



NEWSLETTER No. 1: 14 DECEMBER 2009

It's almost the end of the year! A time when our thoughts turn back to the events of the past year, and we look forwards to the next year, and holidays!

From the comments we have received from festival-goers, we know that Sidmouth FolkWeek 2009 was one of the highlights of the year! And we are certain that you'll soon be booking up for 2010.

All the guests given below are listed on the website, which will – of course – be updated regularly so make sure www.sidmouthfolkweek.co.uk is added to your favourites.

Concert Guests

Heading up the Ham Marquee Concerts is **Blue Murder**, the vocal super-group collaboration between Martin and Eliza Carthy, Norma and Mike Waterson, and a capella trio Coope Boyes & Simpson.

Festival favourites, **Show of Hands**, return to FolkWeek, and our Patron **Martin Carthy** will be appearing with **Brass Monkey**.

Sidmouth loves creating those special events that you just can't see anywhere else, and this year at the Ham Marquee, you can enjoy **A Celebration of Nic Jones**, featuring folk stars from across the generations.

Melodeon genius **Andy Cutting** has been the lynchpin of many a classic folk line-up, and in **Andy Cutting and Friends**, he will be united onstage with some of his best musical mates, including **Martin Simpson, Chris Wood, Ian Carr** and **June Tabor**.

The Ham Marquee line-up also includes **Barry Coope & John Tams, Mawkin: Causley, Kerfuffle, Jon Boden & the Remnant Kings**, award-winning **Jackie Oates, The Fay Hield Trio**, the hilarious **Belshazzar's Feast**, and **Belinda O'Hooley & Heidi Tidow**. Plus, there's a **Peace Concert** for Hiroshima Day with **Roy Bailey, David Ferrard, Sandra Kerr** and **Chumbawamba**.

Bulverton

Those festival-goers who enjoyed the re-charged Bulverton experience last year will want to buy their season tickets early, because this year's line-up really has got the "Wow!" factor.

Bellowhead, the ultimate Big Band will bring their fat, brassy sound to Sidmouth.

We are delighted to be hosting a reunion of the punk-tinged Americana band, **Cordelia's Dad**.

Fusion maestros **Salsa Celtica**, Scottish band **Shooglenifty** and **Michael McGoldrick's Future Trad Collective** will all be at the Bulverton.

By popular demand, last year's wildly successful **Silent Folkin' Disco** is back, and this year includes the debut of **Silent Folkin' Ceilidh**. And brush up your Christmas carols and prepare to share a glass of cheer, as the theme is **Christmas in August!**

Dance Your Socks Off!

Dance enthusiasts will be able to dance from morning to night.

Lunchtime, evening and late night ceilidhs will feature a range of the country's top bands, including **Blowzabella, Tickled Pink, The Committee Band, Bedlam, Polkaworks, Toothless Mary** and the debut of the **Spiers and Boden Ceilidh Band**.

Social dancers will have a diverse programme of dance workshops, with afternoon and evening dances, reflecting all the social dance styles, put together by Robbie Thomas. Callers and bands will be added to the website over the next couple of weeks, but will include **Adam Hughes, Mike Courthold** and **Stick Shift**.

A host of display and morris dance sides will add to the festive atmosphere. Most exciting is the revival of **Seven Champions Molly Dancers**. Other dance groups include **Sheffield City Morris, Berkshire Bedlam, Boggart's Breakfast, Wakefield Morris, Pig Dyke Molly, Thames Valley Morris, Sciorr Irish Dancers** and young newcomers **Nonsuch Morris**.

Valerie Romanin, whose barefoot flamenco dancing was such a sensation last year, is back again, and Centre Flamenco present **Flamenco con Gusto!**

Young Sidmouth

In addition to a full children's festival and lots of youth workshops and activities, we have **The Music of Bagpuss**, featuring **Sandra Kerr & John Faulkner** (the voices of Madeleine the Rag Doll and Gabriel the Bullfrog in the original TV production) plus **Nancy Kerr & James Fagan**.

Workshops

The workshop programme is an essential element at Sidmouth FolkWeek. An opportunity to develop existing skills, and try out some new ones!

The programme will include the instrumental workshop from **John Kirkpatrick**, and **Sandra Kerr's** choir. **Ian Russell** will lead a series of Carols in August workshops, and **Tim Eriksen** of Cordelia's Dad will be teaching Shape Note singing.

The Tradition

As in 2009, John Howson is advising on guests who will include the **Orchard family**. More names on the website by January.

Venues and Facilities

Behind the scenes, work is progressing on further improvements to the Sidmouth FolkWeek venues, including the campsite, to reflect comments from festival goers and in order to enhance the festival experience.

There will be further improvements to the new-look **Ham Marquee and Hub**. The **Blackmore Marquee**, the venue for evening ceilidhs, will have an integrated dance floor, giving more space for dancing. In response to feedback, the **Bulverton Marquee** venue will see a complete redesign.

Accommodation

Festival goers stay in hotels, B&B, self-catering – sometimes on the edges of town or beyond. The Sidmouth TIC can help you with such accommodation. Tel: 01395 516441.

Or, there is the very popular **FolkWeek Camp Site**. About 1.5 miles from the seafront, and close to the Bulverton Marquee. This is available to season-ticket holders or day season or event ticket holders for the appropriate night.

The camp-site has a designated family area, and limited space for caravans and motorhomes.

In 2010, there will be a redesign of the campsite with improvements to the wet weather contingency, amendments to the access and exit to and from the site and larger “pedestrian only” zones.

Tickets

We will be keeping with the ticketing system that has been so successful for the last couple of years. Week-long season tickets will get you into all events except the Ham Marquee Evening Concerts, and gives you priority admission over people who want to pay on the door. You can also buy weekend or day season tickets. As a season-ticket holder, you can get a discount on Ham Marquee Evening Concerts, or you can buy a Ham Evening Season, which gets you into all the evening concerts.

In response to comments from festival goers, we are reducing the number of events for which non-season ticket holders can buy advance tickets. This will further enhance the value of the season ticket.

Season tickets will go on sale in January. On-line tickets are available from 1 January 2010 from www.sidmouthfolkweek.co.uk and by post and telephone from 4 January 2010 from the Box Office, Sidmouth TIC, Ham Lane, Sidmouth, Devon, EX10 8XR. Tel: 01395 578627.

We look forward to seeing you in Sidmouth for the First Week in August 2010!