

around kent folk

Issue 137
October / November 2026



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



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Charity No. 1038663

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

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The Tenterden
All Day Sing-a-round
Folk songs, music, recitations, poems and more

Saturday 3rd October

The Tenterden Club
11:30 a.m. to 10.30 p.m.
Entry by donation. All welcome.

The day will be run by

Alan Castle, Dave and Eileen Masterson, John & Di Cullen,
Roger Resch, Sue Watson and others.

Come along and give us a song, tune, recitation, poem, stepdance,
or you are welcome to just sit and listen. Bar run by the Tenterden Club.

A collection will be made to fund the event so please give generously



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



For information contact:
aroundkentfolk@btinternet.com

Alan Castle 01233 626805
or Folk @ the Hub (formerly Folk @ the Platform 2 Bar)
Dave 07504 799832 or Eileen 07887 370525



Tenterden Folk Day Trust Registered Charity No 1038663
www.tenterdenfolkfestival.org.uk



Welcome to issue 137 (October/November 2026) of Around Kent Folk

As I write this in late August the exceptionally hot and dry summer seems to have taken a break and it even feels autumnal by comparison. The final batch of summer festivals are, quite rightly, all issuing extra rules and regulations about barbeques, open fires and smoking, while the wellington boots and waterproof coats may just have to come out of storage for the more northern festival.

There seems to be a spate of folk clubs being forced to change venues. Three I know about include the very successful and long running Lewis Saturday Folk Club which has announced that it is leaving The Elephant and Castle as the new owners do not want to continue to host one of the best known folk clubs in the South East, if not the country. Valmai tells me they are working hard on trying to find another local venue but at present they do not know where they will be for the coming months. Check their website for the latest news. www.lewessaturdayfolkclub.org

Tenterden's Folk @ the Platform 2 Bar, which meets on the first Tuesday of the month, has moved just down the road and changed its name to Folk @ the Hub. There will be a small admission charge of £4. See their advert for full details.

Tenterden folk song and music sessions, which meet on the second Wednesday of the month, have also moved and become Folk at The VINE INN. The free song and music sessions will now take place in the bar of The Vine Inn on the corner of the High Street and Station Road. There is some on road parking in the High Street and two car parks in Station Road. These regular song and music sessions have been running since 1992 when they started in the old Eight Bells, their home for over 10 years. Several moves later they settled at The William Caxon in April 2011 before relocating to This Ancient Boro in July 2022 and then The Tenterden Club in November 2024 where they remained until August 2026.

As anyone involved in folk clubs or sessions knows, it is becoming harder and harder to find suitable venues. Very few pubs now have a "back room" or separate function room. In fact there are not many old style "wet" pubs, that make their money from selling beer and drinks, left. The majority have turned themselves into open plan gastro pubs or restaurants and are unwilling to turn down the piped music or large screen TVs. Thank goodness there are still some that welcome traditional folk music.

Alan Castle (Editor)

PS: You can make a donation to Tenterden Folk Day Trust 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

You can also find us on social media:

Instagram: [TenterdenFolkFestival](https://www.instagram.com/TenterdenFolkFestival)

Facebook: [tenterden.folkfestival](https://www.facebook.com/tenterden.folkfestival)

You can always find a link to the latest and past issues of AKF there and on our website.

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.



Donate Now

Front cover: Vicki Swann & Jonny Dyer appear at Faversham Folk Club in December

Scene & Heard (October - November 2026)

Much to report on from the heady days of summer, and in response to comments in the last AKF- and all the customary club bookings it was possible to get to. We hope everyone enjoyed hammering in tent pegs, braising in the sun and all the wonderful music available in shady places...

Let's begin in the clubs. Many do close for summer hols, those that remain open in August run Singers' Nights for the faithful and those who aren't shinning about in tents and caravans from one festival to the next. These occasions are opportunities for singers to expand repertoires and do serve to keep venues active in the face of competition- and are usually very cheap! In passing, please do note the change of venue for the increasingly popular Tenterden singarounds, tradition at its best.

The exceptional heat in July led to many guest nights either being cancelled on advice or proceeding with limited attendances. Many venues lack aircon, and those which tried it had to find a necessary balance between comfort and noise. However the John Ward Trio, Pete Morton aka Sailor Swift, Bruce Watson on a tour from Australia, Steve Tilson & Hugh Bradley, Gavin & Julie Atkin and John Clarke braved the conditions with amazing tenacity, all yielding high value for their very reasonable admission fees.

Dartford and Orpington are pleasantly cool, whilst the new arrangements at Rosslyn Court are superb- Women Of Folk was a splendid concert from Linda Moylan, Rebecca Mileham, Louise Hatch & Lizzie Hardingham: plenty of US classics with some British protest delivered either straight or reimagined. Beautiful blended harmonies.

Please do, if you're thinking of going to a club, concert or festival advertised here, try to book in advance: it helps the organizers to gauge demand, arrange appropriate seating. Also check before travelling where possible: unavoidable cancellations do occur. If Faversham, please look at the Facebook page rather than the currently stalled website.

So to the festivals: and of course it was pick and choose, most weekends. Sandwich was successful, thanks to last minute common sense from the authorities. Liz Randall's Travelling Folk'n'Ale enticed me down to Sussex for a mainly trad unaccompanied couple of days: familiar friends, songs with many happy memories attached. No Den Giddins Union Jack underwear though. This unfortunately ran at the same time as Pigs Ear, so I rocked up to many folk telling me what I'd missed, Tim Edey on fire and a great vibe. Quieter on the Sunday, but well done Euan Headley and his helpers. A lovely setting and a special moment to sing Dr Syn with Sue Rule and her family under the railway arch! Chries Sadler and Taylor stormed it out in the haystack heat. Chan Reid (also at HB) led a choir and Irish melodies of high charm.

Herne Bay late July goes from strength to strength, a veritable Who's Who of Kent folk from the aforementioned Crisis to Jonnie & Helen of From The Workshop, the flying fiddle of Graham Knibbs everywhere, many venues, many styles. Great to see and chat with Sue Hudson, too. Nick Lawrence sold a well-crafted set of interesting historical songs to the street stage. Doug Hudson and Matthew English I missed, gigging elsewhere, however their new conjunction is really generating amazement. The finale concert (all free) in the church featured Ray's own Fielder Dreams (or was it Flailing Angels?) with Chaucer on multi-instrumentation. To conclude came a finely measured solo set from Alan Prosser, beginning appropriately with Si Kahn's You Know How Hot It Gets... lovely ragtime & fresh-coined guitar pieces too. Do try the Divers Arms- a real pub atmosphere to go with the music.

Warm (!) congratulations to the bold dancers jostling baldricks all through the simmering sun- across Thanet too, most weekends to be found, if not wielding ukeleles... the Al

spellchck suggests 'welding', mine not to speculate... deep respect for all the sides across the county for keeping English traditions alive and especially broadening their appeal through mixed sides and welcoming younger members- essentials now for continuity. Plenty to join in the autumn- please do seek them out- aerobics and steps per day guaranteed!

And so, folkwise, to the mighty Broadstairs- with outstanding weather, amazing shows, plenty to learn from the sessions and workshops with top practitioners. I'm sure this will be covered elsewhere, suffice here to express thanks to everyone involved, Kai, Ian, Sally, Tess, Moya and all the Committee Members, Managers, Finance team, Licence/Bar Managers, Sound crews, Campsite staff, Volunteers and Security for their astonishing skill in putting on a welcoming, joyous festival in prime holiday time. The town and beach were crowded, many venues were pumping out sheer noise, yet the folk venues and events themselves were happily proceeding calmly to everyone's enjoyment. A real testament to careful planning and execution. Thank you all.

And so to the autumn, which this year began in July... you'll see in this issue the array of excellent guest nights planned. Please do look local- so many national acts in intimate venues, close to and welcoming, from John Kirkpatrick to Barrie & Ingrid Temple, Luke Jackson, Hunter Muskett- from afar Richard Shindell- Honey & The Bear, Fairport...all within easy reach... reserve and enjoy!

Bob Kenward

Folk In The Barn – Autumn 2026

I can't believe we're already approaching the damp, misty, nights drawing in section of our Folk in the Barn Musical Year. It's been incredible so far, but we have a fabulous Autumn programme for us all.

Autumn is always a great time for live music at Folk in the Barn, with so many artists on tour, the Summer festivals a fading memory but still too soon to think about the 'C' word. We have our annual presentation of the Fairport Convention Autumn (Acoustic) Tour, and the chaps will be back in beautiful St Mary's Arts Centre in Sandwich on 28th October. This is always great fun and sells out, so don't leave it.

November kicks off with a sublime double bill. Two masterful songwriters and guitar players, one the inspiration for the other. Danny Bradley stilled 6000 people on the Cropredy field a few weeks ago, with many voting him a new firm favourite in the follow up Cropredy World Cup. His hero Richard Shindell, loved his last visit to Canterbury and the Folk in the Barn vibe, he wanted to come back soon. We are very lucky that he is!

2026 is the 40th Anniversary of Paul Simon's classic album 'Graceland'. Gary Stewart and his superb band bring to life the beloved South African rhythms, melodies and harmonies that made this album universally celebrated. Bring your ears, your voices and your best knees!

Our Scottish Showcase will astound you. Come and see the talented stars of the future. Hannah Rarity, whose voice took our breath away, and Heron Valley. Boy can they play!

Lastly but not leastly, it wouldn't be Autumn at Folk in the Barn without a visit from Mr Knightley. Steve is back, this time with his stupendous new Winter Yards Band. Selling well already.

Fancy any of that? We really hope so. Full details & booking at www.folkinthebarn.co.uk

Debs Earl

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www.dartfordfolk.org.uk

Enquiries: dartfordfolkclub@gmail.com

FLOOR SINGERS WELCOME (PLEASE BOOK)

FEATURED GUESTS

06 October - Crows

THE CLUB'S 53rd BIRTHDAY !!

13 October - Emily Slade

20 October - Narthen

27 October - Bob Fox

03 November - The Hayes Sisters with
Clive Gregson

"Love at the Five & Dime Remembering
Nanci Griffiths"

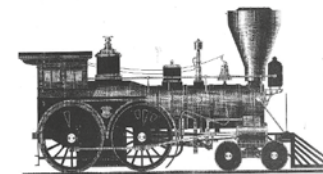
10 November - Rag Mama Rag

17 November - Findlay Napier

24 November - Sarah Jane Scouten

Members £8, Non-Members £12, Membership £15

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



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Essex Folk News

for traditional music, dance and song in Essex

Issue 201
June to August 2024
£2



Including... PA equipment on offer
New bands Phoenix Rising and Mr. Walsh's Wonders
... and lots more news, reviews and listings.

Folk @ the Platform 2 Bar is moving!
NEW VENUE! Starts Tues 1st September



Folk @ the Hub

1st Tuesday of every month
From 11.30am to 2.30pm

Come and join us with your songs, music, stories,
poems, or just to listen

Find us in the back room of
Tenterden Social Hub, Church Road,
Tenterden, Kent, TN30 6AT

Admission £4 (cash only)
Bring your own drink / food. Tea & Coffee available.
Contacts: Dave 07504 799832 / or Eileen 07887 370525

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

Croydon Folk AND Acoustic 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.
The Cedar Hall, and the bar at Ruskin House are fully accessible
Phone:- 07703210795 text or message E mail:- croydonfolkclub@aol.com

Pay on the door, cards accepted, or via:- wegottickets.com

Oct 5th Open Mike Unplugged night £4

12th Singers and Musicians Night £4

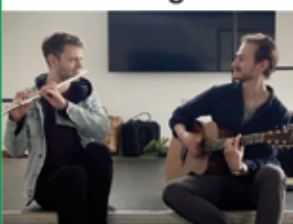
19th John Kirkpatrick and Cohen Braithwaite-Kilcoyne £20 (£15)



A unique intergenerational duo – both virtuoso players – John Kirkpatrick and Cohen Braithwaite-Kilcoyne are an exciting new musical combo exploring the possibilities of concertina music in an entertaining and joyous celebration of their art. Both energetic and charismatic performers, this duo highlights their kindred passion for English traditional music and song, whilst both also finding inspiration from a range of other musical genres as part of their sets. John is a mighty oak of the English tradition, an acclaimed and MBE-decorated English folk musician and one of the most prolific figures on the scene. Cohen, on the other hand, by comparison, is a newcomer but has solidly built a formidable reputation both solo and in collaboration with an equally talented range of performers.

26th Open Mike Unplugged night £4

Nov 2nd Tog Fàire £12 (£10)



Simon is a flautist (specialising in folk but with a classical and jazz background) and a whistle player. He also sings in both English and Scottish Gaelic. Jake is a contemporary guitarist and arranger from Brighton with a varied musical background. Having known each other for many years and worked together in various genres and larger ensembles, Jake and Simon began swapping their favourite folk tunes and exploring sets as a duo at the start of 2023. They've now found their stride, with Simon's love of the Scottish and Irish traditions and years of research as a Musical Director meeting with Jake's contemporary background and fresher funkier take.

9th Singers and Musicians Night £4

16th Open Mike Unplugged night £4

23rd Hilary Spencer £10 (£8)

30th Clive Gregson and The Hayes Sisters £18 (£12)

Love at the Five and Dime Remembering Nanci Griffith



Consummate guitarist, mandolin player and song-writer in his own right, Clive Gregson toured with Nanci Griffith from 1996-2007. Nanci's version of Clive's "I Love This Town" was released as a single in 2006 and became a radio hit in both America and the UK. The Stockport based sisters, Angela and Cathryn Hayes have their own distinct style with sounds suggestive of The Roches and the McGarrigles. They have been long-time Nanci Griffith fans and their vocal interpretations of her songs are spot-on. A mutual admiration for Nanci's great catalogue of songs sparked the idea of this collaboration.



Singdanceandplay.net

Trad and old fashioned tunes and songs with
Julie and Gavin Atkin and friends
Info and bookings: gmatkin@gmail.com

- The Goudhurst and District u3a tunes group meets monthly on first Monday mornings and last Wednesday afternoons to learn great tunes and play together. Email to join us!
- English tunes session with some songs at The Unicorn, Marden, from 7.30pm on the last Tuesday of the month
- We're looking forward to singing our unique collection of old Kent carols around Christmas. Email us to learn more!

See Singdanceandplay.net for lots of events!

FOLK LONDON
The magazine for London and the home counties

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DEAL FOLK CLUB

Meets Thursdays as below 7.15pm (doors 7pm) to 10pm

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

October 1st - Singers Night £3

October 15th - Barrie & Ingrid Temple. Lovely harmonies & self-penned songs from Newcastle £10

November 5th - Singers Night £3

November 19th - Cathy Barclay & Sarah Yarwood. Mother & daughter duo. Lovely harmonies. £10

December 3rd - Bryony Griffith & Alice Jones
"Wesselbobs" £10

Tea & coffee £1 or bring your own drink

www.dealfolkclub.org.uk or ring Sue on 01-304-360877

MOORE or LESS FOLK CLUB

Oast Community Centre, Granary Close,

Rainham, Kent, ME8 7SG

(next to Rainham railway station)

Friday 9th October, 2026 - Singers Night

Friday 13th November, 2026 - Singers Night

All club nights 8.00 to 10.30pm

Entrance fee £4.00 (including raffle)

Enquiries to Chris Wilkin 07821 606076

THE PERILS OF DRINKING

Am
When I was young my drink problem,

E7
Was getting not enough;
Against my wish, they called me Fish,

Am E7 Am
I put away so much stuff.

Dm Am
I was convinced my house was haunted,

Dm E7
By poltergeists no doubt;

At night in bed with swimming head,

Am E7 Am
I swear the walls moved about.

A glass of wine is beneficial,
For healthy heart and mind;
The trouble though's the six or so,
That follow close behind.
Now old George Burns said it just takes him,
One drink and then he's blitzed;
The fifteenth or the sixteenth,
He couldn't remember which.

I've heard it said by old Dean Martin,
A man's not truly blitzed,
If when he's down, sprawled on the ground,
He's not clinging onto it.
There used to be an old ad slogan,
Said "Drink that Canada Dry",
And that appealed, to Mister Fields,
Who said "Let's go there and try".

Now Brendan Behan said with drinking,
There's only two times we've got;
Of those the first's when we have thirst,
The second one's when we've not.
But if you drink, your life will shorten,
The doctors all quote facts,
Said Bernard Shaw: "How come we've more,
Old drunkards than old quacks?"

Old Robert Johnson said when drinking,
His thinking became clear;
Yes, when you drink you're free to think,
About whiskey, gin and beer.
To those who say I have a problem,
When to the floor I fall,
I just get wrecked, then hit the deck,
No problem there at all.

In retrospect, my life's gone mostly,
On wine, women and song;
As for the rest, I must confess,
I wasted it in among.
But looking back, what's truly tragic,
Though hardly by design;
Was wasting time, just chasing rhymes,
Instead of women and wine.

So give me oatcakes when I'm hungry,
And moonshine when I'm dry;
If the demon drink don't kill me,
It'll have a damn good try.
If the river out there was whiskey,
And I a diving duck;
I'd dive right in, but just to swim,
And I'd try best not to suck.

JJ CROSSLEY 2023

The TENTERDEN FOLK SESSIONS have moved



FOLK at The VINE INN

76 High Street, Tenterden, TN30 6AU

The second Wednesday of the month

Free folk song and music in bar

All welcome

from 7:30 to 10:30



Tenterden Folk Club has been running since 1992
For information contact Alan Castle
folkspots@btinternet.com 01233 626805
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WANTED

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Around Kent Folk

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1 to 94

*If you have spare
copies please
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akf@tenterdenfolkfestival.org.uk



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

Faversham Folk Club



Save these dates! Reservations :
07957 461832 or 07885 642763 -
please book early!

Please note we are a cash-only club.

There are 2 cash points close nearby.

www.favershamfolkclub.net



October - November

Please reserve your seat on 07957 461832 or 07885 642763 - all welcome!

- Oct 7 John Kirkpatrick - 200 years of Squeezebox - fantastic show! £13/14**
- Oct 14 Singers Plus: Global Fusion £2**
- Oct 21 Rachel Lowrie's South Shore - Original and melodic takes on Kentish topics. £10/11**
- Oct 28 Liam Sherry - Song & Irish, trad & classical mandolin/melodeon. £10/11**
- Nov 4 Mick Ryan & Paul Downes - Masters of their craft-social & amusing songs. £11/12**
- Nov 11 Singers Plus: Shanties £2**
- Nov 18 Hunter Muskett £11/12**
- Nov 25 Singers £2**
- Dec 2 Keith Kendrick & Sylvia Needham £11/12**
- Dec 9 Vicki Swann & Jonny Dyer £11/12**
- Dec 16 Old Kent Carollers & singers plus £2**
- Dec 23 Closed**

2027 - more to come!

Jan 6 - Whitstable Hoodeners, Jan 27 River Of Strings (CJ, Dave Raey, Gemma Gayner)

Feb 17 - Jez Lowe, Feb 24 - Peter & Barbara Snape, 17 Mar - Skinner & T'Witch

All other Wednesdays Singers Nights £2

For Reservations please call 07957 461832

Club & Gig enquiries 07885 742763

Please leave a message if no answer- thank you!

The Limes, Preston St, Faversham ME13 8PG.

CD REVIEWS

Birds in the Belly - Only Dogs as Friends

GF*M Records GFM00015

Birds in the Belly are a four piece "folk noir" band from Brighton. The band members are Laura Ward and Adam Ronchetti, otherwise known as Hickory Signals, plus Ben 'Jinnwoo' Webb and Tom Pryor. Tom also produced this album. All but one of the 12 tracks were written by the band members but the lyrics include extracts from, or tributes to, well-known writers including Charles Kingsley and Alfred Tennyson. A couple of tracks are the bands re-writes of old Broadside Ballads. Some of the tracks tell true and gruesome stories of old Sussex and London such as Hen's Eggs that tells of Amelia Dyer who was a baby farmer and mass murderer thought to have killed over 400 children in the 1800. The only traditional song on the album is their version of Big Rock Candy Mountain (Roud 6696) made popular by Burl Ives in the 1950's. The album comes with an insert with all the words to the songs plus details of where the stories told come from and other information. The insert also contains some rather theatrical illustrations of strange characters. The band are touring in October and November taking in The Ropetackle Arts Centre in Shoreham and Loughton Folk Club in Essex. Next year they will be at Tonbridge Folk Club on 19th April as well as Bracknell, Eastbourne, London, Southend, and Islington. Well worth putting in your diary now so you do not miss them.



The Chartists - The Chartists - Remastered & Expanded SPCD10225

You may remember The Chartists' self-titled folk rock album of 1981/82 which commemorated or celebrated the Newport Chartists uprising of 1839 where 22 protestors will killed and another 50 were injured when troops opened fire outside the Westgate Hotel. Apparently the PM Andy Burnham is a longtime supporter of the Chartist movement and has written regular articles for the Chartist Magazine. When the limited edition album was first released it led to a series of programmes on BBC Radio 4. The original six tracks have been included on this remastered and expanded album along with 4 tracks from the BBC's 1984 Folk For The Job and 4 more from recordings made in 1988 to 1991. Narration is provided between songs to expand on this shocking story. The illustrated booklet included with the album gives a full history of the band and how the original album came to be recorded in the night at Cardiff University, as well as the story of the Chartist movement. If you have an interest in social history, Wales, the Chartist movement or folk songs this is certainly an album you will want to listen too.



Alan Castle (Editor)

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.

5th October Tog Faire

19th Oct Richard Grainger

2nd Nov The Woolverstones

16h Nov Hunter Muskett

7th Dec Doves Vagaries

**21st Dec Four Gone
Confusion**

Tel: 01892 822945

info@tonbridgefolkclub.org

www.tonbridgefolkclub.org

Ashford Folk are a
Community Band playing
British and Irish
traditional music.



We practise in Ashford on Thursday
evenings from 19:00.

No audition – all abilities are
welcome.

enquiries@ashfordfolk.org

www.ashfordfolk.org



facebook.com/FolkAshford

Affiliate of the English Folk Dance and Song Society



**Sam Kelly & The Lost Boys
Honey & The Bear**

Sat 3rd Oct-Godmersham & Crundale Village Hall

Fairport Convention

Wed 28th Oct- St Marys Arts Centre, Sandwich

Richard Shindell with Danny Bradley
Sunday 8th Nov – Gulbenkian, Canterbury

Gary Stewart's Graceland
Sunday 15th Nov – Colyer-Fergusson Hall,
Gulbenkian, Canterbury

Showcase Scotland Presents

Heron Valley & Hannah Rarity

Saturday 21st Nov – Colyer-Fergusson Hall,
Gulbenkian, Canterbury

Steve Knightley & The Winter Yards Band
Sunday 29th Nov – Gulbenkian, Canterbury

Full details and Join the mailing list at.....
www.folkinthebarn.co.uk

ORPINGTON FOLK CLUB

Farnborough Social Club

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



OCTOBER

15th, 22nd	Singers & Musicians Night
1st	Tribute to Patrick Night
8th	Tog Faire
29th	Themed Singers Night ~ Mythical Creatures

NOVEMBER

12th, 19th	Singers & Musicians Night
5th	Paul Walker and Karen Pfeiffer
26th	Ivan North Tribute Night

*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*



Always great live music at Rosslyn Court

Check the internet via the QR code or address below for
info, including ticket & livestream links
Please book in advance to avoid disappointment



**Luke Jackson
Oct 1**



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with Jonny
Hepbir and
Jerome
Davies
12 Nov**



Regular
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**George
Sansome &
Matt Quinn
15 Oct**



**Findlay Napier
19 Nov**

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Hannah Scott
Sam Brothers
Cohen Braithwaite-Kilcoyne
Kimberleys
Luke Wallace
Rory McLeod
Richard Moore**

Brookes Williams

www.rosslyncourt.com/events

Rosslyn Court is a small, quirky, seated, friendly, listening venue on one level, with a bar. Ask in advance about a floor spot.
Thursdays- The first hour only is livestreamed on above link from 7.30 Please donate

62 Sweyn Rd Cliftonville Margate CT9 2DD



**Simon
Kempston
29 Oct**

**Usually £12
also 6/18
Thursday
Doors at 7pm
for a 7.30
start.**

Monthly

2nd Wed

**Classical music Open mic
with Jake Ben-David**

7.30. free

2nd Fri

Shanty night with

The Snottledogs

session/singaround

7.30. Free

3rd Wed

Jazz concert

with Alex Clayton-Black

and guests

7.30 £12.50

READERS' LETTERS

Dear Alan,

I have just received the latest AKF - thank you - and read the letter from Angela Clark.

I do hope that when Angela says she goes along to folk clubs "mostly to sing along to familiar material" she doesn't mean singing along to the verses. Sing the choruses and refrain lines, of course, but please don't sing along with the verses. This never used to happen but has become more and more common - I've even had people singing along with a ballad, which completely ruins the singer's interpretation. It never used to happen - why now? I thoroughly agree with Angela about inaccurate descriptions of what the artists will do - but that isn't always the fault of the club organisers. We used to book talented young singers from the St Albans "New Roots" competition when they had performed traditional material - only to find when they did the club booking they sang a lot of their own songs - teenage songs - not what we were expecting!

At festivals a singaround is not always rousing join in songs - at the wonderful singarounds at the Sailing Club at Broadstairs you get great chorus songs, of course, but it's also somewhere you can sing a ballad, or a quiet song or read a poem - all are welcome.

Have a great summer

Yours sincerely

Ann Hilton (Hertfordshire)

.....

Angela's Observations

As regular readers will have seen, Angela Clark made some politely pertinent points in AKF 136 regarding the guest's billing of 'traditional songs plus their own material' frequently being 'an evening spent as an opportunity to demonstrate their ability to chant in rhyme' as the guest 'appears to attend for the sole purpose of demonstrating the song he or she has written to a live audience'. Angela's wide experience of folk clubs and festivals suggests that most audiences go along to sing familiar songs, where everyone is encouraged to join in.

A point well worth exploring, and responses both to Angela and to me suggest it has some validity. There's always a balance, as folk club organizers know: they and the floor singers really have a responsibility to create that welcoming atmosphere by their own song choices - floor singers who showboat aren't the best advertisement for the club nor generating the platform for a good guest. Their best chance of advancing their case is to show a rapport and enthusiasm with their early listeners. Even if it means singing a wide selection of rousing chorus songs every week.

Guests are usually selected because they have the knack of including their most meaningful songs among a variety of entertainments. In Kent we have many who do so, thinking of Ted Handley, Sally Ironmonger & Brian Carter, Les Elvin, many more - we all have memories of Skinners Rats, Tundra, Ivan North, none of whom ever forgot that a song is more memorable if everyone joins in. Packie Byrne was a master of this- Vin Garbutt's jokes sharpened the appreciation of his deeply felt lyrics.

Choruses apart, I think Angela has a point about melody. Songs like Bold Fisherman, Constant Lovers, Fare Thee Well My Dearest Dear, I Wish That The Wars Were All Over have compelling tunes which drive them along- they crop up in memory unexpected as you walk about. Maybe because that's how they were composed? Rather than against

a thrumming guitar or banjo lick? Or (mea culpa) against two finger chords in a recently learned open tuning? Now there's a wider discussion! Jeff Warner has often compared British melodies favourably. Tunes before accompaniment rather than lyrics laid over like a carpet, or backings so complex or out of context as to obscure the meaning.

I think that'll get me into enough trouble... each to their own, and trying new material out has to be done- however as Angela's measured letter suggests, there are plenty of audience members who like singing along, and if a club regularly encourages this there is a market still. Give Voice!

Bob Kenward

Lewes Saturday Folk Club

Valmai tells me that it has now been confirmed that Lewes Saturday Folk Club can no longer meet at the Elephant & Castle and is looking for a new permanent home. Meanwhile the club will hold its regular events in a variety of venues. Check their advert and website for more details.



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Lewes Saturday Folk Club

Traditional music every Saturday night

The venue is changing. Check website for details. 7:30-10:30

www.lewessaturdayfolkclub.org

valmaigoodyear@aol.com 01273 476757

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Assistance dogs only, please.

Oct 3 Harvest Supper £6 cash

Bring songs, tunes. Harvest loaves, cheeses & apples served.

Oct 10 Jerry O'Reilly & Rosie Davis Irish trad songs £12 cash

Irish traditional song workshop 11 Oct 10:45-16:15 £45 cash

Email to reserve places for day or evening. 2 under-25s £22.

Oct 17 George Sansome & Matt Quinn £12 cash

Trad songs, vocal harmony, mandolin, guitar

Oct 24 Cohen Braithwaite-Kilcoyne £15 cash

Trad songs, melodeon, concertina

Melodeon workshop 10:45-16:15 £45 cash

Email to reserve places for day or evening. 2 under-25s £22.

Oct 31 Seb Stone Trad songs, uilleann pipes, whistles £10 cash

Nov 7 Sherburn Saunders Bartley £15 cash

Trad songs, concertina, guitar, fiddle

Nov 14 Tim Edey Trad tunes, guitar, melodeon £15 cash

Melodeon workshop 10:45-16:15 £45 cash

Email to reserve places for day or evening. 2 under-25s £22.

Nov 21 Chris Foster Trad songs, guitar £12 cash

Trad songs, guitar

Guitar workshop 10:45-16:15 £45 cash

Email to reserve places for day or evening. 2 under-25s £22.

Nov 28 Reg Meuross Singer-songwriter, guitar £12 cash



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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).

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

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





Saturday 3rd October In Tenterden

Tenterden Day of Dance

Romney Marsh Morris host the second Tenterden Day of Dance on Saturday 3rd October. The Day of Dance follows in the footsteps of Tenterden Folk Festival that ran for over 30

years and finally finished in October 2024. The day will see at least 14 Morris sides gather at Kent and East Sussex town centre station from about 10:00 a.m. for a mass dance. They will then disperse to dance at other sites around the town. The Morris sides signed up for the day so far include Romney Marsh



Morris, Invicta Morris, Kits Coty, Wild Women, Loose Women, Anderida Border Morris, Steampunk, Wantsum Men Morris, Hannahs Cat, 7 Champions & 7 Sisters, Hastings RX Morris, Penny Royal, Hannahs Cat, and Offcumduns. The sides will be changing location approximately every hour throughout the day with the dancing continuing until about 4:00 p.m. You can find them at K&ES Railway from 10 am, Tenterden Museum, Tesco

and Specsavers from 10.30, The Woolpack and The Vine Inn from 11am, and The Old Dairy from 12 noon. For more information contact Romney Marsh Morris. <https://www.romneymarshmorris.com/>

Ashford Folk Music Session

Other events on Saturday 3rd October include a lunchtime Music Session in the bar of The Vine Inn run by Ashford Folk. All folk musician are welcome to come along and join in. <https://ashfordfolk.org/>

The All Day Sing-a-round

Do not forget The All Day Sing-a-round in the Tenterden Club from 11:30 a.m. to 10:30 p.m. This is run by Tenterden Folk Day Trust and Folk @ the Hub. See the advert elsewhere in this issue for details. <https://tenterdenfolkfestival.com/Events-coming-up/>



Les Batons

With another summer of live music and dancing at festivals behind us all, we, at Les Batons invite you to not pack away your instruments and dance shoes, but to come and join us just off the M20 at Hollingbourne Village Hall, especially on Sunday 18th October, when we will be celebrating 25 years of enjoying French

Continued Overleaf...

and Breton (and occasionally Swedish) music and dance with no need to cross over or under La Manche.

By the time you read this our September guest band GIG CB! will have kickstarted the Autumn season for us with Sunset in Provence playing in October plus the usual floor spots for regulars and newcomers each month and not forgetting our Bring and Share Buffet.

Don't know a schottische from a mazurka or a bourrée? We are a friendly bunch happy to take you onto the dance floor and show you the ropes.

For more details and, if you wish to book a floor spot in advance by contacting Isabel or Alison for the music to rehearse and join the house band, please check www.lesbatons.org

Allons danser!

Nina on behalf of Team Les Batons



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18 Oct 2026	Sunset in Provence and LBs 25th anniversary shindig
15 Nov 2026	Oscina www.oscina.com
17 Jan 2027	DanceAbout Dance workshops + floor spots

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£8 Cash only please in the pot

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Kent ME17 1TR (park behind hall)
www.lesbatons.org
email: les.batons@yahoo.co.uk

Sussex Folk News - October / November 2026

"Homeless, homeless Moonlight sleeping on a midnight lake" – Paul Simon

What I was warning of in my last column has come to pass. After 18 years at the Elephant & Castle, the Lewes Saturday night folk club is currently homeless. The pub has been sold and the new owners have closed the pub for complete redecoration and renovation. The timing of the reopening is uncertain and at the time of writing this there is no guarantee that the folk club will be able to return.

This might have discouraged a less stout-hearted soul than Valmai Goodyear but this feisty organiser has managed to arrange a number of temporary homes for their meetings at short notice. They are: -

3 OCT - Harvest Supper Evening - Lewes Arms, Mount Place, Lewes BN7 1YH

10 OCT - Jerry O'Reilly & Rosie Davis - Westgate Chapel, 92A High Street, Lewes BN7 1XH. They will offer glorious traditional Irish song with a spot of dancing from Rosie,

On the following day, Jerry will be leading an IRISH SONG WORKSHOP at the John Harvey Tavern, Foundry Lane, Lewes BN7 2AN.

17 OCT - GEORGE SANSOME & MATT QUINN - The club returns to the Westgate Chapel. The previous appearance by this duo at the Lewes club was spellbinding. Their well-blended voices and close harmonies create a warm, enthralling sound and their English folk instrumental styles complement each other perfectly.

24 OCT - COHEN BRAITHWAITE-KILCOYNE and once again the club is at the Westgate

Chapel, Cohen is a young, brilliant and inventive melodeon & anglo -concertina player and a glorious singer with a deep understanding of traditional music and a powerful, compelling style of his own.

During the day, Cohen will be leading a Melodeon Workshop also at the Westgate. He is brilliant and inventive melodeon and anglo-concertina player with a powerful, compelling style of his own. He loves to share knowledge as well as his ideas and he is a fine teacher.

For 31 OCT - With SEB STONE, the club returns to its long-ago home at the Lewes Arms. Seb is an arresting traditional singer & uilleann piper from the Peak District with an unusual & fascinating collection of songs.

As we move into November with their uncertain future at the Elly, venues still have to be confirmed, so I can only ask you to look at their website at <http://www.lewessaturdayfolkclub.org/LAFC/prog2025.html> or find their Facebook page to learn where these events will be held: -

7 NOV CHRIS SHERBURN, DENNY BARTLEY and EMILY SANDERS

Chris (Anglo concertina) & Denny (vocals, guitar) have brought their unique sound to audiences across the globe since 1993 with Last Night's Fun. In 2016, they joined forces with Emily (fiddle, vocals) blending vocal harmonies and strings in their unique sound with their soul-stirring songs, exhilarating tunes and quick-witted banter.

14 NOV TIM EDEY

Tim has toured the world building his reputation and playing with many major names in Celtic/Contemporary roots music. Earlier in the day He will be running a second melodeon workshop in quick succession following October's one with Cohen.

21 NOV CHRIS FOSTER £12 cash

For decades Chris has been one of the leading traditional songs from the British Isles with outstanding guitar accompaniments. In recent years he has added material from the Icelandic tradition to his repertoire.

This is another workshop day in which Chris approaches accompanying songs using the guitar, but will bring out general points about the nature of accompaniment including the use of different tunings.

And finally in programme that offers two months of outstanding performers there will be:-

28 NOV REG MEUROSS £12 cash

Reg is a hugely popular and widely known performer, a compassionate and insightful songwriter whose quiet resistance and storytelling remind us of our shared humanity.

All the Saturday evening events will start at 7.30 and finish at 10.30 and you are reminded that for all non-pub events, you will have to provide your own drinks and glasses. I wish Valmai and her committee all the best in fortune with these two wandering months and good luck in finding a permanent home before moving on to the guest nights at Horsham Folk Club which continues its long association with the Normandy Centre in Denne Road for their Sunday night meetings. In this two-month period they have five guest nights, rather more than is their usual number.

The trio of Nigel Bagge, Mike Piggott and Derek Bond are there on October 11th. They present a variety of genres with emphasis on the Blues; Nigel is an outstanding blues guitarist, singer, composer and performer of stunning ability. Mike Piggott is well-known to club members as a wizard of the violin. In his hands it's not just a fiddle, it's a dazzling firework of an instrument and Derek is their top notch bass guitarist.

Continued Overleaf...

On the following Sunday it's Wild Willy Barrett and Mary Holland and the couple produce some of the most exciting, interesting and moving music you'll hear. They have a broad approach to their music that goes far beyond folk music and Willy's astounding abilities with the guitar and violin add to the sheer entertainment value of his performances.

Sunday 15th November brings the duo of Ned Clamp and Pat Smith. Ned, originally from Dorking was once a frequent visitor to Horsham Club, but has moved to Wales, and now performs with Pat, once a member of the popular duo Calennig.



Dana Robinson

Moving on to the 22nd and it's the excellent Adur Ukrainian Choir many of whom are refugees who found safety and new beginnings in the UK, was founded in Brighton in 2022. United by their love of music, they share a rich repertoire of traditional and contemporary Ukrainian songs. This choir led by Lyudmilla Kulakova, brings together two previous choirs formed in Sussex and has achieved heartfelt praise for its moving performances that transcend language and culture.

They score a real coup on *Sunday 29th November* by booking Steve Tilston who is one of our most celebrated songwriters, widely recognised within the world of folk and contemporary music; the words, arrangements and subtle, quite superb guitar playing could be no one else.

The home of Uckfield Folk Club is upstairs at The Station Pub, Uckfield

on every Third Tuesday of the Month. On 20th October they have a singaround and on November 17th it's that popular local multi-instrumental sextet, The Twagger Band

The Lamb Folk Club in Eastbourne meets on the 1st and 3rd Wednesdays of the month at the pub of that name in the Old Town and it is American months there in October and November. Apart from the Open stage / Singers and musicians' night on 7th October, it's

American songs and music all the way. On 21st October The Lost Trades, who are a vocal harmony trio will offer a cool Laurel Canyon vibe with a sound that is reminiscent of the California folk scene of the late 60s/early 70s, their vocal harmonies have been described as "flawless", "spine tingling" and "magical".

On 4th November 2026 – Dana Robinson will be there. His British tours have often included visits to Sussex. He is a Vermont-based artist who creates songs inspired by old-time and Americana genres.

Another American performs for them on 18th November 2026, Brooks Williams is an American acoustic guitarist and singer-songwriter. His style combines roots, jazz, blues, classical, and folk.

Last but very much not least, there are three exciting nights in prospect at the Chichester folk club at their home at the Chichester Inn where they meet every Monday starting at 8.15pm. On October 12th they are for a real treat with the first family of traditional folk song, the Copper family of Rottingdean in Sussex. They will be singing their iconic songs that are so well known and sung throughout the English-speaking world.

On October 26th by complete contrast, they have one of the premier singer songwriters – Jez Lowe. I was able to catch Jez recently at a performance in Lewes and he was in stunning form. Then on final day of these two months; on November 30th - Dave Webber & Anni Fentiman two of the longest established stalwarts of the folk scene will be making a return visit to Chichester.

Vic Smith



Dave Masterson manning the joint Tenterden Folk Day Trust / Folk @ the Hub stall in Tenterden Town Hall to promote the All Day Sing-a-round, Folk at The Vine Inn and Folk @ the Hub.

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

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Then ...

18th October 2026 - December / January

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