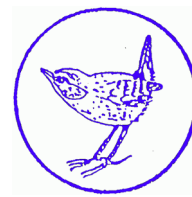




The Cutty Wren Newsletter



www.cuttywrenfolkclub.com

Hi, all!

Our 60th year has gone very well so far. We've had some very well supported guest nights and the Singarounds have always been good. There are some great nights lined up, so let's here goes:



We begin summer with **Fil Campbell and Tom McFarland on June 3rd**. This Co. Fermanagh based duo have been guests at the Wren before and made a deep impression. They've been performing together duo since the early '90's, and

their act includes traditional, contemporary and original material with guitar and percussion. Fil (a lady!) presents on T V and radio and runs a community choir while Tom's portfolio includes backing David Knopfler, Finbar Furey, Ben Sands and John Waugh. With 9 CD's to their credit and this long history of performing they know how to give us a great evening!

June 10th will be "**Singers and Musicians**" (aka Singaround).

On these nights our Club regulars and visitors take the floor with a couple of songs each, and perhaps another if we're not too busy. "Folk" these days covers a very wide field, and we hear most styles at the Wren. Some of us are drawn to the old songs that ordinary English, Irish and Scottish people sang before gramophones came in. We choose to sing them because they're still good singing and they deal powerfully with everyday concerns. Some Club regulars are drawn to the varied US tradition, influenced by Britain, but with its own approach. Some have a repertoire of modern songs influenced by different traditions, but putting a story over in a new way. And some like to make us laugh and even write their own material to do so.

Whatever your taste, there'll be something for everyone. There's always plenty of good humour and everyone is welcome. And at £2 for the evening you're getting pretty good value! We have quite a few Singers and Musicians nights this year as in summer some people are away, and it wouldn't be fair to book a guest.



So I'll now just tell you about the guest and special nights:

Local lady **Ann Gurney** has a **Hot Spot** on **June 17th**. These are occasions when a singer has half an hour or so to put their repertoire over. It's a chance to do more than the usual two songs and put on an act, as it were.



Ann has been a part of the Club for probably as long as anyone, and while her repertoire will bring some memories she's never stopped learning new songs either. She sings with passion and conviction, and she's more than worth hearing. Don't miss this!



July 8th brings the **Jon Palmer Acoustic Band**.

This is a six-piece outfit with lots of powerful vocals, fiddle, guitar, mandolin, keyboard, bass and percussion. They perform Jon's songs, which draw on traditional influences but cast their net wider as well. With serious harmonies, great choruses and folk-rock influences this will be a high-energy night!



Our next **Hot Spot** is with **Graham Walker on July 22nd**. Graham is very much on the traditional side of the folk spectrum, and is a powerful singer of very singable songs. He's even written some very convincing ones himself! He's spent time on the tall ships, so when he sings a shanty or a sea song, you know you're getting the real deal. I'm very much looking forward to this.

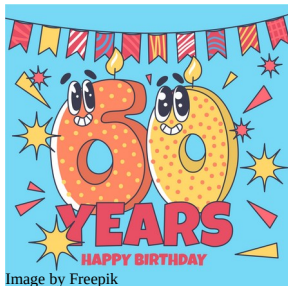
Saltburn Folk Festival

We now jump on to **Thursday, August 7th**, as the Club hosts the **Welcome Singaround at Saltburn Folk Festival**. In years gone by we held a Club "Pre-Festival Night", but it's now part of the Festival itself, and it's very popular. We hear a lot of great songs, many less familiar since the singers will be from many different areas and indeed countries. It's a night for reunions with long-time folk friends, too, and it's a fine social occasion. More details later, but be ready for an early evening start



We have a special Singers and Musicians on **September 2nd** with a dance display by local **Border Morris** side "**Locos in Motion**". Based in Stockton, this side has been going for many years now, and takes its name from the proud history of the Stockton and Darlington Railway. They're an energetic bunch, like most Border Morris sides, so we should see some great dancing. Don't miss this chance to see them in this 200th Anniversary Year of the world's first public passenger steam railway journey.

We'll have a very special day on **Saturday, September 20th**, when we'll celebrate the **Club's 60th Birthday!** We'll start at 3 p.m., and go on until 10-30 p.m. We've some great guests for this – **Alan Reid, Edwina Hayes, and Joe Topping**. There'll be a buffet and no doubt a raffle (or two).



Alan, an old friend of the Club and Saltburn Festival, is known as one of the earliest members of the legendary Battlefield Band and has written many great songs – some

powerful, some tender, but all ones that grip you. Though clearly from Scottish roots, his songs reflect his sympathies for ordinary people everywhere. And he's a great performer.



Edwina is another familiar face at the Club. She's known for her song-writing, which reflects her open and honest approach to life generally. She has a warm stage presence and relates naturally to her audience. With time

served amongst the musicians of Nashville and having supported Jools Holland, Nanci Griffiths and Loudon Wainwright III in her time, she is a seriously good musician.

Joe is a multi-instrumentalist and singer-songwriter who claims transatlantic influences such as Ry Cooder, Woody Guthrie and Paul Brady. He does great songs written



by his heroes, but he's lived a quite adventurous life himself, and it shows in his stage performance. This will be a great final act of the day.

There aren't so many clubs that have got to 60, but we've kept going and we hope to go on a lot longer. Do come along and share the memories and friendship.

Looking ahead, we've booked two duos on **October 7th – Alan Rose and Lynda Hardcastle**



with **Rob van Sante and Janie Meneely**,

while there's a **Hot Spot** with our own **Alison Barnes** on **October 21st**.



Our annual "**We Will Remember Them**" evening will appropriately be on **November 11th**.



On **25th November** – our guest will be **Pete Morton**

Looking back, **Marie Little** was on top form as we began January – lovely songs and mad songs, too, with all the warmth we know and love.



Burns Night went very well, with **Gordon Mallory** as our M.C., and **Mary, Nigel, Heather and Alison** for their sterling work on the haggis, neaps and tatties.



We invited members of **local choirs** to come and try us out and perform themselves on **Feb 4th**, and it was very enjoyable. Some of our regulars are also members of **The Redcar Community Choir**, and they joined in the performance

Others will have to report on my Hot Spot, on **February 11th** but it was kind of some friends to come along in support and at least nobody walked out! *Note from Nigel: George is far too modest! It was a top class presentation of traditional English songs, and was both entertaining and educational. The place was packed.*



Janice Burns and Jon Doran gave us a lovely evening of traditional and roots-based songs at the month's end. It's great to have the younger people get into the older songs.

Martyn Wyndham-

Read was still a wonderful entertainer in March despite this perhaps being his last tour. We'd great Aussie songs and stories and his loyal support for Graeme Miles was shown in three of our late friend's songs.



I knew I'd enjoy our own **Ilan Tyzack's Hot Spot**. We'd very fine songs by other writers, but I reckon Ian's own like "Turn the Wheels" and the Country style "Hills of Cleveland County" will stand up as well as theirs!

Likewise we knew **Tom McConville and Andy Watt** would give us a high-octane night, and we weren't wrong. Loads of good tunes powerfully played plenty of laughs and a great atmosphere – we couldn't want more.



Reg Meuross' evening was a sell-out, and deservedly so. We were treated to an amazing hour-long music-and-words presentation on the life of Woody Guthrie and a second half of his own songs with their own high reputation.

Not a night I'd have liked to miss.

We don't often have Theme Nights these days, but our **"St. George's Day"** one brought a good turn-out and lots of appropriate songs.

"Singers and Musicians"

nights continue to go well, sometimes busier than others but we meet as friends and still have a good time. It's the regulars who make it possible, but we can never be sure who will turn up, so there's always the chance of something new and surprising.

Well, we meet and sing because this music, whether very old or very new, is worth keeping in a world of short-term "hits".



Image by Freepik

So the detail: we meet **every Tuesday evening at the Redcar Borough Park Bowling Club, Thwaites Lane, off Redcar Lane, Redcar TS10 2FD**. Turn off Redcar Lane at the big red Racecourse sign. Thwaites Lane runs between two sections of the cemetery and we're at the lane end a bit to the left. It's an accessible venue with a fine modern room and a good bar run by our capable hostess Gemma.

Doors open at 7.15 p.m. Trevor on the door ask us to stick to this as he has to get set up and performers may need sound checks. **Singing starts about 7.45 p.m.** and we finish at **10.45 p.m.**

For those who want more or can't get out now we still have the **Cutty Wren SingaZoomaround on Thursday evenings**. These open at **7-45 p.m.** and the singing is from **8 p.m. to 9.45 p.m.** They are hosted by the inimitable **Tony Morris** and there's now a lively online community from various parts of Britain and abroad. Contact our Secretary **Nigel Carden** for the link on info@cuttywrenfolkclub.com. That's our usual contact point for queries and we have a website at www.cuttywrenfolkclub.com. You can ring me on 01642 471769 as well.

If you haven't already, don't wait any longer before ordering your **Saltburn Folk Festival tickets!**

There's a great line up from our opening singaround on the evening of Thursday 7th August right through to the Sunday evening (10th).

Naturally, the Wilsons and Marie Little will be there, and special guests in a varied lineup include The Martin Simpson Trio, Kerr Fagan van Eyken, and Emily Portman with Louis Campbell.

Tickets and more info on the website www.saltburnfolkfestival.com or give Nigel a call on 07415 861144.

Thanks, then to all of you who keep the Cutty Wren such a good place for this music, especially **Gemma, Nigel for editing this, Alison** for making it attractive, the committee, the MC.'s, **Trevor** on the door, but not forgetting **Marj** for so many years in the job, and the regulars for being our bedrock.

*See you soon
George F*



Folk Festival

8th - 10th August 2025 . Saltburn-by-the-Sea

MARTIN SIMPSON TRIO
 KERR, FAGAN, VAN EYKEN
 EMILY PORTMAN AND LOUIS CAMPBELL
 SUNTOU SUSSO AND ROSS GRANT
 NICK HART AND TOM MOORE
 MADDIE MORRIS . THE WILSON FAMILY
 THE ENGLISH FIDDLE ENSEMBLE
 COBLIN BAND . THE ROSIE HOOD BAND
 THE PECWELLS . WATERSMEET
 AMY LEACH AND ALASDAIR PAUL
 MARIE LITTLE
 STORYTELLERS STREET BAND . INFANT HERCULES
 OUSEBURN FOLK CHOIR . CREAM TEES
 WEAR'D ALIENS . REDCAR COMMUNITY CHOIR
 MIDDLESBROUGH HAPPY UKULELE GROUP

FULL LINE-UP & TICKETS INFO
WWW.SALTBURNFOLKFESTIVAL.COM