



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

Newsletter Number 43 — November 2026

NEXT SESSION: SUNDAY 8 NOVEMBER

PLEASE NOTE THE NEW TIME

Our November session is at **The Buck Inn, Buckden, BD23 5JA** on **Sunday 8 November** — and it starts an hour earlier than last month, at **1–4pm** because the Sunday bus timetable has changed. Singers, musicians, poets and listeners all equally welcome, as ever.

The next one after that is **Sunday 13 December, also 1–4pm**.

THE SONGS OF MIKE DONALD — A SUGGESTION

Colin Speakman has suggested that the Collective might learn and perform some songs by **Mike Donald**. In his words: *“Several of his songs, for example Settle–Carlisle, are now Dales classics, but people have now forgotten Mike the composer, singer-songwriter and great communicator.”*

Mike Donald was born in Scunthorpe, brought up in Hull, and settled in **Skipton**. He was a professional entertainer and songwriter known for songs with a north country flavour, appeared regularly on radio and television, and did a great deal of work in schools. He died in 1984, aged 41.

He wrote **Settle–Carlisle Railway** in 1970. It is not a campaign song: it was written more than a decade before the fight against closure, and its subject is the navvies who built the line. 1970 was the year the service was cut to two trains a day each way. He did not live to see the line reprieved in 1989.

His 1971 album *Yorkshire: Songs of the Broad Acres* has been reissued digitally and can be streamed. Alongside the Settle–Carlisle song it carries **Terrible Knitters of Dent**, **The Swaledale Leadminers** and **Land of the Old and Grey** — the last written on a train from Appleby to Skipton, about young people leaving the Dales for work elsewhere.

The song is still sung here. Around 340 primary school children from Bentham to Hellifield sang it at Ribbleshead Viaduct in June 2019.

If you would like to learn one

Lyrics and chords for *Settle–Carlisle Railway* are freely available online — it is a three-chord song. His songbook *Travelling the Northern Road* (EFDSS, 1974) is out of print, but as an EFDSS publication the Vaughan Williams Memorial Library may be able to help.

Recordings and biography: youtube.com/@mikedonald4500 and mikedonald.co.uk.

Something for the November or December session, if people would like to learn a few.

FRANK KIDSON, ONE HUNDRED YEARS ON

On **7 November 1926**, at his home on Hamilton Avenue in Chapeltown, Leeds, Frank Kidson died. He was a week short of his seventy-first birthday. A hundred years on it is worth saying plainly what he did, because a good deal of what gets sung in this country survives because of him — and because he is nothing like as well known as he ought to be.

Kidson was a Leeds man through and through. The youngest of nine, born on Centenary Street in 1855 — a street long since demolished, its site now the gardens in front of Leeds Art Gallery. He had, by his own account, a limited education, and taught himself out of his father's library. He worked in his brother's antique china business, painted a bit, and wrote for the *Leeds Mercury* from 1886.

And he collected songs. In **1891** he published *Traditional Tunes*, whose full title tells you everything a Dales reader needs to know: *"a collection of ballad airs, chiefly obtained in Yorkshire and the south of Scotland."* Eighty-four songs, with their words, and with Kidson's own notes tracing each one back through the printed record.

Note the date. That is **two years before** Broadwood and Fuller Maitland's *English County Songs*, and more than a decade before Cecil Sharp set off into Somerset. While the folk revival was still being invented, a self-taught Leeds china dealer had already done it, in Yorkshire, and done it thoroughly.

The musical Sherlock Holmes

What made Kidson unusual was his method. Sharp went looking for songs in the mouths of country singers and treated print with suspicion. Kidson treated the two as one continuous body of evidence — he would take a song from a singer, then follow it backwards through broadsides, ballad operas and old songbooks until he found where it had been before. His friends called him **"the musical Sherlock Holmes"**, and his speciality, as the English Folk Dance and Song Society still puts it, was unravelling a song's pedigree.

He also disliked tidying things up. On editors who had "improved" old ballads he wrote:

"When the songs and the ballads of the people began to be recognised as belonging, more or less, to literature, the editors of collections deemed it was essential that their crudities of style, rhyme, and diction should be amended, and that the whole should undergo a polishing process before being launched to the public."

— Frank Kidson, *English Folk-song and Dance*, 1915

But he was no purist either, and this is the line I like best of his — advice that applies just as well to anyone learning a tune at the Buck Inn:

"It is the business of the folk-song collector not to make a hard and fast record of one rendering of a folk-tune, with all its accidental inaccuracies, but to obtain what the singer obviously means."

— Frank Kidson, *English Folk-song and Dance*, 1915

Kate Thompson of Knaresborough

Every collector has one singer who gave them more than anyone else, and Kidson's was **Kate Thompson**. Born Catherine Benson at Tockwith in 1848, raised in Knaresborough, she married a Leeds publican in 1866 and lived in the city for the rest of her life. Between 1891 and 1897 Kidson took **twenty-six songs and fragments** from her — among them *The Highwayman Outwitted* and *Young Riley the Fisherman*. The scholar Roy Palmer reckoned her "by far the most important singer both in quantity and quality" of all Kidson's sources.

A small, telling detail: Kidson always called her "of Knaresborough", though by the time he met her she had been a Leeds woman for over twenty years. Even the most careful collector, it seems, preferred his singers to come from somewhere with a bit of country in it.

Where his work ended up — and some of it is close to home

Kidson's collection was sold after his death and is now scattered. The largest part — some nine thousand items, including his extraordinary "Index to Airs" in fifty-seven manuscript volumes — went to the **Mitchell Library in Glasgow**. The Vaughan Williams Memorial Library at Cecil Sharp House holds material under the reference FK, and the National Library of Scotland has a further portion.

But some of it never left home. **Leeds Central Library** holds his original notebooks, sketchbooks and broadside collections in the Local and Family History department on the second floor. Anyone can go and look at them — two forms of identification, and twenty-four hours' notice. If you have ever wanted to see a Yorkshire song in the handwriting of the man who wrote it down, that is where to go.

MISCHIEF NIGHT, AND WHAT CAME AFTER IT

The fourth of November, the eve of Bonfire Night, is **Mischief Night** — and it is ours. A northern English custom and a Yorkshire one in particular, and the county has had a fine crop of names for it: **'Chievous Night, Miggy Night, Tick-Tack Night, Corn Night, Trick Night, Micky Night**. If you grew up here you will know which one your street used, and I would very much like to hear it.

Except that it used to be in May

Here is the thing that surprised me. The earliest properly dated references are Yorkshire ones, and they have nothing to do with November. On 15 May 1830 the *Leeds Mercury* reported a prosecution for covering the windows of one Mr Eli Dyson, of Linthwaite in the Colne Valley, with whiting —

"on May-day eve, vulgarly called the mischief night."

— The Leeds Mercury, 15 May 1830

A week later the *Sheffield Independent* carried a similar account of "May Eve, or Mischief Night", with fences pulled down and gardens trampled. Ten years after that a witness in a Sheffield court said, rather wonderfully: *"It was mischief night. I do not know the meaning of mischief night, except that people go about playing tricks."*

So it began as a May custom, and somewhere in the late nineteenth century it moved to the eve of Bonfire Night and stayed. *Why* it moved, nobody knows. Iona and Peter Opie, who between them knew more about children's lore than anyone before or since, called it simply **"one of the mysteries of the folklore calendar"** — a better and more honest answer than the confident explanations you will find elsewhere.

What people actually did

Whitening windows, as poor Mr Dyson found. Knocking on doors and running away, which is where Tick-Tack Night comes from. Greasing door handles. Trampling gardens and pulling up fence posts. And above all **taking gates off their hinges** — a Lancashire bulletin of 1885 grumbled about youths removing "many of the gates belonging to private residents", and anyone who has ever gone looking for a field gate at dawn will understand why that is the prank that got into the record.

And it is not dead. Humberside Police's Mid Holderness newsletter last October reminded retailers "not to sell flour and eggs to youngsters on the run up to Halloween and Mischief Night." A police force in the East Riding, treating it as a fixture of the year.

TUNE & SONG OF THE MONTH: COB COALING

Mischief Night has no songs. But the night after it did — and the custom belongs to exactly our part of the world.

On the Yorkshire–Lancashire border children went **cob coaling** — door to door, singing for the makings of the bonfire. Coal first, later firewood and money for fireworks. It sits in the same family as wassailing, souling and pace-egging: sing at the door, get something for it.

“We come a Cob-coaling for Bonfire time, / Your coal and your money we hope to enjoy... / Fal-a-dee, fal-a-die, fal-a-diddly-i-do-day.”

It borrows a line or two from *Christmas is Coming*, and may go back to mummers’ play material. It was written up in the *Journal of the English Folk Dance and Song Society* as long ago as 1945, was still going strong in the 1970s, and seems to have died out in the 1980s — which is to say, within living memory of a good many of our members.

Two questions, then. Did anyone reading this go cob coaling? And — since it is a doorstep song with a tune, a season and a purpose, and we are a collective that exists to keep such things going — is there any good reason we could not sing it again?

PETER BARNARD — SEVENTY-ONE DANCES, RESCUED

For several years Peter has been working through every dance **collected, mentioned, or recorded as danced in the Dales during the twentieth century** — and all their variants — and has brought them together into a book for callers and dancers:

A Wonderful Selection of Dances!

“Every couple has a turn till the dance is through!”

71 Folk and Old Time Dances from the Yorkshire Dales, with Instructions and Explanations. £15, direct from Peter.

These are not English dances with a Yorkshire flavour — they are dances people in *these dales* actually did, gathered out of books, collectors’ notes, programmes and memories, and set down so that a caller can pick the book up and use it on the night. Much of what this newsletter keeps writing about — Leta Douglas’s six dances of 1931, Bob Ellis’s collection, the old fiddlers’ tune books — ends up here.

Peter is also an experienced caller, and he combines the two: working with **The Dales Dance Band** and **The No Lazy Dancing Dance Band** to put on evenings where **every dance on the programme is a Dales dance**. As far as I know nobody else in the country is doing that. Those who came to the Buckden Gala Dance in June saw exactly it.

Away from the Dales he helps Kate Billmore run the weekly *Isle Dance for Health* sessions in the Isle of Axholme, playing and calling, and he works freelance.

Peter Barnard — peter.barnard@me.com, 07919 627270.

BANDS OF THE DALES

The directory grows. If you run a band that plays for dances and sessions around the Dales, send me your details and a logo or photograph and I will add you.

The Barley Cote Band



In their own words, “more West Yorkshire than Dales, but we do play a lot of northern English tunes and some from the Dales.” They play for ceilidhs and barn dances across Skipton, Ilkley, Otley, Keighley, Bradford, Halifax and over the tops, with a wedding booked at Burnsall.

Chris Partington — fiddle. **Mary Humphreys** — English concertina and keyboard. **Anahata** — melodeon. They work with a professional caller, and will recommend one or play with whoever you have booked.

barleycoteband.co.uk — anahata@barleycoteband.co.uk

Readers of the September issue may remember William Calvert’s tune book — the battered 1812 notebook from a Wensleydale innkeeper at Harmby, with his fiddle tunes at one end and his grassland rents at the other. I mentioned that somebody had transcribed the whole thing into ABC notation so anyone could read it for nothing. That somebody was **Chris Partington** — and on all the evidence, he is the same Chris Partington who plays fiddle in this band. He is a co-founder and one of the two directors of the **Village Music Project**, which exists to find old English fiddlers’ manuscripts and put them online free.

So the man who rescued a Wensleydale innkeeper’s tune book from obscurity is available to come and play for your village hall dance. If you have ever wondered who actually does the work of keeping this music alive, the answer is: people like this, quietly, for years, and then they turn up and play for your anniversary party!

The No Lazy Dancing Dance Band



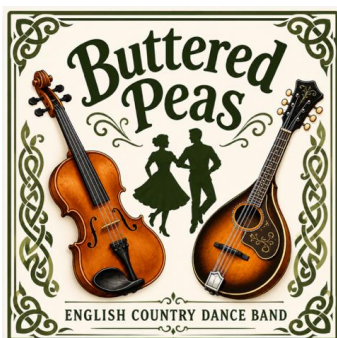
“There was none of this lazy dancing” are the words of **Sam Fawcett** (1878–1960), a concertina player from Baldersdale, remembering the barn dances of his youth: *“When we get a drop of beer and got into full blast, there was none of this lazy dancing!”* Bob Ellis took the phrase for the title of his 2020 collection, and the band has taken it from him — which makes the name a small act of transmission in itself.

Their fiddler **Mark Wallace** also runs two tune sessions, both “tunes of the Dales and the North”: **1st and 3rd Thursdays** at Ripley Town Hall near Harrogate, in the bar, 7–10pm; and **2nd Sundays** at The Black Horse Hotel, Otley, 1–4.30pm. These are tune sessions rather than singarounds — bring the instrument. nidd.music.and.dance@gmail.com

The Dales Dance Band

The band behind the Buckden Gala Dance in June, playing with Peter Barnard calling — “a terrific event with many happy dancers and proper Dales music”. The Dales Dance Band play a dance set list that is entirely made up of Dales dances. Contact Peter Barnard 07919 627270 peter.barnard@me.com

Buttered Peas



English country dance band — fiddle, flute, octave mandolin and guitar, playing around the Dales for years. The name is one of the six dances Leta Douglas collected and published in 1931, and hers came from Buckden.

Bookings: Paul Stead, 07720 841452, paul.psa@btinternet.com

BOOK OF THE MONTH: THE BOGGART

By way of the **Folklore Centre at Todmorden**, who made it their book of the week, and passed on with the modest note that it is “not specific to Yorkshire, but still of interest.” Having gone and looked, that undersells it considerably.

The Boggart: Folklore, History, Place-names and Dialect by **Simon Young** (University of Exeter Press, 2022, £19.99 paperback) was runner-up for the Folklore Society’s Katherine Briggs Award, and its argument is a good one. A boggart was never the tidy goblin later folklorists and *Harry Potter* have made of it. In nineteenth-century northern speech the word covered more or less *any* solitary and ill-disposed supernatural thing. The nearest modern word is “bogey”, except that people meant it.

Boggart country runs across Lancashire, Cheshire, the Peak and — squarely — the **West Riding**. Young singles out Huddersfield as “a hotbed of boggart activity in the late nineteenth century”. The Yorkshire spelling is usually **boggard**.

Better still, there are boggart place-names on our own doorstep. Young’s survey of 108 of them includes **Boggart Holes at Chapel-le-Dale** — caves in the limestone scar north of Ivescar — and **Boggart Holes at Clapham**, potholes up on Newby Moss with water roaring below. There is a **Boggard Hole at Skipton**, and another at Greetland in Calderdale, four miles from the Folklore Centre. Young found no stories attached to the Dales ones, “save some claims about hidden treasure” — but the names are there, and somebody named them.

There is a Dales boggart in print, too: Sabine Baring-Gould’s *Yorkshire Oddities* carries “The Boggart of Hellen-Pot”, set on the limestone moors with Arncliffe named — the ghost of a bigamist, moving “with a wriggle and a duck”, who tries to lure the narrator into a pot-hole. Free on Wikisource.

The book must be bought, but its companion — ***The Boggart Sourcebook***, all the raw research — is **completely free** to download from the publisher: 306 pages of cuttings, place-names by county and a census of over a thousand people’s boggart memories, with a West Riding section at pages 247 to 273. library.oapen.org.

So — does anyone reading this have a boggart? A place your family called a boggart hole, a thing you were warned about as a child, a name on a gate or a field. Young runs a census precisely because the memories are going. If you have one, I would like to hear it, and so would he.

The Folklore Centre is at 65 Halifax Road, Todmorden OL14 5BB. Ring 01706 816249 first; their opening hours are currently irregular. <https://www.folkloremythmagic.com/>

GRASSINGTON STORYTELLERS — STILL LOOKING FOR READERS

The Storytellers will have their Hallowe'en night at the bus shelter on the 31st, and they are out again for the **Grassington Christmas Markets on Saturday 5 December**.

They would still very much like more readers — stories old and new, traditional and folk material, or your own writing. No experience, 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. Get in touch with me and I will pass you on.

RHYTHMS OF NORTHERN LANDSCAPES — FRIDAY 20 NOVEMBER



Rhythms of Northern Landscapes
Poetry and song evening with acclaimed Yorkshire poet Colin Speakman & renowned local musician Kath Reade (with support from Dan Capon)

Evoking visions to conjure new perspectives on the lived experience of this ancient land of Northern England.

Colin Speakman poet
Kath Reade singer-songwriter
Dan Capon accompanist

The Making Mill, Hebden Bridge, HX7 7BZ
Friday 20th November 2026
7pm - 10pm
Tickets: £10.00

Get your tickets via the QR code or by visiting:
<https://bookwhen.com/themakingmill>

An evening of poetry and song at **The Making Mill, Hebden Bridge HX7 7BZ**, on **Friday 20 November, 7–10pm**, £10. **Colin Speakman** reads, with the singer and songwriter **Kath Reade**, and **Dan Capon** accompanying — “evoking visions to conjure new perspectives on the lived experience of this ancient land of Northern England.”

Colin was one of the leading lights behind the **Dales Way**, devised by the West Riding Ramblers and opened to the public in 1968; and in 1981 he and Fleur Speakman helped found the **Yorkshire Dales Society**, now Friends of the Dales, of which he is a vice president. A good many of us have walked his path, and rather more have benefited from his campaigning without ever knowing whom to thank. Do go and hear him read.

Tickets through the code on the poster, or at bookwhen.com/themakingmill.

OUT AND ABOUT: NOVEMBER IN THE DALES

Sessions and singarounds

Sun 8 Nov — Our own session, The Buck Inn, Buckden, 1–4pm. See the top of this newsletter for the time change.

Mon 16 Nov — Skipton Folk Unplugged, The Narrow Boat, 38 Victoria Street, Skipton BD23 1JE, 7.30–10pm. Third Monday, singers' night. Sheila Kelsall 01535 665889.

Wednesdays — Singaround at The Green Dragon, Hardraw, near Hawes DL8 3LZ, 8.30pm. Every Wednesday. 01969 667392.

Concerts — Settle Victoria Hall

Settle continues to have the best folk programme in our area by a distance. Box office 01729 825718 — prices were not published for every night.

Sun 1 Nov — TRIP, 2pm, £21.50. A Glasgow six-piece drawing on Scottish, Irish, Northumbrian and Manx tradition.

Fri 6 Nov — The Poozies, 8pm, £23.50. Thirty-five years on, with Mary Macmaster's electro-harp.

Tue 10 Nov — Mishra, 7.30pm, £19. English tradition meeting raga-inspired improvisation.

Thu 12 Nov — Pagoda Project (Paul Hutchinson), 7.30pm £16.50.

Fri 13 Nov — Blazin' Fiddles, 7.30pm, £24.50.

Sat 14 Nov — Blue Rose Code, 8pm £23.50.

Sun 15 Nov — Torridon, 8pm £21.50.

Wed 25 Nov — Skerryvore — sold out.

Thu 26 Nov — Ferocious Dog, farewell tour, 8pm.

Sun 29 Nov — Malin Lewis, 7pm, £18.50. Self-built two-octave smallpipes, with fiddle and guitar.

Concerts — Reeth Memorial Hall, Swaledale

Sat 7 Nov — The Jaywalkers, 8pm, £17 advance / £19 door. Americana, bluegrass and country. Advance tickets from Glen Steward, 01748 884989, or Reeth Post Office.

Skipton

Sat 14 Nov — Joshua Burnell, Skipton Town Hall, 7.30–9.30pm, £16.50. Box office 01756 792809.

Sun 15 Nov — Baskery, Skipton Town Hall, 8pm, £17. A Swedish sister trio.

Wednesdays — Flagcrackers of Craven practise border morris at Kildwick & Farnhill Institute, Farnhill BD20 9BJ, 7.30–9.30pm. Dancers and musicians both welcome.

FURTHER AFIELD

Clubs

Thursdays — Topic Folk Club, The Castle, 20 Grattan Road, Bradford BD1 2LU, doors 7pm. Singers' nights on the 5th and 19th; Dana Robinson on the 12th; The Hooliemen on the 26th.

Wednesdays — Otley Folk Club, The Black Horse, Otley. Singers' nights on the 4th and 18th; Barratt, Broad & Pugh on the 11th; blues with C.J. Smith and Johnny Hardcastle on the 25th.

Fridays — Bacca Pipes Folk Club, Riddlesden Institute, Keighley BD20 5BU, doors 7.30pm. Singers' nights on the 6th, 13th and 20th; a pre-Christmas treat for regulars on the 27th. No bar — take your own.

Mon 16 Nov — Henry Parker at Folk at the Grove, The Grove Inn, Holbeck, Leeds LS11 5PL, 8–10.30pm.

Fri 13 Nov — Ripon Wilfrid's Folk Club singaround; Edwina Hayes on Friday 27th. St Wilfrid's Centre, Trinity Lane, Ripon HG4 2AB.

Wed 11 Nov — Sam Carter, Harrogate Folk Club. An open club night on Wednesday the 4th, £3.

Dancing

Sun 15 Nov — Addingham Ceilidh Club, Addingham Memorial Hall LS29 0PD, 7–9pm, £5, with Beneath The Clock. Do check their site — dates and venue can vary.

Sat 28 Nov — Leeds Contra, Headingley Parish Hall, 8pm, with Philip and Joshua Rowe.

Concerts

Sun 8 Nov — JIB — Jim Mageean with Barrie and Ingrid Temple — at Ryburn 3 Step Folk Club, Hollins Mill, Sowerby Bridge HX6 2QG, 7–10pm, £11. Cash only.

Fri 13 Nov — Steve Knightley & The Winter Yards, an Otley Folk Club Friday Special, at Otley Common.

Sun 15 Nov — Granny's Attic, Otley Courthouse.

Fri 20 Nov — Rhythms of Northern Landscapes: Colin Speakman, Kath Reade and Dan Capon, The Making Mill, Hebden Bridge HX7 7BZ, 7–10pm, £10. See the poster above.

Sat 21 Nov — Bellowhead, Sheffield City Hall, 6.30pm.

Thu 26 Nov — Blair Dunlop, The Live Room, Caroline Social Club, Saltaire BD18 3JZ, doors 6.30pm.

AND THE CAROL SEASON BEGINS

The South Yorkshire village carols are among the great survivals of English traditional singing — whole pubs singing local carol settings that never made it into the hymn books, in Dungworth, Worrall, Stannington, Oughtibridge and Wharnccliffe Side. The season traditionally opens the week after Armistice Sunday, and this year it does so on **Thursday 12 November, 8pm, at The Greyhound, Ecclesfield.**

The **Festival of Village Carols** follows on **Saturday 28 November at Grenoside Community Centre**, running from nine in the morning to half past ten at night, with the Grand Sing at seven.

The individual pub sings run weekly through to Christmas, and the full 2026 schedule is published at localcarols.org.uk. The organisers warn that sessions are sometimes cancelled, so check before travelling.

THE REGULARS — WHAT HAPPENS EVERY MONTH

The standing fixtures you can simply turn up to, as opposed to the one-off concerts above. Checked again this month.

OUR OWN SESSION	
2nd Sunday	The Buck Inn, Buckden BD23 5JA — NOVEMBER TO MARCH, 1–4pm (it was 2–5pm in October). 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.
1st Wednesday	The Turf Hotel, Victoria Road, Richmond DL10 4DW — 7.30pm acoustic singaround. 01748 829439.
1st & 3rd Thu	Tunes of the Dales and the North, Ripley Town Hall near Harrogate, in the bar — 7–10pm. A tune session; bring the instrument. nidd.music.and.dance@gmail.com
1st Friday	Open mic, Mechanics Institute, Kirkby Malzeard, Ripon HG4 3RS — 8pm, £4. John Collins 01765 650402.
2nd Sunday	Tunes of the Dales and the North, The Black Horse Hotel, Otley — 1–4.30pm. A tune session. nidd.music.and.dance@gmail.com
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, 1–4.30pm in 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.
Tue & Thu	Richmond on Swale Morris practise at Cleasby & Stapleton Village Hall DL2 2QY. A mixed side and recruiting.
Wednesdays	Ryburn 3 Step Yorkshire Longsword practise at Sowerby Bridge.
Mondays	Muker Silver Band rehearse at Muker Public Hall DL11 6QG. Ring 01748 886445 first.

Changes this month: the Goat's Head at Steeton has closed, so the first-Tuesday acoustic jam there comes out of the panel. Two tune sessions run by Mark Wallace have been added, at Ripley and Otley. And our own session has moved to 1–4pm for the winter.

Corrections and additions are very welcome indeed — small clubs change their night and rarely tell the listings sites. I am still looking for any Irish tune session in the area, having found none at all.

WE HAVE FOUND LETA DOUGLAS

In last month's issue I appealed, without much hope, for anything at all about **Leta Douglas** — the woman who published *Six Dances of the Yorkshire Dales* from Giggleswick in 1931 and *Three More Dances* in 1934, and about whom I could find no dates, no obituary, nothing whatever.

John Dotchin has found her.

She was **Leta Marguerite Douglas**, born in **Ilkley in 1895**. She lived at Pendle View Cottages on Main Road, Giggleswick — the address printed on her own folios — and she worked as the **gym mistress at Settle Girls' High School**. Through the 1920s and 1930s she travelled the Dales interviewing elderly musicians and writing down the tunes and the figures before they went. She ran folk dancing courses at Whitsun in Giggleswick, and toured a "troupe of girls" round the villages so that the dances would go on being danced. They were still at it in 1941, dancing the Russe Quadrille in Settle Market Place.

So she was not a visiting folklorist. She was the PE teacher, who taught dancing for a living, collected the dances off old men in the dale, and then made sure a generation of Settle girls knew them. That is a considerably better story than the one I had, and the fuller version will be in next month's newsletter.

And here is the part I like best. John lives in Giggleswick, and it was he who gave us "Waltzing at Giggleswick" for last month's Tune of the Month. The same village, ninety-odd years apart, and the same man noticed both. **Thank you, John — that is a real piece of history recovered.**

WORTH PUTTING IN THE DIARY NOW

Thu 3 Dec — A Taste of Yorkshire Christmas with Steph and Sandy, Settle Victoria Hall, 7.30pm.

Fri 4 Dec — Jackie Oates & John Spiers, Reeth Memorial Hall, 8pm, £17 / £19. The pick of the Dales Christmas bookings.

Fri 4 Dec — “A History of Christmas Carols”, a talk by John Potter with the Grassington Singers, 7pm, £10–£25 including the book.

Sat 5 Dec — Lindisfarne, Settle Victoria Hall, 7.30pm, £36.50. A second night on the Sunday.

Tue 8 Dec — Cara Dillon, “Upon a Winter’s Night”, Settle Victoria Hall, 8pm, £33.50.

Sun 13 Dec — Our session, The Buck Inn, Buckden, 1–4pm; and Ryburn’s Christmas Party the same evening.

Fri 18 Dec — The Bacca Pipes Legendary Carols Night, Keighley.

Jan 2, 3, 5 & 6 — The Long Company Mummers Play, venues around Calderdale.

OVER TO YOU — PLEASE SEND ME THINGS

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

Events to flag up. **Stories and anecdotes** — something that happened at a session, a memory of a dance years ago, a character worth remembering. **Articles** long or short. **Tunes and songs** with a story attached. **Bands** for the directory. **Photographs**. And **corrections** — always welcome.

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.

The newsletter goes out on the last Sunday of the month. Please send anything you would like included by the Saturday before.

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!

You are receiving this because you asked to go on the Dales Trad Music & Dance Collective mailing list. We only ever hold your name and email address, we use them only to send this newsletter, and we never pass them to anyone else. To stop receiving it, or to have your details removed, just reply to this email and say so — it will be done straight away. Newsletter and mailing list:

John, folkcollective@thinkingfree.co.uk.

OUR WEBSITE



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

OUR FACEBOOK GROUP



Scan to join us