

around Kent folk

Issue 131
October / November 2025



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



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Welcome to issue 131 October/November 2025 issue of Around Kent Folk

By the time you read this we will be into autumn and the summer festivals will be over. You can read Pete the Punter's review of the 60th Broadstairs Folk Week in this issue. However there are still one or two festivals and special events to come in October and beyond including Harwich International Shanty Festival. For the last 30 odd years Tenterden Folk Festival would have taken place over the weekend of the first Saturday of October but sadly that will not be the case this year. However as part of the festival's legacy there will be an All Day Song and Music Session in the upstairs bar of the Tenterden Club, starting at 11:30 a.m. and running all day until around 10:30 p.m. The day will be divided into approximately two hour slots each run by people well known on the local folk scene including co-organisers Dave and Eileen Masterson and me, plus John & Di Cullen, Roger Resch, and Sue Watson. We are also expecting some festival regulars to drop in during the day including Morigan, Chris Harrison, Vic and John Bowden, Terry and Steph King, Chris Roche, Anne Hilton, Bubbles, Tenterden local folk club regulars and many, many more. Everyone is welcome to come along and contribute some songs, tunes, recitations, poems, stories, step dances, etc. or of course you can just sit and listen. Entry is free but collections will be taken to pay for room hire and other costs. The Tenterden Club will be running the bar. Also in Tenterden on Saturday 4th October Romney Marsh Morris are holding a day of dance with at least half a dozen visiting Morris sides, Ashford Folk are running a music session in the Vine and St Mildred's Church are running a Barn Dance and Harvest Supper, so it will be a fun day.

Also in this issue Chris Roche pays his respects to the late Bob Watson, a long time contributor to this magazine, and to Ken Stephens, a popular singer and songwriter, while Doug Hudson says his fond farewells to his long time band mate Ian Cuttler. All will be sadly missed on the local folk scene and beyond. There is of course also the usual mix of Sussex Folk News, Scene and Heard, book and CD reviews and other articles, as well as adverts for many local folk clubs, venues and gigs.

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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Front cover: "A Band on a Ship" are appearing at Harwich International Shanty Festival

Scene & Heard (October - November 2025)

Festivals galore across Kent this glorious summer: Morris stands at pubs and village greens, tents and caravans springing up in new-mown fields, town squares bedecked with bunting and aswirl with squeezeboxes, fiddles, song and dance.

An amazing week at Broadstairs celebrated the festival's 60th anniversary in style, with tributes to Jack Hamilton and all who have brought so much pleasure to the week from those early deckchair days in Pierremont Park. More on Broadstairs elsewhere: meantime, congratulations to the new Musical Director Kai Hoffman and all the hardworking committee, volunteers, bar staff and participants, young and old, who made it so memorable. We salute you!

Always choices: the Travelling Folk Song and Ale hosted by Liz Randall was well-attended- grand to hear Sussex stalwarts like Jerry Jordan and Charlotte Oliver and to catch up with Pat & Kaz Langridge, Cathy Barclay & Sarah Yarwood- folksongs passed down through families. It would be impolite not to mention Ken Hobbs...

Meantime Fourgone Confusion hadn't paid their 3 ha'pence a foot over at Sandwich- a biblical flood betwixt their stage and fans... all part of the weft, as those at Pig's Ear found- a lovely swelter for Friday and mixed fortunes later, which apparently made for great atmosphere... PE is a delightful setting, and sustainably powered- great to catch up with Erin Mansfield again, such a life force. Great sound too: Ewan Headley, James Kerry



and the team are building respectfully on the Rule's foundations- Sue and Helen in attendance and happily Lyndsey singing again later in the Woodshed.

Another festival growing wings is Herne Bay FF, now Saturday in town, Fri/Sun at the well-appointed Hampton Bay Caravan Park. The Social Club & Bar/Stage saw **Nick Lawrence** power his way through self-penned epics, a Fairport tribute and acoustic Fourgone, safely indoors. On Saturday many town venues hosted hardy veterans, upcoming locals and young combos- I'll leave you to decide- Border Crossing, Capella, **Chaucer**, Sam Brothers and many more. Chaucer's gentle accompaniment to traditional songs well suited the She Rose's flint, fennel and flowers. The evening church concert was a delight- Edwina Hayes beautifully clear. Sunday saw Milton Hide's



From The Workshop

songwriting session and a superb set by **From The Workshop's** Helen & Jonnie - strong material delivered with energy and smiles... all best wishes to Ray Fielder and another trusty bunch who take the risks.

July/ Aug are traditionally quiet months among the clubs. It's always worth having a look, though. **The Lost Notes** travelled down from the West Midlands to Dartford and Faversham, infectiously lively with impeccable harmony and

stagecraft. Rosslyn Court hosted five acts including Jo Hook and Linda Moylan, who also popped into Tonbridge. Evergreen Jez Lowe too... Sound Tradition hit Deal with their close vocals... Faversham award-winning Terry Lees & Natasha Norodien, then Lynne Heraud & Pat Turner... Dartford and Orpington the much-praised Salts... there's always someone worth seeing once the festival washing has dried ready for next weekend... a venue to sustain, someone new to hear...



The Lost Notes

Close on the last AKF came more sad, if expected, news: Ian Cutler, a national maestro of the violin, passed away peacefully. His unique style drove Hot Rats, Feast Of

Fiddles and the Bully Wee band across Europe and influenced so many to follow. Ian was one of the most charming men, always kind to other players and generous with his talents. He quietly mentored anyone genuinely interested in effects and achieving the best tone; up on stage his playing was full of sensitivity and heart. Our condolences to SJ and all who made music alongside him. We in Kent will miss him greatly.

The outlook into Autumn is strong- sessions as covered in the last issue resume, and though the sticks and tatters may go back into the Bagman's care there are still barn dances, harvest suppers and many U3A groups now meeting regularly, not to mention Museum initiatives... the old horses face repair for December and New Year festivities... there's a flurry of song and dance at the turn of October at Tenderden... and conkers already... as Sylvia Watts puts it: 'This is the time I love best'

Bob Kenward

BOOK REVIEW

Steve Heap - You Call That a Career?

Memoirs of a Festival Organiser

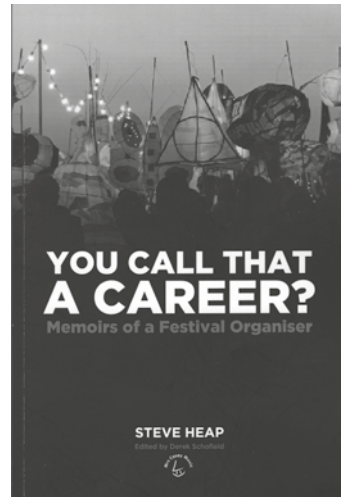
Published by Mrs Casey Music

I've known Steve Heap for many years, principally through his work running the Association of Festival Organisers (AFO), Folk Arts England (FAE), his company Mrs Casey Music and as the main organiser of Towersey Festival, but there is a lot about him of which I was not aware. This interesting book puts that right. It is not an auto-biography but, as Steve says, a series of memoirs. The book was written by Steve with the assistance of and input from family and friends, edited by Derek Schofield and has a forward by Kate Rusby. You do not have to know Steve to enjoy this book as he has been involved in virtually all sectors of the folk scene during his career. He left school as soon as he could and through going to local folk clubs started to play in ceilidh bands, became a singer, left home, got involved in helping at festivals, met, and worked with, most of the big folk names of the 1960 onwards and eventually took over Towersey Festival and ran Sidmouth Folk Week for a number of years. He also ran folk events at The South Bank and The Royal Albert Hall. Skipping forward a number of years Steve was one of the main people pushing folk in government circles and sat on and even chaired several important committees working with government Ministers and officials. Eventually, in his mid 70s, he has decided to retire and hand over to a younger generation although he will retain some of his involvement with certain organisations for a while longer. I think I first met Steve face to face at an AFO conference, which he of course organised and ran, not long after Tenterden Folk Festival started to have to deal with things like licensing, the local Safety Advisory Group, risk assessments, road closures, etc. and he was always willing to help by passing on his knowledge and experience. Thanks Steve. To find out all the other things Steve managed to squeeze in to his long and busy career you will have to buy this interesting and sometimes amusing book. Once I started reading it I could not put it down.

Alan Castle (Editor)

Finding Pinwherry Dave

Having just recently returned from Scotland and heard the BBC Folk Show, it was good to hear a Dave Goulder song "I'd Like to be a Lengthman" I was reminded we were driving the camper through the centre towards Bonar Bridge when we stopped to take a photo of an old red phone box, you know the sort, it had been repurposed with a defibrillator now living in it on top of which was a copy of the Kyle Chronicle that I picked up. Later too much time later! When I came to read it staring out of the cover at me was "The January Man" Dave Goulder BEM in the new year's honours



list 2025 for services to dry stone walling something Dave had been doing he said, as a labour of love for 60+ years, he had a page all to himself. Had we known when we drove through Rosehall village that Dave lived there we would have looked him up. Later on the west coast we camped at Lendalfoot with a great view of Isla Craig where all curling stones come from, and where I tramped up a hill in 30 degrees of heat to see the ruin of the circa 13c defensive tower of Carleton one corner had been removed to build a new stone bridge in 1897 at where? "Pinwherry Dip" another Dave Goulder song from his seminal CD Requiem for Steam. We later drove through Pinwherry and over the now third bridge there built in the 1960s. The stone should have been left where the tower stands intact save for the corner so carelessly removed.

Chris Roche



Sussex Folk News (October & November)

The summer is always a doldrum time for our folk clubs with many enthusiasts away on holiday or at festivals. As the autumn arrives club bookers can feel certain that they are going to draw larger crowds and become more adventurous in their booking policies. The many top artists who will be appearing in these months help to prove this. Let's start with Chichester this time.

This club meets at the Chichester Inn, which is at 38 West Street, PO19 1RP. They meet every Monday evening but are so well supported by many fine singers and musicians that they only feel the need to book guests once a month. The October guests will be on the 27th. Winter Wilson as one of the hardest working duos on the circuit. UK based, Kip Winter and Dave Wilson have performed in Germany, Australia, Spain, Canada, Belgium and New Zealand. They will have shortly returned from Canada before this appearance and a few days later they are off to Germany – busy and talented people. Another duo, Drywood, follow them on 17th November; Phil Underwood and Denise Dryburgh are a husband and wife duo singing lively and heartfelt original and traditional songs.

From one end of the county to the other now and to Eastbourne. That club's meetings are on the 1st and 3rd Wednesdays of each month at the well-appointed upstairs room at The Lamb in Eastbourne Old Town On 1st October, The John Ward Trio will provide powerful songs, fine harmonies, skilled accompaniment and a breathtaking bodhran solo from John. On 15th October, the name of Winter Wilson crops up again. November sees some vastly experienced performers at the Eastbourne club. On 5th when many in Sussex will be celebrating Bonfire they have an evening that is sure to go with a bang. Ray Cooper is an acoustic singer songwriter and multi-instrumentalist. He sings with a cello, as well as mandolin, guitar and piano, Ray was for many years a member of much acclaimed Oysterband, then in 2013 he decided to go solo and has released five acclaimed albums. On 19th November, they will have a band

Continued Overleaf...

whose history goes back even further. Hunter Muscatt were formed in 1968 and are still going strong. The line-up is Terry Hiscock, Doug Morter and Rog Trevitt – acoustic, electric, slide and bass guitar, mandolin, piano and vocals.

In between these two places mentioned above is Lewes and the very popular Saturday night club at the Elephant and Castle in White Hill. There are nine Saturdays in these months and all have excellent guests so let's rattle off this very impressive couple of months for them starting with the 4th October and Tom Kitching and Marit Faelt. Tom is an inspired fiddler with his own style & an accomplished writer. Marit is a brilliant Nordic mandola player. 'Where There's Brass' tells the story of the contemporary London waterways: a floating slum at worst, a bohemian, alternative, vibrant community at best. It is a love letter to the waterways & a rallying cry for what they can be in the future. The stories old and new are interwoven with a specially composed suite of music.

On 11th October the three singers who make up The Wilderness Yet. All three spent many of their younger years living in Sussex and it will be great to welcome them back. Rosie Hodgson (voice, songwriter, guitar, banjo) Rowan Piggott (fiddle, voice) & Philippe Barnes (flute, guitar) mix Irish, Scottish, Swedish flavours into traditional and new songs with a deep love of the natural world. In the daytime there will be a couple of All Day Workshops with Rowan leading one on Swedish fiddle tunes and Philippe one on Irish Flute playing. Details of the workshops are available on the club's website.

Another very experienced singer and musician, Tim Laycock, makes a return visit on the 18th October this time in the company of Alistair Braidwood. Tim Laycock is a fine singer, Crane duet concertina player, songwriter, actor & storyteller with a deep love of the songs & music of Dorset. Alistair is a singer, actor and highly skilled with more than one sort of yarn. They present a mixture of songs, tunes & stories from the West country & beyond, but there is more from the West Country the following Saturday.

Geoff Lakeman is the patriarch of a rich folk music dynasty. He sings entertaining & thoughtful English & Irish traditional and jazz songs, accompanied on Crane duet concertina. He's the dad of Seth, Sean & Sam and father-in-law of Cara Dillon & Kathryn Roberts.

Into November now with traditional and new songs sung in a glorious, compelling voice, unaccompanied and with shruti box by newcomer Rachel Rose. On 8th November, a duo who give excellent entertainment at this and other folk clubs in Lewes. Andy Turner and Mat Green will perform English traditional songs and tunes with fiddle and Anglo concertina. Mat & Andy are founder members of the band Magpie Lane. Mat was Squire of Bampton Morris for 25 years & Andy is now the musician for Headington Quarry Morris Dancers. Then there will be more traditional English music and song, plus compositions by Jess, in vocal harmony with fiddle and melodeon. With Nancy Kerr & James Fagan, Jess & Richard are half The Melrose Quartet. They are also top dance musicians. This is another evening that will be preceded by an All Day Workshop; this time the subject is vocal harmony.

On 22nd of October they will celebrate 30 years of having Derek Seed as a resident singer at the club, Derek will present an hour of "variegated negativity". He will allow plenty of time for others to either contribute to that ambience or apply a cheery antidote. Come ready to join in with plenty of choruses.

Finally at the end of an extraordinary two months, it will be Bing Lyle. He is a fine accordion player & singer of traditional English songs and tunes and many that he has written himself. He's a member of the Sussex Pistols dance band & for years was in a duo with fiddler Ben Paley. He is a great promoter of the traditional music of Ukrainian refugees in Sussex & performs with them.

Lastly, there is the folk club on Sunday nights in Horsham at the Normandy Centre in Deene Road and, as usual there is a lot of interest in their programme including on 19th October when Kit Hawes & Aaron Catlow combine musicality, virtuosity and vocal harmony. Using the folk music of the British Isles as a catalyst, they create dynamic interpretations as well as original songs, with guitar, fiddle and vocal duets.

The duo tour extensively in the UK and internationally across Belgium, the Netherlands and Germany. BBC 2's Mark Radcliffe is a champion of their work. On 2nd October they have what I would take to be the most attractive of all the folk club evenings in Sussex during these months with John Kirkpatrick. John has been dancing, singing, and playing his way around the English folk scene since he joined Hammersmith Morris Men in 1959 at the age of twelve. Displaying a rare skill on a variety of push-pull squeezeboxes - the melodeon, the button accordion, and the Anglo concertina - he has been fully professional since 1970, not only with vast amounts of solo appearances, but also in all kinds of duos, trios, and bands – including spells in Steeleye Span, The Albion Band, Trans Europe Diatonique, in a long term duo with Roy Bailey, Band of Hope, lengthy stints with Richard Thompson's Band, The Sultans of Squeeze, and Brass Monkey. In the mid 1990s he led his own John Kirkpatrick Band. More recently he replaced John Tams as the lead singer with folk-rock band Home Service, and now Mr Tams is back in the fold again, the two Johns share singing duties. Since the demise of Brass Monkey, John appears in an occasional duo with Martin Carthy. He is still an unrelentingly enthusiastic Morris dancer and started one of England's most influential teams – The Shropshire Bedlams. And he still finds time to play for dancing, currently in a band with all his four sons – Kirkophany. Out in the wide world John has contributed music, song, and dance to a great number of plays in the theatre, and to a lesser extent radio, television, and film. As a virtuoso session player his squeezeboxes can be heard on hundreds of recordings, and as a creator of new work in all these fields he has established an enviable reputation. But on his own live gigs you're more likely to see him in his natural habitat pursuing his first love - traditional English music and song.

Another event at Horsham club ends this review and it is a very interesting one. On 9th November they have four fine Irish musicians. Roscommon based Gatehouse have been performing together since 2014 and boast a top-class line up of traditional musicians including singer Rachel Garvey, Jacinta McEvoy on guitar and concertina, John McEvoy on fiddle and mandolin and John Wynne on flutes and whistles. Gatehouse's exciting blend of flute and fiddle coupled with Rachel's captivating singing and Jacinta's sensitive guitar playing delivers a heady cocktail of tasteful songs and exciting instrumentals.

One final word of warning. These profiles were written to meet a deadline of the beginning of September. Health and other considerations can sometimes cause late changes to events so keep an eye on the club's websites before setting out to go to any event.

Vic Smith

LIVE MUSIC REVIEW

Weston and Lee – Their songs and their story

A presentation by Terry King

I recently attended a presentation by Terry King on the song writers Weston and Lee at The Tenterden and District Museum. Terry soon had the audience of Museum members singing along and enjoying a couple of tunes played on his concertina.

Bob Weston (1878 - 1936) who was born in Islington, met Bert Lee (1880 – 1946) who was born in Ravensthorpe, Yorkshire, in 1915 when they wrote “Cupid’s Alley”. They had both already written numerous popular songs on their own or in co-operation with other songwriters but together they then went on to write over 3,000 (yes three thousand) songs. Some of their best known songs include “Good-Bye-Ee” “My Word You Do Look Queer”, “Brahm Boots” “With Her Head Tucked Underneath Her Arms”, “Knees Up Mother Brown”, “When Father Papered the Parlour” and many, many more which you will know. Some times their songs were credited to the people who made them famous or even thought to be traditional. They worked in the world of concert parties, music halls and pantomimes, and with all the top stars of the day such as Fred Karno, Rob Wilton, Stanley Holloway and Wee Gorgie Wood and some of their songs were made popular again many years later by the likes of Roy Hudd, Tommy Steel and Joe Brown.

Terry’s talk would work equally well in a folk club or at folk festival as we all know many of the word to their songs or at least to the choruses.

Alan Castle (Editor)

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CD REVIEWS

Clementine Lovell - Westbound

CLWESTBOUND2025 www.clemetinelovell.com

This is Clementine Lovell's debut album and includes a couple of traditional songs, The Cuckoo and Turtle Dove, as well as eight songs by Clementine herself. Clementine who provides lead vocals and plays accordion, is joined by numerous guest musicians such as James Keay (Sam Lee), Robbie K. Jones (Track Dogs), Tom Leary (Feast of Fiddles) and Rick Sanders (Fairport) as well as percussionist Carmen Ruiz Vinete and Duncan Menzies on fiddle, from her own trio. The album was produced by Marion Fleetwood.



Many of Clementine's songs tell personal stories but I was particularly taken by track two "Land Army Girl" which tells the story of her maternal grandmother, a Putney girl, meeting and marrying a Herefordshire farmer's son while working with the Women's Land Army.

My own mother served in the Land Army during WWII and only received her service medal in 2008. The song brought back her stories of picking ice covered sprouts, driving tractors, and clearing ditches while still a young teenage away from home and family for the first time. She also met my dad, a Man of Kent, when he was posted to Wiltshire. This album and that song in particular is well worth a listen. The insert tells Clementine's stories and contains the words to all the songs.

Curmudgeon - Travelling north CURM001

www.curmudgeonfolk.com

Curmudgeon is an Edinburgh based folk trio who play a lot of traditional and contemporary Celtic music from Shetland, and wider Scotland. This debut album includes tracks such as Da Smugglers / Underhill / If I Get a Bonny Lass / Hamar / ower sa Taing as well as songs such as To Hunt the Whale by Kenny Brill and The Last o the Clydesdales by Archie Webster and The Last Trip Home by Davy Steele. However two tracks that stood out for me were Bill Caddick's I Dreamed There Were Unicorns linked with The Little Cascade by George S. McLennan and Richard Thompson's Beeswings.

Curmudgeon are Laurie Brett on vocals and guitar, Donald Gorman on fiddle, mandola, and vocals and Andrew Macintyre on Scottish small pipes, whistles and vocals. The sleeve insert contains basic information about the band and the ten tracks. If you are in Scotland and get a chance to see Curmudgeon I am sure you will have a good time.



Alan Castle (Editor)

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CD REVIEW

Sophie Legg, Betsy Renals and Charlotte Renals
Catch Me if You Can, Songs from Cornish Travellers
Veteran VTR119CD www.veteran.co.uk

Mossy Christian recently took over the management of Veteran following the sad death of John Howson who founded Veteran Tapes back in 1987. Mossy says that Veteran will remain the traditional music label for the best of English, Scottish and Irish folk music. One of Mossy's first actions has been to re-release this album last available over 20 years ago. He has also added snippets of about a dozen very interesting recently rediscovered interviews carried out by Pete Coe when he first interviewed the Legg family back in 1978. The booklet has also been updated and now includes an introduction from Mossy, notes from Pete Coe and detailed song notes by Mike Yates, and a small selection of photos of the Legg family. The album itself includes a selection of about 25 songs, mainly traditional but some short and humorous, that were popular with travellers and Gypsies when the sisters were young. Titles include Ball of Yarn, Game of all Fours, The Dark Eyed Sailor, Thorneymeer Woods, The Farmer and the Lady, A Man from the North Land and many more. It should be stressed that the recordings are surprising good quality for "field recording" made over 50 years ago. I found this a very interesting and entertaining album and well worth adding to your collection. As an aside I would mention that Mossy has also recently taken over as Programme Director of Chippenham Folk Festival. Where does he find all the time and energy?



Alan Castle (Editor)

www.croydonfolkclub.org.uk

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jacey-bedford.com/leecollinson

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The
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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.



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- Julie and Gavin Atkin are accomplished performers of mainly trad songs and tunes. Gav's CD *Rest You Here* is available at £7 a copy. 'A most likeable album' *Folk London*
- Info: Singdanceandplay.net; email gmatkin@gmail.com

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Peter The Punter Broadstairs Folk Week 60th Anniversary 2025

Wow! Talk about hit the ground running! The 60th was a scorcher, campsite buzzing, fresh faces among the volunteers, old hands laying on wristbands... around the town all conceptions of folk powering out of doorways.. bandstand aflutter.. anticipation, friendships renewed, news, yellow shirts and sound crews on urgent missions.. amid the beach-bound sunlovers and sand-sifters... fish-&-chipped, off to the Sailing Club as Keith & Sylvia were hosting, familiar faces in their places and songs which rang down the years. In the Sarah Thorne a first fling, then Lisa Gale hop-a-doodle in the Hub, a tentful of bar'n'bliss, polkas, pirates, slipjigs, shanties...



So many Saturday welcomes.. along the sweltering Prom, Morris in full tatter. Hankies, bells, sticks, Speed The Plough... 35 sides, smiles and joy, the first face of the festival in sleepy Broadstairs, Jack Hamilton's inspiration... the heart that drives it all. Hartley (so crucial to the survival those years ago), Victory, Loose Women and many more- a seaside spectacle everyone takes away. In Pierremont Park, fresh Beginner sessions, in town Irish and Poets... Bandstand Hobby Horse Club reeling with happy children... Clarence and the Hooden Horses clacking about... Craft Fair open, stalls of tie-dye temptation, new strings, old reeds..

So many choices: Brunch with John & Di, lunchtime sessions, dip into them all.. Neptune Jim & Chris's rousing vocal traditional, The George Paul Lucas's pacy tunes, Woodshed Bob, guests'n'friendly all-in variety, Chan Reid popping up all over, or a song siesta with Sally... Folk Club Ashen Keys at the Baptist Church... Parade or Porchswing? Krista? Suthering & spots with Morag? Girl Talk? The Atkins? No time for a deckchair... a tide of buckets, spades and suntan all seeing the liveliest'n'best of folk- what an advertisement... and so to evening, sunset among the pub gigs and the Hub crackling into the night...



Glittering Grandparents on Sunday- Giddy Up Ceilidh's twirling temptation or Mike Nicholson's cool deep songs to the heart? Cathy Barclay & Sarah Yarwood worth catching anywhere... As ever, lots to learn, DADGAD with Si Barron, harmonica with Nigel Feist- nudges that save you hours... plenty of songwriters passing on tips old and new... encouraging, explaining, enhancing... Vocal workshops too, never too late! Glimpses of Kai, on foot or bike, enthusiastic, warmly welcoming... swirls of veterans in chummy conversation... the buzz fantastic!

Mixing it up on Monday easy- over 60 events each day, 20 around lunchtime plus the Buskers' Hub and pop-ups at the Magnet. Always carry an instrument... you'll need

it... true now as 40 years ago... OK, it's a harmonica... Paul Hutchinson was superb wherever: in the Woodshed involving everyone, Orange In Bloom in delicious fashion... at the sunkissed Bandstand a moving moment: Matthew English stepping into Hot Rats, mentored by Ian Cutler and storming it. Couldn't get into the Tartar Hartley, so caught the Remnant Kings untawneying the Oggie Man...

Tuesday's Back to Front is always a winner, shrieks of glee, safe as horses... Festival patron Tim Edey bouncing about, a mover and driver. The shady Park Tent gaining traction, Beginners' sessions & concerts in the afternoon by Medlars, Jo Hook, Gaddzukes, Capella; out and everywhere Festival Vice-Chair Sally & Brian. Later, after a coin-flip (I've always enjoyed Kathryn Roberts/ Sean Lakeman), the Music Hall- ably presented by Festival favourites Lynne Heraud & Pat Turner, Lizzie on joanna, with a robust selection of turns from costumed regulars... Laurie & Sue's gottle of geer bee-ing especially memorable...

Good grief, is it Wednesday already? ... cooler, grayer, so many top names close to, advising and superbly demonstrating. Cohen B-C, Dan W, Alistair A, Will A: where else to be? Tall Tales, Jewish Melodies or Peggy Seeger? Riches all round. Long-time stalwart Phil Burkin in the Neptune: spoons at the ready... A moment on a bench recalling absent friends, Peter, Dave, Tiny, Tom, Barbara, Skinners Rats, Giff, Janet, Geoff, Skyflynt, Kathy, Malcolm... and giving thanks for those still out and about... Pam, Jane, Kim, Jo, John, Ann, Pete, Libby & all- you know who you are... The stars, conversations, dances... Later, an amazing concert by Katherine Priddy/ Lizzie Hardingham well received by festival newbie friends... and the Hub... does Lisa ever stop dancing?

By Thursday it's a bit of a blur: are we Knitting Ukeleles or Contra Pirate Crochet? Dipping into the sea or another of 27 midday events? Hello to Cropredy chums, farewell to Whitby, Furnace or White Horse-bounders... look what's still in store! The 60th Anniversary Folk Show, out there in Pierremont Park with Triality- How It All Began indeed, almost all dance then, with song interludes, deckchairs (if you had one) on the sloping grass.. the photos in the exhibition too many to take in, I gather, many reminiscences stirred and discussed. Trish Hamilton & Kai embracing... just time for an ice cream, Granny's Attic to catch- they've already played a decade here... lockdown's Marsh family and then Portraits & Landscapes: KSC's intriguingly fresh show of original songs, quirky classics & trad tunes. The Carthy concert had long been sold out, (and as with all the concerts was awesome I'm told) so I sneaked in to Brown Boots Boogie the night away...

All too soon this glorious week, Clarence's Birthday at the Bandstand, hosts guesting sessions, Will Allen at Woodshed, following his grandfather's song with a gentle air: Chairman Ian in the sun, off to final duties at the concert, Jenny hurrying to the Baptist Bar's last stint. Whapweasel throbbing the Sarah Thorne into strip-the-willow and a pint'n'sing after Hartley's late-night stand at the Four Candles. What a week! Could have plotted many more courses, seen more concerts, fretted fingers into frenzy- most of all it's the friends we meet and new pals we play with that make Broadstairs so special.

Hearty thanks to the many, many people I've missed out here, the campsite crew, the volunteers, the sound crews, the stagehands, the permission-seekers, the financial wizards... especially Kai Hoffman who has built so well on the legacy of previous Musical Directors & Tess a gem in the office as ever. Cheers to the whole Committee and Friends, Punter's Pimms and congratulations to you all for a stunning 60th...

What will you pull out next year? Can't wait to see!

Peter The Punter

efn

Issue 201
June to August 2024
£2

Essex Folk News

for traditional music, dance and song in Essex



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



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1st Tuesday of every month

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- 15 Oct **Jack Rutter** - One of the most exciting singers and musicians on the British folk scene today. £10/11
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- 12 Nov **Pip Ives** - A rousing evening of skill, traditional music and song from local hero Pip. £10/11
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***Coming up : 3 December - John Kirkpatrick
10 December - Doug Hudson***

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Club & Gig enquiries 07885 742763

Please leave a message if no answer- thank you!

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Obituaries

Rita Cherriman for Croydon Folk Club 2025

Remembering Rita Cherriman Roche, former CFC organizer who would have celebrated a 90th birthday during the 2025-2026 season;

Rita was born a Fulham girl in 1936 and first sang in public at the Winning Post public house on the Richmond Bypass where her mother and father worked. It was standing on the bar aged 7 that she sang to her grandfather Ted Jones who had received horrific burns heaving red hot shrapnel off the bed after a buzz bomb had exploded nearby, the song Rita sang was "This is the Army Mr Jones" Mum was horrified.

Singing Jazz over in Richmond Park where a promoter called Valentine had a club at age 21 she was asked to sing at Ronnie Scotts the lady said no! Why Rita Oh I was more into jive then, what would have happened had she said yes?

Rita came to love folksong just as she had the old style wrestling grapplers of the 1950s and 1960s it is said she knew them all she had oceans of stories and behind the scenes photographs. It is testament to this connection that the leading light of 60's TV wrestling, Mick McManus, attended her funeral and said, with great sadness, that he was happy to do so. Tennis was another big passion woe betides anyone who got in her way during Wimbledon week when she would be watching recording and listening and keeping immaculate records of who did what and when. Add Valerie Borzoi who her daughter Kim said she was in love with from a very long distance he being Russian and the 100 and 200 metres Olympic Champion. She even learnt Russian to write to Moscow and ask for photographs which came from the Tass agency.

In 1984 Rita joined Eddie Upton, Nigel Chippendale and Roger Watson for a folk song cycle that was to be performed at the Royal Albert Hall. They had been looking for a female singer for the occasion Roger said he had seen one at Croydon that greatly impressed him. So worried were these three about Rita's nerves that they completely forgot their own when she Rita walked up to centre front

stage before 7000 people and sang unaccompanied "Shepherd of the Downs" to perfect hush.

John White said of Rita she was a singer of great artistry and powers, a highly efficient club organizer and a warm concerned human being.

Rita had an astonishingly varied repertoire of almost every genre the times I have seen her reduce a room to stunned silence are testimony to the fact.

Chris Roche

Just a post script from the current Croydon Folk Club organiser, Brian Dalton

As the club completes 60 years, including 25 without Rita, her legacy remains with us. It



was her tenacity that led to a successful transition to residence at Ruskin House. Rita knew her position was dire, but she determinedly plugged on to give us the best hope of survival. I like to think that the small group that took the club forward have done her proud.

Ian Cutler

To say Ian Cutler was one of the finest fiddle players in England would be no overstatement. A feature of the celebrated Feast of Fiddles show that has delighted audiences up and down the country for the last 30 years, he was a kingpin in every show that boasted members of Steeleye Span, the Battlefield Band and Fairport Convention amongst others.

I first met Ian at Amberley Folk Club in the 1970s where the Bully Wee Band were playing.

I was introduced to him by fellow member Colin Reece. My first action was to put a pickled egg in his pint and he responded by pouring pepper into mine. For a relatively quiet person you could rarely get one up on him.

Bizarrely our next meeting was in New York a couple of years later.

My group Tundra and the Bully Wee Band were both on tour in the States via an agent by the name of Ed Mackintosh (his real name was Cezar Del Valle but he reckoned he wouldn't get any gigs using a Hispanic name). We all slept in his Brooklyn apartment, two of us, four Bully Wees, one Dave Surman and an aged incontinent dog called Bernard, and each day went off to various parts of the East Coast to do gigs. Ian's highlight gig on that tour was the Philadelphia Folk Festival.

Having played in the film *The Wicker Man* with Britt Eckland, Ian decided to go full time and met his first wife Ayesha – of Belgian aristocracy – along the way. Two children in the shape of Rhiannon and Aisling eventually arrived and he then needed to get a full time job with a guaranteed income working in Loughton in Essex.

In 1992 we formed the Hot Rats as part of my comedy show and it boasted the best of local musicians including Tony Rico on sax and Steve Shorey on guitar. Having rehearsed the band it seemed a shame not to capitalise on it with further live performances. There followed several recordings and changes of line up but still with Doug and Ian at the core.

We played over 3500 gigs together from Japan to Australia, France to the Czech Republic, the Isle of Wight to Fife in Scotland, taught a quarter of a million European teenagers to barn dance, dressed up as minstrels for Leeds Castle and the TV show 'Swag' and were regular headliners for Les Insolites theatre cabaret in Northern France, Citadelle en Bordees in Dunkerque, Ostend at Anchor and Fete de la Mer in Boulogne.

Ian and his wife SJ were inseparable and enjoyed many foreign trips, cricket matches and concerts together and she nursed him through the last couple of years when he battled against his illness to fulfil musical commitments with a refusal to let people down.

Fittingly two of his last performances were outstanding with Feast of Fiddles and the Hot Rats at Rochester Sweeps Festival.

We'll miss his wonderful playing and his generous and humble character.

Doug Hudson



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Please note that we start at 7:30 and finish
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6th October The Medlars

20th October Paula Ryan

3rd November Liz Simcock

17th November Liam Sherry

**1st December Skinner
& Twitch**

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info@tonbridgefolkclub.org
www.tonbridgefolkclub.org



Fairport Convention

Weds 22nd Oct, St Marys Arts Centre, Sandwich

Martha Tilston

Friday 7th November, Colyer-Fergusson Hall,
Gulbenkian, Canterbury

Wilson-Wakeman

Christmas Show!

Sunday 16th November, Gulbenkian, Canterbury

Police Dog Hogan

Saturday 22nd November, Gulbenkian, Canterbury

St Agnes Fountain

Monday 8th December, Canterbury Cathedral Lodge

Albion Christmas Band

Saturday 20th December, Gulbenkian, Canterbury

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OCTOBER

2nd

Bird in the Belly

9th, 16th, 23rd, 30th

Singers & Musicians Night

NOVEMBER

6th

Hunter Muskett

13th, 20th

Singers & Musicians Night

27th

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>
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ENGLAND

FIFTY YEARS ON (AND COUNTING)

G **Adim7** **G** **C** **G**
For fifty years, I've been sitting here, and not a lot is new;

Adim7 **G** **D** **D7** **G**
If truth be told, nothing's new but old, with changes strangely few;

Am7 **D7**
Apart from, maybe, just...

G **C** **G**
CB Radios, digital watches, Then camcorders, mobile phones;

A **D7**
Pagers, light sabres and swatches, Webcams, dashcams, doorcams, drones.

G **G7** **C**
eBay, X-Box, TikTok, Netflix, Instagram, MySpace, YouTube;

D **D7** **G**
iPods, Fire sticks, Kindles, Fitbits, But still not fixed my Rubik's Cube.
Video games and Space Invaders, Databases and spreadsheets;
Sony Walkman, calculators, Emails, WhatsApp's, texts and tweets.
C Fives, CDs, photocopies, Faxes, FaceTime, Skype, Voicemails;
Memory sticks and three inch floppies, But that's just when my hard drive fails.

Ask Jeeves, Google and Alexa, Blogging, v-logging, chit chat rooms;
Spamming, scamming, camming, sexting, Power Point, Paint Shop and Zoom.
Spotify and Trip Advisor, On-line dates and on-line bets;
World Wide Web but we're no wiser, The hounds still help me hedge my debts.

Sandwich toasters, tumble driers, Solar panels and patio doors;
Juicers, microwaves, air fryers, EV cars and Four by Fours.
IMAX, Betamax, VHS, FiloFax, Phone apps, CeeFax;
AppleMacs, SatNavs, GPS, And Hi-Fi stacks for anoraks.

DIY stores, garden centres, Superstores and hypermarkets;
Shopping channels, on-line ventures, Wholesale outlets, retail parks.
Argos, Aldi and Amazon, Uber taxis, pizza bikes;
Woolworths and Wimpy Bars now gone, With Wilkinsons and Spudulikes.

Kiwis, kumquats, avocados, Herbs, halloumi and hummus;
Tapas, kebabs, patties, tacos, Pulses, quinoa and couscous.
Pizzas and Tikka Marsala, Burritos, churros, sushi's;
Fondues, fajitas, falafel, Just deep fried Mars Bars for me please.

Barbecue grills and micro pubs, Gym clubs, hot tubs, live sports bars;
Cyber cafes and Wifi hubs, Skin rubs, face scrubs, healing spas.
Pole dancing and Karaoke, Murder mysteries, quiz nights;
Alchopops and banished smokers, Preloading, clubbing and fist fights.

Premier football games on Sundays, Same sex weddings, women priests;
Live Aid, Live Eight famine funding, Nelson Mandela released.
Star Wars films, Wallace and Gromit, Peter Rabbit, Paddington;
Harry Potter, Pirates, Hobbits, Dolly the sheep and Bart Simpson.

TV on twenty four seven, Sunday trading, all night stores;
Seven Seven, Nine Eleven, Equal Rights and seatbelt laws.
Bird Flu, SARS and COVID Nineteen, HIV and CJD;
Death of Diana then my Queen, Once Freddie finally broke free.

Just the odd mad politician, Free market with Maggie T;
BoJo's bonking Brexit Britain, New Labour with Tony B.
Tricky Dicky, Star Wars Ronald, Gulf Wars with George Double U;
Tariff Wars with Dodgy Donald, Plus sticky stuff with Clinton too.

Fifty years no war disturbance, Just with some the odd skirmish;
Afghans, Talibans, Serbians, Bosnians, Kosovans, Kurdish.
Malis, Somalis, Argentines, Iranians, Iraqis, ISIS,
Libyans, Syrians, Palestines, Icelandic codfish and the Irish.

Jubilees, King's Coronation, Channel Tunnel, High Speed Line;
Hubble, Space Shuttle, Space Station, London Eye, M Twenty Five.
Canary Wharf, Angel of North, Breaking down the Berlin Wall;
Second Severn Bridge, second Forth, Which totals twenty two in all.

Father Ted, Friends, Fawty Towers, Fleabag, Frasier and The Fonz;
Phoenix Nights, Open All Hours, Black Books, Blackadder, Young Ones.
Porridge, Partridge, Perrin, Rigsby, Victor Meldrew and Arthur Dent;
Drop Dead Donkey, Red Dwarf, Dibley, Plus Del Boy, Jim Royle, David Brent.

We've had long hair, layered hair, bobbed hair, With highlights, extensions, dreads;
Permed hair, big hair, short hair, cropped hair, Mullets and mohican heads.
Tattooed roses, snakes and anchors, Earrings, piercings, studs galore;
Dolled up like some wayward.... warriors, Like on the way to wage some war.

Glam Rock, Sham Rock, Prog Rock, Metal, Grime, Grunge, Garage, Indy, Punk;
New Wave, New Age, Dub, Ska, Reggae, Drum and Bass, House, Disco, Funk.
Techno, New Romantics, Brit Pop, Southern Rock and Northern Soul;
Rap, Americana, Hip Hop, But then it's all just Rock and Roll.

JJ CROSSLEY 2025

CD REVIEWS

Rumpled Muslin RUM001 rumpledmuslin@gmail.com

This is the debut EP from Rumpled Muslin, an a cappella folk trio who are quickly establishing a reputation on the London folk scene and have recently sung at Sidmouth Folk Festival. Rumpled Muslin comprised of Alison Fosdick, Amanda MacLean and Wendy Lanchin. The six tracks on this EP Horn Fair, The Crow on the Cradle, Dashing Away with the Smoothing Iron, Eppie Morrie, I Drew my Ship, and Keep You in Piece.

The EP comes in a card folder but they have managed to squeeze in a good amount of information about the songs and themselves. The groups different musical interests and backgrounds come through clearly on the songs. For instance Amanda's interest in Scottish ballads is used to good effect on Eppie Morrie, a tale of marriage, attempted rape, fear, desperation and anger. Amanda also wrote the final surprise verse for their arrangement of Dashing Away.

I look forward to an opportunity of hearing Rumpled Muslin live.

.....



Brown Boots Boogie Band - Dancing Boots

www.brownbootsmusic.com

I expect you are familiar with Brown Boots duo made of Will Allen on melodeon and Martin Clarke on fiddle. On this album they are joined by Paul Quarry on drums and Will Chamberlain on piano, to become Brown Boots Boogie Band.

The Boogie Band is a traditional ceilidh band following in the footsteps of band such as the Old Swan Band, Wolfstone and even, according to them, Jimmy Shand. Nine tracks of pure foot stomping dance music including 32 bar jigs and reels, 48 bar jigs, and a 64 bar waltz, with titles such as Onions / The Antiboscis, The Brown Boot, La Danse de Chez Nous, The Perfect Cure / Cleveland Park and in Jimmy Shand style, Petronella linked with La Sansonette.

This is an album which will definitely get you up out of the chair jigging about to the best of your ability. It is probably not too strong to describe Brown Boots Boogie Band as one of the best ceilidh bands around.



Alan Castle (Editor)

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04 November - Hunter Muskett

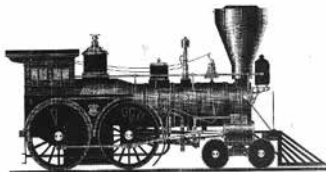
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18 November - Ranagri

25 November - Mick Ryan & Paul Downes
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Assistance dogs only please.

Oct 4 - Tom Kitching & Marit Faelt 'Where There's Brass' £12 cash

A love-letter to the London waterways, readings, fiddle & mandola.

Oct 11 - The Wilderness Yet Trad & new songs of the natural world, fiddle, flute, guitars, banjo. £15 cash

Rowan Piggott leads a Swedish fiddle workshop 10:45 – 16:45.

Workshop places £45 cash (2 under-25s £22) Email to reserve.

Oct 18 - Alastair Braidwood & Tim Laycock Songs, tales & tunes from Dorset & the wider the West Country, Crane duet concertina, melodeon.

Email to reserve tickets. £12 cash

Oct 25 - Geoff Lakeman English & Irish trad songs, Americana & jazz, Crane duet concertina. £10 cash

Nov 1 - Rachel Rose Trad & new songs in a glorious, compelling voice, unaccompanied & with shruti box. £8 cash

Nov 8 - Andy Turner & Mat Green English trad songs & tunes with fiddle & Anglo concertina. Magpie Lane founder members. £10 cash

Nov 15 - Jess & Richard Arrowsmith Trad English music & songs plus songs by Jess, vocal harmony, fiddle, melodeon. £12 cash

Jess & Richard lead a vocal harmony workshop 10:45 – 16:45.

Workshop places £45 cash (2 under-25s £22) Email to reserve.

Nov 22 - Derek Seed: Onward, Ever Downward! £5 cash

Derek marks 30 years as a resident. Many choruses & floor spots.

Nov 29 - Bing Lyle Trad & new songs, accordion £8



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.

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Nominal £2 entry fee.

For more information, contact Jeff on 01303 813188

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October 9th - Singers Night £3

October 23rd - Geoff Lakeman - Father of the singing dynasty from Devon teases English and Irish folk, Americana and jazz songs out of his vintage duet concertina. £10

November 6th - Singers Night £3

November 20th - The Ashen Keys - Kentish Female trio, multi instrumental, multi voiced celebration of storytelling from Kent £8

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



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to book and for more details

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Oct 9 John Wilks

Oct 16 Emily Slade

Oct 23 Culverake

Oct 30 Mikey & Michelle

Nov 6 Robb Johnson

Nov 13 Emily Portman

Nov 20 PaintedSky

Nov 27 Clarke Camillei & Jude Brothers

Dec 4 Churchfitters

Dec 11 Gerry Colvin

Dec 18 Tim Edey

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



Obituaries

Bob Watson (1939 - 2025 passed aged 86)

I knew Bob from the 1980s when he worked as a Quantity Surveyor in the construction industry he travelled with his job and when he had to come to Croydon for work he would stay over with Rita and me. I had started collecting contemporary Sea Songs with the idea of a book to go alongside SO7S but time overtook us all as it did Bob when digital got going. Bob would send me songs usually in print and sometimes with the tunes on tape that he had bashed out on a little electric gadget called a Styleophone, these taped tunes were marked 'Bobstay 1' and so on, much later I think he was using MP3 for the job. Bob was born in Ealing in 1939, the first born of 5 to Walter and Lillian; among his first memories were those of being evacuated to the Lake District during the war. After which the family moved to Germany his father being part of the army of the Rhine he was educated there up to the age of 16, when back in England his first job was as a bank clerk and then after serving his national service he moved into the building trade where he trained and worked as a quantity surveyor until he gave that up, and for 25 years worked self-employed trading as 'Bob the Gardener' at age 85 he still had two customers still using the old retainer. When he married he and his new wife Margaret lived in his caravan for some time at Bridport before settling in Reading. Always a writer of poetry and stories, he took up song writing in the folk genre and developed a passion for the maritime. On one visit to Auckland visiting daughter Emma he guested with the Maritime Crew, NZs premier shanty group of the day, leading "Mollymauk" Emma said "to a very enthusiastic crowd". When in 2016 I returned from sea and my 'bark Europa' voyage to Cape Horn and said I had sung Mollymauk off the pitch of the horn he said "yes it made my year", like "Mollymauk", "Shantyman" has travelled the world and also been sung off Cape Horn. Bob had shown some words to Tony O'Neill in 1983 a period when he would write a whole tranche of sea songs, Tony liked it and after he sang the finished song at Bracknell the next year it took off. Bob was disappointed when "Shantyman" was recorded by Glenn Yarborough formerly of the Limelickers wrongly titled as "Chantyman" and credited to the golfer Tom Watson, "that hurt" Bob said, as well as the lost royalties! (Calabaras CL62184-2 1995). Adding "it is the song I am most likely to be known for". I am chuffed that Bob liked The Shanty Crew recording the best, there is a piece of U-tube I was sent of Poles at the Kracow festival in 2000 rocking up "Shantyman", a German translation is by Gunnar Wiegert and there is a German parody with lines like 'sunbathing in the yard'. "The Bosun's Chair" Andy Kenna (FFP004 2014) is another a semi-serious piece of writing, this writer has actually been in the chair of the song not always a pleasant abode. We sang together over the years. I remember when we sang "Shantyman" on the pontoon at Harwich on what I think was his last visit to their festival. We all live on in the memories of those we meet in life I gave the story for the song "Johnny go Hungry" it happened much as written to my old friend now gone Captain Adrian Small in 1946. Andy Kenna recorded it on (FFP004 2014). When I gave the story of Malta Convoy Bob said I gave him too much information so he wrote three songs; "The Narrows", "Last



Chance Convoy” and “August 1942” (Hell or High Water) but liked the first the best. I will always regret not passing to Bob my own attempt at song writing of my father’s experience of surviving the “Lancastria” sinking 17th June 1940 at St Nazaire to finish for me. Or even “The Cape Horn Road” which he was minded to write but never got to.

Farewell Shantyman - Bob Watson lived independently up until his last few days.

Chris Roche

Ken Stephens (May 1943 – January 2025 has passed at 81)

Ken will be remembered as a very caring, charitable man, a man of peace, a fine musician and songwriter for the songs he wrote often at speed, just listen to his “Drowned Horses of Ameland” one of his finest. Ken was told the story walking across the sands of Ameland, he walked into the dunes and I was told a figuratively five minutes later he walked out of the dunes with a perfectly formed song in his hands.

“Survivor Leave” was given in the form of a number of days off if an HMS ship was lost in conflict, here related to the Falklands conflict. It was so new, an hour old, that he sang it at the Southampton Fo’c’sle folk club from paper to a stunned silence (Jonathan Eberhart). Ken had been a policeman in an earlier life in the 1960s in various parts of Lancashire, where his wife Lee was from. Recently driving through “Birkenhead” I was reminded when seeing the mural on a wall of the `women and children first` chorus to “The Birkenhead Drill”. But perhaps the song he will be best known for will be “Herzogin Cecilie” a voyage in the great Erikson barque whose remains lie in Starehole Bay, Salcombe, although “Seawheels” or “Diamonds Dancing” that came after sailing in the JST barque `Lord Nelson` a vessel taking the less able to sea takes some beating.

I knew him for more than 40 years. Ken was a social worker at Southampton and I then edited the Cape Horner Journal, Ken wrote me about an old Man he had seen on a home visit, Charlie Milton then 104 who had been wrecked in a sailing ship in NZ in 1900, we were friends ever after. It was in Poland when I left Ken with the words to a poem found in Sea Breezes a seafaring magazine, “Rolling Coal” I returned from the bar and he had written 3 more verses and there it was complete as a song. Wife Lee had once said ‘if we are going out and Ken has an idea as we leave the house he just has to go back sit down and put it on paper’. He did this with “Golden Slippers” when it became “Old Greek Skippers”. Ken recorded at least 10 CDs of his work and appeared on others with friends home and abroad. Although some of us pestered Ken to write and publish his song book, he never did. A few of his songs appear in print, but the family have his extensive archive safely saved on paper, CD, cassette and even vinyl and plan a long overdue catalogue when time allows. In November 2024 Ken collapsed at home and in January 2025 crossed the bar after a short illness. Does anyone have the words to “Shieldhall”?



Chris Roche

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