

FOLKLIFE, May 2021. FOLKLIFE TRADITIONS JOURNAL ~ FTJ

Since lockdown, an international online audience, and it's much easier to explain (Zoom chats) that we carry researched articles, if we now refer to our 'FT pages' as a 'Journal' - our aims include stimulating a wider interest in folk studies & folk culture, and many of you kindly tell us how much you value these articles: *"The magazine has been a welcome arrival during the lockdowns. I particularly enjoy the song features with their research. I put them up on the stand, sight read them and then work turning the notes into music."* Thank you all for your support. *Eleanor and Sam*



 Folklife Studies & Traditions: Folklife News Books & recordings announced; Folklife Societies news p4–5;10

* Online archive, downloads folklife-traditions.uk

FOLKLIFE TRADITIONS PAGES: contributors.

We are regularly indebted to regular contributors **Doc Rowe** for his list & pictures; to **Roy & Lesley Adkins, Brian Bull, Charles Menteith, Gwilym Davies, Meurig Williams, Ian Pittaway,** and **Helen Adam**, for songs, tunes, articles, & notes; and to **others,** from time to time, as listed in FT / above. And we remember the late **Roy Palmer**, a generous contributor for over 30 years, from August 1983 in *FW's* predecessor, the *Somers' Broadsheet*. *FT header artwork*: © our logo, **Chris Beaumont**; and morris dancers © **Annie Jones;** from The Roots Of Welsh Border Morris (Dave Jones)

Folklife news: societies & organisations



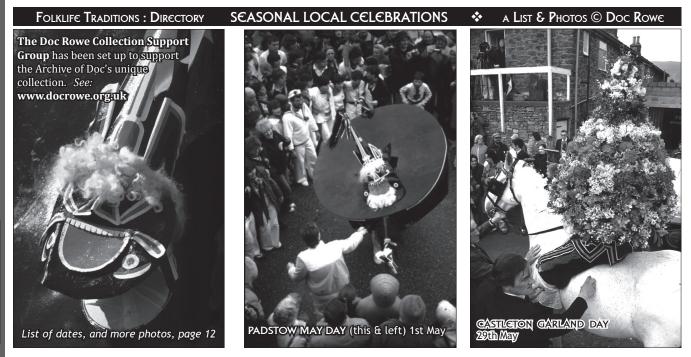
trac, Music Traditions Wales ®

The folk development organisation for Wales, which works to promote our traditional music, dance and song at home and beyond. It is funded by the Arts Council of Wales and the Welsh Government. <u>www.trac.wales</u> and <u>www.trac.cymru</u> Free online resources:

- Traditions: Articles on Wales' iconic instruments & song traditions according to the experts. <u>https://resources.trac.wales/traditions</u>
 A Collection of Welsh Folk Songs with the help of Arfon Gwilym, one of our major tradition bearers: videos, soundfiles, dots, and words. <u>https://songs.trac.wales</u>
- Tunes: get playing videos, soundfiles, and dots. https://resources.trac.wales/tunes
- trac organises Gwerin Gwallgo, a residential Folk Weekend for 11-18s [see our FESTIVALS & WORKSHOPS DIARY]

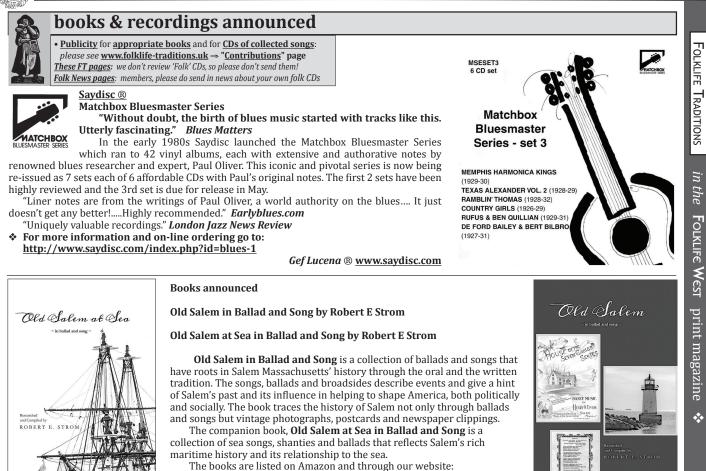
See *trac* website, <u>https://trac.wales</u>, for **news**, **directory**, **listings**, **resources**, and on **Facebook**, at <u>facebook.com/traccymruwales</u>, where you will find videos, details of online gigs, etc. **B** *trac*, **Music Traditions Wales**, trac<at>trac-cymru.org, 01446 748 556, <u>https://trac.wales</u>

The Traditional Song Forum (TSF) (a) A national organisation dedicated to the promotion, performance and publication of traditional folk song in the UK. The Traditional Song Forum has organised successful talks on Zoom, more are planned. These talks are very popular, now attracting international visitors, currently limited to 100 places; so if interested, see <u>www.tradsong.org</u> sooner rather than later. This website is a gateway to a number of useful resources for those interested in researching or performing traditional folk songs. There is a newsletter to sign up to. Latest details on <u>www.tradsong.org</u> All enquiries to (B) Martin Graebe (TSF Secretary), martin.graebe@btinternet.com



FOLKLIFE TRADITIONS JOURNAL *

Books and Recordings announced



www.bobandjenstrom.com/news

Roy and Lesley Adkins, authors of history and archaeology books, and FTJ contributors, have produced their latest occasional news, their Spring Newsletter, which you can view in your browser at https://www.adkinshistory.com/newsletters/newsletter-60/ Two audiobooks of Roy and Lesley's books:

Jack Tar Audiobook: the Jack Tar book (on life in Nelson's navy) is now available as an unabridged audiobook (16 hours and 10 minutes in length), published by Hachette Audio and beautifully narrated by John Telfer. You can obtain it both in the UK and in the United States (and probably elsewhere as well), through the normal audiobook sources. The ISBN is 9781405550253

Trafalgar Audiobook: the audiobook of Trafalgar, also narrated by John Telfer, is now available in the United States, published there by Tantor under the title Nelson's Trafalgar, which matches the title of the book in the US. You can obtain it through the normal audiobook sources, including Audible on Amazon.com. You can also find more details on Tantor's own website.

Folklife news: societies & organisations

The Folklore Society ®

Office address: The Folklore Society, 50 Fitzroy Street, London W1T 5BT, 0203 915 3034. Our Folklore Society Library and Archives are still at University College London

Library and Special Collections, and publicly available for consultation.

Many of our books can be loaned by Folklore Society members. See website for details of the following conferences:

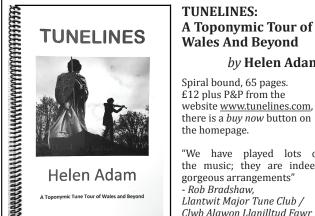


The Roots of Welsh Border Morris by the late Dave Jones, 1988, revised 1995; ISBN No. 0 9526285 0 3.

£5 by post from: Mrs. A. J. Jones, Millfield, Golden Valley, Bishops Frome, Worcs WR6 5BN 01885 490323; email chatter@anniej.me

- * Fri 21 Sun 23 May. 09.30 am -5.30pm. Folklore, Learning and Literacies conference: online conference
- Sat 4 Sun 5th Sept. The Sky in Legend and Tradition, The 15th Legendary Weekend of The Folklore Society. Medieval Hall, Cathedral Close, Salisbury SP1 2EY

Contact us: thefolkloresociety@gmail.com, 0203 915 3034. www.folklore-society.com



A Toponymic Tune Tour of Wales and Beyond

by Helen Adam

FOLKLIFE TRADITIONS JOURNAL 67, MAY 202

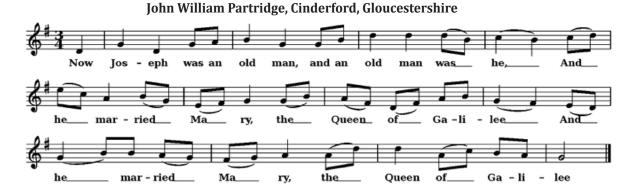
Spiral bound, 65 pages. £12 plus P&P from the website www.tunelines.com, there is a buy now button on the homepage.

"We have played lots of the music; they are indeed gorgeous arrangements" - Rob Bradshaw, Llantwit Major Tune Club / Clwb Alawon Llanilltud Fawr

The Cherry Tree Carol - Part 1, by Charles Menteith

The following song was sung by John William Partridge (67) of Cinderford, Glos, and collected by Maud Karpeles & Patrick Shuldham-Shaw, 22 August 1952.

The Cherry Tree Carol



- 1. Now Joseph was an old man, and an old man was he And he married Mary, the queen of Galilee, (x2)
- 2. Now Joseph and Mary walking down the garden green, Where cherries hang heavily on every limb. (x2)
- 3. "Pick me some cherries, Joseph, pick me some cherries, do, Pick me some cherries, Joseph, that hang on the bough." (x2)
- 4. Then up spake old Joseph with his words so unkind, "Let the man gather the cherries that owneth the child." (x2)
- Then up spake our saviour all in his mother's arms: "Bow down, thou blessed cherry tree, that Mary may have some."(x2)
 The very top branches bowed down to her feet:
- "Now you can see, Joseph, there are cherries for me." (x2)
- "My child shall not be christened in silver nor in gold, But in some twigged cradle where the babes are rocked all."
 Then Mary placed her own child upon her knee,
- Saying, "Son, come now and tell us what this world it shall be."(x2)
- "The moon it shall be darkened and be burst into blood, And this world set on fire by the vengeance of God." (x2) Spoken: We wish you a merry Christmas.

See glostrad.com (1), where you can hear the original recording as well as a version by John Kirkpatrick.

The first six verses as sung above form essentially a song on their own concerning the cherry tree. They were also sung by Mary Ann Roberts ⁽²⁾ at Winchcombe, Glos, in 1909, as well as Ellen Plumb at Armscote, Warks, in 1911, and later undated ⁽³⁾. In verse 5 they both sang "in his mother's womb" rather than "arms", the former being more usual among traditional singers. Verses 7 - 9 belong to two other songs, the three forming a cycle. More of the others later.

The origin of the Cherry-Tree Carol goes back to the Gospel of Pseudo-Matthew (4), itself a compilation of earlier apocryphal gospels, those which were not officially recognised by the churches. However, the source of Pseudo-Matthew's account of the flight into Egypt is unknown. Be that as it may, it contains the following text (5), in contrast to the Carol, where the action is usually situated before Christ's birth.

CHAPTER 20. "And it came to pass on the third day of their journey, while they were walking, that the blessed Mary was fatigued by the excessive heat of the sun in the desert; and seeing a palm tree, she said to Joseph: Let me rest a little under the shade of this tree. Joseph therefore made haste, and led her to the palm, and made her come down from her beast. And as the blessed Mary was sitting there, she looked up to the foliage of the palm, and saw it full of fruit, and said to Joseph: I wish it were possible to get some of the fruit of this palm. And Joseph said to her: I wonder that thou sayest this, when thou seest how high the palm tree is; and that thou thinkest of eating of its fruit. I am thinking more of the want of water, because the skins are now empty, and we have none wherewith to refresh ourselves and our cattle. Then the child Jesus, with a joyful countenance, reposing in the bosom of His mother, said to the palm: O tree, bend thy branches, and refresh my mother with thy fruit. And immediately at these words the palm bent its top down to the very feet of the blessed Mary; and they gathered from it fruit, with which they were all refreshed. And after they had gathered all its fruit, it remained bent down, waiting the order to rise from Him who had commanded it to stoop. Then Jesus said to it: Raise thyself, O palm tree, and be strong, and be the companion of my trees, which are in the paradise of my Father; and open from thy roots a vein of water which has been hid in the earth, and let the waters flow, so that we may be satisfied from thee. And it rose up immediately, and at its root there began to come forth a spring of water exceedingly clear And when they saw the spring of water, they



Date Palms

FOLKLIFE TRADITIONS in the FOLKLIFE WEST print magazine

**

The Cherry Tree Carol - Part 1, by **Charles Menteith**

rejoiced with great joy, and were satisfied, themselves and all their cattle and their beasts. Wherefore they gave thanks to God."

Earlier, according to Pseudo-Matthew, "when the second year was past, Magi came from the east to Jerusalem." Jesus would thus have been 2 years old already, making his ability to speak less miraculous than if he had been less than a month old.

In this account we have a (date) palm. Not surprisingly this was replaced, in Northern Europe, by the familiar cherry tree. And we have no suggestion of jealousy from Joseph. He demurs at climbing the palm to reach the fruit, but I've seen many date palms, and I well understand that he wouldn't want to risk himself by climbing up.

The theme of Mary and the palm occurs in the Koran, *Sura XIX, Maryam, v.23-*26. It occurs when Mary is giving birth to Jesus. Joseph is not present.

To trace the origin of the carol further, we need to look at the late mediaeval Mystery Plays. They were performed outdoors, often on Corpus Christi day, each play being performed by another craft guild. Three complete sets or cycles survive, from Chester, York and, probably, Wakefield. Two plays survive from Coventry; the rest of the cycle was lost in the 19th century. However, we are here concerned with another cycle, the N-Town plays; the phrase N-Town



Head of a Palm, with Dates

occurs in the prologue, for the actor to put in the name of whichever town the play was being performed in. Unlike the other cycles, this is not associated with any particular town nor guilds. The present manuscript appears to be a compilation from three different sources, arranged in chronological order of the plays, from the creation to the last judgement. The language of the plays indicates an East Anglian origin, while the paper used for the transcription dates to ca. 1463-75. During the 17th century the volume was in the library of Sir Robert Bruce Cotton. His librarian, Richard James, assumed that it contained the plays performed at Coventry, and catalogued them as *Ludus Coventriae*. The name stuck and was repeated well into the 20th century.

So what is the origin of the quarrel between Joseph and Mary? The 2nd century Protoevangelium of James ⁽⁶⁾, chapter 13, tells how Joseph, returning from working away from home, finds Mary pregnant. A short altercation follows, but the text is more concerned with Joseph's dilemma as to what to do in this shameful situation.

No. 12, Joseph's Doubt, of the N-Town ⁽⁷⁾ plays includes 136 lines of increasing accusation and defence, before God sends an angel to put Joseph straight. The depiction of Joseph as a cuckold seems to have been a popular comic turn. Mary Joan Winn Leith suggests, in *The Origins of "The Cherry Tree Carol* ⁽⁸⁾, an origin of this dialogue from a "Syriac Christian dialogue hymn sung in church by twin choir - one singing the part of Joseph; the other, Mary - as part of the Christmas liturgy." The idea might have been brought to Europe by returning Crusaders.

The N-Town play no. 15, the Nativity, contains the following dialogue as Mary and Joseph are getting close to Bethlehem (yon cyté):

MARIA A, my swete husbond, wolde ye telle to me What tre is yon standynge upon yon hylle? JOSEPH Forsothe, Mary, it is clepyd (called) a chery tre. In tyme of yere, ye myght fede yow theron youre fylle.

MARIA Turne ageyn, husbond, and beholde yon tre, How that it blomyght now so swetly! JOSEPH Cum on, Mary, that we worn at yon cyté, Or ellys we may be blamyd, I telle yow lythly (in haste).

MARIA Now, my spowse, I pray yow to behold How the cheryes growyn upon yon tre, For to have therof ryght fayn I wold! And it plesyd yow to labore so mech for me. **JOSEPH** Youre desyre to fulfylle I shal assay, sekyrly (try, surely). Ow! To plucke yow of these cheries - it is a werk wylde For the tre is so hygh, it wol not be lyghtly! Therfore, lete hym pluk yow cheryes begatt yow with childe.

MARIA Now, good Lord I pray thee, graunt me this boun, To have of these cheries and it be youre wylle. Now I thank it, God - this tre bowyth to me down! I may now gaderyn (gather) anowe and etyn my fylle.

JOSEPH Ow! I know weyl I have offendyd my God in Trinyté, Spekyng to my spowse these unkynde wurdys, For now I beleve wel it may non other be But that my spowse beryght (bears) the Kyngys Son of Blys!

Here we have all the elements of the modern Cherry Tree Carol, except that Mary speaks to the tree, via God, rather than Christ speaking directly, whether before birth or after. Indeed, in some modern versions it's still Mary who speaks. (See Mrs. Herbert's version in part 2.)

References

- 1 http://glostrad.com/cherry-tree-carol-the/
- 2 http://glostrad.com/cherry-tree-carol-the-2
- 3 https://www.vwml.org/record/CJS2/10/2586
- https://www.vwml.org/record/VWMLSongIndex/SN24563
- 4 https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Gospel_of_Pseudo-Matthew
- 5 http://gnosis.org/library/psudomat.htm
- From: Ante-Nicene Fathers Vol 8 1886 ed Alexander Roberts, Sir James Donaldson, Arthur Cleveland Coxe 1886.
- 6 https://www.asu.edu/courses/rel376/total-readings/james.pdf
- 7 https://d.lib.rochester.edu/teams/publication/sugano-the-n-town-plays
- 8 https://www.biblicalarchaeology.org/daily/biblical-topics/post-biblical-period/the-origins-of-the- cherry-tree-carol/#note02r

Charles Menteith © 2021

* The Cherry Tree Carol - Parts 2 & 3 will appear in September 2021 Folklife Traditions.

FOLKLIFE TRADITIONS

in the

Folklife West print magazine

FOLKLIFE TRADITIONS JOURNAL *



- 2. For the day that the wedding was 'pointed to be The farmer wasn't there for to give her away, So as the young lady the farmer couldn't spy She began to lament and then for to cry.
- 3. This lady went home with her heart filled with woe, A waistcoat and trousers this lady put on, All for to course with him it was her intent, With a dog and a gun away Molly went.
- 4. She hunted all round where the farmer did dwell, She oftentimes fir'ed but nothing could kill, Till the jolly young farmer came out in the field.
- 5. "Good morning, kind sir," this lady did say, "What perhaps that you ain't at the wedding today? What perhaps that you ain't at the wedding today For to wait on the lady and give her away?"
- 6. "Oh no, kind sir, that never could be true. I loved her too well for to give her away," She give him a glove that was lin'ed with gold, She told him as she found it as she came along.
- 7. This lady went home with her heart filled with joy, Giving out a great notice she had lost her glove, "And the man that will find it and bring it to me Twenty guineas I'll give him or his bride I'll be."
- 8. Soon as the young farmer he heard of the news Straight away to the lady the farmer did go, "It's my honour, my mistress, I have found your glove, And I hope that you'll own it and grant me your love."
- 9. "The love's ready granted," the lady implied "I love the sweet breath of a farmer quite well, I'll be mistress of my dearie, [maid?] milking my cows While my jolly young farmer goes whistling to plough."
- 10. But after they got married she told of the fun That she'd been a-hunting with a dog and a gun, But since I have gained him so fast in a snare I will keep him for ever - he's my joy and my dear.



Notes from Gwilym Davies.

Source:

Danny Brazil, Staverton, 5th May 1978, collected by Gwilym Davies.

Notes:

In the incomplete verse 4, it is the third line of both verse and tune that is omitted. © **Gloucestershire Traditions**

Gwilym writes:

I collected the song in 1978 from Danny Brazil at Staverton. The tune is the same as 'Green grows the Laurel'. I've always thought it was an unlikely story but it seems to have hung in there in oral tradition for many years.

If you go to the webpage

http://glostrad.com/golden-glove/ it will lead you to a nice rendition from singer Mark Broughton, who has recorded several of the songs from Glostrad.

Gwilym Davies © 2021

Gwilym is a collector, singer, dancer, and musician, and helped set up GlosTrad, http://glostrad.com

His new book is "Catch it, Bottle it and Paint it Green" aka Tales of a Folk Song Collector.

We welcome researched songs and tunes, and details of local traditions, for these 'FOLKLIFE TRADITIONS' pages.

FOLKLIFE is a non-profit group of volunteers, publishing FOLKLIFE WEST, including its FT JOURNAL, and online BYWYD GWERIN [FOLKLIFE WALES]

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- www.folklife.uk (folk news pages)
- www.folklife-traditions.uk (FTJournal)
- www.folklife-directory.uk (online Directory)
- www.bywyd-gwerin.cymru (Wales)



While sorting out during the virus lockdown, I came across a set of old diaries covering 1974, 1975 and 1976 in which I had kept quite a detailed account of my activities in what was then known as the 'Folk World'. I thought that sharing their contents may be of interest - even value - to those working in research in this area.

I married in Newcastle during the summer of 1973, and we moved to Sunderland soon after. Prior to this, I had begun to write songs (starting in 1968) and had made appearances at Folk Clubs in Carlisle where I was raised, and also at the university folk club in Newcastle. I had also done a few solo concerts when requested. Not knowing anyone in Sunderland, we sought out the local music scene, and this led to the formation of 'Steelwerks' folk trio, with Sunderland folk singer Pete McMillan and a work colleague from school in Hartlepool, Gwyn Fletcher. The group name was based on a song I wrote in the early 1970s about an errant pupil - the title was 'Me Father werks in the Steelwerks'.

Pete and I were residents and compères at the Blue Bell Folk Club in Sunderland during 1973 and most of 1974. We also performed semiprofessionally both as a duo, and as a trio with Gwyn during 1974 and 1975. I also did a few solo gigs. During the school year 1974/5, I became involved in a major Folk Club project with folk comedian Mike Elliott who had been asked by a hotel manager to start a Friday night club at the Staincliffe Hotel at Seaton Carew near Hartlepool. From the summer of 1975, I undertook a new position at my school as Head of History and gradually my interest moved from performance to the use of traditional song in the classroom and consequent research into traditional song. Within a year or so the song performance element had generally been pushed out by involvement in dance and music.

The Folk Clubs

Perhaps the most interesting element relating to folk song in this period was the development of the Staincliffe Folk Club. The Staincliffe's manager liked folk music, and wanted to have a weekly show which would attract numbers and not necessarily an audience steeped in traditional song. On reflection, it was to prove a broad church with either no or limited floor singers, and Mike and myself as compères, thus being much more in the style of a Music Hall night than a sing-around. There were often two guests who would take up the whole evening. As my wife, Barbara, sat on the door and kept accounts, we also have records of finances and my diaries record in various places names and dates of performers and comments on individual nights (1).

It is possible to reflect here on the eclectic nature of the music at the Staincliffe. Lamplight, a Tyneside duo included Dave Price (cousin of Alan Price of the Animals) and could only be described as contemporary while Gaitway, from Sunderland, did many Eagles' covers. Mike Elliott and Ying Tong John (John Straughan) were folk comedians who could also take most of their acts, add in a few swear words, and find work in North East working men's clubs. Gateshead accountant (or was it tax man?) Ian Mills wrote satirical songs. At the same time, Roy Bailey and Steve Benbow both featured mostly traditional material while many of the others - groups, duos and solo artists- tended to mix both traditional and contemporary.

As noted above, my wife was 'on the door' accompanied by a school colleague Matty Stoddart - and it was necessary to have two as audience numbers rarely fell below 100. We suspect that the entry fee was somewhere between 30p and 40p - the modern equivalent of £3 to £4. In terms of performers' pay £20 is the equivalent of £160 today and £30 of £240. A quick trawl through the list gives some idea of the 'street value' of individual artists and what these artists may have expected to take home individually. The main body of the diaries also contained useful further references to finances (2).

It can be taken as sign of the success of the Staincliffe 'Folk Club' venture that by May 1975 we were in a position both financially and in terms of local support to put on a big show. The Long Scar Hall in Seaton Carew (demolished recently) was to be the venue and the services of the great Jazz Legend Stephan Grappelli were acquired. Grappelli was accompanied by another music legend in folk, blues and jazz guitarist Diz Disley. Mike Elliott compered and my wife and I looked after the door. The relatively lengthy entry in my diary covers the event:

6 May 1975. A Memorable day! Mum and dad came to school they were staying at the Osborne Hotel in Grange Road. Picked me up and we went to the Staincliffe for coffee. Stephan Grappelli, Diz Disley and Mick were all there - I was introduced. Went to the Longscar Hall where Barbara and I were on the door. There must have been 600 to 700 people there. An excellent performance by Grappelli - we went back to the Staincliffe afterwards for coffee and another chat (with the performers).

The concert marked the end of our year-long link to the Staincliffe Folk Club. I was due to start a new and more responsible job after the summer break, and my wife and I both found the Friday night commitment thirty miles from home a bit of a strain.

As noted earlier, there were also links with the Tuesday night Folk Club at the Blue Bell in Sunderland between 1973 and 1975. There had been a folk club there before we came to Sunderland - upstairs and inside the pub itself. By the time we were involved, a building had sprung up on the car park for the purpose of a discotheque and that became home to the folk club. My abiding memory here is of Mike Elliott standing in the DJ's 'pulpit' and delivering his rather amusing and vaguely naughty version of the Geordie Bible.

My diaries revealed the acts and dates (3). Unfortunately I kept no record of the fees paid out. As can be seen (3), most of the acts were local to the north east of England and probably played for a fee lower than that offered at the Staincliffe. From memory it was a lively little club with audiences usually in excess of 30 or 40 and a large number of regulars – both audience and floor singers.

Perhaps the most interesting - and in the light of both future and current folk activity across the UK - the most productive was Langham Tower Club which operated in the main building of Sunderland College of Education. The resident band there was a foursome called Hendon Banks – two of which were lez Lowe and Ged Foley. Bob Fox, who lived locally, but studied at Durham, was another regular, as was Marie Little. All remain well known in 'folk circles' almost fifty years later. Langham Tower was a very different club from the Staincliffe. The entry fee reflects its dependence on students, but the quality of the singers' nights shows that it was popular with entertainers as well who were prepared to perform without pay and to have a good night out.

Continues next page

(1) The performance list and fee paid (where noted) ran as follows:

1974. October: 4th, Bob Buckle £18; 11th, Johnny Handle £18; 18th, ?? £35; 25th, Martin Windsor £25.

November: 1st, Beggar men £25; 8th, Johnny Handle £20; 15th, Bobby Eaglesham £20; 22nd, Tom Gilfellon £25; 29th, ?; December: 6th, Steve Benbow; 13th, Hedgehog Pie; 20th, Alan Taylor; 27th, Northern Front.

February: 7th, Graham Shaw/Ian Mills £35; 14th, Saffron £27 (Summerfield); 21st, Hawkes Folly £30; 28th, Mick Elliot £20.

March: 7th, Brigante £22; 14th, Roy Bailey £20 plus; 21st, Brandywine Bridge £25; 28th, Nick and Chris £15 (possibly Nick Fenwick and Chris Rust). April: 4th, Peabody and McNulty ; 11th, Ying Tong; 18th, Gaitway/Bernie Parry; 25th, Lamplight. May: Therapy.

(2) For example, four consecutive entries for January 1975:

Staincliffe two guests – Paul and Steve from Crooked Oak, and Ray Stubbs and Rod – Door Takings £30.50 - £20 to Crooked Oak; £12 to Rav and Rob - £2 to Keith and £1.50 to Bar (KG –Barbara)

'Good evening with Rapunzel and jam session afterwards - £32 on door - £18 to group - £4 expenses - £11 to bank'

'Fettlers – excellent evening - £50 on door and £35 for the group – 'gave one of the best evenings the club has had'.

'Just over 100 in door £35.50' – pay out £30.

(3) Blue Bell. 1974:

20/01, 'Playing at the Blue Bell Hotel". 12/03, "Jim Sharpe" at Folk Club. 19/03, Nick Fenwick at Folk Club (no Gwyn). 26/03, 'Penny Hedge'. 23/04, Folk Club – Tradition. 30/04, Folk Club – Alistair Anderson. 07/05, – Folk Club Lamplight. 14/05, Residents. 04/06, Boyle and Irvine. 18/06, Pete Betts. 09/07, Friends. 20/08, Residents Night. 10/09, Pig and Whistle. 17/09, Richardson Family. [Large blank space]. 05/10, Ed Pigford.

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^{1975.} January: 3rd, Crooked Oak £20; Ray Štubbs £12; 10th, Rapunzel £18; 17th, Fettlers £35; 24th, Marie Little and Pete Smith £30; 31st, Travelling People £20.

FOLKLIFE TRADITIONS JOURNAL * Hobed o Hilion, from Helen Adams • NE Folk ... early 1970s



FTJ 67. P10 C MAY 2021

West Wales fiddler and composer Helen Adam is sending in Welsh tunes for *FTJ*, based on her latest project, <u>www.tunelines.com</u>

This is an **interactive site**, in which you click on a map, and it shows you the tune or tunes that is named after the place you've clicked on. And you can hear or download the tune as dots. Take a look ! Helen will be featuring a different Welsh place each time, with the tune, and countermelody and harmony, and talking about it a little.

Hobed o Hilion

n Welsh traditional tune, second part Helen Adam

This is one of my favourite Welsh tunes and so sneaks into the Tunelines section even though eagle-eyed readers will realise it is not a toponymic tune (named after or about a place). The title variously translates as 'Bits and Pieces' or 'A Handful of Nails' depending on how literal you want to be, and really gives no sense of this haunting and evocative air.

It is often played in other keys, E minor is a favourite for sessions, but for me it sounds really well in C minor, especially on the fiddle as it then sits lower in the instruments range.

In my accompaniment I've put the melody at the bottom but do try the tune both as a solo and as a duet.

This tune along with other Welsh gems can be found in another book compiled by the wonderful Rob Bradshaw. Called 'Tywi Tunes' it is a collection of the music that the tune club I ran for around 10 years in the Tywi valley played together, and copies are available for anyone interested. The book is available from me, at **helenadamfiddle@gmail.com**, for £8 plus p and p.

Helen Adam © March 2021

Helen Adam is a freelance fiddle/violin player, singer, performer and composer living in beautiful West Wales. A prolific composer and songwriter, whose current project is a collection of duets to introduce more of the lesser known Welsh dance tunes to a wider audience. Also performing with George Whitfield as the **Fiddlebox** duo (George, accordion and vocals, and Helen, violin and vocals), a unique sound blending our varying influences and styles, including Klezmer, Rock, Classical, Celtic folk, Welsh dance music and song, Blues, Bluegrass, <u>www.fiddlebox.net</u>



See also WALES NEWS PAGES this issue, and our ONLINE WALES DIRECTORY, <u>www.folklife/Cymru</u>



North East Folk Clubs, Folk Song and Entertainment in the early 1970s by Keith Gregson

continued from previous page

During the first few months of 1975, I was out at folk clubs around the north east two or three nights a week - these clubs included the Marquis of Granby in Durham City, the Davy Lamp in Washington, the Glebe and Arts Centre - both in Sunderland. Many of the nights I attended were residents' nights, and these were often packed with semi-professional folk musicians. **(4)**

As my period of heavy involvement in folk clubs came to an end around 1976, I continued to attend the **Belford House Folk Club**, about a mile away from where we lived. For a number of years after, this remained a highly popular club. It functioned in a building dedicated to former shipyard workers and its aim was to give club members and anybody else interested a good night out. The resident band Frigate, which included the club steward Bruce Storey, had a huge store of popular chorus songs, and the host 'Paddy' Hylton was a highly amusing and entertaining – ever encouraging the audience to join in. The guest list was also extensive and I have memories of excellent nights there with Mike Harding, Therapy and Bobby Eaglesham. At one point BBC Radio Newcastle recorded a residents' night at the club (in which I took part). Tapes of the programme survived and many years later were

(4) In January 1975, for example: 06/01/1975, Singers' night at S A C Folk Club – 10p entry – 'excellent night' – Bernie Parry, Hendon Banks, Pete Smith, Steve Evans, Ray and Rob, Ed Pigford, Frankie O'Neill and others.

When 'Chris Foster from Dorset' appeared at the Marquis of Granby in March 1975, 'also there was Bob Fox, Stewart Smith, Graham Whitley, Jim Boyle, Hendon Banks, Rapunzel and the Travelling People – Foster was a very good traditional singer.' turned into CDs and distributed to interested parties. Internationally famed Sunderland Indie band 'The Futureheads' got hold of a copy and recorded some of the songs on their much acclaimed 'Rant' Album in 2012. Their re-working of the folk club/music hall standard 'The Old Dun Cow' caught on in Sunderland with people of all ages and was once sung with great gusto at a packed Stadium of Light Concert.

Conclusion

The aim of this brief article is to give some idea of what I would have called a Folk Club was like in the urban North East of England during the early 1970s.

I would describe such clubs mostly as 'broad churches', to some extent filling the gap left by the decline of the music halls, but 'broadly' accepting most forms of song and music from out and out pop to the fringes of classical music. The same diaries also include an equivalent amount of information on my own activities as a semi-professional performer in folk clubs and elsewhere during the same period, including the nature of my act and the origins of most of the songs and tunes I used in various acts. Should time still allow (i.e. varying forms of viral lockdown) I intend to follow this up in another article similar to this one in the near future.

Keith Gregson © 2021

Sunderland September 2020

www.keithgregson.com, 0791 035 1272, Keith.gregson@talk21.com

Folklife news: societies & organisations

Folk 21 ®

Folk 21 has evolved as an organisation to support and encourage the development of guest booking folk clubs and venues that book folk artists in the UK. **There is no membership fee** required to participate in **Folk 21**, so if you would like to join us then become a member of the **Folk 21 Facebook group** and contribute to the discussions or start a thread of your own. **Folk 21 West Midlands**

We hold an annual meeting in the spring where delegates from

local folk clubs and venues that promote folk concerts share ideas and strategies for raising the profile of folk music.

Folk 21 West Midlands has also set up a Facebook page to advertise guest bookings in the region.

Folk clubs and venues that promote concerts for folk artists are eligible to join Folk 21 West Midlands, so if you are interested in becoming involved please contact me at <u>colingrantham@gmail.com</u> (B) Colin Grantham, <u>colingrantham@gmail.com</u>

*

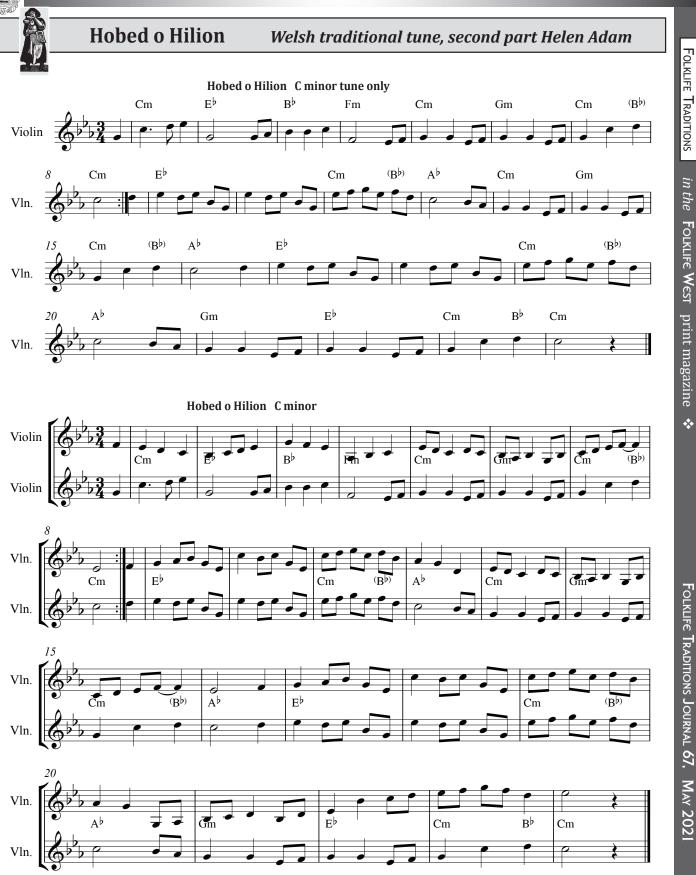
print magazine

in the Folklife West

TRADITIONS

FOLKLIFE

FOLKLIFE TRADITIONS JOURNAL *



We welcome researched songs and tunes, and details of local traditions, for these 'FOLKLIFE TRADITIONS' pages. FOLKLIFE is a non-profit group of volunteers, publishing FW, including its FT pages, and online BYWYD GWERIN [FOLKLIFE WALES] Free membership of FOLKLIFE is offered to regular FT contributors. • www.folklife.uk • www.bywyd-gwerin.cymru

FOLKLIFE TRADITIONS: DIRECTORY

SEASONAL LOCAL CELEBRATIONS



a list compiled by DOC ROWE © plus a few *contributors as named







top: **Padstow May Day** *left, and 2 photos above:* **The Burry Man** South Queensferry, Lothian 2nd Fri. in Aug.

We are very grateful to Doc for generously providing such detailed listings & photos.

Football in the river Bourton-on-the-Water Glos Bank Holiday Mon *A note from the late Bill Pullen.* For over 100 years, on [what is now] August Bank Holiday Monday, Bourton-on-the-Water, Glos., had "Football In The River (Windrush)" - not mass

participation but organised by Bourton Rovers Football Club (1st play 2nds or 2 mixed teams), to benefit themselves and local charities; it is run alongside a Fete on the Green and draws huge crowds. ~ **Bill Pullen** See: <u>www.soglos.com/sport-outdoor/28383</u>

/Bourton-Football-in-the-River

...and that's it, folks! next deadline 19 Jul for FW 1 Sep.

The Doc Rowe Collection Support Group has been set up to support the Archive of Doc's unique collection. See: www.docrowe.org.uk

n v	www.folklife-tradit	ions.uk 🔸	ه ما	LIST & PHOTOS © DOC RO	WE	
	MAY, & WHIT & ASCENSI	ONTIDE (Ascension	ntide is 40 da	avs after Easter)		
	Well Dressing	various		Ascensiontide - Sept		
	May-Pole Raising	Barwick In Elmet	Yorks	Whit/May		
	Padstow May Day	Padstow	Cornwall	1st May		
	Minehead Hobby Horse	Minehead	Somerset	1st-3rd May		
	Jack In The Green	Hastings	Sussex	May Bank Holiday wk'end		
	Cadi Ha' [Summer Kate] stree		Flintshire	Early May * Eds		
١.	Well Dressing	Malvern	Worcs	May BH weekend * <i>Eds</i>	0	
Ľ	Randwick Cheese-Rolling Randwick Wap	Randwick Randwick Glos	Glos	1st Sun in May heese-rolling * <i>Audrey Smith</i> †		
	Knutsford Royal May Day	Knutsford	Cheshire	First Saturday in May	Ľ	
	Ickwell Green May Day	Ickwell	Beds	Saturday / Monday	events	
	Helston Flora Dance	Helston	Cornwall	8th May		
	Abbotsbury Garland Day	Abbotsbury	Dorset	13th May	subject to change,	
	Etwell Well Dressing	Etwell	Derbys	2nd week in May		
ų.,	May Festival	Hayes Common	Kent	2nd Saturday in May	2	
	Dunting The Freeholder			erland Wed near 18th May	ee ee	
b.	Cyclists Memorial Service Mayoring Day/Hot Pennies	Meriden	E. Sussex	nds Sun near to 21st May 23rd May	¥.	
-	Blessing The Sea	Hastings	E. Sussex	End of May	T	
	Castleton Gala Day	Castleton	Derbys	29th May	Ĭ	
	Grovely Rights	Wishford Magna	Wilts	29th May		
6	Founders Day	Chelsea Royal Hospi	tal London	29th May	a	
	Arbor Tree	Aston on Clun	Salops	29th May	n	
	Bampton Morris Dancing	Bampton	Oxon	Spring Bank Holiday		
	Headington Quarry Morris		Oxon	Spring Bank Holiday	3	
	Hunting The Earl Of Rone	Combe Martin	N Devon	Spring Bank Holiday	σ	
	Cheese Rolling Maypole Raising	Cooper's Hill, Birdlip Barwick-in-Elmet	W. Yorks	Spring Bank Holiday Spring BH every 3 yrs 2020	please	
	Dicing For Maids Money	Guildford	Surrey	Mid-May [was late]an]	a S	
	Dovers Games	Chipping Campden	2	Friday after Bank Holiday	l 0 0	
	Scuttlebrook Wake	Chipping Campden		Sat. after Bank Holiday		
	Planting the Penny Hedge	Whitby	Yorks	Ascension Eve	۲ ۲	
	Beating The Bounds	Tower Of London	London	Ascension Day ev.3yrs 2020	Ō	
	Bisley Well Dressing	Bisley	Glos	Ascens. Day * Audrey Smith †	<u><u></u><u></u><u></u><u></u><u></u><u></u><u></u><u></u><u></u><u></u><u></u><u></u><u></u><u></u><u></u><u></u><u></u><u></u><u></u></u>	
	Wicken Love Feast	Wicken		Ascension Day	I <u>,</u>	
U News	Well Dressing St Mary Redcliffe Rush Sund	Tissington	Derbys	Ascension Day Whit Sunday	E E	
	Bread & Cheese Throwing		Glos	Whit Sunday	check first	
li.	Dicing For Bibles	St Ives	Cambs	Whit Monday	•	
1	<u>JUNE</u> Thoutod Morris Fostival	Theretad	Facer	lune (July		
	Thaxted Morris Festival Blessing the Boats	Thaxted Whitby	Essex N. Yorks	June / July June		
	Appleby Fair	Appleby	Cumbria	2nd week June		
	Border Riding	Hawick	Borders	Fri after 2nd Mon in June		
	Gŵyl Ifan: Codi'r Pawl Haf /	St John's Day Festiv	al: Raising			
	Caerdydd / Cardiff Mehefin / June * <i>Eds</i>					
	Election of Mayor of Ock Str		Berks	Saturday near 19th June		
No.	Selkirk Ridings	Selkirk	Borders	Third week in month 23rd June		
-	Midsummer Fires Youlgreave Well Dressing	various Youlgreave	Cornwall Derbys	Saturday near 24th June		
	Tideswell Well Dressing	Tideswell	Derbys	Saturday near 24th June		
	Winster Wakes	Winster	Derbys	Sat following Sun after 24 Jun		
	Cakes And Ale Ceremony	Bury St Edmunds	Suffolk	Last Thursday in June		
	Rushbearing	Warcup	Cumbria	28th June		
	Walking Day	Warrington	Cheshire	Friday near 30th June		
	JULY					
	Horse Fair	Seamer	Yorks	July		
	Kilburn Feast - Mock Mayor			July		
		grave & Ambleside	Cumbria	1st Saturday in July		
	Grand Wardmote of Woodm Orange Parades	various		July/August		
	Vintners Street Sweeping to		N. Ireland	12th July London 2nd Wed July		
	Holsworthy Pretty Maids	Holsworthy	Devon	2nd Wednesday in July		
	John Knill Ceremony	St Ives	Cornwall	25 July (every 5 yrs) 2021		
t	Honiton Fair	Honiton	Devon	Tu. before Wed. after 19th Jul		
, 5	Italian Festival	Clerkenwell	London	3rd Sunday in July		
5	Swan Upping	The Thames	various	Usually third week in July		
l t	Doggets Coat and Badge Rad Eisteddfod Genedlaethol / M					
د م	Listennion Genediaethol / I	vational Eisteuulou		to 30 July - 6 Aug 2022 * Eds		
-	AUGUST		1 031201160	Eus		
	Gooseberry Contest	Egton Bridge	N. Yorks	First Tuesday in August		
	Rose Queen Ceremony	Little Beck	N. Yorks	First Tuesday in August		
	Feast of St Wilfrid	Ripon	N. Yorks	First Saturday in August		
_	Knighthood of Old Green	Southampton	Hants	1st full week in August		
	Rushbearing	Grasmere	Cumbria	Saturday near 5th August		
	The Burry Man	South Queensferry		2nd Friday in August		
	Burning The Bartle Coracle Race	West Witton	Yorks Pembs	Saturday near 24th August 2020: Sat 22 Aug * <i>Eds</i>		
	Loracie Race Notting Hill Carnival	Cilgerran Notting Hill	London	2020: Sat 22 Aug * Eds Bank Holiday Sat to Mon		
	Football in the river Bourton					

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Evam

Eyam Plague Sunday

Football in the river Bourton-on-the-Water Glos Bank Holiday Mon * Bill Pullen +

Derbys

Last Sunday in August



MAY 202 67. FOLKLIFE TRADITIONS JOURNAL

print magazine FOLKLIFE WEST thein **TRADITIONS** FOLKLIFE

FTJ 67. May 2021 🙋 p15

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® DOC ROWE	www.docrowe.org.uk	Doc Rowe	07747 687734	FOLKLIFE
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® TOM BROWN	www.umbermusic.co.uk	Tom Brown	01271 882366	ō
	www.umbermusic.co.uk		01271 002300	S
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Ø JOHN ADAMS & CHRIS PARTINGTON	www.village-music-project.org.uk	Gwityin Davies	01242 003094	le
Ø JOHN BILLINGSLEY	www.northernearth.co.uk	John Billingsley		
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® TOM & BARBARA BROWN	www.umbermusic.co.uk	Tom/Barbara Brown	01271 882366	Ę
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® The MICK TEMS ARCHIVE OF TRADITIONAL ARTS	www.folk.wales/archives.html	Mick Tems	01240 302101	0
England		men rems	01113 201031	읙
© The ARCHIVES OF CULTURAL TRADITION	http://www.shef.ac.uk/library/special/cectal			Ч
Ø The CHARLES PARKER ARCHIVE	www.birmingham.gov.uk/charlesparkerarchive		1 303 4549	print magazine
	The DOC ROWE COLLECTION ARCHIVE & Doc Rowe Collection Support Group www.docrowe.org.uk Access: see note on website			
B FOLKTRAX, the late Peter Kennedy's 'folktrax' website A	www.folktrax-archive.org	101 - 111 10		'n
Ø WILTSHIRE COMMUNITY HISTORY: FOLK ARTS section	http://history.wiltshire.gov.uk/community/folkint	ro.php	WEEKS WEEKS	na
USA Ø AMERICAN FOLKLIFE CENTER: please see under	Fs.5, Folklife Libraries	្មបំណារ បំព	I (La	άģ
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England Ø CAMBRIDGE & COUNTY FOLK MUSEUM	www.folkmuseum.org.uk	·····	01223 355159	n
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Ø NORTHERN EARTH	www.northernearth.co.uk	John Billingsley, editor		67,
	websites and blogs with articles			
Fs.10 FOLKLIFE STUDIES: FOLKLIFE RESOURCES ONLINE:	websites, and blogs with articles			\leq
Cymru / Wales (bilingual sites) Ø ALAWON BANGOR, Traditional Melodies, from Manuscrip	ts in Rangor University http://alawonhangor.word	press.com		MAY
CANEUON GWERIN, Exploring and showcasing folk songs		rdpress.com		Ν
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Ø MEU CYMRU, Welsh Tunes and Songs blog	www.meucymru.co.uk/music/alawchan.htm			2
England				
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FOLKLIFE TRADITIONS JOURNAL 67, MAY 2021

FOLKLIFE TRADITIONS

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FOLKLIFE NEWSLETTER folklife.uk/updates.html

FOLKLIFE'S free emailed NEWSLETTER

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