

# around Kent folk

Issue 130  
August / September 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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## Welcome to issue 130 August/September 2025 issue of Around Kent Folk

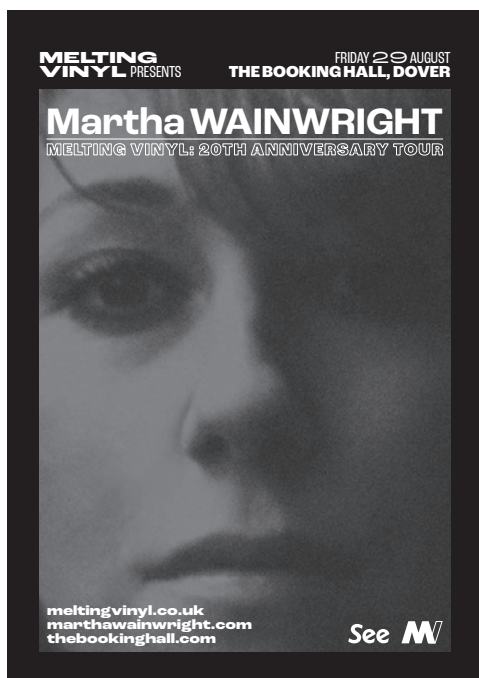
Well the festival season is in full swing and by the time you read this you may well have been to one or two. I enjoyed Chippenham Folk Festival at the end of May and strangely one of the highlights for me was seeing Martyn Wyndham-Read who of course lives in our region. Martyn was on really good form with his singing and his with his chat between songs. A great performer. I bought a few CDs while I was at Chippenham as did a lot of other people there. I'm still receiving plenty of CDs for review in AKF but I'm noting an increasing number of people just sending links to listen or download online. At present I'm resisting reviewing these as it does not seem to me to be a complete listening package. The sound on most PCs, laptops and especially phones, is not up to CD quality and in my view you cannot pay full attention to the music and lyrics as you are usually doing something else at the same time. The artists put a lot of time, effort and money into recording their music so it deserves to be listened to on good quality speakers and paid attention to, not just used a background music. What do you think? You may notice we are a bit down on articles this issue. That is perhaps partly because you have all been too busy to send them in to me!

**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.**

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## Scene & Heard (August - September 2025)

Can it really be months away from Mayday, with its bright dawn of dancing around our ancient stones, early nesting and hedgerows decked with many colours? And, barring the spectacular thunderstorms, no rain on the prairies of Lower Halstow and plains of New Romney? Fairfield church hasn't been waterbound for some time...



Sweeps, with its vast attendance, (70,000 plus) always kicks off the season powerfully. My good fortune to sing in the opening Guildhall concert with the **Rainham Oast House Community choir**, a beautiful resonance in the cool hall. Good to hear so many original local songs celebrating our county's history sung with such gusto and sensitive arrangements.

What I Saw revolved around the Boley Hill Stage, 27 fine folk & dance acts over the



weekend, so many others with CJ at the City Wall and all around the pubs, let alone the major bands in the Castle grounds- attended by sunny, brisk-breezed crowds from all walks of life. Outreach in action... Grand work in straitened times by Gordon Newton, Doug Hudson and the team at Medway council.

Delighted to catch sets from George Washbourn and his accomplices, David Demetriou and From The Workshop, all strong performers fast developing followings for their folk- rooted interpretations. Plenty of favourites too, **Sue Hudson/Ian Petrie**, Pytchwood, Henry Sparks, Milton Hide, Hartley Morris- stalwarts of the scene. Henry's 'Ready For The Storm' ensured a threatening cumulonimbus veered off and drenched the Whitstable Parade- sorry guys! The sheer number of celebrations across the county is heartening indeed.

Folk In The Barn concerts, Karine Polwart,



Oysterband, Daphne's Flight, Lindisfarne continue to sell out- top names attracted to Canterbury- testimony to a faithful audience Debs Earl and her team have built up. Equally cheering are the audiences for the likes of **Jeze Lowe**, Lynne Heraud & Pat Turner, James Keelaghan, Tom Lewis, even when booked quite close together- the faithful turn out. Occasionally, with the right artistes, the old-fashioned whistlestop tour can work.

Whereas a two-year cycle of artistes for clubs used to be viable, organisers are faced with

difficult choices- there are so many good local acts offering up and many newcomers to the scene who deserve a hearing, yet only Dartford (I think) can support national guests every week with their London catchment.

For the rest of us it's a juggling act: have the locals been seen too frequently nearby? Will

people come to see guests well respected elsewhere in the country who are making a first visit south? Rosslyn Court has a fine record of attracting fresh voices, and we at Faversham hope to find a blend of festival discoveries with our favourites- and there are only 23 dates in a year if Singers' Nights are involved. Tonbridge also, bi-weekly, and Deal monthly. Please let S&H know your views and we can follow this up in future issues.

In the West, good to see Aeryn booked for tunes, calling and support for Seth Lakeman at Chippenham. Plenty of Kentish support, Lisa Bradley, Will Allen (also with Brown Boots),



**Sarah Yarwood with Cathy Barclay** a real treat in pure, open-air clarity. It's always good to see where the rest of the traditional folk world is going as the festival moves on. Really noticeable was the energy and quantity of young dance sides from

*Continued Overleaf...*



Bristol/ Wiltshire: there has been a community initiative I believe, and so many teenagers are taking on the skills. Adventurous stick dancing to Fleetwood Mac's 'The Chain'... it's a way in... like Kerry Fletcher's Dance Fusion it's exciting and motivating. And afterwards a few sea-shanties... who knows, we may be witnessing a Revival! Cyril Tawney to hip-hop?

Typical of 499 guest festivals, Tangled Roots saw Jackie Oates & John Spiers alongside American Gospel Blues, Flamenco, Chilean Folk song and two splendid duos who've won the Warwick Festival's accolade for new acts,

A Different Thread and , from Staffordshire, Farefeld. Both had outward-looking sing-at-once original songs recognizably aware of tradition and their wry presentation and set-list balance were delightful. They know what they're doing!

To Tonbridge came **The Scan Tester Fan Club**, an evening I can commend highly- robust tunes on concertinas, fiddle, melodeon and bassoon, mingling with the wonderful Will Duke's songs from myriad sources. Seek him out, all young singers- the way he story-sings is an absolute marvel, funny- has you hanging on what next... an evening bringing back another era, when people played for fun after a day's work.

Some sad news: many will remember Norman Spice's contributions to bands and sessions around Thanet and beyond- at home with solo ballads, Americana or with a Pirate hat on (one of the few who spent time luffing for real) driving along electric shantiary. It was always a pleasure to see him hove to with a big smile on his face, ready to cheer up any session. One of the good guys. Another was Jeff Horne, who played with Small Town Romance among many other achievements- a lovely man, poet & publisher (Heartland Press) of Ralph McTell's double autobiography and books on Nanci Griffith and Guy Clark, both personally researched and insightful. Expert acoustic music producer, bringing out the best from Diggery Venn among others. As Joni Mitchell put it...

And so to the August Festivals, as long as Nostradamus is mistaken\*- many many chances to play in the sun, loll about and generally catch some excellent music.

Most are advertised here, hope to see you over the summer at clubs and sessions.

Pigs Ear, Herne Bay, Faversham Hop Festival... the mighty 60th Broadstairs has a Community Stage every day to encourage singers new to folk music, 11am in Pierremont Park, many local singers running concert slots in the Sailing Club, the Neptune for unaccompanied song, Irish sessions, the Woodshed all-in together jollity with splendid daily guests in the Wrotham Arms at 1pm, evening Folk Clubs- so much going on and top concerts too! Quick plug for KSC's new Portaits & Landscapes show, Crampton Hall, Thursday afternoon.. all across the week events to strike a chord ... best wishes to Kai Hoffman, Tess Watkins and the fantastic team of volunteers. Please do come and say hello, join in song and make soundcastles...

All the best for your own Festival antics, eat, drink, make music and dance merrily, and please do support the sessions and clubs who remain open over the summer, always a wide and varied menu across the Garden of England, right on our doorstep... living tradition!

**Bob Kenward**



## Always great live music at Rosslyn Court

£12 if you can, please, otherwise some tickets at £6 (and £18)

Check the internet [www.rosslyncourt.com/events](http://www.rosslyncourt.com/events)

It helps if you book in advance. Thursdays -doors open 7pm

In August there is nothing to see at all at Rosslyn Court.

Zero. Zilch, Bugger all, but lots elsewhere.

Go to Broadstairs Folk Week 8-16 Aug which has an amazing line up. Morag is running the Folk Club there at the Sailing Club every afternoon 3 - 5.

Have a happy summer.



**Ajay Srivastav &  
Vinod Keral**  
Sep 4



**Roswell Road**  
Sep 11



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Sep 18



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Sep 25

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- or stay B&B-

07902140248

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*Mickey & Michelle...*

*Robb Johnson...*

*Emily Portman,,,*

*Painted Sky,,,*

*Clarke Camilleri*

*& Jude Brothers...*

*Churchfitters...*

*Gerry Colvin*

*Monthly*

*2nd Wed*

Classical music Open mic  
with Jake Ben David 7.30. free

*2nd Fri*

Shanty night with Snottledogs  
session/singaround. 7.30

*3rd Wed*

Jazz concert with Tony Hudd  
and guests 7.30 £10

details 07902140248

# [www.rosslyncourt.com/events](http://www.rosslyncourt.com/events)

Rosslyn Court is a small, quirky, seated, friendly, listening venue on one level, with a bar.

Thursdays- The first hour only is livestreamed on YouTube from 7.30

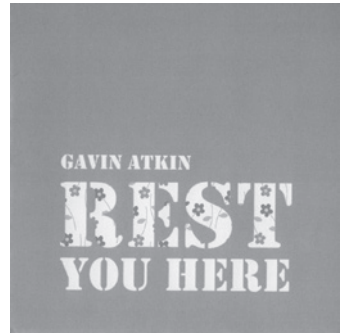
## 62 Sweyn Rd Cliftonville Margate CT9 2DD

## CD REVIEW

**Gavin Atkin - Rest You Here**

[gavinatkin.bandcamp.com](http://gavinatkin.bandcamp.com)

Gavin Atkin is very well known in Kent, Surrey, Sussex and beyond as a multi-instrumentalist and singer. He mainly plays fiddle, melodeon, and guitar. Some of the 15 songs and tunes have been available on Gavin's Bandcamp for several years but he has now put them together as an album which is available on CD. Tracks include Jacket so Blue, Barbara Allen, A Pint of Plain, Frankie and Johnny, The Cunning Cobbler and other traditional songs that you may have heard him sing at a local sing-around or folk club. Most of the songs tell a story and Gavins clear vocals allow you to hear all the words and follow that story but there is also opportunity to listen to his skilful melodeon playing. Well worth a listen.



**Alan Castle (Editor)**

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## **Broadstairs Folk Week at 60 – A Celebration Like No Other**

If you've been part of the Folk Week family before, you already know there's nothing quite like that festival buzz in Broadstairs every August — and this year, it's going to be even more special. We're celebrating 60 years of song, dance, and seaside magic with our biggest festival yet: over 400 events, 160+ free performances, and a whole lot of nostalgia.

Some shows are already selling out fast, but there's still plenty to choose from — and the full brochure (which you'll want this year more than ever) is available to order now from the website. Whether you're here for the headline gigs, intimate pub sessions, or morning workshops that stretch into spontaneous late-night tunes, there's something waiting for you.

New for 2025: for those who can't make it in person (or just want to rewatch a favourite set), tickets will be available for a number of livestreamed shows from the Queen's Road Baptist Church. We'll be adding to the list as the festival approaches — check out what's on offer at [broadstairsfolkweek.org.uk/livestream-events](http://broadstairsfolkweek.org.uk/livestream-events).

We're also marking the anniversary with a special "60 Years of Folk Week" exhibition, plus a one-off Folk Show on 14 August paying tribute to the original 1966 event — a must for long-time festival-goers.

The Pierremont Community Hub is our brand new venue with free activities, music and crafts for all ages in a calm, accessible space, while Victoria Gardens will be buzzing with music, stalls, and that all-important busking stage. And of course, the Saturday parade is back, featuring over 35 Morris sides and hooden horses dancing along the clifftops.

Here's to 60 years of memories — see you on the promenade, in the pubs, or on the dancefloor!

**Kai Hoffman, Festival Director, Broadstairs Folk Week**  
[www.broadstairsfolkweek.org.uk](http://www.broadstairsfolkweek.org.uk)



## 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.

21st July Linda Moylan

4th August Impressed

18th August The Kimberleys

1st Sept Paul Walker &  
Karen Pfeiffer

15th Sept The Twagger Band

6th October The Medlars

20th October Paula Ryan

Tel: 01892 822945  
info@tonbridgefolkclub.org  
www.tonbridgefolkclub.org



### Le Vent du Nord

Sunday 20<sup>th</sup> July, Gulbenkian, Canterbury

*August – break*

### Cara Dillon – (Duo)

Saturday 20<sup>th</sup> September, Colyer-Fergusson  
Hall, Gulbenkian Arts Centre, Canterbury

### Christine Collister

Monday 29<sup>th</sup> September, St Marys Arts  
Centre, Sandwich

### Fairport Convention

Wednesday 22<sup>nd</sup> October, St Marys Arts  
Centre, Sandwich

*Full details and Join the mailing list at.....*

**www.folkinthebarn.co.uk**

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## ORPINGTON FOLK CLUB

### Farnborough Social Club

6 Pleasant View Pl, Farnborough,  
Orpington, BR6 7BL



AS IS CUSTOMARY WE WILL BE HOLDING  
SINGER'S AND MUSICIAN'S NIGHTS  
THROUGHOUT AUGUST

7th Hosted by Mike  
14th Hosted by Paul  
21st Hosted by Ted  
28th Hosted by Paul and Graham

### SEPTEMBER

4th, 11th, 25th Singer's and Musician's Nights  
18th Richard Grainger

*Orpington Folk Music and Song Club exists to promote folk  
music and song. It is a non-profit making organisation and is for  
those who wish to listen to or take part in an informal evening of  
folk music and song.*

Every Thursday @ 8:00pm

Contact : 0208 325 6513 ~ 01474 853189

Website : <https://orpingtonfolkclub.org.uk>  
email: [info@orpingtonfolkclub.org.uk](mailto:info@orpingtonfolkclub.org.uk)



# Traditional Music Day

## Saturday 27th September

### Stowmarket

10.30am - 11pm

Nancy Kerr Macdara Yeates

Georgia Shackleton with Aaren Bennett

James Delarre & Saul Rose The Scan Tester Fan Club

Concerts ~ Talks ~ Music Sessions ~ Films ~ Exhibitions

Stepdancing ~ Song Sessions ~ Morris & Molly ~ Jigdolls



For more details:  
[www.eatmt.org.uk](http://www.eatmt.org.uk)  
[tmd@eatmt.org.uk](mailto:tmd@eatmt.org.uk)  
07495 054669

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[www.croydonfolkclub.org.uk](http://www.croydonfolkclub.org.uk)

Croydon Folk Club is a not for profit organisation

# Croydon Folk Club

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

Mondays at 8pm Join us for first class folk and real ale at club prices!

Contact Jenny or Brian by e mail at [croydonfolkclub@aol.com](mailto:croydonfolkclub@aol.com).

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

**August Closed for the Festivals**

**Sept 1st Still Closed**

**8th Singers and Musicians Night £4**

**15th Nick Marshall £7 (£5) [nickjmarshall.co.uk](http://nickjmarshall.co.uk)**

**22nd Richard Grainger and Chris Parkinson**

**£15 (£12) [richard-grainger.com](http://richard-grainger.com)**

**First Guest in the Remembering Rita Season**

Rita Cherriman, our long time organiser, died in the Autumn of 2000 and is fondly remembered by all who met her. Look out for two more special guests through our Autumn programme.

**29th Open Mike Unplugged £4**

**Call us on 07703210795 and leave a**

**message. Pay on the door, cards**

**accepted or from:- [wegottickets.com](http://wegottickets.com)**

**[www.facebook.com/croydonfolkclub1](http://www.facebook.com/croydonfolkclub1)**



Nick Marshall



Richard and Chris

# **DARTFORD FOLK CLUB**

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[www.dartfordfolk.org.uk](http://www.dartfordfolk.org.uk)

Enquiries: [dartfordfolkclub@gmail.com](mailto:dartfordfolkclub@gmail.com)

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## **FEATURED GUESTS**

**05 August** - Singaround

**12 August** - Singaround

**19 August** - Singaround

**26 August** - Spikedrivers \*SPECIAL GUEST NIGHT!\*

**02 September** - The Shackleton Trio

**09 September** - Stan Graham

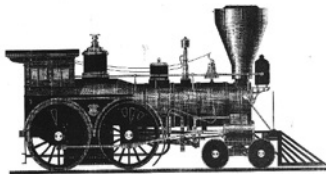
**16 September** - Flossie Malavialle

**23 September** - John Kirkpatrick

**30 September** - Mike Silver

Members £8, Non-Members £12, Membership £10 (to end 9/25)

FOR UPDATES AND FURTHER DETAILS PLEASE GO TO  
OUR WEBSITE & FACEBOOK PAGES



**DARTFORD WORKING MENS CLUB**

Essex Road, DA1 2AU

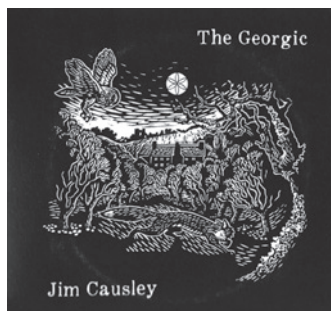
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## CD REVIEWS

### Jim Causley - The Georgic HROC10

This is an unusual album Jim Causley. All the songs were written and composed by Jim but some include snippets of traditional songs. On the CD sleeve Jim explains in detail how the idea for the album came out of a community arts project to celebrate traditional Dorset cider making and drinking. He is joined on the album by a diverse selection of backing singers and musicians ranging from Mariners Away, Halstow Wassailers, and Devon Voice Group, to Miranda Sykes, Tim Verbeek who does the vocals on Denkend Aan Stenen. Some of the tracks were recorded live at Halstow Farm in the yard and in the orchards, and at Whiddon Down Village Hall, others are studio recordings. There is also some spoken reminiscences from local Devon people. The 18 tracks are all based on themes of country living, Devon, cidermaking and Wassailing the orchard. Track titles including Old Cider, Halstow Wassail, This Darkened Land, Oh Cuckoo! And Rise Sidwella. The 16 page booklet that accompanies the CD includes all the words and other details. This is a very interesting, inspiring, well presented and well produced album and deserves to be widely heard. Highly recommended.



**Alan Castle (Editor)**

## Workshops

**HOW DO I ADD COLOUR TO MY MUSIC?** Emma White – harp whistle piano singer.

What is the colour of your sound? Rhythm, colour, volume, feeling, pitch, tone, emphasis.

Sunday 12th October 2025 ~ 14:00 to 16:00 Entry £8.00

**WHAT DOES ENGLISH MUSIC SOUND LIKE?** Will Allen – professional Melodion player for dance and Morris. Musical links between and within the islands.

What are the English traditions? How do I play in those styles?

Sunday 26<sup>th</sup> October 2025 ~ 14:00 to 16:00 Entry £8.00

**Venue:** Elwick Club Church Road, Ashford. TN23 1RD

**WELCOME :** All genres styles and instruments. Every level of expertise.

Sight reading not necessary.

Material available in advance.

Contact enquiries@ashfordfolk.org or 07854 486717



# 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).

Sound system available if you need it.  
Hat collection (if you need one).

Contact details: Jerry 'Hatrack' Crossley  
Phone - 07387 382050  
Facebook - EgertonFolkandBluesClub



## Traditional country dance music and great old songs



- Julie and Gavin Atkin are accomplished performers of mainly trad songs and tunes. See us at Broadstairs Folk Week!
- Gav's CD album Rest You Here is now available at £7 a copy. 'His easy, intimate, almost conversational delivery draws you in from the start... A most likeable album' Folk London
- Also contact us for information about the Goudhurst and District u3a tunes group and our highly regarded Sunday evening trad-leaning online songs and tunes Zoom, now in its sixth year
- Info: Singdanceandplay.net; email gmatkin@gmail.com

**FOLK LONDON**  
The magazine for London and the home counties

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# Faversham Folk Club



**Save these dates!** Reservations recommended 07957 461832 or 07885 642763

Please note we are a cash-only club.

There are 2 cash points close nearby.

[www.favershamfolkclub.net](http://www.favershamfolkclub.net)



**August - September**

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

23 July **The Lost Notes** - First visit to Faversham for acclaimed 3-piece group- plenty of singalong from originals Birmingham band, guitars, harmony and pure entertainment. £11/12

August: Singers Nights £2 until:

27 Aug **John 'Daddio' Clarke** - Delicious guitar, fine songs and repartee from Faversham's answer to Segovia. Wide ranging influences and deft lyrics. £10/11

10 Sept **Stan Graham** - Many of Stan's songs have entered the contemporary repertoire- come and see the man himself, he'll give you plenty to sing and to think about. Old Whitby Harbour and many more... £10/11

## ***Following on...***

Sept 24 - Henty & English

Oct 1 - Edwina Hayes,

Oct 15 - Jack Rutter

Oct 29 - Triality

## ***And for your diary:***

12/11 - Pip Ives, 19/11 - Dan Walsh, 3/12 - John Kirkpatrick, 10/12 Doug Hudson

The Limes, Preston St, Faversham ME13 8PG.



## FOLK AT THE DRUM

The club meets every Monday evening at The Drum Inn, Stanford, Stone Street (TN25 6DN), between Canterbury and Hythe, from 7 till 10pm.

If you enjoy playing or listening to acoustic music of all types (folk, blues, country, rock, etc), you are very welcome to join us in the function room of the pub for a relaxed and entertaining evening.

Nominal £2 entry fee.

For more information, contact Jeff on 01303 813188

## DEAL FOLK CLUB

Meets Thursdays as below 7.15pm (doors 7pm) to 10pm  
St Andrews Church Hall, West Street, Deal, CT14 6DZ

Only one meeting in August due to holidays

**August 21st – Singers Night £3**

**September 4th – Singers Night £3**

**September 18th – Scold's Bridle - Sue plays English concertina and Liz guitar and bouzouki. Expect great harmony singing from this well respected duo from Lancashire £10**

Tea & coffee £1 or bring your own drink

*[www.dealfolkclub.org.uk](http://www.dealfolkclub.org.uk) or ring Sue on 01-304-360877*

## CD REVIEWS

### The Silver Darlings - Whaling Women

[silverdarlingsshanty.co.uk](http://silverdarlingsshanty.co.uk)

The Silver Darlings are a six piece all female shanty crew from Southend-on-Sea in Essex, a town that once had substantial fishing and cockling industries. I'm not sure if it still has. This album includes a collection of 16 shanties and sea songs, mostly tradition but with a few more recent ones such as Cyril Tawney's The Grey Funnel Line, Tow Rope Girls based on a poem by Cicely Fox-Smith and When We Go Rolling Home credited to John Tams. The traditional shanties include Paddy Doyles Boots, Spanish Ladies, Dogger Bank, The Rosabella and Shallow Brown. There are plenty of harmonies and rousing choruses that make you want to join in. There is not a lot of information on the album sleeve, just a list of the members of the group and the track list plus the usual credits. They have quite few gigs coming up in August and September including festivals in Germany, France, and Netherlands and are at Harwich Shanty Festival in October.

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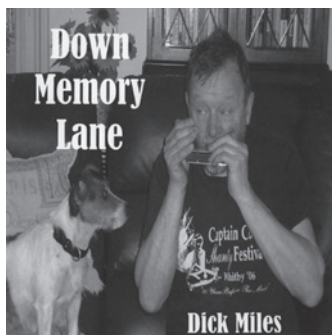


### Dick Miles - Down Memory Lane

[www.dickmiles.com](http://www.dickmiles.com)

Dick Miles is well know around our area having lived in and around the South East of England before moving to Ireland some years ago and continued to appeared at local folk clubs and festival. This album includes many songs you will have heard him sing at those gigs as well as some you may not have heard him do before. As usual Dick provides vocals and plays concertina and 5 string banjo. On a few tracks he is joined by Patrick Forester on guitar. Most of the songs are traditional except for Sally Free and Easy from Cyril Tawney, John of Dreams from Bill Caddick and Dick's own Song of the Swift. Other tracks include Raglan Road, Trimdon Grange Explosion, The Bantry Girls Lament, Full Rigged Ship, The Cuckoo and The Banks of the Reedy Lagoon. The album lacks any sleeve notes other than a track list and the usual credits.

.....



### Technical note

It is probably to do with modern technology but, The Silver Darlings and Dick Mile's CDs would not play on my office CD player, all the others do, so I had to play them on my PC which does not produce the best quality sound. Strangely they did play on the other CD player. Perhaps this to do with the modern trend for downloads and different recording formats.

**Alan Castle (Editor)**

# **MOORE or LESS FOLK CLUB**

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

**August '24 - No club night. Closed for festivals**

**September '24 - Friday 12th September**

**All club nights 8.00 to 10.30pm**  
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For information contact:

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Alan Castle 01233 626805

or Folk @ the Platform 2 bar

Dave 07504 799832 or Eileen 07887 370525

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## CD REVIEWS

### Granny's Attic - Cold Blows the Wind GRICD010

A new album from Granny's Attic is always something to look forward to and this one is no exception. Of the 11 tracks only one, Conversations, is not strictly traditional. The other 10 tracks are the bands arrangements of well known songs and tunes including Where the Swan Swims so Bonny, The Nightingale, The False Bride, Jack the Sailor, and Cold Blows the Wind, to name a few. As you would expect from Granny's Attic, all the songs and tunes are presented in a traditional style and all the vocals are front and central with excellent musicianship from Cohen, George and Lewis, three of the hardest working people on the folk scene today. The booklet with the CD includes a paragraph about each track written by one of the band with its source and background. They are at several festivals over the Summer including Dartmoor, Broadstairs, Whitby, Bromyard and Derby so there are plenty of opportunities to see them.

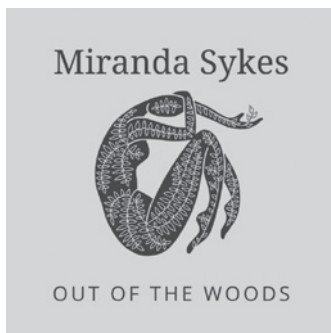


**Alan Castle (Editor)**

.....

### Miranda Sykes – Out of the Woods (2024)

Many people will be aware of Miranda Sykes as part of various different musical combinations, including Show of Hands, Daphne's Flight, and duos with Jim Causley and Hannah Martin. Her musical work is always impeccable, instrumentals are played faultlessly and accompaniment always appropriate to the song. Harmonies are great and vocally she compliments whoever she performs with. I was interested, therefore, to hear her on her own on this CD and see what she could achieve as a solo performer and I was not disappointed. Out of the Woods is based around the story of her journey through breast cancer and her healing path through it. Miranda recorded the album herself (apart from a couple of tracks) and has done a good job of it, and it was mixed at Get Real Audio in Bath. Each track has been selected with care and puts forward a part of the message, and there are some lovely tracks on it, including three written by Miranda herself – Kismet which likens life to a sea voyage, Be At Peace which is a lullaby and The Moulton Oak. Other tracks are written by various well-known and respected artists, including Stay by Matt Rollings, Child on the Green by Ian Bruce, Burden by Amos Lee, I Need You by Beth Nielsen Chapman, When I Don't Feel Like Singing Any More by Eilidh Patterson, Scars by Landesman/Wallace, Stay Close to Me by Chris Hoban and What's the Use of Wings by Brian Bedford. Miranda's trademark crystal clear vocals throughout, each track accompanied usually by just one instrument such as guitar, bass or ukulele which accents the vocals and song lyrics and so the meaning of the songs comes over really effectively. Phil Beer contributes on mandolin on the final track. All in all, Out of the Woods is an album of meaningful songs which leaves the listener feeling hopeful and upbeat, every track performed impeccably. I look forward to whatever Miranda does next, either solo or in new combinations, it is sure to be worth listening to.



**Sue Watson**



## Lewes Saturday Folk Club

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[www.lewessaturdayfolkclub.org](http://www.lewessaturdayfolkclub.org)

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**Aug 30 Come All Ye** Bring songs & tunes. £5 cash

**Sept 6 Alan Day**

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**Sept 13 Scold's Bridle** Beautiful, funny & thought-provoking songs, vocal harmony, guitar. £10 cash

**Sept 20 John Kirkpatrick** Trad songs & tunes, melodeon, accordion, concertina. £15 cash, reserve tickets

Saturday: **All-day workshop on playing for Morris dancing, any acoustic instrument.**

Sunday 21 Sept: **All-day Shropshire Carols workshop**

**Workshop places £45 cash (2 under-25s £22)**

**Sept 27 Leveret**

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Essex Folk News

for traditional music, dance and song in Essex

Issue 201  
June to August 2024  
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## Folk @ the Platform 2 Bar

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From 11.30am to 2.30pm

We welcome you to come and join us  
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Contacts: Dave 07504 799832  
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The Tenterden Club, Church Road,  
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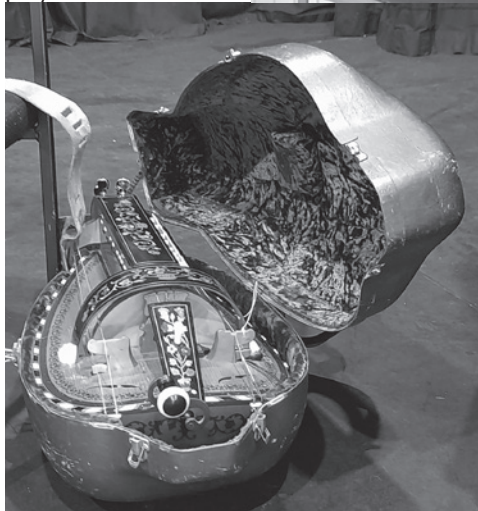


**Harwich International  
Shanty Festival**

## Les Batons Dances

And so, midsummer has arrived with much music-making and dancing of all genres with friends old and new lying ahead.

Meanwhile, Les Batons has continued to keep us on our toes with top quality bands. In April 'Les Marginaux' ( Graham Shelver on fiddles and Mark Stefanicki on hurdy gurdy ) played two fine sets



of 2 and 3 time Bourrées, Polkas, 3 and 5 time Waltzes, an Andro, a Laride, a Ronde, a Gavotte, Schottisches, a Mazurka and including Phil Martin's 'Night of the Hanter Dro'.

May brought 'Tournesol' featuring multi instrumentalists Maxine and Bill Sweatman, Brian Tilley and Penny Birnstingl playing accordion, concertina, pipes, bagpipes and even 3 hurdy gurdies all at once accompanied by a diatonic accordion! No, not a 'wall of sound' but a playful foursome.

And to set the Summer up just right, Oscina have just played for us in June with Anna Pack on diatonic accordion and clarinet, Chris Walshaw on saxophone, pipes and whistles and Frances Watt on flutes and vocals. A special real treat was when they came down off the stage and Frances sang, whilst Anna and Chris played and we all danced enclosing them in our circle.

Forthcoming dances at Hollingbourne Village Hall include Portmanteau, Duo Mistral and Sawney White Bird. Check out details at [www.lesbatons.org](http://www.lesbatons.org).

*Nina Taylor*

The

## TENTERDEN FOLK SESSIONS



### The Tenterden Club

The second Wednesday of the month

Wednesday 13<sup>th</sup> August

Wednesday 10<sup>th</sup> September

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](http://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](mailto:info@tenterdenfolkfestival.org.uk)

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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. 131 October/November COPY DATE: 18th August**

*Then ...*

18th August 2025 – October / November

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18th October 2025 - December / January

18th April 2026 – June / July

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