



THE ACOUSTIC CALENDAR: UPDATE 11/2/19

This newsletter is an attempt to keep you abreast of the latest developments in the acoustic DIY scene in the west of England (singarounds, sessions, open mic, etc.)

Hello People,

Since last I put finger to keyboard, the snow has arrived, gleamed briefly and departed and the earth has embarked for the 4.5 billionth or so time on its annual 584 million mile circuit of the sun. A passing alien, whose ears (assuming they had such appendages) were attuned to the finer things the Universe has to offer, might hear a faint murmur coming from our planet as it spins like a humming top in its appointed orbit. And if those hypothetical ears were *really really* sensitive they might detect that this sound was made up of many many smaller sounds – the sounds of guitars, banjos, fiddles, mandolins, whistles, Appalachian dulcimers, ukulele's, nyckelharpas (forgive me if haven't mentioned your instrument) and they would say (in their own alien tongue, of course) 'Hey, those guys have got a great scene going down there. They must have heard of the *Acoustic Calendar*.' For, in the words of Willie Nelson, "*We are the same. There is no difference anywhere in the world. People are people. They laugh, cry, feel, and love, and music seems to be the common denomination that brings us all together. Music cuts through all boundaries and goes right to the soul.*" (I think that should be 'denominator', but I quite like 'denomination' – it suggests a kind of universal church.)

Tony

FROM MY INBOX

"Thanks for the big plug (now all I need is a hole to stick it into..." Paul

I'm sure you'll find a suitable orifice. You may not have to look very far.

"If, as you might be suggesting, I were a contortionist, I'd have demonstrated my skills when I visited Ashill..." Paul

I admit that was slightly disappointing, but you made up for it with the cake.

*"A Folk Diary founder called Sancho
Was forbidden from playing the banjo..."*

I'll stop there, while I still command your respect / think up the next line, or some extrication from the poetic trap I may have set myself. It's in the genes: long ago, Eric, a family friend given to coming out with unusual remarks, said 'Beethoven could have been a lumberjack, couldn't he?' In the face of dropped jaws and raised eyebrows, he expounded that Mozart couldn't have been anything other than a musician, but Beethoven [whom he admired greatly] was more workaday, concrete, etc. My mum set to work:

*'Ludwig went and took an axe
When someone mentioned lumberjacks.'*

*Eric added the line: 'He chased poor Eric round a tree' and my dad finished off with:
'Then wrote another symphony'." Paul*

A Folk Diary founder called Sancho
Was forbidden from playing the banjo,
So he found an old sink
And went plinkety-plink.
Er..... wait till the shit hits the fan, Joe...

I think we'd better leave this stuff to Barbara, don't you?

"I made good use of your listings this week and I enjoyed an exceptionally good working week in Cornwall. I am not one for open mikes but due to a lack of folky options I visited the Rising Sun at Gunnislake. Probably the best open mike I have seen, a great variety and a real buzz with everyone joining in as often as possible. I must have been very lucky to have picked that particular night. The following night saw me at the Cove Inn at Gadgewith. A full room but only half a dozen singers so I sang more in that one night than I normally would do in 6 months! Great folk in a fantastic pub and they made me feel really welcome. Finished off a great run with the Welly folk club at Boscastle the next evening. Again they made me feel right at home and there was some lovely harmony singing to join in with. Thanks once again for taking the trouble to compile your listing as it is a boon to transient folk who travel down your way occasionally." Tony

Thanks for the feedback, Tony. I appreciate the occasional reassurance that the thing actually works.

NEW

Bath: *Belushi's Bar*, 9 Green St. BA1 2JY (01225 481444)
Every Monday. Open mic.

Bath: *The Canon*, 1 Barton St. BA1 1HQ (01225 789106)
Every Thursday. Open mic.

Sampford Arundel (nr. Wellington): *The Beambridge Inn* TA21 0HB (Pub: 01823 672223; John Aebli: 01823 650796)
Third Tuesday of the month, 8pm. Instrumental folk session. "We play lots of Blowzabella stuff and modern and traditional European tunes. Have a look at our present repertoire on our Facebook page, *The Minor Sessions* – https://www.facebook.com/search/str/The+Minor+Sessions/keywords_search . If you like it, come along. Everyone welcome."

REVISED ENTRY

Cirencester: *The Vaults*, Golden Farm, Upper Churnside GL7 1AR (01285 654071)

It's Your Vault (Sam Dugdale: 07825 446470, itsyourvaultmail@gmail.com , <https://www.facebook.com/groups/itsyourvault/>): Second Tuesday of every month, 8pm – 11pm. “Totally unplugged open mic”. Free entry.

Open mic: Every Wednesday, 8.30pm.

CHANGE OF SCHEDULE

Falmouth: *The Jacob's Ladder Inn*, 1-2 Chapel Terrace TR11 3BQ (01326 311010)

Every Sunday, 8pm. Open mic.

No longer on Wednesdays.

CHANGE OF VENUE

Brixham: *The Old Coaching Inn*, 61 Fore Street TQ5 8AG (Pub: 01803 852000; Stuart: 01803 8525256, stuart1929@btinternet.com)

Second Thursday of the month, 8.30pm. *BBT2 (Brixham Blues Second Thursday)*. Acoustic blues club, hosted by *The Boal Weevils*. Free entry. Plenty of time for blues floor spots.

Formerly at the Maritime inn.

CHANGE OF DAY

Christow (nr. Exeter), *Teign House Inn*, Teign Valley Road EX6 7PL (01647 252286)

Third Tuesday of the month, 8.30pm. Folk session.

Formerly on the third Wednesday.

Crow's Nest (nr. Liskeard): *The Crow's Nest Inn* PL14 5JQ (Pub: 01579 345930,

<https://www.facebook.com/CrowsNestInnDarite/> ; Jan Holden: 07761949190)

Monthly, Mondays, irregular, 8.30pm. Americana / blues session. “All acoustic and all levels of ability welcome. Very relaxed. No one is expected to perform alone, someone ‘kicks off’ a tune or song and everyone joins in. ‘Session etiquette’ is very much appreciated thank you.”

Used to be on alternate Wednesdays.

RIP

Combe St Nicholas (near Chard): *The Green Dragon* TA20 3NG (01460 63311)

Last Tuesday of the month, 8.30pm. Session for musicians and singers.

[If you have been affected by any issues arising from this newsletter, that's your problem. Deal with it.]

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