



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

Newsletter Number 42 — October 2026

WE'RE BACK — SUNDAY 11 OCTOBER AT THE BUCK INN

The new season starts this month. Our first session is at **The Buck Inn, Buckden, BD23 5JA** on **Sunday 11 October, 2–5pm**.

After that we run on the **second Sunday of the month through to March**, so the next two are **Sunday 8 November** and **Sunday 13 December** — at **1–4pm**. Singers, musicians, poets and listeners are all equally welcome, and listening is a perfectly respectable way to spend the afternoon.

Come and join us to sing, play, recite or listen.

The Buck Inn is reachable by DalesBus from Leeds if you would rather not drive.

PHOTOGRAPHS AND VIDEO ON THE 11TH — ONLY IF YOU'RE HAPPY

As trailed last month, I'll have a sheet with me on the 11th for anyone happy to appear in photographs or a short video on the Collective's new social media pages. The idea is simply to show people who haven't found us yet what a Dales session actually looks and sounds like.

If you'd rather not appear, you don't need to do anything at all — just don't put your name down. No one will ask why, no one will mind, and it makes no difference whatsoever to your welcome. There's also a column for anyone happy to be heard but not seen, which suits some people very well. And if you change your mind afterwards, at any point, just say and whatever you're in comes down.

The Collective now has its own **Facebook group** — do come and join us there. Scan the QR code at the end of this newsletter, or find it at facebook.com. An Instagram account will follow before long.

THE TOPIC AT 70 — BRADFORD'S GREAT FOLK INSTITUTION

The Topic Folk Club in Bradford turns **seventy** this month. It has been meeting weekly since 1956, which makes it the oldest continuously running folk club in the world. Seventy years of singers' nights in a city centre pub is no small thing, and they are marking it properly.

TopicFest — Saturday 3 October, 12 noon to 5pm

A free afternoon of live music in the outside area at **Darley Street Market, Bradford BD1 3HH**. Every guest has a connection with the Topic:

TIME	ARTIST
12.00 – 12.55	Plumhall
12.55 – 1.30	Hokum — skiffle set
1.30 – 2.10	Bella Gaffney
2.10 – 2.45	Henry Parker
2.45 – 3.00	Mike the Busker
3.00 – 3.30	Paul Chand / Anjaana
3.30 – 4.00	Jenny Silurian
4.00 – 4.30	Top Whack
4.30 – 5.00	Lewis Pugh

An evening of history and song — Friday 9 October, 7-9pm

Bradford Libraries have invited the Topic to **Shipley Library** for an evening marking the anniversary: a short history of the club's foundation in 1956 and how it grew, interspersed with songs from Topic members and friends. No fixed charge — pay as you feel, and all proceeds go to the Topic.

And the regular club nights in October

The Topic meets at **The Castle, 20 Grattan Road, Bradford BD1 2LU**. Doors 7pm, 7.30pm start, aiming to finish about 9.45pm. Guest nights £9, or £6 for members.

Thu 1 Oct — Singers & musicians. £1 entry.

Thu 8 Oct — Mossy Christian.

Thu 15 Oct — Singers & musicians. £1 entry.

Thu 22 Oct — Steve Jinski.

Thu 29 Oct — Mick Ryan & Paul Downes.

Parking: street parking for The Castle is on Barry Street and Grattan Road, just outside the pub, at £1, and there is a disabled bay. The Council is reportedly planning to scrap street parking charges, but nobody yet knows when — so take a coin.

TUNE & SONG OF THE MONTH — A NEW FEATURE

John Dotchin — who gave us the masthead at the top of this page — suggested we might have a corner for tunes and songs each month. It seemed a good idea, so here it is, and it starts with his own find.

“Waltzing at Giggleswick” — Rachael McShane

A relatively new tune, written by **Rachael McShane**, and a proper Dales title. You'll find it on page 16 of *Ceilidh Band Book 1*, which the M4P project makes freely available — melody plus Bb, Eb, viola and bass parts — at m4p.org.uk/ceilidh. Free to download, free to print, and ready for the Buck Inn.

There is a pleasing coincidence in the title, too. As you'll read further down, Giggleswick is where Leta Douglas published her *Six Dances of the Yorkshire Dales* in 1931. Ninety-odd years later a new tune turns up with the village's name on it. The dale keeps writing itself.

Know a tune or a song with a story attached — old or new? Send it in and it goes in the next issue.

BANDS OF THE DALES — A NEW DIRECTORY

Another new corner. If you run a band that plays for dances and sessions in and around the Dales, we'd like to list you, so that anyone looking for a band for a village hall night knows where to start. First in, and very welcome:



BUTTERED PEAS

English country dance band — fiddle, flute, octave mandolin and guitar. Buttered Peas have been playing for dances in and around the Dales for years, including the Traditional Dales Village Dancing evenings at Kettlewell, Arncliffe and Grassington.

And note the name. "Buttered Peas" is one of the six dances Leta Douglas collected and published in 1931 — and hers came from Buckden, which is where we meet. You could hardly ask for a better bit of continuity than that.

Bookings and enquiries: **Paul Stead** — 07720 841452, or paul.psa@btinternet.com.

Other bands: send me your name, line-up, the sort of dances you play for, a contact, and a logo if you have one, and I'll add you.

GRASSINGTON STORYTELLERS — READERS WANTED



Their Facebook page

A small and friendly new group has started up in Grassington, with a simple aim: **to keep storytelling alive in the Dales and beyond**. They have read at the Kettlewell Scarecrow Festival and at the Grassington 1940s Weekend, and there is more to come — including an outing at the Grassington Christmas markets.

STORIES FOR HALLOWE'EN

Saturday 31 October, 9pm — at the bus shelter, Grassington National Park Visitor Centre car park, Hebden Road BD23 5LB. Stories, tales and poems for dark nights. *Outdoors, so dress warmly and bring a torch. Over 14s only, and not for the faint of heart.*

And they would like more readers. Stories old and new, traditional and folk material, or your own writing. No experience needed, no audition, nothing prepared — a willingness to stand up and read is quite enough. A room that likes songs is largely the same room that likes stories, so if you are even slightly tempted, do say.

Get in touch with me at folkcollective@thinkingfree.co.uk and I will pass you on.

OUT AND ABOUT: OCTOBER IN THE DALES

Sessions and singarounds

Sun 11 Oct — Our own session, The Buck Inn, Buckden, 2–5pm. See the top of this newsletter.

Mon 19 Oct — Skipton Folk Unplugged, The Narrow Boat, 38 Victoria Street, Skipton BD23 1JE, 7.30–10pm. Third Monday, and a singers' night through and through. Sheila Kelsall, 01535 665889.

Something rather different — Skipton, Thursday 15 October

The **Green Folkways Exchange** comes to **Craven Arts House, 55 Otley Street, Skipton BD23 1ET, from 7pm** — and it is free. This is an ecological folklore research project led locally by the cellist, singer and poet **Sarah Smout**, working across England, Denmark and Norway and reaching further into Europe, rethinking how musicians tour without the carbon. The evening invites people to bring what they know: songs, stories, myths, rituals, old agricultural practice, memories of how things were done. Sarah's own research covers North Yorkshire and Pendle.

If ever there were an evening made for this Collective, it is this one — we are exactly the people who hold that sort of thing. Details and the application form are at cravenarts.co.uk, and more about Sarah at sarahsmoutmusic.co.uk.

Concerts — Settle Victoria Hall

Settle continues to have far and away the best folk programme in our area. Box office 01729 825718.

Thu 1 Oct — Sam Kelly & The Lost Boys with Honey & The Bear, 7.30pm, £20.

Fri 9 Oct — Kathryn Roberts & Sean Lakeman, 7.30pm, £15.50. Thirty years together and twice Best Duo at the folk awards.

Wed 14 Oct — John Kirkpatrick & Cohen Braithwaite-Kilcoyne, 7.30pm, £17.50. Two generations of squeezebox in one room.

Fri 16 Oct — Merry Hell, 8pm, £19.50.

Sat 17 Oct — Fairport Convention, doors 6.15pm, 7pm start, £35.50. The 59th anniversary tour.

Sun 25 Oct — Jack Rutter, 7.30pm, £17.50. A Yorkshire singer, and a very fine one.

Fri 30 Oct — The Alan Fletcher Band, 8–10pm, £20.

Sat 31 Oct — Ímar, doors 7.15pm, 8pm start, £22.

Concerts — Reeth Memorial Hall, Swaledale

Sat 3 Oct — Leveret, 8pm, £20 advance / £22 door. Sam Sweeney, Andy Cutting and Rob Harbron, taking requests all night.

Sat 10 Oct — John Tams, 8pm — sold out, but there is a waiting list.

Fri 23 Oct — Honey & the Bear, 8pm, £16 advance / £18 door.

Sat 31 Oct — Bard Edrington V & The Blackbirds, 8pm, £16 / £18.

Grassington

Sun 4 Oct — Grassington Singers, "Autumn in Gold", with guests Aireborough Voices, 3pm.

Sat 24 Oct — Hebble, the Octagon Theatre, Devonshire Institute, 48 Main Street, Grassington BD23 5AA, from 6pm.

Sat 31 Oct — Grassington Storytellers: "Stories for Hallowe'en", 9pm at the bus shelter, National Park Visitor Centre car park, Hebden Road BD23 5LB. Outdoors, over 14s. See their section above.

FURTHER AFIELD

The one to make a journey for

Sun 11 Oct — Jez Lowe at Ryburn 3 Step Folk Club, Hollins Mill, Hollins Mill Lane, Sowerby Bridge HX6 2QG, 7–10pm, £11. He is marking forty-five years as a touring musician. Tickets on 01422 822569 or through ryburn3step.org.uk. Please note this club can take cash only.

That is the same Sunday as our own session, but ours finishes at five and Ryburn starts at seven — an ambitious soul could manage both.

And one for anyone interested in where our songs came from

Sat 10 Oct — “Folk Song in the North of England”, Leeds Central Library. The Traditional Song Forum’s autumn conference, held with Leeds Libraries as part of Leeds400, and marking the centenary of the death of Frank Kidson — the Leeds man who was collecting Yorkshire songs more than a decade before Cecil Sharp started in Somerset. A day of short papers.

Attendance details were not published when we went to press, so ring Leeds Libraries on 0113 378 5005 before setting off. More on Kidson in next month’s newsletter — the centenary of his death falls on 7 November.

Clubs and club nights

Mon 5 Oct — Bingley First Monday Folk welcomes Dogwood Mountain Railroad, a Yorkshire-based bluegrass, country and Americana group with rich multi-part harmonies. Bingley Arts Centre, upstairs theatre, Main Street, Bingley BD16 2LZ — accessible by staircase and lift. Doors 7pm, music 7.30pm. Pay as you feel, with a donation and a raffle.

Wednesdays — Otley Folk Club, The Black Horse, Otley, 7.45pm. Singers’ nights on the 7th and 21st (£1); Hebble on the 14th and the Jon Palmer Acoustic Band on the 28th.

Fridays — Bacca Pipes Folk Club, Riddlesden Institute, Scott Lane, Keighley BD20 5BU, doors 7.30pm. Singers’ nights on the 2nd, 9th, 23rd and 30th; Alice Jones on the 16th. No bar, so take your own.

Mondays — Folk at the Grove, The Grove Inn, Back Row, Holbeck, Leeds LS11 5PL, 8–10.30pm. Becky Taylor & Sam Lawrence on the 19th.

Sun 25 Oct — Murray McEwan and Clive Beggs, the Avondale Club, 19 Bradford Road, Shipley BD18 3PJ, 7.30–9pm. Pay as you feel.

Dancing

Sun 18 Oct — Addingham Ceilidh Club, Addingham Memorial Hall LS29 0PD, 7–9pm, £5, with Beneath The Clock playing.

Sat 3 Oct — Leeds Contra, St Chad’s Hall, with Sail Away Ladies and caller Seth Tepfer. Contrasaurus follow on the 31st.

Bigger stages

Fri 2 Oct — Chris While & Julie Matthews, Otley Courthouse.

Fri 9 Oct — Lindisfarne, Victoria Theatre, Halifax.

Sun 18 Oct — Dervish, Otley Courthouse.

Mon 19 Oct — Steeleye Span, Victoria Theatre, Halifax.

Fri 23 Oct — Blue Rose Code, The Live Room, Caroline Social Club, Saltaire BD18 3JZ.

Sat 24 Oct — Eddi Reader, Howard Assembly Room, Leeds.

Sat 31 Oct — TRIP, Otley Courthouse.

THIS MONTH IN FOLK

1 October 1976 — Maud Karpeles, fifty years gone

Fifty years ago this month Maud Karpeles died in London, aged ninety. She became Cecil Sharp's assistant in 1913 and travelled with him through the Appalachians between 1916 and 1918, taking the words down in shorthand on a portable typewriter while he noted the tunes — over 1,600 songs between them. She helped found the English Folk Dance Society in 1911, was its honorary secretary, became Sharp's literary executor after his death in 1924, and made her own major collection in Newfoundland in 1929 and 1930. Rather a lot of what we sing survives because she was writing it down.

9-17 October — Hull Fair

Yorkshire's great October institution runs on a charter granted by Edward I in 1279, and by long custom takes the week containing 11 October — opening at 5pm on the Friday, closing at 11pm on the Saturday eight days later, and dark on the Sunday in between. Local tradition holds that the 11 October date is Hull's standing protest at the calendar reform of 1752, when the town reckoned it had been robbed of eleven days of fun. It is among the largest travelling fairs in Europe.

12 October 1872 — Vaughan Williams born

Ralph Vaughan Williams was born at Down Ampney on 12 October 1872. He began collecting folk songs in 1903, following Sharp and Lucy Broadwood into the countryside with a notebook, and spent 1904 to 1906 editing *The English Hymnal* — two years he later called “a better musical education than any amount of sonatas and fugues.” When the Folk-Song Society and the English Folk Dance Society merged in 1932 he became the new Society's president, and the national folk library at Cecil Sharp House carries his name to this day.

DALES FOLK HISTORY: LETA DOUGLAS OF GIGGLESWICK

I promised her last month, so here she is. In 1931 **Leta M. Douglas** published *Six Dances of the Yorkshire Dales* — self-published, from Giggleswick, so she was working on her own doorstep. Three years later came *Three More Dances of the Yorkshire Dales*, which also carried the Boosbeck long sword dance.

The names read like a walk up the dale, and the English Folk Dance and Song Society's own bibliography ties several of them to particular villages: **Buttered Peas** to Buckden and Langstrothdale, the **Huntsman's Chorus** to Grassington, Langstrothdale and Oughtershaw, **Brass Nuts** to Rathmell, and — from the 1934 book — **Holly Berry** to Grassington.

And the dances did not stay on the page. The Gramophone Company issued them on His Master's Voice, out of Hayes in Middlesex, as *Dances of the Yorkshire Dales* — the Huntsman's Chorus on one side, Kendal Ghyll and Meeting Six on the other — played by the melodeon player George Tremain, with Douglas credited. Buckden and Grassington tunes, pressed in a London suburb and sold to dance clubs the length of England.

A correction to last month, while we are here: “Buy a Broom” from Oughtershaw and the “Circassian Circle” from Thwaite were collected by Tom and Joan Flett, not by Leta Douglas. The Fletts had Buy a Broom from Mr Peter Beresford and Mr George Turnbull. Getting these right matters, and I would rather correct myself than not.

Of Leta Douglas herself I can find almost nothing — no dates, no obituary, no account of how she went about her collecting. If anybody in the Collective knows anything about her, or has heard her name from an older relative, I would *very much* like to hear from you. The Vaughan Williams Memorial Library at Cecil Sharp House holds the archive, and that may be the place to start — but a memory from this dale would be worth more.

FROM THE ARCHIVES: THE ROUGHEST MUSIC IN WENSLEYDALE

In a footnote to his book of 1898, the North Riding folklorist Richard Blakeborough records, quite flatly: “The stang was ridden at Thoraby, Wensleydale, as recently as October, 1896.”

Riding the Stang was a village’s own noisy justice. An effigy of the offender — most often a man who had beaten his wife — was bound to a pole in a handcart and wheeled through the village. Behind it, in Blakeborough’s words, “were gathered all the ragamuffins of the village, armed with pan lids, tin cans, tin whistles, or anything which could be made to produce a discordant sound.” The stang-master chanted the charge in a sing-song voice, beginning “Ah tinkle, Ah tinkle, Ah tinkle tang.”

The rules were strict. The culprit’s real name must never be spoken aloud, and the stang had to be ridden in three separate parishes on three separate nights. Then, says Blakeborough, “there arose a tumult of sound, to which the wildest ravings of bedlam would seem insignificant.” On the third night the effigy was burnt outside the man’s own door.

He notes the custom had been “pretty nigh stamped out by the county policeman” — but adds, with what one suspects is a certain relish, that “in many of the villages in Wensleydale it is to this day resorted to when considered needful.”

Every phrase in quotation marks above is Blakeborough’s own, from “Wit, Character, Folklore and Customs of the North Riding of Yorkshire” (1898), which is free to read online at Project Gutenberg. It is a wonderful book and I shall be raiding it again.

THE REGULARS — WHAT HAPPENS EVERY MONTH

New this month, and here to stay. These are the *standing* fixtures — clubs, sessions, singarounds and open mics you can simply turn up to, as opposed to the one-off concerts listed above. Everything here was checked in the week this issue went out.

OUR OWN SESSION	
2nd Sunday	The Buck Inn, Buckden BD23 5JA — 2–5pm, October, 1- 4pm November to March. Songs, tunes, poems, and listening. Peter Barnard 07919 627270.
EVERY WEEK	
Tuesdays	Kings Arms, 9 Bolton Road, Silsden BD20 0YJ — 7pm. Singers, musicians, spoken word. 01535 653216.
Wednesdays	The Green Dragon, Hardraw, near Hawes DL8 3LZ — 8.30pm singaround. 01969 667392.
Wednesdays	The Woodman Inn, Burneston, Bedale DL8 2HX — 8–10.30pm singaround. 01677 426123.
Thursdays	The Station Hotel, Colne Road, Earby BB18 6XL — 8pm. Sing, play or listen.
Fridays	Folk at the Black Lion, 12 Finkle Street, Richmond DL10 4QB — 7.30pm session, 8.30pm singaround. 01748 518897.
Fridays	Bacca Pipes Folk Club, Riddlesden Institute, Scott Lane, Keighley BD20 5BU — doors 7.30pm. No bar, take your own. 07786 195942.
ONCE A MONTH	
1st Monday	The George & Dragon, Hudswell, Richmond DL11 6BL — 7pm singaround. Folk, blues, a cappella and recitations all welcome.
1st Tuesday	The Goats Head, 2 Skipton Road, Steeton BD20 6NR — acoustic jam.
1st Wednesday	The Turf Hotel, Victoria Road, Richmond DL10 4DW — 7.30pm acoustic singaround. 01748 829439.

1st Friday	Open mic, Mechanics Institute, Kirkby Malzeard, Ripon HG4 3RS — 8pm, £4. John Collins 01765 650402.
2nd & 4th Tue	Bedale Acoustic Music Club, The Green Dragon, Market Place, Bedale DL8 1EQ — 7.30pm. John Knighton 07922 837405.
2nd & 4th Thu	Exelby Daylight Folk Club, The Green Dragon, Exelby DL8 2HA — afternoons, 2–5pm summer, 1–4.30pm winter. 01677 427715.
2nd Thursday	Open mic, The Mess Room, Old Fire Station, off Coach Street, Skipton BD23 1LQ — 7.30 or 8pm. 07398 048636.
2nd & last Fri	Ripon Wilfrid's Folk Club, St Wilfrid's Centre, Trinity Lane, Ripon HG4 2AB — 7.30pm, £3 on singaround nights.
3rd Monday	Skipton Folk Unplugged, The Narrow Boat, 38 Victoria Street, Skipton BD23 1JE — 7.30–10pm, singers' night. Sheila Kelsall 01535 665889.
3rd Sunday	Addingham Ceilidh Club, Addingham Memorial Hall LS29 0PD — 7–9pm, £5. Live band and caller, no partner needed.
3rd Wednesday	Thirsk Folk Sessions, The Black Swan, 9 Norby, Thirsk YO7 1BG.
Last Thursday	Singer/songwriter session, The Flying Duck, Church Street, Ilkley LS29 9DS. 01943 609587.
SIDES AND BANDS TAKING NEW MEMBERS	
Tuesdays	Reeth Brass Band rehearse 7.30–9.30pm at Reeth Memorial Hall. New players always welcome, experienced or not — and they are short of cornets and trumpets. Paul, 07709 247810.
Wednesdays	Flagcrackers of Craven, border morris, practise 7.30–9.30pm at Kildwick & Farnhill Institute, Farnhill BD20 9BJ. Dancers and musicians both wanted.
Thursdays	Richmond on Swale Morris practise at Cleasby & Stapleton Village Hall DL2 2QY. A mixed side since 2025 and recruiting.
Mondays	Muker Silver Band rehearse at Muker Public Hall DL11 6QG. Ring 01748 886445 first.

A correction to last month, and an unusually welcome one: I gave the Hardraw singaround as the first and second Wednesdays. It is in fact every Wednesday. So there was more music available than I advertised, which is the right direction to be wrong in.

Corrections and additions to this panel are very welcome indeed — small clubs change their night and rarely tell the listings sites, so if something here is wrong, or if you know of a regular session I have missed, please say. I am particularly keen to hear of any Irish tune session in the area, as I could find none at all.

WORTH PUTTING IN THE DIARY NOW

Sun 8 Nov — Our session, The Buck Inn, Buckden, 1–4pm.

Sun 8 Nov — Ryburn 3 Step welcomes JIB — Jim Mageean with Barrie and Ingrid Temple — Hollins Mill, Sowerby Bridge, 7–10pm.

Sun 13 Dec — Our session, The Buck Inn, 2–5pm; and Ryburn's Christmas Party the same evening.

Jan 2, 3, 5 & 6 — The Long Company Mummers Play, at venues around Calderdale. Bring the new year in properly.

OVER TO YOU — PLEASE SEND ME THINGS

This newsletter is only as good as what comes in, and the best of it so far has come from you rather than from me. So please do send anything you think other people would enjoy:

Events to flag up — sessions, dances, concerts, festivals, anything at all. **Stories and anecdotes** — something that happened at a session, a memory of a dance years ago, a character worth remembering.

Articles — long or short, on anything to do with the music, song, dance, poetry or customs of the Dales.

Tunes and songs with a story attached, for Tune of the Month. **Bands** for the directory. **Photographs**. And **corrections** — always welcome, and there will be plenty.

Nothing is too small, and you do not need to write it up neatly — a few lines in an email is plenty and I will do the rest. Send it all to me at:

John — folkcollective@thinkingfree.co.uk

Events can also be posted on the website at www.dales-music-and-dance-collective.org.uk.

Best efforts have been made to ensure all information is correct at the time of release — any error is solely down to the editor!

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OUR WEBSITE



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OUR FACEBOOK GROUP



Scan to join us

Musicians, Singers, Dancers, Poets, Story Tellers and Listeners interested in the music of the Dales.