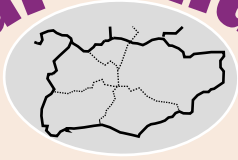


# aroundkent folk

Issue 135  
June / July 2026



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



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

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# 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 1<sup>st</sup> - 5 Day Ticket - £145

From June 1<sup>st</sup> - 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](http://www.newforestfolkfestival.co.uk)



### Welcome to issue 135 June/July 2026 issue of Around Kent Folk

This issues editorial starts with an apology. For the few weeks leading up to copy date I noticed a distinct lack of emails arriving in the AKF inbox. Then a couple of regular advertisers contacted me to say emails they had sent us had bounced. After some checks I realised that for some unexplainable reason most emails being sent to AKF were being bounced as spam so I was not receiving them even in my spam box. That was the start of an extended toing and froing with our email provider. Eventually they came up with the explanation that their spam filter was registering most of our incoming mail as likely spam and bouncing it. That applied to several of our email addresses but not all so some mail was getting through but most was not. I was told that it would reset itself after a few days but at the time of writing we still have a problem so I hope I got all the adverts and articles you have been sending us. This is one reason why I always ask advertisers and contributors to send their artwork to me but also to copy it to our printer, Andy Wood. Addresses to try are [akf@tenterdenfolkfestival.org.uk](mailto:akf@tenterdenfolkfestival.org.uk) or [info@aroundkentfolk.org.uk](mailto:info@aroundkentfolk.org.uk) and if sending artwork or articles copy to [anmarprintingservices@gmail.com](mailto:anmarprintingservices@gmail.com).

By the time you read this we will be well into Festival season and you may well have already been to one or two such as the two large May Day festival in our region Rochester Sweeps, or Hastings Jack in the Green or you may have been further afield to somewhere like Chippenham. I'm sure you are also planning to get to some of the other festival that are featured in this issue such as New Forest, Broadstairs, Southdown or Harwich. Which is your favourite? You may even be going to a festival which does not bother to advertise in AKF and if so, why not suggest to them that they should! I do not manage to get to many festivals these days due to mobility and access problems but if you see me or Andy somewhere do, please say hello.

Enjoy your summer.

*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](http://www.tenterdenfolkfestival.org.uk) [www.aroundkentfolk.org.uk](http://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

## Scene & Heard (June - July 2026)

What a difference a couple of months make! You'll know by now how we fared during Maytime... such early blossom and warm spring – we must have been doing something right in January! Hawthorn and cherry, jolly blackberry...

Absolutely amazing how much live music is available across Kent- we are indeed very fortunate to have so many clubs and organisers willing to take on the workload and take the financial risks involved. Around Kent Folk does lean towards traditional music and dance: we seek to cover such artists and groups influenced by this first. Contemporary content/ style we include as much as we have space for. Country, blues and other genres do have their own outlets. Apologies to those whom we haven't mentioned.

So, some of what's Kentish/traditionally influenced during June & July- take a deep breath... please look at the ads & scan the websites for full lineups - with the mighty **Broadstairs** to look forward to 7-14 August of course...

- Pigs Ear Folk Ale 16-19 July: Rory McLeod, Tim Edey, Jez Lowe, Kaz & Tash, Sir Reel Clarks, Snooze You Lose, The Altones, Sally Ironmonger, Henty & English, Capella
- Herne Bay Folk Festival 24-6 July: Alan Prosser, Doug Hudson, Steve Turner, Chan Reid, Four Gone Confusion, From The Workshop, Nick Lawrence, Andy Smythe
- Chickenstock 30 Jul-2 Aug: Beggars Belief, Noble Jacks, Gentlemen of Few
- Croydon: 6 July: Steve Tilston/ Hugh Bradley 20 July Vikki Clayton
- Deal: 18 June: Johnny Coppin, July 16 Pete Morton 'Sailor Swift'
- Dartford: 2 June: Pete Coe, 16 June: Steve Asley, 30 June: Jenn Butterworth, 21 July: The Kimberleys, 28 July: Gilmore & Roberts- see ad for many more
- Faversham: June 3: Pete Coe, 17 June: Paul Downes & Annie Winter, June 24: Martyn Wyndham-Read & Iris Bishop, 1 July: Steve Tilston/ Hugh Bradley 8 July: John Ward Trio
- 29 July: Gavin & Julie Atkin
- Folk In The Barn: 14 June: Runrig Experience, 2 July: Old Man Luedecke, 15 July: Spooky Men
- Herne Bay Folk Promotions: Divers Arms 1st & 3rd Wed Free Cosmic Sailor: Rayre Folke
- Orpington Thursday: June 11: Elizabeth & Jameson 2 July: Eric Sedge 23 July: John Clarke
- Orpington Lib: many events Orp Acoustic, Grand Ol Opry Singalong
- Rainham singalong 2nd Friday
- Rosslyn Court: 11 June: Jack Rutter, 9 July Women Of Folk (Linda Moylan, Lizzie Hardingham, Louise Hatch, Rebecca Mileham)
- Tenterden: 1st Tuesday of the month (11.30am) and 2nd Weds 7.30 pm)
- Tonbridge: 1 June Barnfire, 15 June Carrie Martin, 6 July David Collins, 20 July Bruce Watson

And these are the only ones of which the news has come to Harvard...



**Kaz Langridge & Tash Norodien** at Folk In The Oak sported a variety of instruments- joined by Pete Storer of Four Gone Confusion in an exquisite flute trio- their duo building on wide understanding of what works well. Paul Steele on his permanent tour of the South-East is another who finds his own way into songs, breathing full commitment into the contemporary wing of folk.

The **Alan Davis** memorial session in the



Chris & Denny's asides beautifully. Kent Song Collective reprised 'It's Electrifying' there in March- always plenty to involve- this year at Broadstairs Thur 14th Aug at 5pm they bring A Kentish Garland for your delight.

Again, we would welcome gig news from clubs across the county- artists you've enjoyed, sessions you'd commend, dance sides who could use new members... I'm afraid that CBE applies to your correspondent too! Doug Hudson has a second book out, if you're looking for a holiday read: 'Howzatski', cricket on the Trans-Siberian Railway... festival readings or Amazon....

In Tunbridge Wells in the Sussex on the Pantiles the new Fonthill session runs on the first Sunday of every month- [www.instagram.com/fonthillsession](http://www.instagram.com/fonthillsession) for

Plenty of sessions too.... Please let us know when and where and we'll publicise them.

March/April were astonishingly busy: Gavin & Julie Atkin's Tonic resonated around Tonbridge, to a good crowd. It was a real treat seeing **Culverake** at last, their harmony vocals and clear singing reflecting commitment to the lyrics and melodies of traditional song. Informed discussion too. Like **Sarah Yarwood & Cathy Barclay** they make a direct connection to the audience, their own enjoyment shining through.



Doghhouse near Smeeth (an excellent venue) was well supported- organised by Fred James, it was really heart-warming to see so many Crabble Mill regulars and to witness again the banjo skills of the legendary Robin Mears, down from Norfolk. Brian Cope always brings rumbustious to the table... Chris and the family thoroughly appreciated the turnout. AI was well loved. No Worries and John Smillie are often to be seen at Deal, where Sherburn, Bartley & Saunders brought variety, mayhem and very fine music. Emily's vocals complement

*Continued Overleaf...*

details- a combination of bright and breezy acoustic musicians with a real vibe to it. Well worth checking out if you're nearby. I've never made the East Kent Traditional sessions, other than the Woodshed, however they look well attended and we'd welcome news of them. The Tartar Frigate... all the Rosslyn initiatives... in concise form please – morris shindigs, shanty groups, acoustic sessions, kaleidoscopic folk from Dartford to Dover! Mayday we'll have celebrated by now- I'm writing in hopeful anticipation after weeks of sunshine... whatever the weather, dance and sing and drink (responsibly) a lot...and hope to see you somewhere over the summer for a happy hour or two.

**Bob Kenward**



**Sussex Retold: Sounds, Sites, Stories**

A one-day conference investigating traditional arts, crafts, cultures and music from the Sussex region. With walks, workshops, dancing, drama and music.

Featuring:  
Anooshka Rawden  
Alina Azadeh  
Caroline Lucas  
Libby Drew  
Love our Ouse  
The Wilderness Yet

Friday 19 June 2026

Fulton Building  
University of Sussex

US  
UNIVERSITY OF  
SUSSEX  
BRIGHTON

### **Sussex Retold: Sounds, Sites, Stories**

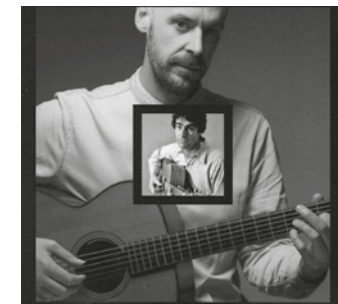
The University of Sussex are holding a one-day conference, on Friday 19th June, investigating traditional arts, crafts, cultures and music from the Sussex region. It will cover the diverse heritages and where land, culture and water connect. With walks, workshops, dancing, music and a site-specific play by award-winning playwright Sara Clifford. The day ends with folk floor spots at The Swan Inn, Falmer, including from young stars The Wilderness Yet. The day starts at 9.00 a.m. and runs through to 10.00 p.m. The conference is hosted in wheelchair accessible University buildings.

Find out more at <https://www.sussex.ac.uk/research/centres/centre-for-life-history-and-life-writing-research/research/projects/sussex-retold>

### **CD REVIEW**

**Sam Carter - Sam Carter Sings Nic Jones  
Captain Records CAP018**

In case you do not know, Sam Carter was born and brought up in the Midlands and is a BBC Folk Award-winning singer-songwriter and guitarist. He has been touring the UK folk scene for over 15 years. This album was recorded live at Celtic Connections in January 2026 but is studio quality and an excellent tribute to Nic Jones. Of the 13 tracks one, Ruins by the Shore, was written by Nic, one, Farewell to the Gold, was written by Paul Metsers, two, The Humpback Whale and The Little Pot Stove, were written by Harry Robertson and remaining nine are traditional arranged by Nic. The traditional tracks include many favourites such as Barrack Street, Billy Don't You Weep, Annan Water, and Seven Gypsies. The CD comes in a simple cardboard cover with very little in the way of sleeve notes but as the songs and Nic are all so well-known this does not really detract from it. Sam Carter provides both vocals and guitar in true Nic Jones style. Sam is touring the songs of Nic Jones at least eight festivals over the summer and autumn including Broadstairs Folk Week in August. An album well worth listening too and I'm sure the live show will also be well worth seeing.



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*"stunning harmonies"*

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email: [rosaline.hone@gmail.com](mailto:rosaline.hone@gmail.com)



## Always great live music at Rosslyn Court

Thursdays - Mostly £12 some tickets at £6 (and £18)  
Check the internet via the QR code below  
for info, including video links, ticket & livestream links



**Jack Rutter**  
June 11



**John Hegley**  
June 25



**Women of Folk**  
July 9

**Linda Moylan  
Rebecca Mileham  
Lizzy Hardingham  
Louise Hatch**

Thursday Folk  
Doors at 7pm for a  
7.30 start  
Please donate after  
watching the  
livestream.

*-Monthly-  
2nd Wed*

Classical music Open mic  
with Jake Ben David 7.30. free  
2nd Fri

Shanty night with Snottdogs  
session/singaround. 7.30  
3rd Wed

Jazz concert  
with Alex Clayton-Black  
and guests 7.30 £12.50

details 07902140248



**Nick Lawrence**  
July 23



**Nigel Hobbins  
and the  
Dreamlanders**  
July 30

*Booking now:*

*Something Sleeps  
Manor Manouche*

*Luke Jackson*

*George Sansome/  
Matt Quinn*

*Simon Kempson*

*Jonny Heppbir and*

*Ducato Piotrowski*

*Findlay Napier*

*Churchfitters*



Rosslyn Court is on  
the Loop bus route.  
Sweyn Rd stop.  
On street parking.

07902140248

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

Rosslyn Court is a small, quirky, seated, friendly, listening venue on one level, with a bar.  
Thursday Folk- The first hour only is livestreamed on above link from 7.30

## 62 Sweyn Rd Cliftonville Margate CT9 2DD

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

Croydon Folk Club is a not for profit organisation

# Croydon Folk AND Acoustic 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](mailto:croydonfolkclub@aol.com).  
The Cedar Hall, and the bar at Ruskin House are fully accessible  
[Pay on the door, cards accepted, or via:- \[wegottickets.com\]\(http://wegottickets.com\)](#)

**June 1st Singers and Musicians Night £4**  
**8th The Browns £10 (£8) [thebrownsnorfolk.com](http://thebrownsnorfolk.com)**



The Browns are an acoustic duo from Norfolk, celebrated for their beautiful voices, exquisite vocal harmonies, and emotionally resonant songwriting. With a natural gift for storytelling through music, their original songs are expressive, poignant, and often deeply moving, capturing the hearts of audiences wherever they perform.

**15th Open Mike Unplugged £4**  
**22nd Snez £10 (£8) [snez.com.au](http://snez.com.au)**



In 2009, SNEZ released her debut album 'Gypsy Soul', and there began her journey as a travelling storyteller, with guitar in hand, SNEZ has spent the last 15 years roaming remote and regional Australia, playing country halls, house concerts, indigenous schools, festivals and even refugee camps and camp fires along the way; squeezing her world into a camper-van for months at a time. She will feel at home in the Cedar Hall

**29th Singers and Musicians Night £4**

**July 6th Steve Tilston with Hugh Bradley £15 (£12) [stevetilston.com](http://stevetilston.com)**



Steve Tilston's latest album, Last Call, officially released on Talking Elephant Records March 2025, over half a century on from his first and on a par with his finest. With the accompaniment of good friends and long-time musical collaborators, Steve looks both back and ahead as he ravel's the musical spectrum, across blues, traditional folk, poetry and even a hint of jazz. From social and political comment to rustic reflection, from autobiography to eternal geographical history; it's a thing of audible joy and circumstantial sadness.

**13th Open Mike  
Unplugged £4**

**20th Vikki Clayton £10 (£8) [vikkiclayton.info](http://vikkiclayton.info)**



In the early 80'S Vikki was invited to sing with Ragged Heroes, a cult Folk Rock band. "Ragged Heroes Annual" was released to much acclaim and notice was taken of Vikki's lovely voice. Then somebody sent Fairport Convention a copy of Vikki's work because she sounded so much like Sandy Denny. Vikki eventually formed her own band featuring other stellar performers and six solo albums later and many appearances on other recordings Vikki is proud to release "Messenger".

**Phone:- 07703210795**

**E mail:- [croydonfolkclub@aol.com](mailto:croydonfolkclub@aol.com) 27th Closed for the Festivals.**

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



June - July

Please reserve your seat on 07957 461832- all welcome!

- 03 June **Pete Coe** - Troubadour extraordinaire Pete has long been magnificent on the British folk scene, another Faversham favourite for his entertainment value and vast repertoire on many instruments. A one-man folk industry.... Songs of passionate intensity and superb commitment. £12/13
- 17 June **Paul Downes & Annie Winter** - Paul is a cracking singer/ accompanist, guitar, banjo and mandolin, with unique rapport and a fund of incredible songs. He's joined by Annie (the 'Sussex Nightingale'), well known in traditional singing circles, who's worked with some of the best-known source singers in the south of England. £12/13
- 24 June **Martyn Wyndham-Read & Iris Bishop** - Highly acclaimed duo return- Martyn's great voice accompanied by skilful and subtle concertina/ accordion- Australian ballads and songs of England's rural past, together with anecdotes and shaggy-dog tales- a sheer delight! £12/13
- 01 July **Steve Tilston** - A master songwriter of high repute, Steve brings guitar work to die for alongside personal songs to touch your heart. Always relevant, always powerful: see a festival favourite close up! £14/15
- 08 July **John Ward Trio** - Back again to Kent with Lynne and Les Woodley on guitars, bodhran, harmonica, double bass, mandolin, accordion & recorders: a full-on authentic sound for original and a selection of traditional sourced songs. £10/11
- 29 July **Gavin & Julie Atkin** - Engaging folk from Mid-Kent, with repertoire ranging from 1930s to Lincolnshire, the Northfleet to sausages. Squeezeboxes of complexity, guitars, keyboards and altogether a thoroughly sound background in musical genres. £10/11

All other Wednesdays Singers Nights £2

For Reservations please call 07957 461832

Club & Gig enquiries 07885 742763

Please leave a message if no answer- thank you!

The Limes, Preston St, Faversham ME13 8PG.

## 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.

- 18th May **Awake Mother**
- 1st June **Barnfire**
- 15th June **Carrie Martin**
- 6th July **David Collins**
- 20th July **Bruce Watson**
- 3rd August **Mark Waistell**
- 17th August **No Riff Raff**

Tel: 01892 822945

[info@tonbridgefolkclub.org](mailto:info@tonbridgefolkclub.org)

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



## Beat The Drum

### The Runrig Experience

Sunday 14<sup>th</sup> June – Colyer-Fergusson Hall,  
Gulbenkian, Canterbury, Full Price £28, U25 £14

### Old Man Luedecke

Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> July – Godmersham & Crundale  
Village Hall, Full Price £17, U25 £8.50

### Spooky Men's Chorale

Wednesday 15<sup>th</sup> July – St Marys Arts Centre,  
Sandwich Full Price £27.50, U25 £14

### Coming up in Autumn 2026...

Sam Kelly, Honey & The Bear, Fairport  
Convention, Richard Shindell, Danny Bradley, Gary  
Stewart's Graceland, Heron Valley, Hannah Rarity,  
Steve Knightley's Winter Yards Band....

Full details and Join the mailing list at....  
[www.folkinthebarn.co.uk](http://www.folkinthebarn.co.uk)

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](mailto:enquiries@ashfordfolk.org)

[www.ashfordfolk.org](http://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

### JUNE

4th, 18th, 25th **Singers & Musicians Night**  
11th Elizabeth and Jameson

### JULY

9th, 30th **Singers & Musicians Night**  
2nd Eric Sedge  
23rd **John 'Daddio' Clarke**  
16th **Themed Singers Night**  
~ The Joys of Summer

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

Every Thursday @ 8:00pm

Contact : 0208 325 6513 ~ 01474 853189

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

The  
**TENTERDEN FOLK SESSIONS**

**The Tenterden Club**

Wednesday 10th June

Wednesday 8th July

Wednesday 12th August

from 7:30 to 10:30



The Tenterden Club  
Church Road  
Tenterden  
TN30 6AT  
[thetenterdenclub.co.uk](http://thetenterdenclub.co.uk)

The second Wednesday of the month  
Free folk song and music in ground floor bar  
*All welcome*

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



Tenterden Folk Club has been running consistently since 1992  
For information contact Alan Castle  
E: [info@tenterdenfolkfestival.org.uk](mailto:info@tenterdenfolkfestival.org.uk) T: 01233 626805  
W: [www.tenterdenfolkfestival.com/Tenterden-Folk-Sessions/](http://www.tenterdenfolkfestival.com/Tenterden-Folk-Sessions/)

# **DARTFORD FOLK CLUB**

**BBC Radio 2 Best Folk Club of the year 2008**

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

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

FLOOR SINGERS WELCOME (PLEASE BOOK)

**FEATURED GUESTS**

**02 June** - Pete Coe

**09 June** - Vicki Swan and Jonny Dyer

**16 June** - Steve Ashley

**23 June** - Kenny Speirs

**30 June** - Jenn Butterworth

**07 July** - John Ward Trio

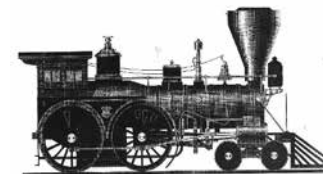
**14 July** - Kelly and Woolley

**21 July** - The Kimberleys

**28 July** - Gilmore & Roberts

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**

**OUR VENUE OFFERS REAL ALE BEERS, SPIRITS AND SOFT DRINKS AT CLUB PRICES AND IS IN THE 2025 CAMRA GOOD BEER GUIDE!**

## CD REVIEWS

### Emily Portman - Dominion of Spells

#### Hudson Records

Despite some people claiming the death of the CD and the rise of downloads there are still a good number of folk artists producing CDs and a recent trend seems to be to launch them together with a book. Emily Portman's latest offering includes a hardback book with CD containing lyrics, artwork by Gwen Burns, the stories behind the songs, and CD, vinyl or downloads. The CD and book are priced at £23.00 while there is a choice of coloured vinyl at £26.99. I've not seen the book as the review copy of the CD just came with a cardboard cover. Emily is often heard playing with The Furrow Collective or with Rob Harbron. However, this is Emily's fourth studio album of her own songs and comes after the recent fake AI generated album with which she had no connection. Guest musicians on the 12 track album include Martin Simpson, Lucy Farrell, Sam Sweeney and several others. The songs talk of person experience as well as themes from history. The title track, Dominion of Spells, is based on a 17th century medical myth around women's bodies while Turn Again was inspired by her son's games and the story of Tam Lin. Other tracks include East of the Sun, Dreamless Sleep, Fox's Song and Let's Go for a Swim.



### Various artists - Bring it on Home

#### Another Planet Music APMR 034

#### anotherplanetmusic.net

The objective of this album is described as "To celebrate and sample finger picking acoustic guitar on the roots music scene in Britain today." It features nine guitarists, who are all new names to me, and a diverse selection of roots and blues guitar and vocals. The two tracks that stood out to me were Woody Guthrie's arrangement of John Henry / Who's Gonna Shoe Your Pretty Little Feet performed by Holly Carter, and Blueberry Hill performed by Holly Carter and Joe Wilkins. The album was recorded in December 2025 in Sittingbourne, Stratford, and Gloucestershire and was produced by Mark Stratford and directed by Mark and Oli MacDonald. Oli also performs on the album playing Candela and Trouble Blues. If you are into roots and blues guitar this is one for you. The CD comes in a double fold cardboard cover with a small insert with all the track details and sources. It is a pity it does not include more about the artists involved who come from Bristol, Birmingham, York, North London (originally Spain), Bromley, Rainham, and Tunbridge Wells, but this can all be found on the website.



Alan Castle (Editor)



## Lewes Saturday Folk Club

### Traditional music every Saturday night

Elephant & Castle, White Hill, Lewes BN7 2DJ 7:30-10:30

www.lewessaturdayfolkclub.org

valmaigoodyear@aol.com

01273 476757

Loyalty card: 6 evening visits = £5 off an evening

All payments in cash on the day. Access by staircase.

Assistance dogs only, please.

<b>June 6</b>	<b>Jimmy Hutchison</b>	<b>£12 cash</b>
Scottish songs from a tradition-bearer.		
<b>Ballad forum</b>	10:45–16:15	<b>£45 cash</b>
Choose a ballad to sing in advance, email to discuss your choice		
<b>Email to reserve places for day or evening. 2 under-25s £22.</b>		

<b>June 13</b>	<b>Ewan Wardrop</b>	<b>£10 cash</b>
Songs, guitar, ukulele, harmonica, banjo, melodeon, step-dancing		
<b>June 20</b>	<b>Come All Ye</b>	Bring songs & tunes <b>£5 cash</b>
<b>June 27</b>	<b>Kevin Henty</b>	New & old songs, melodeon, guitar <b>£10 cash</b>
<b>4 July</b>	<b>Nigel Horn &amp; Marilyn Thomas</b>	<b>£8 cash</b>
Original & beautiful music on guitar & fiddle		
<b>11 July</b>	<b>Duck Soup</b>	<b>£12 cash</b>
Dance tunes, songs, melodeon, dobro, bass, marimba, musical saw		

<b>18 July</b>	<b>Jez Lowe</b>	New songs, guitar, harmonica, cittern <b>£15 cash</b>
<b>Songwriting workshop</b>	10:45–16:15	<b>£45 cash</b>
<b>Email to reserve places for day or evening. 2 under-25s £22.</b>		

<b>25 July</b>	<b>The Twagger Band</b>	<b>£10 cash</b>
Songs, tunes, hammered dulcimers, harps, concertina, guitar, fiddle, accordion, Northumbrian pipes, serpent.		

**COME ALL YE NIGHTS EVERY SATURDAY IN AUGUST**

## Sussex Folk News (June & July 2026)

Uckfield Folk club meets Upstairs at the Station Pub, Uckfield, TN22 5DL every third Tuesday of the month, starting at 7.30pm. Their guest artists on 16th June will be a new name to me so let's hear something about them.



No Riff Raff are Jim James and Lynn Florkiewicz who have known each other since 1975 and came together musically two years ago. With instruments to hand, 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, during the 70s/80s.

He then formed another trio, Hat Trick, with his wife, Beverley. They later worked for

English Heritage as costumed characters: Singing Plague Victims and Singing Chimney Sweeps. Both trios released a number of albums and CDs and were constants at folk festivals and clubs.

A natural entertainer, Jim loves vamping on the melodeon, and admits that he would like to learn it properly.

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 a variety of styles when performing.

She was one of five women who appeared on Stefan Grossman's 'Women's Guitar Workshop' album and the Melody Maker cited her as one of the best female guitarists in the UK at the time.

She has two albums and is currently working on releasing a CD.

On the 24th July it will be a singaround evening at Uckfield.

Next, it's The Lamb Folk club in Eastbourne which meets on the first and third Wednesdays of each month, upstairs in The Lamb Inn, High Street, Old Town, Eastbourne, BN21 1HH

On 3rd June, they will be having an Open Stage – Free Entry evening there followed on the 17th by a singer/songwriter who seems to be a regular visitor there. Steve Ashley has long been regarded as one of British folk's finest singer-songwriters and has played a significant role in the development of British folk-rock.

Into July and on the 1st Phil Jones is the attraction. He is a singer-songwriter, music producer and poet who has recorded and toured with Hatful of Rain for 14 years. Phil released his first solo album in November 2022. Expect heartfelt songs, vaudeville, spoken word pieces and stories. It'll really be a night to remember as will the brothers who will be there on the 17th. Joe and Will Sartin who perform under the name of Patikas. They will be bringing driving rhythms and innovative harmony to their fresh interpretations of traditional music and their own original tunes and songs, the brothers beautifully and skilfully express the music-making and folk tradition that runs through the very core of their family; their father was the much missed Paul Sartin. This will be their second appearance in three days in Sussex as they are in Chichester on 13th July.

Chichester Folk Club meets week of the year at the excellent venue of The Chichester Inn which is in West Street PO19 1RP. Most of their evenings are held without visiting guest artists and their large numbers of regular performers entertain their club evenings which sometimes some evenings based around a theme. They do have guest performers once a month. In July it will be Patikas and in June, on the 1st it will be a very popular veteran of the folk scene, Pete Coe. His distinctive singing voice and mastery of a range of instruments has won him devoted fans and his performing career goes way back into the last century.

As always it is the Lewes Saturday night folk club that has the most to offer with attractive guest artists nearly every week. This meets at the Elephant & Castle, White Hill, Lewes BN7 2DJ and their new operating times are from 7.30 – 10.30. Their first meeting in this period on 6th June brings an old friend of mine that I met way back in the 1960s down from Scotland.

Jimmy is a bearer of Scottish traditional song, born on Uist & raised speaking Gaelic and English. He learned from the great source singers like Jeannie Robertson, Jimmie McBeath and the Stewarts of Blair and sings 'with a craftsmanship & intensity which makes the senses tingle'. He is also a highly-skilled handloom weaver. On the following day, he will be running a ballad workshop there.

On the following Saturday, 13th, their guest is a very talented Jack-Of-All-Trades. Ewan Wardrop sings, plays melodeon, banjo, ukulele (in The Ukulele Orchestra of Great Britain) and guitar, step-dances, as well as well as being a fine actor appearing with the RSC, at Shakespeare's Globe, the Old Vic & The Barbican. His one-man show about London folk clubs of the 1960s/70s, Sweet Thames Flow Softly, appeared at recent festivals.

With a Come-All-Ye on the following week, their last meeting a man from Kent hops over to a neighbouring county. Kevin Henty sings a mixture of traditional & newer songs. He has a mighty bass voice, a powerful melodeon style and also plays guitar.

July at the Elly, brings a pair of newcomers and then three old favourites. The newcomers are there on 4th July. Nigel Horn is an original and mesmerising guitarist with his own style, writing pieces often inspired by nature and place. Marilyn Thomas is a fine fiddle player with much emotional depth.

On 11th July the delightfully quirky Duck Soup will be there. They are Dan Quinn, Ian Kearey and Adam Bushell and between them they play melodeon, dobro, bass, mandolin, marimba, mandolin, phonofiddle, sometimes even a musical saw.

There's real treat on 18th when Jez Lowe returns to Lewes. He is one of England's finest singer-songwriters, producing powerful, moving & often humorous songs using the traditional styles of his North-East home about working people, especially miners, shipbuilders and deep-sea fishermen (Back in Durham Gaol, Old Bones, The Bonny Barque the Bergen, These Coal Town Days, High Part of the Town). They have been recorded by Fairport Convention, the Tannahill Weavers, the Unthanks and the Young'uns. He currently works with his band The Bad Pennies, with Bob Fox, Billy Mitchell and Benny Graham in The Pitmen Poets, and contributed to the new BBC Radio Ballads series. Jez plays guitar, harmonica & cittern.

Their last evening in this period sees the return of the popular sextet, The Twagger Band. They sing and play a glorious mixture of traditional music from England, Scotland, Ireland, the US, France and Sweden on hammered dulcimers, concertinas, guitars, harp, whistles, harmonium, recorders, Northumbrian pipes, and serpent.

That leaves the Sunday night Horsham Folk Club which meets

*Continued Overleaf...*

at The Normandy Centre Denne Road, Horsham, West Sussex RH12 1JF. Their summer break includes all the Sundays in July and August so there is only June to consider and they only have one guest night in that month and that will be on 14th June with Winter Wilson who have entranced audiences worldwide since becoming full-time musicians in 2012. In recent years they have completed multiple tours of Australia, New Zealand and Canada, as well as the UK and Europe.

Kip Winter (vocals, flute, piano accordion, guitar) "simply has a voice to die for" (John Roffee, Maverick Magazine), whilst Dave Wilson (vocals, guitar, banjo) is now widely recognised as one of the UK's very best contemporary folk and blues songwriters, with his songs sung in folk clubs the world over.

There are songs of love, loss and social comment, but the tone is ultimately uplifting. And also as ever, there are the stunning harmonies and superb musicianship that the couple's many fans have come to love.

**Vic Smith**

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## New Forest Folk Festival 2026 Press release

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

Line-up includes 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, Reg Meuross Fire and Dust: A Woody Guthrie Story with Full Band The Strike, Hunter Muskett, Eric Sedge & Tom Leary, Megson, Banter, Charlie Dore with Julian Littman & Gareth Huw Davies, Gerry Colvin Band, Fine Lines, Flossie Malavialle, Virginia Kettle's Rolling Folk, True Foxes, Matt Black, The Honeybees and Southampton Ukulele Jam.

Hobgoblin Music (Southampton) supports the festival with sponsorship of the Local Artist Showcase on Thursday as well as their stall selling all kinds of musical equipment and accessories during the whole festival.

It has become the tradition for a large part of the attendees to arrive on Wednesday to setup their tents, motorhomes and caravans in good time and enjoy an evening of Morris Dancing and Singaround hosted by King Johns Morris Men while enjoying real ale, Somerset cider, wine and a delicious barbeque.

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

There is an area set aside well away from the music stage called the Woodland Fringe with a large marquee for free workshops where you can learn

*Continued Overleaf...*

## Harwich International Shanty Festival

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songwriting and the playing of instruments plus meditation, yoga, Ceilidh's, Morris dancing and even the study of moths. There are also another tent dedicated to singarounds and poetry with the ever popular John Row storytelling in his own colourful tent in the arena. On Sunday mornings the addition of a church service in the woods has proved extremely popular with a packed tent singing well known hymns in true singaround fashion.

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



Everything takes place July 1st - 5th with adult 5 day tickets £135, children aged 5-15 £60 and under 5 years free. Motorhomes, Caravans & Tents (per pitch) full 5-day camping (Wed - Sun) is £40.

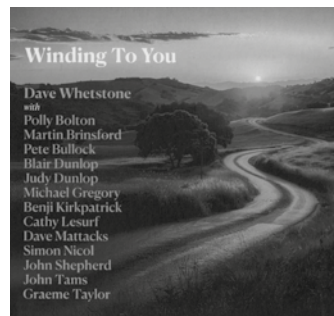
For more information and to book tickets the website is [www.newforestfolkfestival.co.uk](http://www.newforestfolkfestival.co.uk)

## CD REVIEW

### Talking Elephant Records TECD522

The idea for this album came about when Dave Whetstone was asked to play at Ashley Hutchings' 80th Birthday party in Birmingham Town Hall in 2025 for which he got together with some of his old friends and fellow musicians from the 1980 including Polly Bolton and John Shepherd. The album features 12 tracks most of which were composed by John, plus Always Chasing Rainbows featuring the vocals of Cathy Lesurf, which he wrote with Ashley, To Ireland sung by Polly Bolton, written by Ashley, and Winding to You jointly composed with and sung by John Tams. Guests on the album include singers Polly Bolton, Blair Dunlop, Judy Dunlop, Benji Kirkpatrick, John Tams and Cathy Lesurf. Guest musicians include Martin Brinsford, Pete Bullock, Blair Dunlop, Michael Gregory, Dave Mattacks, Simon Nichol, John Shepherd, and Graeme Taylor. Luckily they do not all play at once! Other tracks include One for Dan, Michael and Mary, Turning Leaves played by Graeme Taylor, and Feel so Young sung by Benji and Blair. The CD insert contains details of the artists playing on each track and the words to the songs. Another album well worth looking out for and adding to your collection.

Alan Castle (Editor)



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Dave 07504 799832 or Eileen 07887 370525

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## MOORE or LESS FOLK CLUB

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June to August 2024  
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- The Goudhurst and District u3a tunes group meets monthly on first Monday mornings and last Wednesday afternoons to learn great tunes and play together. Email to join us!
- Hear Julie and Gav sing and play at Faversham Folk Club on the 29th July at The Limes, Preston Street from 7.30pm, and dance to ceilidh band The Tonic at Broadstairs Folk Week at The Pavilion, 8th August, 2.30-4.30pm

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## BOOK REVIEW

**Peter Snape - Anne Geddes Gilchrist – Folk Song Scholar and Collector**  
**Publishers – The Ballad Partners, London**  
**thesnapes.org.uk**

It is several years now since Peter Snape mentioned to me that he was working on this book. At the time, in 2021, Peter and Barbara Snape, Brian Peters and Sue Burgess were touring as the Gilchrist Collective and performing a selection of songs collected by Anne Geddes Gilchrist. The show, "Most truly yours, Aunt Anne" illustrated the achievements of AGG (1863-1954), as she was sometimes known, who collected songs, tunes and folklore mainly from her home in Lancashire but also from the Kent and Sussex borders around the village of Blackham near Tunbridge Wells. AGG was a significant figure in the folk music world of the early 20th Century and knew all the folk song collectors and enthusiasts of the time and was a very early member of what is now the EFDSS. Many of the songs she collected while staying with her brother in Blackham are included in the book along with all the source notes and in some cases the words. Songs collected included Babes in the Wood, Barbara Allen, Cottage in the Wood, Dark Eyes Sailor, and many more. For example AGG collected versions of The Folkestone Murder (Roud 897) from a Mrs Coomber in 1906 and from W Wickham in May 1907. The book tells you a bit more about these source singers and other songs they sang. The book's 200 plus pages include a Forward by Lyn Walz from University of Kansas, The story of Anne's family, her life and times, a selection of lyrics and tunes, photos, full lists of all the songs she collected, and much more. Anne also wrote many learned articles and wrote several Christmas carols. Now the book is here and it is well worth reading to find out more about all the work this underrated collector did.



## CD REVIEW

**Hannah James and Toby Kuhn -**  
**Where All Our Names Belong**  
**Jigdoll Records**

Another book and album combo! This time the book is and A5 paperback with the 48 minute, 11 track CD in a pocket in the back. On this album Hannah James plays accordion and provides foot percussion and vocals while Toby Kuhn plays Cello. All the lyrics are written by Hannah, and the tunes were written by Hannah and Toby, other than the traditional song Lonesome Woods. The books 24 pages contain the lyrics and information about the songs. The album is described as "a series of evocations, stories, reflections and dances nested in the theme of belong." I'm not entirely sure what that means but it makes an interesting and worthwhile album. Other track titles include Lonesome Woods, Dancefloor, Soft Edges, Jezza, and finally Rising.



**Alan Castle (Editor)**

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## Egerton Folk and Blues Club

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## Exciting times ahead for Harwich Shanty Festival 2026!



Plans are well underway for this year's Harwich International Shanty Festival, when the old seafaring town of Harwich will ring out with music and song once again in celebration of Harwich's rich and fascinating maritime history. This year's festival will take place from Friday 9th to Sunday 11th October, and we will be celebrating our 20th year!

Some amazing acts have been booked, including the renowned Johnson Girls, an a cappella song

group from the USA, singing maritime songs from a variety of cultures. Back by popular request are Nordet from their home port of Lorient in Brittany who perform worldwide, singing shanties and sea songs in French, Breton and English accompanied by guitar, melodeon and Uilleann pipes. We also welcome the return of Northcape, a five strong group from Poland singing shanties, sea songs and folk songs, with beautiful harmonies. After several years of negotiation, we managed to secure the Wilson Family, a well-established English a cappella folk music group from Billingham, County Durham in the northeast. Since forming in 1974 they have become famed for their amazing harmonies. We welcome Sailor Swift for the first time, a folk singer who writes his own material. His fast-paced show with a nautical flavour is going down a storm all over the country and provides a hilarious quick-fire journey through history! Other highlights include Hooligans Rule performing for the first time - a lively nautical duo from Brixham, and Dick Miles, a well-respected English Concertina player. The popular Monkeys Fist return by popular request from Oxford, a lively band playing traditional shanties with excellent harmonies. Bell and Co will also be joining us - a trio performing their own sea songs accompanied by guitar, fiddle and bodhran. We also welcome the Portsmouth Shanty Men, an a cappella group who have sung traditional shanties and maritime songs for many years, and also from Portsmouth, Spinnaker Shanty singing shanties and sea songs with harmony and humour. There will be an entertaining show by Pint of Shanty giving background on H.M.S. Conqueror interspersed with rousing shanties! We also look forward to seeing many familiar names, some of whom have been with us since the beginning.

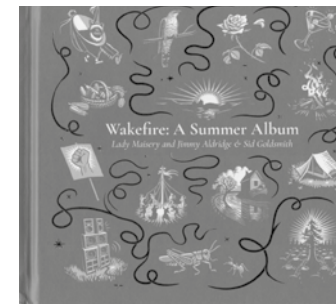
We have fun activities for children including two family shanty sessions for accompanied children, two shanty trains running between Harwich and Manningtree on Saturday 10th, a Magic Lantern Show with Pepper's Ghost, Kool Skool for Pirates, Jig Dolls and Playing the Bones workshops and the popular Seaside Explorers. Our popular events at the Redoubt Napoleonic Fort include skirmishes between pirates and the Kings German Artillery, Inner State Theatre, and maritime crafts including ropework and figurehead carving. Our wide variety of workshops and talks include 58 Ships, focusing on H.M.S. Terror, Concertina Accompaniment for Song by Dick Miles, Wordsmiths and Topsails - a nautical workshop by Tyburn Road, and Australia Across the Water by Chris Roach, featuring a crayfishing boat journey round the coast of Tasmania and the West and Gordon rivers. The popular cruises on the Thames Barge Victor will be happening again with shanty singers on board.

**Debbie Jones**  
**Harwich International Shanty Festival**

## CD REVIEW

**Lady Maisery and Jimmy Aldridge & Sid Goldsmith -  
Wakefire: A Summer Album  
Hudson Records LMCD06**

This is another album and book combo with the CD in a pocket in the front of the lavishly produced hardback, full colour book of lyrics, stories, pictures and photos. Rather than just being an album of music it is like attending a musical play with songs, tunes, readings, old news recordings and stories. Lady Maisery, who are Hannah James, Rowan Rheingans and Hazel Askew, got together with Jimmy Aldridge & Sid Goldsmith for a wintertime project and now get together again to celebrate summer. The 27 tracks on this extra long album take you through late spring and summer from the arrival of the Cuckoo, May Day, Morris dancing, Mid-summer, Harvest Festival, to the start of autumn. The album opens with Summer's In, a version of the Anne Briggs Song with added verses by Hannah James. May is illustrated by Following the Old Oss by Tony Deane and the Padstow May Song. Leon Rosselson's song, The Ant and the Grasshopper, inspired by Aesop's Fable, tells of the longer days of spring. The traditional song, Sweet Lemenev tells of midsummers day. Summer starts to draw to an end with the traditional Harvest Song from Ogbourne in Wiltshire and ends with Robin Williamson's Good as Gone. This is an excellent entertainment which I will be listening to for many summers to come.



**Alan Castle (Editor)**

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**Issue No. 136 August/September COPY DATE: 18th June**

Then ...

18th June 2026 – August / September      18th December 2026 – February / March

18th August 2026 – October / November      18th February 2027 – April / May

18th October 2026 - December / January      18th April 2027 – June / July

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# BROADSTAIRS Folk Week

— 7-14 AUGUST 2026 —



Jethro Tull's Martin Barre (Pre-Fest Special) • Tankus • Eliza Carthy  
Elephant Sessions • Martin Simpson Trio • Michael McGovern  
The Men They Couldn't Hang • Miranda Sykes & Jim Causley  
Barry Kerr • Suntuo Susso & the Gambian All Stars • Barb Jung  
Tim Edey • Bridget St John

3 Daft Monkeys • Nancy Kerr • Adriano Adewale • Banter  
Peter's Field by Sean Cooney • Edith We-Utonga Edwina Hayes  
Gerry Colvin • Gilmore & Roberts • Lisa Knapp & Gerry Diver • Muco  
Luke Wallace • Morag Butler • Spafford Campbell • Urban Folk Quartet  
Detta Kenzie • Honey & the Bear • Roswell Road • Sam Carter sings • Nic Jones  
Abigail Pryde • Ajay Srivistav • Alison Rowley • Chris Brain • Chris Cleverley  
Heron Valley • Hayes Sisters • Hobby Horse Club Katie Spencer • Paprika  
Remembering Nanci Griffith with Clive Gregson • Laura Targett • The Marsh Family  
Tim Walker • Sun in the Sands • Ken Wilson • Barrie & Ingrid Temple

**AND MANY MORE! 300+ events**



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