

2024

Fishguard Folk Festival  
Gwyl Werin Abergwaun



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### Neges Cadeirydd Yr Wyl

Croeso pawb i Wyl Gwerin Abergwaun 2024. Mae gennym y gymysgedd arferol o wynebaw newydd a hen ffefrynnau, sydd yn dod ag amrywiaeth o adloniant i chi mwynhau ar draws y penwythnos. Diolch i'n noddwyr a chefnogwyr i gyd, yn enwedig y rhai ohonoch sydd gyda ni'r penwythnos yma, yn rhannu cerddoriaeth a chyfeillgarwch. Hoffwn ychwanegu fy niolchgarwch personol i chi gyd y flwyddyn yma, oherwydd hwn yw fy ngŵyl olaf fel cadeirydd. Mae wedi bod yn ffrainc a phleser i helpu creu'r digwyddiad unigryw yma, ac edrychaf ymlaen at rannu yn yr hwyl gyda chi gyd am nifer o wyliau i ddod - ond o nawr ymlaen byddaf yn ei mwynhau o'r gynulleidfa!

### Festival Chairman's message

Hello everyone and welcome to Fishguard Folk Festival 2024. We have our usual mix of new faces and old favourites who bring a range of events for you to enjoy across the weekend. Thank you to all our sponsors and supporters, especially those of you who are with us this weekend, sharing music and friendship. I would like to add my personal thanks to you all this year, as this is my last festival as chair. It has been a privilege and a pleasure to help put this unique event together, and I'll look forward to sharing the fun with you all for many festivals to come - but from now on I'll be enjoying it from the audience!



*Judy Whitehouse*

### The Festival on the Internet

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

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

The website has information about the Festival, the performers, and the area. After the Festival, it might be updated with any photos and videos that we gather over the weekend (if we get enough). Please contribute yours! F\*c\*b\*\*k *might* be updated during the Festival with information and whatever. The website won't be updated as the festival is going on - we're 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 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



**Baggyrinkle** are in their 29th year. Their close friendship underpins their singing. Baggyrinkle have graced festivals and venues across Europe and the USA having a "Welsh choir" approach to harmonies in many choruses. Gathered from all walks of life, members' past roles include doctor, medical scientist, nurse, headmaster, jewellery maker, businessman, and NHS manager. Harmonies are created on the night. Although shanties are their mainstay, they also sing mining, rural and drinking songs. 47



**Barnhowlers** are a small group of a *cappella* singers, mostly from rural parts of North Pembrokeshire. They love getting together to sing songs from many genres, including folk. 7



**Breabach** Securely ranked among Scotland's most skilled and imaginative contemporary folk acts, Breabach unite deep roots in Highland and Island tradition with the innovative Scottish music scene. 2022 saw them release their latest studio album 'Fàs' and be awarded 'Folk Band of the Year' at the Scots Trad Music Awards. To date they have released seven increasingly acclaimed albums, whilst fuelling their creative appetites in collaborations with BAFTA award winning animator Cat Bruce on short film *Dùsgadh*, indigenous Australasian artists Moana & The Tribe, Quebec's *Le Vent du Nord*, video game composer Big Giant Circles and as artists-in-residence at 2019's Celtic Colours festival with Cape Bretoners, Beòlach. 48



**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. 28, 41

**Broadoak** is a Pembrokeshire-based folk trio with Chris Kay, Wendy Lewis and Peter Kay, 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'. 20



**Carreg Las** are Border Morris Dancers based in Abergwili, Carmarthenshire. Some of their dances had their origins in the morris dances of the Welsh/English border, and alongside these Carreg Las are creating their own dances, influenced by living in West Wales. 31



**Cobblers Child** is a band of multi-instrumentalists from Gloucestershire formed in between the UK lockdowns whilst playing music together late into the night. They feature the unique, ear catching, instrumentation consisting of Northumbrian Small Pipes, Melodeon, Whistle, Guitar and Vocals. Half the band live on the inland waterways and pass on tales and traditional songs from the canals. They deliver compelling songs and tunes where the traditional sits alongside their own compositions. 18, 33



**Danny Sioned** is a local singer songwriter, performing her original songs and traditional Welsh folk songs. Canwr lleol ydy **Danny Sioned**, yn perfformio cymysgedd o'i chaneuon gwreiddiol a rhai gwerin Cymraeg traddodiadol. 12, 46



#### OPEN MIC

Fancy a turn on stage yourself? Come along well before one of the Open Mic sessions at Ffwrn and talk to the nice sound person. A star is born. 42

**Facing the Ocean** (Jane Harwood on guitar, Russ Stanley on mandolin) draw on their love of wild places, walking the cliffs and sea to create interweaving, landscape-inspired tunes. For several years they have been at work on a collection of pieces inspired by the history and atmosphere of the Pen Caer peninsula which lies to the west of Fishguard. This year they are bringing this special, local music (including many new tunes) to the historic church of St Gwynndaf at Llandwnda. Come and see the ancient holy well, explore this peaceful little hamlet, and hear the Rounds of Pen Caer. Hot drinks and cake will be available. 22, 40





**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. 9, 16, 50



**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). FFS have been around for a while.... 35



**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. 6



**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. 15



**Holly and Simon's 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" clubs on Saturday and Sunday? The sessions will be based on the popular Tuneworks festival tune book (available as a free download from tuneworks.co.uk) as well as one or two other favourites, with all instruments and abilities welcome. **Sesiwn Araf Simon a Holly:** os yw sesiynau werin llawn egni yn codi ofn, pam nid ymuno efo ffdlwr o Sir Benfro, Holly Robinson a Simon Jones, yn ein sesiynau "Araf a Rhwydd" ar Ddydd Sadwrn a Dydd Sul? Seiliwyd y sesiynau ar y llyfr alawon gwyl poblogaidd Tuneworks (ar gael fel lawrlwyth am ddim o tuneworks.co.uk) yn ogystal ag un neu dau ffefryn arall. Mae croeso i bob gallu ac offeryn. 19, 34

**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. 26



**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, 38, 51



**Julie Murphy** (voice and Shruti box) and **Ceri Rhys Matthews** (flute) are founder members of groundbreaking Welsh folk group Fernhill. Together they perform traditional songs and dance tunes from Wales and beyond, with particular emphasis on the music and poetry of West Wales. Their exquisite musical evocations of landscape and culture are timeless and universal. Mae **Julie Murphy** (llais a blwch shruti) a **Ceri Rhys Matthews** (ffliwt) yn sylfaenwyr o'r grŵp gwerin Cymreig arloesol Fernhill. Gyda'i gilydd maent yn perfformio caneuon traddodiadol ac alawon dawns o Gymru a thu hwnt, gyda phwyslais arbennig ar gerddoriaeth a barddoniaeth Gorllewin Cymru. Mae eu hatgofion cerddorol coeth o dirwedd a diwylliant yn anfarwol a chyfanfydol. 45



**Merry Hell** Multi-award winning Merry Hell offer joyful, uplifting folk-rock, with a message for troubled times. Native to the North-West of England, the 8-piece musical charabanc was built from the embers of the much-loved folk-punk band The Tansads, before developing a life and feel all of its own. Their energy and passion is complimented by their love of what they do and desire to share hope and togetherness with as many people as are willing to listen. Through 6 well-received albums and hundreds of gigs, they've offered voices of hope and beacons of light to anyone valuing spirit, energy, melody and positive humanity. 23



**Metsaema** are a trio based out of Texas/New Orleans and Ontario. They play early American jazz, Old-Time American fiddle music and Classical Ragtime on mandolin, guitar and banjo. We're guessing the third member of the trio took the photo. 49



## ~ Friday May 24 Dydd Gwener Mai 24 ~

1	12.30	Busking	Outside The Oak
2	6.30-8.30	Twmpath/ceilidh with Acorns Band	Town Hall
3	8.00	Session with Sir-Reel Clarks	The Oak
4	8.00-9.30	Milton Hide	Ffwrn
5	8.00	Open session/singaround	Ship Inn

## ~ Saturday May 25 Dydd Sadwrn Mai 25 ~

6	10.30	Festival opening with Heb Enw Morris	Town Square
7	11.00-12.00	Barnhowlers	Yacht Club
8	12.00-1.00	Sir-Reel Clarks	Ffwrn
9	12.00-1.30	Session with Finbar and Breige	The Oak
10	1.00-2.30	Couples dance workshop with Simon and Claire	Skirmisher
11	1.00-2.00	Milton Hide	St Mary's
12	2.00-3.00	Danny Sioned	Ffwrn
13	2.00-3.30	Singaround with Rapsquillion	Ship Inn
14	2.00-4.00	John Ward Trio	The Oak Garden
15	2.00-3.00	Workshop: "Healing Folk" with Holly Robinson	Rugby Club
16	3.00-4.00	Finbar Magee and Breige Quinn	St Mary's
17	3.00-4.00	Teifi Ukulele Group	Yacht Club
18	3.00-4.00	Cobbler's Child - Folk in the Garden	Dyffryn Fernant*
19	4.00-5.00	Slow and Easy session with Holly and Simon	Rugby Club
20	4.00-5.00	Broadoak	Ffwrn
21	5.00-6.00	Paul Hayes	St Mary's
22	5.00-6.00	Facing the Ocean	Ship Inn
23	7.30	Merry Hell	Theatr Gwaun
24	8.00-10.00	Rapsquillion	Ffwrn
25	8.00-9.00	Sir-Reel Clarks	Yacht Club
26	8.00-9.30	The ImpromptUNES	Ship Inn
27	8.00	Session: English/Welsh Tunes with Mike Greenwood	Fishguard Arms
28	8.00	Session with BouZaTina	The Oak

## ~ Dydd Sul Mai 26 Sunday May 26 ~

29	10.30-12.00	Workshop: Singing in Harmony with Rapsquillion	Skirmisher
30	11.00-12.30	Pirates and Smugglers Walk	Meet outside The Oak
31	11.00	Carreg Las	Yacht Club quayside
32	12.00-1.00	Mice in a Matchbox	Ffwrn
33	12.00-1.30	Session with Cobblers Child	The Oak
34	1.00-2.00	Slow and Easy session with Holly and Simon	Skirmisher
35	1.30-2.30	Fishguard Folk Singers	St Mary's
36	2.00-3.00	Rob Lear Band	Ffwrn
37	2.00	Bluegrass session	Bennett's Navy Tavern
38	2.00-3.30	Workshop: Songwriting with John Ward	Rugby Club
39	2.00-4.00	Razor Bill	The Oak garden
40	3.00-4.00	Facing the Ocean; The Rounds of Pen Caer	Llanwnda Church*
41	3.00-4.00	BouZaTina	St Mary's
42	3.00-4.30	Open Mic (managed by Milton Hide)	Yacht Club
43	3.00	Session: English/Welsh Tunes with Mike Greenwood	Fishguard Arms
44	3.00-4.30	Sir-Reel Clarks	Ship Inn
45	4.00-5.00	Julie Murphy and Ceri Rhys Matthews	Ffwrn
46	5.00-6.00	Danny Sioned	St Mary's
47	7.00-9.00	Songs of the Sea with Baggyrinkle	Ship Inn
48	7.30	Breabach	Theatr Gwaun
49	8.00-10.00	Metsaema	Ffwrn
50	8.00	Session with Finbar and Breige	The Oak
51	8.00-9.30	John Ward Trio	Yacht Club

## ~ Dydd Llun Mai 27 Monday May 27 ~

52	12.00-1.30	Open session	The Oak
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**EVENTS IN RED** are ticketed concerts in Theatr Gwaun. To book, call 01348 873421, or online at theatrgwaun.com, or at the box office. As we go to press in April, about two thirds of the seats are booked.

**SESSIONS** are held in several locations. **The Oak** 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. **Bluegrass** in Bennett's (37), or Mike Greenwood (27,43) for a more Welsh flavour.

The **Slow and Easy sessions** (19,34) are based on the 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! **\*directions on back page**





**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! 32



**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. 27, 43



**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. 30



**Milton Hide** are singer-songwriters, Jim Tipler and Jo Church from East Sussex. Telling stories through original song, the duo blend Jim's accomplished guitar and Jo's pure vocal delivery, percussion and clarinet as a third voice. Be transported into a fascinating, sometimes melancholy, sometimes hilarious world of stories in song, introducing a host of intriguing and memorable characters on the way. A Milton Hide performance always engages and charms an audience, leaving them wanting more. Described as "reminiscent of the Moody Blues" (Living Tradition), "a touch of Fleetwood Mac" and "vintage Steeleye" (Spiral Earth) this is a performance not to miss. 4, 11



**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) 21



**Rapsquillion** After a year away, Festival favourites Rapsquillion will once again be emerging from their hiding place in the depths of the Marches, to breathe the cool, clear air of a May weekend in Pembrokeshire. Purveyors of concerts, workshops, sessions and the odd CD, Rapsquillion continue to sing their way through life with an highly contagious sense of fun. They avoid at all costs any semblance of knowing their place whilst lobbing harmonies at anyone within range. 13, 24, 29

**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! 39



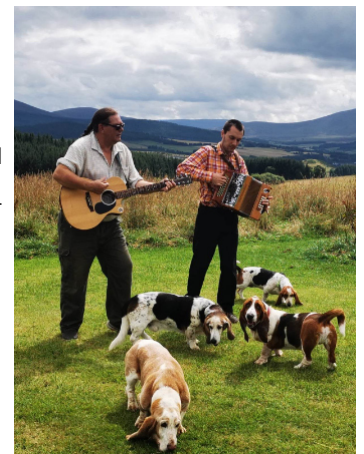
**Rob Lear Band** Nominated for last year's Welsh Music Award and with RnR Magazine describing Rob Lear as one of this country's finest songwriters, the Rob Lear Band blends elements of beautiful vocal harmonies and a wide range of talented instrumentalists. These include accordion, mandolin, violin 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. 36



**Simon and Claire's Couple Folk Dance Workshop** Simon and Claire bring their experience of folk and community dance teaching for an open and fun workshop on traditional couple folk dances (Balfolk). Dances and live music (Chris Knibbs – Melodeon: Holly Robinson- fiddle: David Webb – Border Pipes) will feature schottiche, waltz, mazurka and bourrée. You can attend with or without a partner, please wear smooth-soled, comfortable footwear. No experience necessary. **Gweithdy Dawnsio Gwerin Cwpl** Daw Simon a Claire â'u brofiad o ddysgu dawnsio gwerin a chymunedol ar gyfer gweithdy agored a hwyl o ddawnsiau gwerin cwpl traddodiadol (Balfolk). Bydd dawnsiau a cherddoriaeth fyw (Chris Knibbs – Melodeon: Holly Robinson- Ffidil: David Webb – Pibau Ffin) yn cynnwys schottiche, waltz, mazurka a bourrée. Gallwch ddod gyda neu heb bartner, gwisgwch esgidiau cyfforddus â gwadnau llyfn. Nid oes angen profiad. 10



**Sir-Reel Clarks** At the core of Sir-Reel Clarks' captivating performances lies the extraordinary synergy between Aaron, who effortlessly commands the melodeon, vocals, and percussion, and his father, Andy, a virtuoso on guitar, vocals, mandola, and bodhran. 3, 8, 25, 44




**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.

**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. 17



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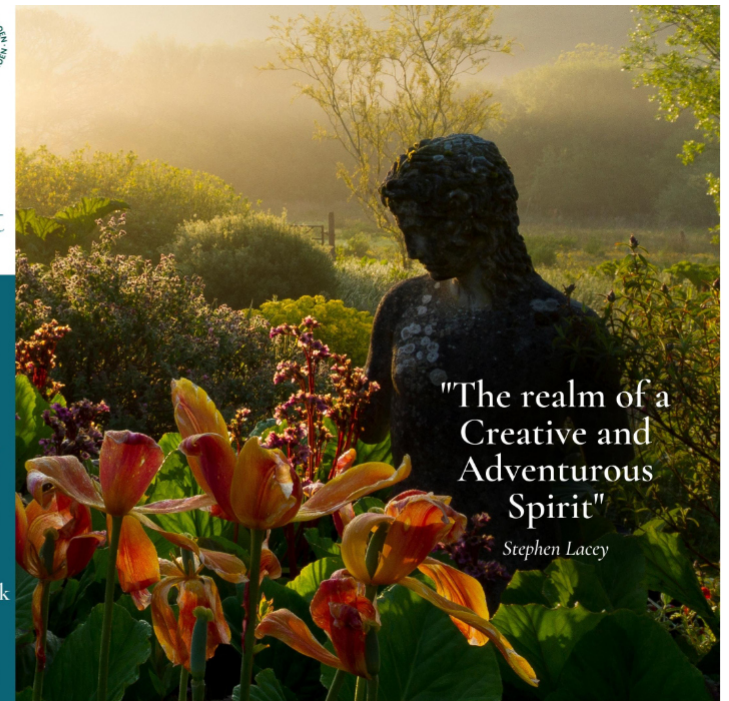
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- 🌸 Ward Thomas 🌸 Mànran
- 🌸 Beth Nielsen Chapman
- 🌸 The Longest Johns 🌸 El Pony Pisador
- 🌸 The Sentimentals & friends
- 🌸 Mary Gauthier 🌸 Le Vent du Nord
- 🌸 Kathryn Tickell & The Darkening
- 🌸 Jacqui McShee's Pentangle
- 🌸 The Wandering Hearts
- 🌸 Dream in Colors 🌸 The Pleasures 🌸 Ranagri
- 🌸 Suntou Susso Band 🌸 The Hello Darlins 🌸 NATI
- 🌸 Joshua Burnell Band 🌸 The Hunch 🌸 Joli Blon
- 🌸 James Delarre & Saul Rose 🌸 Rosie Hood Band
- 🌸 Winter Wilson 🌸 Suntou Susso (solo)
- 🌸 The 309s 🌸 Anthony John Clarke 🌸 The Lost Notes
- 🌸 Patakas 🌸 Al O'Kane 🌸 Dan The Hat

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**Dance:** 🌸 Arbrevyn with Bagas Fellyon 🌸 Banter  
 🌸 Club Débris 🌸 Cri du Canard 🌸 Crowdy Kit  
 🌸 EFDSS Ceilidh Band 🌸 Monster Ceilidh Band  
 🌸 James Delarre, Saul Rose & Dave Delarre  
 🌸 Tom Moore & Archie Churchill-Moss  
 🌸 Spiers & Boden 🌸 Steamchicken  
 🌸 The Oakstone Trio

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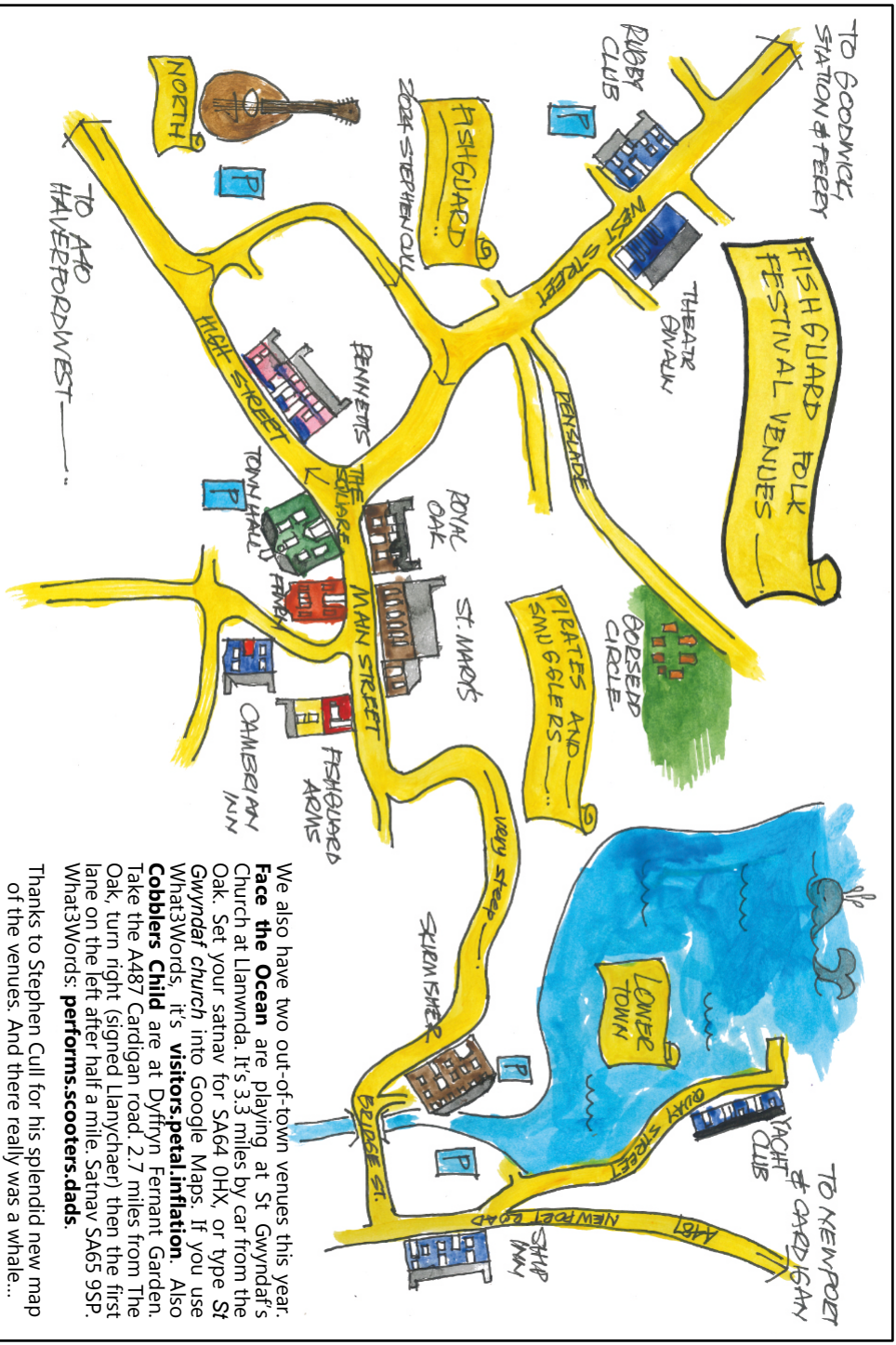
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[shrewsburyfolkfestival.co.uk](http://shrewsburyfolkfestival.co.uk)







We also have two out-of-town venues this year. **Face the Ocean** are playing at St Gwynndaf's Church at Llanwnda. It's 3.3 miles by car from the Oak. Set your satnav for SA64 0HX, or type St Gwynndaf church into Google Maps. If you use What3Words, it's **visitors.petal.inflation**. Also **Cobblers Child** are at Dyffryn Ffermant Garden. Take the A487 Cardigan road, 2.7 miles from The Oak, turn right (signed Llanychaer) then the first lane on the left after half a mile. Satnav SA65 9SP. What3Words: **performs.scooters.dads**.

Thanks to Stephen Cull for his splendid new map of the venues. And there really was a whale...