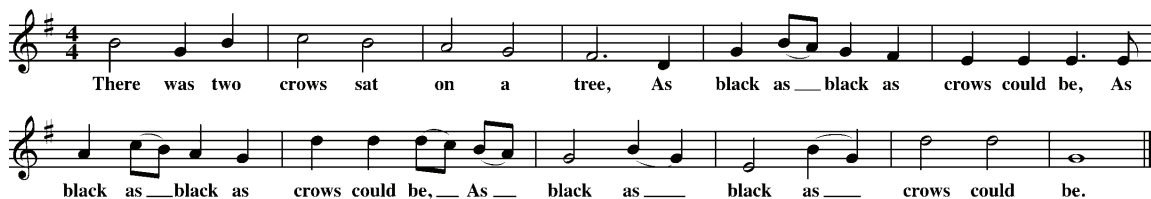




## The Three (or Two) Crows by Charles Menteith



## There was Two Crows, Stan Cope



1. There was two crows sat on a tree,  
As black as black as crows could be. x3
2. Now that poor crow said to his mate,  
Let's go and find some food to eat
3. Staightway they flew across yon plain,  
Unto an ox that had been slain.
4. They perched upon his poor backbone,  
And pecked his eyes out one by one.
5. Up came the farmer with his gun,  
And shot them all excepting one.
6. Now that poor crow flew back again,  
Unto his old oak tree again.
7. I am so dry I can not sing,  
I have not brought my bottle of gin.
8. Oh! it is so dark I can not see.  
I have not brought my specs with me.

It is uncertain what link there is between these rural versions, and the older, more literary, songs about which R & L Adkins wrote. The mere fact that a version is older does not prove that later versions are derived from it, especially as the older versions are Scottish, and thus geographically separate from those collected in Gloucestershire and Worcestershire."

## References

- (1) glostrad.com
- (2) [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/The\\_Banks\\_O\\_Doon](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/The_Banks_O_Doon)
- (3) [http://tuneearch.org/wiki/Annotation:Caledonian\\_Hunt's\\_Delight\\_\(1\)\\_\(The\)](http://tuneearch.org/wiki/Annotation:Caledonian_Hunt's_Delight_(1)_(The))
- (4) Menteith, Charles, 2016, FolkLife-Traditions 50 p 28-30
- (5) Sung by Bob Cross, Witcombe. Collected by Gwilym Davies 1 March 1988.
- (6) [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/William\\_Kethe](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/William_Kethe)
- (7) [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Louis\\_Bourgeois\\_\(composer\)](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Louis_Bourgeois_(composer))
- (8) Sung by Charlie Clissold, Morton Valance. Collected by Gwilym Davies 4 April 1977.
- (9) Sung by Stanley Cope, Ashton-under-Hill. Collected by Gwilym Davies 3 April 1974.

Charles Menteith © September 2022



## books &amp; recordings announced (see note p9 regarding appropriate publicity)

**A Notorious Chaunter in B Flat and Other Characters in Street Literature,**  
edited by David Atkinson and Steve Roud.

Paperback 193pp., ISBN 978-1-9161424-4-2.

**The Ballad Partners;** only from [www.theballadpartners.co.uk/publications](http://www.theballadpartners.co.uk/publications)

**UK £13 + £2.95 p&p.** Non-UK please email [info@theballadpartners.co.uk](mailto:info@theballadpartners.co.uk)

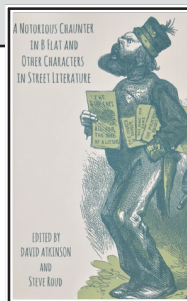
Covering a huge range of topics including the ballad trade and ballad singers from Dublin to Tewkesbury, the role of cheap print in political song and dissemination of news, a highwayman and even The Titanic.

## Contents:

A Notorious Chaunter in B Flat (1837) Introduction by Steve Roud;  
A 'Dark Man' of Dublin Songs: Finding Joseph Sadler - Catherine Ann Cullen;  
'Three Acres and a Cow': Political Song in the General Election of 1885 - John Baxter ; Valentine or Alan Tyne? Untangling the History of a Highwayman Ballad - Martin Nail; The Aberdeen Ballad Broadside of 1775/6 - David Atkinson; Samuel Harward: Ballad and Chapbook Printer in Tewkesbury, Gloucester, and Cheltenham - David Atkinson;  
Becoming Vellamo's Brother: Finnish Broadside Ballads about the Titanic Disaster - Silja Vuorikuru; Street Cred: Teaching the History of News Ballads and Broadside to Journalism Students - Harry Browne;  
George Nicholson's Literary Miscellany: Assembling a Mechanics' Modernity - Gary Kelly Thomas Sabine and Son: Street Literature and Cheap Print at the End of the Eighteenth Century - David Atkinson.



**The Ballad Partners** is a not-for-profit publishing company set up in 2018. It aims to publish conference papers and books on traditional song, music, dance and customs in order to raise awareness and encourage the study of the folk arts. Publications will interest anyone with an interest in song and performance culture, social history, book history and popular reading and literacy.



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

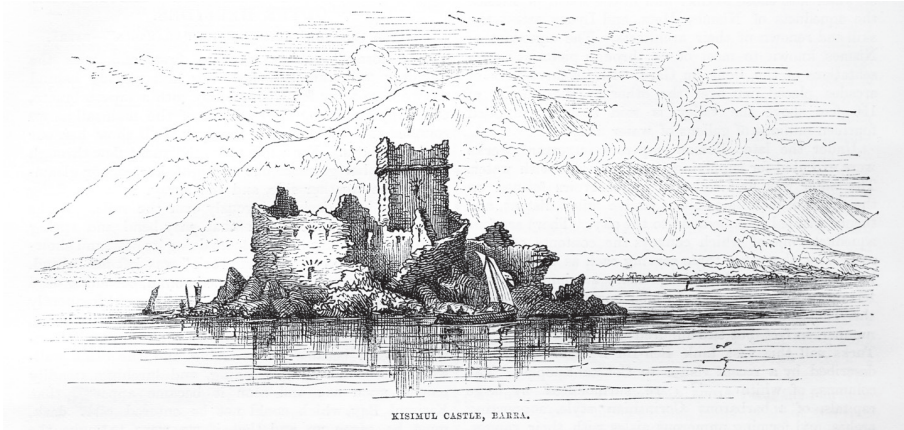
£5 by post from:  
Mrs. A. J. Jones,  
Millfield, Golden Valley,  
Bishops Frome,  
Worcs WR6 5BN  
01885 490323;  
email  
[chatter@anniej.me](mailto:chatter@anniej.me)



Who was Kishmul?, by Roy & Lesley Adkins



Location of Kishmul Castle.



The ruins of Kishmul Castle (*The Leisure Hour* 15, 1866, p. 632).

The song *Kishmul's Galley* – well known in many folk clubs – was made famous in a version recorded by The Corries in 1968. It began as a Gaelic waulking song called *Latha Dhomh am Beinn a' Cheathaich* ('One day I was on the misty mountain'). Waulking was a fulling process to finish the woven woollen cloth known as tweed. After being soaked in urine to remove natural oil and impurities, the cloth was laid on a flat surface and pounded to thicken and soften it. Waulking was hard, simple, monotonous work, generally done by women using their feet, though later on they took to sitting round a table and pounded the cloth with their hands. To pass the time and maintain the beating rhythm, numerous waulking songs were performed.

Waulking songs, like sea shanties, could be adapted from other songs and survive well after the originals were forgotten. The Gaelic song behind *Kishmul's Galley* is attributed to a 17th-century poet called Nic Iain Fhinn from the Hebridean island of Mingulay. This was a time when women were bards of various Scottish clans, and she is thought to have been the bard of the chief of the MacNeill Clan (probably Neill Og MacNeill or his son Gilleonan), who held the nearby island of Barra. (1) It is therefore possible that the original song was composed in praise of the exploits of the MacNeill Clan.

In the summer of 1907, Marjory Kennedy-Fraser collected the Gaelic words of *Latha Dhomh am Beinn a' Cheathaich* from Mrs Maclean of Barra and the tune from Mary Macdonald of Mingulay. (2) She published it in 1909, along with an English adaptation that was given the title *Kishmul's Galley*:

High from the Ben a Hayich  
On a day of days  
Seaward I gaz'd,  
Watching Kishmul's galley sailing.

Homeward she bravely battles  
'Gainst the hurtling waves  
Nor hoop nor yards,  
Anchor, cable nor tackle has she.

Now at last 'gainst wind and tide  
They've brought her to  
'Neath Kishmul's walls,  
Kishmul Castle our ancient glory.

Here's red wine and feast for heroes  
and harping too  
sweet harping too  
o - i - o u - o o - hi - o hu-o. (3)

A literal translation of the Gaelic was not given by Kennedy-Fraser, and her Gaelic title was *A' Bhirlinn Barrach* ('The Barra Galley'). Other Gaelic versions of the same song usually bear the title *Beinn a' Cheathaich*. Some commentators have suggested that hers is a different song, and yet a common theme is the heroic return of a galley that is much the worse for wear, followed by the crew being greeted with wine, food and music.

The song does not explain Kishmul, and assumptions are sometimes made that this was the galley's commander. The song came from the island of Barra, where everyone knew that Kishmul was a place, now more usually referred to as Kisimul. Barra is one of the most southerly islands of the Outer Hebrides, and within a bay on its southern coast is a small island on which Kisimul Castle was built. Accessible only from the sea, this castle had its own fresh water supply and for centuries was the stronghold of the chiefs of the MacNeill Clan. It was built in the late medieval period, and although recent archaeological excavations did not yield conclusive evidence for its construction, a new analysis of the documentary evidence suggests that the castle could date from the early 15th century. (4)

The MacNeill Clan established a formidable reputation as sea raiders, the maritime equivalent of the reivers on the Scottish-English border. In 1596 the Dean of Limerick visited the Hebrides and reported on the clan: 'MacNeil Barra ... who was reputed the best seafaring warrior in the Islands and is most remote to the north and by west ... has been accustomed to invade Ulla in Connaught [Ireland] ... and to prey in the sea coast of Connaught.' (5) Elizabeth I was then Queen of England and had to deal with insurrections in Ireland, a situation exacerbated by MacNeill's galley raids, which were even recorded in English state papers in Ireland. (6) For several centuries raiding was a way of life for the MacNeill Clan on Barra, so it is not surprising that traditional songs from there favoured that lifestyle. In none of the versions of *Kishmul's Galley* is it explained why the ship was damaged, but whether it was from storm or battle, any galley managing to return home after a raid would be treated as victorious, and the crew treated as heroes – hence the song's upbeat tone.

Kisimul remained a stronghold of the MacNeills throughout the 17th century, but was abandoned by the mid-18th century and became a ruin. (7) The explorer Isabella Bird visited the Outer Hebrides in 1860, a few years before demolition, rebuilding and restoration took place at Kisimul Castle:





## Who was Kishmul?, by Roy &amp; Lesley Adkins

'We were at anchor close to the shore in very deep water, in a noble bay or harbour ... We were close to a rocky islet not more completely covered by the sea at high water than it is by the ruins of Kisimul Castle, whose massive walls appear at high tide to rise out of the sea. This is the grandest ruin in the Western Highlands ... It has a stately keep, about sixty feet high, very massively built ... The area within the walls contains, among heaps of ruins, the well-defined remains of many dwelling-rooms, in which the McNeils of Barra must have been sumptuously lodged, in comparison with some of their neighbours ... In the centre of the area there is a large circular well, filled from a spring; and near the entrance is a dock adapted to the exact length and breadth of the McNeil galley, and defended by a strong wall from the action of the sea. The castle owes its beauty not to any grace of architecture, but to the exceeding picturesqueness of its irregular form, its singular insular position, and the fantastic loneliness of the bay in which it is situated.' (8)

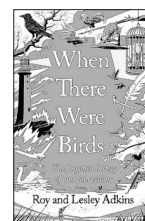
And what of the name 'Kishmul' or 'Kisimul'? One suggestion is that it is derived from the Gaelic words *cios* (tax) and *mul* (mound), meaning 'the mound where taxes were paid', but Kisimul has several alternative spellings, including 'Ciasmul', which is probably derived from Old Norse words meaning 'rock of the small bay'. (9) Nowadays, these two derivations seem too prosaic for an impregnable castle that had its own war galley and was hailed in song as a haven for heroes.

## References

- (1) The Macneil of Barra (Chief of the Clan) 1923 *The Clan Macneil: Clann Niall of Scotland* (New York), pp. 74ff. MacNeill can also be spelled as MacNeil.
- (2) John Coombs 2007 'Marjory Kennedy-Fraser-A Life of Song' in *Journal of the Sydney Society for Scottish History* 11, pp. 23-39 (see pp. 31-3).
- (3) *Ben a Hayich* should probably be Beinn a' Cheathaich - The Misty Mountain. Marjory Kennedy-Fraser 1909 *Songs of the Hebrides* vol. 1 (London, New York, Toronto), pp. 80-3.
- (4) Tim Holden et al 2016 'Kisimul, Isle of Barra. Part 1: The Castle and the MacNeills' in *Proceedings of the Society of Antiquaries of Scotland* 146, pp. 181-213 (see p. 183).
- (5) M.S. Giuseppe (ed.) 1952 *Calendar of the State Papers relating to Scotland and Mary, Queen of Scots 1547-1603, Preserved in the Public Record Office and the British Museum Vol. XII A.D. 1595-1597* (Edinburgh), p. 206.
- (6) Holden et al 2016, p. 185.
- (7) Holden et al 2016, p. 187.
- (8) *The Leisure Hour* 15 (1866), p. 634.
- (9) Anke-Beate Stahl 1999 *Place-Names of Barra in the Outer Hebrides* (University of Edinburgh PhD thesis), p. 214.

Roy and Lesley Adkins © September 2022

Roy and Lesley Adkins are authors of books on naval and social history, including *Jack Tar* and *Eavesdropping on Jane Austen's England*. Their latest book, *When There Were Birds: the forgotten history of our connections*, is published by Little, Brown (in hardback, e-book and audiobook). See [www.adkinshistory.com](http://www.adkinshistory.com).



## Folklife news: societies &amp; organisations



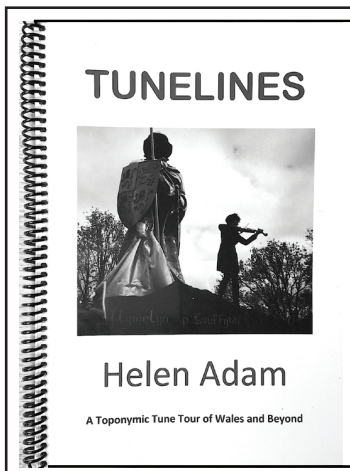
**The Folklore Society @** Office address: The Folklore Society, 50 Fitzroy Street, London W1T 5BT, 0203 915 3034. Our Folklore Society Library and Archives are still at University College London Library and Special Collections, and publicly available for consultation. Many of our books can be loaned by Folklore Society members.

**Forthcoming Folklore Society Events:**

- ❖ **03-04 Sept: Fate and Prophecy in Legend and Tradition**, 10:00-17:00, St John's Church Hall, Vicarage Lane, Knaresborough, North Yorkshire HA5 9AE. *The 16th Legendary Weekend of The Folklore Society*.
- ❖ **13 Sept: "In the Beginning all Wisdom was with the Animals" - Exploring Native American Myths**, 19:30-21:00. Online talk by Rosalind Kerven.
- ❖ **17 Sept: online, Folklore for All**. One-day online Conference, 09:30-17:00. Following the great success of our May 'Open Voices' online conference, a one-day conference online looking at other traditions and folk practices, including: Wellington's cones; magical darts in the Amazon, fairy tales, fairy seers in Romania; folk embroidery, re-enactment and live action role-play, and more. Speakers include: Shabnam Ahsan; Joel Conn; Samantha Hartford; Robert McDowall; Anna Milon; Sina Mook; Daniela Simina; James Whitaker; and others. £20 (£10 FLS members with the Promo Code: *log in to the Members' Only area*) via Eventbrite: [www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/folklore-for-all-tickets-348902335277](http://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/folklore-for-all-tickets-348902335277) Every ticket sold helps to support the work of The Folklore Society.
- ❖ **27 Oct: Contemporary Latin America**, Seventh Symposium 'Folklore and Anthropology in Conversation'. Joint Conference of The Folklore Society and the Royal Anthropological Institute. 10:00-17:00, 50 Fitzroy Street, London W1T 5BT.
- ❖ **8 Nov: The Katharine Briggs Lecture and Award 2022**, 18:30-20:30, The Brockway Room, Conway Hall, Red Lion Square, London WC1R 4RL. This year's speaker is **Katherine Langrish**, author of historical fantasies and essays on folklore and fairy tales, *'Fenrir's Fetter and the Power of Stories'*, on the power of stories for both good and ill. Tickets free but prior booking essential, please email [thefolkloresociety@gmail.com](mailto:thefolkloresociety@gmail.com) Followed by the Award for the best folklore studies published in the past year.
- ❖ **13 Dec: 'Dear Father Christmas': Tracing the history of a folkloric custom**. 18:00-19:30. Online talk. Dr Ceri Houlbrook (University of Hertfordshire) explores the tradition of children writing letters to Santa Claus. Contact us: [thefolkloresociety@gmail.com](mailto:thefolkloresociety@gmail.com), 0203 915 3034. [www.folklore-society.com](http://www.folklore-society.com)

**TSF** **The Traditional Song Forum (TSF) @** 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 [www.tradsong.org](http://www.tradsong.org) 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 [www.tradsong.org](http://www.tradsong.org)

All enquiries to @ Martin Graebe (TSF Secretary), [martin.graebe@btinternet.com](mailto:martin.graebe@btinternet.com)



**TUNELINES:**  
**A Toponymic Tour of**  
**Wales And Beyond**  
by Helen Adam

Spiral bound, 65 pages.  
£12 plus P&P from the website [www.tunelines.com](http://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



## Gwilym Davies, 21 January 1946 - 19 June 2022. Obituary by Colin Andrews & Stephen Rowley.

For over 50 years Gwilym Davies showed an extraordinary commitment to research, education and promotion of the folk arts. This includes song collecting throughout the 70s-2020s creating a substantial archive of field recordings and then making this and other archives available to the public in the form of a website ([glostrad.com](http://glostrad.com)), performing and projects. For this work he gained respect locally, nationally and internationally.

Gwilym was born in Waterlooville in Hampshire. He became interested in folk music in the 60s when he played banjo in a schoolboy skiffle group along with Tony Engle (Topic Records). He met Carol whilst studying languages at Cardiff University where he was a stalwart of the folk song club and even won a competition in the Inter College Eisteddfod singing with Colin Andrews. Initially teaching in Hampshire in 1970 he revived the Odiham mummers and acted with them for a number of years.

Gwilym then joined the Civil Service for a career that took them to Gloucestershire and Cyprus where they set up the Amazing Headbangers Morris Men, a group of energetic expats who stunned the locals by showing them that Englishmen could also dance.

Gwilym started song collecting in his early twenties, recording source singers. His first publication was *A Hampshire Collection* (1974) which he co-authored with his wife Carol. From his base in Cheltenham, Gwilym's song collecting activities expanded to include Devon, Gloucestershire, Shropshire and the Eastern USA, where he spent some time on secondment in the early 2000s. Over time he created a significant archive of field recordings of source singers, including previously undocumented songs and many other songs formerly only recorded in manuscript.

Throughout the latter part of the C20th Gwilym got to know the traveller community, in particular Wiggy Smith and the Brazil family from whom he recorded songs and tunes. Other notable singers included Charlie Hill and Ray Driscoll. He delved deeper than just the songs, collecting also from step dancers and musicians.

Whilst the collecting was an important part of his life he had a very practical approach to continuing the tradition. His **Green Willow band** with Alan Berry, Charles Menteith, Terry Brenchley, Peter Hill and Carol, played for barn dance and concerts, a tradition continued throughout his life and the latest band was **Pitchpole Jack** with Carol and fiddler Paul Meager. He also ran a **folk club in Cheltenham** from 1985 to 1990.

Gwilym was a morris dancer and musician with **Gloucestershire Morris Men** for more than 50 years, playing melodeon and pipe & tabor and including a term as Squire. He and Carol formed the group **Puzzlejug** which included several members of the morris side, Geoff Ramshaw, Colin Roffe and Tony Poulter. They focused on performing folk music and song from the county. This theme continued with Carol's folk choir, **Shepherd's Crook**, and the **Gloucestershire Wassailers**. This latter group was formed after Gwilym and Roy Palmer collaborated on *'Let Us Be Merry'*, a collection of Gloucestershire folk carols and wassails.

Carol and Gwilym worked very much as a team, engaging, educating and inspiring others with traditional music and song. This partnership was well demonstrated with projects like *Really Beautiful Company*, a dramatization of Percy Grainger's song collecting in the workhouse at Wincombe, Glos. They devised the project and collaborated with Tim Laycock on the script, then recruited members of the Wincombe Community to work with themselves and Puzzlejug to perform the play around the area and on local radio.

After retiring from the Civil Service, they moved to Wincombe, north of Cheltenham. They were instrumental in the founding of **Happenstance**, a border morris side. They also became more involved in early music and founded the group **Waytes and Measures**, members over time being Richard Sermon, Kathryn Wheeler, Geoff Ramshaw, Ian Umbers, Mike Edwards and Mike Boag.

In the early C21st he donated his original field recordings of over 1000 songs to the **British Sound Library**, and he considered how to make the material more widely available. This was given further impetus when a friend asked him 'Where could he find some local folk songs?'. There were few books and the EFDSS *Full English* project was still to be thought of. An idea formed to create a geographical archive online which included the field recordings as well as transcripts and manuscripts. A 'proof of concept' pilot was devised based on the Christmas carols and wassails from *Let Us Be Merry* ([www.gloschristmas.com](http://www.gloschristmas.com)). This was

then used as evidence for the Heritage Lottery Fund. A partnership was set up with Gloucestershire Archives and in 2016 the **Single Gloucester** project was born.

The project delivered the **GlosTrad archive** ([www.glostrad.com](http://www.glostrad.com)) – a large multi-media website containing over 1400 items collected in the county of Gloucestershire. In addition to conceiving the project and their own research contributions, Gwilym tracked down the owners of other archives and negotiated copyright approvals to make the site as comprehensive as possible. Carol was the project manager and also researched the biographies of the singers. He recruited and trained volunteer transcribers to ensure that the recorded material was also available in MIDI, ABC and PDF formats. Once the site was established they toured the county to raise public awareness through talks and performances as well as overseeing education projects taking the material back into the communities.

Gwilym took key roles in the folk infrastructure to further promotion, research and education of traditional music and dance. In the 80s and early 90s, he was an active member of the *EFDSS Gloucestershire District Committee*, helping to organize its events. When EFDSS closed the District system he became a founding committee member of its successor, **GlosFolk**.

On an academic front he was a member of the **Traditional Song Forum**, where he often gave talks. He was also a founding committee member of **The Taborers Society** (the international society for pipe and tabor players) organizing *The Taborers Symposium* to establish it as an international institution. He presented original research furthering our knowledge of the instrument for Cotswold morris dance, as well as researching pipe and tabor traditions in Arizona and Portugal.

At the time of his death, he was working on the final draft of an MPhil thesis on *Cotswold Morris Music*. It is hoped that this material will still be able to be submitted and published.

Throughout his adult life he was a singer, performing at sessions, folk clubs, pubs and festivals.

He is survived by Carol and his son and daughter.

### Additional information including relevant social media links

- [www.glostrad.com](http://www.glostrad.com)
- [www.gloschristmas.com](http://www.gloschristmas.com)
- [www.gwilymdavies.co.uk/index.htm](http://www.gwilymdavies.co.uk/index.htm)

## Resumé:

### Folksong and music collecting:

#### Sound and video recordings by Gwilym:

The original recordings are now in the British Library Sound Archive and copies are held by Gwilym's daughter.

- **Devon.**
- **Hampshire** (Carol & Gwilym).
- **Gloucestershire** (including many previously unknown versions of the wassail song).
- **Worcestershire** (including Stan Cope, Ashton-under-Hill [*via Charles Menteith*] and Tony Lloyd, Traveller Songs, Malvern [*via your editors*]).
- **Appalachian and Adirondack Mountains.**
- **Gypsy singers and step dancers** (including Wiggy Smith and the Brazil family).
- **Notable source singers:** **Charlie Hill** (Devon), **Ray Driscoll** (London and Shropshire) and **Colleen Cleveland** (USA).

#### Single Gloucester Project (2012-16):

Heritage Lottery Funded project to establish a comprehensive web-based archive containing folk songs and tunes collected in Gloucestershire (over 1400 items).

- **Partnership with Gloucestershire Archives.**
- **Volunteers Training.**
- **Outreach work included folk choirs, concert tours, podcasts, education programme and founding two festivals (West Country Traditional Music Day and Stroud Wassail).**
- [www.glostrad.com](http://www.glostrad.com)

#### Glos Christmas (2010)

A pilot project for GlosTrad to establish a **website resource of Gloucestershire folk carols and wassails**. Project led by Carol and Gwilym [www.gloschristmas.com](http://www.gloschristmas.com)





## Research

Beyond collecting, Gwilym was involved with folk song research and regularly contributes papers. In particular he provided original research presented at **Traditional Song Forum**, **The Mummings Symposium**, **The Pipe and Tabor Symposium** and other Forums nationally and internationally.

## Publications:

- **A Hampshire Collection.** Booklet of 10 songs, 2 tunes and a mummer's play (1972). Songs and tunes from Hampshire, from traditional performers by Carol & Gwilym.
- **"Grainger in Gloucestershire".** Booklet of 10 songs and 2 tunes (1994).
- **Catch It, Bottle It and Paint It Green – A life of song collecting.**
- **Let Us Be Merry.** Book & companion CD of folk carols and Christmas songs collected in Gloucestershire, compiled with **Roy Palmer** as co-editor (1996).
- **Contributed many articles to folk magazines on researched topics**, including *English Dance and Song*, *the Folk Music Journal*, *Folkwrite*, *Folklife Quarterly* (*Folklife Traditions Journal*); and *Musical Traditions* (online).

## Drama

- **Really Beautiful Company** (1991). A dramatized account of Percy Grainger's song collecting in the Cotswolds. Project was conceived and directed by Carol and Gwilym. Written by Tim Laycock.
- **Odiham Mummings Play** (1972). Revived by Gwilym.

## Organisation

- **EFDSS Gloucestershire District Committee**, committee member.
- **Glos Folk**, founding committee member (1995).
- **The Taborers Society**, founding committee member & officer. **Organizer, Taborers Symposium** (2005).
- **Customs and Traditions.** A trust formed to oversee the transfer of the **Peter Kennedy archives** after his death. Gwilym played an instrumental role in negotiating the transfer of the PK collection to the **British Sound Archive** at the British Library (2006).
- **The Traditional Song Forum**, member
- **The English Folk Dance and Song Society**, member.

## Musician and Singer

- **Green Willow & Pitchpole Jack**, barn dance and song bands (led by Carol & Gwilym).
- **PuzzleJug**, a folksong group promoting Gloucestershire folk song (led by Carol & Gwilym).
- **Shepherd's Crook**, Wincombe folk choir (led by Carol).
- **Gloucestershire Wassailers**, promoting the Gloucestershire Wassail Song tradition (Carol & Gwilym, with Richard Sermon).
- **Waytes and Measures**, Early music group (led by Carol and Gwilym).

## Morris

- **Cardiff Morris Men** (1970).
- **Winchester Morris Men** (1971-72)
- **Gloucestershire Morris Men**, former Squire (1976/7, 99), Bagman (1994/5) & lead musician
- **Amazing Headbangers Morris Dancers**, Cyprus (1981-84)
- **Spring Bottom Morris Men** (1985/86)
- **Happenstance Border Morris** (2010 on)

## Recordings include...

- **Blossom in Slaughter, PuzzleJug**, Cotswold songs.
- **Cotswold Music, Green Willow Band**, vinyl LP of songs and tunes collected in Gloucestershire and the Cotswolds.
- **Let us Be Merry, PuzzleJug**, Gloucestershire carols and wassails. A companion to the *Let us be Merry* Book (see **Publications** above.)
- **From Troubadours to Tudors, Waytes & Measures.** Medieval and Tudor Music.
- **Now is Yole Coming, Waytes & Measures.** Medieval and Tudor Christmas Songs
- **Step It Away**, Gypsy step dance traditions.
- **There's A Clear Crystal Fountain, Gwilym's solo CD**, songs from Hampshire, Gloucestershire and Devon.
- **This Way Up, Pitchpole Jack.**
- **Tom Goblin, Gwilym**, folk song.
- **Wild, Wild Berry**, field recordings of Ray Driscoll.



## A Note from the Editors.

We are very grateful to Colin and Stephen for this impressive labour of love.

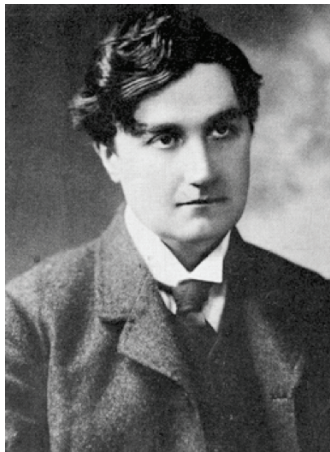
We first met Gwilym in the 1980s when he was running the folk club at the London Inn in Charlton Kings, Cheltenham.

Gwilym contributed 26 articles to this *Folklife Traditions Journal*, the last one being for the January issue this year. His articles are listed on [www.folklife-traditions.uk/index-articles.html](http://www.folklife-traditions.uk/index-articles.html) PDFs of the relevant print issues can be downloaded.

We will all miss Gwilym. We send our condolences and love to Carol and the family.

Sam and Eleanor

## Folklife news: societies & organisations



### 'Once more to the mouths of the people': ~ Vaughan Williams and Folk Song

Conference of the Vaughan Williams Memorial Library,  
12 - 13 November 2022. Cecil Sharp House, and online.

The VWML's 2022 conference considers Ralph Vaughan Williams in his 150th anniversary year, examining his relationship with folk song. Papers have been invited on such topics as Vaughan Williams the folk song collector; his motivations and philosophy; his relationship with his fellow collectors, composers and folklorists; his use of folk material in his original compositions; his folk song arrangements, and his use of folk tunes in the church. There will be live music in addition to the papers. Tickets will be on sale in due course at [vwml.org](http://vwml.org).

Provisional times: 9.30am – 5.30pm Lunch is included in the ticket price for in-person attendees.

Tiffany Hore, Library and Archives Director, Vaughan Williams Memorial Library @  
English Folk Dance and Song Society, Cecil Sharp House, 2 Regent's Park Road, London NW1 7AY, UK.  
020 7485 2206, [info@efdss.org](mailto:info@efdss.org), [www.vwml.org](http://www.vwml.org)





## BODMIN FOLK CLUB CORNWALL ❖ FRIDAYS 8.00

St Petroc's Parish Centre, Priory Rd, Bodmin PL31 2DP

- ❖ 2 Sep **Charity Night** for *British Heart Foundation*.
- ❖ 9 Sep **Andrew & Carol Etherton**

- ❖ 16 Sep **Open House**
- ❖ 30 Sep **Vicki Swann & Jonny Dyer**
- ❖ 14 Oct **Sara Grey**
- ❖ 28 Oct **Open House**
- ❖ 4 Nov **Members Showcase: Liz Crowe & Jerry Bix**
- ❖ 11 Nov **Mark Dowding**
- ❖ 25 Nov, 2 Dec, 9 Dec **Open House**
- ❖ 16 Dec **Pete Morton, Chris Parkinson & Emily Sanders**  
*present The Magical Christmas Tree Tour*
- ❖ 23 Dec, 30 Dec **Open House**

Enquiries: Sylvia Watts, [sylvwatts@aol.com](mailto:sylvwatts@aol.com)  
[bodminfolk.co.uk](http://bodminfolk.co.uk) [www.facebook.com/bodminfolk/](http://www.facebook.com/bodminfolk/)



## PENNYMOOR SINGAROUND

3rd Wed, 7.30pm ~

Lamb Inn, Sandford EX17 4LW

~ Biddy 01271 373305

[biddy.mallabone@outlook.com](mailto:biddy.mallabone@outlook.com)

### MUSIC SESSION

12 noon, last Sun of month ~ The Half Moon, Cheriton  
Fitzpaine EX17 4JW ~ Clare Penney 01884 860023

### SONG/MUSIC SESSION

12-3pm, 1st Thurs of month ~ The London Inn,  
Morchard Bishop EX17 6NW ~ Jon 01363 83740

Facebook: *Pennymoor Singaround*

# Full Sou'Wester

A compilation of Alan Courtney's Devon Songs



This album contains songs Alan has written over the last 30 years and more, and sung widely in clubs, sessions and festivals.

The songs are based on stories of people and places of Devon - which is always in his heart as the county where he was born and brought up. All these places and people mean a lot to him. Some are historically accurate - others are very tall stories!!

This album, with song notes and lyrics, can be found at [alancourtney.bandcamp.com](http://alancourtney.bandcamp.com).

All proceeds from sales will go to St Richards Hospice Worcester

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

## Totnes Folk Song Club

2<sup>nd</sup> Thursday of the Month – 8.00pm

The Dartmouth Inn

The Plains, Totnes



**Most club nights are Singers Nights with occasional Guest Nights.**

**Visit Totnes Folk Club on Facebook**

Or for more information

contact Anne & Steve Gill 01803 290427  
or Andy Clarke 01803 732312



## THE FOREST FOLK CLUB

Orepool Inn, Chepstow Road,

Sling, Coleford GL16 8LH

*Cash only on the door please, £8 for guest nights,  
£2 for Singers Nights. Doors open at 7.30 for 8pm start.*

- 11 Sept. **Eos Evolution.**
- 25 Sept. **Pete Morton.**
- 16 Oct. **Hungrytown, support David Nigel Lloyd.**
- 13 Nov. **Compost Heap.**
- 4 Dec. **The Jigantics**

Contact: Jan O'Neill

[www.forestfolkclub.com](http://www.forestfolkclub.com)

[www.facebook.com/groups/236526483056148](https://www.facebook.com/groups/236526483056148)



## NAILSEA FOLK CLUB

Tithe Barn, Nailsea, N. Somerset

all events *Tithe Barn* except stated otherwise  
occasionally at *Ring of Bells*

16 Sep **Ceilidh in aid of Ukraine Project**, 7.30pm

7 Oct **Kit Hawes and Aaron Catlow**, 8pm

19 Nov **Gerry Colvin**, 8pm

2 Dec **Calan**, 8pm  
(pictured right)



18 Dec **Johnny Coppin:**  
*All on a Winter's Night*, 7.30

*also NAILSEA FOLK singers & musicians nights*  
*Grove Sports Centre, 2<sup>nd</sup> Tues, 8pm*

**online tickets:** [www.ticketsource.co.uk/nailsea-folk-club](http://www.ticketsource.co.uk/nailsea-folk-club)

• [nailseafolkclub@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:nailseafolkclub@hotmail.co.uk) • Dave Francis 01275 540231

[www.nailseafolkclub.co.uk](http://www.nailseafolkclub.co.uk) for full details



## Cheltenham Folk Club

Usually **2<sup>nd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup> Sundays**,

7:45 to 8:15 tune session, 8:15 start.

**Venue to be advised: please join the mailing list for up-to-date information:** [machteltje@gmail.com](mailto:machteltje@gmail.com)

We may be still on Zoom for some evenings!

- Sept. 11 / 25 T.B.A.
- Oct. 9 / 23 T.B.A.
- Nov. 13 / 27 T.B.A.
- Dec. 11 T.B.A.

Chris ~ 01242 571185 • Judith ~ 01242 577506



every  
Friday



8.00 pm

**The Lamp Tavern**  
**157 Barford Street,**  
**Highgate, B5 6AH**

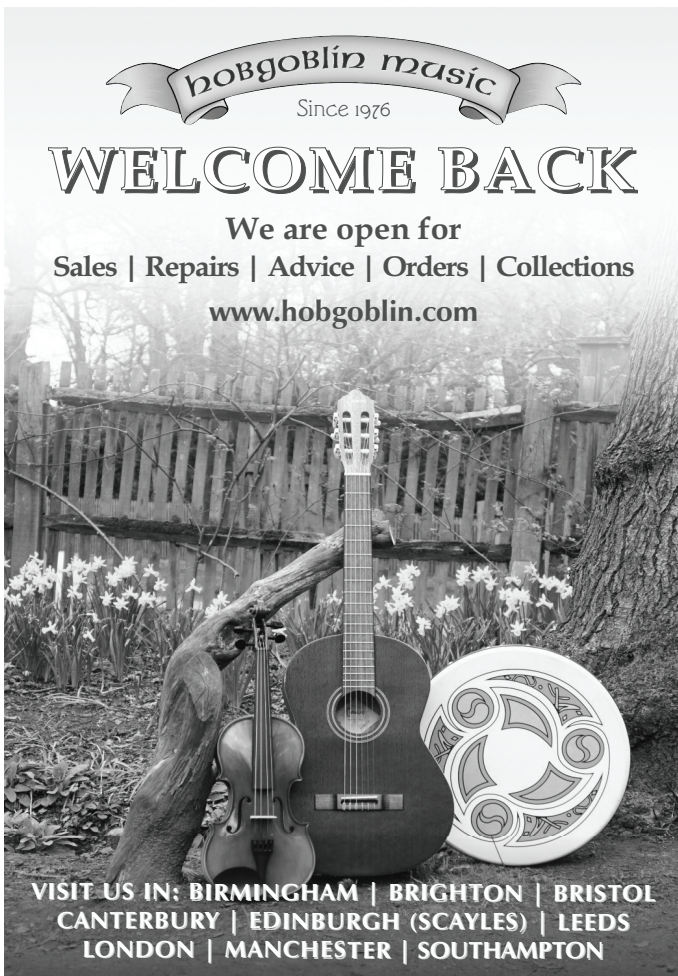
2nd	Sept	Singers & Musicians Night
9th	Sept	Singers & Musicians Night
16th	Sept	Singers & Musicians Night
23rd	Sept	Singers & Musicians Night
30th	Sept	Steve & Sandra Harrison
7th	Oct	Dick Miles
14th	Oct	Singers & Musicians Night
21st	Oct	Singers & Musicians Night
28th	Oct	Singers & Musicians Night
4th	Nov	Laura Smyth & Ted Kemp
11th	Nov	Singers & Musicians Night
18th	Nov	Singers & Musicians Night
25th	Nov	Singers & Musicians Night
2nd	Dec	Singers & Musicians Night
9th	Dec	Singers & Musicians Night

*More information on our website:*

**<https://blackdiamondfolkclub.org.uk>**

*Covid-19: While all restrictions have now been lifted, we would appreciate an email prior to visiting us.*

*For further information, please contact Paul at [contact@blackdiamondfolkclub.org.uk](mailto:contact@blackdiamondfolkclub.org.uk)*



**hobgoblin music**  
Since 1976

**WELCOME BACK**

We are open for  
Sales | Repairs | Advice | Orders | Collections  
[www.hobgoblin.com](http://www.hobgoblin.com)

VISIT US IN: BIRMINGHAM | BRIGHTON | BRISTOL  
CANTERBURY | EDINBURGH (SCAYLES) | LEEDS  
LONDON | MANCHESTER | SOUTHAMPTON

#### TALES & ALES on Zoom

Storytelling Session - all welcome  
8pm Weds 7 Sept, 5 Oct, 2 Nov, 7 Dec  
Zoom link from [info@tradartsteam.co.uk](mailto:info@tradartsteam.co.uk)

#### ZOOM INTO SING POLITICAL

8pm Wednesdays  
14 Sep, 12 Oct, 9 Nov, 14 Dec  
Zoom link from [info@tradartsteam.co.uk](mailto:info@tradartsteam.co.uk)

#### SCANDI MUSIC SESSIONS

Irish Centre, 205 Wheelers Lane, Bham 13  
2-5pm Sundays 11 Sept, 9 Oct, 13 Nov, 11 Dec  
Sharing Swedish and other Scandi tunes  
All musicians welcome – contact 0121 247 3856

#### PLAYING FOR SCOTTISH DANCING

Day workshop for musicians!  
Led by Chris Dewhurst  
11-5 at St Andrews Methodist Church B30 2RD  
Saturday 19 November  
Tickets £25 from [info@nicolascott.dance](mailto:info@nicolascott.dance)

#### WRITE-LEFT

songwriting on Zoom  
8pm Wednesdays  
28 Sep, 26 Oct, 23 Nov

#### BIRMINGHAM STORYTELLING CAFE

Kitchen Garden Cafe,  
York Road, Bham 14



#### MOSELEY VILLAGE BAND

St Columba's, Alcester Road, Bham 13  
7:30pm, Thursdays 8 & 22 Sept,  
13 & 27 Oct, 11 & 25 Nov, 8 Dec  
All musicians welcome –  
contact 0121 443 5687  
or [info@moseleyvillageband.org.uk](mailto:info@moseleyvillageband.org.uk)

#### Storytellers Studio and Moseley Village Band

part of Martineau Gardens 25th Birthday Celebrations  
Saturday 24 September, 11am to 3pm  
tickets £4 from Martineau Gardens

#### SING POLITICAL LIVE

*-no wires-*

Warehouse Café,  
Allison Street, Bham 5  
7:30pm Thursday 29 Sept  
Come to sing or to join in,  
food and drink available

#### FRENCH DANCE AND MUSIC

Alvechurch Village Hall  
B48 7JX  
2.30-5pm Saturdays  
1 Oct, 5 Nov, 3 Dec  
for dancers and musicians  
[alvechurchfrenchdance@gmail.com](mailto:alvechurchfrenchdance@gmail.com)

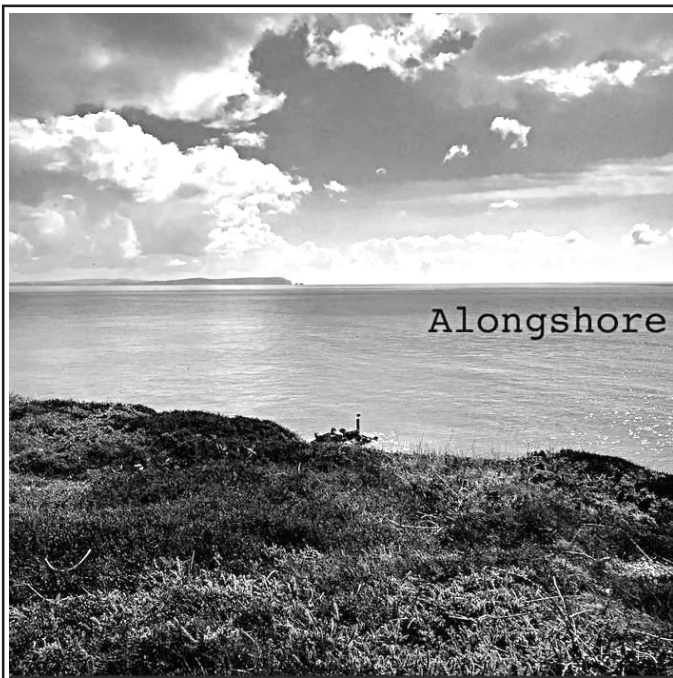
Wed 14 Sept: Shonaleigh  
Wed 19 Oct: Jason Buck  
Wed 16 Nov: Dave Tonge  
Wed 14 Dec: Cafe Crew

Doors & food from 6:30  
performances 7:30  
Tickets £7 from  
[wegottickets.com](http://wegottickets.com)

**more info [www.tradartsteam.co.uk](http://www.tradartsteam.co.uk)**







### Alongshore

is a new concept from **Vic Baines** (vocals, dulcimer) and **Ledger de la Bald** (poetry).

It is a soundscape of lives lived on the coast past, present and future.

Traditional and original songs, archive material and field recordings blend to create a record of coastal communities that is touching, at times funny, always evocative.

Available at Bandcamp "Along Shore Diamonds and Rubies"

<https://>

[alongshore.bandcamp.com/album/diamonds-rubies-emeralds](https://alongshore.bandcamp.com/album/diamonds-rubies-emeralds)

## Your Advert ?

**This size 1/8**

**Prepaid BACS: £10 mono / £25 colour**

**Invoiced (BACS, cheque, card) £12 mono / £27 colour**

Adverts appear in print in *Folklife West* and in *Folklife Traditions Journal* and

also copied online (read + free pdf download)

on [www.folklife.uk](http://www.folklife.uk) (news) and

on [www.folklife-traditions.uk](http://www.folklife-traditions.uk) (articles)

Full details on page 3.

### ONLINE DIRECTORY

~ free entries for all, non-members welcome  
[www.folklife-directory.uk](http://www.folklife-directory.uk)



[www.folklife-directory.uk](http://www.folklife-directory.uk) detailed online listings ~ with entries free to all !

✳ **VENUES** • Song, Music, Poetry, Story, Dance • Clubs, Concerts, Singarounds, Sessions, Dance Clubs, Ceilidhs • **♫ ZOOM** ✳

✳ **PERFORMERS** • Music & Song • Folk Dance • Spoken Word ✳  
**MEDIA** ✳ **SERVICES** ✳ **WORKSHOP PROVIDERS** ✳

○ No dates - these are in FW, and in our free emailed Updates Newsletter simply email [sam@folklife.uk](mailto:sam@folklife.uk) "Opt In" + country or England region ○

**NEXT DEADLINE:**  
**20 NOV FOR 1 JAN**

*Below: details of our 56-page Folklife West print magazine, £18 a year - for details please see page 3*

**FT** — **FOLKLIFE TRADITIONS JOURNAL** ~ articles, news, publications, listings. **FTJ index** is on page 2  
✳ online Archive of articles + index; **FTJ DIRECTORY**; and download latest **FTJ** ..... [www.folklife-traditions.uk](http://www.folklife-traditions.uk)

**News** — **FOLK NEWS**, from our Members . Area news pages; Correspondents. *Starts page 16*



The Editors  ...  
**Sam & Eleanor Simmons**  
news copied to [folklife.uk](http://folklife.uk)

#### **CYMRU / WALES**

##### • Cymru/Wales

Wales page ..... **Mick Tems**  
N-E Wales & Cheshire ..... **Brian Bull**  
Gwynedd Travelling Sessions ..... *list: local sessions*

#### **ENGLAND, WEST COUNTRY (the South West region)**

##### • Kernow/Cornwall    Kernow/Cornwall ..... **Nigel Morson**

##### • Devon • Som, Dor, Wilts • Bristol, S Glos

Chipping Sodbury Folk Night: Folk News *list: local clubs*

##### • Gloucestershire

Roving: Folklife area & beyond ..... **Cresby aka Mr Red**

#### **ENGLAND, MIDLANDS (East & West)**

##### • Midlands (other than Herefs & Worcs)

S. Birmingham & nearby ..... **Bob Bignell**  
Warwickshire with Coventry ..... **Malc Gurnham**  
Cotswold Folk: S.Warks / N.Cotswolds + listings.... **Paul Bryan**

##### • Herefordshire & Worcestershire

S.W. Herefs and nearby ..... **John & Jane Baxter**

#### **OTHER UK:**

• **England, South-East** Folk Arts Oxford website ..... *list: local folk*

• **North of England (NE, NW, Yorks & Humber)**

• **Alba / Scotland**

**FOLKLIFE INTERNATIONAL !** online only, see [www.folklife.uk/world](http://www.folklife.uk/world)

✳ **Illustrations** Chris Beaumont ✳ **Photographs** Eden Tanner, Colin Davies

✳ **Logos** Chris Stewart, John Crane ✳ **Zoom & web advice** Paul Clarke

✳ We thank our team, all volunteers ~ more welcome

**DIARY** — **FESTIVAL & WORKSHOP DIARY.** *From page 51*, also copied online ~ [www.folklife.uk/festivals](http://www.folklife.uk/festivals)





KAKING NEET ⇒ 1 Nov or near



PEARLY KINGS & QUEENS - HARVEST FESTIVAL 2012  
© Carole Jolly (Pearly Queen of Crystal Palace), & Secretary of the LPKQ Society [†]



TAR BARREL ROLLING ⇒ 5 Nov



WROTH SILVER CEREMONY ⇒ 11 Nov



FIRING THE FENNY POPPERS ⇒ 11 Nov



MARI LWYD ⇒ Before Xmas to New Year

## SEASONAL LOCAL CELEBRATIONS, A LIST BY DOC ROWE

Listings © Doc Rowe except any in *italics*. Photos © Doc Rowe unless otherwise credited.

### SEPTEMBER

St Giles Fair  
Abbots Bromley Horn Dance  
Sheriff's Ride  
Widcombe Fair  
Church Clipping  
Bluecoat March  
*Pearly Kings & Queens Society Costermongers Harvest Festival Parade Service*

Oxford  
Abbots Bromley  
Lichfield  
Widcombe  
Painswick  
City of London

Oxford  
Staffs  
Staffs  
Devon  
Glos  
London

Mon+Tue of 1st full week in Sept  
Mon after 1st Sun after 4th Sept  
Saturday nr 8th Sept.  
2nd Tuesday in September  
Sunday nearest 19th Sept  
21st September or near

### OCTOBER

Nottingham Goose Fair  
Billingsgate Harvest Festival  
Pearlys Harvest Festival [§]  
Bellringers' Feast  
*Pearlys Harvest Festival* [†]  
[§] *Original Pearly Kings & Queens Association* [†] *LPKQ London Pearly Kings & Queens Society*

Nottingham  
Billingsgate  
St Martins in the Field  
Twyford (nr Winchester)  
St Paul's Church, Covent Garden, London  
Tavistock  
Clifton, York  
Bampton  
Hinton St George  
Royal Courts of Justice  
Antrobus  
various

### LISTINGS UNDERLINED = see photos

Notts  
London  
London  
Hants  
London  
Devon  
N. York  
Exmoor  
Somerset  
London  
Cheshire  
UK

Last 3 days of 1st week in Oct  
1st Sunday in October  
1st Sunday in October  
7th October  
2nd Sun in Oct [LPKG]  
2nd Wednesday in Oct  
October  
Last Thursday in October  
Last Thursday in October  
Late October  
31st October and on  
31st October

### NOVEMBER

Kaking Neet  
Guy Fawkes  
Lewes Bonfire  
Hatherleigh Fire Carnival  
Bridgwater Carnival  
Tar Barrel Rolling  
Wroth Silver Ceremony  
Firing The Fenny Poppers  
Armistice Day  
Yorkshire Carols  
The Lords Mayor's Show  
Laxton Jury Day  
Wall Game  
Court Leet

South and West of Sheffield  
various  
Lewes  
Hatherleigh  
Bridgwater  
Ottery St Mary  
Knightlow Cross  
Fenny Stratford  
various  
various  
City of London  
Laxton  
Eton  
Fylingthorpe

UK  
Sussex  
Devon  
Somerset  
Devon  
Warks  
Bucks  
UK  
Yorks  
London  
Notts  
Berks  
N. Yorks

1st November or near  
Up to & inc. 5th Nov  
5th November  
2nd Saturday of November \*\*  
1st Saturday in November \*\*  
5th Nov [left; background; p.1]  
11th November  
11th November  
11th November  
From 11th November  
2nd Saturday in November  
Late November  
Late November  
December

### DECEMBER including CHRISTMAS, BOXING DAY, NEW YEAR'S EVE

Tin Can Band  
*Plygain singing*  
Tup Plays  
Burning Ashen Faggot  
Tolling The Devils Knell  
Mummers  
Feather Guisers  
Crookham Mummers  
Flamborough Sword Dance  
Greatham Sword Dance Play  
Straw Boys/ Mummers  
*Barrel Rolling competition*  
Wren Boys  
Mummer's Day  
Handsworth Sword Dancers  
Grenoside Sword Dancers  
Monkseaton Dancers  
Marshfield Mummers  
Ripon Sword Dancers  
Annual Dip  
*Tewkesbury Medieval Play {Mummers}*  
Symondsburys  
Fylingdale Guisers  
Flambeaux Procession  
Swinging The Fireballs  
*Mari Lwyd* different places - different days S.E. Wales

Broughton  
Sheffield and Chesterfield area  
Dunster  
Dewsbury  
Bampton  
Uttoxeter  
Crookham  
Flamborough  
Greatham  
Fermanagh  
Denbigh  
Dingle  
Padstow  
Handsworth  
Grenoside  
Monkseaton  
Marshfield  
Ripon  
Whitby  
Symondsburys  
Fylingthorpe  
Comrie  
Stonehaven

Northants  
Somerset  
W Yorks  
Oxon  
Staffs  
Hants  
Yorkshire  
Co. Durham  
Ireland  
Denbs  
Ireland  
Cornwall  
S. Yorkshire  
S. Yorkshire  
Tyne-Tees  
Glos  
N. Yorks  
N. Yorks  
Glos  
Dorset  
N. Yorks  
Tayside  
Grampian

Sunday after 12th Dec  
Mostly pre-Christmas [Eds]  
Christmas  
Christmas Eve  
Christmas Eve  
Christmas Eve  
Christmas Eve and Day  
Boxing Day  
Boxing Day  
Boxing Day  
Boxing Day  
Boxing Day [Eds]  
Boxing Day  
Boxing Day & New Year's Day  
Boxing Day  
Boxing Day  
Boxing Day  
Boxing Day  
Boxing Day  
Boxing Day  
Christmas  
Christmas  
New Year's Eve  
New Year's Eve  
Before Christmas to New Year's Day

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

All events subject to change, please check first.