



DALES TRADITIONAL MUSIC AND DANCE COLLECTIVE

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



Newsletter No. 36 March 13th 2026

for

Yorkshire Dales and Other Musicians, Callers,

Singers, Dancers, Poets and Listeners

1. BUCK SESSION - Sunday March 8th

The last pub session of our Winter Season 2025/2026 was back in Buckden at the Collective's 'spiritual home', at the Buck Inn. At its maximum there were 25 people there, including the local listeners in the window space. Long-term regulars were singers Nigel (+recorder and guitar) and Jim (+harmonica and 'mighty mouse' ukulele), musicians Joy fiddle and Richard flute, and Colin our resident poet. Relatively recent performers included a mandolin, singer/guitarist Mark, solo singer James and newcomer John from Kettlewell with funny poems and a promise to revive his currently dormant guitar. Colin read two stories from his about-to-be-published-on the coming Thursday -much revised Third Edition collection of his 1986 book: "*The Nut Brown Maid and other stories from the Yorkshire Dales*". The varied programme easily filled the three happy hours from 1pm to 4pm albeit with an interval break for discussion on the future for these Collective sessions. See next item.

2. TO BE OR NOT TO BE?

With only five hard-core regular singers/musicians and only one of them actually from within the Dales could or should these pub sessions at the Buck continue for another season from next October onwards? John Dotchin, long-term regular on mandolin from Settle and producer of the Buck Sessions Tunes book, had sent an apology due to illness and recovery. He would always come if he possibly could. We knew that Jeremy and the staff at the Buck welcome us wholeheartedly. We had also been welcomed at the Racehorses in Kettlewell while the Buck was closed for a time during the winter and it was reported that the George in Hubberholme would like some live music. No problem with a

venue. A show of hands poll round the room emphatically said, "Carry on, please." So on we go, but . . . see next item.

3. NEWSLETTER AND PUBLICITY

Our Collective's first newsletter appeared in January 2023 after the initial 'trial' Buck session in June 2022 and three regular sessions from October to December 2022. An entry in that first newsletter reads:

"For an hour before the Buck session on Sunday 8th January 2023 a team of four people (Bob, Colin, Muppet and Richard) who had been involved in the project since the beginning met to discuss how to take the project further. It was an open meeting and others coming for the 1pm session joined in. Decisions made:

- 1. To call ourselves the "Dales Traditional Music and Dance Collective". "Collective" to stress informality, collaboration, no constitution, no officers.*
- 2. Have a newsletter to keep everyone informed of traditional music and dance events all around the Dales and beyond. Richard offered to compile one, having sensed that he was about to be volunteered for the task anyway."*

After producing 36 Newsletters and various other communications over three years here is a personal statement from me, Richard. "In the weeks before this session I had told Colin, Joy and others that I wished to withdraw from my role as newsletter and communications guy for the Collective. Why? Approaching 90 at the Spring Equinox I feel a need to reduce my outside commitments, especially those which take up a lot of time and create pressure to get them done, e.g. putting together a newsletter. The severely bent fingers which are bringing to an end my flute playing in public also make typing a slow and inaccurate business. And I think the collective newsletter should be in the hands of people who are less averse to social media than I am and are much more in touch with the folk music world. Let someone else take over the role, please!"

4. NEW NEWSLETTER TEAM - GOOD NEWS!

At that Buck Session on March 8th Joy Leach and James, active members of the Topic Folk Club in Bradford, offered to take over the role of newsletter

production. Thank you very much, Joy and James. Richard said he would produce this issue and then step down.

5. THE COLLECTIVE AT THE TOPIC - Thursday 26th February 2026

Joy had put together a team to play at the Topic Club evening in the Castle Inn, Grattan Street, Bradford. An event to celebrate Muppett's Part in Reviving the Buck Inn Music sessions. Colin read his tribute to Muppett and some appropriate poems, the band (Joy, Richard, Nigel, Jim) played a selection of Dales Dance tunes from the "No Lazy Dancing" book and Matt Palmer, Muppett's stepson, gave a brilliant finale to the session, singing and playing (guitar) his set of Muppett songs. A lively and cheerful evening to a full house in the unique atmosphere of the Castle Inn. Many thanks to Joy, the Topic Club and the landlord at the pub. I'll attach to the email, hopefully, the programme as performed while here are some photos of the team in action:



Below are links to two recordings made by Jim. Hope you can open them. I can't
https://drive.google.com/file/d/13IMvq8-jYCZPpNEHIB1OpTIQPtvMXQLs/view?usp=drive_web

https://drive.google.com/file/d/1vzZw7y0jMLxKFEKbg7Y-HDjVWYnnGcaT/view?usp=drive_web

Two days later there was another celebration concert for Muppett in the Three Swords pub in Guisely, organised by Friends of DalesBus in aid of DalesBus. Nigel and Jim lined up again with the Hall Brothers Band and Keepers Wood.

6. SUSIE AND MIC DARLING - singer/campaigner Romanies from Nidderdale

Some of our Buck session performers and listeners may remember being entertained a few times by the remarkable duo 'travellers' Mic and Sue. They persuaded some of us also to buy a copy of the story of their unique lives 'on the road'. Susie Darling's "The Road is Home". We are sad to learn that Mic died recently. Colin has sent us a copy of a tribute to Mic by his friend Mark Thompson. It'll be another attachment to the accompanying email.

7. OTLEY - FOLK FOR ALL - SPRING GATHERING

Saturday 21st March 2026, <http://folkforall.org.uk/spring-gathering>

See if you can view the posters for this splendid event in an attachment to the accompanying email. It is an impressive array of workshops and sessions lead by local star performers.

Thank you Hannah Walker for telling us about this.

Would that the Collective and Friends of Dalesbus could/might organize something like this in the pubs and village halls of Upper Wharfedale to generate enthusiastic interest and participation in the heritage of Dales traditional music, dance and song amongst those who actually live in the Dales!

With that wishful thinking I am signing off as usual but for the last time.



Happy traditional Dales music making!

Richard
13th March 2026

