



# The Cutty Wren Newsletter



[www.cuttYWrenfolkclub.talktalk.net](http://www.cuttYWrenfolkclub.talktalk.net)

Hi, all!

First, apologies if I don't get this to you as promptly as I'd hoped. I'll email those on the Club list I have if need be.

## Forthcoming Guests and Special Nights

We have a very good line-up for you this autumn with some guests that are very new to us, some old favourites and some great Hot Spots. So here goes:

Beginning on **September 4<sup>th</sup>** we have a Hot Spot with favourite local lass **Maggie Camp**.

Maggie has a love of Country music and writes some very authentic-sounding songs in that genre, but is also very good at writing ones that reflect her Lancashire heritage. They're all very listenable, and Maggie is a fine singer and guitarist, so don't miss this chance to hear her in this longer set.



**September 11<sup>th</sup>** brings "Singers and Musicians", when local singers – and anyone passing through – will get up and perform something folky. We never know exactly who will be in or what they'll do, but there'll be great songs and music, as well as a lot of fun and a great atmosphere. Come and have a go if you sing or play, and if you just want to listen, you're still very welcome. (Any other dates I don't mention will be for Singers and Musicians as well.)



**Karin Grandal-Park and Karl Robins** will be our guests on **September 18<sup>th</sup>**.

Both have been singing from an early age, and both are guitarists. Karin comes from a jazz and blues background but was enthralled by the quality and variety she heard at a folk festival and started singing and writing in that genre. Karl has played with many bands in acoustic and folk rock areas, but is also a song writer. They have one CD so far, which has won high praise. This all sounds very intriguing and I'm looking forward to the evening.

We welcome **Steve Turner on October 9<sup>th</sup>**.

Steve has been on the folk scene for many years, partly in groups (I remember him in Manchester in the '70's), but also as a soloist.



He's one of the best current interpreters of British traditional songs and modern songs inspired by them. He has a very clear, powerful and effective voice and is certainly among the foremost accompanists on concertina around. Don't miss him!



That well-respected local **Tony Baylis** has a Hot Spot on **October 16<sup>th</sup>**. Actually, he's often away, but he's always more than welcome back. When he was a regular in the Club's days at Marske and Skelton he never seemed to repeat a song, and as if that wasn't enough he's now writing his own. And I can reveal that even before a planned CD emerges, two of his songs have been sought after by folk scene professionals! He has a great repertoire and a fine singing style with a powerful 12-string accompaniment, so get along and hear what it's all about.

We have as guests on **October 30<sup>th</sup>** **Fil Campbell and Tom McFarland**. They are a duo from Co. Down with many years' experience of performing. Fil (short for Philomena) has been singing since she was a teenager while husband Tom has played percussion for names like John Wright, David Knopfler, Finbar Furey and Ben Sands. We'll hear traditional songs and their own too, with guitar and percussion (naturally!) This sounds like being a very fine evening, and I'm especially looking forward to the night as, like Karin and Karl, they're new to me.



We welcome **Dave Gibb** on the **27<sup>th</sup>**. He proudly hails from Scotland's highest village of Wanlockhead, and is a major figure on the folk scene, especially in Scotland. He's noted for his exceptional guitar work, while his songs range from traditional to his own compositions. He doesn't hesitate to be serious, but likes to be quirky, too and I believe this has the makings of a very good night!



We have a **Theme Night on December 4<sup>th</sup>**, and as it might be cold and dark then (it seems impossible as I write this in a hot August!) we thought we'd make it



**"We Will Remember Them"**, our annual tribute in song and music to the suffering and fallen of war, takes place on **November 6<sup>th</sup>**.

It will be hosted as ever by our own **Trevor Taylor**, who is very knowledgeable about that era, and who also puts on khaki for the occasion. Indeed, quite a few Club members put War Time costume on, so if *you* can, do! It will be a time for a few tears, but also for remembering the laughter that kept that generation going. The old folk songs, too, often dealt with the sorrow of war, and we may hear some of them as well.



**"Come Hand Me the Glass – Songs of Drink and Merriment"**. There are plenty of traditional and modern songs for us all to fit that, so let's have a rollicking good time!

It's the **Club Christmas Party on the 18<sup>th</sup>**. This is always a very special occasion and a chance to share the happiness of the season. We bring food to share, and there always seems to be plenty! There's also no shortage of good humour and laughs, so leave the Christmas shopping and come along for the fun.



Our next Hot Spot will be on **November 13<sup>th</sup>** with **Ron and Jean Cable**. They're local folks, but as we've not seen them a lot lately, I'll say that Ron is a very capable, original and compelling songwriter, with a voice that brings out the real emotion of a song. Jean has taken to song writing lately, as well, and is a worthy match for her husband. This will be a night to make a special note of – they're good! (They refer to themselves as the duo "Bittersweet" and leave to us to decide which is which....)



Looking ahead, we sadly have to miss two Tuesdays, as it wouldn't be feasible to meet on Christmas Day or New Year's Day, so we reconvene on

**January 8<sup>th</sup>** with **Marie Little**, and have our regular **Burns' Night with Tich Frier a bit early on January 15<sup>th</sup>**. More on them next time!



### Looking Back

And it's been a while since the last Newsletter, but we've had a great time! "**Songs for April**" didn't always stick to the letter, as it were, but they were good. Both **Trevor Lister** and **Tony Baylis** came up with new ones, and it was good to hear **Ann Gurney's** ever-chilling "House Carpenter". As in the past, it's impressive to see how many of our "local" singers are turning out great new songs.



**Paul Walker** and **Karen Pfeiffer** gave us a fine mix of their own fine songs with "classic contemporary" (if I can invent a category!). We'd plenty of great moments, but Karen's "La Vie en Rose" was very effective. And we all knew "Wooden Heart" thanks to Elvis Presley!

Our Charity Night in aid of the battle against leukaemia in April was personal to us and poignant, as we lost the much loved **Mike Gardiner** to it.



We shared memories, but it wasn't all sad. April 23<sup>rd</sup> is St. George's Day, so **Bill** gave a recitation about "**George and the Dragon**" while dressed as St. George, and **Gordon Mallory** sang John Kirkpatrick's song with the flag. **Alison** sang "**Puff the Magic Dragon**" holding a toy dinosaur! Good to see a few rare visitors, too.

**May Day** brought plenty of suitable songs, though **John Connolly** did one about Teresa May...typical! But I did like **Angie's** "**Then to the Maypole**" The five piece group **Bandersnatch** gave us a very lively and singable couple of sets a week later – truly rollicking! With so many we could sing along with, this was good-time folk at its best.

**Gordon Mallory's** Hot Spot at the end of May was a revelation, as I knew about his singing, but I hadn't realised he'd written so many, and good ones, too. It was a treat to see this self-effacing bloke have a longer spot to shine!

That remarkable young performer "**Sunjay**" was on great form, and gave us a fine mix of blues, Americana and his own clever songs. With a lot of dry humour, too, he's a top-class entertainer.

And another is **Tony Morris of Whitby**, who has continued to produce more great songs, topical and historical. Those who *know* ships liked his comments on the steel "Endeavour" replica, and no long spot could be complete without his manic "**Road Rage**"!



We had a very enjoyable night with **Broadband** on June 26<sup>th</sup>. They're never short of energy and do a fine mix of covers, traditional, and their own usually very funny songs. I *do* like the idea of a song in praise of Aldi and Lidl! But it's **Angie's** beautiful voice that always gets me.



It was a pleasure to welcome **Ray Freeman** for the eve of the **Fourth of July**. He does the best of American contemporary song, and the floor singers found some great songs to support him as well.

In **mid-July** we had our **53<sup>rd</sup> Anniversary** (it hardly seems possible!) There were lovely songs, old and new, a lot of reminiscence, and even pie, peas, Cumberland sausage and black pudding! A fine night to remind us of what the Club has achieved, and encourage us for the future.



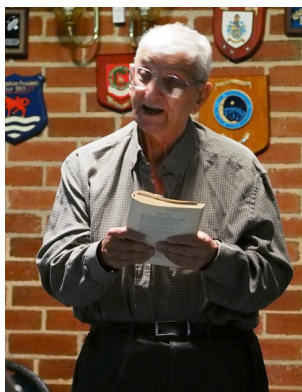


I've said earlier that several Club members are adding to the folk tradition with new songs, and **Bob Fortune's Hot Spot** a week later showed this. Oh, he can do traditional, as with "Turpin Hero", but I'll bet his "**Farewell, My Travelling Friends**" is at least one of his songs that will still be sung many years from now.



Well, there were so many wonderful songs and laughs this spring. But, of course, we're about *live* entertainment, and you have to be there for it! So – if you see this but aren't a Club goer, come and give us a try. We're a friendly lot and anyone's welcome, whether performers or audience.

Unfortunately, we have to inform everyone of the loss of one of our club regulars. **Trevor Lister** died on August 16<sup>th</sup>, aged 84, after a short illness. Trevor had a remarkable repertoire of songs – traditional, modern, self-penned, funny and irreverent. He was a great contributor to the local folk scene over the years and will be sadly missed.



**Trevor Lister**  
**31<sup>st</sup> December 1933 to 16<sup>th</sup> August 2018**  
 RIP

We meet every **Tuesday in the Redcar Borough Park Bowling Club, Thwaites Lane, Redcar Lane, Redcar TS10 2FD**. Turn off Redcar Lane at the big red Racecourse sign, and go down to the bottom to the left. **Doors open around 7-30 p.m., singing starts around 8 p.m., and we finish about 11 p.m.** The room is comfortable with a well-stocked bar ably managed by **Gemma**.

More info is available from our long-standing organiser **John Taylor on 01287 622623**. (It's a good idea to ring if you're coming from a distance in case we've any last-minute change.)

We've also a website at [www.cuttYWrenfolkclub.com](http://www.cuttYWrenfolkclub.com). (Our Paul, who understands these things, tells me that as we've changed providers lately, it's best to go through some other system like Yahoo rather than Google.) If you want this newsletter emailed to you regularly, just send your email address to me at [george.featherson@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:george.featherson@yahoo.co.uk). It's useful again so I can let you know of any major changes.

Thanks as ever to the ever-able, **John T, to Marj on the door, our several M.C.'s.**, and to **Elaine, Nigel and the raffle team** for making the Club nights run so well. I must also thank **Alison** for making this Newsletter presentable, **Denis** for the photos, and last but not least, **Gemma** and our hosts at the Bowling Club.

*See you soon!*

*George*

