



THE ACOUSTIC CALENDAR: UPDATE 27/11/18

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,

I write amid a clamouring chorus of excitable emails. They are all going on about something called Black Friday. Whatever that is. It sounds like the title of a 1970s horror film. I don't know, but I suspect the Hellmouth will open and a horde of howling, batlike demons – the dark angels of Commerce – will be released into our world. Take cover where you can, the perfect refuge being a music session, hundreds of which you will find listed in that ultimate survivors' manual the *Acoustic Calendar*. At a music session you will find the only 'special offer' is music; the only product – music; the only exchange currency – music.

Wait a minute, I forgot the beer. You'll probably have to pay for the beer.

Tony

BASINGSTOKE TO LITHUANIA

Wiveliscombe (nr. Taunton): **Cotleigh Brewery Ltd, Ford Rd. TA4 2RE (01984 624086; <https://www.facebook.com/groups/1043473925682105/>)**

Friday 7th December. Usually second Friday of each month (*a week earlier in December*), 8pm to 11pm. Free entry. Acoustic session. "Everyone welcome – young, old, local and from over the hills. All genres & styles welcome. PA plus mics & leads provided." Free parking.

"If you have ever wondered 1) How long is the Basingstoke ring road? 2) How good is Stephen Heptinstall's beer enjoyed in a relaxed musical environment? 3) How long does a box of Crunchy Nut Cornflakes last the average family in Lithuania? The answer to at least one of these questions can be found at Cotleigh Acoustic Session on Friday 7th December. See you there." Stuart

CHRISTMAS PARTY

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

First Tuesday of the month, 8pm. Open floor. "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)."

The December meeting will be a Christmas party so it will be slightly different. Contact Gil if you are coming.

WINTER SOLSTICE SESSION

Sandford Orcas (nr. Sherborne): *The Mitre Inn* DT9 4RU (Pub: 01963 220271, Linda & David Chiplen: 07530 926496, lindachiplen@yahoo.co.uk)

Thursday 20th December, 8pm. Quarterly (held on or near the summer and winter solstice and the spring and autumn equinox), 8pm. An informal evening of acoustic folk song and music (*no PAs please*). Hosted by David and Linda Chiplen. Everyone welcome to sing a song, play a tune or just listen.

BOXING DAY SESSION WITH DANCING

Queen Camel (near Yeovil): *Mildmay Arms, High Street* BA22 7NJ (Pub: 01935 850 456, <http://www.themildmavarms.co.uk> ; Steve Cunio: 07811 680534)

Wednesday 26th December 2018, 3pm to 6pm. *SomerStep and friends.* Boxing day afternoon session with step dancing, hosted by *SomerStep*. "All musicians and step dancers (and anyone else!) welcome. Play, dance or listen!"

BOXING DAY OPEN MIC

Combwich (nr. Bridgwater): *The Combwich Anchor, Riverside* TA5 2RA (01278 653612)

Last Friday of every month. Open mic (Somerset Live Lounge). "Musicians have access to a quality plug-in-and-play PA system, listeners receive a great free fun evening with a diversity of genres from rock to new wave, blues to indie, and pretty much anything goes!"

NEW

Worth Matravers (near Swanage): *Square & Compass Inn* BH19 3LF (01929 439 229)

Third Wednesday of the month. Open mic.

CHANGE OF VENUE

Bodmin: Bodmin Folk Club, The Old Library, 10 Lower Bore St. PL31 2JX (Mike Freemantle: 01726 816454; Steve Hunt: 01579 348434, bodminfolk@yahoo.com, <http://www.bodminfolk.co.uk/>)

Every Friday, 8pm. Regular guests. Singers and musicians are always welcome to drop into the club at any time of year. The club is a short walk from Dennison Rd. Car Park, PL31 2LL. There is also street parking.

Moved from St. Petroc's Parish Centre.

TEMPORARY CHANGE OF VENUE

Teignmouth: Teignmouth Folk Club: T.A.A.G. (Teignmouth Arts Action Group), 4-5 Northumberland Place TQ14 8DD (Martyn Hillstead 01626 778071)

Thursday 29th November only . Last Thursday of the month, 8pm. Singers' & Musicians' Open Night. No bar, BYO alcohol. Tea/coffee and soft drinks will be available. Free admission. *Normally at the Oystercatchers Café.*

CHRISTMAS BREAK

Street: Mullions Hotel, 51 High St. BA16 0HP (Pub: 01458 445110; Brian Jefferson: 01458 224568, bjeff1@btinternet.com)

Every other Friday (except during summer & Christmas breaks), 8.30pm. "We are a floor singers' club and welcome all types of (acoustic) music. The resident group is *Hoodwink*."

"Folk at the Mullions will be taking the usual break at Christmas. The final meeting of 2018 will be Friday December 7th and we will reassemble on January 4th 2019 if we are spared." Brian

RIP

Bruton: Castle Inn, 45-49 High Street BA10 0AW (01749 812104)

Third Thursday of each month, 8pm. Irish session.

“The Irish session at the Castle... has now ceased. The pub has a new chef and plans to expand its food offering so they no longer have room for us. We're exploring other options in the area and hope to start up somewhere else in the New Year.” Chas

Copythorne (nr. Southampton): *The Empress of Blandings*, Romsey Rd. SO40 2PF (023 8081 2321, empressofblandings.copythorne@hall-woodhouse.co.uk)

Normally on the third Thursday of the month, 8.15pm. Open mic in the function room. Hosted by Steve West with Brian and Chris.

Confirmed defunct

Exeter: The Globe, 39 Clifton Road, Newtown EX1 2BL (01392 435279)

Folk music session: Second Wednesday of the month.

Open mic: Every Friday, 8pm.

Pub closed

Paignton: The Parkers Arms, 343 - 347 Totnes Road TQ4 7DE (01803 01803, 552273)

Alternate Sundays, 4pm. Open mic, hosted by Chris Thomas. Free entry.

Discontinued.

Weston Super Mare: Cheers, 124 High St. BS23 1HP (01934 621370,

<https://www.facebook.com/BACK-BAR-LIVE-CHEERS-BAR-Weston-s-Mare-90747517089/>)

Every Thursday, 9pm – 1am. *Back Bar Live*. Acoustic night in the Back Bar. Open mic.

Missing presumed dead.

BARBARA'S ACOUSTIC INSTRUMENTS NO. 10

Madam, please unhand my French horn!

Such forward behaviour I scorn;

 If you don't take your mitts

 Off my tubular bits

You will wish you had never been born.

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