media:

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You can always find a link to the latest and past issues of AKF there. Please pass the link on to your mailing lists and place it on your social media so that as many potential readers as possible can find AKF online.



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Front cover: Martin Carthy during the recording of his new album - see review in this issue

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15 July - Three Idle Women

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29 July - Sherburn Bartley Sanders

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Scene & Heard (June - July 2025)

Indeed pleasant and delightful, those sunny mornings in spring... Pink cherry blossom was blowing in the wind on Boley Hill long before Sweeps, and the sound of many melodeons and shanty crews had already hit the harbours ahead of Cockchafer Sunday ... how Mayday and Jack In The Greens fared, from Whitstable to Hastings, you'll know by now.

As to sessions, there's a lively correspondence going on in folk websites: here in Kent we are fortunate in having so many within driving range- Deal, Faversham Market Inn (instrumental) and Faversham Weds (Singers) , two at Orpington, Boughton Monchelsea, Ashford, the Drum, Crabble Mill, Egerton, Travelling Folk, the East Kent Traditional, Sandwich and many more... Already the new Tenterden afternoon monthly sessions (1st Tuesday) have proved successful, easy to get to and well attended, in addition to the established evenings (2nd Weds). I must correct a mistake in the last S&H: the Oast Rainham runs 2nd FRIDAY... well spotted Paul Steele! ... others are springing up in Folkestone and the inexhaustible CJ has her open mike nights from Wingham to you name it, she's there...

Certainly there's a grassroots surge among the younger players. Doug Hudson gave an interesting talk on the Medway Folk Scene c1976-85, in which he recalled the legendary Wish It Was A Brewery club in Rochester: a like-minded group set sights high and created a top venue. I was lucky enough to go there around 1979-81 and see so many of the best. Debs Earl has likewise created Folk In The Barn- now often more accessible- and doubtless others will arise from the James Kerry/ Will Allen crew to forward folk music, if they can surmount the legislative, financial and administrative hurdles. Morag Butler at Rosslyn Court has developed a similar crew, with Jon Beetham, Una Bellingham, Tony Hudd, Snottledogs, Old Uncle Roger Heald and all, and all... a splendid venue.

Among the folk clubs nationally it seems that we are all facing the same challenge- the fact that so many survive in Kent is due to the long-standing committees who are determined to keep the music we love alive. At Deal recently **Martin Wyndham-Read & Iris Bishop** gave a masterclass in clear singing and sympathetic accompaniment; **The Kimberleys** at Faversham made



old songs new whilst telling their stories clearly, light and shade. Capella likewise, their harmonies and warm pleasure in singing evident. Brown Boots! They have so much fun together- top class melodies and inventive woven counters... A Wealden Ramblers gig kept me from Johnny Coppin at Dartford, another whose musical attention to his lyrics is legendary. As to songwriters,

watch out for **Milton Hide's** fresh CD, made from cement poured over shuttled flints... Jimbo will explain... and I hear that From The Workshop and Nick Lawrence/ Loreli Parker-Morely are well worth checking out...

A healthy crowd came to Broadstairs Folk Week's first fundraiser concert at the Horsebridge Centre in Whitstable- Katriona Gilmore & Jamie Roberts gave a warm and relaxed set of fresh songs, plenty to think about in stunning arrangements which always put the words first. Pip Ives provided fine local support, and sound was by the excellent Chris Basford, who really knows how to put acoustic sound together. Always wise to take his advice! I won, in the raffle, a woollen Positive Potato, which will travel with me always...

Looking forward, Pig's Ear 17-20 July, Herne Bay 25-7 July and now Chickenstock follow in close succession before the mighty Broadstairs 8-15 Aug which this year features more stars and legends than you can heave a hooden horse at... 60th Anniversary and concert tickets going fast online... so many sessions and artistes across the town, always a week to cherish. Good luck to Kai Hoffman and her team, and to all who make it such a success.

In the meantime, check out your local clubs for top names, they are easy to find here: James Keelaghan & David Woodhead, Terry Lees & Natasha Norodien, Lynne Heraud & Pat Turner, The Lost Notes... dance until the sun goes down and have a beautiful summer. Lewd sing cuckoo!

Bob Kenward



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Chickenstock Music Festival – What the organisers say

Chickenstock Music Festival has become one of the top up and coming festivals on the circuit, now in its 7th year and was amongst the 'Times newspaper's top 7 independent festivals in 2024'! What started in the organisers back garden in 2018 in Stockbury, Kent and has grown into a fully formed event. The second year saw the event moving onto farmland to cope with the growth of the Festival. The quirky name derives from the village the organisers live in, and that they had pet chickens!

The festival provides grass roots music from many genres from Folk to Ska, from Rock to Swing and everything in between. There are 2 stages positioned side by side, so there is no need to move your chair, and allows for a quick turnaround of Acts, but as only 1 stage is playing at a time, you will not miss a single note, instead of trying to decide which Band to see! There is bound to be something for everyone and you may well discover a new favourite band.

Headline Acts this year include 'Lack Of Afro' who have appeared on BBC Radio, 'Elias Alexander' who merges traditional instruments such as the bag pipes and fiddle with modern performance techniques.

'Molotov Jukebox' brings a Latin feel to the event and the weekend ends with 'Man The Lifeboats', who draw comparisons to Bellowhead, Waterboys, Oysterband and The Levellers.

The Festival site is in beautiful countryside just outside the village of Stockbury between Maidstone and Sittingbourne, but just a five minute drive from the A249 and M2. The Main Arena and camping areas are very close together so no long walks back to your tents, caravan or motorhome. They even provide excellent free showers to campers, and there is the option to purchase electric-hook-up too! They even have teamed up with a Glamping



provider if you just want to turn up and have your home from home all ready for you.

The Festival team pride themselves on how accessible the event is, as well as being family and dog friendly with under 10s getting in for free. There is a children's activity area with plenty for the younger audience to take part in.

There is everything you would expect from a festival including food vendors, stalls and a bar serving local ciders and award winning beers at pub prices, and very clean loos! In fact the Festivals organisers say they run the festival as if it were a festival they would want to attend.

Don't be deceived by the small nature of the event catering up to a maximum of 3000 attendees, this is a perfectly formed festival with an extremely friendly vibe and great music. Attendees have described the organisers as 'trustees of live music'. Chickenstock is definitely Kent's BIG little festival!



"You have a perfectly formed 'pocket' festival. There was nothing wanting. The nice atmosphere and bonhomie, the set up, the diversity of bands. It's all perfect."

The word is spreading about Chickenstock Music Festival, with more people attending each year and those who have been before returning and bringing their friends.

"I want my children to grow up with Chickenstock. Grassroots, family friendly, perfect! The kids loved it! You've got us every year from now on!"

The Festival's website contains all the information you could need and where you can purchase your tickets, so head over to www.chickenstockfestival.co.uk to find out all the Artists performing and to get your tickets.

Tonbridge Folk Club (Nellie's)

Ye Olde Chequers Inn, 122 High Street,
Tonbridge, TN9 1AS

Please note that we start at 7:30 and finish
at 10:30.

2nd June Scan Tester fan Club

16th June Iona Lane

7th July Marilla Homes

21st July Linda Moylan

18th August The Kimberleys

**1st Sept Paul Walker
and Karen Pfeifer**

15th Sept The Twagger Band

Tel: 01892 822945

info@tonbridgefolkclub.org

www.tonbridgefolkclub.org



Daphne's Flight

Sunday 18th May, Gulbenkian, Canterbury

Lindisfarne

Sat 14th June, Colyer-Fergusson Hall, Canterbury

Breabach

Thursday 26th June, Colyer-Fergusson Hall

Downes & Beer

Sunday 13th July – Godmersham & Crundale
Village Hall

Le Vent du Nord

Sunday 20th July, Gulbenkian, Canterbury

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5th, 12th, 26th,

Singers & Musicians Night

19th

Milton Hide

JULY

3rd, 10th, 24th, 31st

Singers & Musicians Night

17th

Mountain Hares

*Orpington Folk Music and Song Club exists to promote folk
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Broadstairs Folk Week 2025: 60 Years Young—and Bigger Than Ever

As we gear up to celebrate 60 incredible years of Broadstairs Folk Week, it's safe to say 2025 is shaping up to be a very exciting year. If you've danced at a ceilidh or with a Morris side on the seafront, sung your heart out at a singaround, or wandered between venues catching unexpected brilliance—you already know what makes Folk Week special. But this year, we're taking it even further.

We're thrilled to introduce new venues, expanded programming, and some brilliant additions that build on everything you love about the festival. First up: our brand-new Community Hub at Pierremont Park. It's set to be the social heartbeat of the week, with a daily Introducing Stage, a "History of Folk Week" exhibition, and a relaxed space to catch performances, meet friends, and enjoy the sunshine.

The Introducing Stage is where the next generation of folk talent gets its start. We're inviting young musicians aged 10–25 from across Kent to apply for a performance slot between 12:30 and 3pm, Saturday 9th to Friday 15th August. It's a fantastic platform—plus, all featured acts will be in the running for our new 'Best New Act' award, to be presented at the end of the week.

Sign up here <https://broadstairsfolkweek.org.uk/young-folk-intro-stage/>.

We've also added the Wrotham Arms as our newest ticketed venue for some events, now home to our Roots, Americana & Blues Stage, and launched the "Later at the Pav" series—curated late-night gigs from some of the most lively, foot-stomping bands on the scene. If you're looking for music you can really move to, don't miss punk folk shanty band Man the Lifeboats, brilliant Cajun Zydeco with Le Rue, the energetic Noble Jacks, or pirate-themed folk rockers Captain's Beard.

Dance has always been a cornerstone of Folk Week, but this year the programme is especially rich. Expect everything from country and contra workshops to gentle ceilidhs, family-friendly sessions, and specialist classes in clogging, belly dance, and Bollywood.

We're also excited to welcome Tim Walker for medieval dance workshops, plus a Sunday Morris dance taster workshop for all levels.

The fancy dress Ceilidh with Banter is back on the Sunday night—bring your diamonds and glitter, celebrating 60 years with as much sparkle as possible - and for our final event at the Sarah Thorne, we have ceilidh legends Whapweasel.

We're also expanding our global music offering, with standout performances from Khiyo (Bangladeshi folk-rock fusion), West African multi-instrumentalist Falle Nioke, and Sam Brown, whose infectious violin-led rhythms take in the Caribbean and beyond. Included in this series of shows are superstar guitarist Rob Luft bringing you songs of Poland and the Mediterranean with singer Alice Zawadzki, a trip to the back streets of France in the Take Me to Paris show with Fifi Le Mer, and Zimbabwean busking band Gonora Sounds, whose infectious rhythms will keep you lifted all day long.

Headline shows by Lindisfarne and Eddi Reader have already sold out, but there are still plenty of brilliant concerts and events to book—including the iconic traditional song legends The Copper Family, performing their *only* festival show of 2025 at Folk Week, lively festival favourites Granny's Attic, and a live Zoom event with Peggy Seeger with Q&A. Don't sleep on those tickets—many shows are already moving fast.

Beyond August, we're also building momentum through our Folk Week Presents series at the Horsebridge Arts Centre in Whitstable. These monthly gigs are a great way to keep that Folk Week feeling alive all year—and every ticket helps support the main festival. Upcoming artists include Gabriel Moreno in June, with shows resuming in September. Tickets and listings are here: <https://thehorsebridge.org.uk/folk>.

This year, there are more than 400 events, many of them free, across our beautiful seaside town. The craft and music fair, busking stage, and daily visits with the cheeky Hooden Horse are back, along with over 160 pub gigs and dozens of workshops, talks, and informal sessions. If you haven't already, now's the time to book tickets or consider joining our Workforce Volunteers—it's a brilliant way to be part of the celebration, with plenty of added bonuses.

We'll be flying the bunting (homemade, of course), welcoming old friends and new, and celebrating six decades of tradition, creativity, and community. See you in August!





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June - July

Doors open 7.00 pm every Wednesday, Club runs 7.30 - 10 pm

2 July **Terry Lees & Natasha Norodien** - Terry Lees, an English Folk Guitarist Of The Year, one of the very best, in a fine duo with Natasha Norodien, quality vocals, flute... a wide selection of driving traditional and contemporary songs. £10/11

9 July **Lynne Heraud & Pat Turner** - Gorgeous harmonies and wicked wit from two abundant songwriters- full of entertaining badinage and tales of historical derring-do. Their own songs range from up-to-the-minute issues to medical conditions- they'll make you laugh and cry... £10/11

16 July **Singers**

23 July **The Lost Notes** - By popular demand a first visit to Faversham for Ben Mills, Oli Jones & Lucy Mills: their eclectic take on folk and jazz vitalizes audiences wherever they play, sure to be a stomping night. Strong harmony vocals, check them out! 'Highly recommended live' FATEA Magazine £10/11

All August Wednesdays are Singers' Nights - we never close for the summer!

But on....

27 Aug **John D-O Clarke** - Faversham's resident answer to Segovia treats us to a full evening of magnificent guitar, songs witty & meaningful and amusing anecdotes from across the Thames... he's a local treasure! 10/11

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Friday 1st August

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Joshua Burnell Band - Kings & Bears
Liam Vincent & The Odd Foxes
The Swamp Stomp String Band
The Outcast Band - Sam Draisey
Olivia Rose - Madeleine McPhearson
Squangey Bobbins

Saturday 2nd August

Lack of Afro

Los Kamer - Clearwater Credance Revival
Gareth Dunlop - The Bad Day
Secret City Souls - Brooke Law
Pistol Pete Wearn & Olly Parry
John Doe Trio - I.O - Hobo and the Hippies

Sunday 3rd August

Man the Lifeboats

Karobela - King Cerulean - Fine Lime
The Fontanas - Anthony John Clarke
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The Twelve Sullivans - The Mustard
Sofia Gillani

GET TICKETS FOR 2025 NOW!

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GOLDFOX
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FOLK AT THE DRUM

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For more information, contact Jeff on 01303 813188

DEAL FOLK CLUB

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St Andrews Church Hall, West Street, Deal, CT14 6DZ

June 5th – Tania Opland & Mike Freeman –
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June 26th – Huw Williams – Great singer/songwriter,
half of popular welsh duo Huw & Tony Williams £10

July 3rd – Singers Night £3

July 17th – Sound Tradition – Wonderful a capella
Harmony Quartet from Suffolk £10

Tea & coffee £1 or bring your own drink

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CD REVIEW

Bungaroosh - Milton Hide (HOWDY5)

I'm sure most readers in our region will know the duo Jim Tipler and Jo Church from East Sussex who together are Milton Hide. I think they have appeared at most folk clubs and festivals in the area at least once, and this is their third album. Jim and Jo are singer songwriters and this album features 13 more of their songs plus a surprise track at the end. The title track Bungaroosh refers to a traditional building method common in the Brighton and Hove area based on using any available rubble and covering it with a layer of lime mortar. In Kent the equivalent would probably have been lath and plaster, a thin layer of wood covered in plaster. Instrumentation on the album includes clarinet, guitar, piano and banjo, plus a bit of double bass and mandolin but the vocals are always clear and prominent. There is also a fold out A3 insert that contains all the words to the songs. The album is well worth a listen and it is always worth seeing Milton Hide live when you have the opportunity.



Alan Castle (Editor)

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Plans well underway for Harwich Shanty Festival 2025!

Excitement is mounting as we prepare for this year's Harwich International Shanty Festival, when the streets and alleyways of our historic seafaring town will come alive with traditional shanties and sea songs once again in celebration of Harwich's rich and fascinating maritime history. This year's festival will take place from Friday 10th to Sunday 12th October, and it will be our 19th year.



Some wonderful shanty artists are coming, including **The Keelers** from Northumberland, who have enjoyed 40 years of shanty singing and have performed many times with the late, great Stan Hugill and at Tall Ships events all over Europe. They include Jim Mageean who has sang all over the world for many years and was the foremost proponent of the revival of shanty singing in the 1970s. **De Kaapstander** will be joining us from Oudewater,



near Gouda in the Netherlands. They are a mixed shanty choir, 40 strong, who have enjoyed singing together since 1998 and sing in Dutch, English and French accompanied by accordion, violin, guitar, and banjo. Perly I Lotry, a six piece acapella group are coming from Poland to thrill us with their amazing harmonies, and from France we have A Band On Ship and the Aude Shantymen. Other international guests include **Gunnar Wiegand** from Germany, singing songs from the maritime world with guitar accompaniment, and the popular four-piece group Scheepsfolk, will be returning from the Netherlands. They have been performing for 30 years and accompany their singing with guitar, banjo, harmonica, bass, washboard and cajon.

Other highlights this year will include Foresail, a four-part harmony group from Cornwall,



Joe Whittaker singing the songs of Cyril Tawney, and Quaynotes, a three-piece female harmony group who sail on the River Deben. They like to sing sea-themed songs illustrating the part women have played in maritime history, and accompany their sea themed songs with Celtic harp, guitar and autoharp. We welcome back the Silver Darlings a six-piece all female harmony group from Southend who are now in great demand at home and abroad. The popular local choir Harwich Sing will also be performing again. We also look forward to seeing many other familiar names to the festival, some of whom have been with us since the beginning.

We have beach activities for children as well as the return of our popular events at the Redoubt Napoleonic Fort which include the King's German Artillery, the Sea Fencibles, the River Rogues and Sheppey Pirates, Inner State Theatre with their Viking Longship, and maritime crafts which will include rock painting for the first time.

Our wide variety of workshops include our popular Jig Dolls with Martin Judkins and Corine Nugteren, and Playing the Bones with 'Dutch Uncle' Hans Weehuizen. There will also be Shanty Trains with pirates and entertainment, Thames Barge Victor Cruises with shanty singers on board, guided tours of Old Harwich, the Redoubt and Beacon Hill Fort, and Christopher Jones' house will be open to the public.

Continued Overleaf...

For up-to-date information about the festival visit <https://harwichshantyfestival.co.uk> or follow us on Facebook, Instagram or Twitter.

Debbie Jones (Press Officer)
Harwich International Shanty Festival

CD REVIEW

Christina Alden and Alex Patterson - Safe Travels

Christina Alden and Alex Patterson's second album was released on 9th May and includes 10 new songs and one tune. Safe Travels tells the story of their lives over three years in songs illustrated with the sounds of the countryside and birdsong as well as their harmonies and musicianship on guitar, banjo, fiddle, viola and shruti. Track titles include Our House, Raven Yard, A Hundred Years Ago, Old Weather Station and The Mountain Hare. The album is presented in a recycled card cover with an illustrated insert containing the background to each song.

They seem to be constantly on tour across the country taking in folk clubs, venues and festivals from Yorkshire to Devon as well as Sussex and Surrey later in the year. Details can be found at www.christinaaldenandalexpatterson.com. Another very enjoyable album. Do try to catch them live somewhere soon.



Alan Castle (Editor)

Harwich International Shanty Festival

10-12 October 2025



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June 26



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July 3



Patakas
July 10



Linda Moylan
July 17



**Charlie
Hannah**
July 24



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July 31

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The
TENTERDEN FOLK SESSIONS

The Tenterden Club

The second Wednesday of the month

Wednesday 11th June

Wednesday 9th July

from 7:30 to 10:30

Free folk song and music in the ground floor bar. *All welcome*



The Tenterden Club
Church Road
Tenterden TN30 6AT
thetenterdenclub.co.uk



Membership of the Tenterden club is recommended if you are coming to the Folk Sessions regularly and starts from only £15 for over 65s.

Tenterden Folk Club has been running consistently since 1992
For information contact Alan Castle
E: info@tenterdenfolkfestival.org.uk
T: 01233 626805
W: www.tenterdenfolkfestival.com

www.croydonfolkclub.org.uk

Croydon Folk Club is a not for profit organisation

Croydon Folk Club @60

@ Ruskin House, 23 Coombe Road, Croydon, CR0 1BD

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The Cedar Hall, and the bar at Ruskin House are fully accessible

Join us for our 60th year celebrations:-

June 2nd Singers and Musicians Night £4

9th The Browns £10 (£8) thebrownsnorfolk.com

16th Singers and Musicians Night £4

23rd Dolly Mavies £12 (£10) dollymavies.com

30th Singers and Musicians Night £4

July 7th Calico Thieves £10 (£8) calicothieves.com

14th Singers and Musicians Night

21st Martin Simpson £22 (£18)

Closes our 60th year.

martinsimpson.com

28th Closed for summer till Sept

Call us on 07703210795 and

leave a message. Pay on the

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Egerton Folk and Blues Club

Now meeting at the Charing Sports Pavilion, off The Moat, Charing (TN27 0JJ) on the last Tuesday of the month, from 7.30 pm. All still welcome - and not just folk and blues.

No paid guest performers, just residents, itinerants and wayfaring strangers (rich or poor).

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Contact details: Jerry 'Hatrick' Crossley
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- Info: Singdanceandplay.net; email gmatkin@gmail.com

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CD REVIEW

Martin Carthy - Transform Me Then Into a Fish

A new solo album from Martin Carthy has been a rarity, in fact this is his first solo album for around 21 years. The last one was *Waiting for Angels* in 2004. This latest album was released in late May to celebrate Martin's 84th birthday and also to "reimagine" with hindsight his 1965 debut album and the decades since. Therefore tracks include re-recordings of many well known and loved songs including *The Trees They do Grow High*, *Lovely Joan*, *Dream of Napoleon*, *The Handsome Cabin Boy*, *High Germany*, a spoken version of *The Famous Flower of Serving Men* and *Even Scarborough Fair*. The album closes with a *Spring Hill Mine Disaster*. Eliza Carthy and Sheema Mukherjee back Martin on a few tracks but the album is basically just him and a guitar. Like most 84 year olds Martin's voice may not be what it once was but the quality and skill is still there and this is still a very enjoyable and listenable album that a lot of people could learn from. It is the words of these songs that is important and they do not need numerous instruments and double tracking, just a simple arrangement will suffice as Martin proves here. I should add that at the time of writing this review I have only heard the pre-release review version on download and therefore have not seen the final presentation. Definitely an album you should consider adding to your collection.



www.croydonfolkclub.org.uk
Croydon Folk Club is a not for profit organisation

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July 21st
Martin
Simpson
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A photograph of Martin Simpson playing an acoustic guitar. He is wearing a dark shirt and looking down at the instrument.

wegottickets.com/event/642228 martinsimpsonmusic.com



NEW FOREST FOLK FESTIVAL

New Forest Folk Festival 2025

Now in its fourteenth year, The New Forest Folk Festival is a family run music festival by the Curtis family on their family farm at Plaitford, near Romsey. Already labelled as one of the friendliest festivals, it's small, intimate and located to the north of The New Forest National Park between Salisbury and Southampton. It is set in lovely surroundings attracting music lovers from all over the UK and as far away as North America and New Zealand.



The line-up this year includes Lindisfarne, Skippinish, Ralph Mctell, Joe Broughton's Conservatoire Folk Ensemble, The Longest John's, Deborah Bonham Band, Rod Stewart's ex guitarist, songwriter and friend Jim Cregan, Track Dogs, TRADarr, Mad Dog McRea, Reg Meuross, Chris Leslie, Banter and Ruth Angell to name but a few.

Hobgoblin Music (Southampton) are supporting the festival again this year with sponsorship



of the Local Artist Showcase on Thursday as well as a stall selling all kinds of musical equipment and accessories during the whole festival.

As well as some of the

finest folk musicians performing on the unique single rustic stage, other attractions include a delicious variety of food including Leons famous vegetarian, wood smoked pizza, traditional fish & chips, burgers and Caribbean dishes and of course the beer tent serving cooled draught beer as well as real ale and cider. Surrounding the arena there is also plenty of stalls and crafts folk to keep you occupied.

There is an area set aside well away from the music stage called the Woodland Fringe with a large marquee for free workshops where you can learn songwriting and the playing of instruments plus meditation, yoga, Ceilidh's, Morris dancing and even the study of moths. There are is also another tent dedicated to singarounds and poetry with the ever popular John Row storytelling in his own colourful tent in the arena. On Sunday mornings the addition of a church service in the woods has proved extremely popular with a packed tent singing well known hymns in true singaround fashion.

Each morning for those looking to explore the local lanes and Plaitford Common as well as the 13th century village church there are conducted walks with a guide that can share some history. For those that enjoy nature there is no shortage of sights and sounds to enjoy, especially with the campsite surrounded by fields and trees including a walk through the woods alongside a babbling brook where deer roam and Buzzards and Red Kites soar. During our 2023 festival a tree creeper spent some time in the singaround tent and when out in the nearby New Forest, horses, ponies, cattle and pigs all roam and graze freely.

Everything takes place July 2nd - 6th with adult 5 day tickets £125 and children 5-15 years half price (under 5 free) Motorhomes, Caravans & Tents are £10 per pitch per night.

Limited day tickets are also available at £50 per day where parking is free and children half price.

For more information and to book tickets the website is www.newforestfolkfestival.co.uk

Issue 201
June to August 2024
£2

efn
Essex Folk News
for traditional music, dance and song in Essex



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Come along and take part or you are welcome to just sit and listen

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Church Road
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thetenterdenclub.co.uk



For information contact:

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June 7 Dave Webber & Anni Fentiman £12 cash

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June 14 Tom Lewis £8 cash

Sea songs written from personal experience, ukulele, melodeon.

June 21 Bob Lewis Sussex trad songs from a genuine source singer. Bob also puts Bob Copper's poems to trad tunes. £10 cash

June 28 Pete Coe Trad & new songs & tunes with melodeon, bouzouki, mountain dulcimer, banjo.. £12 cash.

WORKSHOP 29 JUNE 10:45 – 16:45:

DANCE TUNES FROM THE DALES for any instrument. £45 cash

July 5 Come All Ye Bring songs & tunes. £5 cash

July 12 Peter & Barbara Snape £10 cash

Trad & music-hall songs from the North West, melodeons.

July 19 Belver English trad songs & tunes from new young trio, melodeon, guitar, fiddle, whistles, pipes, concertina £10

July 26 Denise & Stuart Savage £10 cash

Trad, Music Hall & new songs, vocal harmony, concertina

August 2, 9, 16, 23, 30 COME ALL YE NIGHTS £5 cash



CD REVIEWS

Steve Knightley - Positively Folk Street – Dylan, Carthy and me (HMCD55)

This is an unusual album for Steve Knightley as it is 12 songs which are all either traditional or by Bob Dylan based on the folk tradition. Some of the songs Steve first heard in his teens from Martin Carthy. Tracks range from Girl From the North Country, to Bruton Town, by way of Don't Think Twice, it's All Right, Positively 4th Street, and Lord Franklin. Arrangements vary between tradition and contemporary with Steve's other influences such as blues and jazz coming through in places. The album cover notes tell why Steve put this album together to revisit two of the singers and some of the songs which influenced his early career. It does however seem to be a trend now not to include much in the way of detailed notes of sources, etc. but to leave you to check out the artists website for extra information. A very interesting and enjoyable and lightly different album from Steve.



.....

Odette Michell - The Queen of the Lowlands (Talking Elephant Records)

Odette Michell is a singer songwriter who was born in Yorkshire but now lives in Cambridge. She released her first album back in 2019 and since then has become a well-known solo performer on the folk scene as well as one third of the trio Michelle, Pfeiffer and Kurlish. Odette's debut album also helped her to win Female Artist of the Year award at FATEA 2020 and was also nominated as one of the standout albums of the year in fRoots Magazine. The new album is at least as good and probably better and features ten self-penned songs in the folk style and guest musicians and backing vocalists include Phil Beer, Chris Leslie, Daria Kurlish, Ninebarrow, and Vicki Swan. Odette herself provides lead vocals and plays guitar and bouzouki. Tracks on this excellent album include The Woodlark and the Fieldfare with Ninebarrow, St Helens, Requiem, Flowers with Daria Kulesh, Waterline and All the Bonny Ships. Sadly there is very little in the way of sleeve notes and no insert with the words to the songs. Odette has a solo tour over the summer taking in several festivals but the closest she comes to our region seems to be London. The album launch will be on 11th June in Hamstead, with Phil Beer and Stu Hanna, so that might be worth the trip to London. Check out Odette's website for more details



www.odettemichell.com

Alan Castle (Editor)



SUSSEX FOLK NEWS June/July 2025

It has long been the case that folk clubs close for part of the high summer with a lot of their regulars holidaying at folk festivals. Horsham folk club is among these and its summer break begins at the end of June. Here is their programme up until then.

The club meets on Sunday nights at the The Normandy Centre Denne Road, Horsham, West Sussex RH12 1JF On Sunday 1st June, they have a themed Open Floor night with the focus on chorus songs. Then on the following Sunday, the 8th. They will have one of their spotlight evenings where they feature a regular singer. This evening the featured singer is Mike Gigg and no doubt there'll be a few shanties amongst his chosen songs. The 15th will be given over to another Open Night which gives an opportunity for anyone to try a song, a tune or a poem knowing they have a sympathetic audience, although there is no obligation to perform, and those who simply like to listen are welcome.

Their guest night in June is on the 22nd June with Ramskyte are a three-piece harmony group with a traditional "wall of sound" and interesting choice of material. Demonstrating a strong, rich style of singing that gives credence to the assertion of, "the pioneers of square harmony", their singing encompasses a variety of styles and origins, with material ranging from spirituals, traditional songs, modern classics, and a healthy smattering of original songs. Their last meeting before their summer break is on the 29th with a Song and Dancer night with Songs, tunes and poems from members & visitors plus dancing to their own ceilidh band. Beginners and experts alike are welcome and our experienced callers ensure everyone can work their way through the dances with enjoyment.

Eastbourne Folk Club has been operating at the Lamb in the Old Town for decades now and their meetings are on the first and third Wednesdays of the month' On both the 4th June and the 2nd July they have Open stage evenings with singers and musicians all welcome and free entry to both.

That leaves the two other evenings with guest nights and both feature really top names on the folk scene On 18th June they present Pete Coe who celebrates narrative folk songs rooted in English traditions. He performs with great skill, presents with authority & good humour & encourages audience involvement. That leaves 16th July when it will be Reg Meuross. He is a true troubadour. The breadth and depth of his material is unparalleled in contemporary folk: songs about forgotten heroes, famous names, folk legends, the climate emergency, tales from the kitchen sink and news from the world stage; if something needs to be sung about then Reg Meuross has a song for it.

Chichester folk club meets on Mondays at the Chichester Inn at 38 West Street. Most of their meetings are Open Nights, sometimes with themes but they also they have three guests singers during these two months and wouldn't you know it? Two of them of them are singers mentioned in the Eastbourne section above! Reg Meuross will be there on 9th June and Pete Cor on the 30th. The other night is also with one of our top names; Brian Peters will be there on 28th July. A multi-instrumentalist, he is known particularly for his interpretations of the Child Ballads and his researches in the traditional music of the North-East of England. He is acknowledged as one of England's leading exponents of the Anglo Concertina and melodeon.

The final club to mention is the well supported Lewes Saturday Folk club at the Elephant & Castle in White Hill and before you ask; Yes, Pete Coe will also be paying a visit there. But as well as giving one of his engaging arresting performances for them on the 28th June, Pete will also be running one of their famed all-day workshops on the following day. He will be showing an approach to and teaching tunes found in the Yorkshire dales.

There will be a Come All Ye night at this club on 5th July but the rest of their programme is



of rich and varied guest performers. June 7th sees the return of Dave Webber and Anne Fentiman with their glorious, rich vocal harmony in traditional songs & many written by Dave, unaccompanied & with concertina. Anne favours songs originating from her native North East. Dave writes songs in traditional vein, many of which have become classics.

It will be sea songs to the fore on 14th June with Tom Lewis. His repertoire is of traditional sea songs & ones of his own, with ukulele & melodeon. Tom's songs are beautiful, lively, compelling, intelligent & often funny. He draws on his own experience of life at sea (twenty-four years in Royal Navy submarines) & his great understanding of the history of ships & sailing.

One of the best and most appreciated of the Sussex singers is Bob Lewis offering an unusual, beautiful & entertaining Sussex songs from a genuine source singer with a fine voice & singing style. A really lively night is in store on 12th July when the guests will be Peter and Barbara Snape. Listen out for traditional & music-hall songs & tunes from the North-West of England, with a mighty range of melodeons, authentic singing & plenty of good humour.

Belver are a new, powerful young band playing mainly English traditional songs & music: Harry Abel (vocals, fiddle, stomp box), Dom Doran (vocals, whistles, pipes, concertina) & Jack Hogsden (vocals, guitar, melodeons). They occupy the guest spot on 19th July and then the final night of this period will be with Denise & Stuart Savage. This popular couple have performed for many years in a number of groups. Now as a duo, they focus on a mixture of traditional, Music Hall and their own written material, often in harmony - with English concertina accompaniment.

Vic Smith

MOORE OR LESS FOLK CLUB

Oast Community Centre, Granary Close,
Rainham, Kent, ME8 7SG
(next to Rainham railway station)

13th June, 2025 - Singers Night

11th July, 2025 - Singers Night

**All club nights 8.00 to 10.30pm
Entrance fee £4.00 (including raffle)**

Enquiries to Chris Wilkin 07821 606076

SIMON'S SONG

Words & Chorus Tune by Bob Watson

Verse Tune adapted from a Traditional melody

Verse freely flowing; Chorus more staccato & Agitated

Verse

Now I'm a Cy - re - nian called Si - mon, --- and wea - ving you'd call it my
trade, ---- And I came to this town to sell car - pets, ---- 'Cause ---
that's how me liv - ing is made. --- And there on the steps of the
temp - le, ---- with the Pass - o - ver Feast com - ing near, ---- I'd
found I could do some good busi - ness, which is why I came back ev' - ry
year. ----

Chorus

I don't want to go back to Je - ru - sa - lem Town, I don't
like all the things that I saw, ---- It grieves my heart, I don't
want no part of Je - ru - sa - lem Town an - y more. ----

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watson.bob@tiscali.co.uk



SIMON'S SONG

Words and Chorus tune by Bob Watson; Verse tune adapted from a traditional melody

1. Now I'm a Cyrenian called Simon, and weaving you'd call it me trade,
And I came to this town to sell carpets, 'Cause that's how me living is made.
And there on the steps of the temple, With the Passover feast coming near,
I'd found I could do some good business, which was why I came back every year.

Chorus: I don't wanna go back to Jerusalem Town, I don't like all the things that I saw;
It grieves my heart, I don't want no part of Jerusalem Town any more.

2. Last year came a man on a donkey, a prophet called Jesus by name,
And the people all shouted "Hosanna!" and they scattered their palms where he came.
Who'd have thought that these very same people in a short while would alter their cry,
When he'd hassled the merchants and clergy, and the Governor condemned him to die?

Chorus

3. What laws he's supposed to have broken, it never was plain for to see,
But as he was dragged from the prison, well he fell in the road close to me.
Then the touch of a spear on my shoulder, instructions I had to fulfil,
And to walk with that prophet they murdered, and to carry his cross up the hill.

Chorus

4. Well the cross was so big and so heavy, the hill was so steep and so high,
It was there at the top I last saw him, hung up with two felons to die;
Well I started to say I was sorry – I just done what they told me to do –
But he smiled through the blood and he thanked me, and I hoped he'd forgiven me too.

Chorus

5. Now I'm neither a bold nor a wise man, and it's precious small comfort to me,
To hear that he died very bravely, when I didn't linger to see.
And they say he's the King of all Israel, the story spreads wide through the land,
But they put him to death like a villain, and that's what I just don't understand.

Chorus

6. Well I came to that town to sell carpets, that's part of the trade that I ply,
No way did I go to be party to sending a brave man to die.
Next year when I go on me travels, to hawk all me carpets around,
You can bet I'll be telling the story of that day in Jerusalem Town!

Chorus

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This issue of Around Kent Folk was produced by Alan Castle and Andy Wood on behalf of Tenterden Folk Festival. Promoting folk song, music, dance, crafts and traditions. Registered Charity No 1038663

Issue No. 130 August/September COPY DATE: 18th June

Then ...

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NEW FOREST
FOLK
FESTIVAL

July 2 - 6 (2025)

Powells Farm, Plaitford,
Romsey Hampshire, SO51 6EE



Lindisfarne - Skipinnish - Joe Broughton's Conservatoire Folk Ensemble
Ralph McTell - TRADarr - The Longest Johns - Track Dogs
Deborah Bonham Band - The Young'uns - Ruth Angell Trio - Phil Beer Solo
Reg Meuross - Mad Dog Mcrea - Jim Cregan Acoustic - Joshua Burnell Band
Banter - Chris Leslie - Honey & The Bear - Jez Lowe & The Bad Pennies
UFQ - Ken Nicol & Wendy Ross - Southampton Ukulele Jam - Matt Black

5 Day Adult Ticket - £125

From June 1st - 5 Day Ticket - £135

Children aged 5 to 15 - 5 Day ticket £50, under 5 free
Motorhomes, Caravans & Tents £10 per pitch per night
Limited amount of Day Tickets £



Small Family Run
Folk Festival
With Camping

Wide variety of food
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Somerset Cider
Lots of Stalls



Live Music - Singarounds - Workshops - Ceilidhs - Meditation & More

Wednesday - Singaround
Morris Dancing & BBQ



Thursday - Local
Artist Showcase



Enjoy a variety of
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www.newforestfolkfestival.co.uk



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Art by Peter Gardner

