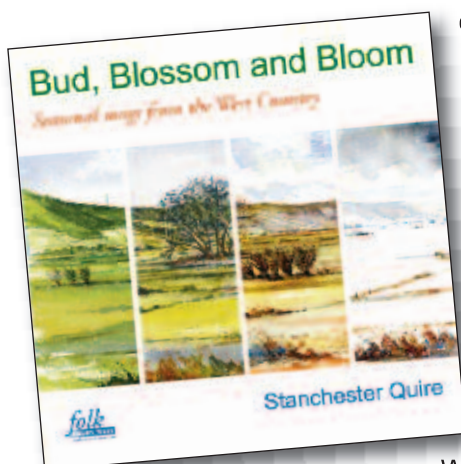


Seedlings, Pogles, Bud and Blossom

Such a lot has happened since the last newsletter. The big move went as well as possible and we were truly grateful for all the help. It really did make a huge difference. We are all settled into our new office and have made a comfortable mess and still not unpacked all the boxes! On the plus side, we did do massive throwing away, and all the reference and folklore books are now on shelves instead of packed in boxes and so available for anyone to come and use for research. John Clotworthy and various other volunteers have done a sterling job sorting our music into filing cabinets and sometimes we can even find the things we are looking for!

We were sad to say goodbye to Jane and to Emily earlier in the year and pleased to welcome Sarah (our new bookkeeper) and Alex in the autumn. More from Alex elsewhere.



Recently we have been busy making two CD's. Stanchester Quire has just released a new CD of songs for all seasons called **Bud,**

Blossom and Bloom. We are very proud to have a carol specially commissioned by the Quire from John Kirkpatrick. You can hear him conducting it on the CD! You can buy dozens to give as presents!

Singing Seedlings is a training DVD, produced in conjunction with Sing Up to help early years and reception practitioners use singing in their work with transition age children. Keep an eye on our website for news of a release date.

We were very pleased to hear from Daniel Postgate last month giving us permission to use the name created by his father, Oliver, and call our Forest School

'**Pogles Wood**'. We have nearly 1000 baby trees and ran our first family event there at the beginning of November. It was a fabulous day with lots to do, excellent jacket potatoes and pumpkin soup and even some bursts of sunshine! We will be looking at traditions and traditional crafts as well as plenty of singing, dancing and story telling at Pogles Wood and hope to start regular events there in the spring. As always it wouldn't have been possible without a small band of devoted volunteers. Do not feel excluded, there is still plenty to be done, so get in touch if you fancy some 'Green Gym' and would like to be included in our next outdoor volunteer day!

Easter School

Opening things up a little

Our 2010 Easter School will run for 4 full days, 8-11 April and will once again be at Chantmarle in West Dorset.

Tutors this year are Chris Coe (traditional song), Tim van Eyken (traditional song), Carolyn Robson (voice development and harmony singing), Ed Rennie (band), John Kirkpatrick (dance programme) and Eddie Upton (various bits and pieces).

Running alongside the Easter School will be a special Live Wires Graduates programme for 14-18 year olds with Will

Lang and Alison Rowley leading the programme.

The Easter School is hard work, fun, and it changes lives!! Make 2010 the year you come to it. It will be a decision you won't regret.

Contact Folk South West for more details and a booking form.



Keeping up with things

In the next couple of weeks there will be new sections added to our website, including pages for both our Forest School and Theatre of Past Delight. The website is also a way of you buying tickets, CD's and books from us and keeping in touch with all our events and projects. Go to www.folksw.org.uk and store it as one of your Favourites.

And don't forget to tell us if you change your email address!!

John Kirkpatrick

Folk Musician of the Year 2010

Hundreds, thousands, maybe even millions of people think, as we do, that John Kirkpatrick is the musical equivalent of sliced bread! Now it's official and John has been awarded the BBC Radio 2 Folk Musician of the Year at the recent Folk Awards.

Eddie was pleased and proud to collect the award on John's behalf, though, like everyone else at the event, we would have loved to have been sitting next to John and sharing the evening with him. Anyway when the result was announced the whole room erupted and everyone was on their feet in frenzied excitement and appreciation of all that this great musician has done for English folk music. Sadly there is no way of you seeing that or even hearing it as it was not broadcast in the subsequent Mike Harding Show but I promise it was an electric moment which goes some small way to demonstrating the great love and respect for this

wonderful musician.

Here is John's acceptance speech, which Eddie read on his behalf:

"This is fantastic! I didn't think I was glitzy enough to register on the Academy's radar for anything like this, and I am delighted.

At an event like this at the showbiz end of the folk scene, where we are drawing attention to the cleverness, and audacity, and raunchiness of our technical expertise, I would like chip in with a word about dancing. I began playing because I was dancing with a Morris team, and I still passionately believe that this music is like it is because the dancing *makes* it like that. This music is at its most vibrant and most triumphantly alive when there are people there in front of you dancing to it.

So I'd like to give an honourable mention to the



thousands of dancers – country dancers, ceilidh goers, morris dancers, sword dancers, clog dancers, and the rest – and all the musicians and bands associated with them, who may not have particularly high artistic aspirations, but they gather every week to do their best to keep all this alive. Sometimes they're breathtakingly wonderful, and sometimes they're breathtakingly awful, but they are keeping the

engine fired up and running for the rest of us, and amidst all this tinsel and glitter, I hope we don't forget that other side of the folk scene, because without it I wouldn't have done the things I've done, and I certainly wouldn't be receiving this award this evening.

Thank you very much!

I rejoice!!!"

So do we all.



Spring Ceilidh Tour with Dyer:Cummings

Horton Village Hall, Somerset –

Friday 19 February

Leigh Village Hall, Dorset – **Saturday 20 February**

The ceilidhs will include songs, theatrical interludes and even magic, as well as dancing for everyone. Make sure you come to one of them.

Dates for your diary

Phil Beer in concert

Taunton Baptist Church – **Friday 6 March**

Tickets (£10.00, £8.00 concessions) for the Phil Beer concert are now on sale from Folk South West. Book early to secure your seat to hear Phil perform in one of Somerset's best acoustic venues.



A Chance to Meet ... Doc Rowe

Venue to be confirmed –

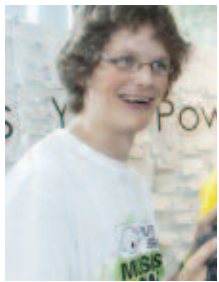
Thursday 6 May

Tickets £8 (£6 concessions)
Eddie Upton in conversation with the

country's leading folklorist and oral historian. Hear Doc speak and see some of the videos and photographs he has accumulated during more than 40 years of documenting traditional events in England.

Theatre of Past Delight

Over the past few years Folk South West has undertaken a variety of theatrical ventures: As I Walked Out (Sharp centenary), The Ballad of Mrs Brunel (Brunel bicentenary), The Somerset Apple Play, Victorian and Edwardian Music Hall and occasional outbreaks of Pirates to name but a few. We have gathered a core of excellent performers (not to mention some pretty posh frocks), and it is a good (and enjoyable) way for us to reach new audiences. In order to make marketing less confusing we have decided to form a theatrical wing of Folk South West called Theatre of Past Delight. Look out for our leaflet and details on the website.



Hello. My name is Alex and I am the (not so) new face at

the Folk South West office.

If you know me then you know how dramatically excited I get about anything folkie. I play in several bands including Dyer:Cummings, Coracle and a 5 piece with a fantastic singer called James Findlay and spend most of my weekends out and about doing gigs and workshops and everything in between. I'm currently on a gap year so I decided to come and work for FSW for experience, training and a bit of fun. I am under the guise of 'Trainee Community Musician', which is exciting for me. Unlike previous trainees I am going to be a lot less office bound and will be travelling around different projects, running workshops, observing courses & gaining teaching and workshop leader experience. But of course this couldn't happen all the time, because a) I can't drive but also b) there isn't all that every single day.

Another very interesting strand to all this is experience is Events Organisation. I am dealing

with all the concerts, publicity and website and helping out with the Carols Weekend, Easter School and the Young People's programme. So if you ring up the office you may very well get me saying 'Good Afternoon, Folk South West' in a posh-ish way. The one down side to all this though is the fact that earlier this year FSW asked my band (Dyer:Cummings) to do a Ceilidh Tour in February. I thought this was fantastic as someone else was going to organise a tour for us. But on arrival at the office it came to me that I was the person organising the tour. Well at least I can choose the photos for the publicity.

Since I started in September I have already helped out with the recording of the new early years resource, led workshops for several schools with Eddie, played at care homes, experienced many an exciting meeting, helped out with Sing Up training, sung at Ludlow Medieval Christmas Fair, been on a couple of training courses and, of course, answered many a phone call. All that and more in just a few weeks. I can see that this will be a busy year.

I hope to meet you all at some point during the year. I will be at a lot of FSW events so feel free to come over and say Hi.

Alex Cumming

Friends of folk

Application Form

South West
tradition with innovation

I would like to become a Friend of Folk South West

		Annual Payment
FRIEND	(£15)	£
SPECIAL FRIEND	(£30 min)	£
GROUP SUPPORTER	(£50)	£
SCHOOL FRIEND	(£50)	£

Personal details

Title First name Surname
 Name of Club, Group or School
 Address

 Post code
 Phone (daytime) (evening)
 (mobile) email

Payment method

- Bank Standing Order *please complete Standing Order section*
 Cheque payable to Folk South West

Please tell us how you can help

Administration or Finance
 Publicity
 Organising events
 Envelope stuffing
 Anything else you feel you can offer

Gift Aid

To make your personal donation worth even more to Folk South West at no extra cost to you, please sign below. This will enable us to reclaim the income tax you have already paid on your donations from HM Revenue and Customs.

Name of taxpayer
 Address

I wish Folk South West (charity no 1037730) to reclaim tax on all donations I have made in the last six years and all donations I make hereafter. I confirm that I will pay sufficient income or capital gains tax to at least equal the tax the Charity reclaims on my donations in the tax year.

Signature Date

Bank Standing Order

To Bank (please give the name and address of your bank)

Please pay the sum of £
 (.....) (amount in words)
 annually on (please specify the date you prefer
 or Folk South West will fill in the date we receive this form)

Commencing 20 (please indicate your preferred starting date)

To the account of **Folk South West** (registered charity no. 1037730) at **CAF Bank**

Sorting Code Number **40 52 40** Account number **00089728**

Quoting reference
 (please leave blank for Folk South West to complete)

Signed

Account name

Account number

Sort Code

Please complete this form and return it to

Folk South West, The Stables, Montacute House, Montacute, Somerset TA15 6XP

Folk South West is a registered charity (no. 1037730) and a company limited by guarantee registered in England and Wales (no. 2908476).

Review

Kitty Bridges' Pocket Book

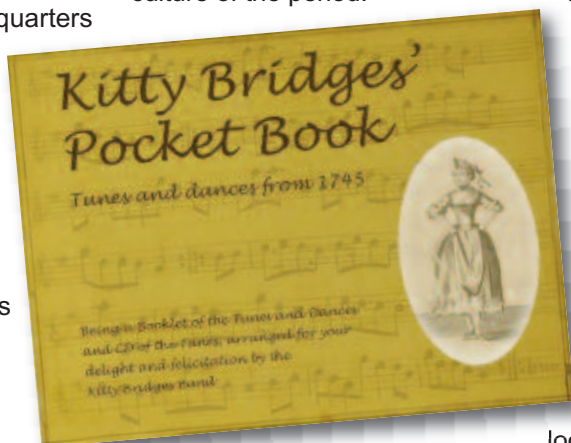
Tunes and dances from 1745

This book and CD are the result of a 3-year project, following Bob Shatwell's discovery of a Pocket book in the Vaughan Williams Memorial Library at Cecil Sharp House (headquarters of the English Folk Dance and Song Society).

The original book contained both tunes and dance notations and these dances have now been written in terms that will be understood by today's dancing public. Not all the tunes are of standard length. 'We are all a coming', for example, has a 10-bar B music. As a result the tune doesn't readily fall comfortably on modern ears that have become accustomed to 8-bar phrases.

I find it interesting to try and set the book in its historical context. These tunes and dances are from

the year of Bonnie Prince Charlie's Jacobite rising; the death of Robert Walpole (first Prime Minister of the United Kingdom); the death of Jonathan Swift (Gulliver's Travels); and, extraordinarily, the first recorded women's cricket match. These are times we learnt about at school, but here is a record of some of the popular culture of the period.



There are some interesting tunes, and even some of the more well-known ones have subtle differences. The book is accompanied by a CD which doesn't pretend to give other than a 21st century interpretation of 18th century music. This is being very picky, but to my mind it would have been nice to

give the fiddle a bit more of a free hand from time to time, and I would have brought the double bass up in the mix just a little.

In their introduction to the book the compilers are careful to point out that they recorded the tunes before they worked on their interpretation of the dance notations. The CD,

therefore, is not intended for dancing!

The way people danced would surely have been influenced by their clothes, and particularly by their footwear. The dances suggest that movements would have been relatively restrained, which is perhaps not surprising when we

look at paintings from the time. It would be good to see how a group of dancers in jeans and trainers might bring the dances up to date.

This book makes a useful addition to the growing variety of material available for both musicians and dance callers.

Available from www.reivermusic.co.uk

Eddie Upton

Folk in the South West

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Co-ordinator

Philippa Toulson

Trainee

Community Musician
Alex Cumming

Folk South West works to stimulate enjoyment, participation and creativity in the music, song, dance and traditions of the South West

Charity Reg 1037730

Singing Up for Somerset

November marked the first anniversary of Folk South West's appointment as Sing Up area leader for Somerset. Lots has happened in that time and over 200 people have taken part in various training activities, eight new school choirs have been set up with our help and thousands of children across the county are singing new songs and working towards their Sing Up awards.

It has been a great

opportunity to work with all sorts of other people and we have had great fun already and look forward to another year of fun before this initiative comes to an end. By then we hope that all transition and primary age children across the county will be singing their hearts out every day.

For information about Sing Up look at the fabulous website www.singup.org It is the portal to a whole world of opportunity!



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