

around kent folk

Issue 136
August / September 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)



The All Day Sing-a-round

Folk songs, music, recitations, poems and more

Saturday 3rd October

The Tenterden Club

11:30 a.m. to 10.30 p.m.

Entry by donation. All welcome.

The day will be run by

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

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

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



The Tenterden Club
Church Road
Tenterden
TN30 6AT

thetenterdenclub.co.uk



For information contact:

aroundkentfolk@btinternet.com

Alan Castle 01233 626805

or Folk @ the Platform 2 bar

Dave 07504 799832 or Eileen 07887 370525



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www.tenterdenfolkfestival.org.uk

Welcome to issue 136 (August/September 2026) of Around Kent Folk

We are now well in to the summer festival season and many folk clubs have taken a holiday for August or are holding singers nights instead of guest nights. The next major festival in our area is of course Broadstairs Folk Week and there is plenty about that in this issue. You will also find details of several other festivals and all the folk clubs that regularly advertise in AKF.

I had a good time at Chippenham Folk Festival back in May. One of the guests was Jeff Warner, from the USA, who played his first ever UK gig there in, I think, 1991. A few years later I was able to bring him to Tenterden Folk Festival for the first of several appearances. At this year's Chippenham FF I was luckily enough to attend what he sadly described as his last ever UK concert. Jeff is now over 80 and says touring the UK is no longer practical for him. Another of the many guests was Pete Coe who was on good form but also confirmed that, in future, he will be limiting his gigs to the North of England to avoid driving such long distances. Age catches up with us all eventually.

At the end of May I went to see Bob Fox at Godmersham & Crundale Village Hall. The gig was put on by Folk in the Barn and I think Debs has found a really good venue for intimate folk concerts. A good hall and facilities, good acoustics, free parking, bar, and even a barbeque. Coming up in the same venue is Chris Leslie on 2nd September. For other Folk in the Barn dates see the advert in this issue.

As announced on BBC Radio 2's The Folk Show, Broadstairs Folk Week guest Martin Simpson will be part of this year's 21st Century Folk. "Andy Tams is a nurse from Walsall in the West Midlands, now living in Staffordshire. His uncle was killed on the road at Christmas time in 1974, aged just 18. Thirty-five years later, he took his Uncle Adrian's old leather boxing gloves to BBC One's The Repair Shop where they were restored by master saddler, Suzie Fletcher. His story has been turned into The Hand of Kindness (Adrian's Song) by singer and guitarist Martin Simpson." Martins New Single will be released on 1st July and will record a studio recorded version of the song as well as the track 'Love Never Dies' from the forthcoming album.

Alan Castle (Editor)

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

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

You can also find us on social media:

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

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

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

Please pass the link on to your mailing lists and place it on your social media so that as many potential readers as possible can find AKF online.



Donate Now

Front cover: Martin Simpson

Scene & Heard (August - September 2026)

What a difference a couple of months make: meteorological madness! Mayday and Sweeps made for happy memories and full-on folk across Kent, dancing in the dawn and carousing late into evenings... last S&H gave wide coverage to early summer's treats in the clubs and festivals- truly astonishing compared to many areas of the country. We'd welcome news of those advertised here for the next issue: inevitably some gems go unreported and it would be good to include your appreciations of acts you've enjoyed. Many eyes (and ears)

For those seeking fresh traditional artistes to be seen in Kent shortly, Chippenham festival was a happy hunting ground.

Megan Wisdom & Mossy Christian, Cohen Braithwaite-Kilcoyne, Will Allen, James Kerry... So, invigorating to see a genuine mix of experienced box, fiddle, string and percussive players in the huge **Moon Gazing Hare session** sharing tunes with fresh-faced newcomers: Lisa Bradley as ever bustling, cajouling, encouraging. There will be plenty of similar opportunities at Broadstairs in August.

The Broadie programme now out has a superb range of dancers, singers, concerts, pub gigs, sessions, workshops, and full-fledged power folk. Well worth plotting a way through to ensure the full experience. Buying a season ticket is highly recommended, particularly for smaller venues, as the new online check-in system enables advance booking rather than waiting in line and in hope. I'm looking forward to Ayesha Savage & Ty Watling, the daily Sailing Club and Neptune Singarounds alongside the Woodshed and the morning brunches with John & Di Cullen... Irish influence with Chan Reid, Paul Lucas... Border Morris? Circus Skills? Sunto Susso & the Gambian Superstars? Hobby Horse club at the bandstand? Heron Valley late at the Pav? You choose...

New and upcoming artistes have featured extensively in S&H this year, so it's worth recording the exploits also of familiar performers around our local clubs, and to some extent exploring why they have always drawn crowds. Folks like Jeff Warner, Jez Lowe, Edwina Hayes, Barrie & Ingrid Temple, John Kirkpatrick... what is it about them?



Annie Winter & Paul Downes



Moon Gazing Hare session

Let's start with **Annie Winter & Paul Downes** at Faversham followed by Johnny Coppin at Deal: both deeply committed and intensely likeable acts. Stage logistics well honed, understanding of ebb and flow, introductions short and to the point, great attention to vocal/instrumental arrangement so lyrics shone through.

Paul had positive thoughts on accompanying traditional UK song to bring out its distinct flavour. As a one-time member of Arizona Smoke Review he can play frailing fast, yet chooses tuneful gentle notes, rhythmic lines, even silences for

Annie's pure melodies. 'You don't have to play every string...' – his banjo on Helen North's 'Rolling Sea' a model of discretion.

Johnny Coppin's haunting, wistful arrangements for his sincere vocals have audiences immediately immersed in his spell. He encourages harmonies, shifts deftly from fingerstyle to rhythmic strum to lush keyboard. Artistic variety in motion, creating a fully satisfying experience.

John Kirkpatrick also draws on the uplifting power of straightforward song in major keys. 'Every augmented and diminished takes you further away from the English tradition' if I remember him right. JK can play anything but vigorously sustains the best of his own cultural heritage. Granny's Attic too- Cohen solo now integrating 'his family's' Caribbean roots with his GB repertoire, a valuable step towards mutual appreciation- works both ways, as does Global Fusion in Greenwich.

Fewer of the great female vocalists seem active on the Kent folk club scene- catching Frankie Armstrong or Shirley Collins in concert has understandably to be by YouTube if you're lucky. Some worth making the trip for: Hilary Spencer is still thriving, entertainment guaranteed; (Peter &) Barbara Snape and Rosie Upton carry on the tradition gloriously, as does Sylvia Needham. They're unified by powerful subtle variations in their longer songs, eye contact and pauses to let the impact of their lyrics sink in- refined performance skills being adopted and adapted by the likes of Lizzie Hardingham and Linda Moylan.

Here's another thing- bear with... Brian Peters' AV show on Bert Lloyd's practice in 'collecting' and modifying old tunes for songs familiar in the 60s and 70s, I strongly recommend- a real case of rethink your old ideas! Many of those plaintive modal songs weren't, originally... again, BP wears his knowledge lightly and clearly respects ALL for his work in making source songs work for the era. It may not have been the 'folk process' after all...

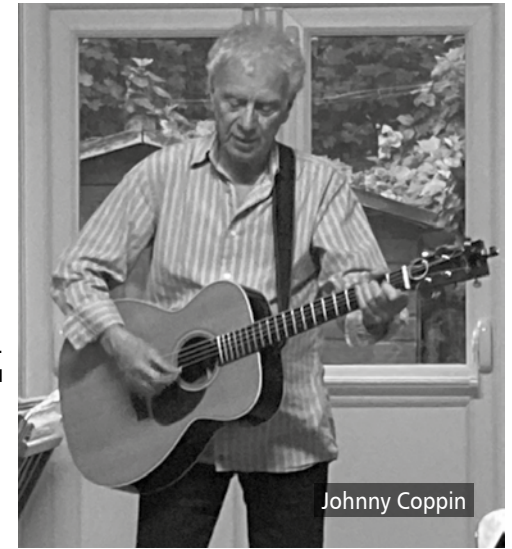
Brian also has an honest because thoroughly referenced talk on Cecil Sharp and his most recent detractors. He identifies highly selective, out of context and sometimes wilfully inaccurate quotations, returns to their actual sources, reveals much that challenges the Fakesong/ Imagined Village narrative. Especially valuable in our era of AI 'truth' by repetition.

But back to the world of what's on...

In Herne Bay the Divers Arms is bubbling away, check it out... Tunbridge Wells has sprung the Fonthill session, see Jennifer Lee Ridley at Broadstairs... Dartford and Faversham enjoyed probably their last visits from the legendary Pete Coe, in fine form as ever- so committed and what will we do without him. PS look at Faversham's Facebook page, the website's been glitchy.

Bob Fox and Jez Lowe visited East Kent individually... more masters... Gavin and Julie Atkin continue their Zooms, adding The Unicorn, Marden session to their Goudhurst U3A group and their band The Tonic appearing at BFW... Doug Hudson's Hot Rats now with Matthew English drive on... all-ability

Continued Overleaf...



Johnny Coppin

Ashford Folk Community Band meet every Thursday, see their Facebook...

Folk In The Barn have among their Autumn guests the amazing Richard Shindell, Honey & The Bear and of course Fairport Convention. If I may be allowed a correction, Kent Song Collective's Broadstairs show is on Thurs 13th August, not as last issue, and is called 'A Kentish Tapestry'... other than date and title I got it right...after a July of talent, featuring among others Nick Lawrence (2025 Ely Songwriter winner), Women of Folk, Nigel Hobbins & The Dreamlanders, Rosslyn Court has George Sansome/Matt Quinn, Churchfitters and many more to savour.

This issue goes to press before all the July bonanzas- please do send us your reviews ;-) and of course, in September it's Faversham Hop Festival and all the Hop Blessings... So much to enjoy!

May you build a ladder to the stars...

Bob Kenward

STEPPING IT OUT

New magazine for traditional music, song & dance



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veteran.co.uk/magazine

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.

3rd August Mark Waistell

17th August No Riff Raff

7th Sept Ian Bruce & Kev Geen

21st Sept Gluten-Free Trio

5th October Tog Faire

19th Oct Richard Grainger

2nd Nov The Wolverstones

16h Nov Hunter Muskett

Tel: 01892 822945

info@tonbridgefolkclub.org

www.tonbridgefolkclub.org



Chris Leslie

Wednesday 2nd September
Godmersham & Crundale Village Hall

Ranagiri

Wednesday 9th September
Colyer-Fergusson Hall, Canterbury

Sam Kelly & The Lost Boys

Honey & The Bear
Saturday 3rd October
Godmersham & Crundale Village Hall

Fairport Convention

Wednesday 28th October
St Marys Arts Centre, Sandwich

Full details and Join the mailing list at.....
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ORPINGTON FOLK CLUB

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Orpington, BR6 7BL



AS IS CUSTOMARY WE WILL BE HOLDING
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FOR UPDATES

6th Hosted by Mike
13th Hosted by Paul and Graham
20th Hosted by Ted
27th Hosted by Paul and Graham

SEPTEMBER

10th, 17th, 24th Singer's and Musician's Nights
3rd Bruce Watson

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

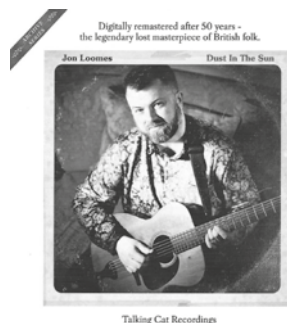
Contact : 0208 325 6513 ~ 07963128427

Website : <https://orpingtonfolkclub.org.uk>
email: info@orpingtonfolkclub.org.uk

CD REVIEWS

Jon Loomes - Dust in the Sun Talking Cat Records TCCD2601

Whether you believe the story behind this album is up to you but here is a summary of it. You can find more on the album. The story goes that Jon recorded the album in for the financially troubled Bounty Records label in the summer of 1976. The album was finished and sent to the pressing plant and the copies were manufactured but before they could be distributed the factory burned down and all but a hand full of the albums were destroyed. The end. Now 50 years later Jon has found the original recording and it has been remastered and released on CD. Knowing what the record production industry was like in the 1970's it all sounds believable. The track listing still shows side one as Dame Durden, Roll the Wood Pile Down, Noble Lord Hawkins, The Carrion Crow, and Bonnie Bunch of Roses. Side two contains Maid on the Shore, Silkie of Skerry, The Female Drummer, Bold General Wolfe, and Two Magicians. Jon is joined by a selection of guest musicians on bass, fiddle, side drum, English pipes, recorder, concertina, hammered dulcimer and Uilleann pipes as well as by a Welsh Silver Band. Some of the tracks put me in mind of early Steeleye Span, Martin Carthy or Nic Jones; it is certainly typical 1970 but still holds up well and will be enjoyed by all fans of traditional English folk song. Also watch out for the novel which tells the story of the recording, loss and recovery of a valuable 1970 folk record.



Chris Lea and friends - Hereward the Wake

This double CD was recorded and produced by Chris Lea with the help of many friends including Mike Linter, Pauline Llewellyn, Curtis Savage, Norman Brooks, Manny Leman, Chris Wilkins, Joe Witaker, Nick Snobel, Jenny Barnet, Lyn Lacey, Peter Orrell and Marion Wyllie. It is basically the soundtrack to a musical drama telling the story of Hereward the Wake and real characters from the time of the Norman Conquest. Chris says it is based on the book by Charles Kingsley from 1866. Chris plays Martin Lightfoot and a couple of other characters and plays all the instruments on the songs which are all original including guitars, mandolin, bass, banjo, lute, keyboards, fiddle, percussion and longbow. Act one (CD1) starts with The Great White Bear and finishes with Way Arrow. Act two (CD2) starts with The Wakes Knot and closes with War Arrow Reprise. All the supporting cast pop up in the choruses and playing the parts the characters of the time.



Alan Castle (Editor)

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

Croydon Folk AND Acoustic Club

@ Ruskin House, 23 Coombe Road, Croydon, CR0 1BD
Mondays at 8pm Join us for first class folk and real ale at club prices!
Contact Jenny or Brian by e mail at croydonfolkclub@aol.com.
The Cedar Hall, and the bar at Ruskin House are fully accessible
Pay on the door, cards accepted, or via:- wegottickets.com

August

During August we close to give everyone a chance to catch their breath and get away to the summer festivals.

Sept 7th Singers and Musicians Night £4

Our first offering of the autumn is a Singers and Musicians Night when we invite everyone to come and perform as best as they can. Each performer gets a hearing and during the break and afterwards they will be assisted, if they wish, to improve their efforts from established performers in our number. This is the first stage in their progress to full blown public performance. The next stage is an Open Mike Unplugged Evening, and one is upcoming on Oct 5th

14th Les Elvin £8 (£6)



Les Elvin plays contemporary and traditional songs and tunes on guitar and harmonica, the material ranging from Blues and Country to Celtic and back again. Previous appearances have been at Broadstairs, Rochester Sweeps and Tenterden Folk Festivals as well as a variety of Folk Clubs, Acoustic Clubs and music related pubs. He has appeared on local radio programmes, in fact, if you are a folk regular, you will have come across him. He has, of late been playing bass for Andy Smythes band, but, throughout all his career, he has been a regular at Croydon Folk Club.

21st From the Workshop £10 (£8)



From The Workshop is the story of two voices woven together by chance and stitched tight by fate. It began on a cold February day in 2023, when Jonnie Temple knocked on Helen Rosemary's door in Biggin Hill, Kent, delivering a parcel something unexpected sparked — though neither knew that within a year they would be singing side by side, turning chance into harmony. Rooted now in Bromley, Helen and Jonnie first found each other through chance, then found something deeper in song. Jonnie, whose heart beats to the rhythms of punk rock and ska, was setting out alone on a folk journey when Helen, after two decades of silence, decided to lift her voice once more. To her surprise and Jonnie's relief, it turned out she could sing. Really sing.

28th Emily Portman with Louis Campbell and Lucy Revis £20 (£15)



Emily Portman is an award-winning singer and songwriter with a passion for traditional songs. Her new album tells tales of women encountering challenges and transformations in midlife and embarking on quests to find wonder in a jaded age. Shape-shifting selkies and owl goddesses intertwine with relatable stories of female experience. The songs chronicle Emily's own midlife experiences, with reflections on motherhood, burnout, and the redemptive power of music. This vividly imagined and courageous album is Emily Portman at her finest. With guitarist Louis Campbell and cellist Lucy Revis

Phone:- 07703210795 E mail:- croydonfolkclub@aol.com

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



August - September

Please reserve your seat on 07957 461832- all welcome!

Aug 5, 12, 19, 26 - **Singers.** £2

02 Sep **Edwina Hayes** - Always a favourite, Edwina brings original songs, fascinating vocals and lively guitar work to create her own special atmosphere. £13/14

09 Sep **Martyn Wyndham-Read & Iris Bishop** - Rare chance to see this amazing duo in action, Martyn's silky vocals and tall stories from the outback with Iris on squeezeboxes superbly complementing his guitar. Rebooked from the heatwave! £11/12

16 Sep **Cohen Braithwaite-Kilcoyne** - Cohen has taken the scene by storm, one of the brightest and best with his amazing concertina/melodeon skills and fascinating combination of traditional British and Caribbean roots music. £12/13

23 Sep **Megan Wisdom & Mossy Christian** - Lovely harmonies and songs from the English repertoire by Megan & Mossy, accompanied by many instruments and tales of sources long gone. Refresh your collection too: Veteran's stock will be available. £12/13

30 Sep **Singers.** £2

07 Oct **John Kirkpatrick** - With his acclaimed 200 Years Of Squeezebox show, John brings bounce and gusto to the Limes. Lots to admire, lots to sing along to, always something extra to admire! £13/14

14 Oct - *Singer Plus: Global Fusion*, 21 Oct - *Rachel Lowrie & Nick Rice 'South Shore'*,
28 Oct - *Liam Sherry*, 04 Nov - *Mick Ryan & Paul Downes*, 18 Nov - *Hunter Muskett*,
02 Dec - *Keith Kendrick & Sylvia Needham*, 09 Dec - *Vicki Swan & Jonny Dyer*,
16 Dec - *Cranbrook Singers*

All other Wednesdays Singers Nights £2

For Reservations please call 07957 461832

Club & Gig enquiries 07885 742763

Please leave a message if no answer- thank you!

The Limes, Preston St, Faversham ME13 8PG.

CD REVIEW

Jez Lowe – Oubliette (2025)

A new CD by Jez Lowe is always a treat to look forward to, and Oubliette is no exception. Jez has such a knack of writing songs that touch you in various ways. Songs about so many different subjects, sometimes sad, sometimes political (but in a gentle way), sometimes lively, sometimes slow, but somehow always very human. He can make you feel sad, reflective, happy, or literally have you rolling with laughter – a true gift to be able to write songs that so many people can relate to in so many different ways. Oubliette reflects all these qualities. Oubliette is also the title track of this CD – the sentiment wishing there was a box somewhere to store your memories in – a very powerful image. As often with Jez his songs are based on people he has known, his local area and personal experiences, Elephant Rock, about an outcrop of rock on the beach near Hartlepool which blew away one night, Sanctuary Land about Durham Cathedral, A Message from a Mandolin referring to his instruments which got stolen along with his car, but this being Jez he has turned it into a song as if written from the mandolin back to him – who else would think of this? An Old Man's Eyes, Taggerman, Get Your Skates On and Freebody's Wake are life lessons, and Barry & the Anthracites is a lovely rock & roll style tribute to old friends. Hardanger Engel is about an incredibly emotional subject, a boy being drowned, but Jez turns it into a story about his journey at sea, accompanied by dolphins & seals, which somehow brings the point home even more strongly. There is light relief in the form of Frozen Roman with its hilarious "latin" one-liners and Chewy Moved about a Star Wars Wookiee moving to the Tyne. Such a delicious variety of subjects and songs all so well-written. Jez truly is a master of his craft, well-respected by his peers and fans alike, and Oubliette is a worthy addition to his catalogue of CDs.



Sue Watson

MOORE or LESS FOLK CLUB

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

Friday 14th August - Closed for festivals

Friday 11th September - Singers Night

All club nights 8.00 to 10.30pm
Entrance fee £4.00 (including raffle)

Enquiries to Chris Wilkin 07821 606076

The
TENTERDEN FOLK SESSIONS

The Tenterden Club

Wednesday 12th August
Wednesday 9th September
Wednesday 14th October
from 7:30 to 10:30



The Tenterden Club
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TN30 6AT
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: aroundkentfolk@btinternet.com T: 01233 626805
W: www.tenterdenfolkfestival.com/Tenterden-Folk-Sessions/

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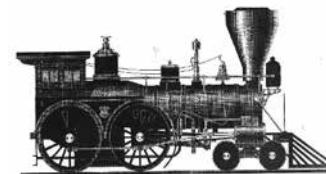
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FEATURED GUESTS

04 August - Singaround
11 August - Singaround
18 August - Singaround
25 August - Singaround
01 September - We Mavericks
08 September - George Boomsma
15 September - Steve Tilston
22 September - Michell, Pfeiffer and Kulesh
29 September - Dan Walsh

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

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Go to Broadstairs Folk Week Aug 7-14.
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see you there - great live music, (great cafe!)



Something Sleeps
Sep 3



Manor Manouche
with Thomas Abrahams
Sep 17



Luke Jackson
Oct 1



George Sansome
Matt Quinn
Oct 15



Simon Kempson
Oct 29

Thursday Folk
Doors at 7pm for 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 Snottledogs
session/singaround.
projected words 7.30 free

3rd Wed

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

Booking now:
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Ducato Piotrowski &
Jerome Davies
Findlay Napier
Churchfitters (9/12)
Enda McCabe
Burns Night
Hannah Scott
Sam Brothers
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Kilcoyne ++



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www.rosslyncourt.com/events

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Thursday Folk- The first hour only is livestreamed on above link from 7.30

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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

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

Assistance dogs only, please.

August 1	Come All Ye	Bring songs & tunes	£5 cash
August 8	Come All Ye	Bring songs & tunes	£5 cash
August 15	Come All Ye	Bring songs & tunes	£5 cash
August 22	Come All Ye	Bring songs & tunes	£5 cash
August 29	Come All Ye	Bring songs & tunes	£5 cash
Sept 5	Lynne Heraud & Pat Turner		£12 cash

Exquisite vocal harmony, new & old songs, ingenious smut

Sept 12 Brian Peters £12 cash

Melodeon, concertina, guitar, trad songs

Ballad Forum Sunday 13th Sept 10:45-16:15 £45 cash

Choose a ballad in advance to sing & talk about

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

Sept 19 Sound Tradition £12 cash

Old & new songs in glorious four-part vocal harmony

Sept 26 Kent Songs Collective 'Electrifying Force' £12 cash

Bob Kenward, John & Di Cullen, Sue Watson, Sue Evans, Laurie Jeal

Oct 3 To be announced

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

Unaccompanied Irish traditional songs, stepping

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

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



Sussex Folk News (August & September 2026)

August has always been a doldrum month for folk clubs with organisers realising that this is a month of festivals and family holidays. All but one of the guest booking folk clubs in Sussex have adjusted their booking programmes accordingly which should make this column much shorter than usual.

I'll start this time with the Eastbourne club which meets on the first and third Wednesdays of each month, upstairs in The Lamb Inn, High Street, Old Town, Eastbourne, BN21 1HH. Both the third Wednesdays will be Open Stage nights which leaves just the two first Wednesdays with guest performers.

On 5th August 2026 they will feature the very popular Sally Ironmonger & Brian Carter. They put on a brilliant show, firmly rooted in the folk music tradition, but including some hints of jazz and blues and other genres. Mostly self-penned, their songs were moving and funny and quite catchy. Most of all, they were fun and joyous entertainers.

On 2nd September a new pairing will be making their debut in Sussex. The Cornwall based transatlantic duo 'Our Atlantic Roots' fuse together poetic lyrics and cinematic instrumentation, creatively presenting a blend of the cultures they are individually from, by merging genres characterized by their country and folk roots. Audiences consistently praise the duo for their tight vocal harmonies, honest storytelling and for Mac's impressive guitar performance.

The Lewes Saturday folk finds itself in a difficult time at the moment as this announcement on the club's website tells us: -

"Due to uncertainties with the future management of the Elephant and Castle, please check here or contact us before attending any event. We are on for this Saturday but for future events, please check our website at <http://www.lewessaturdayfolkclub.org> " They think that their August nights will go ahead as planned but they will be following their usual August

policy of having Open Nights with no guest performers and this year there are five August Saturdays. A message that these are "Good nights to try performing for the first time to friendly listeners in an informal setting with instrumental & vocal groups welcome."

The home of the Horsham folk club is the Normandy Centre in Denne Road, Horsham, West Sussex RH12 1JF meeting on Sunday evenings. With the club's summer break lasting all of July and August, the highlight of their September programme will be on Sunday 13th September with the excellent singer and musician Jim Causley from Devon. He is an all-round entertainer and during the past decade Causley has been nominated no less than six times for a BBC Radio 2 Folk Award. He was nominated as "Singer of the Year" at the 2017 BBC Radio 2 Folk Awards. His unique voice and persona have helped him become one of the most well-known and respected figures of today's contemporary roots and folk scene.

Uckfield Folk Club meets on the third Tuesday of the month starting at 7.30pm at the Station Pub, in the centre of the town; not in August when they do not meet and this September on the 15th their guest performers will be one of their resident groups. Four Gone Confusion – John & Di Cullen and Pete and Brenda Storer.

Meanwhile, the weekly Chichester folk club continues in its regular way each at the Chichester Inn every Monday from 8.15 to 11pm with most of their meetings given over to theme nights and club evenings with one guest evening each month. On the 10th August they will present The Courtiers who are a Portsmouth based four piece Celtic folk band. They draw on traditional music influences from both sides of the Atlantic to create a lively and eclectic mix of foot-stomping sounds. Then on September 21st they will be listening to the incredibly talented Dan Walsh. His ever-burgeoning reputation has seen him tour the world, from Canada and the USA to Australia, New Zealand and across Europe, everywhere winning new fans for this rare mix of virtuosic musicianship, moving and amusing songwriting, and winning charm.

Vic Smith

READERS' LETTERS

Dear Alan, I have been a folk enthusiast for many years and have attended folk clubs in towns and villages where we have lived around the country - Yorkshire, Bucks, Kent, etc and I am a regular at Tonbridge.

I admit that I go along mostly to sing along to familiar material and by the attitude of those attending, the rest of the audience do the same.

In recent years the guest appears to attend for the sole purpose of demonstrating the song he or she has written to a live audience. Sometimes the song is well worth listening to, but frequently it is an evening spent as an opportunity to demonstrate their ability to chant in rhyme.

My point being that the artiste is advertised as "traditional songs, plus their own material". This should read "an evening of their own material". It is rarely possible to join in which, I believe, is what a folk club is about.

I spoke briefly to Roger R, who was most sympathetic.

I have noted that when attending Festivals, a sing-around is made up of rousing folk songs where everyone is encouraged to join in.

Kind regards Angela Clark

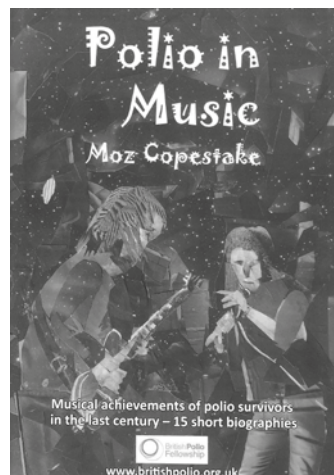
(Editor's question. Do you agree with Angela, or not?)

BOOK REVIEW

Polio in Music - Mox Copestake

I've just read this short book which highlights, through 15 short biographies, the musical achievements of polio survivors in the last century. It was written by Mox Copestake, himself a polio survivor, to show that polio did not stop survivors achieving great things in the world of music. The biographies include Joni Mitchell, Brownie McGhee, Judy Collins, Steve Harley, Neil Young, Donovan, Michael Flanders of Flanders and Swann, and several others. Their life stories are generally available on the internet if you care to search for them but it is good to have the stories of these successful polio survivors brought together in one place. Mox originally researched the stories for a series of articles in *The Bulletin* which is the members magazine for the British Polio Fellowship but realised it would take at least four years to include them at the rate of one per issue so decided to put them together in this book. I assume it is to do with the fact that most of the featured musicians grew up in or lived through the skiffle era and the early folk revivals that makes so many of them relevant to this magazine. Even Flanders and Swann songs get sung in sing-a-rounds and folk clubs.

Alan Castle (Editor)



PRESS RELEASE: Broadstairs Folk Week, 7–14 August 2026, Broadstairs, Kent

Last summer, in its 60th year, Broadstairs Folk Week was named one of the best places to be in August anywhere in the world. This August it returns to Broadstairs, Kent from 7–14 August 2026, turning the seaside town around Viking Bay into a living stage with more than 400 events in over 20 venues – and around 160 of them free.

Pubs, church halls, the clifftop Pavilion and the bandstand all take part, with everything from ukulele playing and maypole dancing to latenight roofraisers and quiet, unplugged sets – all located above the town's wide, sandy beach. Around 250 volunteers help run the week, which brings an estimated £9.1 million into the local economy each year, supporting pubs, cafés, accommodation, traders and shops across Thanet.

The 2026 programme is one of the strongest yet. Jethro Tull's Martin Barre opens proceedings with a special preweek show, followed by headline appearances from Tankus, Elephant Sessions, The Men They Couldn't Hang, 3 Daft Monkeys, Eliza Carthy and the Martin Simpson Trio. They are joined by artists including Michael McGovern – whose intimate, story-rich songs have gone viral on social media – Miranda Sykes & Jim Causley, Suntuo Susso & the Gambian All Stars, Barry Kerr, Barb Jungr, Tim Edey, Bridget St John, Nancy Kerr, Banter, Urban Folk Quartet, Honey & the Bear, Ken Wilson, the Johnny Quinn Macs and Peter's Field by Sean Cooney.

Families can head to Hobby Horse Club each morning to meet Clarence the Dragon and the hooden horses, with inclusive musicmaking led by Inspiration Creative's Zoe, Peter and Evie and live music from band-in-residence Giddy Up, while the Marsh Family and award-winning Gentle Ceilidh with Krista & the Woodurchins keep all ages moving. New for

2026, we also have Create, Relax and Reset at Bleak House, to take a few minutes away from the hustle and bustle during the week.

"People talk about the folk revival, about younger audiences looking for music that feels human again," says Kai Hoffman, Director of Broadstairs Folk Week. "Here you can feel that happening in real time – teenagers discovering a song in a back room, families dancing on the bandstand at Viking Bay, latenight crowds at the Pavilion. We've brought together a lineup that nods to our 60 year history but also looks forward, with artists from Michael McGovern to Elephant Sessions reshaping folk, roots and acoustic music for the next generation."

Week, Weekend and Day tickets – with and without camping – plus individual event tickets are on sale now at broadstairsfolkweek.org.uk. Last year many headline events and campsite places sold out, so early booking is advised.

Kai Hoffman



New Roots 2026

As usual, the Trestle Arts Base, St. Albans, was swirling with young energy for the 2026 New Roots competition for young folk musicians on 19th April this year. It's a delight and often a revelation to hear how young musicians are making our traditional and newer music their own, showing it in new lights while keeping their affection for its origins.

When New Roots first started in 2000 for young folk musicians under 25, the idea was that winners would be chosen. In that first year, the judges were presented with such an array of talent that they felt that it was unfair to single out an overall winner. They decided instead to offer all the finalists performance opportunities at folk clubs and festivals, as this would be more valuable to them than a title and healthier for the music itself. The performance opportunities take them out of their home range, giving them a chance to play for new audiences in new settings. Finalists are selected from recordings which they submit. They are chosen for the quality of their performances and choice of music, rather than the quality of their recordings.

Past New Roots finalists include The Young 'Uns, Mawkin, The Askew Sisters, Laurel Swift, Megan Wisdom, Missing Richard, Rowan Piggott, Rosie Hodgson, and one of this year's judges, Megan Wisdom.

A recent innovation is that all the performers in the final concert are professionally videoed by Joe McBurnie. This gives them an

Continued Overleaf...

excellent piece of publicity material to show to bookers and circulate on social media. The stage at the Trestle Arts Base is large but not intimidating and the natural acoustics are good. It allows performers to make eye contact with the listeners. There is always a buzz in the air as young musicians meet and mingle. Folk club and festival organisers attend the concert to get the feel of the performers live and unamplified.

Barry Goodman compères the final concert, giving each performer a warm and reassuring introduction. His enthusiasm for the whole event shines through. There was a huge variety of talents on display this year, as always. Alice & Ruby played old and new music in charming, inventive fiddle duets with a variety of pace. Woody Lander sang energetically with guitar and banjo, adding some US Old-time flavours. Kessenyan offered striking and tight unaccompanied harmonies with power, glorious bass lines, good humour and warmth, each individual voice coming over with its own character. Martha Khan sang interesting songs of her own in a fine voice with guitar, and a commanding unaccompanied version of Let No Man Steal Your Thyme. Kind Cult offered a mixture of new and traditional songs with soft sweetness, unaccompanied and with guitar. Gabriel Bath gave us traditional and traditional-style songs in an assured, resonant voice, with intelligent and pleasing accompaniment on Anglo concertina and a satisfying chorus. Hyem, clearly enjoying themselves on stage, produced a wide range of international musical styles with the delightful surprise of a clog dance bravely done on a rather sticky floor. Harry Keith brought that rare object, a high-quality electric piano, offering his own interpretations and spontaneous variations on traditional tunes. The Rookery sang traditional & newer songs in sophisticated vocal harmony with guitar and fiddle, obviously at ease in each other's company, and their pleasure in performing together communicated itself to the listeners.

The judges (this year performers Megan Wisdom and Mossy Christian, Tash Daly of ABM Music agency and Valmai Goodyear of Lewes Saturday Folk Club) were highly delighted by the quality and variety of music, and particularly by most of it being traditional or in traditional style. They gave every act a summary of their impressions with possible ideas to use in future performances, including suggestions about introducing the music and engaging with listeners. Entrants who are not invited to the final also receive helpful comments about aspects of their performance which are good and tips for making them better. It is well worth applying to get the opportunity of playing at folk clubs and festivals which would not otherwise consider performers without a proven track record. Other benefits are the advice of the New Roots judges, the high-quality video of the final concert and the opportunity to socialise and play with other young musicians (there's a session while the judges are out of the room deliberating). Encourage your friends! Give it a bash! Just making a recording to submit to New Roots is good fun and good for your musical development. It doesn't have to be professional quality.

The closing date for entries for next year's New Roots is 31st January 2027. The date for the finals at The Trestle Arts Base, St. Albans, AL4 0JQ has yet to be fixed, and will depend on the availability of the venue and the judges. The event is held during the daytime, from 11:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., making it easier to attend without needing accommodation. Listeners are welcome, especially folk club and festival organisers.

New Roots is the brainchild of Alison Macfarlane. It is always looking for new performance opportunities to offer finalists. If you run a folk club or festival and would be interested in helping young musicians in this way, please contact Alison at info@new-roots.org.uk.

Videos of the New Roots 2026 finalists can be seen on the New Roots YouTube channel <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UChq9bytlWX8fDs-t8j6R8nQ>

Valmai Goodyear

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Essex Folk News

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- English tunes session with some songs at The Unicorn, Marden, from 7.30pm on the last Tuesday of the month
- We'll soon be practising our unique collection of old Kent carols for the Christmas 2026 season. Email us if you're interested

See Singdanceandplay.net for lots of events!

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PRESS RELEASE - Cranleigh Folk Club relaunches, with new venue and new night

Starting on Friday 14 August, one of the region's long-established acoustic music clubs is moving to a new venue, at the purpose-built Studio in the Village Hall, Peaslake.

At the same time Cranleigh Folk Club is changing the evening it meets to the second Friday of most months, starting at 8pm. Free first visit for newcomers.

Performers at Cranleigh Folk Club come from a wide area to provide regulars and visitors with a variety of entertainment: traditional, contemporary and original acoustic music. The Club welcomes all musical styles (as long as they are acoustic).

Several of the club's regulars are well-known on the local acoustic music scene, performing a variety of their own compositions and interpretations of modern or traditional music.

Newcomers are welcome - and new performers will be given a friendly reception, as well as free admission on their first visit. Every evening is different, but it's always good-hearted and enjoyable.

There's no need to book – just turn up – but anybody who would like more information should email cranleighfolkclub@gmail.com.

Cranleigh Folk Club meets on the following Friday evenings:

- Friday 14 August
- Friday 11th September
- Friday 9 October
- Friday 6 November (first Friday)
- Friday 11 December.

In The Studio, Peaslake Village Hall, Walking Bottom, Peaslake, GU5 9RR

There is a modest entrance fee of £5 on the door, to cover the cost of hiring the hall. The first visit is free for newcomers. There isn't a bar, but people can bring their own refreshments.

More information about Cranleigh Folk Club here:

<https://e-voice.org.uk/cranleighfolk/>

Peter Prowse

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Egerton Folk and Blues Club

Now meeting at the Charing Sports Pavilion, off The Moat, Charing (TN27 0JJ) on the last Tuesday of the month, from 7.30 pm. All still welcome - and not just folk and blues.

No paid guest performers, just residents, itinerants and wayfaring strangers (rich or poor).

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



THE PERILS OF ON-LINE SHOPPING

C E7 A
Now my girl Joan, she buys from home,

D7 G7 C
In fact whilst lying in bed;

C E7 A
She did once shop, until she dropped

D7 G
Reclines now first instead.

C C7
She used to grab bags, and choose her glad rags,

F Ab7
To storm the stores and stalls downtown;

C E7 A
But now she opts, well out of shops,

D7 G7 C
For men who do the rounds.

Chorus:

C E7 A D7 G7 C
She has a man, from Amazon*, No longer pops to shops;

C E7 A D7 G
Prefers a man, who has a van, To bring her socks and frocks.

C C7 F Ab7
Some ring to order, from Interflora, To bring them more of phlox and stocks;

C E7 A D7 G7 C
She has a man from Amazon*, To bring her rocks and chocks.

Amazon men, are her best friends, And satisfy her needs;
With silks and spice, at discount price, Across the Seven Seas.
But what now shocks me, is all the boxes, That leave us little living space;
And once indoors, you won't see floors, For all the cardboard waste.

Can't get enough, so sends for stuff, That we don't really need;
Like more handbags, and foreign flags, And sacks of livestock feed.
We've outboard motors, although not boaters, Lawn mowers stowed away indoors;
Though those that hover, aren't so much bother, They barely touch the floors.

Chorus:

We've have two miles, of bathroom tiles, More clocks than Waterloo;
Plus beds for pets, we've yet to get, But just in case we do.
Iranian markets, display less carpets, We can't prise open half our doors;
We've special brooms, for every room, If ever we find floors.

Our House Contents, to all intents, Reads more like scores from sport;
Air fryers five, hair driers nine, Gold rings yet to report.
Smartphones eleven, our toasters seven, And pairs of trainers twenty two;
Remote controls, God only knows, They're always lost from view.

Chorus:

How could we need, more books to read, Especially in Urdu;
And as for things, like plastic limbs, Let's hope we never do.
How they mislabel, occasional tables, We have them everywhere instead;
Plus more vacuums, than all our rooms, Including our coal shed.

We've garden tools, and barbecues, Somewhat beyond our means,
We've feature bins, and seats that swing, Hot tubs and trampolines.
The lack of space in, our habitation, Means now I have to sleep outside;
And feel sea sick, when seats swing quick, On wet and windy nights.

Chorus:

She plans more things, her man can bring, And traces routes he goes;
Then once he's been, she'll watch on screen, The DoorCam videos.
Yes even nightly, says she's served rightly, By Mister Amazonian Man;
"That man of mine, is bang on time,

D7 G7 C C7 B7 Bb7 A7 D7 G7 C
Very much in his prime....Very much in his prime....Very much in his Prime van".
Other home delivery companies are available, but don't scan very well.

JJ CROSSLEY 2025

STOP PRESS As we go to press we have just learnt that the very popular Folk @ the Platform 2 Bar in Tenterden will, from September, be relocating to the nearby Social Hub and will be rebranded to Folk at the Hub. For further information use the contact details for Dave and Eileen shown on their existing advert. The long running Tenterden Folk Sessions which also take place at The Tenterden Club have not yet announced any changes but are considering their position.

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

Issue No. 137 October/November COPY DATE: 18th August

Then ...

18th August 2026 – October / November

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18th December 2026 – February / March

18th February 2027 – April / May

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