

Programme of events

Bell & Jorrocks (village centre)

Bar : 11am-2pm pub session with Travelling Folk

Stable: midday-2pm tunes with Taz Tarry, aided by Roger Grimes (this space is available for more informal playing, singing or dancing after this time)

Outside: 12.30-1.30pm stepdancing with 'Flying Feet' Percy West and the East Anglian Steppers, and watch out too for the **Weald of Kent Morris Dancers!**

Upper stable: midday-4pm songs and tunes with festival guests led by Gavin Atkin and Peter Collins

6-8pm tea-time music with the B&J Café Orchestra

8-11pm songs and tunes session led by your genial hosts Peter Collins, with tunes led by festival guests

Memorial Hall (up The Street, past church)

10.30am-midday – stepdancing workshop with Rosie Davies and Kerry Fletcher

2.15-3.15pm – stepdancing showcase with the East Anglian Steppers and Brush, Diddle Stomp! performed by the children of Frittenden Primary School.

4-5.45pm – concert with festival guests including (in approximate order of appearance) Rosie Davis and Kerry Fletcher David Campbell, Jack Crawford, Nigel Hobbins, Vic Ellis, East Anglian Stepdancers, Rattlebag, Andy Turner

Frittenden

Festival 2010

sing, dance and play

Saturday 20th March



A village-based festival featuring many performers rooted in the traditional singing, dancing and music of Kent, Essex and Sussex

Venues: Frittenden's Bell & Jorrocks pub
and Memorial Hall

Festival guests

Andy Turner sings, and plays anglo concertina and one-row melodeon. He grew up at Ashford, and first became involved in the traditional scene in Kent at a young age. Finding that local songs were under-represented in the books he found, he began to research local singers, and was fortunate to meet **Charlie Bridger**, a fine singer from Stone-in-Oxney. Although Andy now lives in Didcot, he maintains a strong interest in the songs of this area, and his repertoire includes items noted in the county by early collectors such as **Cecil Sharp** and **Ralph Vaughan Williams**, and more recordings by **Francis Collinson**, **Mike Yates** and others, including singers such as **George Spicer**, the **Willett family** and **Charlie Bridger**.

Jack Crawford is our special guest from outside the south-east of England. Originally from Lincolnshire and now living in Derbyshire, Jack is an outstanding singer of traditional songs in the old-fashioned unaccompanied style. In recent years, he's become prominent as a highly respected performer with a big, rich-sounding and musical voice and great way of telling a story.

David Campbell lives in the Midlands now but for many years was a resident of Bethersden. He sings a largely traditional repertoire with a distinctive controlled and decorated style. Watch out for his version of the Irish song **The Factory Girl**, which tends to be a signature song for him. He's also a well known singer in London through his

- Eileen Bridges and Ivor Jauncey for helping us to hire the Memorial Hall. We're particularly grateful for Eileen's sterling assistance in selling tickets, and to Ivor for organising the bar for the barn dance
- Annie and Tim, the Brook Trust and Frittenden School for enabling Rosie, Kerry and Dave to spend a great day teaching traditional songs and dances to Frittenden's younger generation
- The English Folk Dance & Song Society
<http://www.efdss.org> – see the Society's site for more information on traditional music
- You, the audience, for coming and making the event so very worthwhile

For information about the festival, other events run by the organisers, and about the regular song and tunes sessions at Frittenden see <http://frittendenfestival.com>

Taz Tarry is a fiddler and an old friend of the festival organisers who has come down to lead and lend weight to tune sessions – something we have in the past felt needed a boost at Frittenden. He'll be ably assisted by melodeon player and singer **Roger Grimes**.

Florida and Chris Pitt - self-styled as 'The Monsters of Folkaboogie', the **Florida** boys are Kent's best known band currently playing for ceilidhs and barn dances. Every year they are asked to play for prestigious festivals across the country, but they aren't often seen in their home county. With a line-up including fiddle, electric guitars, horns and melodeon, Florida's sound is a distinctive collision of traditional English country dance and good-time jazz, underpinned by muscular dance rhythms and hair-raising harmonies. Londoner **Chris Pitt** is a nationally popular caller, folk festival and club MC, morris dancer and singer of comic songs. He's also a regular visitor to Kent.

Thanks

The committee would like to thank:

- The performers for giving up their time to make the event possible, and particularly Florida for helping to make it financially viable
- All those who have kindly helped to accommodate our guest artists
- Rosie and Sean for making us welcome at the Bell & Jorrocks

involvement with Islington Folk Club over the past 20 years.

Peter Collins is a big figure in the folk scenes of West Kent and Sussex, and a living treasure. These days he runs The Beacon Folk Club in Rusthall, but his deep, brown voice has been a familiar feature of local singarounds, clubs and festivals for decades. He is rightly proud of having sung regularly with many of the most important Sussex traditional singers of recent times, including **Bob Copper**, **Gordon Hall** and **Bob Lewis**.

Howard and Hilary Millen and **Neil Ridley** are local singers with a real history – they belong to that rarest of things, a family with a known history of singing old songs in harmony going back through many generations. They're lined up to entertain us at the Friday night opening session at the Bell & Jorlocks.

Nigel Hobbins sings songs he learned from his grandfather, who was a well known singer around Challock after he moved into the village in the late 1890s. Nigel has many clear memories of his grandfather singing at family occasions – as a young boy he must have been very impressed, since he made the effort to learn his grandfather's songs. Nigel lives in Whitstable, plays and sings in combination with various groups and bands, and is involved in running a folk club in the town.

Vic Ellis has been developing his wonderful one man band act for over 30 years, and simultaneously plays up to 20

instruments including melodeon, whistles, drum and tommy talker. Vic has played at many events and venues in Britain and abroad, including the South of England and Kent County shows, Aintree Grand National, opening ceremonies at Bolton Wanderers' Ground, and the Guinness Book of Records Museum in Taiwan, a TV advertisement in Japan, and a feature film in Hungary. The idea of becoming a one man band first attracted Vic when he heard **Ken Stubbs'** recordings of an earlier one man band, **Albert Farmer** of Lingfield, and later developed his repertoire and methods through association with traditional singers and musicians, notably in the Yorkshire and County Durham areas.

Rattlebag is a female five piece harmony singing group from Hastings who entertain at folk clubs, pubs and other events –and who describe themselves as conquering the world one pub at a time. We didn't know them when they turned up at the festival unannounced last year, but we're glad they did, for they were so entertaining we had to have them back on a more formal basis.

The East Anglian Stepdancers with Flying Feet Percy West are something you definitely don't see everyday – a group of experts in the old art of stepdancing who have come down in a small bus to delight us at each of the past two festivals we've held at Frittenden, and we're very pleased to welcome them again. As you watch, remember that Kent used to be a big stepdancing county too – and should be again!

Kerry Fletcher is one of Kent's own. She's a traditional dancer and teacher of many styles from waltzing to clogging, including a wide range of dances from Continental Europe. At Frittenden she will be focusing on Southern English-style stepping accompanied by her regular fiddler **Tim Brooks**, and with **Rosie Davis** has been largely responsible for inviting and organising many of the stepdancers appearing at Frittenden this year.

Rosie Davis became interested in folk music in her teens and developed an interest in Old Time Music and Bluegrass. A highly respected folk scene performer, she has been instrumental in the development of freestyle Appalachian stepdancing in the UK and most recently she has been developing her interests in Southern English stepdancing and European social dance, and singing for dancing. Rosie plays with string band **Old Faded Glory** in East Sussex as well as performing solo at folk clubs, with **Dave Arthur** and **Pete Cooper** as **Dance-tales**, with **Sisters Unlimited** and **Jig Jaw**, and with Dave and Kerry as **StepWorks** delivering Brush, Diddle Stomp! in schools.

Gavin Atkin has been playing and singing old tunes and songs nearly all his life. He uses a duet concertina to accompany **Julie Atkin**, plays guitar and fiddle with **Florida**, and thumps away on a melodeon from time to time. He also chairs the regular last-Sunday of the month music sessions at the Bell & Jorrocks – see the sign in the pub or the website for details.