



DALES TRADITIONAL MUSIC AND DANCE COLLECTIVE
www.dales-music-and-dance-collective.org.uk



Newsletter No. 10 January 11th 2024

for

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

This is a short newsletter with two important announcements.
A fuller one with details of past and future events will come a bit later.

1. SAD NEWS – BOB ELLIS

If you have not heard this news already we have to tell you that Bob died on Tuesday morning 9th January. He was able to die quietly at home, not in hospital as might have been the case. He had been ill with a serious heart condition since Spring 2023. His wife Penny managed to bring him to the Buck session in November where we were glad to see him though he was clearly unwell. Penny announced his death with notices for the Whitby Festival Facebook site and melodeon.net. Before I attach the Whitby tribute to the email and print here the melodeon.net tribute let me express on behalf of all the Collective our heartfelt condolence and sympathy to Penny on her loss. It is a loss in which we can share but a small part compared to the enormity of hers.

BOB ELLIS

I have been asked by Bob's wife, Penny, to make this announcement that very sadly Bob passed away peacefully at home this morning. He had been ill for some time, as many of you are aware.

Bob's influence on the melodeon playing world can not be understated, with many tutor books and research projects and his later work, a large volume "There was None of this Lazy Dancing!".

Bob has been involved with Morris Dancing since his University days, and since taking up playing melodeon has influenced and encouraged many people, personally and through running slow and steady sessions at festivals including Sidmouth and Whitby, where he was also a tutor. He was also the instigator and organiser of Melodeons in Wensleydale, at Hawes, which has become a fixture in the calendar, and which will continue in the years to come.

Personally I have lost a very good friend and the melodeon community has lost an exceptional and unique individual.

Funeral arrangements will be announced later.

For us in the Collective Bob was the inspiration for its very creation after the launching of the Buck pub sessions in June 2022. And behind that lay his inspirational book "There was None of this Lazy Dancing! Folk Tunes and Dances from the Yorkshire Dales". A monumental

achievement, a gold mine of music and social history, a treasure for any folk dance musician. It makes a living memorial to a man who was such a fine historian and musician and a very good friend to so many in the folk music world. We will miss him deeply while also feeling profoundly for Penny as she adapts to a life without him.

It is too early to be talking about a musical memorial to Bob in Hawes sometime but not too soon to be thinking about one.

2. NOT THE BUCK SESSION this Sunday but **THE FOX AND HOUNDS IN STARBOTTON** instead. 1pm to 4 pm as usual by the bus stop. The Buck is temporarily closed while the heating system is restored. Thanks Colin for the suggestion after happening to check it out for a beer in December and Muppett for fixing it for this Sunday. Probably back to the Buck for February 11th.



**Rather more sombre
traditional Dales music
making this week.**



Let the tunes speak for themselves.

Richard 11/01/2024 strand@hawswick.net