



## Farewell to Bill Pullen

I am very sorry to have to report the passing of **Bill Pullen**, on Saturday 18th April, at his home in Alderton; he had been in poor health for some time. Bill was our long-standing Correspondent for Glos and nearby, with his "*Bill's Blues Bulletin*", and before that for many years a contributor to the late Pat Scrase's *Folkwrite* magazine.

Bill was a man of many musical talents, with his traditional folk songs, including those which he collected locally, as well as his own local compositions, and his amazing blues harmonica playing and singing. His dedication to supporting live music - not just in Glos, but everywhere from Ledbury and Much Marcle in Herefordshire to Worcestershire, Oxfordshire, and Warwickshire - was total. From being booked for blues and folk festivals, to supporting local sessions, Bill was there.



Two folk songs collected from Bill by Gwilym Davies on the wonderful *Glostrad* site:

*Seven Nights Drunk*, <http://glostrad.com/seven-nights-drunk/>, and *The Crabfish*, <http://glostrad.com/crabfish-the-pullen/>

- **Main photo:** taken from Gwilym's video, Bill singing *The Crabfish*. Thanks to Gwilym Davies for permission to use this.
- **Left:** at the *Slip Inn, Much Marcle*, Herefs, original home of *Roving Folk* (now Kempsey, Glos).
- **Right:** at the annual St George's Day meet with Ilmington Morris at the *George Hotel, Lower Brailes*. From Paul Bryan.

### FOLKLIFE TRADITIONS : DIRECTORY

### SEASONAL LOCAL CELEBRATIONS

### ❖ A LIST & PHOTOS © Doc Rowe

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)



PADSTOW MAY DAY (this & left) 1st May



CASTLETON GARLAND DAY 29th May



## Bill Pullen's Blues Bulletin

Glos & nearby (Warks, Worcs, Oxon ...)



Bill at the *Slip Inn*,  
Much Marcle, Herefs

I am very sorry to have to report the passing of **Bill Pullen**, on Saturday 18th April.

A brief obituary plus photos and details of two online song recordings are on the **back cover**.

Thanks to Sue Smith for typing up Bill's last column, written shortly before he was discharged from hospital.



"Blues Anoraks": Bill (left) with the late Dave Camp (from FQ 57, Apr 2018) This live set at Glos. Blues Fest. is on <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=sHf06uh2jac>

**Thanks for all the cards, visits, messages and good wishes** from musician friends from Winchcombe area, Cotswolds/Vale/Tewkesbury and beyond, following my life changing – and lifesaving! – amputation. Visitors welcome at the hospital until I return to Alderton, where visitors will be welcome also (phone first please!). Until then I am being superbly looked after and well fed (mainly by lovely ladies); and nice things said about my new beard, the little recording on Facebook "in house" by/with Steve Kent also appreciated.

Just to mention things continuing that I was involved in (mainly with Tony Beysens):

- **"Red Lion", Market Square, Evesham.** Folk/acoustic session (unamplified) every Monday 8.00 - 10.30 p.m. Amplified covers/rock/blues acoustic (booked acts) every Friday 8.30 p.m. until 11.30 p.m. Acoustic/Folk/Blues (booked acts) every Sunday 4.00 – 6.15 p.m. (contact pub for confirmation/act details).
  - **"Alehouse", Greenhill Street, Stratford**  
Occasional booked guests from 8.00 – 10.00 p.m. followed by folk club floor spots on Wednesday folk club nights (folk/blues/acoustic) Most Sundays from 4.00 – 7.00 p.m. (approx.) booked guests (local/national artists) – blues/folk/rock/acoustic – covers/originals.
- Others:** (contact pub/Tony Beysens for confirmation/act details)
- **"Anchor", Eckington** near Pershore, 8 – 10.30 p.m. Informal folk session run by John Wainwright, food usually laid on, contact John/pub for details.
  - **Chipping Norton Folk Club** 7.30 – 10.30 p.m. Every 1st Monday at The Artshed Café, Enstone, Woodstock Road (4 miles from Chipping Norton). Contact direct for details (guest MCs but main organiser/MC Rachel Chai, small admission charge, themed nights, occasional guests). The café also hosts some folk/acoustic/blues/jazz guest nights (covers/originals) booked direct. Large free carpark.
  - **Winchcombe "Corner Cupboard"** monthly session (Malcolm Ogden) with several folk club regulars:
  - **"Halfway House", Kineton**, Martyn Porches' singaround (including Ivor Keats) – pub/Martyn for info/confirmation (weekly).
- Most of above on Ollie's gig list - google "**Ollie's Gig List**"; email: [olliesgiglist@gmail.com](mailto:olliesgiglist@gmail.com) - but I thought worth a mention as individual events.

All the best to you all (from "the real deal?!")

Thanks again,

**Bill Pullen**

*Bill Pullen*

We don't normally publish recent songs but as a tribute to Bill, here's one he sent me shortly before his death, a true story from the days when Shrewsbury Town were at the original Gay Meadow.

## The Coracle Man, by Bill Pullen

CH: *Hear all the cries around the old ground,  
Come on the Shrews, play up the town,  
Picking up balls going over the stand,  
Fred Davies the coracle man.*

- 1) I'll tell you a tale of a fisherman bold,  
A Shrewsbury man, or so I've been told,  
He didn't catch haddock or cod Severnside,  
But footballs scooped out of the tide. (CH)
- 2) For many long years Fred stayed afloat,  
Alongside Gay Meadow in his little boat,  
Close to the Abbey, not far from the trains,  
While we sang this little refrain. (CH)
- 3) Great moments happened over the years,  
Cup-ties, promotions, relegation fears,  
Heroes to zeros, players with great touch,  
Fred never saw but heard much. (CH)
- 4) Then came the new Meadow, the club moved away,  
Fred hung up his oracle, called it a day,  
Put paddle aside to three hearty cheers,  
We'll remember him many a year. (CH)

"Inspired" (not the best word) to re-visit the lyric due to the awful floods around Shrewsbury, Ironbridge and Shropshire in general in Feb/March 2020.

For Shrewsbury (Town) AFC.

*Bill Pullen*

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