



THE ACOUSTIC CALENDAR: UPDATE 12/7/18

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,

It's like a mass outbreak of Tourette's Syndrome – people can't stop saying 'It's coming home'. But at least you won't hear me saying it (oh, shit, I just did, didn't I!)

The summer breaks are upon us like a stampeding herd of white elephants, so now more than ever seems it rich to die, to cease upon the midnight with no pain... hang on, that's Keats. I'll start again – now more than ever seems it wise to contact your destination venues before hitting the road. I can't accept responsibility for fruitless journeys, so make sure you stock up with plenty of apples and bananas.

I suppose the Big News this week (apart from seven new venues!) is that the world's only Saturday morning session has sadly bitten the dust. I refer, of course, to the one at the Black Swan, Langport. That means that all of us in the area can now go back to starting the weekend with a guilt-free lie-in – at least until Phil finds another venue, which I'm sure he will, being a resourceful lad, so make the most of it while it lasts.

Tony

FROM MY INBOX

"Don't stop Tony. You do such a good job and you always make me laugh!" Cathy

I love it when you ladies say, 'Don't stop'... ahem...I mean, thank you for your encouragement, Cathy. I don't intend to stop voluntarily, but I'm not expecting to live forever. Maybe I should be training a group of possible successors for initiation into the Acoustic Mysteries. Nobody seems that keen.

"I can understand why. It must take up a lot of your time. The trouble is that you are so good at it! I can't think of anyone that would want to take it on, let alone display the same humour." Cathy

[Blushes and retreats in confusion.]

“Had you thought of asking your smallish core of especially keen supporters to undertake ringing round the venue numbers in their area every three months, to check validity? Even if that covered only 25% of the area you usually do, it would save you doing it, and probably yield fresher info more often.” Paul

I won't actually ask them, Paul, but I'll make damned sure they see your suggestion. – then any noble soul who wants to take up this modest burden can contact me.

Here's a sad little story, which I've anonymised in order not to stir things up:

“On Wednesday, the sing-a-round group received a frosty reception from the landlord. Eventually, he requested we move into the back room so as not to disturb his diners! In any event, the evening was a good one but by then, the damage was done. Several members of the group stated that they would not return.” [name withheld]

I wonder if the landlord is just making an assumption about what the diners want. I've been to sessions where people have thanked us when they leave and said how much they enjoyed the entertainment. It could hardly have been our high professional standards that impressed them! I think it was just the novelty and 'realness' of live music-making and the atmosphere it generates.

“That's very funny about 'The Doctor will see you now!' - maybe you should have a caption contest. Entrants to choose a music-related work of art and provide a caption.” Barbara

I've noted your caption idea, Barbara. I need stuff to fall back on when I'm sugaring the pill of these updates. It might be more successful if I choose the work of art and entrants compete to find the best caption (if they have to find a picture as well they probably wouldn't bother to enter).

“If [anyone] left a Hohner G harmonica in Lanes [Lymington] after the June Acoustic Afternoon, it's still there. Let me know if you're able to collect it some time.” Jonathan

NEW ADDITIONS

Bath: *Chapel Arts Café*, 7-9 Lower Borough Walls BA1 1QR (01225 920256, info@bathfolkfestival.org)

Every Friday, 5pm – 7pm. Acoustic session.

Brimscombe (nr. Stroud): *The Ship Inn*, Brimscombe Hill GL5 2QN (01453 884388)

Every third Monday of the month, 7.30pm. *Acoustic Club*. MC Barry Watkins.

Churchdown (nr. Gloucester): *Churchdown Club*, Church Rd. GL3 2ER (01452 713122)

Every first & third Monday of the month, 8pm. *Folk at the Club*. “Although primarily a singers' night, tunes & poetry are both welcome.” Free entry.

Cirencester: *The Vaults*, Golden Farm GL7 1AR (Venue: 01285 654071; Host: 07825 446470)

Second Tuesday of every month, 8pm – 11pm. *It's Your Vault* (open mic). Free entry.

Frocester (nr. Stonehouse): *The Frocester George*, Peter's St. GL10 3TQ (01453 828683)

Every Monday night, 8pm – 10.30pm. *Words & Music* (acoustic music and poetry) with David & Sandra Ireland.

Lyme Regis: *Ship Inn*, 7 Coombe St. DT7 3PY (01297 443681, jeremy@lymefolk.com)

First Thursday of every month, from 8pm. Come All Ye session. All welcome.

Lymington: *The Old School Café – St. Barbe Museum*, New St. SO41 9BH (01590 676969;

Steve West: stevewest82@btinternet.com)

Second Sunday of the month, 2pm – 4pm. Acoustic afternoon. *Email Steve to book a slot.*

TEMPORARY CHANGES OF VENUE

Exmouth: Exmouth Folk Night, The Wings Bar, 33-35 Imperial Rd. EX8 1DB (Pub: 01395 266685, Jeff: jeff.lewis58@yahoo.co.uk)

Tuesday 17th July, 8pm. Acoustic song and music, all performers and supporters welcome. Come early for a spot or email Jeff.

“Hi folks, two changes this month. The regular club night on 17th is moving for one month [from the Manor Hotel] to the Wings Bar... The 5th Tuesday concert on 31st will not be happening this month. Thanks, Jeff”

Southampton: Focsle Music, Café Reflections, 25 Shirley High St. SO15 3NL (023 8077 8878)

Wednesday 25th July, 8pm, guest & floor spots.

Normally at the Guide Dog.

CANCELLATIONS

Stroud: Minchinhampton Folk Club, The Old Crown, Paganhill, Park End GL5 4AZ (01453 763288, <http://www.minchfolkclub.org/home/4588085076>)

Normally every Thursday, 8.15pm. Every night is a singers' night – come early for a spot.

No meeting on the 19th or 20th July.

RIP

Langport: The Black Swan, 2 North St. TA10 9RQ (01458 252854)

Every Saturday morning, 11am to 1pm. Acoustic session / singaround.

“To all my friends at music cafe on Saturday. I’m afraid they have called time on the venue . Until further notice Saturday morning music is now off.” Phil

Queen Camel (near Yeovil): Mildmay Arms, High Street BA22 7NJ (Pub: 01935 850 456; Colin

Bowen: bowencolin@hotmail.com)

Third Wednesday of the month, 8pm. Music session. “Players and singers are welcome and we like to join in.”

Alas, no more.

MUSICIANS WANTED

Bibstone (nr. Wotton-under-Edge): The Royal Oak, Tortworth Rd. GL12 8AD (01454 430993)

The Royal Oak is looking for musicians to play regularly.

QUOTE OF THE MONTH

“When I started, they told me I only needed three chords and the truth. It turned out I could manage with two chords and some vague ideas.” Joe Strummer

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