



DALES TRADITIONAL MUSIC AND DANCE COLLECTIVE

Introduction and First Newsletter January 2023



Introduction

The launch of the Yorkshire Dales Folk Dance and Tunes Project at the Dales Country Museum in Hawes and the publication in 2020 of Bob Ellis' book

"There was None of this Lazy Dancing!

Folk Tunes and Dances from the Yorkshire Dales"

sparked a lot of interest in traditions of music making in the Dales which were in danger of slipping away. Two initiatives in Upper Wharfedale in 2022 mark something of a revival. The purpose of this newsletter is to help create a network of singers, musicians, bands, dancers, callers and supporters across all the Dales who are keeping their traditional music going or in some places are wanting to bring it back to life. The newsletter can spread the word (and sound!) of what is going on where.

Upper Wharfedale Events 2022

- a) Pub sessions for musicians and singers at the Buck Inn, Buckden. Up to the 1950s there were sessions of music making at the Buck, led by members of the generation of musical Beresford families from Langstrothdale. In June 2022 Bob Ellis, Colin Speakman (Dalesbus Company), and Muppett (folk singer *extraordinaire* from Bradford), agreed with the landlord of the Buck to run a trial pub session for Dales singers and musicians on a Sunday afternoon, 2pm to 5pm, to coincide with the Dalesbus Sunday service from Leeds to Buckden and (Summer timetable) to Hawes. Success! About 25 people came to sing or play and an equal number sat around listening. Good music and good business for the landlord! The pattern is now set. Every second Sunday in the month from October to March, Sunday afternoons, Dales (but not exclusively so) music and song at the Buck. Timed to coincide with Dalesbus Sunday service from Leeds and other towns which really does bring in car-averse people. Winter 1pm to 4pm, Summer including October 2pm



to 5pm. Sessions probably continuing into the Summer, April, May and June, but variations in timing and dates up in the air at the moment. Photo of January session to set the scene, thanks to Colin.

b) "Afternoon of Traditional Dales Village Music and Dance" - Sunday afternoon, 20th November 2022, Kettlewell Village Hall 2pm to 5.30pm. Linked again to the Dalesbus Sunday service. This was an initiative by the "Buttered Peas" ceilidh band with considerable help from Bob Ellis on

melodeon and callers Pete and Sue Coe. Quite an undertaking! The band had to learn 15 or more new tunes from Bob's book and Pete's collection. Unlike normal gigs when an organization or family books a band and makes all the arrangements, for this one we had to do it all: book and pay for the hall, do the publicity, get tickets sold, ask for help with refreshments and bar, collect ticket and entrance money and account for it, host the evening and pay the band and callers. Phew!



But the event itself was terrific! 74 people came, including 8 children free. The tea and delicious cake team from Kettlewell Church raised £220 for the Skipton Food Bank and the bar generously provided by the Wharfedale Brewery owner who lives in the village slaked enough thirsts to be able to donate a surplus to the project. The gamble on making it a winter afternoon event paid off. What next? People are already asking, "When is the next one?" Food for thought: the great majority of people attending came from outside the Dales. Local people were few and far between. *Photos by Sue Coe and Jane Hargreaves*

"The Collective"

For an hour before the Buck session on Sunday 8th January 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.
3. Pub sessions. Definitely to run from October to March at the Buck, 2nd Sunday in the month, 1pm to 4pm for Dalesbus users (winter times), 2pm to 5pm (October and summer times).
4. Pub sessions April to June?
 - * Yes, if the Buck's landlord agrees. To be negotiated.
 - * April would need to be the Sunday 2nd or 16th to avoid Easter weekend.
Decision pending.
 - * May? Legendary folk singer Bob Pegg might be staying in Buckden for a week, with maybe a joint concert/session with him. Decision pending.
5. Callers. Need for a register of callers and would-be callers. Mentor available.

OTHER EVENTS IN THE OFFING

- Saturday April 1st, Ripley Town Hall, Main St., Ripley HG5 8HB "Dancing Round the Dales" with the "No Lazy Dancing Dance Band", i.e. Mark and Georgina who came to the Kettlewell gig and the January Buck session. 7pm - 10pm, doors open 6.30pm. See ad for this initiative attached to the email.
- Addingham Ceilidh Club, 3rd Sunday in the month except August. 7.30pm in Addingham Memorial Institute.
- English Country Music Weekend - a national gathering of English Dance Band Musicians held this year in Masham, June 23/24/25. Info from Pete Coe
- Whitby Folk Week 2023, 19th - 25th August. Pete Coe runs a Dales Dances workshop this year and Bob Ellis also does regular workshops, no doubt using choice items from his book.

Richard 17/1/2023 strand@hawkswick.net

(Richard Hargreaves, Hawkswick, Littondale, and Buttered Peas Ceilidh Band)