



DALES TRADITIONAL MUSIC AND DANCE COLLECTIVE  
[www.dales-music-and-dance-collective.org.uk](http://www.dales-music-and-dance-collective.org.uk)



Newsletter No. 12 January 30th 2024

for

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

1. BOB'S FAREWELL

Bob Ellis' Funeral and Service of Celebration took place in St. Margaret's Church in Hawes on Wednesday 24<sup>th</sup> January. Luckily the serious flooding between Aysgarth and Worton in Wensleydale and elsewhere in the Dales had subsided just in time for people from further afield to make it to Hawes in time. The church was packed, as expected for such a well-known and widely admired person. Bob's widow Penny had clearly worked closely with the priest celebrant to make it a warmly personal service. The opening hymn was "Morning Has Broken" because that had been sung at their wedding.

The fine eulogy given by close friend Mark Sheridan brought out what an incredibly varied life Bob had lead and how much help and pleasure he had given to so many others over the years. There may be a printed version of the eulogy on the way which I could send round the Collective if it arrives. A Yorkshire dialect poem followed the eulogy:

*Int' 'eart o' Yorkshire's wild an' rugged dales  
Lies Hawes, a town where ruggedness prevails,  
Nestled 'mongst t' hills, a sight so grand,  
Where nature's touch shapes t' lay o' t' land. Etc.*

The finale to the service was a uniquely appropriate and moving choreography. Penny had invited "The No Lazy Dancing Dance Band" to play two tunes from the collection of William Calvert (1805 - 12) who had been born at the Street Head Inn in Bishopdale, a favourite pub of Bob's. As the audience filed out precisely row by row, as requested by the priest, the band played "The Moon and Seven Stars" (page 64 in 'the book') and "The Beggar Girl" (page 32) until everyone had gone out and they were left alone in the empty church with Bob in his coffin beside them. What a moment that must have been. Then, waiting in a chilly wind outside the church was the Crook Morris Dance Team in full bells and whistles costume to perform Ducklington Jig - 'Nutting Girl'.

The Committal was at the Hawes New Cemetery on the road out to Bainbridge. A good spread for lunch awaited everyone in a crowded dining room at the Rose & Crown in Bainbridge. It had all been a fitting farewell to Bob Ellis: musician, teacher, historian, Morris Dancer, author and good, caring friend to people far and wide.

## 2. REMINDER OF COLLECTIVE ACTIVITIES TO COME

- Buck sessions - 1pm to 4pm - Sundays 11<sup>th</sup> February and 10<sup>th</sup> March.
- Saturday 2<sup>nd</sup> March Grassington Town Hall - 7pm to 10pm - "COME Traditional Dales Village DANCING! with the "Buttered Peas" Band and Terry Evans caller. See the attached poster and flyer. Please spread the word and come if you can. Let's fill the splendid Grassington Town Hall with the sound of Dales music and happy dancers.
- Saturday 30<sup>th</sup> March 2024 - 7pm to 10pm - Ripley Town Hall. "Dancing Round the Dales" with the "No Lazy Dancing Dance Band".

Here is Mark's welcome message:

*Hello dancers,*

*We are now taking bookings for our third Dales dance at Ripley Town Hall on Sat 30th March.*

*Again Pete Coe will be calling the dances but will be joined by Peter Barnard who is also active in reviving Dales dances.*

*This time The No Lazy Dancing Dance Band will have Amy Chestnutt joining them on violin. Please reply to this email and let me know how many tickets to reserve for you and then you can pay on the door as last time. It is free for children, just let me know how many are coming.*

*Tickets are also available to buy on [TicketSource](#) which will include a booking fee.*

*Attached is a flyer for the dance, feel free to share it with others.*

*We look forward to seeing you, Mark.*

- **Ad Hoc Dales Music Sessions.** Reminder of Mark's offer in the last newsletter: I would like musicians to get in touch with me at email address [nidd.music.and.dance@gmail.com](mailto:nidd.music.and.dance@gmail.com) if they are interested in ad hoc music sessions to learn and play Dales repertoire.



## Happy traditional Dales music making!

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