



THE ACOUSTIC CALENDAR: UPDATE 12/5/18

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,

Thank you for all those reassuring ‘yesses’. I’m talking to the 30% of you who replied to my last email. I’m still hoping to hear from the 12% who opened the email but haven’t yet replied or unsubscribed. As for the 58 % who haven’t even opened it, well, there’s still time of course, they may be busy, but past statistics suggest that they are not likely to because (as I suspect) it ended up in their spam folder along with all my past Updates (and by now, this one).

If any of you who decided not to give me a ‘yes’ should hear from me again after 25th May, you can do one of two things:

1. Report me for GDPR non-compliance, in which case the secret police will come and drag me out of bed and I’ll never be seen again and the *Acoustic Calendar* will become history overnight, or
2. Click on the ‘unsubscribe’ link at the bottom of the message and your details will be automatically removed from my mailing list.

The choice is yours.

Bless you all,

Tony

FROM MY INBOX

Inspired no doubt by the excellent example of our Limerick Writer in Residence, Barbara, others have been trying their hand at that splendid art form. There’s this noble effort from Chas:

*Aboriginal aussies, it's true,
Play fine music on didgereedoo.
But if jigs are your wont,
Then please didgeree-don't
Lest a painful procedure ensue.” Chas*

...and this (rather contentious) offering from Bryony, written in reply to *Barbara's Acoustic Instruments No. 3*:

*"That portable drum's pronounced wrong
Surely it should be Bow*-ron (*as in obeisance)
If you want to play it
At least you should say it
Correctly. (Your scansion's good Hon!)"* Bryony

...to which Barbara replied:

"Yes, I know ... sorry. I have heard people pronounce it in all sorts of ways. My friend with the blouse called hers a borran, more or less, that's what caused this limerick. Or perhaps more like borrahn. Another friend calls his a bodran, pronouncing the d, he knows that's not right ... An Irish friend calls it a bow-rawn. But it's caused a new limerick, so that's good!" Barbara

... to which Bryony added;

"To be fair, there is a fair amount of regional variation in Irish pronunciation so who knows?! And I do love your poetical offerings - got them all saved on me PC!" Bryony

Phew! What a relief! I thought I might have a war on my hands there. If only the nations of the world could solve their differences in such a civilised fashion.

I'd like to thank all those who responded sympathetically to my GDPR dilemma. Here is just a small selection:

"Don't get me started. It took the allotment committee two weeks to work out what to do!" Guy

"Well said Tony! Thanks for all that you do and long may you continue doing it – don't let them grind you down!" Steve

"... don't worry about the Ruskies, they already have my details, they got them via Washington DC." Colin

"I hereby give you my express permission to use any information you have of mine on your massive database in any way that you see fit. If you do find anyone that wants to buy it I wouldn't be averse to getting a cut of the Wonga that you get for it. Know what I mean ... Nudge, nudge wink wink."
Pete

No problem, Pete. I hope you don't mind it in rubles.

THE MARIE CELESTE

Ashill (near Ilminster): *The Ashill Inn* TA19 9ND (Pub: 01823 480 471, Tony Watts: 01823 480414)

Fourth Friday of the month, 8.30pm. Very friendly unplugged singaround / music session. All styles, all ages, all abilities, all welcome. FREE chips for performers.

This is in the nature of a plug (standard 3-pin 13 amp) for what is now the only session I run myself. Here's the thing. Last month nobody turned up – not a soul, not a sausage – and the same thing happened in February. I know this is the fate of many such events – in time numbers dwindle away to nothing and the organiser becomes disheartened and pulls the plug. I don't want this to happen to Ashill. It's an ideal venue. We have one end of the bar all to ourselves; there's usually

only two or three muggles up the other end, so no noisy talking – all we need is... er... singers and musicians. I'm just saying.

COMING SOON

Minehead: *The Acorn Acoustic Music Club*, The United Reformed Church Hall, Bancks Street TA24 5DJ (01643 709394, 07811 744158, www.acornfolkclub.co.uk)

Saturday 19th May, doors open 7pm for 7.30pm start. Entry £7 and raffle. Please contact above for further details or to book a spot. Featuring Flossie Malavialle, legendary French jazz/blues/folk singer. (The Acorn meets quarterly, hosting leading professional guests supported by good quality floor spots)

NEW

Bridport: *Feast of Folk*, Beach & Barnicott, 6 South Street DT6 3NQ (01308 807002)

Third Thursday of each month, 8pm. Folk session. “Anyone wishing to perform is very welcome to come and play or sing in a relaxed environment so long as it’s Folk!” Chris Deacon

Colyford (nr. Colyton): *The White Hart Inn*, Swan Hill Road EX24 6QF (Bob: 01297 553201; Kay: 01297 24870; info: woman.friday@yahoo.co.uk)

Acoustic session: Second Tuesday of the month, 8pm. “Trad Irish and tunes mostly. Not suitable for beginners or those wanting to play from the dots, but listeners very welcome! Come and listen if you’re not sure and see if it’s your kind of thing. Acoustic trad instruments only please. Plenty of parking at the pub – easy to find, it’s just by the tram line.”

Open Mic: Second & fourth Thursdays of each month. Hosted by Jessica Clare.

Open Mic: Fifth Thursday of the month. Hosted by Karl Weber.

RIP

Bridgwater: *Bridgwater Arts Centre*, 11-13 Castle Street TA6 3DD (Sarah Patten: 01278 422700, info@bridgwaterartscentre.co.uk , <http://bridgwaterartscentre.co.uk/bac-room-bar/>)

Folk session (Rob & Jenny: 01278 723521, 07528 259413): Second Wednesday of the month (NOT August), 8pm in the BACroom Bar, 8pm – 10.30pm. Free, led by Rob and Jenny Williams.

“Please Note: This will be the last of the folk sessions at the Arts Centre until further notice. In future, we are invited to join in with the Acoustic music sessions which are on the 3rd Thursday of each month (next one is 17th May).” Rob & Jenny Williams

Pensilva (nr. Liskeard): *Millennium House*, Princess Rd. PL14 5NF (01579 363096; Steve Sutton: 07410 447818, steve@stevesutton.plus.com ; <https://millenniumhouse.org.uk/event/folk-session/>)

Second Thursday of each month, 8pm. Folk session in the Mel bar. Informal singaround. “All singers/musicians welcome – or come along and tell a joke, a story, or just listen.”

“I regret that my monthly session in Pensilva... is now discontinued. Essentially this is because of lack of support; the session has been running since October last year when I managed to generate significant support from a wider area in order to try to get this session established. Despite this there was very little support from the local area; numbers have now dwindled to the point where I think it is better to simply stop the session.” Steve

South Brent: *The Royal Oak*, Station Road TQ10 9BE (01364 72133)

Second Sunday of the month, 7.45pm. Bluegrass session.

Discontinued

QUOTE OF THE MONTH

*“Swans sing before they die – 'twere no bad thing
Should certain persons die before they sing.”*

Samuel Taylor Coleridge

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