The Seeds of Love The Outlandish Knight John Barleycorn Barbara Allen Lord Randal The Wraggle Taggle Gypsies Dabbling in the Dew As I walked Through the Meadows The Bold Fisherman Forty Long Miles

Folk music can be defined as songs collected 'from the mouths of the people'

Folk song collecting had begun in England among the Broadwood family in Sussex in the 1830s, and by the 1880s, several folk song books had been published

By the 1900's, folk music was a fashionable activity with the rich and famous learning morris dancing, composers like Ralph Vaughan Williams, Percy Grainger and George Butterworth actively collecting, and others like Gustav Holst and Frederick Delius using the material to create an English composing style based upon the music of its people.

Fashions change and folk music drifted into a minority interest until the 1950s when there was a brief 'second revival' which centred upon the establishment of folk clubs.

The second folk revival was based upon American popular music rather than the English idea that folk song was collected from the mouths of the people and for every person who came into a folk club because they liked English folk music, there were ten who came because they liked Bob Dylan or Joan Baez, and perhaps wanted to try and sing like them. Once inside, many of these people discovered English folk music and found that they liked it.

In the early 1900s, Cecil Sharp had assumed that he was witnessing the end of a tradition and that folk song would soon be dead. But the second revival discovered many more traditional singers and today, folk songs are still being collected. So just like 'John Barleycorn' in the folk song every time someone says that English folk music is dead it soon pops up its head again, 'and so amazed them all'.

# FIND OUT MORE

### **Songs and Tunes** Discography

Somerset Sisters. (2000) Roots Quartet. Female acapella duo celebrate Cecil Sharp's female source singers. yvette@rootsquartet.com

The Land Remains (2004) George Withers. Traditional Somerset singer. Collection of traditional and composed songs. 01460 57476

Songs of Somerset Folk. Eddie Upton (1998). Solo album of traditional songs and dance tunes collected by Cecil Sharp. folksw@folksw.org.uk

Where the Parrett Winds Peaceful. Stanchester and Bridgwater Quires. Somerset folk songs collected from towns and villages along the river Parrett. folksw@folksw.org.uk

A West Country Christmas. Stanchester Quire. Christmas songs, lesser known carols and tales from the South West. folksw@folksw.org.uk

Joy to the World. Stanchester Quire. West Country carols and songs, featuring Thomas Shoel's great anthem 'Joy To The World'. folksw@folksw.org.uk

### **Reading**

Roud, S, Upton, E and Taylor, M, 2003, Still Growing (EFDSS). www.efdss.org

# CLASSICAL

Folk music has inspired many composers, and in England tunes from Somerset singers feature in the following compositions, evoking the very essence of England's rural landscape:

Percy Grainger's passacaglia Green Bushes was composed in 1905-6 but not performed until years later. It takes its themes from the 'Green Bushes' tune collected from Louie Hooper of Hambridge, plus a version of 'The Lost Lady Found' collected by Grainger himself in Lincolnshire.

Gustav Holst's Somerset Rhapsody was first performed in February 1906 and uses three collected tunes to tell a story. The 'Sheepshearing Song' introduces a rustic scene; then 'High Germany' is heard as a recruiting party of soldiers approaches. A young man decides to join up and says goodbye to his girlfriend in 'The True Lover's Farewell'.

In 1912, Ralph Vaughan Williams arranged the on 'Seventeen Come Sunday', the second on 'My

### **CUSTOMS** TRADITIONS & **GLORIOUS FOLK** SONG ALL YEAR ROUND

### Wassailing the Apple Trees

17th January, Old Twelfth Night, Carhampton

A set of customs is grouped under the name of 'wassailing' At Carhampton the wassail celebration takes place in the old orchard behind the

Butcher's Arms and

includes the libation of the apple trees with cider, shooting guns, a bonfire and the singing of the Carhampton wassail song. It is held on Old Twelfth night. Similar celebrations may be found at Roadwater and Churchstanton and Brent Knoll.

The Carhampton Wassail Song Old apple tree, we wassail thee, And hoping thou wilt bear For the Lord doth know where we shall be Till apples come another year. For to bear well, and to bloom well So merry let us be, Let every man take off his hat, And shout to the old apple tree! Old apple tree, we wassail thee, And hoping thou wilt bear Hatfuls, capfuls and three bushel bagsful

On 12th night men 'go with their wassel bowl into the orchard and go about the trees to bless them and put a piece of toast upon the roots, in order to it'

JOHN AUBREY, 17TH CENTURY ANTIQUARIAN

### FEBRUARY or MARCH 2 Egg Shackling

### **Shrove Tuesday Stoke St Gregory & Shepton Beauchamp**

A wealth of traditions focus upon Shrove Tuesday. In Somerset, the old custom of egg shackling has been revived at Stoke St Gregory and Shepton Beauchamp Primary Schools. Eggs are carefully marked by their owners and then placed in a sieve which is then

shaken. The last egg to

remain un-cracked wins.



a procession led by civic dignitaries in full regalia from St Cuthbert's Church to the Cathedral. Truly spectacular.

# MINEHEAD DULVERTON

3 Cuckoo!

Sharp in Somerset was

'The Cuckoo'

voice clear

Mid to late April ...the cuckoo arrives in

Somerset. One of the popular songs collected by Cecil

The cuckoo is a pretty bird she sings as she flies

She brings us good tidings she tells us no lies,

And never sings cuckoo till the summer draws

4 Minehead Hobby-Horse

prepares to stalk the town as it has done for centuries.

May 1st-3rd, Minehead and Dunster

Each May Day Eve the Minehead hobby-horse

Accompanied by beating drums and with its own

signature tune, it swirls and swaggers through the

streets in a flurry of ribbons and ostrich feathers,

bowing to the women, chasing the children and

accosting men to give money. Its tour lasts for three

association with the local seamen and the earliest

fishermen, used to bring out several hobby-horses

description of 1830 states that they, and the

days. 'Sailor's Horse' painted on the side suggests an

ach May Day

anybody who

donations with a

peating. Other

obby-horse

from the same

raditions have

and punish

efused

She sucks on little birds eggs for to keep her

All who roam, both young and old,

Come listen to my story bold.

For miles around, from far and near,

They come to see the rigs o' the fair,

O Master John, do you beware!

And don't go kissing the girls at Bridgwater Fair

The lads and lasses they come through

SONG COLLECTED BY CECIL SHARP FROM

WILLITON

WELLINGTON

From Stowey, Stogursey and Cannington too.

Minehead Hobby Horse Dance tune for orchestra and in 1923, he composed his English Folk Song Suite for military band, which is better known in the orchestral version arranged in 1924 by Gordon Jacob. Its first section is based Bonny Boy', and the third is a romp through 'Folk Songs from Somerset'.

And a little heap under the stairs, Hip, Hip, Hooray!

## **5** Wells Country Dancing

stretch of coastline in the nineteenth and early

twentieth centuries. Many have disappeared with

The Hobby Horse was recorded in a 1792 ledger

entry at Dunster Castle, 5 shillings was paid.

Minehead and Padstow the sole survivors of this

curious and colourful tradition.

### **Festival**

Saturday, mid June, Wells Cathedral Green



CREWKERNE

ILMINSTER"

LANGPORT

WESTON-SUPER-MARE

BURNHAM-ON-SEA

BRIDGWATER

### 6 Lowland Games Thorney Farm, Muchelney

Traditions can start at anytime.

TAUNTON E

Here in Somerse we enjoy boggy lowland landscapes that creep out from the Severn estuary and floo seasonally. A



great place to get muddy so why not have some fun doing it and raise some money for charity too? Muchelney's Lowland Games began in 1984 and attract willing contestants happy to have a mucky time. Try mud wrestling with Muchelney rules or, in other words 'anything goes'. A feast of Somerset bravado. Tel: 01458 250811 for information.

### 7 Priddy Sheep Fair Nearest Wednesday to 21st August

Priddy Sheep Fair is reputed to have been held continuously since 1348. Doubtless because of the local belief that as long as the hurdle stack remains in the village, so will the Fair

### 8 Bridgwater Fair or St. Matthew's Fair

### 4 days ending on last Saturday in September

Bridgwater Fair began as an 8-day long horse and cattle fair around St Matthew's day, 21st September, in 1249. Today it starts on a Thursday, lasts three days and ends on the last Saturday. It takes place on



Field and is now a huge funfair, ranked as second largest in England after the Nottingham Goose

### Fiddlin' Folk A band of young fiddlers (7-14yrs) plus family who xy recorder, whistle or flute. Hold occasional workshops with well known fiddlers and other events eg. Barn Dances.

LATE SUNDAY AFTERNOONS MONTHLY PLUS OCCASIONAL WORKSHOP DAYS Contact — Mrs. Anna Bushell 2 Queen Square, North Curry, Somerset TA3 6LT Telephone: 01823 490269 Email: fiddlinfolk@tiscali.co.uk

14 i

STREET

SOMERTON

### 9 Punkie Night

### Last Thursday in October, Hinton St George & Chiselborough

The traditions surrounding Hallowe'en have developed from a Christian feast of the dead, All Saints Day, and a shadowy pagan festival. All Hallows' Eve becoming a time for socializing and mischief. In Somerset, pranksters abroad on the night took with them the traditional turnip or 'mangle wurzel' lanterns. It is pelieved that the lanterns were locally termed 'spunkies' or 'punkies', the name for balls of ignited marsh gas sometimes seen on the Levels. In the past lanterns were paraded by children at Langport, Long Sutton and Lopen and today the tradition survives at Hinton St George. Here, on the last Thursday in October, lanterns are chiselled out of root vegetables,



awarded for the best punkies. One local legend has it that the tradition started when the Hinton men were late back from

Fair, four miles to the east. Their women went looking for them carrying their 'punkies'. The drunken husbands saw the eerie lights, thought they were 'goolies' the restless spirits of led in terror. This round-up of drunken husbands

Hinton St George Punky Night Song It's punkie night tonight Give us a candle, give us a light It's punkie night tonight It's punkie night tonight It's punkie night tonight Adam and Eve wouldn't believe

It's punkie night tonight

### 10 Bridgwater Guy Fawkes Carnival

### Nearest Friday to November 5th

The bungled attempt of Guy Fawkes to blow up Parliament at Westminster Palace on 5th November 1605, is celebrated enthusiastically in Bridgwater which today hosts a huge illuminated carnival procession held annually on the nearest Friday to November 5th. The evening concludes with a tradition known as 'squibbing', when fireworks or 'squibbs' are held aloft on wooden 'coshes' by local people known as 'squibbers' and fired entusiastically outside the town hall. Bridgwater is the largest of a series of West Country carnivals.

The ashen faggot is an old English Christmas tradition found in Devon and Somerset, similar to the Yule log. Ash sticks are bound together with a series of green ash or hazel withies and placed on the fire. Each time a binding bursts, a round of drinks is ordered and perhaps a story told. Today this tradition survives in Dunster at the Luttrell Arms. B Mummers & Hogglers

Norton

RADSTOCK



hiselborough a woman, Old Father Time and Beelzebub with his club and pan. Mummers appear in many court records because they were always getting into

children who had died before they were baptized, and became Punkie Night.

### had been 'drinking, playing cards and fiddling all day in disguised habits' 4 Glastonbury Thorn St John's Church &

### **Glastonbury Abbey** December 25th

The Glastonbury thorn (crategus oxyacantha praecox) is a variety of hawthorn bush which blossoms twice yearly, around Easter and Christmas. In legend

it is associated with Joseph of Arimathea who is said to have visited the Isle of Avalon 2,000 years ago. Landing at Wearyall Hill, he struck his staff into the ground whereupon it immediately flowered. Another tradition states that Joseph was Christ's uncle, and that he had once brought his nephew to Somerset. It was this story that inspired William Blake to write his 'Glastonbury Hymn' now known as Jerusalem. Glastonbury thorn blossom is sent to the monarch each year to decorate the Christmas breakfast table.

...Glastonbury, where the winter thorn Blossoms at Christmas mindlful of Our Lord TENNYSON, HOLY GRAIL

# 400 OF ENGLISH FOLK MUSIC

1557 Stationers' Company begins to keep register of ballads

Mary Tudor queen. Loss of English colony at Calais

1624 'John Barleycorn' first registered. Civil Wars 1642-1650, Execution of Charles I

DECEMBER

Christmastime, Drayton

**W**assailing

Wassail and wassail all over the town, the cup

it is white and the ale it is brown, the cup it

is made of the good ashen tree and so is the

For its your wassail and its our wassail and its

The girt dog of Langport he burnt his long tail,

And this is the night we go singing wassail

God bless all in this house until we do come

For its your wassail and its our wassail and its

SHARP COLLECTED WASSAIL SONGS FROM MRS. OVERD AND MRS.

TROTT OF LANGPORT (JAN 5TH 1909), AND HARRY RICHARDS OF

12 Burning the Ashen

Boxing Day December 26th North Curry

drama, are a mystery. Some link it to greek plays,

others to pagan ritualistic beliefs. Familiar characters

disputes, also the combination of dark evenings and

revellers in disguises offered a marvellous opportunity

resident complained to the county bench that he had

for crime. For example, in December 1657, a Frome

been beaten up on the day of 26th by a group who

include. St George, a doctor, a turk, a man dressed as

back to the

'disguisings'

fashionable

across western

Europe at all

The origins of

the mummer's

play, a folk-

levels of society

O master and missus now we must be come,

similar to carol

singing, with a

bowl filled with

cider or ale. Some

Somerset villages

have begun to revive

this custom, notably a

Drayton. Sharp collected

wassail songs nearby

from Jim Woodland of

including a fine version

Stocklinch on Boxing Day

malt of the best barley.

joy be to you and a jolly wassail

joy be to you and a jolly wassail

CURRY RIVEL (JAN 6TH 1909)

Faggot

**Dunster, Christmas Eve** 

1660s-70s Samuel Pepys makes a private ballad collection. Restoration places Charles II on throne

1765 Reliques of Ancient English Poetry published by Thomas Percy. First printed ballad collection Mozart in London

1780s Robert Burns collects songs for Scots Musical Museum. 1780s-1830s Romantic Movement in Literature and Music. 1787-1803 Scots Musical Museum published

French Revolution begins. Revolutionary & Napoleonic Wars 1802-1803 Minstrelsy of the Scottish Border published by Sir Walter Scott

1811 First Somerset folk singers collected from by Cecil Sharp born

Battle of Waterloo

1839 John, James and Henry Broadwood collecting songs in Surrey and Sussex. Folk song collecting begins in Russia and 1843 Old English Songs published by John Broadwood.

Queen Victoria on throne. Nationalist Movement in mus

1859 Cecil Sharp born. 1878 Nursery Rhymes and Country Songs published by M H

**1888-91** Songs of the West published by Sabine Baring Gould, Sussex Songs by Lucy Broadwood, Traditional Tunes by Frank Kidson, English Folk Songs by William Barrett. 1893 English Country Songs published by Lucy Broadwood and John Fuller Maitland. First attempt at a national folk song

1895 A Garland of Country Song published by Sabine Baring

1898 Folk Song Society founded by Kate Lee and AP Graves 1899 Folk Song Society publishes first Journal. Kate Lee collects from Copper family.

Queen Victoria dies. Edward VII on throne 1903 Cecil Sharp and Ralph Vaughan Williams begin

1904 First volume of Folk Songs from Somerset published by Cecil Sharp. Folk Song Society re-founded by Lucy Broadwood. 1905-6 Henry Hammond and George Gardiner begin collecting in Somerset. Percy Grainger begins collecting in Lincolnshire. Somerset Rhapsody by Gustav Holst, Norfolk Rhapsodies by Ralph Vaughan Williams, Green Bushes by Percy Grainger. Mary Neal's Esperance Guild begins to give public performances of folk songs and morris dances.

1907 English Folk Song: Some Conclusions published by Cecil Sharp. First theoretical book on English folk song. 1909 Last volume of Folk Songs from Somerset published by

1910 Esperance Guild of Morris Dancers founded by Mary Neal. 1911 English Folk Dance Society founded by Cecil Sharp. George Butterworth begins collecting and dances in Cecil Sharp's morris team.

First World War. George Butterworth killed 1916-18 Cecil Sharp collecting in Appalachian Mountains with Maud Karpeles and Olive Dame Campbell. 1918-21 First edition of English Folk Songs from the Dame Campbell.

1924 Cecil Sharp dies. 1930 Cecil Sharp House opened in London. 1932 Folk Song Society and English Folk Dance Society merge.

Second World War 1953 Last singer collected from by Cecil Sharp dies. King George VI dies. Elizabeth II on throne

### Halsway Mainoir



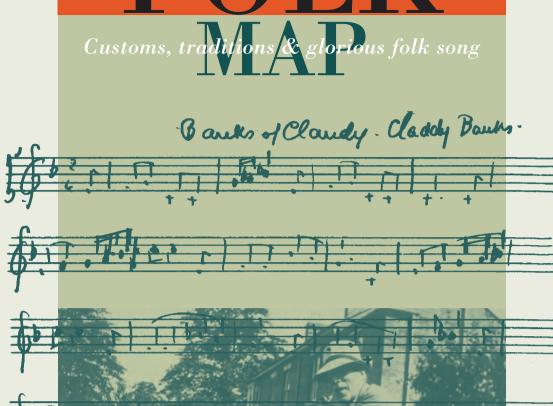
NATIONAL RESIDENTIAL CENTRE FOR TRADITIONAL FOLK ARTS The Society organises educational folk courses and holidays in music, dance and song. Folk events most weekends, office open Mon-F Crowcombe, Somerset, TA4 4BD

Tel: 01984 618274 www.halswaymanor.org.uk office@halswaymanor.org.uk



rmed in 1973, Taunton Deane Morris Men continue this lively and colourful English music and dance radition which was first recorded in the 15th century.

3 Eastside Lane, Bawdrip, Bridgwater, TA7 8QB Tel: 01278 685494 Email: candjsomerset@aol.com vww.tauntondeanemorris.co.u



SOMERSET

### TAKE PART a selection of Somerset Folk

Folk music & song sessions Folk music and song sessions can be held monthly, fortnightly or weekly, on a particular day. Some focus on song, others music, sometimes both. Some clubs book 'guest' performers. Go on, try a few from the list

Sunday Folk Club, music and song session, Halsway Manor, first Sunday (except August), **01984 618274** Folk and Roots Music Session, The Crown, Wells, 2nd Sunday, 01749 673457 Mitre Inn Folk Club, Glastonbury, alternate Fridays, **01458 831203** The Green Dragon Music Session, Combe St Nicholas, last Tues, **01460 234335** No Smoke Folk Club, Bridgwater Arts Centre, 1st Wednesday, **01278 422700** Old Inn Session and Singalong, Holton, Wincanton, 1st Weds, 01963 33205 Old Down Inn Acoustic Club, Emborough, Radstock, every Weds, 01761 241235

Milverton Music Club, The Victoria Rooms, Milverton near Taunton, 1st Friday, Blazing Stump Folk Club, Royal Oak, Luxborough, 2nd Friday, **07970 116816** Nailsea Folk Club, Ring O' Bells, 3rd Friday, **01275 858756** Shepherd's Rest Singaround, Taunton, 4th Friday, **01823 272826** 

li's, The Rose & Crown, singaround, Huish Episcopi, 3rd Sat (September–May) The Acorn Folk Club, The Old Ship Aground, Minehead, 1st Sat, **01643 709394** Folk Session, Ring O' Bells, Ashcott, Glastonbury, 1st Sat monthly, **01458 210232** 

**Festivals** Somerset's Folk festivals offer a range of performance and ipation opportunities in the heart of the Somerset countryside. Even onbury festival includes a roster of folk artists. Go for the day or stay for

West Somerset Folk Festival, Carhampton, Minehead, end of June, 01643 Priddy Folk Festival, second weekend July, 01749 870981 Glastonbury Festival last weekend June, 01458 834596 nerset Schools Country Dance Festival, Wells, Saturday afternoon mid June,

Venues Programming Folk Catch national and international folk performers at venues across the county. Many arts centres also programme song, dance, percussion and other workshops inspired by Bridgwater Arts Centre, 01278 422700 The David Hall Arts Centre, South Petherton, 01460 240340 The Meeting House, Ilminster, 01460 54973

Merlin Theatre, Frome, **01373 465949** Tacchi-Morris Arts Centre, Monkton Heathfield, Taunton **01823 414144** Strode Theatre, Street, **01458 442 846** Folk Organisations Folk South West, regional folk development agency, **01935 822911** 

The Brewhouse, Taunton, 01823 283244

Halsway Manor Society residential centre for traditional folk music, song, dance and crafts, **01984 618274** Community Choirs and Bands Join a community choir or folk band. Most of the teaching is 'by ear', to be accessible to all. Dust off your voice, get out that fiddle, trumpet or flute, why

Barley Rye, Ring O'Bells, Nailsea, Sunday evenings, 01275 852991 Frome Community Choir, Frome, Monday evenings, 01373 467324 Voice of the People, Community Choir, Bridgwater Arts Centre, Wednesday evenings, fortnightly, **01278 422700** Meeting Voices Community Choir, Chard Town Hall, Wednesday evenings

A Company of Voices, Holway Park Sch. Taunton, Thurs evenings, 01823 252191 Stanchester Quire, All Saints Primary School, Montacute, Thurs evenings, 01935 822911

Fiddling Folk for children and young people, North Curry Village Hall, Taunton, 1st Sunday, afternoon, **01823 490269** The Albion Horns, North Curry, Wednesday evenings, **01823 490219**  $f Morris\ Dance\ Sides$  Most Morris and clog dance sides

rehearse weekly and 'dance-out' at festivals, fetes, fundraisers and other

events. New members are welcome but please note that sides can be exclusively for men, women or both (mixed). Best to enquire before you turn up Bathampton Morris Men, Cotswold Morris, Winsley, near Bradford-on-Tone, Thursday evenings, **01225 867031** Cam Valley Morris Men, Cotswold Morris, Midsomer Norton, Monday evenings

Dr Turberville's Morris, Mixed Cotswold Morris, Merriott, Crewkerne, Tuesday evenings, **01458 272062** Mendip Morris Men, Congresbury, Monday evenings, 01934 624067 Priston Jubilee Morris, Cotswold Morris, Priston, Monday evenings,

Somerset Morris, Women's Cotswold Morris, Marksbury, Thursdays evenings Taunton Deane Morris Men, Cotswold and Border Morris, Wilton, Taunton, Tuesday evenings, **01460 54559** West Somerset Morris Men, Halsway Manor, Thurs. evenings, 01643 862541 Withy Morris Mixed Morris, Wellington, Thurs. evenings, **01823 442453** 

Wyvern Jubilee Morris, Cotswold team, Yeovil, Thurs. evenings, 01963 440612

Clog, Appalachian, Stave Dance These, like the Morris, are display dance teams who 'dance out' at festivals, fetes and fundraisers New members are welcome and tuition is provided. Open evening

Beetlecrushers Clog and Step Dance, Binegar, Shepton Mallet, Wednesday evenings, **01373 812227** No Mean Feet, Appalachian, West Chinnock, Tuesday evenings, **01935 826758** 

Sweet Coppin, Ladies Clog Team, Taunton, Monday evenings, **01823 323905**  $\label{thm:condition} \textit{Treacle Eater Clog, Northwest Clog team, Yeovil, Mon. evenings, \textbf{01963 34953}}$ Mendip Stave Dancers 01749 860348 Mr Wilkins' Shilling Women's Northwest Morris, Bath, Thurs. evenings, 01225

Folk Dance Clubs Social dance is probably most popular with the 50 plus age group. It affords a lovely way to meet new friends, dance and socialize. Don't worry if you don't know the dances, they are easily learned and in fact you probably learned some of them at school. Remember the days when we had 'country dancing' lessons?

Bridgwater Country Dancers, St George's Hall, Monday evenings, 01823 491662 olk Dance Club, Over Stratton Village Hall, alternate Wednesday evenings, Halsway Contra Club, Halsway Manor, 2nd Wednesday evening except August, 01278 732202

Jubilee Folk and Country Dance Club, New Memorial Hall, Cheddon Fitzpaine, nursday evenings, **01823 491662** Wiveliscombe Folk Dance Club, Community Centre, Tues. evenings 01984 623495 Mummers Traditionally a Christmas activity, the mummers play

combines a curious cast of characters in a tale of death and renewal. Contact the mummers for details of their performances. Bishopswood Mummers, Taunton **01823 270754** North Curry Mummers. 01823 490007









1903: HAMBRIDGE

John England

2 Harry Richards

Harry Richards (1840-

1925) spent all his life in

Curry Rivel, living in Old

Churchay and later near

the Bell Hotel. He was a

quarryman by trade, but a

gardener by choice, as

Cecil Sharp's photograph

shows. His large and wide

repertoire enlarged Cecil's

knowledge of folk song and

buried at Curry Rivel.

enriched the published Folk

Songs from Somerset. He is Harry Richards of Curry Rivel

3 Lucy White & Louie Hooper

Lucy White and Louisa ('Louie') Hooper were half-

sisters, born in 1848 and 1860 respectively. Their

mother, Mrs. England, had been one of the most

renowned singers in the district until her death in

bridge outside her home at Hambridge

in Westport, and Charles Marson was trying hard to get

their living conditions improved. They were among the

first singers collected from by Cecil Sharp, and he was

his collecting career, because they were natural

musicians with a huge repertoire of songs. Louie

Louie lived on to become the Grand Old Lady of

Hooper in particular loved instrumental music, and

Cecil gave her a concertina. Lucy died in 1923, but

Somerset folk song and be visited by the increasing

numbers who followed in Cecil's footsteps. In 1942-43

she was visited by Douglas Cleverdon of the BBC, and

several of her songs were recorded for posterity. She

died on Ash Wednesday 1946. The sisters have an

entry in the Oxford Dictionary of National Biography.

immensely fortunate to find them at the very outset of

1892. Both married, but Louie was widowed within

nonths. By 1901 they were living in adjacent houses

# Somerset has a

...it's an amazing story of Somerset people who sang. Their songs inspiring great musicians who wrote works performed worldwide. These maps locate the singers and tell the story of Cecil Sharp and Charles Marson who collected their songs over one hundred years ago. You can also find out where to go to hear folk songs, see folk traditions, watch folk dances and perhaps join in. There's lots of opportunity here in this most musical of counties. So come all ye!

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS Research & compilation by /vette Staelens and C. J. Bearman Published by Somerset County Council Cultural Service © Yvette Staelens & Somerset County Council esign by Andrew Cran Printed by Remous Ltd. Milborne Port Photos: Somerset singers © EFDSS (except Lucy White private collection); Ian Tapscott; David Sutcliffe; David wrence; John Howson, Yvette Staelens

The information on this map has been compiled in good faith and Somerset Council will accept no responsibility for any errors or omission

Research generously supported by the Marc Fitch Fund

### 2 Charles Marson

born into a clergyman's family on 16 May1859, educated at Clifton College and University he went to Australia and met Cecil Sharp in Adelaide. They immediately became friends. In 1892. Marson and his family returned to England where he struggled to



find work. After curacies in Soho and Somers Town he was appointed vicar of Hambridge in 1895. Charles was a Christian Socialist and in Hambridge he put his beliefs into practice, symbolically washing the feet of poor village boys on Maundy Thursday and persuading the villagers to make their own Nativity Play and act in it; he also tried to get landlords to improve the cottages in which his poorest parishioners lived. He helped to establish a branch of the Independent Labour Party in Langport in 1908 and was a popular preacher at local celebrations, well known for his ability to make congregations laugh. He and Cecil Sharp collected folk songs together initially, but in 1906 they quarrelled and never saw one another again. On 3 March 1914, Charles Marson died from a heart attack. Cecil Sharp attended the funeral.

### Cecil Sharp in Somerset

Cecil Sharp travelled mostly by bicycle on his words in notebooks, a process which took a cumbersome. It was also most uncomfortable for the singers who were required to bury their heads into what looked like a large bucket for

little time, but which enabled him to get to collection of photographs of the singers, are now held in the Vaughan Williams Memorial Library at Cecil Sharp House, headquarters of the English Folk Dance and

- Cecil Sharp was born in London on St Cecilia's ly, 22 November 1859. Educated at Uppingham School and Clare College Cambridge, he went to seek his fortune in Australia
- Adelaide, and met a young clergyman named Charles Marson
- hildhood sweetheart Constance Birch in 1893 the same year Charles Marson became vicar of Hambridge, Somerset.
- Cecil became interested in folk music through teaching and the problem of finding songs which
- He published his first collection. A Book of British ong for Home and School in 1902.
- Cecil had not yet done any folk song collecting of own, but in 1903 Charles wrote to tell him that his gardener, John England, knew some folk songs. Cecil went down to Hambridge and
- Cecil had two music teaching jobs and so the only leisure time he had for collecting was the school
- For more than five years Cecil spent nearly every day of his spare time in Somerset travelling hundreds of miles by train and bicycle, meeting more than 300 singers and collecting more than
- Retween 1904 -1909 he nublished the five volumes of Folk Songs from Somerset and his theoretical book English Folk Song: Some Conclusions, which revolutionised knowledge of
- between 1903 and 1909.
- After that he did most of his work in other well as songs

**III** Betsy Holland

Simonsbath in August that

impressed that he called

the family a few days

later, on the road to

BRIDGWATER

whom Betsy said she learned the song.

John Short (1838-1933) was born at Watchet, but

ecame a deep-sea sailor, spending his time on

windjammers because he did not consider that

steamships produced 'real sailors'. After he retired

rom the sea he returned to Watchet, became the

Levels

Moors

LANGPORT 4 Huish Episco

SOMERTON

1908: QUANTOCKS

Betsy Holland was born at Kentisbeare, Devon, in

1880. Her family were travellers, but did not travel

widely, circulating around mid and north Devon and

western Somerset, though her grandmother had beer

Cambridgeshire. It is not known when she married, but

by 1907 she was travelling with her husband and

several small children. Cecil Sharp met her near

more adventurous and came from Wisbech

- tween 1913 and 1916.
- During the First World War, he collected songs in e Appalachian Mountains of the USA, helping t develop the folk music movement there, and his
- work made him the leading international authority He continued to collect, organise and publish unti ess than a month before his death from cancer or 22 June 1924
- In 1911 Cecil founded the English Folk Dance
- n 1932 the Folk Song Society merged with the FDS to form the present English Folk Dance and Song Society (EFDSS). Its headquarters in north London is Cecil Sharp House

### IS YOUR ANCESTOR HERE

Can you spot your family name amongst Cecil Sharp's not? A good way to start is with the Somerset & Dorset Family History Society. They have an excellent website full of tips, links and news, and they publish a regular magazine for members. Visit www.sdfhs.org for more information

Harriet Moger, East Harptre

s. Brooks, Bridgwater

Joseph Laver, Bridgwate

William Mantell, Bridgwate

William Mead, Bridgwater

Simmonds, Ubley

ohn Stafford, Bishop's

Albert Stock, Temple Cloud

Mrs. Porter, Bridgwater

A.A. Clarke, Wells

George Templeman,

Mary Bunston, Hambridge Compton Martin George Radford, Bridgwate Job Gillard, Hambridge Harriet Goodland, Hambridg Mr. Rapsey, Bridgwate seph Hamlet, Barrington Louisa Hooper, Hambridge Charles Turner, Bridgwater Charles Parsons, Long Sutton John Vincent, Priddy Miss Quick, Drayton om Spracklan, Hambridge muel Weeks, Priddy (Well St Cuthbert)

Lucy White, Hambridge James Woodland, Stocklinch Mrs. Balsh, Ubley James Barnett, Bridgwate

Giles Adams, Isle Brewers William Bennett, Bridgwate John Coles, Hambridge Joseph Cornelius, Shepton ames Brooks, Bridgwater Sarah Gummer, Hambridge Alfred Harris, Shepton Ellen Carter, Cheddar Mrs. Chapman, Ubley John Jeffrey, Isle Brewers

Elizabeth Lock, Muchelney Anna Pond Shepton Mrs. Chedzoy, Puriton Beauchamp Mrs. William Ree, Hambridge William Spearing, Isle Mrs. Coombes, Bridgwate

Brewers Ann Welch, Shepton John Culley, Farrington Emma Welch, Isle Brewer Lizzie Welch, Hambridge Alfred Willy, Hambridge Mr. Gordge, Bridgwate

William Brister, Ilminster Mrs. Dabbenett, Barringtor Anne Dyke, Kingsbury

Ann Lacey, Drayton James Southward, Bridgwat Abraham Lawrence, Ilminster George Lawrence, Kingsbury Episcopi Mrs. Joseph Ree, Hambridge

Mrs. Perry, Langport

Ellen Trott, Langport

Eliza Sweet, Somerton

Jane Wheller, Langport

Harry Richards, Curry Rive

Christopher Shire, Langpor

Langport John Trump, North Petherton Mrs. Trump, North Pethertor Benjamin Watts, Farrington Henry Payne, Curry Rivel

Charles Webb, Puriton Mrs. Bray, Langport Emma Glover, Huish Episcopi Mr. Hartland, Curry Rivel Charles Young, Puriton Mrs. Hull, Langport Alfred Edgell, Chew Magna Eliza Hutchings, Langport Mrs. Kettle, Langport Emma Overd, Langport Mrs. Palmer, Langport

Alfred Chard, Chew Stoke William Chorley, Bridgwate Valter Edgell, Chew Magna John Fackrell, Bridgwater Mrs. Hill, Bridgwater John King, Chew Stoke

Caroline Cox, High Ham Florence Lockett, East Mrs. Marchant,

Bridgwater/North Richard Olding, Bridgwater Lavinia Rendall, Chew Magna riendship Roynan, Chew Mrs. Sage, Chew Magna

Mrs. Walters, Bridgwater Edward Harrison, Langport John Wedlock, Chew Magna Mary Ann Lawrence

Thomas Green. Wells Mrs. Jarrett, Bridgwate

Mrs. Jarvis, Bridgwate Mrs. Tucker, Huish Episcopi

> George Say, Axbridge Elizabeth Seelev. Bridgwate

> > Elsie Simmons, East Harptre William Walter, Wells Workhouse

Francis Trusler, Wells/Mells

Henry Bailey, Bridgwater Charles Bonny, Bridgwate

Dorothy Bonney, Bridgwate Irene Bonney, Bridgwater William Hobbs, Bridgwater

"Hazlebury Plucknett

Mr. Bollen, Ilchester John Holt, Hazelbury

Plucknett Henry Larcombe, Hazelbury Plucknett Caroline Laurence, Merriott Selina Lawrence, Merriott

Mr. Morris, Marston Magna Mrs. Parsons, Marston John Patch, Hazelbury

Mrs. Meecham, Merriott

Plucknett

Plucknett

Harriet Young, West Chinool

Lucy Carter, Tintinhull

Anna Abbott, Fast Coker

Alfred John Neville, West

Mrs. Slade, Minehead

William Gard, Willitor

John Chapman, Dunster

Bessie Huxtable, Minehead

Henry Cudland, Old Cleeve

Washford/Old, Cleeve

John Stark, Wiveliscom

Robert Parish, Exford

Albert Pool, Exford

John Thorne, Halse

Mr. Voolacott, Dulvertor

Betsy Holland, Simonsbatl

Minehead/Old Cleeve

Mary Ann Burnett.

Sarah Tarr, Dulverton

Jim Squires, Holford

William Bailey, Canningtor

Hugh Barrett, Cannington

Charlotte Binding, Stogursey

Louisa Barrett, Canningto

William Burland, Stogurse

Elizabeth Coles, Nether

Edwin Davey, Cannington

Mrs. Davey, Canningto

Mrs. Graddon, Stogurs

John Haste, Enmore

Jack Crewys, Halse

Flizabeth Loveless, Stolford

Grace Coles, Enmore

William Crockford,

William Davis, Porlock

Joe Milton, Withypool

William Sparks, Minehead

Mrs. Francis, Rimpton

Mrs. Callow, Bagboroug (Stockland Bristol) Mrs. Sherring, Marston James Chedgey, Over Stow Mr. Warren, Hazelbury

lenry Conybeare, Combe Edward Feast, Cannington lames Fudge, Bishops

Charles Ash, Crowcombe

Mr. Beemer, Crowcombe

Mary Ann Ash, Canningtor

Jim Gray, Enmore Jane Gulliford, Combe Flore Esau Porter, Enmore Mrs. Stanley, Spaxton Mrs. Temlett, Bagborough

Charles West, Broomfield

Mrs. Coles, Over Stowey Minehead and Exmoor

John Hill, Bagborough Tom Hill, Bagborough

Frome area

John Arnold, Frome T Buckley, Castle Car Henry Cave, Evercreed John Gartell, Castle Cary lames Grace, Frome Charles Harvey, Croscor lames Higgens, Shepton Mrs Millard, Castle cary Isaac Perkins, Nettlebrid

Theodore Taylor, Shepton Mrs Tilley, Clutton

Weston Super Mare Mr Bailey, Bleadon Mary Brewer, Huntspi

Albert Dowden, Huntspil Mrs Duddridge, Mark Eliza Dunstan, Mark Sam Evry, Bleadon C A Johnson, Charterhous Ben Leader, Badgworth Mrs Pople, Brent Knoll Fred Patch Charles Porter, Bleadon Mr Stileman, Weston Super

William Kingdon, Simonsbath

Henry Tidball, Wedmore Mr Watts, Worle Captain Hole, Watchet Mr. Clatworthy, Blue Anchor

Taunton area Samuel Barman, Durston Mr Dommett, Pitminste

David Oaten, Taunton Betsey Smith, Creech St Charles Spiller, Pitminster Caroline Passmore, Pitminster

Mr Passmore, Pitminste Benjamin Warren, Taunto Bridgwater area

Alfred Emery, Othery George Emery, Othery Charlotte Hector, Burrowbridge lames Lockyer, Middlez Sarah Clarke, Meare Samuel Crane, Meare Edmund Easton, Mea lacob Giblett, Meare Charles Norris, Meare

Oliver Shutler, Comptor

George Whitcombe, Meare

Yeovil area

William Cornelius, South Caroline Hill, Long Load Walter Locock, Martock John Swain, Donyatt

Emma, Wilkins Combwich Eliza Woodberry, Ash Priors

Walter Raymond Mrs Stanswell



First Sunday in the month (except August A friendly group that meets in the Halsway lounge at 8pm. We welcome singers, players, writers, readers and listeners. Informal and relaxed atmosphere. Bar open. Contact: Deryck Deane

collecting journeys criss-crossing the county on his quest for its hidden folk songs. In the early 1900s, portable recording equipment was just becoming available but was very the sounds to be recorded. Cecil Sharp preferred to notate song tunes and record the

John England was born in 1865 at Hambridge. After

village, married, and became Charles Marson's

working as a farm labourer in Dorset he returned to the

ardener and general

outdoor servant. His song

The Seeds of Love' was

the first that Cecil Sharp

collected, on 22 August

.903. In 1912, he and

is family emi-grated to

Saskatchewan, Canada.

vhere his descendants

know his singers. One of the most remarkable

He made music his profession while living in

Cecil returned to England in 1892 and married his

collected 'The Seeds of Love' on 22 August 1903.

folk songs in England.

He made a further five collecting visits to Somerset

Society (EFDS)

# Follow the Singers Trail

6 Jack Barnard

NAUGUST 1903, London music teacher Cecil Sharp visited his friend Reverend Charles Marson at Hambridge and heard John England, the vicarage gardener sing 'The Seeds of Love'. Thus began one of the most remarkable adventures in English music. In Somerset, over the next thirteen years or so, Sharp visited 122 locations, collected songs and tunes from 358 named individuals, and gathered children's games from twenty schools. Perhaps one of these singers or children was your ancestor? Maybe Cecil collected in your town or village?

Singers hotographed listed in date order as visited by Cecil Sharp

### 1904: LANGPORT

4 Emma Overd Emma Overd was born in 1838 at Port Field, Curry Rivel, but spent most of her life in Langport 'Westover'.

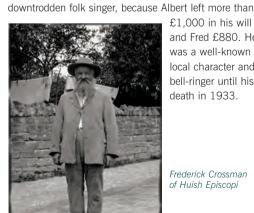
income through willow peeling or 'withy-stripping She was fond of a drink, unusually preferring beer t cider, and she was outside a pub when Cecil Sharp first met her. She asked what he wanted, and on being told it was songs, danced him round and round 'with the utmost

vigour', shouting to her

friends that her 'beau' had come at last. Cecil was fascinated by her large, wide, and unusual repertoire of songs. It is possible that these came from her paternal grandmother, Rebecca Weaver, born in the 1770s, who cared for the family after her mother's death in 1846. Emma's husband died in 1914, but she lived on in good health until 1927, then went into a decline which ended in her death the following year. She is buried at Curry Rivel and has an entry in the Oxford Dictionary of National

### Biography

5 Frederick Crossman Fred Crossman was born at Huish Episcopi in 1846. His acquaintance with folk music began when he was a boy, buying ballad sheets at Bridgwater Fair. As a young man, he worked as a gardener in Brewham and Bruton before returning to Huish and setting up as a market gardener with his brother Albert. It is probably not a coincidence that they both lived near Emma Glover, another noted singer, and also near the Rose and Crown pub. Fred and Albert advertised their produce in local newspapers and drove to sell it at Bridgwater. Their business prospered, and neither brother conforms to the common picture of the poor



local character and bell-ringer until his death in 1933.

£1.000 in his will

of Huish Episcopi



'Jack Barnard's' real name was John Barnett, and he was born in Bridgwater around 1861. His father

James was also a singer, and they lived in the West She was married to an agricultural labourer and Street/Halswell Lane area of the town, amid a number of other singers. They worked at brickmaking and later as scavengers and stone-breakers, work probably given them in return for poor relief. Cecil Sharp met them through the agency of Revd. W.K. Warren, who was curate of St. Mary's church and the Workhouse chaplain. 'Jack Barnard' had no use of his legs, at a time when disabled children did not usually attend school, so he was illiterate, but he had a store of more than 150 songs and helped Cecil Sharp get contact with other singers, most notably Elizabeth Porter and her daughter Lilv, who lived next door Emma Overd at her home in





7 George Wyatt George (1822-1907) and Lydia (1828-1916) Wyatt were among several singers in West Harptree from whom Cecil Sharp collected in 1904-5, with the aid of the Kettlewell family. He was an agricultural labourer who spent all his life in the village, and it is interesting that they gave their sons Biblical names - Absalom Minchead

Mark, and Simonsbath Exford Matthew. After George's death Workhouse (workhouses were the old peoples' homes of the day) where she died.



is wife Lydia at their cottage in West



his life in Minehead, at 1 Middle Street, Higher Town. His father John was a blacksmith and William followed he is also said to

have rented properties to holidaymakers. His song 'The Two Magicians' was the only item Cecil Sharp collected from him, but it was unique in Somerset and rare elsewhere William became ill in 1916 and died in Taunton Hospital.





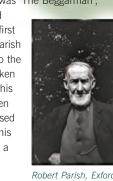


Interestingly he does not stereotype, because he received a lengthy obituary in the local newspaper, and one of his

Robert Parish (1822-1909) was among severa

singers whom Cecil Sharp met in Exford. He was born in 1822 and spent all his life in the village, working as a gardener and living in Glebe tailor, and that may be one of the reasons for his smart appearance in Cecil's photograph. Among the songs collected from him was 'The Beggarman'.

descended from 'Back and Side Go Bare' which was first printed in 1557. Robert Parish remained in good health to the end of his life, and had taken his usual walk, inspected his vegetable garden, and eaten his dinner when he collapsed and died suddenly, while his daughter was making him a cup of tea.



Town Crier, and devotedly nursed his wife, who was crippled by arthritis. In 1914, he was visited by Cecil Sharp, who in three days collected from him over sixty sea shanties, many of which were not previously known. He was afterwards visited by another seashanty collector, Sir Richard Terry. He was a very remarkable natural musician, with a deep, powerful,

ILMINSTER

### distinction of having ar obituary published in The Times.

yet flexible voice, and

ability into his nineties.

was only in the last few

months of his life that

illness confined him to

his house. He shares

with Cecil Sharp the

retained his singing

Elizabeth Mogg was born in Over Stowey in 1830. She

was living in Nether Stowey in 1881 and working as a dressmaker, and although unmarried had a son born at Holford. By 1891 she had migrated to Dodington, where she lived in the household of her brother-in law Henry Chilcott, with James Squires, another singer. Cecil Sharp collected from her in Holford and she was buried from Hilton Cottages, in that village, in

B Elizabeth Mogg



West Harptree

March 1921.

comerset folk song collector. Other collector ousy in Somerset include, Kate Lee (1859-1904), a concert and opera singer who was the first Secretary of the Folk Song Society. She collected sea songs in Minehead in the 1890s.

teachers and they moved on to Dorset respectively Mrs Lock, singer of Priscilla Wyatt-

Edgell (1872-1934) photographed by Cecil lived at Cowley Place, near Exeter, 1904 and besides work ir

Devon collected in Minehead and mid-Somerset, sending the results to Cecil Sharp E.T.W. Wedmore was a Folk Song Society nember who collected in Minehead. Cecil Sharp also had a number of collaborators chiefly clergy and their families like D.M. Ross,

Peppin at Marstor Magna, and the Sorby nily at Enmore, but rhaps the most markable was Alice Snow in Somerton. The daughter and grandlaughter of folk singers e had risen from a

became a musically

vicar of Langport, Gerald Lydia Wyatt, West Harptree



or background to

### A Victorian passion Cecil Sharp was not the first or the only

Frederick Crossman, Huish Mrs. Fido, Langport Mabel Sandford, Draytor Eliza Small, Langport William Snow, Somerton Lucy Swaine, Somerton



Benjamin Horler, East Sharp probably in April

iterate elementary school teacher who collected from her grandmother Betsy Pike and others.



Harptree & Bridgwater John Durbin, East Harptree

> F.B. Kettlewell, East Harptree William King, East Harptree Elizabeth Price, Compton John Purnell, East Harptree John Stevens, Compton John Voke, Priddy George Wyatt, West Harptree

James Bale, Bridgwater Richard Barnard, Priddy ames Bishop, Priddy Martha Badley, North John Briffett, Bridgwater William Briffett, Bridgwater nomas Brunt, Blagdon Wilson Champ, East Harptree

Robert Dibble, Bridgwater nomas Griffiths, Bridgwater Samuel Horler, Ubley Jessie Jefferies, Cheddar

Elizabeth Mogg, Holford James Proll, Monksilve James Thomas, Cannington John Thorne, Halse William Tucker, Skilgate Eliza Wilkins, Över Stowey Tom Pearce, Winford

> Eliza Hill, Over Stowey Elizabeth Starkey, Over Mrs. Ware, Over Stowey

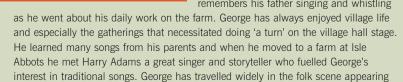
Charles Wooley, Nether

William Wooley, Over Stowey

Location not Known John Meetch or Weetch



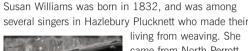
www.halswaynnanor.org.uk



that Cecil Sharp died, into a Somerset as he went about his daily work on the farm. George has always enjoyed village life and especially the gatherings that necessitated doing 'a turn' on the village hall stage.

George Withers was born in 1924, the year at the National Folk Festival and at festivals from Wadebridge to Whitby and in the west farming family. He has sung all his life and of Ireland. 'I have met some lovely people, I emembers his father singing and whistling don't know much about them, they could be criminals, but we are all brothers in song'. To hear George sing and perhaps recite some of monthly song session at Eli's in Huish





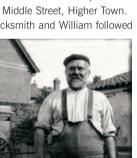
1906: HAZELBURY PLUCKNETT

**8** Susan Williams

ving from weaving. She ame from North Perrott, but had been living in Hazlebury since the 1860s. Her husband died between 1881 and 1891 and she later lived with her son Robert. She died in March 1915.

her performance of the Execution Song 'the finest ısan Williams. Hazelbury and most characteristic bit of singing I had ever heard.' He caught up with

1907: MINEHEAD AND EXMOOR Bideford, and then in January 1908 tracked 9 William Sparks down the grandmother. Rebecca Holland, from William Sparks (1854-1916) was born and spent all





sons was serving in the mounted Yeomanry of TAUNTON

Cottage, next to the church. His son Robert was a

