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Neges Cadeirydd Yr Wyl

Croeso i Wyl Werin Abergwaun 2023. Gobeithiwn y byddwch chi i gyd, boed yn bell neu yn agos, yn darganfod ystod eang o ddigwyddiadau i fwynhau ar draws y penwythnos. Hoffem ni ddolch i bawb sy'n cefnogi'r wyl, gan gynnwys ein noddwyr ariannol a phawb sy'n dod i berfformio, gwyllo, gwrando neu ymuno yn yr hwyl. Gobeithiwn bydd y tywydd yn garedig, ond yn sicr beth bynnag a ddaw, bydd digon yma i'ch difyrru.



Judy Whitehouse

Festival Chairman's message

Welcome to Fishguard Folk Festival 2023. We hope that all of you, from near or far, will find a wide range of events to enjoy across the weekend. Our thanks go to all who support the festival, both our financial sponsors and all of you who come to perform, to watch, to listen or to join in. We hope, as always, that the weather will be kind, but in rain or shine we are sure you will find plenty to entertain you.

t'Festival on t'Internet

Website: <https://www.fishfolkfest.co.uk>

<https://www.facebook.com/fishguardfolk>

<https://twitter.com/FishFolkFest>

The website has information about the Festival, the performers, and the area. After the Festival, it will be updated with any photos and videos that we have gathered over the weekend. Please contribute yours! Twitter and F*c*b**k *should* be updated during the Festival with information and whatever. The website won't be updated as the festival is going on - we'll be a bit busy.

We are very grateful to all our sponsors: they make the festival possible



PLEASE, PRETTY PLEASE, RECYCLE THIS PROGRAMME

When you have finished with it, it would be deeply lovely if you could take it home and put it in your recycling (after showing your envious friends the great things that they missed, of course). We thank you in advance, and somewhere in the future a toilet roll factory will thank you too.

THE SHIP INN

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The Acorns Ceilidh/Twmpath Band are drawn from the Royal Oak Tuesday night session. Come along to their FREE twmpath/ceilidh and amaze yourself at how well you dance! Their excellent caller will talk you through the steps, no experience needed. We haven't got a photo of the band, so instead, here is a photo of some people amazing themselves at a previous festival.

2



AfroWelsh Connection are Bunja and Liz Conteh. They play music based on the traditional griot kora tunes and songs of West Africa from Bunja and heartfelt self-penned folk songs from Liz. The kora is a traditional West African griot instrument with 21 strings and a beautiful harp-like sound.

22



Alan Coy Friday night song session in the Ship Inn, Lower Town. Sunday night Songs of the Sea, mostly! Alan, remembering songs from fifty years ago whilst forgetting words to ones learned last week! Singers, come on down to Lower Town!

4, 58



Andrew McKay and Carole Etherton live on the Gower Peninsula. Both are accomplished singers and instrumentalists, Andrew having played the obscure Crane Duet concertina for more years than he cares to, or possibly can, remember. Carole, who plays a range of early woodwind instruments, was also a resident singer at several folk clubs in her native Sussex. Before joining forces, they performed solo and with different shanty groups at folk clubs and festivals in Britain, Continental Europe and the United States.

28, 41, 51



BouZaTina Their name brings together their two main instruments, the bouzouki and the concertina. Val and Keith have played music together since 1989 when they met in Sussex. Together they founded the traditional Irish band The Flying Toads performing regularly at folk festivals and clubs in England, Ireland and France.

13, 30, 40

Broad oak is a Pembrokeshire-based folk trio with Chris Kay, Peter Kay and Wendy Lewis, all experienced musicians with backgrounds and interests in many sorts of music from gamelan to rock. Chris sings and plays piano and whistle, Wendy plays fiddle and sings, Peter plays fretted instruments and sings. The band plays both traditional and contemporary folk, as well as creating their own new work in a folk tradition. It's hard to pin down their 'sound' in a single word: maybe 'eclectic' comes closest, and of course they always aim for 'entertaining'.

54



The Cherrystones Three quarters of former Fishy faves the Stoned Cherries, Aly, Dave and Matt bring you a mix of original and traditional songs and tunes. From thoughtful, well-crafted songs to infectious Irish whistle tunes, The Cherrystones will warm your heart and stir your souls and soles!

7, 26, 37



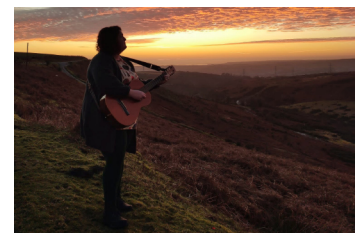
OPEN MIC

Fancy a go on stage yourself? Come along well before one of the Open Mic sessions (25, 50) at Ffwrn and talk to the nice sound man. A star is born.



Danny Tose is a singer songwriter from West Wales, performing both traditional and original songs in Welsh. Her songs are a reflection of not only the Welsh landscape but the people, stories and culture of Wales.

10



Dwndwr are a four-piece folk band playing an eclectic mix of traditional Welsh folk tunes. Their set features the Pibau cyn, melodeon and iwcaili. Foot stomping and dancing in the aisles is encouraged!

17



Emily Portman and Rob Harbron both have award-winning reputations as performers, composers and recording artists. Now they have formed an inspired new collaboration in which they delve into English folk traditions.

Emily (voice, banjo & piano) is best known as an original songwriter and for her work with the acclaimed folk band The Furrow Collective. Rob (concertina, guitar, voice) tours with Leveret, Fay Hield, Jon Boden and many more. He is in great demand as one of the finest multi-instrumentalists in the UK.

Together they take a fresh approach to exploring the traditional music they are both steeped in, drawing out the contemporary relevance in their repertoire with master craftsmanship. Emily's spellbinding storytelling and unaffected voice combines with Rob's sympathetic musicality to create an unforgettable and intimate live experience, brimming with a focused subtlety, depth and a shared love of the music.

54





Facing the Ocean are Jane Harwood (guitar) and Russ Stanley (mandolin). One of their performances for us will be very special. This is what they say about it:

"We live in Somerset but have a great fondness for North Pembrokeshire. We have a group of tunes that are directly inspired by the landscape of Pen Caer, written whilst staying there over the years. We'd like to propose an informal, outdoor performance to link in with your festival. This would be ... in daylight hours (afternoon), and site-specific. The Rounds of Pen Caer would be an unticketed picnic with live, unamplified, site-specific music. The location would be Garn Fawr, with free parking in the NT car park - bring your own blanket / chairs and picnic. Obviously, it would be weather-dependent!" They've got an indoor gig as well. 19, 38



Finbar Magee & Breige Quinn Finbar is an award winning bard and songwriter whose songs have been played world wide including at Glastonbury. His unique range of ballads (My Belfast Love), satire (TK Maxx), social comment (The Eyes of a Stranger) and recitations (The Ginger Gene) ensure quality entertainment. He is accompanied by Breige - one of the finest fiddlers in Ulster. 3, 12, 48, 55



Fishguard Folk Singers are a group of friends who started out as shanty singers but have now added all sorts of other material. They have a bias towards sea songs, but their main criteria are: do we like it and enjoy singing it?

FFS have gone through a lot of changes recently, so we haven't got a current photo. Instead, here's an artist's impression of one of their rehearsals by Gerard van Honthorst (1592-1656). 8



Granny's Attic With exceptional musicianship and boundless energy, Granny's Attic are going from strength to strength. Cohen Braithwaite-Kilcoyne (melodeon, anglo concertina, vocals), George Sansome (guitar, vocals) and Lewis Wood (violin, vocals) have honed their skills touring the UK and Europe since 2009. They are much loved by audiences up and down the country, with bookings everywhere from Cambridge Folk Festival to Cecil Sharp House.

The trio have been heralded for their lively performances and skilled delivery of traditional material, playing with verve, energy and their own inimitable style. Though grounded in tradition, they are keen to push new boundaries by exploring fresh approaches and writing their own compositions. 29



Heb Enw Border Morris side Heb Enw Morris - the name literally translates as 'No Name Morris' - formed in 2008 and draws its members from across Pembrokeshire and beyond. Meeting weekly near Narberth, and regularly performing in public throughout the region and occasionally across the border, dancers and musicians range in age from 8 to 70+. New members are always welcome. 5

Holly Robinson : Healing Folk Want to know more about why listening to and playing folk music feels so good? Pembrokeshire-based music therapist and fiddle player Holly Robinson will be leading an interactive discussion and workshop on music and wellbeing. Find out more about how she uses folk music in her therapy practice and take a look at how you can use music to give your physical, emotional and mental health a helping hand. 42



The Impromptunes are Jonny and Joanne, based in Ramsbottom in the north west of England. They are known for their quirky takes on popular songs and their mix of instruments, guitars, ukulele, mandolin and glockenspiel. Their eclectic playlist is sure to have something you'll enjoy and some comedy songs to make you laugh too. 32



Janice Burns & Jon Doran are an Anglo-Scottish duo who came together after discovering a shared love of traditional music. They find their songs in archives that span the depths of our history – songs that tell vivid stories about the nature of life and our place in the world. Janice & Jon's compelling storytelling comes alive through tight vocal harmonies and sensitive interplay between mandolin, bouzouki, and guitar. Their arrangements have a spellbinding presence and an understated energy that transports their songs from the pages of books and manuscripts into the imagination of the listener.

Crystal clear voices, great musicianship, and obviously a deep love of the tradition - Mike Harding 29



Jess and Michael are a dose of nostalgia. Whilst their music covers a diverse range of traditional and modern songs, Jessica's hauntingly beautiful voice and Michael's skillful guitar accompaniment will transport you to a bygone era. The duo have been playing together for just over a year, and have only recently begun to share their music more widely. 39



The John Ward Trio John Ward turned to folk and acoustic music in the mid 1980s and, by 1988, had become a full-time songwriter and musician on the folk and roots music scene. Since then, he has performed in countless venues all over England as well as overseas. John has guested on numerous radio shows and has appeared on British television a number of times. 14, 31, 36, 45, 57



~ Friday May 26 Dydd Gwener Mai 26 ~

1	12.30	Busking	Outside The Oak
2	6.30-8.30	Twmpath/ceilidh with Acorns Band	Town Hall
3	8.00	Session with Finbar Magee and Breige Quinn	The Oak
4	8.00	Session/singaround with Alan Coy	Ship Inn

~ Saturday May 27 Dydd Sadwrn Mai 27 ~

5	10.30	Festival opening with Heb Enw Morris	Town Square
6	11.30	Slow and Easy session with Simon and Holly	Skirmisher
7	12.00-1.30	Session with The Cherrystones	The Oak
8	12.00-1.00	Fishguard Folk Singers	Ffwrn
9	1.00-2.00	Milton Hide	Yacht Club
10	1.00-2.00	Danny Tose	St Mary's
11	2.00-3.00	Tom Crow	The Oak garden
12	2.00-3.00	Finbar Magee and Breige Quinn	Ffwrn
13	2.00-3.00	BouZaTina	Ship Inn
14	2.00-3.00	John Ward - BUFFALO BILL workshop	Skirmisher
15	2.30-4.30	Sam Sweeney	Theatr Gwaun
16	3.00-4.00	Rob Lear Trio	The Oak garden
17	3.00-4.00	Dwndwr	St Mary's
18	3.00-4.00	Teifi Ukulele Group	Yacht Club
19	3.00-4.30	Facing the Ocean - Picnic at Pen Caer	Garn Fawr NT car park
20	4.00-5.00	Milton Hide	Ffwrn
21	4.00-5.00	Singaround with Pat 'n' Ned	Ship Inn
22	5.00-6.00	AfroWelsh Connection	The Oak garden
23	5.00-6.00	Paul Hayes	St Mary's
24	5.00-6.00	Session with Mike Greenwood	Yacht Club
25	5.00-5.45	Open Mic	Ffwrn
26	6.00-7.00	The Cherrystones	Ship Inn
27	6.00-7.00	Mice in a Matchbox	Ffwrn
28	7.00-8.00	Singaround with Andrew McKay and Carole Etherton	Yacht Club
29	7.30-10.00	Janice Burns and Jon Doran Granny's Attic	Theatr Gwaun
30	8.00	Session with BouZaTina	The Oak
31	8.00-10.00	John Ward Trio	Ffwrn
32	8.30	The ImpromptUNES	Ship Inn
33	8.30	Pat 'n' Ned	Yacht Club

~ Dydd Sul Mai 28 Sunday May 28 ~

34	11.00-12.30	Pirates and Smugglers Walk	Meet outside The Oak
35	11.00-12.00	Spoons workshop with Pat Smith	Skirmisher
36	12.00-1.30	Session with The John Ward Trio	The Oak
37	12.00-1.00	The Cherrystones	Ffwrn
38	12.30-1.00	Facing the Ocean	Yacht Club
39	1.00-2.00	Jess and Michael	St Mary's
40	2.00-3.00	BouZaTina	Ffwrn
41	2.00-3.00	Andrew McKay and Carole Etherton	Ship Inn
42	2.00-3.00	Folk Music and Wellbeing with Holly Robinson	Rugby Club
43	2.00-4.00	Razor Bill	Royal Oak garden
44	2.00-4.00	Bluegrass session	Bennett's Navy Tavern
45	3.00-4.00	Bodhran workshop with John Ward	Skirmisher
46	3.00-4.00	Pat 'n' Ned	St Mary's
47	4.00-5.00	Lauford Cripps	Ffwrn
48	4.00-5.00	Finbar Magee and Breige Quinn	Ship Inn
49	4.00-5.00	Slow and Easy session with Simon and Holly	Rugby Club
50	5.00-5.45	Open Mic	Ffwrn
51	5.00-6.00	Andrew McKay and Carole Etherton	St Mary's
52	6.00-7.00	Jess Ward - alteration to printed programme	Ffwrn
53	6.00-7.00	Milton Hide	Ship Inn
54	7.30-10.00	Broad oak Emily Portman and Rob Harbron	Theatr Gwaun
55	8.00	Session with Finbar Magee and Breige Quinn	The Oak
56	8.00-10.00	Razor Bill - alteration to printed programme	Ffwrn
57	8.00-9.00	John Ward Trio	Yacht Club
58	8.00	Songs of the Sea with Alan Coy and Mike Greenwood	Ship Inn

~ Dydd Lun Mai 29 Monday May 29 ~

59	12.00-1.30	Open session	The Oak
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THE THREE EVENTS IN RED are the ticketed concerts in Theatr Gwaun. To book seats, call 01348 873421, book online at theatrgwaun.com, or go to the box office in person. Or trust spontaneity and turn up at the gig.



SESSIONS are held in several locations. **The Royal Oak** (just 'The Oak' to locals) is the main one. Named performers will be there at their specified times, but the session goes on more or less the whole time and you never know who might turn up to it. You could be sitting down to play next to your musical hero, it has often happened in the past. **Bluegrass** in Bennett's (44), or Mike Greenwood (24) for a more Welsh flavour.



If you think the main sessions might be a bit fast for you, the **'Slow and Easy' sessions** (6, 49) might be just right. They are based on the fantastic work of Tuneworks (tuneworks.co.uk) and will be using their FREE tunebook, available to download but not essential to have with you. All instruments and all ability levels are welcome. Huge fun!





Lauford Cripps The new trio for 2022/23 of Wynford Jones, Laurence Eddy and Geoff Cripps has musical connections and roots which stretch back into the last century and, in particular, their involvement with the folk/rock band The Chartists. The Chartists disbanded in 1991, but at the start of 2022 the three men rekindled their friendship and their mutual respect for each other's music making skills. Now they are delighting in giving a new focus to the many fine original songs composed by Wynford, and the response to these songs from audiences in folk clubs across South Wales and beyond. 47



Mice in a Matchbox are Sally Stamford, well known vocalist, featured in many bands such as the Loxley Trio, and Jim Rolt, a musician with a more rock n roll background. Together they produce an exciting sound which has been described as indie folk. Suffice it to say, it's upbeat and exciting rather than glum and monotonous! 27



Mike Chant Pembrokeshire born singer-songwriter Mike Chant has forged a reputation for himself as a passionate multi instrumentalist and powerful singer and lives by a small, simple but very important bit of advice given to him by the legendary Finbar Furey... "Always from the heart..." 56

CHANGE TO PRINTED PROGRAMME Mike is unable to appear. **Razor Bill** will play his Sunday night slot, **Jess Ward** will take over their 6.00 gig. See website for details.



Mike Greenwood has been playing D/G melodeon for over thirty years, specialising in the dance music of England and Wales. He is also a skilled exponent of the English concertina. Welsh dance music tends to be at the heart of any session, although you can also expect a heavy blast of English country music with a flavouring of French and Scandinavian melodies. 24, 58



This year's programme, like every year's programme, was printed for us by Right Price Print of Goodwick. Top quality, fast turnaround, good prices (the clue is in the name) and above all a friendly and knowledgeable local service.



Milton Hide (AKA Jim and Josie Tipler) come from East Sussex and live at the foot of the famous Long Man of Wilmington hill figure. The duo weave eloquent, well-crafted songs and stories – Jim's guitar and Josie's pure vocal delivery blending perfectly. Arrangements also include percussion, with the clarinet providing a third voice. Their music has been described as "reminiscent of the Moody Blues" (Living Tradition), "a touch of Fleetwood Mac" and "vintage Steeleye" (Spiral Earth). 9, 20, 53

Pat 'n' Ned Born in the rolling foothills of the Welsh Alps, raised in the wind-brushed cornfields of the lower Rhondda; distilled in the murky waters of the mighty E-lye River, blended in the rich man's playground of Splott, and dumped on an unsuspecting public in the cunning guise of an energetic mixture of songs and tunes from Wales and beyond, skilfully played on concertina, guitar, spoons and harmonicas. 21, 33, 35, 46



PIRATES & SMUGGLERS WALK

ARR! Suits all ages, some steep bits, occasional facts. Dress for the Coast Path. Find out what made Roger so jolly. Hint: it wasn't the food. 34

Paul Hayes Manchester born award winning singer/songwriter Paul Hayes, now living in the beautiful Preseli Hills of Pembrokeshire, plays a mixture of traditional and self-penned 'folk' songs, all sung and played with Paul's individual style.

"Paul captivated his audience with a variety of traditional and original tunes ranging from the hauntingly beautiful to laugh out loud hilarity! Folk lovers will love Paul Hayes" (Lampeter Folk) 23



Razor Bill Razor Bill is the popular Pembrokeshire folk band who love to play and sing traditional and modern folk. They bring you a generous hint of Poguetry and other Celtic influences, and the occasional touch of country, plus a few songs and tunes you might never expect! 43, 52



Rob Lear Band Nominated for this year's Welsh Music Award and with RnR Magazine describing Rob Lear as one of this country's finest songwriters, the Rob Lear Band blends elements of beautiful vocal harmonies and a wide range of talented instrumentalists. These include accordion, mandolin, violin and djembe, playing songs that draw on Rob's memories, experiences and coming-of-age tales of growing up in a small mining village tucked away in the Welsh valleys. Rob's music blends Folk, Americana, pop and a touch of rockabilly. 16



Sam Sweeney Nominated four times, and winner in 2015, of Musician Of The Year at the BBC Radio 2 Folk Awards, Sam has been at the forefront of the revival in English music for the last fifteen years. He is a veteran of the mighty Bellowhead, former and inaugural Artistic Director of the National Youth Folk Ensemble, a founder member of ground-breaking trio Leveret as well as a passionate and experienced educator. He has collaborated, recorded and performed with The Full English, Eliza Carthy, Martin Carthy, Jon Boden & The Remnant Kings, Fay Hield and **Emily Portman**. Sam's previous releases, *The Unfinished Violin* (Island Records) and *Unearth Repeat* (Hudson Records) were received with international acclaim. 15





Simon and Holly Slow Session If full-throttle fast folk Sessions are not your speed, why not join Pembrokeshire fiddlers Holly Robinson and Simon Jones at our "Slow and Easy" sessions on Saturday and Sunday? The sessions will be based around the popular Tuneworks festival tune book (available in free download format from tuneworks.co.uk) alongside one or two other favourite tunes, with all instruments and abilities welcome.

6, 49



Teifi Ukulele Group are a group of local enthusiasts who come together to share their enthusiasm for their quirky little instruments. Now they're coming to Fishguard Folk Festival to share the love with you! There are rumours of spare instruments... No photo, so we've taken the liberty of showing you the middles of three ukuleles.

18



Tom Crow plays his own self penned songs in a heartfelt acoustic folk Americana or Celticana style. His music has featured numerous times on BBC Radio Wales Celtic Heartbeat, Welsh Connections and amongst other independent stations such as Acoustic Routes and Daz in the Hat. This has led to prestigious support slots with established folk icons like Martin Carthy and John Boden (Bellowhead) along with rising talent Merry Hell. Through his lyrics and tales he continues to map a sonic history and version of events to pass on to other generations. Normal life in extraordinary times makes his music age like a fine wine.

11

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- 3 Yacht Club/Lower Town Quay
- 4 The Ship Inn
- 5 Skirmisher
- 6 Town Hall
- 7 Town Square
- 8 St Mary's
- 9 Theatr Gwaun
- 10 Rugby Club
- 11 Bennett's Navy Tavern
- P Public Car Park entrances

We have arranged with the harbourmaster to have water pumped in twice a day, it makes it look ever so pretty.

VENUE GUIDE In addition to the venues shown above, there is an out-of-town venue this year. **Facing the Ocean** are offering "an unticketed [gig] with live, unamplified site-specific music [at] Garn Fawr, with free parking in the NT car park". The OS reference for the car park is SM68989438830. On Google Maps, type **52.008100, -5.062562** into the search bar for the car park entrance. A rough route: up Goodwick Hill, through Stop and Call, then keep heading west in the direction of Pwll Deri. It's about 5.5 miles from Fishguard. Satnav strongly recommended.