



For FT 56 online copy:

part of FQ 56's cover, plus relevant updates

NEWS & LISTINGS FROM OUR FOLKLIFE MEMBERS

clubs, sessions, concerts, performers, media, services, festivals diary, workshops diary

FT ~ OUR FOLKLIFE TRADITIONS PAGES

ARTICLES with songs; SONGS WITH NOTES

The Boar's Head Carol - and Blood Month
 by Roy & Lesley Adkins

Tetbury Wassail, sung by Reg Wilkins
 contributed by Gwilym Davies

FOLKLIFE: BOOKS/CDs ANNOUNCED; SOCIETIES' NEWS



Up-Helly-Aa © Doc Rowe
 see "Local Celebrations"

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LISTINGS - Quarterly UPDATES

FQ 56. JAN 2018 P39

QUARTERLY UPDATES *for the FOLKLIFE MEMBERS*
ONLINE DIRECTORY

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⑦ **FOLKLIFE SOCIETIES**

A.2 GENERAL FOLK-ARTS SOCIETIES. 2, REGIONAL & LOCAL

- Oxon **FOLK ARTS OXFORD**

☐ contact admin<at>folk-arts-oxford.co.uk for more information

⊕ Folk Arts Oxford aims to promote folk and traditional dance, music and song in Oxfordshire. Alongside our own projects and events, FAO works collaboratively with other local organisations. We are particularly interested in improving access to the folk arts.

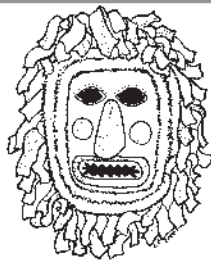
⑧ **FOLKLIFE STUDIES & INSTITUTIONS** ~ no changes

⑨ **SEASONAL LOCAL CELEBRATIONS** ~ any changes this quarter are included in this issue's list

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Office

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Jan.
2018

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THE FT PAGES ARE INCLUDED WITH FOLK LIFE QUARTERLY PRINT MAGAZINE, SEE folklife.org.uk

Folklife Traditions ♦ **Traddodiadau Bymyd Gwerin**

FQ's FOLK LIFE TRADITIONS PAGES

Our aims include stimulating a wider interest in folk studies & folk culture: **the FT pages**

- Article: 'The Boar's Head Carol - and Blood Month' by Roy & Lesley Adkins .. p40-41
- Song & notes: 'Tetbury Wassail', sung by Reg Wilkins, contributed by Gwilym Davies p42
- **Folklife Studies & Societies: Folklife News & Diary**
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- ◆ List 7, FOLK LIFE SOCIETIES Associations, Trusts, Organisations p45
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- ◆ List 9, SEASONAL LOCAL CELEBRATIONS

a list & photos, mostly by Doc Rowe inside back cover p47

○ YOUR NEXT DEADLINE is Feb 20 for FT Apr 2018 quarter

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● www.folklife-traditions.uk - the Folklife Traditions (FT) pages online

- FT Directory: full details of lists 7,8,9
- FT Archive: individual FT issues, index, links to articles & most of FT

FOLK LIFE 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**, and **Ian Pittaway**, for songs, tunes, articles, & notes; and to others, from time to time, as listed in FT.

And we remember **Roy Palmer**, a generous contributor for over 30 years, from August 1983 in FQ'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)

The Boar's Head Carol – and Blood Month by Roy & Lesley Adkins



The Boar's Head

The 1755 edition of Samuel Johnson's dictionary gives three meanings for the word 'carol', only one of which is 'a song of devotion', while the verb 'to carol' is defined as 'to sing in joy and festivity' or 'to praise; to celebrate'. These descriptions perfectly fit the popular Christmas song *The Boar's Head Carol* (Roud No. 22229), in praise of a boar's head prepared for a feast.

It was first published by Wynkyn de Worde in 1521 and is one of the earliest carols in print, though from the outset different versions existed. The tunes, which were rarely recorded, may also have varied. The carol appears to have been largely, if not entirely, associated with the boar's head ceremony, which probably dates back to medieval times and is still carried out each year in some institutions. (1) The best-known ceremony takes place a few days before Christmas at Queen's College, Oxford, and this is the most popular version of the carol today. It was included with several alternative sets of words in a Victorian collection of carols by William Henry Husk (2):

**The Boar's Head in hand bear I,
Bedeck'd with bays and rosemary;
And I pray you, masters, be merry,
Quot estis in convivio? [How many are at the feast?]
Chorus:
Caput Apri defero, [I bring the boar's head]
Reddens laudes Domino. [Sing thanks to the Lord]**

**The Boar's Head, as I understand,
Is the rarest dish in all this land,
Which thus bedeck'd with a gay garland,
Let us servire cantico. [Let us serve it while singing]
(Chorus)**

**Our steward hath provided this
In honour of the King of bliss;
Which on this day to be served is
In Reginensi Atrio. [In the Queen's Hall]
(Chorus)**

It is claimed that the ceremony has been performed annually at Queen's College, Oxford, since the 14th century, and the essence of the custom is the entrance into the Christmas feast of a boar's head on a platter, accompanied by the singing of *The Boar's Head Carol*.



An idea of a medieval Boar's Head feast



A wild boar hunt

From Norman times, the right to hunt animals in areas designated as Royal Forests (effectively game reserves) was protected by severe laws. Only the monarch had the right to hunt game animals like deer and wild boar in such areas, although permission was often granted to members of the nobility. The word 'venison' derives from the Latin *venari*, 'to hunt' and originally meant not just deer but also wild boar. A boar's head was therefore very much an upper-class symbol that formed a decorative centrepiece for the feast.

The formality of the rather simple boar's head ceremony lends itself to parody, and a humorous description is given in Washington Irving's *Sketch Book of Geoffrey Crayon, Gent.*, which was first published as a serial in 1819 and 1820. Irving described Christmas at a fictional 'Bracebridge Hall', where the Squire was keen on reviving all the old customs, including Christmas dinner with a boar's head ceremony:

The parson said grace ... There was now a pause, as if something was expected; when suddenly the butler entered the hall with some degree of bustle: he was attended by a servant on each side with a



The Boar's Head Carol – and Blood Month by Roy & Lesley Adkins



Parody of the Boar's Head procession at the fictional 'Bracebridge Hall'

large wax light, and bore a silver dish, on which was an enormous pig's head, decorated with rosemary, with a lemon in its mouth, which was placed with great formality at the head of the table. The moment this pageant made its appearance, the harper struck up a flourish; at the conclusion of which the young Oxonian [the Squire's son, fresh from Oxford], on receiving a hint from the Squire, gave, with an air of the most comic gravity, an old carol. (3)

At that point the parson criticised the singer for using the wrong version of the words and proceeded with a very detailed comparison of the different versions, until those attending the dinner became so bored that they began talking amongst themselves.

Wild boars died out in Britain at some time during the medieval period, probably hunted to extinction. Several attempts were made to re-introduce them to English forests, starting with King James I bringing them from France in 1608. It was probably part of Irving's satire that, rather than a boar's head, he describes a pig's head, though it does seem to have been an acceptable substitute when the real thing could not be obtained.

Everyone tried to 'eat, drink and be merry' in the dark days of December, and this was a time of year when meat became plentiful. Before the 19th century, many farm animals had to be slaughtered in the autumn, since there was seldom sufficient fodder to keep them all alive during winter. The meat was variously sold, preserved or eaten, which provided food for the start of winter and feasting at Christmas, but the contrast between the bulk of the population and the upper classes enjoying lavish feasts graced with a boar's head could hardly be more marked.

There are suggestions that this culling of farm animals was rooted in pre-Christian religions, and the historian the Venerable Bede, writing in north-east England in the 8th century, says November was called 'Blood Month' – *'Blod-monath mensis immolationum, quia in ea pecora quae occisuri erant Diis suis voverent'* ('Blood Month is the month of sacrifices, because in this month the cattle that were dedicated to the gods would be slaughtered'). This idea is echoed from other ancient sources across Britain. The Welsh name for November is 'Tachwedd', meaning 'slaughter', and it is also referred to in Welsh as 'y mis du' and in Scots Gaelic as 'am mìos dubh', both meaning 'the black month'.

By the mid-19th century, improvements in farming practice, especially the cultivation of root crops such as turnips for winter fodder, meant that this wholesale slaughter was largely avoided. One contemporary encyclopedia summed up the situation:

The feeding of cattle in stalls for the purpose of fattening them more readily than by simple grazing, and at a time when they cannot get fat on pastures, as a regular part of the process of husbandry, is comparatively modern. In former times cattle were slaughtered in October and November, which latter, in most languages derived from the Teutonic, is called Slaughter-month, there being no possibility of buying fresh meat of any degree of fatness during winter, and salt meat was the food of all classes in that season. But now the process of fattening cattle goes on without interruption during the whole year, and fat beasts come as regularly to market in winter as in summer. Stall-feeding is now the principal means by which oxen and cows are rendered fit for the market.' (4)

Even when the annual slaughter was no longer necessary, many families reared a pig every year, which was kept on common land, in a garden, or even in a small back-yard, and all food waste was fed to this pig to help fatten it. Such animals were looked upon with affection, particularly since they often represented the sole wealth of the family. John Fairfax-Blakeborough, writing about Yorkshire village life at the beginning of the 20th century, commented:

The cotter's [farmhand's] pig is his bank, he lays out his spare cash on it, he breeds from it early in the year, and, in due season, commences the mysteries and intricacies of 'the feeding' process. All day long he may be 'sarving' and 'foddering' the stock at the farm on which he is

employed, but they are mere hungry animals, and the feeding of them merely a part of his daily round of work. Not so the pollard [bran] and potato peel, tea-leaf and washing-up-water, mixing on his return home. Then he is 'sarving' his own, and that makes all the difference ... They [pigs] form the object of the home economy, for nothing is wasted when the sty is occupied. Not a crust, not a pie-dish scraping, not a drop of sour milk or unused tea, but goes into the evil-smelling pig-tub, where the outer leaves of cabbages and the skins of tuberous vegetables likewise also find a place. (5)

In late November or December, the pig was slaughtered. Some of it might be sold to earn extra money, but many families kept it all, and none was ever wasted. Whatever could not be eaten within a reasonable time was preserved for future use. The sides of meat were salted down for bacon, fat was collected for use as lard, offcuts of meat and offal were made into faggots, and even the head and tail could be made into brawn. The idea of a pig's head being used as a decorative centrepiece was inconceivable.

For centuries the pig was often a family's only source of meat, apart from poaching, and the practice of keeping a pig persisted well into the 20th century, when it was promoted during the Second World War as a means of producing extra food. Yet the common or garden pig has no grand celebratory song like *The Boar's Head Carol*. Instead, it is mentioned in many folk songs and ballads, and also in various short rhymes, such as one from Yorkshire that was recorded by Fairfax-Blakeborough:

The Christmas doggerel, sung all England over, includes, amongst its wishes of plenteousness, the pig:

*Ah wish ya a merry Kessimass,
An' a happy new year,
A pocket full o' money, an' a cellar full o' beer.
An' a good fat pig that'll last ya all t' year. (6)*

References

- 1 S. Roud 2006 *The English Year* (London), p.364
- 2 W. H. Husk 1884 *Songs of the Nativity: Being Christmas Carols Ancient and Modern* (London), pp.115–27
- 3 W. Irving 1824 *The Sketch Book of Geoffrey Crayon, Gent.* Vol. 2 (New York), pp.74–5
- 4 *Penny Cyclopaedia* vol. 22 (1841, London), p.426
- 5 J. Fairfax-Blakeborough 1912 *Life in a Yorkshire Village* (Stockton-on-Tees), pp.38–9
- 6 J. Fairfax-Blakeborough 1912 *Life in a Yorkshire Village* (Stockton-on-Tees), p.38

Roy and Lesley Adkins © 2017

Roy and Lesley Adkins are authors of books on history and archaeology. Their latest book is *Gibraltar: The Greatest Siege in British History*, published by Little, Brown (ISBN 9781408708675).

See www.adkinshistory.com.



A cottager discusses his pig with the local rector





Tetbury Wassail, sung by Reg Wilkins, Tetbury

1. Was - sail, Was - - sail ____ all o - ver the town, Our toast that is
white and our ale that is ____ brown, Our bowl it is made ____ some
ap - ple - ing tree, And ____ here's my good fel - low I'll bring ____ to thee.

5. If there is an - y mai - dens, I hope there is some, They'll ne - ver let a
young man stand (on the cold stone) They'll step to the door, ____ and
call us in, And ____ let all the jol - ly was - - sail - - ers in.
Shall us come ____ in and see how you do? We are
mer - - ry boys all ____ and wel - - come too.

2. Here's jolly to Jolly and to his right horn,
Pray God send our master a good crop of corn,
A good crop of corn as ever you seen,
With a wassailing bowl I'll bring to thee.

3. Here's jolly to Jolly and to his right ear,
Pray God send our master a happy New Year,
A happy New Year as ever I've seen,
With a wassailing bowl I'll bring to thee.

4. Come butler, come fill us a bowl of the best,
I hope in heaven your soul may rest,
But if you do fill us a bowl of the small,
Then down go butler, bowl and all."

Source: Sung by Reg Wilkins, Tetbury, Gloucestershire, 1990s. Collected by Vera Phillips and Doug Goulding for the *History of Tetbury Society*.

Notes: Wassail is pronounced "Wot-sail".

* This note is an F in subsequent verses

V4 has the same tune in its last 3 bars as v5

The American collector **James Madison Carpenter** noted the Tetbury wassail song and custom in about 1930, recorded on a cylinder recording. The Tetbury wassail custom included a magnificent 'Broad' or Bull, now copied and featured in the Stroud wassail event. By chance, the *History of Tetbury Society (HOTS)* made a recording in about 1991 of Reg Wilkins, the last of the wassailers, talking about the custom and the song. That recording, with more detail and background can be found on the glostrad website at <http://glostrad.com/wassail-song-tetbury/> and is the best documented of all the Gloucestershire wassail traditions. The tune is a little different from most versions of the wassail.

Gwilym Davies © Gloucestershire Traditions

☆ More details about, and news from, *Gloucestershire Traditions*, on page 44.

We welcome researched songs and tunes for our 'FOLKLIFE TRADITIONS' pages.

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Folklife Studies & Societies: books announced

Magical Folk : British and Irish Fairies: 500 AD to the Present
by Simon Young & Ceri Houlbrook
Gibson Square Books Ltd,
Hardback, ISBN: 9781783341016

<https://www.amazon.co.uk/Magical-Folk-British-Fairies-Present/dp/1783341017/ref>

The first major study of British and Irish fairies in almost half a century, prompted by new material on folklore revealed by the digitization of local papers and printed local ephemera in Britain and Ireland. They even reached North America.

Contents:

- 1 Fairy Queens and Pharisees: Sussex, by Jacqueline Simpson
 - 2 Pucks and Lights: Worcestershire, by Pollyanna Jones
 - 3 Pixies and Pixy Rocks: Devon, by Mark Norman and Jo Hickey-Hall
 - 4 Fairy Magic and the Cottingley Photographs: Yorkshire, by Richard Sugg
 - 5 Fairy Barrows and Cunning Folk: Dorset, by Jeremy Harte
 - 6 Fairy Holes and Fairy Butter: Cumbria, by Simon Young
- Celtic and Norse Fairies:**
- 7 The Sídh and Fairy Courts: Ireland, by Jenny Butler
 - 8 The Seelie and Unseelie Courts: Scotland, by Ceri Houlbrook
 - 9 Trows and Trowie Wives: Orkney and Shetland, by Laura Coulson
 - 10 The Fair Folk and Enchanters: Wales, by Richard Suggett
 - 11 Pouques and the Faiteaux: Channel Islands, by Francesca Bihet
 - 12 George Waldron and the Good People: Isle of Man, by Stephen Miller
 - 13 Piskies and Knockers: Cornwall, by Ronald M. James
- Travelling Fairies:**
- 14 Puritans and Pukwudgies: New England, by Peter Muise
 - 15 Fairy Bread and Fairy Squalls: Atlantic Canada, by Simon Young
 - 16 Banshees and Changelings: Irish America, by Chris Woodyard



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Folklore: The Basics by Simon J. Bronner

Routledge, paperback: ISBN 9781138774957, £14.99; hardback: ISBN 9781138774940, £80.00

Folklore: The Basics is an engaging guide to the practice and interpretation of folklore. Taking examples from around the world, it explores the role of folklore in expressing fundamental human needs, desires, and anxieties that are often not revealed through other means. Providing a clear framework for approaching the study of folklore, it introduces the reader to methodologies for identifying, documenting, interpreting and applying key information about folklore and its relevance to modern life. From the Brothers Grimm to Internet memes, it addresses such topics as:

What is folklore? How do we study it?

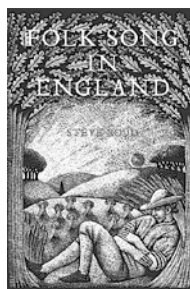
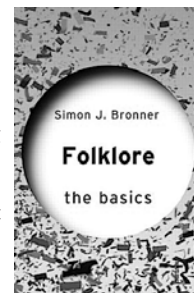
Why does folklore matter?

How does folklore relate to elite culture?

Is folklore changing in a digital age?

Folklore: The Basics supports readers in becoming familiar with folkloric traditions and how to interpret cultural expression. It is an essential read for anyone approaching the study of folklore for the first time.

• **Simon J. Bronner** is Distinguished Professor of American Studies and Folklore at the Pennsylvania State University, Harrisburg, USA. He is the editor of the *Encyclopedia of American Folklore* for Routledge, the *Material Worlds Book Series* for the University Press of Kentucky; and the *Jewish Cultural Studies* series for Littman.



Folk Song in England, by Steve Roud

Faber & Faber, hardback, 784 pages, ISBN: 9780571309719, £25

In Victorian times, England was famously dubbed the land without music - but one of the great musical discoveries of the early twentieth century was that England had a vital heritage of folk song and music which was easily good enough to stand comparison with those of other parts of Britain and overseas. Cecil Sharp, Ralph Vaughan Williams, Percy Grainger, and a number of other enthusiasts gathered a huge harvest of songs and tunes which we can study and enjoy at our leisure.

But after over a century of collection and discussion, publication and performance, there are still many things we don't know about traditional song - Where did the songs come from? Who sang them, where, when and why? What part did singing play in the lives of the communities in which the songs thrived? More importantly, have the pioneer collectors' restricted definitions and narrow focus hindered or helped our understanding?

This is the first book for many years to investigate the wider social history of traditional song in England, and draws on a wide range of sources to answer these questions and many more.



Really Beautiful Company, by Carol Davies, Glostrad. £12.99+postage, using Paypal at <http://glostrad.com/glostrad-publications/>.

New book on Gloucestershire folk music.

Carol Davies, known for her part in the Heritage-Lottery funded "Single Gloucester" project, has had a book published arising from her researches into the lives and background of the singers and musicians whose songs and tunes were collected. One of the results of this project has been the publication of a new book called "Really Beautiful Company" on the traditional singers and musicians of Gloucestershire who gave their songs and tunes to collectors - who were they, where did they live, what were their social conditions like at the time. The book is divided into chapters such as *Singers in the Workhouse*, *Women Singers*, *Singers of Comic Songs* and also special focus on the village of Sherborne as a typical Cotswold village and the Forest of Dean.

The book is full of details and contains a number of songs and tunes.

"A Bowl of the Best", 21 songs collected in Gloucester, arranged by Matt Norman, Sheila Macbeth and Veronica Lowe. Glostrad. £10+postage using Paypal at <http://glostrad.com/glostrad-publications/>

A book of songs in parts. The Single Gloucester project has published "A Bowl of the Best", a book of 21 songs collected in Gloucester, arranged by Matt Norman, Sheila Macbeth and Veronica Lowe. The songs are arranged variously in 2, 3 or 4 parts and are suitable for community choirs or any group wanting to sing local folk songs in harmony. In particular the book features a number of wassail songs. It is A4 size and spiral-bound, making it easy to use on, say, a music stand.

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,
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01885 490323;
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The Welsh Border Morris Dances of Herefordshire, Worcestershire and Shropshire



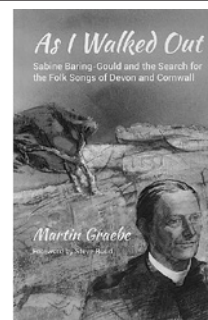
Folklife Studies & Societies: books announced (continued)

As I Walked Out: Sabine Baring-Gould and the Search for Folk Songs in Devon and Cornwall.

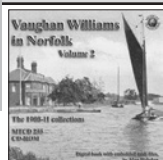
by **Martin Graebe**. Signal Books Ltd, paperback, 426 pages, ISBN: 9781909930537

In 1888, Sabine Baring-Gould began the great project which led to the creation of the first of the large-scale collections of folk songs made in England. In his new book, Martin Graebe tells the story of Baring-Gould, his colleagues, and the hundreds of ordinary people in Devon, Cornwall and beyond who contributed to the collection. The book is a high quality paperback with 420 pages, and 78 illustrations, including 12 in colour. The appendices include an analysis of the music of Baring-Gould's collection by Dr Julia Bishop, as well as a list of Baring-Gould's singers and a full description of the manuscripts in which he recorded the songs. There is also a small selection of songs from the collection.

The book contains a Prologue by Dr Merriol Almond, Sabine Baring-Gould's great-granddaughter, and there is a Foreword by Steve Roud in which he says: "As I Walked Out is not only a major contribution to the history of folk song studies, but illuminates an important strand in the wider cultural world of Victorian and Edwardian England and the part that Sabine Baring-Gould, the archetypal 'gentleman scholar', played in this world."



recordings & books announced



2 items from
MUSICAL TRADITIONS®

The Two Bobs' Worth.

Bob Lewis and Bob Copper, MTCD374, £12

Our third 2017 CD of traditional singers is now available. They were performing together as *The Two Bobs' Worth* (an almost unique event) and recorded at Nellie's folk club, Tonbridge, in 1999.

The track list is: *A Fair Maid Walking; The Honest Labourer; Good Morrow Mistress Bright; You Seamen Bold; We Shepherds are the Bravest Boys; The Streams of Lovely Nancy; The Pretty Ploughboy; George Collins; A Sweet Country Life; The Banks of Sweet Primaroses; The Cobbler; The Bold Princess Royal; My Boy Willie; While Gamekeepers Lie Sleeping; Three Crows / Blackbirds; The Threshing Song; Spencer the Rover; Thousands or More; Oh Good Ale; John Barleycorn.*

These were sung by Bob Lewis first, alternating with Bob Copper, and are presented in the order they occurred in performance, with no songs missed out. I have edited the inter-song comments so that we end up with a duration of 79 minutes and 46 seconds - only 14 seconds short of a completely full CD! An absolutely splendid record; Bob Copper accompanies himself on concertina for most of his songs, and I have never heard Bob Lewis in better voice. MT Records' 10% Sales Royalties will go to support the *Sussex Traditions* organisation.

Vaughan Williams in Norfolk, Volume 2, MTCD255, £12

Volume 2 of the *Vaughan Williams in Norfolk* CD-ROM (MTCD253) that we published in 2014. It covers the three Norfolk collecting trips Ralph Vaughan Williams made in April 1908, October 1910 and December 1911. He met some 22 singers and collected 93 songs from them. As before, they are presented in staff notation, with full texts, and with link to MIDI sound files of the tunes, and there's a very substantial page of information on the singers.

Rod Stradling®

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About Saydisc®

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- **Publicity for appropriate books, CDs of collected songs etc - see www.folklife-traditions.uk -- > "Contributions" page**
(the editors don't review 'Folk' CDs, so please don't send them!)

news & diary

® = *Folklife Member*, for details see **LISTINGS**

Gloucestershire Tradition / "Single Gloucester"®

We continue to draw breath after 2 hectic years. The main aim of our group of trustees is to ensure that the website www.glostrad.com is maintained and to this end we need continual funding. To this end, we have placed a Paypal donations button on the front page of the website (scroll down). Please consider making a contribution in order to keep this valuable website available as a resource for all.

On page 42 in this issue of FQ, from the website we have the *Tetbury Wassail*, sung by **Reg Wilkins, Tetbury.**

® **Gwilym Davies** for *"The Single Gloucester"*, www.glostrad.com

Vaughan Williams Memorial Library, EFDSS®

★ **VWML Library Lectures 2018**, at Cecil Sharp House.

Dan Leno, Clog Dancing and the Victorian Music Hall by **Caroline Radcliffe**, Wednesday 17 January, 7.30pm-9pm

On the Banks of the Green Willow: George Butterworth—Dancer, Folk Song Collector and Composer by **Derek Schofield**, Wednesday 21 February, 7.30pm-9pm

The Ghostly Crew [Roud 1922], ghostlore and traditional song by **Paul Cowdell**, Wednesday 21 March, 7.30pm-9pm

Sabine Baring-Gould and his Search for the Folk Songs of Devon and Cornwall by **Martin Graebe**, Wednesday 18 April, 7.30pm-9pm

★ **Broadside Day 2018: Cambridge University, 24 February.**



Annual one-day conference for people interested in **Street Literature** in all its fascinating aspects - broadsides, chapbooks, songsters, woodcuts, engravings, last dying speeches, catchpennies, wonder-tales, almanacs, fortune-tellers, and all kinds of cheap printed material sold to ordinary people in city streets, at country fairs, and from pedlar's packs up and down the country in past centuries. The Day consists of short papers, presentations, displays, discussions; suitable for beginners and experts alike; all will enjoy its lively and informal atmosphere.

More on <https://www.vwml.org/events/upcoming-events>

Vaughan Williams Memorial Library, English Folk Dance & Song Society, Cecil Sharp House, 2 Regent's Park Road, London NW1 7AY



The Folklore Society® : events

★ **27 - 29 April The Folklore Society's April conference**
Working Life: Belief, Custom, Ritual, Narrative

at The Museum of English Rural Life, University of Reading, 6 Redlands Road, Reading, RG1 5EX

Contact us at thefolkloresociety@gmail.com for more information

More details of FLS events: <http://folklore-society.com/events>

The Folklore Society (FLS) is a learned society, based in London, devoted to the study of all aspects of folklore and tradition.

® **The Folklore Society**, www.folklore-society.com, 020 7862 8564

The Traditional Song Forum (TSF)®

The TSF is a national organisation dedicated to the promotion, performance and publication of traditional folk song in the UK.

★ **28 April, Meeting, at Cecil Sharp House, London.**

Afternoon 'Forum Focus' theme - 'Publication'. We would welcome offers of short talks on any aspect of publication of songs to be given at the meeting. Send your ideas to Martin Graebe.

Latest details on www.tradsong.org All enquiries to

® **Martin Graebe** (TSF Secretary) martin.graebe@btinternet.com



LIST 7: FOLKLIFE SOCIETIES Assoc'ns, Trusts, Organisations ❖ 1-LINE SUMMARY LISTINGS

- **SUMMARIES:** *below* is the **1st LINE** of **DETAILED ENTRIES** in our **ONLINE DIRECTORY**, www.folklife-traditions.uk ; updated quarterly
 • *Below*, we list **confirmed entries**: ® = **Members**, ∅ = **others**. Supporting our work by Membership (£18 a year) is most welcome.

GENERAL: A1-A2 • Societies that include both folk music *and* song, or combine folk music, song, *and* dance

A.1 GENERAL FOLK-ARTS SOCIETIES. 1, NATIONAL			
Canada	∅	La SOCIÉTÉ CANADIENNE POUR LES TRADITIONS MUSICALES / The CANADIAN SOCIETY FOR TRADITIONAL MUSIC	www.yorku.ca/cstm
Cymru / Wales	®	BYWYD GWERIN (Welsh Folklife Directory) trac Traddodiadau Cerdd Cymru / Music Traditions Wales	www.bywyd-gwerin.cymru Sam ac Eleanor Simmons 01684 561378 www.trac-cymru.org trac 01446 748556
England	®	ENGLISH FOLK SONG & DANCE SOCIETY (EFDSS)	www.efdss.org Office 020 7485 2206
	∅	FOLK CAMPS	www.folkcamps.co.uk Office 0208 1232136
	®	WORKERS' MUSIC ASSOCIATION	[no website] Chair: Anne Schuman 020 8699 1933
England+Wales	®	FOLK 21	www.folk21.org Colin Grantham 01543 480960
	®	FOLKLIFE	www.folklife.org.uk Sam & Eleanor Simmons .. 01684 561378
Ellan Vannin / Isle Of Man	∅	MANX HERITAGE FOUNDATION Music Development Team	www.manxmusic.com
A.2 GENERAL FOLK-ARTS SOCIETIES. 2, REGIONAL & LOCAL			
Wales			
- Powys	®	TASC, Traditional Arts Support in the Community	www.tradartssupport.org.uk Philip Freeman 01686 688102
England: East			
- Suf./nearby	∅	SUFFOLK FOLK	www.suffolkfolk.co.uk Mary Humphreys, Chair
England: Midlands		(including Oxfordshire)	
- Oxon	®	FOLK ARTS OXFORD	www.folk-arts-oxford.co.uk/home Office 01993 357340
- Midlands	®	TRADITIONAL ARTS TEAM	www.tradartsteam.co.uk Pam Bishop 0121 247 3856
- W. Mids	®	WEST MIDLANDS FOLK FEDERATION (WMFF)	www.wmff.org.uk Geoffrey Johnson 0121 360 7468
England: North		(North-East, North-West, Yorks)	
- N.-West	∅	FOLKUS	www.folkus.co.uk Alan Bell 01253 872317
- Gtr Man	®	TAMESIDE FOLK ASSOCIATION (TFA)	[no website] Mike Riley 0161 366 7326
England: South		(South-East, South-West; Oxfordshire see Midlands)	
- Devon	®	DEVON FOLK	www.devonfolk.co.uk Anne Gill 01803 290427
- Glos	®	GLOS FOLK	www.glosfolk.org.uk Peter Cripps, Chairman 01452 780401
- Glos	®	GLOUCESTERSHIRE TRADITIONS	http://gloucestershiretraditions.co.uk contact via website form
- Herefs	®	The MUSIC POOL	www.musicpool.org.uk Rob Strawson 01432 278118
- S.-East	∅	SOUTH EAST FOLK ARTS NETWORK (SEFAN)	www.sefan.org.uk Penny Allen, General Manager 01273 541453
- South	®	SOUTHERN COUNTIES' FOLK FEDERATION (SCOFF)	www.scoff.org.uk Site no longer updated
- Wilts	®	WILTSHIRE FOLK ARTS	www.wiltshirefolkarts.org.uk Office 01380 726597
- Devon	®	WREN MUSIC	www.wrenmusic.co.uk Main office 01837 53754

SPECIFIC: A3-A6 • Societies that cover solely folk music OR song OR dance

A.3 CERDD DANT SOCIETIES			
	∅	CYMDEITHAS CERDD DANT CYMRU	www.cerdd-dant.org Delyth Vaughan (Administrator) 01341 423 072
A.4 FOLK SONG SOCIETIES			
	∅	CYMDEITHAS ALAWON GWERIN CYMRU / The Welsh Folk-Song Society	www.canugwerin.com Dr Rhiannon Ifans (Hon. Sec) 01970 828719
	®	PEDLARS PACK	http://groups.yahoo.com/group/Pedlars_Pack Moderator: Steve Roud
	∅	TRADSONG	http://launch.groups.yahoo.com/group/Tradsong Moderator: Johnny Adams
	®	TRADITIONAL SONG FORUM	www.tradsong.org Secretary: Martin Graebe 01285 651104
	®	YORKSHIRE GARLAND GROUP	www.yorkshirefolksong.net
A.5 FOLK MUSIC SOCIETIES			
	∅	CLERA, Society for the Traditional Instruments of Wales	www.clera.org Meurig Williams (Membership Sec.)
	®	DULCIMER WORLD CONGRESS	www.dulcimerworldcongress.co.uk Sally Whytehead 01527 64229
	®	NONSUCH DULCIMER CLUB	http://dulcimer.org.uk Sally Whytehead 01527 64229
	®	TRADTUNES	http://launch.groups.yahoo.com/group/tradtunes Moderator: Johnny Adams ..
	∅	The VILLAGE MUSIC PROJECT	www.village-music-project.org.uk Project Director: John Adams
A.6. FOLK DANCE SOCIETIES			
	®	The CORNISH DANCE SOCIETY	www.cornishdance.com Merv Davey (Chairman) 01208 831642
	∅	CYMDEITHAS GENEDLAETHOL DAWNS WERIN CYMRU / WELSH NATIONAL FOLK DANCE SOCIETY	http://dawnsio.com
	∅	WILTSHIRE FOLK ASSOCIATION (WFA)	www.wiltfolkassoc.webspace.virginmedia.com Geoff Elwell 01225 703650

SPECIFIC: A7-A15 • Societies covering Folklife activities other than the above

A.7. FOLK DRAMA SOCIETIES			
	∅	TRADITIONAL DRAMA RESEARCH GROUP	www.folkplay.info
A.8 FOLKLORE SOCIETIES			
	∅	AMERICAN FOLKLORE SOCIETY	www.afsnet.org 614 / 292-4715
	®	The FOLKLORE SOCIETY	www.folklore-society.com 020 7862 8564
	∅	NORTHERN EARTH	www.northernearth.co.uk John Billingsley, Editor
	®	TALKING FOLKLORE	http://groups.yahoo.com/group/TalkingFolklore Moderator: Steve Roud ...

○ A.9 Storytelling Societies, A.10 Oral History Societies, no confirmed entries

A.11 LANGUAGE & DIALECT SOCIETIES Arranged alphabetically: 1. by Country or Region, 2. within Country or Region, by name.			
• Ellan Vannin / Isle Of Man			
	∅	YN CHESHAGHT GHAILCKAGH / The Manx Gaelic Society	www.ycg.iofm.net
• England			
	∅	LAKELAND DIALECT SOCIETY	www.lakelanddialectsociety.org
	∅	YORKSHIRE DIALECT SOCIETY	www.yorkshiredialectsociety.org.uk
• Kernow / Cornwall			
	®	CORNISH LANGUAGE PARTNERSHIP	www.magakernow.org.uk General Enquiries 01872 323497
• Airlann / Éire / Ireland, Alba / Scotland, Cymru / Wales, no confirmed entries; additional unconfirmed entries, eg info from web, in our online Directory			
A.12 FOLK LIFE SOCIETIES (general and specific)			
	∅	PEARLY SOCIETY	www.pearlysociety.co.uk Carole Jolly 0208 778 8670
	∅	The SOCIETY for FOLK LIFE STUDIES (SFLS)	www.folklifestudies.org.uk

LIST 8: FOLK LIFE STUDIES & INSTITUTIONS ♦ I-LINE SUMMARY LISTINGS

- **SUMMARIES:** below is the 1st LINE of DETAILED ENTRIES in our ONLINE DIRECTORY, www.folklife-traditions.uk ; updated quarterly
 • Below, we list confirmed entries: ® = Members, ∅ = others. Supporting our work by Membership (£18 a year) is most welcome.

Fs.1 FOLK LIFE STUDIES: RESEARCHERS AND AUTHORS

∅ COLIN ANDREWS	www.bonnygreen.co.uk	Colin Andrews	01363 877216
∅ DAVID HERRON	www.herronpublishing.co.uk	David Eckersley	01422 832460
® DOC ROWE	www.docrowe.org.uk	Doc Rowe	07747 687734
® EARLY MUSIC MUSE	http://earlymusicmuse.com	Ian Pittaway	.....
® GWILYM DAVIES	www.gwilymdavies.co.uk	Gwilym Davies	01242 603094
® MARTIN GRAEBE	www.sbgsongs.org	Martin Graebe	01285 651104
® MIKE RILEY	(no website)	Mike Riley	0161 366 7326
® ROY ADKINS	www.adkinshistory.com	Roy Adkins	[via website]
® STEVE ROUD	(no website)	Steve Roud	01825 766751
® TOM BROWN	www.umbermusic.co.uk	Tom Brown	01271 882366

Fs.2 FOLK LIFE STUDIES: LECTURERS AND SPEAKERS see also List 2, PERFORMERS and List 5, WORKSHOP PROVIDERS

∅ COLIN ANDREWS	www.bonnygreen.co.uk	Colin Andrews	01363 877216
® DOC ROWE	www.docrowe.org.uk	Doc Rowe	07747 687734
® EARLY MUSIC MUSE	http://earlymusicmuse.com	Ian Pittaway	.....
® GWILYM DAVIES	www.gwilymdavies.co.uk	Gwilym Davies	01242 603094
∅ JOHN ADAMS & CHRIS PARTINGTON	www.village-music-project.org.uk	.....	.....
∅ JOHN BILLINGSLEY	www.northernearth.co.uk	John Billingsley	.....
® MARTIN GRAEBE	www.martinandshan.net	Martin Graebe	01285 651104
® TOM & BARBARA BROWN	www.umbermusic.co.uk	Tom/Barbara Brown	01271 882366

Fs.3 FOLK LIFE STUDIES: ARCHIVES (in specialist folklife or general archives)

Cymru / Wales

∅ The ARCHIVE OF WELSH TRADITIONAL MUSIC	www.bangor.ac.uk/music/research/welsh_music.php.en		01248 382181
® The MICK TEMS ARCHIVE OF TRADITIONAL ARTS	www.folk.wales/archives.html	Mick Tems	01443 201634

England

∅ The ARCHIVES OF CULTURAL TRADITION	http://www.shef.ac.uk/library/special/cectal		
∅ The CHARLES PARKER ARCHIVE	www.birmingham.gov.uk/charlesparkerarchive	Fiona Tait, Archivist	0121 303 4549
® The DOC ROWE COLLECTION ARCHIVE & Doc Rowe Collection Support Group	www.docrowe.org.uk	Access: see note on website	
® FOLKTRAX, the late Peter Kennedy's 'folktrax' website	www.folktrax-archive.org		
∅ WILTSHIRE COMMUNITY HISTORY: FOLK ARTS section	http://history.wiltshire.gov.uk/community/folkintro.php		

USA ∅ AMERICAN FOLK LIFE CENTER: please see under Fs.5, FOLK LIFE LIBRARIES

Fs.4 FOLK LIFE STUDIES: MUSEUMS (in specialist folklife or general museums)

England ∅ CAMBRIDGE & COUNTY FOLK MUSEUM	www.folkmuseum.org.uk	Gloucester Life Museum	01223 355159
∅ GLOUCESTER LIFE MUSEUM	www.gloucestermuseums.co.uk		01452 396868
∅ MUSEUM OF EAST ANGLIAN LIFE	www.eastanglianlife.org.uk		01449 612229
∅ PITT RIVERS MUSEUM	www.prm.ox.ac.uk		01865 270927

Fs.5 FOLK LIFE STUDIES: LIBRARIES (in specialist folklife or general archives); includes Public/Community Libraries that are Folklife Members

England ∅ EXETER CENTRAL LIBRARY	www.devon.gov.uk/libraries		01392 384217
® FOLKTRAX - please see under Fs.3, FOLK LIFE ARCHIVES			
® HALSWAY MANOR LIBRARY (Kennedy-Grant Memorial Library)	www.halswaymanor.org.uk		01984 618274
® VAUGHAN WILLIAMS MEMORIAL LIBRARY (EFDSS)	http://library.efdss.org		020 7485 2206
USA ∅ AMERICAN FOLK LIFE CENTER	www.loc.gov/folklife		202) 707-5510

∅ Fs.6 Academic Courses & Research (undergraduate or higher level), no confirmed entries)

Fs.7 FOLK LIFE STUDIES: MUSIC PUBLISHERS & RECORDING COMPANIES

® HOBGOBLIN RECORDS	www.hobgoblinrecords.com		01273 491456
∅ HURLER RECORDS	(no website)		01637 880394
® MUSICAL TRADITIONS RECORDS	www.mtreccords.co.uk	Chris Ridley	01453 759475
∅ ORAL TRADITIONS of Suffolk and bordering counties	www.oraltraditions.co.uk	Rod Stradling	01379 890568
® S&A PROJECTS	www.umbermusic.co.uk	Neil Lanham	01271 882366
® SAYDISC	www.saydisc.com	Tom/Barbara Brown	
® WREN MUSIC	www.wrenmusic.co.uk	Gef Lucena	01837 53754

Fs.8 FOLK LIFE STUDIES: PRINT BOOK PUBLISHERS & BOOKSELLERS

∅ BARRY MCKAY RARE BOOKS	www.barrymckayrarebooks.org	Barry McKay	017683 52282
∅ COLLECTORS' FOLK BOOKS	www.collectorsfolk.co.uk	Dave Eyre	0114 234 4044
∅ DAVID HERRON PUBLISHING	www.herronpublishing.co.uk	David Eckersley	01422 832460
∅ HALLAMSHIRE TRADITIONS	www.hallamtrads.co.uk	Paul & Liz Davenport	07947 490 052
∅ LLANERCH PRESS & PUBLISHERS	www.llanerchpress.com		01278 781278
∅ LOGASTON PRESS	www.logastonpress.co.uk		01544 327344
∅ MICHAEL RAVEN PUBLICATIONS	www.michaelravenpublications.com	Eve Raven	01903 872038
® S&A PROJECTS	www.umbermusic.co.uk	Tom/Barbara Brown	01271 882366
® The ROOTS OF WELSH BORDER MORRIS, by Dave Jones	(no website)	Annie Jones	01885 490323

Fs.9 FOLK LIFE STUDIES: PRINT JOURNALS for FOLK MAGAZINES & LISTINGS (print & online), see list 3: SERVICES

∅ CANU GWERIN, Welsh Folk-Song Society	www.canugwerin.com	Dr Rhianon Ifans (Hon. Sec)	01970 828719
® FMJ (FOLK MUSIC JOURNAL)	http://fmj.efdss.org	EFDSS	020 7485 2206
∅ FOLK LIFE QUARTERLY: Folklife Traditions	www.folklife.org.uk	Sam Simmons	01684 561378
∅ NORTHERN EARTH	www.northernearth.co.uk	John Billingsley, editor	.....

Fs.10 FOLK LIFE STUDIES: FOLK LIFE RESOURCES ONLINE: websites, and blogs with articles

Cymru / Wales (bilingual sites)

∅ ALAWON BANGOR, Traditional Melodies, from Manuscripts in Bangor University	http://alawonbangor.wordpress.com		.....
∅ CANEUON GWERIN, Exploring and showcasing folk songs from Wales	http://caneuonwerin.wordpress.com		.....
∅ CLERA, The Society for the Traditional Instruments of Wales	www.sesiwn.com		.....
∅ MEU CYMRU, Welsh Tunes and Songs blog	www.meucymru.co.uk/music/alawchan.htm		.....

England

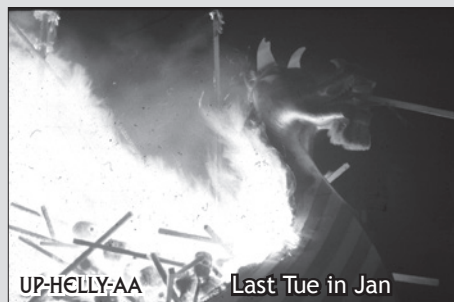
® FOLK LIFE TRADITIONS, archive of FT articles etc from printed Folklife Quarterly	www.folklife-traditions.uk	Sam Simmons	01684 561378
® FOLK LIFE TRADITIONS, online archive of above	http://issuu.com/traditions-uk	Sam Simmons	01684 561378
® FOLKTRAX, archive site of the late Peter Kennedy's 'folktrax' website	www.folktrax-archive.org		.....
® FOLKOPEDIA	http://folklopedia.efdss.org		.....
® MUSICAL TRADITIONS INTERNET MAGAZINE	www.mustrad.org.uk	Rod Stradling, editor	01453 759475
® The ROUD FOLKSONG INDEX	http://library.efdss.org/cgi-bin/query.cgi?query=	Steve Roud	.....
® SONGS OF THE WEST, the Sabine Baring-Gould website	www.sbgsongs.org	Martin Graebe	01285 651104
∅ The YORKSHIRE GARLAND GROUP	www.yorkshirefolksong.net		.....





LIST 9: SEASONAL LOCAL CELEBRATIONS

A LIST & PHOTOS © Doc Rowe



UP-HELLY-AA Last Tue in Jan

GOATHLAND PLOUGH STOTS
1st Sat after Plough Mon

CHINESE NEW YEAR 16 Feb 2018

MARI LWYD from before Christmas
to New Year's Day

UP-HELLY-AA

Last Tue in Jan

All listings © Doc Rowe except any in *italics*. All photos © Doc Rowe unless otherwise credited
In *italics* & other Wales listings: see our FOLKLIFE WALES Directory, bywyd-gwerin.org.uk

LISTINGS UNDERLINED = see photos

JANUARY

MARI LWYD	different places - different days	S.E. Wales	before Christmas to New Year's Day
WASSAILING	Combe in Teignhead	Devon	January
WASSAILING	Churchstanton	Somerset	January
WASSAILING and now in many places in England West & Mid-West			
MUMMER'S DAY	Padstow	Cornwall	1st January
HAXEY HOOD GAME	Haxey	Lincs	6th January
BODMIN WASSAILERS	Bodmin	Cornwall	6th January
TWELFTH NIGHT REVELS	Southwark	London	near 6th January
GOATHLAND PLOUGH STOTS	Goathland	North Yorks	1st Sat after Plough Mon
STRAW BEAR DAY	Whittlesea	Cams	Sat nr 6 Jan
HEN GALAN [old New Year], CALENNIG [New Yr gifts]	Cwm Gwaun	Sir Benfro / Pems	13 Ion / Jan
APPLE TREE WASSAIL	Whimble	Devon	17th January
WASSAILING	Carhampton	Somerset	17th January
DYDD SANTES DWYNWEN / ST DWYNWEN'S DAY		Cymru / Wales	25 Ion / Jan
UP-HELLY-AA	Lerwick	Shetland	Last Tue in Jan
MARI LWYD	different places - different days	S.E. Wales	before Christmas to New Year's Day

FEBRUARY, MARCH, INCLUDING SHROVE TUESDAY (28 FEB 2017), ASH WED. (DAY AFTER)

CARLWS CHARITY	Woodbridge	Suffolk	2nd February
CRADLE ROCKING	Blidworth	Notts	Sunday near 2nd February
CHINESE NEW YEAR	various	UK	[21 Jan - 20 Feb]. 2018: 16 Feb
QUIT RENTS CEREMONY	Royal Courts of Justice	London	February
TRIAL OF PYX	Goldsmiths Hall	London	February (and May)
RED FEATHER DAY:			
SIR JOHN CASS SERVICE	Aldgate	London	Friday near 20th February
WESTMINSTER GREAZE	Westminster School	London	Shrove Tuesday
SEDFIELD BALL GAME	Sedgefield	Co. Durham	Shrove Tuesday
FOOTBALL	Alnwick	Northumberland	Shrove Tuesday
FOOTBALL	Atherstone	Warks	Shrove Tuesday
ASHBOURNE ROYAL FOOTBALL	Ashbourne	Derbys	Shrove Tuesday and Wednesday
HURLING THE SILVER BALL	St Columb Major	Cornwall	Shrove Tuesday and Saturday following

❖ Unique in being a Shrovetide football where the ball is hurled, not thrown. Hundreds of hurlers turn up, the two teams being the Townsman and the Countrymen. Goals are about two miles apart, but a goal can also be scored by being carried over the parish boundary. There is an afternoon and an evening game. Youngsters get 'silver cocoa' and the silver ball goes round the pubs being submerged in beer to provide 'silver beer'. Based on information from © Chris Ridley.

Ref: Hurling at St Columb, Ivan Rabey (Lodenek Press, Padstow: 1972).

CAKES AND ALE CEREMONY	St Pauls	London	Ash Wednesday
DAME ELIZABETH MARVYN CHARITY	Ufton Nervet	Berks	Mid Lent
DYDD GŴYL DEWI (dathliadau, digwyddiadau ysgol) / ST DAVID'S DAY (celebrations, school events)			
		Cymru / Wales	1 Mawrth / 1 March
KIPLINGCOTES DERBY	Market Weighton	Yorks	Third Thursday in March
TICHBORNE DOLE	Tichborne	Hants	25th March

WWW.FOLKLIFE.ORG.UK

Dates believed to be correct, but some weekday dates seem to be changing towards weekends.
our FolkLife Traditions quarterly; FT webpage is www.folklife.org.uk/ft.html

Detailed reports - and photos - are welcomed for
Each FT includes a list for that quarter, updated as appropriate.

The Doc Rowe Collection

Support Group has been set up to support the Archive of Doc's unique collection.

See: www.docrowe.org.uk

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If you're involved with such events, more entries welcome (& further details &/or contact details), subject to consent of the event's organisers, please - some may not want publicity. For links to websites, see Doc's website: www.docrowe.org.uk