

aroundkent folk

Issue 134
April / May 2026



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



Published by: Tenterden Folk Day Trust
Charity No. 1038663
Promoting folk song, music,
dance, crafts and traditions.

ISSN 2634-7830 (Print)
ISSN 2634-7849 (Online)



**NEW FOREST
FOLK
FESTIVAL**

July 1 - 5 (2026)

**Powells Farm, Plaitford,
Romsey Hampshire, SO51 6EE**



**Skerryvore - Fisherman's Friends - Seth Lakeman Band - Merry Hell
Steve Knightley and the Winter Yards Band - Laurel Canyon Project - Ranagri
Katherine Priddy - Harbottle and Jonas Trio with Richard Trethewey - Hunter Muskett
Reg Meuross Fire and Dust: A Woody Guthrie Story | Full Band, The Strike - Eric Sedge & Tom Leary
Banter - Charlie Dore, Julian Littman & Gareth Huw Davies - Gerry Colvin Band
Megson - Fine Lines - Virginia Kettle's Rolling Folk - Flossie Malaviale
The Honeybees - True Foxes - Southampton Ukulele Jam - Matt Black**

From Jan 1st - 5 Day Ticket - £145

From June 1st - 5 Day Ticket - £155

Children aged 5 to 15 - 5 Day ticket £60, under 5 free

**Motorhomes, Caravans & Tents (per pitch)
Full 5 day camping (Wed - Sun) £40**



**Small Family Run
Folk Festival
With Camping**

**Wide variety of food
Real Ale & Wine
Somerset Cider
Lots of Stalls**



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

**Wednesday - Singaround
Morris Dancing & BBQ**



**Enjoy a variety of
free workshops**

**Thursday - Local
Artist Showcase**



www.newforestfolkfestival.co.uk



Welcome to issue 134 April/May 2026 issue of Around Kent Folk

After one of the wettest and darkest winters on record, I'm sure we are all looking forward to the longer days and better weather that spring shows signs of bringing and with it the chance to get out to more folk clubs and festivals. Two of the first local festivals are of course Hastings Jack in the Green (1st to 4th May) and Rochester Sweeps Festival (2nd to 4th May) and these will be followed by many more over the summer. You will find adverts for a few of them in this issue.

Also in this issue is an interesting article by Sue Watson about why Deal Folk Club and friends still run a Friday evening folk Zoom. You may remember that Tenterden Folk Festival ran Virtually Tenterden in 2020 including concerts, sing-a-rounds, a barn dance, procession, etc. The technical side of these events was looked after by the late Pete Collins and most of the videos are still available to watch for free on his Youtube channel at www.youtube.com/@petercollins406.

Morag Butler

Morag Butler from Rosslyn Court in Margate was recently interviewed by the BBC about the future of small independent music venues. Morag has been calling for people to support grassroots music and their local independent music venues as many of them across the country are at risk of closing if they do not get continued support. You can read the full interview at <https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/articles/cly1edre211o>

Andred Prockter aka Dutch

In mid February we heard the sad news that long time Bishop Gundulf Morris member Andrew Prockter had died. He was known to many of us as Dutch but I never actually knew why. Dutch also danced with Deadhorse Morris, a Bulgarian dance display team and at one time a Romanian dance team. He also loved to sing sea shanties. I last saw him late last year when we both attended an arts event in Ashford about Queen Marie of Romania who was born in Ashford. Dutch will be sadly missed by the dance and song community..



Alan Castle (Editor)

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

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

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: May Day at Hamstreet, Kent

Scene & Heard (April - May 2026)



It's grand to report that even in the dark chilly months there's been a winterbourne of folk activity. The late knockings of **wassail**, now extending way beyond Plough Monday, saw Mummers and Howlers out and about- to the obvious delight of children who immediately began dancing and chatting to Hooden Horses. There's interesting listening aplenty with Cabin Folk, Reg Millsom on 94.6 FM Sundays between 7 & 9 pm- lots of locals appearing with interviews and music, featuring many of the fresh acts arising, tasters for us all to go see them live.

At Victoria Park in Ashford it was a great pleasure to support Nick Lawrence, whose own Kentish Wassail song is deservedly gaining traction- I heard it again at the Tenterden singaround. It's new but has the genuine ring. Nick has begun a series of wandering folk songwriter nights, coming to a pub near you- four turns a night, well worth a visit. Dynamic history. Ashford Folk with their many harmonicas entertained and East Kent Morris beat the heck out of the advancing night before the blazing procession... this everywhere wassailing early January, blameless apple trees shot for their own good...

Dartford and Faversham began guest nights with Barnfire, Shaun Murray & Phil Bennett, whose amazing musical rapport spanned songs and tunes of all ages- the variety was terrific, great atmosphere in the room. Tonbridge saw Steve Turner, exemplary concertina work underpinning his witty and quirky song choices. New to me was **Jennifer Lee Ridley**, delicate keyboards and guitar backing pleasantly sung ballads, some of her own composition. Nice contrasts.



After a brief encounter with an old hack, Faversham was proud to present the folk club debut of **The Workshop**, a duo very active at festivals and full of insatiable energy. Jonny & Helen have beautiful harmonies and punchy guitar work, songs about hydrangeas and thermos flasks, along with heart-wrenching sadness. Another excellent evening



was the songwriter circle at Orpington, with Paul Stepto's incisive and multi-rhythmic explorations of Russian pop-sharing X-Rays, Swedish Ladies and Hartlake Bridge. I was blown away by Rachel Lowie's wonderfully melodic songs of Medway and beyond, expertly accompanied by Nick on bass- his fluid lines and Rachel's soaring vocals really brought out the beauty still to be found in our lovely county.

Tenterden's midday session on the first

Tuesday was a real joy too, three rounds of splendid traditional and contemporary singers combining to raise the Club roof: it's a mixture in which smiles abound. Dave & Eileen have a light touch which encourages harmony- Sue Watson singing Sarah Morgan, John & Di Cullen, Terry & Steph visiting Graham Miles next to the Co-Op Shop, the incredibly elusive but very funny Maureen Jones, and a host more. Altogether good fun.

Great to see Steve & Di Nevill taking the trip from Sussex for the T Wells Folk-In-The Oak as well, where Brian & Marion Rodgers cracked away a super session of songs we all enjoy- both duos with wide repertoires on call, genuine skill and love of the folk club atmosphere. Reciprocating, the Sussex Sing in January saw around 150 songs in the day- so reassuring to hear continuing interest in tunes sung for generations, favourite pictures on the wall which still move us to memories. We all wish Jerry Jordan well- and thank Valmai & Bryan for so deftly curating the day.

Inevitably these times, it's sad to report the passing of three real characters widely known on the Kent scene. Sue Tuckey, a Life Member of Orpington Liberal Club FC and organizer for 28 years, demonstrated her enthusiasm by promoting many up-and-coming musos. Her legendary performances as Tone Def Leopard will be recalled by all. Our best wishes to Trevor. Broadstairs regular Fergy was, to quote Krista Bubble, 'a man of many lives, a traveller, troubadour and lover of cider who loved Broadstairs...' – always ready to start a session or with a kind word. Then came the sudden news of Dutch, (Andrew Prockter), whose powerful voice led many a chorus in East Kent and at festivals. A Hoodener, a Wassailer and always genuinely folk knowledgeable, Dutch exemplified for many of us the way songs were meant to be sung: with friends, with passion and with a twinkle in the eye.

Gig-wise we really are fortunate to have so much choice locally: Deal & Faversham with guest lists of established artistes (Jez Lowe! Johnny Coppin! Jeff Warner!), Rossllyn Court and James Kerry at the Hop Farm setting up concerts of the new royalty, Croydon, Dartford and Folk In The Barn booking absolute humdingers- you know who they are- it's up to us to support all to ensure that every strand of our music can sustain our favourite performers. The rising costs of their travel and accommodation are hitting hard, and we have to concede rising prices at the door whilst many of us are now having to tailor to our incomes; yet there's nothing to beat our live music scene to raise spirits and induce happiness. Worth every penny imho.

So with Burns Night safely damped down and St Patrick's banjo tucked away, it's time to look ahead- and of course for Kent it's Sweeps, Mayday festivities at Whitstable and all around the coast, a multitude of summer festivals to look forward to- as long as the clouds relent... the Water Is Wide... certainly in the Stour Valley... if not Tunbridge Wells... as for the Beult and Teise... best pack a punt... and if a Bold Fisherman tinkles up, maybe withhold your lily-white hand until you've Googled his sole intent...

Happy angling!

Bob Kenward



Hamstreet May Day Procession

DEAL FOLK CLUB

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

April 16th – Singers Night £3

April 23rd – Sherburn, Bartley & Sanders – Chris, Denny & Em play & sing songs & tunes from UK & Eire £10

May 7th – Singers Night £3

May 14th – Jez Lowe - ever popular singer-songwriter from Durham returns. Come early! £10

Tea & coffee £1 or bring your own drink

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

www.croydonfolkclub.org.uk

Croydon Folk Club is a not for profit organisation

Croydon Folk AND MUSIC 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

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

Apr 6th Closed for Easter **13th** Martin Simpson £25 (£20)



Martin Simpson is not a man to sit still for very long. Undoubtedly one of the hardest-touring musicians on the UK folk/roots circuit, he also averages a brand new studio album almost every two years. Skydancers, his 12th full length solo record for Topic since 1992, comes hot on the heels of last year's guest-packed collaboration with the American producer/guitarist, Thomm Jutz, Nothing But Green Willow: The Songs of Mary Sands and Jane Gentry and will be released on 12th April.

20th Shakespeares Open Mike Unplugged £4

27th Four Gone Confusion £8 (£6)

May 4th May Day Singers and Musicians Night £4

11th Jez Lowe £15 (£12)



Jez Lowe is a much-travelled, much-covered singer and songwriter who has released twenty-plus albums of original songs over the last forty years, earning himself a loyal following along the way as well as a raft of awards and nominations. He was also a principal writer on the award-winning BBC Radio Ballads series

Tannahill Weavers

Born of a session in Paisley, Scotland, and named for the town's historic weaving industry and local poet laureate Robert Tannahill, the Tannahill Weavers have made an international name for their special brand of Celtic music, blending the beauty of traditional melodies with the power of modern rhythms. As one of the world's premier traditional Celtic bands, their diverse repertoire spans the centuries with fire-driven instrumentals, topical songs, original ballads and lullabies, and humorous tales of life in Scotland.

18th Tannahill Weavers



25th Closed for Spring

Bank Holiday

Phone:- 07703210795

E mail:- croydonfolkclub@aol.com

Do You Zoom?

Quite a number of Folk Clubs started up their own Zoom meetings during the pandemic, as an online alternative to meeting in person. It meant that we could have our fix of Folk Singing or Playing and actually have social contact with other people despite the fact that we couldn't meet up in person at our Local Folk Venue. We could still have a credible alternative to a Singaround.

At first we all had to get used to the technology. Not being a very "techy" person I was convinced that I would find it difficult, but someone else in our club originally set up the weekly meetings and most of us soon got used to receiving a link in an email and clicking on it to join the meeting. A disadvantage was that only ONE person could be unmuted at a time, as there was a slight time delay in the sound, so unless you were in the same room as someone else it was difficult to perform together and you couldn't hear people singing along with the chorus – but you COULD still SEE them joining in. For many of us this was a lifeline during a very difficult time.

In the absence of gigs, some artists began doing appearances on Zoom. We had some professional artists who did guest spots at our weekly Club Zoom. Then others started putting on their own concerts on Zoom or Youtube to try to keep in the public eye and make some money during lean times. Live To Your Living Room started up as a business putting on online folk concerts and some benefits of this quickly became clear. Instead of having to travel miles in bad weather to a concert venue, people could stay in and have access to acts they simply wouldn't have been able to see in the past, but from the comfort of their own homes.

After a period of time Folk Clubs began meeting in venues again, but quite a number of Zooms continued, as people had got to know people in other clubs via Zoom and become friendly with them, so didn't want it all to just stop. It was and is still a lifeline for people living in remote areas or for people with certain illnesses which mean they can't go out to clubs or gigs. In some ways it has opened up folk to mean that we can all hear songs that people sing at other clubs, in other locations and even in other countries, with a lot more "cross-pollination" of songs from different areas.

At our Zoom last Friday we had performers from Kent, Alaska, Coventry, South Shields, Bristol, Australia, Israel, Outer Hebrides, California, Scotland and Sussex. Mixed in with these were some professional and semi-professional singers who just enjoy taking part and are a great source of knowledge and information for the rest of the attendees. We have all got to know each other and become friends solely because of these online Zoom meetings, and are swapping songs, and of course it is wonderful to sometimes meet up in person at a Folk Festival or gig with Zoom friends.

Thankfully nowadays, for most of us, online events do not have to be a replacement for in-person gigs, but do provide more options of how we can meet up to sing or watch artists in concerts, providing more access to professional artists we otherwise would rarely see. There does not have to be a choice between online and in-person events – you can easily do both.

I know some people can be dismissive of online meetings, but quite honestly you don't know what you're missing out on. If you'd like to give it a try, then contact me via Deal Folk Club and I will email you a link to our Friday meetings. Who knows you might enjoy it, learn some new songs and meet new friends.

Sue Watson

DARTFORD FOLK CLUB

BBC Radio 2 Best Folk Club of the year 2008

www.dartfordfolk.org.uk

Enquiries: dartfordfolkclub@gmail.com

FLOOR SINGERS WELCOME (PLEASE BOOK)

FEATURED GUESTS

07 April - Katie Grace Harris & Andy Nice

14 April - Sound Tradition

21 April - Mike Silver

28 April - Clive Carroll

05 May - Linde Nijland and Bert Ridderbos

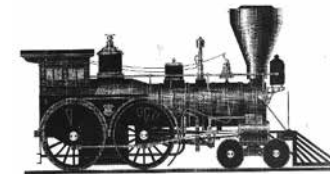
12 May - Dan McKinnon

19 May - Louise and Chris Rogan

26 May - Christopher Crompton

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

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



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Essex Road, DA1 2AU

EVERY TUESDAY 8.00 TILL 10.30

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Approx 12 feet square. Comes in nine 48 x 48 inch (approx 122 x 122 cm) sections plus edge trim. Walk in four wheeled caddy trolley. All in very good condition.

For more information email info@tenterdenfolkfestival.org.uk

Rochester Sweeps Festival

Saturday 2nd May, Sunday 3rd May and Monday 4th May

The beauty of Rochester Sweeps Festival is that, in conjunction with Medway Council and the festival organisers, it is a totally free event with no admission charges for any of the music and dance. It is also one of the biggest Morris dance events in the world with sides coming from all over the country to perform in the streets and provide a much loved, and needed, spectacle of music, colour, dance and humour.

It's not just about bells and sticks though, as folk music and dance abounds throughout Rochester over the weekend. This year sees the Cathedral hosting Jacob Bride's classical work, Mercurial V, reflecting European traditional music and singing, and the Ithamar Chapel will be the focus for the harmony singing of female shanty group Silver Darlings.

Kimbers Men are perhaps the best known harmony group on the folk scene and you can enjoy them in the beautiful and atmospheric surroundings of the Guildhall where Sally Ironmonger & Brian Carter are also in concert. This new venue will also see the Ashen Keys supported by Four Gone Confusion and there will be Hoo-den Horse Mummings Plays on Saturday and Sunday afternoons. In addition there will be an exhibition of Sweeps memorabilia with photos and programmes dating back to the 1980s.

The Castle Gardens stage has seen numbers increasing over the last few years with an abundance of food stalls and craft beers and ciders available as you enjoy the likes of French band Black Ship (members of the original Sur Les Docks), the Fabulous Fezheads and the Singing Loins.

There are stages on Boley Hill, the City Wall Wine Bar and Eastgate and these will host up and coming artists like Sam Brothers, From the Workshop, George Washbourn, Matthew English, David Demetriou and Rachel Lowrie's South Shore as well as old favourites Four Gone Confusion, Ian Petrie & Sue Hudson, Shanakee and Milton Hide.

Many of Rochester's pubs will host folk music over the weekend with the Gordon House Hotel, Three Sheets to the Wind, The Granville, Eagle Tavern, The Coopers Arms, Bodega 51, Olivers and Ye Arrow all hosting free folk music artists.

There are many more performers over the weekend including a choir, two drumming teams, a Slovakian children's singing group, two Irish dance teams and the ever popular Pearly Kings and Queens dressed in costume and belting out those London favourites like The Hokey Cokey.

The festival concludes on Monday 4th May with an international flavour showcasing the multi cultural music and dance you can find in this country. From Gurkha and Indian flavours to Irish traditional dance and belly dancers to the final concert in the Castle Gardens there will be much to enjoy.

The full programme will be available via Medway Council's website by following the links to Rochester Sweeps Festival.

Doug Hudson





CHIPPENHAM Folk Festival

53rd Festival May 22nd – 25th

Music, Song & Dance across 13 town stages



4-day unique folk experience with...
76 Dance & Ceilidh events
69 Music Artists & Bands
50+ Dance Display Sides



Headliners Confirmed

Sāwol - Kerr Fagan Van Eyken
Jackie Oates & John Spiers

Special Double Header Feature

John Kirkpatrick & Cohen Braithwaite Kilcoyne

visit website to see full packed weekend line up



chippfolk.co.uk/tickets



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Halsway
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Chippenham Festival Guests



Jeff Warner



Jackie Oates & John Spiers



Kerr Fagan Van Eyken



Brian Peters



Special Duo appearance - John Kirkpatrick with Cohen Braithwaite Kilcoyne

CD REVIEW

MORAG 6 Tracks

Available from morag@rosslyncourt.com

You'll have to be quick to snap up a copy of Morag's first release, they are selling as fast as RC's hot cakes... With six tracks to play with, Morag has astutely gone for variety to demonstrate the breadth of her musical taste. She begins with Burns: first a lush piano behind her guitar for Green Grow The Rushes-o, with a superb set of fills by Ty Watling on lead befitting the song, then a heartfelt slow Ae Fond Kiss: in both Morag's natural vibrato draws out the love and pleasure as well as the underlying wistfulness. Gabriel Moreno's England All Over Again signals a change towards social comment, a yearning for Innisfree, to which mystical Celtic paradise we all might migrate, if only we could evade the 'spiders' of the actual world. A modern murder/retribution ballad follows, Doherty/Barat's Night Of The Hunter, in which the story is blurred, concealed, the blood washed from the clothes but 'You'll never clean your soul'. A hard, Silver Dagger, lyric performed in a way which works: leaving you wondering about beginnings and endings. I much liked Morag's arrangement of Hares On The Mountain, allowing the traditional sweep of the melody full rein against Hughie Gavin's piano. And, of course, her tour de force, Donnalou Stevens' Older Ladies (Are Divine), upon which Older Men probably shouldn't (for their own safety) comment... A grand way to conclude and an indication that there's always a wink or wry smile not far away. Jason Stafford's recording at Albion Rooms and Mike Collins' mastering have ensured the lyrics are to the fore throughout. To be enjoyed, considered and respected, a faithful reflection of the ethos of Morag and Chris at Rosslyn Court.



Bob Kenward

Harwich International Shanty Festival

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**Harwich International
Shanty Festival**

Martin Carthy Press Release

A press release issued by Kairen Kemp PR Music and Alan Bearman Music (ABM) on 23rd January announced the sad news that Martin Carthy has had to cancel all his 2026 dates.

"ABM and the Carthy family had hoped that the planned 2026 tour and festival dates with Martin Carthy, alongside his daughter Eliza, would offer a graceful and dignified exit from touring for him: one in which he could celebrate his amazing legacy and leave audiences with fond memories. Sadly, Martin's health has rapidly declined in the last few weeks. As such, we have made the incredibly painful decision that Martin will be unable to fulfil these duo bookings."

A message from Eliza Carthy:

"Dear everyone,

A month ago, Martin, at 84, was diagnosed with late-onset Alzheimers Disease. While his doctor initially suggested that Dad would and should be able to tour in the Spring, and we were hoping to use the tour to say goodbye to Dad's many fans, it now appears that this won't be possible or advisable for his health.

Dad sends his love and regrets to everyone hoping to see him one more time. Eliza will fulfil these shows, and will try to honour his legacy as much as possible. Our family thanks you for your patience and love."

It went on to say "We are currently working on plans to include some special guest appearances for the shows, including artists who have played a role in Martin's career and are bearers of his profound legacy in different ways. Details to follow as soon as possible."

AKF sends it's best wishes to Martin and all his family and friends.



FOR SALE



4 x Stairville CLB 8 lights
in four cases



4 x Stairville LED lighting
bars in two cases



1 x Stairville lighting
controller

Also available:
2 x Varytec tall windup lighting stands

Box of DMX lighting cables of various lengths
All in very good condition.

For more information email info@tenterdenfolkfestival.org.uk

Tonbridge Folk Club (Nellie's)

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

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

20th April Michelle Laverick

18th May Awake Mother

1st June Barnfire

15th June Carrie Martin

6th July David Collins

Tel: 01892 822945

info@tonbridgefolkclub.org

www.tonbridgefolkclub.org

FOLK IN THE BARN

Fairport Convention Spring Tour

Thursday 2nd April – Colyer-Fergusson Hall,
Gulbenkian Arts Centre, Canterbury
Full Price £35, U25 £17

Tony Christie (inc VIP meet & greet)
The Great Farewell, Up Close & Unplugged
Saturday 2nd May – Gulbenkian Theatre,
Canterbury, Full Price £30, U25 £15

Kathryn Roberts & Sean Lakeman
Sunday 10th May – Canterbury Cathedral Lodge
Full Price £19, U25 £10

Bob Fox
Friday 29th May – Godmersham & Grundale Village
Hall, Full Price £17.50, U25 £9

Beat The Drum – The Runrig Experience
Sunday 14th June – Colyer-Fergusson Hall,
Gulbenkian, Canterbury, Full Price £28, U25 £14

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

Faversham Folk Club



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

Please note we are a cash-only club.

There are 2 cash points close nearby.

www.favershamfolkclub.net



April - May

Please reserve your seat on 07957 461832- all welcome!

- 01 Apr **Cathy Barclay & Sarah Yarwood** - Gorgeous harmonies, traditional and contemporary songs from an exceptional duo. £10/11
- 15 Apr **Hartley Singers** - A good ol' sing-song, always entertaining, Kent legends out for the night. £9/10
- 22 Apr **Culverake** - Much-acclaimed trio Matt Quinn, Lizzy Hardingham & Seb Stone, all established in their own right, as a trio out of this world! £11/12
- 29 Apr **Singers + Lowering The Tone** - Singers Plus night, LTT giving us 2x20 min slots of jaunty shanties too. £2
- 06 May **Foregone Confusion** - Local heroes John & Di Cullen, Pete & Brenda Storer: a sparkling variety of guitars, flute, bazouki and four-part harmony in a range of sheer delight. £10/11
- 20 May **Jeff Warner** - We are so lucky to have Jeff on his long-awaited British tour- gems from his family's first-hand collection of American folksong 1940 on, presented in Jeff's warm inimitable style with concertina, banjo and puppet. Reserve your seat early! £12/13

Guests coming soon include: 03 Jun - Pete Coe, 17 Jun - Paul Downes/ Anne Winter, 24 Jun - Martyn Wyndham-Read & Iris Bishop

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!

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](https://www.facebook.com/FolkAshford)

Affiliate of the English Folk Dance and Song Society



ORPINGTON FOLK CLUB

Farnborough Social Club

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



Established 1965

APRIL

2nd, 9th, 30th Singers & Musicians Night
16th Dave Ellis and Boo Howard
23rd Themed Singers Night
~ English Songs

MAY

14th, 28th Singers & Musicians Night
7th Steve Jennings Tribute Night
21st 61st Birthday 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

The Limes, Preston St, Faversham ME13 8PG.

Sussex Folk News (April & May 2026)

Eastbourne folk club meets at the Lamb Inn, High Street, Old Town, Eastbourne, BN21 1HH on the first and third Wednesdays of each month. The meeting on the 1st April is an Open Stage night which leaves three guest nights to mention during this period,

On 15th April they will be welcoming back the singer/songwriter. Liz Simcock. Her songs – often autobiographical and highly personal – are immediately accessible to audiences and are injected with poetry, emotion and splashes of humour.

Moving into May, the 6th offers a visit from a Dutch couple. Linde Nijland and Bert Ridderbos. Linde has captivated audiences all over Europe with her crystal clear voice. As a tribute to her favourite singer Sandy Denny, Linde will be including beautiful renditions of a number of Sandy's timeless songs. Bert provides the multi-instrumental accompaniments.

Every year brings another visit by Pete Atkin to this club and this year it will be on 20th May. Pete writes the tunes for the lyrics provided by Clive James and this partnership has produced more than 200 remarkable songs and a catalogue of acclaimed albums. Witty, moving and often thrillingly poetic, their memorable songs have won guitarist and pianist Pete a cult following.

The Lewes Saturday night folk meets at Elephant & Castle in White Hill and this year they have put their start time forward 30 minutes to 7.30. During this period, they will be having two seasonal theme nights for Easter on 4th April and on May Day festivities on May 2nd and two Come All Ye evenings on 9th and 23rd May. Apart from that they have some fine guest artists lined up. The superb fiddler Ben Paley will be the guest artist there on 11th April and he will be demonstrating that he is a natural & scintillating musician who has been playing the fiddle music of the USA, Sweden & Ireland since he was six. He has toured widely with his renown father Tom Paley and a veritable host of other top musicians.

Perhaps the most popular duo on the folk scene is Martyn Wyndeham-Read and Iris Bishop. On 18th April they will be offering traditional and new songs from the British Isles & Australia with much beauty and humour accompanied by Martyn's guitar & Iris's glorious duet concertina & accordion.

The occasional duo of Roger Digby and Liz Giddings play some of the most engaging of English traditional songs and tunes. Roger is a master of the Anglo concertina & has been a huge influence on the understanding of English traditional dance music. He formed the band Flowers & Frolics and played for many years with Bob Davenport. Liz is a fine fiddler with a deep understanding of English traditional playing. Their appearance is on 25th April.

The two guests at the Lewes Club in May present a strong contrast to one another. On 16th May, it's Bob Lewis who Bob is a genuine Sussex source singer with a beautiful voice & distinctive singing style. He has a huge repertoire of unusual songs, funny, mysterious, exciting & beautiful.

Tom McConville makes a guest appearance a fortnight later. Tom is a master fiddle player & glorious singer from Newcastle. His performances are full of laughter, beauty, charm & thrills.

As well as performing in the evening, all the guest performers at the Lewes club will be offering a variety of presentations and workshops in the day time before the evening performance. For full details of these go to the club's website at <http://www.lewessaturdayfolkclub.org/LAFC/prog2025.html#MCMW>

Another long established folk club is the Sunday night one at the Normandy Centre Denne Road, Horsham, West Sussex RH12 1JF. Amongst their usual mix of song and dance nights and feature nights for their regular supporters they have three nights where they

have booked guest evenings.

On 12th April the John Ward Trio returns to Horsham Folk Club bringing John's folk songs of the Suffolk land and sea and his wider travels. The trio will be showcasing material from John's newly released 10th album as well as favourites from their wide-ranging and eclectic repertoire. With powerful three-part harmonies, guitar, double bass, mandolin, and accordion, the trio's performances entertain and delight audiences across the UK

No Riff Raff are Jim James and Lynn Florkiewicz. They have collaborated on a number of songs from their extensive catalogue to provide an entertaining and fun evening for their audience.

Jim James hails from a traditional folk background but with a large dose of comedy. Fondly remembered as part of the acapella group, Arky's Toast. Lynn, a guitarist, began singing in folk clubs at the age of fourteen and comes from the contemporary folk world. However, she is often heard playing/singing in a variety of styles when performing. They will be at the Horsham club on 10th May.

They are followed the following Sunday, 17th May, by Paul Walker and Karen Pfeiffer who bring a unique Anglo-German flair to the folk scene. Their new show Cheaper Than Therapy blends wit, warmth, harmony, entertainment and deeply engaging songs that connect with audiences from start to finish.

With two voices, guitar and Irish flute/ recorders, Paul and Karen let their folk-inspired arrangements and imaginative song-writing sparkle and combine with their cultural banter (Stoke-on-Trent meets Stuttgart): and their blending of musical excellence with theatrical presence.

Lastly we move to the furthest west of the Sussex folk clubs; Chichester Folk club can be found every Monday evening at the Chichester Inn 38 West Street PO19 1RP. Most of their meetings are club nights and theme evenings but they also have one guest evening every month. On 13th April they have a return visit from one of the folk scene's finest and most popular songwriters, Pete Morton and then on 4th May it will be the hugely popular duo of Sally Ironmonger and Brian Carter.

Vic Smith



Pete Morton



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Apr 18 Martyn Wyndham-Read & Iris Bishop £15 cash

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Apr 25 Roger Digby & Liz Giddings £10 cash

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Email to reserve places for day or evening. 2 under-25s £20.

May 2 Welcome the May Bring songs & tunes. £5 cash

May 9 Come All Ye Bring songs & tunes. £5 cash

May 16 Bob Lewis Trad Sussex songs. £10 cash

2:00 – 4:15 p.m. talk on Padstow May Day, archive footage

£10 cash. Email to reserve places for day or evening.

May 23 Come All Ye Bring songs & tunes. £5 cash

May 30 Tom McConville Geordie fiddle, songs £12 cash

All-day fiddle workshop £45.

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

CD REVIEWS

Steve Turner - A Host of Furious Fancies

www.steve-turner.co.uk

The Tradition Bearers LTCD1108

A new CD from Steve Turner is always something worth listening to but this is one of the best albums I've heard so far this year. This is Steve's 10th album and features a wide variety of songs some taken from Nick Dow and Steve Gardham's books of songs collected by Hammond and Gardiner around Hampshire, Dorset and Sommerset. There are also songs from Bob Dylan, Dave and Toni Arthur, and songs from the Gypsy and Traveller communities. Steve's vocals and English concertina are augmented on some tracks by Rob van Sante on guitars, and Chris Parkinson on keyboard. The 11 tracks include Erin's Green Shore, Adieu My Lovely Nancy, Van Diemen's Land, Tom A Bedlam's Song, plus Mr Ineas, a whaling song, written by Gordon Bok from Maine, Bob Dylan's Love Minus Zero No Limit, and The Outside Track written by Henry Lawson and sung to a tune from Gerry Hallom. The CD comes with an eight page insert booklet with details of the sources of all the songs. The Tradition Bearers label started with The Living Tradition magazine and aims to promote simpler honest recordings by traditional musicians who are often neglected by the main stream. www.thetraditionbearers.co.uk.



Holly Clarke - Wild Feral Fierce

www.hollyclarkemusic.com HC95WFF

I'd not heard of Holly Clarke until this CD dropped on the door mat. A first glance showed a selection of traditional songs plus a couple of self-penned ones. I also noticed that Kathryn Tickell was playing Northumbrian Pipes on the album and that Martin Carthy had said about Holly "Man, can she sing". Holly provides clear and precise vocals and plays guitar and mandolin but on what is described as a solo album she is actually backed by a variety of excellent musicians. Traditional tracks include John Barleycorn, The Maiden Hind, Bonnie Woodhall, Strawberry Town, and Sir Aage and Lady Elselil. The title track, Wild, Feral & Fierce was written by Holly as was the final track, Home. She also co-wrote The North with four other musicians including Kathryn. The album is well worth a listen. Her tour takes her all over the country but the nearest to our area seems to be Cecil Sharp House in London on 9th April but she is also at Chippenham Folk Festival in May if you are going there. My only complaint is that there is so much information about the songs on the CD cover that the type is so small it is hard to read, especially on a black background.



Alan Castle (Editor)

THE PERILS OF ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE

Bm D
An old songsmith went web surfing, One dull and dismal day,

Bm F#7
For inspiration searching, Whilst browsing on his way;

Bm
Then all at once it came to him, The idea for a song,

G Em Bm
No need to wrack his brains for him, Nor it to take too long.

D Bm G Bm
Yippee-i-oh, yippee-i-ay, Ghost writing with A.I.

He simply fed some vague notions, Of lyrics he'd like to sing,
The mood, motives, emotions, That he would like to bring;
Then all at once some lines of words, Out swiftly they did pour,
Phrase and cliches one might have heard, Perhaps somewhere before.
Yippee-I-oh, yippee-I-ay, Ghost writing with A.I.

Now when it came to make a song, It spared him having choice,
It really didn't take that long, To pitch one to his voice;
The software chose the melody, To follow as he crooned,
But wondered where the Hell had he, Already heard that tune.
Yippee-I-oh, yippee-I-ay, Ghost writing with A.I.

The words it offered were jejune, As lyrics were absurd,
They either rhymed 'June' with the 'Moon', Or words that barely worked;
No imagery or metaphors, No rhythm really fit,
With rhyming words that felt so forced, And scansion totally sh...ambolic.
Yippee-I-oh, yippee-I-ay, Ghost writing with A.I.

A homage he was seeking for, A girl with button nose,
A feisty, carefree, sweet thing from, Her head down to her toes;
With eyes of emerald elegance, Out watching wild sunsets,
He'll know that all is well again, She'll fly back to the nest.
Yippee-I-oh, yippee-I-ay, Here's what A.I. supplied.

My love she has a red, red nose, She's blowing in the wind,
Her head and shoulders, knees and toes, Burn with a fiery ring;
She walks in splendour half the night, And disregards the rest,
Her green sleeves are my heart's delight, like wild geese in the west.
Yippee-I-oh, yippee-I-ay, Ghost writing with A.I.

Another he'd uncover then, About a midnight train,
Eloping with young lover and, Escaping from the rain;
Unwinding in the Dining Car, With harmonies so tight,
The smoky train a shining star, Just burning through the night.
Yippee-I-oh, yippee-I-ay, Here's what A.I. supplied.

So let me take you by the hand, With one foot on the train;
I'm on a tour of one night stands, Seen fire and I've seen rain.
I'm nearly faded as my jeans, Drunk in a midnight choir;
With cigarettes and magazines, We'll set the night on fire.
Yippee-I-oh, yippee-I-ay, Ghost writing with A.I.

So all you songsters listen then, Be careful now, say I;
You'll lose your intuition when, Composing with A.I.
Don't dabble with web skills today, Or with them you must write;
Trying to patch the Devil's wordplay, Across some senseless lines.
Yippee-I-oh, yippee-I-ay, Ghost writing with A.I.

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The image features a decorative background with intricate, swirling patterns. In the foreground, three people are shown from the chest up, appearing to be part of a performance or recording session. The overall aesthetic is traditional and folk-oriented.

The
TENTERDEN FOLK SESSIONS
The Tenterden Club

Wednesday 8th April
 Wednesday 13th May
 Wednesday 10th June
 from 7:30 to 10:30



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 TN30 6AT
thetenterdenclub.co.uk

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 Brian Carter
 April 9



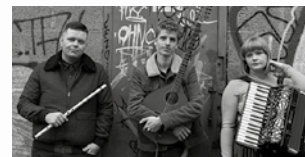
Joe Solo
 April 23



Michelle Laverick
 Apr 30



Karen Pfeiffer
 & Paul Walker
 May 14



Jon Doran
 & the Northern Assembly
 May 28



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www.rosslyncourt.com/events

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• The Goudhurst and District u3a tunes
group meets monthly to learn tunes and
play together. Info: singdanceandplay.net

A collage of several covers of the 'Folk London' magazine. The covers feature various folk artists and scenes, with the magazine's title 'FOLK LONDON' prominently displayed at the top. The text 'The magazine for London and the home counties' is also visible. A central cover highlights 'Interviews, reviews, listings and more' and '£18 annual subscription (six editions)'. Other covers mention artists like John White, Karine Polwart, and Angelina Morrison.

www.folklondon.co.uk • @folklondonmag

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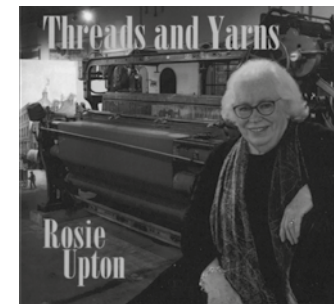
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CD REVIEWS

Rosie Upton - Threads and Yarns

Wild Goose Records WGS449CD

Rosie grew up in Derbyshire but moved down west as a student and became a regular performer in local folk clubs and festivals. I've regularly seen her at Chippenham Folk Festival running song and ballad sessions and in other events. This new CD features many songs that have probably been sung at those and similar sessions. On some tracks on this album Rosie is backed by Jeff Gillett on guitar, Steven Faux on fiddle, Gill Redmond on cello, Joe Sartin (Paul Sartin's son) on guitar and harmonies or Bryony McGinty on harmonies, but on other tracks it is just Rosie's unaccompanied voice. The selection of songs is mainly traditional but there are a some more contemporary songs to add to the mix. Traditional songs include Barbara Ellen, The Bloody Gardener, The Games of All Fours, Queen of Hearts, Banks of Green Willow, and several others. The more contemporary songs come from writers such as Mick Ryan, Mike Danver Scott, and Rosie's late husband Pete MacGregor. One of my favourite tracks is Needle and Thread by Bristolian songwriter Henry Clements. Another is the traditional street ballad Sarah Collins which Rosie sings unaccompanied. The CD cover contains all the notes you need about the sources of the songs and the musicians involved in recording them on this excellent album. It has really put me in the mood for seeing Rosie and friends again at Chippenham in May.



.....

Songs by Roger Watson - All in Due Course

Wild Goose Records WG448CD

I was rather misled when I first saw this CD as a new album from Roger Watson was rather unexpected. However, when I looked closer I realised that all the songs are adaptations of traditional songs that Roger has written over the years. They are actually performed by Patakas, Sarah Matthews and Doug Eunson, Keith Kendrick and Sylvia Needham, Lynn Heraud and Pat Turner, Brian Peters, Jim Causley, Sound Tradition, or Moose Rosser. There are also a couple of tracks recorded by Roger himself some years ago; The Navvy's Tombstone and Dawn Chorus. Roger says that you cannot write a folk song but can write a song in the style of a folk song or you can make your own version of a song which is already accepted as a folk song and that is what he has done with all the songs on this interesting album. He has taken well known songs and added extra verses to include more recent references or updated the lyrics to make them more relevant to modern times and more recent history. You have probably heard some of them over the years as Roger has been doing this for much of the later part of the 20th century. The updated tracks include The Manchester Angel, Back to the Kitchen, Nottingham Miners, John Kanaka, When This Old Hat Was New, New Oysters / Watercress-O, Spencer, Barleycorn, The Girl With the Blue Dress On, The Lights of Home and others. It is a very interesting album and well worth a listen.



Alan Castle (Editor)



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Issue No. 135 June/July COPY DATE: 18th April

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