



THE ACOUSTIC CALENDAR: UPDATE 12/3/18

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,

1st March

The snow has reached the south west (either that or someone up there has got a bad case of dandruff). Just in case we hadn't noticed, there's a large Red Warning hovering above the tree tops like a wonky balloon. Mind you, the elves love this sort of weather. Makes them feel at home. They've even started calling me Santa. I've given them the time off, because there's almost certainly nothing for them to report apart from mass closures and the big Singing-in-the-Snow Fest up on Dartmoor... What? Of course I'm bloody joking!

2nd March

I woke up this morning... and found I had turned into a blues singer. Not only that, but the snow was halfway up the door. When I ventured out to feed the birds and fetch the wood in I observed that they (the birds) were leaving no claw-marks in the snow – it was too hard for them to make an impression. I didn't stay out a moment longer than necessary (what do you think my name is, Oates?) but hurried back inside to be greeted by a little squall of emails telling me that various events had been cancelled due to our beloved region having been invaded by the Beast from the East and the (uninvited) Guest from the West. Sod it, I thought, if anyone's daft enough to venture abroad in these conditions they've only themselves to blame. So I went back to bed.

12th March

The Beast has retreated (not re-Tweeted – different Beast), the last of its crystalline excrement has melted away and normal schedules are resumed – apart, that is, from all the exciting changes I shall outline for you in my usual methodical manner below.

Tony

FROM MY INBOX

"Sorry Barbara - just caught me in the right (?) frame of mind!"

1a) Bryony's Humble Contribution to Barbara's Acoustic Instruments

*The bodhran, a blessing or curse?
I really don't know which is worse,
No grasp of the metre,
Or an overloud beater?
Both give me a headache to nurse!"*
Bryony McGinty

Thank you for your submission. Our editorial board has decided to accept it for publication in the next Update. All abusive messages, death threats, etc, from bodhran players will be forwarded to your address.

Apropos of my Acoustic Correction:

"How much better and more widely will THAT announcement be assimilated and remembered, due precisely to that sort of cock-up? Perhaps we should patent this as a new form of publicity. Employment opps. for old farts, perhaps?" Paul

Senior Moments Ltd. Optimize your publicity with our customized cockups.

"Hey! We just got ourselves a bizness partnership, pardner..." Paul

COMING SOON

Bishops Hull (near Taunton): *The Old Inn*, Bishops Hull Rd TA1 5EG (01823 334111, <https://www.facebook.com/The-Old-Inn-Bishops-Hull-Taunton-123126462895/>)

Fridays (irregular). Folk & blues open mic.

Next one: Friday 23rd March.

NEW

Norton Fitzwarren (nr. Taunton): *Skittles Community Coffee Shop, Village Hall, Station Rd. TA2 6RQ* (Martin: 07975 698984)

Thursday 29th March, 7.30pm for 8pm. Acoustic open mic, hosted by *Touchwood*. You're welcome to watch or perform, Bring you own alcohol. Book a slot or just turn up. Bose PA & 3 mics. £1 admission. All proceeds towards the running of the coffee shop.

Depending on the success of this session, it may become a regular monthly or bi-monthly event. Watch this space.

Portishead (nr. Bristol): *Folk Hall, 95 High St. BS20 6PR*: (01275 847078, Jill Elliot: 01275 847909, 07515 904 707, jillvelliott@gmail.com)

Every Tuesday morning, 9.30am to 11.30am. 'Play in the band'. Session playing for dancing – dots provided if required. £2 per musician. Followed by a music session without the dancers until 12.15pm. A break for coffee/infusions.

Wiveliscombe: *Cotleigh Brewery Ltd, Ford Rd. TA4 2RE* (01984 624086)

Second Friday of each month, 8pm to 11pm. Free entry. "A relaxed and fun open mic. Everyone welcome – young, old, local and from over the hills. All genres & styles welcome. PA plus mics & leads provided."

RESURRECTED

Milford on Sea (nr. Lyminster): *White Horse, 16 Keyhaven Rd. SO41 0QY* (01590 642360)

Every Wednesday, 8.30pm. Singaround.

Returning after a change of management.

CHANGE OF SCHEDULE

**Axminster: *Castle Inn*, Castle Hill EX13 5NN (01297 35119,
<https://www.facebook.com/howlopenmicnight/>)**

Last Sunday of the month, 3pm. *Howl open mic.*

CHANGE OF DAY

Marldon (nr. Paignton) *Ye Olde Smokey House (top bar)*, Vicarage Rd. TQ3 9NNA (Pub: 01803 557630, https://www.facebook.com/pg/folkplus2/events/?ref=page_internal , Paul: 01803 550153, 07894 961010, p.woodhouse47@sky.com)

Third Friday of each month, 7.30pm to 10.45pm. *Folk Plus Acoustic Music Club*, hosted by ‘folk-inspired’ duo Paul & Chris Woodhouse. £2 entry. “...offering a warm welcome to performers and audiences who enjoy sharing music that comes from and moves on from folk and singer/songwriter traditions. Undiscovered talent, inexperienced and experienced performers all made very welcome. Encouraging, supportive and friendly. Mics /amplification/ music stand available.”

Formerly on the second Thursday.

MOVING SOON

Metherell (nr. Callington): *Cross House Inn*, School Road PL17 8FB (Pub: 01579 350482, Mike Warman: 01579 382711)

Normally on the first Saturday of the month (October to April), 8.30pm. Folk Evening.

“This session [3rd March] will be the last of this winter. Also, sadly for us, the last at the Cross House Inn. Julie and Ray are moving on and we wish them all the best of everything and thank them for their superb hospitality, log fires, good grub and, of course, drinkies. Plans are in hand and afoot to move to another venue in the autumn: watch this space.” Sylvie and Mike

RIP

Alton: *The Eight Bells*, 33 Church Street GU34 2DA (01420 82417)

Last Wednesday of the month, 8pm. Irish session. “A warm welcome is assured.”

Not happening.

Bridport: *The Hope & Anchor*, 13 St. Michael’s Lane DT6 3RA (01308 422160)

Third Sunday of the month, 4.30pm – 7pm. Jam session.

Discontinued.

Bristol: *Merchants Arms*, Merchants Rd, Hotwells BS8 4PZ (0117 904 0037)

Monday, fortnightly, 8.30pm-ish till 11pm sharp. Irish tunes session in the back room behind the bar. “This is not a beginners session but we welcome anyone.”

No more.

HELP!

I’ve been unable to contact these four venues, so I don’t know if they’re still happening. Any information gratefully received:-

Chiselborough (nr. Yeovil): *Community Folk & Performance Night*, Village Hall, Cat Street TA14 6TR (natalielamb@hotmail.com)

Last Friday of each month (NOT May, June, July or August), 7.30pm - 10.30pm. “A ‘community joining in’ event run by the villagers. They hope to encourage more village participation on a less formal stage. Welcoming musicians, singers and poets alike, interspersed with shorter solo spots. Refreshments (some hot nibbles), swap shop and kids area.”

Paignton: *The Parkers Arms*, 343 - 347 Totnes Road TQ4 7DE (01803 551011 not rec)

Alternate Sundays, 4pm. Open mic, hosted by Chris Thomas. Free entry. “In house PA provided with bass guitar and some percussion. Musicians are encouraged to bring their own instruments. If they like you the locals might get you a beer! They’re a friendly bunch!). Please check ahead for times and dates as they can change.”

Southampton: *the d.@rt centre*, Wildern Lane, Hedge End SO30 4EJ (01489 779 471, <http://thedart.co.uk/>)

Third Thursday of each month, 7pm to 9pm. Open mic. Free entry. “We provide a free platform for anyone to perform in front of an appreciative community audience. House equipment includes PA with 2x SM58s, Electric Piano, DI boxes and Guitar Amp. Any additional equipment will need to be arranged in advance.”

Weymouth: *Quaystage2*, Pilgrim House, Hope Square DT4 8TU (01305 761828, gill_mcintosh17@hotmail.co.uk)

First Tuesday of the month, 8pm. “We welcome all kinds of Folk/Acoustic music/songs and will endeavour to fit everyone in. There is a small charge on the door to contribute towards the venue (which is run by a charity).”

QUOTE OF THE MONTH

A critic is like a eunuch: he knows exactly how it ought to be done.

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