



SOUTH CUMBRIA & NORTH LANCASHIRE FROM OUR CORRESPONDENT STEVE HARRISON



Steve & Sandra are the organisers of **Lake District Folk & Acoustic Club @** (2nd Fri) & **Arnside Sailing Club @** (Oct-Apr 2nd Tue). They perform as a duo, & with Judith Gleave & with Jen Wilson as **Close Quarters @** which sadly is finishing at Upton Folk Festival, see news item; and in the **All@Sea @** group.

Spring is here, or should be by the time you read this, and we are looking forward to the festival season. We have decided not to continue running The Lake District Folk Weekend, in Staveley where we live. It was a well attended and very well received event run by a small team of friends & volunteers, but we would all like to retire.

❖ **The Lake District Folk and Acoustic Club @**, which runs on the 2nd Friday each month at the Pavilion, Main St. Staveley, continues to thrive and has been well attended from the start of the year. Singers and Musicians nights bring a host of local performers to the club and we are continually amazed at the quality and diversity

(listings - see **CLUB NEWS** next page). www.facebook.com/lakedistrictfolkclub

❖ Over at **Arnside Sailing Club @** the popular monthly singarounds have finished until October, as the area is swamped with tourists over the summer and the sailing club members want to get out on the water for the season. Similarly **Folk at the Silverdale** returns in September.

❖ The Watermill at Ings hosts the **South Lakes Storytelling Club** on the first Tuesday of the month with the master himself - Taffy Thomas. You are sure to find a warm welcome, a good tale, a song and a tune with a plentiful supply of real ales, brewed on the premises, excellent bar snacks and free sandwiches! 7.30pm start.

❖ **The Hale & Hearty folk club** appears to have settled into The Limeburners Arms in Nether Kellet, LA6 1EP. on the 3rd Friday of the month. We haven't managed to visit them yet but we believe it's like stepping back in time (in a good way). www.facebook.com/HaleandHeartyFolkClub

❖ A new discovery in Kendal town centre is **The Good Times Theme Time Song & Music Session**. An acoustic (no PA) monthly Sunday afternoon session, it welcomes musicians, singers, appreciative audiences, and music of any genre as long as it relates to their monthly theme, however tenuously. Here is the link: www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=100087379878740 It runs from 3pm until 7pm at the latest, first Sunday of the month at Ruskins Bar, 12-14 Stricklandgate Kendal LA9 4ND. Tel Paddy on 07800 772479 for more details.

❖ Over in **Ambleside**, monthly on the first Thursday, at the **Parish Centre**, LA22 9DH, Nick Marshall and Mick Meade are continuing to run a song and acoustic music session, everyone welcome 8pm start.

❖ **Lancaster Folk Club** meets first Wednesday of the month at the Collegian Club 1 Gage St., Lancaster LA1 1UH at 7.30pm. *May 3rd*: Open Acoustic Session with Spotlight Guest Glyn Shipman. Glyn is a writer of modern folk tales of love and loss, death & disillusionment, magic and moons, His favourite colour is atrovirens. *June 7th*: Acoustic Concert with Mark Dowding. Mark's is renowned for his songs steeped in Northwest social history and dialect. Mark is a brilliant multi-instrumentalist and a perfect entertainer (www.markdowding.co.uk). *July 5th*: Open Acoustic Session Club Night - everyone is welcome. Listen to or perform words and music from the folk and world traditions and current writers. *August 1st*: Open Acoustic Session with Spotlight Guest Corrie Shelley. From Wigan, Lancashire Corrie songs have a personal meaning to them and transports you from the coal mines to songs of present day. (<https://corrieshelley.bandcamp.com>) Contact LancasterFolkClub@gmail.com

❖ **Staveley Roundhouse Theatre** have Chris Murphy & Barney Kenny on 22nd July.

❖ **Folk North West** magazine has ceased its quarterly printed publication after nearly 46yrs. We are sad to see it go. They blame Covid, clubs moving to Zoom and spiralling production and delivery costs. **Make sure Folk Life doesn't go the same way and keep supporting them.** You can still find news from the north west clubs and venues online www.folknorthwest.co.uk

❖ For information about **Folk Music in West Cumbria** visit <https://westcumbriafolkmusic.weebly.com/> You will find links to lots of events all over the area.

❖ For details on other events in **South Cumbria** - folk clubs, dance sides etc. visit <http://nicksites.net/EventsList> That's all for now.

Steve

Steve Harrison 07813 403808. email lakedistrictfolk@gmail.com

CUMBRIA



BRAMPTON FOLK SESSION
Ø, The Howard Arms, Front Street, Brampton, near Carlisle, Cumbria CA8 1NG
3rd Tuesdays, 8pm

Now live again. We work on a 'singers' session' format. We have lots of vocalists, not so many instrumentalists, but we'd be really pleased to welcome more. We go round in a circle, taking turns.

What makes us a little different from most sessions is that we have a 'theme' each month which is discussed and decided upon the previous month and announced on our website. It gives us an incentive to learn new material, or to be very devious about finding a way of introducing what we wanted to sing/play all along!

Thanks to Phil Harley's high-tech skills and hard work, we now have a new very smart website! www.laverocks.org.uk with all sorts of new and exciting pages, including an archive - if anyone wants to know who attended and what they sang as far back as 2010!

Katy van den Berg, www.laverocks.org.uk For more information phone Katy on 01434 298792.

THE LAKE DISTRICT FOLK & ACOUSTIC CLUB @

The Pavilion, 77 Main St, Staveley, Kendal, Cumbria LA8 9LN.

2nd Friday of the month, 7.30pm - 11pm.

£3 entry for singers and musicians nights. Between £5 and £10 on guest nights. Bring your own refreshments - beer, wine etc. Coffee and tea available for a small donation.

At Singers & Musicians nights take a turn if you like - songs, tunes, poems, readings, storytelling etc or sit and listen. Audience always welcome to quietly listen or join in the chorus. We have a very welcoming atmosphere that encourages everyone to feel at ease. No PA is in use. The room has excellent acoustics.

Guest nights are every other month usually, but can vary so check the Facebook page *below* for who is on and when.

- May 12th, Janice Burns & John Doran
- June 9th, Singers & Musicians
- July 14th, Vicki Swan & Jonny Dyer
- August (summer break no club)
- September 8th, Singers & Musicians
- October 13th, Singers & Musicians
- October 27th Extra - Jackie Oates Trio

Sandra & Steve @, lakedistrictfolk@gmail.com, 07813 403808 or 07502 454001, www.facebook.com/lakedistrictfolkclub

ARNSIDE SAILING CLUB SINGAROUND @, Arnside, --- is closed for the summer, and returns in October.

- Details in September issue, or Venues-North on www.folklife-directory.uk

MANCHESTER

HOBGOBLIN MUSIC, MANCHESTER @, 123 Oxford Road, All Saints, Manchester, M1 7DU.
0161 273 1000, sales@hobgoblinmanchester.co.uk

Monday - Saturday, 10am - 6pm.

<https://hobgoblin.com/branches/manchester>

**ALL@SEA ®**

- are Sandra & Steve Harrison, Maggie & John Stockdale and Jen Wilson. They love to sing shanties and songs of the sea in harmony but most of all they love to hear their audience singing back at them. They have performed in Keswick and at Teignmouth, Lancaster Maritime, Arnside and Oban International Shanty festivals over the last few years.

They are regulars at the Lake District Folk and Acoustic Club and have hosted superb shanty sessions at The Lake District Folk Weekend
Contact Sandra and Steve ®, 07813 403808 or 07502 454001, email lakedistrictfolk@gmail.com

**CLOSE QUARTERS ®****The end of an era?**

Steve & I started singing in folk clubs and at festivals in the early 80's with good friends **Judith and Pete Gleave**. We sang unaccompanied & with intuitive, natural harmonies, not predetermined learned harmony lines. Known then as **Quartz**, 10 years ago Steve & I relocated to live in



Staveley, on the edge of the Lake District, and Pete sadly passed away...

Renamed now as **Close Quarters**, **Jen Wilson** joined the line up, with Judith too when covid, geography and the rail network allowed!

In 2022, Close Quarters were busy, appearing at several clubs and festivals, but Judith was aware of a marked deterioration in her hearing which couldn't be improved even with top of the range technology..... so **Upton upon Severn 2023** is to be the final appearance of Judith in the Close Quarters line up, 33 years after Quartz first sang at Upton's 2nd May Bank Holiday festival.

Judith assures us she will still join us at singarounds but she doesn't want to stand in front of an audience again. Having recently celebrated a big birthday, we concede Judith is allowed to retire! We will miss you Mrs G

Sandra x

*Catch **Close Quarters** at Upton upon Severn and Chester Festivals this Spring and of course at the Lake District Folk and Acoustic Club.*

Sandra & Steve Harrison, 07813 403808 lakedistrictfolk@gmail.com

CHESHIRE CLUBS:

see **NORTH-EAST WALES AND CHESHIRE** report, by our correspondent **BRIAN BULL**, in the **WALES** pages.

LANCASHIRE

THE ROOM AT THE TOP FOLK CLUB Ø, The Red Lion, Ash Brow, Newburgh, Lancs, WN8 7NF.

every Monday, 8.15 - 11pm

The club runs from 8.15 with 2 songs per performer with a break around 9.20. Depending on the number of performers there is usually time for another round with one song each. At 10.20 we hold the raffle and say goodnight to people who wish to go early.

From 10.30pm we sup up, put the room straight and go home! All nights are Singers Nights and we welcome singers, poets and readers to have a go at any time. All styles of acoustic music are encouraged.

Admission is £1 for everybody which includes a raffle ticket for a bottle of wine.

ZOOM AT THE TOP every Thursday 8.15 for 8.30 start.

We're on Facebook or e-mail for the link, maggihuyton@yahoo.com.

For more information please contact Mark or Maggi on 01257 464215.

www.markdowding.co.uk/room_at_the_top.htm

MARK DOWDING Ø

Mark's roots are in Lancashire and he sings many songs from the area, including those reintroduced by Harry Boardman who encouraged him to 'keep singing the songs', when he was a resident at Harry's club in the 1980s. Mark's wider repertoire is varied and enhanced by songs from many genres, including those written in traditional style by people such as Peter Bond, Bernie Parry, Keith Marsden and others, and songs from the Music Hall and Variety eras of the early 20th Century.

Mark's accomplished singing and musicianship, alongside his knowledge of the history of the songs he sings, has earned him an excellent reputation at folk clubs and other events. His mellow voice has been likened to a 'chocolate box'!

Mark's CDs include "Dreams of the Past", "Brown Photographs", "Travelling Tales", "The Well Worn Path", and, with Chris Harvey, (Cock Robin Music), "A Mon Like Harry", a Harry Boardman tribute, and "Manchester Ballads" based on the book edited by Harry Boardman and Roy Palmer.

Mark has done session work and has appeared on BBC and Local Radio Folk Programmes as guest and stand-in presenter. TV work includes "The Real Mill with Tony Robinson", "Britain's Most Extreme Weather" and "Gardeners' World".

Contact: **Mark Dowding, mark@atmarkdowding.co.uk, 01257 464215, www.markdowding.co.uk**

Yorkshire & The Humber ♦ 1**JAN AND PAUL RAMSEY ®**

Their repertoire includes a large number of traditional folk songs as well as contemporary and self-penned folk music. With Jan on guitar and vocals, and Paul playing single reed harmonica and vocals, they first began singing together when they were students. They have previously held various residencies in folk clubs over the years including Aberdeen, Lancaster, and Nottingham. They are currently residents at Grimsby Folk Club.

During covid they were invited to play numerous extended sets on UK and worldwide open mic and folk zoom clubs around the world. As a consequence of appearing on zoom, they will be playing a series of gigs in Israel this autumn, and next year they have been invited to play in the US.

In May 2022 they released a new album, 'Lincs to Land and Sea' (available as a CD from <https://www.jprfolk.com/> or as a digital download from 'Bandcamp'). A further album of mostly traditional songs is scheduled for release in the autumn.

Set lengths are available from between 30 and 90+ minutes.

To discuss a booking, please contact Jan on 07984 643921 or email: jprfolk@gmail.com

**DAVID KIDMAN Ø**

A familiar presence on Zoom singarounds on both sides of the pond over the past couple of years, gaining a healthy transatlantic profile to complement his UK CV. He has been described as **a storyteller in song**, a Yorkshire-based revival singer with a broad repertoire centred around what

might be loosely termed songs of the contemporary folk tradition. **His personal philosophy is that a good song is a good song and therefore worth singing.** Hence the title of his CD, **Songs Worth The Singing**, obtainable via www.davidkidman.co.uk or emailing david.kidman@btopenworld.com.

One of David's trademarks is the use of creative juxtaposition and song-combination, while another is the devising and presentation of special themed integrated song-and-verse programmes (some having been staged at various folk venues and maritime and literature festivals). Although David mostly sings solo and unaccompanied, he has also engaged in shared-singing, collaborative duo/"zoouet" participation with other singers in the UK, US and even Australia (and remains "open to offers"!). He is also an experienced singing-session host, who has latterly been much sought-after to host workshops and sessions on the trans-continental "Zoom" stage.

Outwith his singing activities, David performs poetry (his own and that of others); he's an insightful reviewer of CDs for the national and regional folk press and online; an informed and entertaining compère, and occasional radio presenter. www.davidkidman.co.uk



<https://www.jprfolk.com/>
www.youtube.com/channel/UCr7hb1Mi2IqQPSNeWJsRh6w



MORLEY FOLK CLUB @, The Miners Arms, 107 Albert Road, Morley, LS27 8LG.

1st & 3rd Tuesdays, 7.30pm for 8pm, to 10.30pm
New location! as above.

Morley Folk Club is well attended, having an established program of local guests, national and international guests, and singers nights. There is a modest admission charge for all-comers on guest nights; members and artists are admitted free of charge on the singers nights, but are encouraged to subscribe to the raffle. Drinks too are modestly priced and the staff are welcoming and keen to please. In short, we are still very much alive and kicking.

May 2, Den Miller, 16 tba.

Jun 6, Paul McClure, 20 tba.

July 18, Heslop Stringer,

Sept. 19th, Roisin Ban.

Please keep an eye on our website and Facebook page for updates.

Organiser: Alan Street, info@morleyfolk.org www.morleyfolk.org, MFC on Facebook

JACEY BEDFORD TOUR MANAGEMENT (BOOKING AGENCY) Ø



Booking agency for performers from home and abroad. **Representing:** *from the UK*, Cosmotheke, Union Jill, Lee Collinson, Robb Johnson, Artisan, Quicksilver (Hilary Spencer & Grant Baynham), Lee Collinson *Australia*, Mundy-Turner *Canada*, Dan McKinnon, *Over The Moon USA*, Tania Opland & Mike Freeman. *South Africa*, Ubunye, Thanda Gumede, Zulu Tradition.
Ø Jacey Bedford, 01484 606230,
agency@jacey-bedford.com www.jacey-bedford.com

HOBGOBLIN MUSIC, LEEDS @, 13 Eastgate, Leeds, Yorkshire, LS2 7LY.

Mon. - Sat., 10am - 6pm, Sun. 11am-4pm.

0113 245 3311, sales@hobgoblinleeds.co.uk

<https://hobgoblin.com/branches/leeds>

see **HOBGOBLIN SHOPS ADVERT** on **WEST MIDLANDS NEWS PAGES**

North-East

PHOENIX FOLK LTD, Newcastle upon Tyne.

PHOENIX FOLK TUNES SESSIONS Ø

Weekly Mondays & Thursdays, 8pm-9.30pm.

PHOENIX FOLK SINGAROUND Ø

Weekly Tuesdays, 7.30pm - 9.30pm.

PHOENIX NORTHUMBRIAN SESSION Ø 3rd Sundays, 6pm - 7.30pm.

Phoenix on line: Phoenix Folk Ltd are developing a growing reputation for high quality, online sessions and resources.

For musicians looking to play with others, or to develop repertoire, we offer open-access online tunes sessions **every Monday and Thursday evenings on Zoom**. Sheet music and chords are provided, and participants play along to live fiddle and guitar. Our online model provides a distinctive opportunity for people to join in with lead melody and rhythm parts whilst hearing their own playing more clearly than in a traditional session setting. Whilst it's not possible on Zoom to hear each other (participants only hear themselves and the leaders), there is nevertheless something special about sharing this experience live with a community of musicians from around the UK ... and indeed the world!

There are many great tunes that form part of our musical tradition here in the North East of England, and we are only too happy to play our part in keeping them alive! One of the ways we are doing this is through our monthly **Northumbrian Session**, on the **3rd Sunday** of every month.

For singers, we offer a friendly singaround on **Tuesday evenings** where participants take turns to be 'un-muted' and perform to each other.

Our Virtual Session playalong video collections currently offer 2.5 hours of session tunes with on-screen sheet music and chords. For guitar players, we have created digital resources explaining how to accompany session tunes in DADGAD tuning. We also offer downloads of original harmony arrangements of popular session tunes.

Phoenix live: we now offer opportunities for 'in person' music classes & groups - see www.phoenixfolk.co.uk for details

www.phoenixfolk.co.uk

Weblinks and other info on

phoenixfolk.org.uk/online-sessions/4594895190

Go to the Phoenix website to check out all these amazing resources.

www.phoenixfolk.co.uk



PHOENIX FOLK LTD Ø Newcastle upon Tyne. **Phoenix directors/staff as performers.**

Since 2009 **Phoenix Folk Ltd** has promoted participation and performance in folk and acoustic music, song and dance across the North East of England. Organised by and for enthusiastic musicians and fuelled by the great tradition of folk music in the region, we work to encourage talent and personal musical development across a diverse community of musicians and music lovers. With a passion for supporting and teaching music as a live and living experience, the directors perform in a range of bands.

Another Penny perform a unique combination of traditional and original songs in carefully crafted arrangements that showcase a dialogue of fingerstyle guitar, slide and piano.

Adam Holden is a powerful performing songwriter known particularly for "*Nobody To Hear It But The Singer*".

Maurice Condie completes the duo with distinctive reworkings of traditional songs performed with skill and taste mostly in DADGAD and other altered tunings. Maurice also plays traditional tunes and songs in the duo, **Miggins Fiddle**, with competition-winning fiddle player, tune-writer and arranger **Marina Dodgson**. All three play for dancing in **Miggins Fiddle Ceilidh Band**. With classes, resources and local/online sessions we share with our community a desire to play, learn and perform. Welcome to Phoenix Folk! www.phoenixfolk.co.uk



KEITH GREGSON @

Keith Gregson from Sunderland (born 1948) has spent a lifetime in traditional music, song and dance. He started as a dancer on BBC TV's '*Barn Dance*' series in the 1960s and ran folk clubs in North East England in the 1970s, also performing semi-professionally in Folk Clubs. He also worked closely with **Roy Palmer** in producing folk related material for schools. Since the 1970s,

he has been a member of **Benfieldside Morris, Sword and Country** dance team and is an active member of the **Folk Camp Society** - often acting as a leader and musician - especially in the French Camps. Between 1976 and 2016 he was also a barn dance caller. Since the 1960s Keith has been a singer/songwriter and has recently concentrated on this aspect, working closely with young (now not so young) indie musicians in Sunderland. He published a number of articles and books on traditional song, dance and music in the 1970s. During the pandemic he joined in the zooms organised by the **Traditional Song Forum** @ and gave a number of talks.

A concert of his at the **Bunker Music Venue** in Sunderland can be viewed on YouTube: "*Keith Gregson - Live from The Bunker*".

Contact Keith via web site www.keithgregson.com



LOCH DOWN FOLK CLUB Ø virtual-only Zoom session, based in the North-East
Weekly Sundays, 8pm

Songs, tunes, poems or just come for the craic and have a listen. All nationalities. All languages. All welcome.

Maria Hawthorne

Zoom details:

[https://us04web.zoom.us/j/4453765](https://us04web.zoom.us/j/4453765452pwd=L1BiRlozc2NqYXJZQ1Q4ZkVlYW45dz09)

452pwd=L1BiRlozc2NqYXJZQ1Q4ZkVlYW45dz09

Meeting ID: 445 376 545 Password: 000338



THE STUMBLE INN FOLK & ACOUSTIC AFTERNOON @, Chester Road, Sunderland, SR2 7PR. **4th Tuesdays, 1pm to 4pm**

Now returned to live music at our regular time of 1-4 pm in the Function Room. The pub serves real ale, food, and coffee. Singers (unaccompanied or accompanied), musicians and listeners welcome!

All welcome, whether Stumble Inn regulars or not, to share a song, tune, poem etc. or simply to come along and listen. **Eileen Richardson**

Further information: www.facebook.com/stumbleinnfolk

Contact on Messenger, or email eileenrich@hotmail.com

UPDATES

see www.folklife.uk/updates, and
join our **Updates Newsletter mailing list**
by emailing sam@folklife.uk