



The Cutty Wren Newsletter



www.cuttYWrenfolkclub.com

Hi, all

We've had a very enjoyable summer at the Club, and we've a busy line up for the autumn, so here goes:



If you're reading this before **26th September**, there's still time to catch **Steve Tilston's** visit to the Club. Steve is one of the UK's top singer songwriters and an exceptionally skilful guitarist. He'll be accompanied by Hugh Bradley on double bass. This is likely to be a well-attended night so best get your advance tickets on line now at <https://www.wegotickets.com/event/584488> if you've not already bought them.



Cathryn Craig and Brian Willoughby make a very welcome return to the Club as our guests on **October 3rd**.

For those who don't know, Cathryn is from the US and has sung with some of the big names in Nashville. Her folk roots go deep, her great grandfather having been recorded by Cecil Sharp when he was collecting the old English songs that had survived in rural America. She has sung with significant US players like Chet Atkins, Shel Silverstein and the Righteous Brothers.

Brian has played guitar with the seminal British group the Strawbs and has been a backing musician in the States as well. A look at their web site will show more serious achievements than I can give here, but when you hear them you'll understand. Don't miss them.

October 10th and 17th will be our basic **Singers and Musicians** evenings when our regulars, occasionals and rare drop-ins stand up to sing or play a couple of numbers each. We never know exactly who'll be there, or what they'll do, which adds to the fun. We've very wide range of genres, included classic British traditional songs, a strong thread of good Americana and a fair dollop of humour. But basically we have songs with powerful words and great tunes; we only charge a couple of quid on these Singers' nights and you couldn't get better entertainment if you spent far more.

Any other nights I don't specifically note will be Singers and Musicians as well, but our next guests will be **Mark Campbell and Linda Taylor** on **October 24th**. This lively Lincolnshire duo was very well received on their last Cutty Wren appearance, and it's good to have them back.



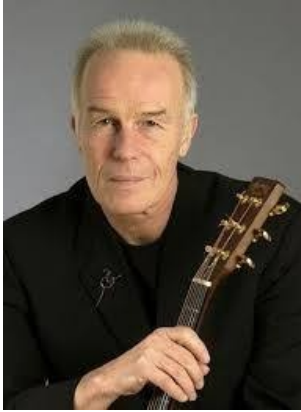
Mark is a very effective guitarist and singer and has been a major supporter of the folk scene around Grimsby for a long time. He was joined by Linda in 2015, and they perform a mix of traditional, contemporary and Americana, and I reckon there'll be something for everyone on this night.

On **November 7th** we have our annual **"We Will Remember Them"** night.

It's not only because it seems appropriate but because the songs we have remind us that it was the "folk" who bore the brunt of war, as they always have.



Our own **Trevor Taylor** will be our M.C. He has a great repertoire of the popular music of the two world wars, and our regulars may also have songs that go back to the earlier wars which feature in so many traditional songs. But there was always a strong vein of humour which kept people going, and you'll hear that as well.



Allan Taylor will be our guest on **November 21st**. He's been one of the most significant song writers on the British folk scene since the late '60's, writing so many memorable songs with unforgettable tunes like "It's Good To See You", "Roll on the Day" and "The Rose and the Briar."

His concern is the lives of ordinary people around the world who don't get the breaks, but they live on in his words. This will be a popular night, so we're selling advance tickets. Regulars can get them at the Club or they are available online too <https://www.wegotickets.com/event/585472>.

As winter approaches we have fewer guest nights, but two are significant! We're having our **Club AGM on December 5th**. We'll deal as quickly as possible with the routine (but important) business of reports and Committee elections before getting on with a "normal" Singaround.

And our **Christmas Party** is always an especially happy occasion, and it will be on **December 19th** this year. Party hats are welcome, and we usually have food too.



We won't be at the Club on Boxing Day and January 2nd, but we'll start 2024 in grand style on **January 9th** as once again we welcome our great friend **Marie Little** as guest. Marie is just the lively and vibrant person we all need to cheer us all up in a dark time of year. Her well-chosen repertoire comes from her Lancashire roots, but with a strong addition of humour and a taste for the best of modern American song.

And it's all served up with real passion. This will be a great evening so come and get any winter blues blown away.



Our club stalwart **Gordon Mallory** will host our **Burns' Night Celebrations on January 23rd**. This is the night to celebrate your inner Scottishness, and we'll hope to have the haggis and trimmings, though, naturally, we'll confirm that later.



Looking ahead, we have a **Hot Spot** with our seriously good local duo **Gary Bliss and Ronnie Brown on February 6th**,



and a guest night with Teesside favourite **Pete Davies on Feb 26th**.



Looking back, we had a very good turnout for **Karen Pfeiffer and Paul Walker** in June. They were as lively as ever, with a very varied repertoire, from Karen's German roots and the ones she has now in the Potteries, combined with Paul's whimsical numbers. It was a great night's entertainment.



Our own regular **Alison Barnes** did a very fine Hot Spot at the month's end, with some lyrical traditional songs, and some effective modern ones by Billy Mitchell and Jez Lowe giving us the ladies' point of view. Powerful stuff.



Our **Fourth of July** was very successful, with many fine American songs sung, traditional as well as modern.

It was a while since we'd seen **Wendy Arrowsmith**, and it was good to have her back in mid July. She gave us a well-balanced mix of traditional, great modern songs like "Wild White Swan" and some very fine ones of her own.



We'd an enjoyable **58th Birthday of the Club** the following week, and not just because of the buffet, arranged by our Marj with a great deal of effort. We'd great songs sung and many memories shared. Though we've inevitably lost many earlier Club members, they weren't forgotten, least of all John Taylor!



Colin and Fran's Hot Spot on August 1st was very good. They did nearly an hour with many of our favourites, and also some lovely poems from Fran.



For the next few weeks we had Singers and Musicians' evenings since folk are often away in August, but the remaining regulars were augmented by some of our "occasionals" and a good number of visitors, so we had generally good attendances and a great variety of songs.

In the old days a lot of Clubs mostly had guests, but I reckon nowadays a lot of "floor singers" can give us performances the equal of the guests of that time! I could mention lots of names, but John Taylor was always clear that all performers contributed something to a Club evening or a festival and he was right.

Many of us were involved with **Saltburn Folk Festival** in August too. This year, in addition to hosting our traditional Thursday Night Singaround, Cutty Wren regulars staged a showcase concert as part of the Festival programme. It was a great opportunity to perform to a different audience and a good experience for everyone.

The **2024 folk festival (9th – 11th August)** will be the 25th live event since John relocated it from Redcar.

We've just had our first hotspot of the autumn, with **Sue Lane** entertaining us on 12th September. Fabulous parody songs were at core of her act, but Sue also showed off her concertina skills and invited husband Steve and other musician friends to perform with her on a few numbers too.



So – come and join us! We meet each **Tuesday** evening at the **Redcar Borough Park Bowling Club, Thwaites Lane, off Redcar Lane, TS10 2FD**. Turn off Redcar Lane at the big red Racecourse sign, and we're down the bottom to the left.

We've plenty of parking space, a fine comfortable modern room, a warm welcome and an excellent bar run by our ever-capable hostess **Gemma**. **Doors open about 7-30 p.m., singing starts about 7-45 p.m., and we finish at 10-45 p.m.**



For those who still have to avoid live gatherings, or who want still more folk song, we're still continuing the **Cutty Wren SingaZoomaround sessions** on **Thursday evenings**. **These open at 7-45 p.m. and the singing runs from 8 to 9-45 p.m.**

As attendees come from several different parts of Britain and abroad it's a lively on-line community ably hosted by the inimitable **Tony Morris**.

Contact our Secretary **Nigel Carden** on info@cuttywrenfolkclub.com for the link if you've not tried this before.

That's our normal contact address, and we have a website at www.cuttywrenfolkclub.com

You can also ring me on 01642 471769.

Thanks as ever to all who make the Club such a great place: our Kind hosts at the bowling Club, especially **Gemma**, to **Alison** who does the really clever stuff on the newsletter, the **Committee**, the **M.C.'s**, the **raffle sellers**, **Marj** on the door, and all the regulars who make up a Club.

See you soon!
George F

