



DALES TRADITIONAL MUSIC AND DANCE COLLECTIVE

www.dales-music-and-dance-collective.org.uk



Newsletter No. 35 February 14th 2026

for

Yorkshire Dales and Other Musicians, Callers, Singers, Dancers, Poets and
Listeners

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1. PUB SESSIONS. The Racehorses Hotel in Kettlewell did us proud for the sessions in January and February after the Buck in Buckden had closed for emergency refurbishment last October. The bar with its open fire made it a cosy venue for the 13 people, including the 6 performers, nearly filling the space. Thank you, Kevin and your staff, for the warm welcome, and the publicity poster! However, after discussion it was agreed that the March session should be back at 'Our Spiritual Home': the reopened Buck Inn in Buckden. See next item.

2. PUB SESSION SUNDAY MARCH 8th - 1pm to 4pm - THE BUCK!

This will be the final session of the Autumn/Winter 2025/26 season. Jeremy and the staff at the Buck will be delighted to have us back. We don't meet in the Summer.

So, let's make this last session till possibly October a really full and lively occasion. There are 65 people on the mailing list for these Collective newsletters, all of whom must be interested in some way in Dales traditional music, song, dance, poetry or stories. If a caller comes to a session the room at the Buck is fine for Dales dancing, as Peter Barnard proved there in April last year. Thanks to John Dotchin we even have a "Buck Tune Book" with notes for 40 tunes. You can ask John for one beforehand jadotchin@resurv.co.uk and bring a cash donation on the day. So, please think of coming to join in this session whether to contribute or just listen in support. It may be your last chance. See next item.

3. PUB SESSIONS - THE FUTURE?

We call the Buck 'Our Spiritual Home' because that is where Bob Ellis, Muppet and Colin Speakman instigated the revival of pub sessions at the Buck in June 2022. It was where Peter Beresford and other Dales musicians had played regularly at evening sessions until the 1970s. Sadly, with both Bob and Muppett having died too young in 2024, it has been hard to keep the impetus of Buck sessions going. It seems that there are hardly any folk musicians or singers living in these southern Dales. Thanks to Colin the Dalesbus service brings regular performers and listeners from Bradford and towns outwith the Dales but for many other would-be performers it is a long way to drive to Buckden or even Kettlewell. I live locally, round the corner in Littondale, but with seriously bent fingers my flute playing days in public are numbered. I don't know about the rats but my 'Pied Piper' acts have failed to attract a musical following.

4. PUB SESSIONS - CONCLUSION?

All the more reason to come to the Buck in March to help decide the future of the Collective and its sessions OR let me have any comments, suggestions or ideas which I can pass round. Or 'hijack' the BCC mailing list if that is possible and air your thoughts that way.

5. REMINDER - ANOTHER APPEAL! COME IF YOU CAN!

1. Joy introduces Collective
2. Band plays Buttered Peas, Varsovienne, Huntsman's Chorus
3. Nigel sings 'Moorend Ghosts'
4. Band: Kendal Ghyll, Lady of the Lake
5. Nigel: Banks of Upper Wharfedale
6. Jim sings "Son of Fiddlers Cross"
7. Band: Buckden Feast, Brass Nuts
8. Jim: "Tim, Play a Dance for Me"
9. All: Imperial Waltz tune
- Interval
10. Colin: Dales based poems
11. Matt plays/sings Muppett set
12. All sing "Leaving the Dales"



Sorry, it needs a third page for my usual signing off.

Advance notice: Depending on what transpires for the future of the Collective after the March 8th Session I'll be happy to let someone else take over the writing of our newsletters. They take me a lot of time to put together each time, falling into every trap that Word or Outlook lure me into with their supposedly more advanced facilities which succeed only in making things more complicated.

On a happier note you'll see that you are getting newsletter a day early for Valentine's Day Bless you all!



Happy traditional Dales music making!

Richard 14/2/2026

