

We are delighted to welcome you back to Stowmarket for this year's Traditional Music Day. Once again there are a large number of Concerts, Workshops, Sessions, Talks, Storytellers, Music stalls and plenty of Dance to enjoy and all situated at various venues around the town. Events across the day time (10.30am-5.00pm) are free, thanks to the support of Mid Suffolk District Council as part of their Community Development Fund and Stowmarket Town Council and locality budgets.

This event is being run all across the town and we are grateful to the community of Stowmarket for their help in making that happen. We are, as ever, indebted to our wonderful volunteers who have made up the TMD Team for their tireless work and especially to Alan Bearman, Jan Robinson, Shirley Harry, Nina Truin, Fiona Davies, George Monger, Peter Booth, Steve Atkinson, Doreen West, Eammon Andrews, Sue Lawrence, and Dave Evans. We also have many more additional voluntary artists and helpers who all help to make the day run smoothly.



Performance times and venues

Where events are marked with * more details of the event can be found in the appropriate artist section.

John Peel Centre

10.15pm Join **Cllr Terence Carter**, **Mayor of Stowmarket** and the **Trustees** for the official opening. Students from **Stowupland High School** will be showcasing their folk dance routine as part of our **Stowmarket on Show** project which was funded by MSDC's Community Development Fund.

10.30-12.00pm Welcome Session with the 11 Market Place Folk Sessioners led by George Monger

12.30-1.30pm Finn Collinson and **Archie Churchill-Moss** will be teaching a tune and giving some key tips.*

2.00-3.30pm Damien Barber is joined by some of his oldest friends and inspirations in an informal concert celebrating the Norfolk folk song revival of the 1970s and 80s. We are expecting Sheila Park, Tony Hall, Molly Barrett (Nudds), Rita Gallard, and Damien's father Mike Barber.

4.00-5.00pm Join Kerry Fletcher and Tim Brooks for a workshop in Stepdancing.

7.15pm Concert with Jackie Oates and Jon Wilks, Damien Barber, Finn Collinson and Archie Churchill-Moss, The Norfolk Broads, Harbour Lights Trio. Mike Norris MC. The evening starts with a Stepdance tribute.

THIS IS A TICKETED EVENT. There may be an opportunity to purchase from St Peter's Hall on the day subject to availability.

Stowmarket Scout Centre

11.00 -12.30pm Katie Howson starts the day with a talk on local musician **Fred Whiting – A Life in Songs** and introduces Megan Wisdom's new book Handmade Music-Suffolk Voices from the John Howson Collection.*

1.00-2.00pm Phil Lyons presents his show '**A Sailor's Life'**. Phil uses contemporary 18th and 19th Century songs and broadsides to illustrate various aspects of the social lives of sailors in Nelson's navy with some fascinating facts!

2.30pm-3.30pm Mary Humphreys presents **Lesser Known East Anglian Folk Songs collected in the 20th Century.** Collectors may include Ella Bull, Vaughan Williams, Clive Carey, Cecil Sharp and George Butterworth. **4.00pm-5.00pm John Marshall-Potter** talks about Volume 2 of **The Larks They Sang Melodious** celebrating 50 years since the original. He will be joined by **Tony Hall** who features on both recordings and contributors to Volume 2 including **Alvar Smith**.

Storytelling

Join tellers John Row, Dave Tonge and Chris Richardson for an hour of wonderful tales in Stowmarket Library from 12.00pm-1.00pm.

For the rest of the day, the three storytellers will be travelling across the town, stopping and telling their tales. Chris and Dave will also be sharing news of a new Storytelling Club starting up in Stowmarket. Do stop and listen!

British Legion

12.00pm-1.15pm Peter & Barbara Snape with a guest performance by Ellen Mitchell

2.00pm-3.15pm Liz Giddings & Roger Digby with a guest performance by Bill Murray.

4.00pm-5.00pm The Medlars. Introduced by Shirley Harry.

7.30pm-10.30pm Mike Bettison & Dan Quinn host an evening informal concert with Peter & Barbara Snape, Ellen Mitchell, Roger Digby, Liz Giddings & Katie Howson, Bill Murray, Mary Humphreys & Anahata. This is a Ticketed Event. There may be an opportunity to purchase from St Peter's Hall on the day subject to availability.

St Peter's and St Mary's Church

Stowmarket on Show features a selection of local singing groups each promoting their group during the day in **St Peter's and St Mary's Church** from **10.45am-2.15pm**. Come and find out what's going on in your town and maybe even think about joining!

Let's Sing 10.45am Stowmarket U3A Singing Group 11.30am The Big Old Sing 12.15 pm Stowmarket Women's Song Circle 1.00pm VivaVoices 1.45pm

2.30pm-3.30pm The Norfolk Broads' Harmony Workshop. Learn some of their favourite folk song arrangements in this inclusive workshop featuring rounds, ballads and a few things in between. All welcome!

Royal William

12.00pm-2.30pm Michael Sheehy and Alan Block leading a Traditional Irish Music Session. All Welcome **3.00pm-4.30pm** Traditional music from both sides of the Atlantic with **The Old Timers' String Band**. *

The Royal William welcomes musicians on Saturday evening.

11 Market Place

12.30pm-2.30pm Join the **Harbour Inn Crowd** from Southwold for a session hosted by **Derek Simpson**. All Welcome. *

3.00pm-4.30pm Music and Song Session with Mike Bettison and Dan Quinn. All Welcome

5.00pm-6.30pm Eammon Andrews, EATMT Trustee, offers a Chance to Sing session. All Welcome

7.30pm-10.30pm An Evening of Sea Songs and Shanties led by Capstan Old Strength

Fox Yard

Buskers will be entertaining in half hour slots during the day:

11.00am – 11.30am	Heather Bexon
11.40am – 12.10pm	Jack & Molly Bishop
12.20pm – 12.50pm	Pete Gosling & Sarah Sloane
1.00pm – 1.30pm	Otis Luxton
1.40pm – 2.10pm	Sarah Stock
2.20pm – 2.50pm	Simon Bentley
3.00pm – 3.30pm	Barry O'brien
3.40pm – 4.10pm	Jane Spencer-Rolfe
4.20pm – 4.50pm	Lena Jaglowska
5.00pm – 5.30pm	Lillith Freeman & Lou Bristow-Bell

St Peter's Church Hall

11.00am-12.00pm "Have A Go" – there will be an opportunity to have a go at traditional instruments – the **melodeon** and the **concertina** and learn to dance a **Jig Doll** where you'll be guided by patient musicians **Jill Parson**, **Rita Gallard** and **Mike Acott**.

1.00pm-2.30pm Dulcimer Finds – join **Richard Blake**, **George Monger and Sally Whytehead** talking about their new finds, their renovation projects and take the opportunity to "Have a Go" at the Dulcimer – an East Anglian traditional instrument

3.00pm-4.00pm St Peter's Hall join **Poppy Price-Dowhan** and **Nathan Simms** for a **Broom Dancing** workshop. Brooms provided!

Bonitas Wholefood Shop

6-00pm- 9.00pm High Mileage local country band - Pop up bar and nibbles

The Queen's Head

9.00pm-10.00pm Jack & Molly Bishop - popular local brother and sister act

Dance the day away

11.00am-4.00pm We're excited to welcome 14 dance sides from around the Region of East Anglia offering **Morris, Molly and Rapper dancing** around the town. You'll find them on Ipswich Street in the **Royal Oak** Garden, outside **MSDC offices** on Ipswich Street, outside Kelly's Cabs on Ipswich Street, **The Market Place**, Asda's **Meadow Centre** outside Zarkey's and in the **Queen's Head** front garden.

1.00pm-2.00pm in the Market Place showcases another East Anglian Tradition
 Stepdancing – a solo form of dance. Come and watch how it's done and then join us for the workshop at 4.00pm in the John Peel Centre. with Fiona Davies, Kerry Fletcher, Ethan Beal, Dom Smith, Doreen West & more dancers from our region with musician Tim Brooks

We will be starting the **Evening Concert** at 7.15pm in the **John Peel Centre** with a **Stepdance Tribute**. This is a ticketed event. Doors open at 7.00pm.

3.00pm-4.00pm There's an opportunity to learn how to **Broom Dance** with local dancer/dance instructor and musician **Poppy Price Dowhan** assisted by **Nathan Simms.** This takes place in St Peter's Hall.



All day, FREE events to Listen, Sing & Play in

Thanks to funding from Mid Suffolk District Council and Stowmarket Town Council, EATMT is able to bring the daytime events to the town FREE OF CHARGE. If you've enjoyed what you've seen or got involved with, please consider making a donation – opportunities to do so will be found across the town with one of our Stewards.

There are 2 ticketed evening concerts – limited tickets available from St Peter's Hall!

A-Z Traditional Music Day Line up

 Bill Murray Bill has been singing songs from the northern slopes of Dartmoor for over fifty years. Songs about country life, most of them humorous, learnt from older generations of singers at get-togethers in village halls, fairs and inns. He plays many of the old dance tunes on the English concertina at pub sessions all over the Moor and recites very funny dialect stories and anecdotes from Devonshire and beyond. The Royal British Legion – Guest appearance with Liz Giddings & Roger Digby – 2.00pm-3.15pm FREE EVENT The Royal British Legion – Informal Evening Concert – 7.30pm-10.30pm This is a ticketed event. Doors open at 7.00pm
Capstan Full Strength Capstan Full Strength are a strong vocal harmony group who have sung songs of the sea, land and work since 1998. Their powerful 'broadside' of sound has been welcomed at festivals in Europe, Scandinavia and the British Isles. 'Capstan FS' offer an incredibly broad repertoire of maritime songs enhanced with beautiful harmonies and arrangements that will leave you enchanted. 11 Market Place 730pm-10.30pm Evening of Sea Songs and Shanties. FREE EVENT
Damien Barber Damian Barber is a stylish and distinctive singer, be it unaccompanied or alongside his guitar or English concertina. He has been heavily influenced by such earlier singers as Peter Bellamy and Walter Pardon from his native Norfolk. John Peel Centre, 2.00pm-3.30pm. FREE EVENT John Peel Centre Evening Concert – 7.30pm-10.30pm. This is a ticketed event. Doors open at 7.00pm.
 Eammon Andrews Eammon is a long term supporter of EATMT and more recently is an active Trustee. He is a regular singer on the East Anglian Traditional scene, regularly acting as MC at local sessions. Eammon has also recently added the art of Stepdancing to his talents! 11 Market Place 5.00pm-6.30pm A Chance to Sing session. All Welcome
East Anglian Storytellers Dave Tonge_is a jobbing teller of tales. An itinerant journeyman who performs at festivals, museums, heritage sites and schools. Dave specialises in telling period rich and often irreverent tales shared by the poorer folk long ago. Chris Richardson is a relative newcomer to the art of performance storytelling, but stories have been a constant companion through his life. Chris has collected and mixed snippets of myth and story from wherever he has found himself, be they the classical tales of ancient mythologies or the rich rural traditions of East Anglia.

Popping up across the town telling tales and promoting a new Storytelling Club which is being set up in Stowmarket. They will be telling from 11am throughout the day at various venues with an official stop-off at Stowmarket Library where they join John Row who will be leading a Story Round at 1.00pm. FREE EVENT
Ellen Mitchell As a teenager Ellen took part in sing-songs in common rooms and round camp fires and the discovery of folk clubs and festivals took Ellen further into the music and more traditional song. Ellen has learned songs by instinct as they appealed and is aware that a large part of her repertoire is love songs – but is also attracted to ballads and a wee bit of comedy. Royal British Legion Ellen makes a guest appearance with Peter & Barbara Snape from 12.00pm-1.15pm FREE EVENT Royal British Legion Informal Evening Concert at 7.30pm-10.30pm Ticketed event. Doors open at 7.00pm.
 Finn Collinson and Archie Churchill-Moss Finn Collinson is widely regarded as a ground-breaking recorder player on the English folk scene, as well as a distinguished guitarist, vocalist, tunesmith and educator. He is joined by Archie Churchill-Moss. Archie first started the Diatonic Accordion at the age of 9 in Somerset. His family have always had a firm foot in the English tradition and he is also widely regarded as one of best players of English Traditional Folk. John Peel Centre, 12.30pm-1.30pm for an Instrumental Tune Workshop: Finn and Archie will teach an instrumental tune. Their tips will help you improve your session skills, ensemble work and solo playing. All instruments welcome; music will be taught by ear. FREE EVENT John Peel Centre – Evening concert 7.30pm-10.30pm. This is a ticketed event. Doors open at 7.00pm.
Fiona DaviesFiona is a traditional Norfolk step dancer. She is also an artist, village- sign painter, music promoter and key figure in the Trust's Stepdancing activities. Fiona will be joined by some East Anglia's finest stepdancers near the Stowmarket Scout Centre. Come and see the different styles of dance and join in.Market Place 1.00pm-2.00pm Stepdancing – a solo form of dance. Come and watch how it's done and then join us for the workshop at 4.00pm in the John Peel Centre. Fiona will be involved in a Stepdance Tribute which kicks off our Evening Concert at the John Peel Centre. Doors open at 7.00pm. This is a ticketed event.

George Monger Conservator	George MongerGeorge is a folklorist, researcher and musician and leads monthly music sessions in 11 Market Place. He is also an active volunteer for the John Peel Centre for Creative Arts and a much respected member of the Traditional Music Day volunteer team.11 Market Place 10.30- 12.00pm Folk musicians led by George
	Harbour Inn CrowdThe collection of musicians – who are residents at The Harbour Inn Sessions in Southwold – host this inclusive 'sing, say or play' event based on a typical traditional Suffolk pub evening. Tunes, songs and step dancing from local & visiting musicians and guests. This social and relaxed occasion will give you the chance to join The Crowd to play or perform your party piece!11 Market Place Grab your instruments and join the Crowd for a Music and Song Session. Hosted by Derek Simpson 12.30pm-2.30pm. FREE EVENT
	Harbour Lights Trio Rob Neal, Derek Simpson and Alvar Smith aka The Harbour Lights Trio, entertain us with East Anglian Songs & Tunes on concertinas, melodeon, banjo, 'cello, guitar & harmonica John Peel Centre Evening Concert – 7.30pm-10.30pm. This is a ticketed event. Doors open at 7.00pm.
Photo credit: Anna Fuchs.	Jackie Oates & Jon Wilks Jackie Oates is an English Folk Musician, Singer, Performer and Educator. Jackie lives in Oxfordshire with her young family. After 17 years and seven solo albums Jackie is a central figure in the accomplished, informed and stylistically individual English traditional music scene that began in the early 2000s and continues to thrive. Jackie is joined by Jon Wilks a prominent fingerpicking guitarist and singer who performs traditional English folk songs and broadside ballads and is also the founder and editor of Tradfolk.co John Peel Centre in the Evening Concert – 7.30pm-10.30pm. Jackie will be joined in concert by Jon Wilks. This is a ticketed event. Doors open at 7.00pm.
	John Marshall-Potter John is co-founder of FolkEast. His experience spans thirty-plus years and various roles at every major UK festival, starting out as the site electrician at Knebworth for Led Zeppelin in 1979. He has been a long-term promoter – booking folk-legends like Martin Carthy and Dave Swarbrick into long-lost clubs and pubs in East Anglia. Stowmarket Scout Centre One of John's projects for 2023-24 has been the re-creation of <i>The Larks They Sang Melodious</i> album – celebrating 50 years since its original creation which was recorded at the Blaxhall Ship. Find out more at The Scout Centre , from 4.00pm- 5.00pm where John will be joined by one of the musicians on that

original recording Tony Hall plus a few contributors including Alvar Smith to this latest recording. FREE EVENT John Row John Row is a world renowned Storyteller. He's a 'local lad', who has performed locally, nationally and internationally for 50 plus years. John will be proudly carrying his newly published autobiography <i>"Pootling Through: A Life of Diversions"</i> around the town. His first wonderful book Out of the Hat was published in 2010. John will be <i>"pootling"</i> around the town from 11.00am, stopping to tell his tales as and where he sees fit. Stowmarket Library from 1.00pm until 2.00pm where he will be leading a Story Round with two more East Anglian Storytellers – Dave Tonge and Chris Richardson . FREE EVENTS.
 Katie Howson A freelance performer, tutor, researcher and animateur, well known of course, for being Artistic Director of the East Anglian Music Trust until 2017. Katie plays traditional music on the melodeon and harmonica and has spent much of her life either playing traditional music or passing it on to others. Stowmarket Scout Centre - Talk on local musician Fred Whiting – A Life in Songs (11.00am-12.30pm). Katie will look at Fred's life and why these songs meant so much to him. She will also be talking about a new book based on husband John's Suffolk collections FREE EVENT. Royal British Legion Katie joins Roger Digby and Liz Giddings at the Informal Evening Concert 7.30pm – 10.30pm. This is a ticketed event. Doors open at 7.00pm.
 Kerry Fletcher A choreographer and traditional dancer, Kerry is Co-Artistic Director of Folk Dance Remixed, a freelance community folk dance artist and is the coordinator of the English Folk Dance and Song Society's (EFDSS) national Folk Education Network. Kerry has hosted step dancing sessions for many years and runs an introductory stepping workshop this year. Market Place – Stepdancing.1.00pm-2.00pm. Come and watch how it's done and then join us for the workshop at 4.00pm in the John Peel Centre. Stepdance workshop 4.00pm. Kerry will be part of our Stepdance Tribute which kicks off our Evening Concert at the John Peel Centre. Doors open at 7.00pm. This is a ticketed event.

the passing moment	Liz Giddings & Roger Digby Traditional music from England, Ireland, Scotland and Newfoundland on fiddle and anglo concertina. Roger and Liz are both known for their commitment to traditional English dance music. Roger goes back to the earliest days of Flowers and Frolics in the mid-1970s; Liz, a generation younger, came to prominence in the English String Band. Royal British Legion Join Liz and Roger for a Showcase Performance 2.00pm-3.15pm. They will be joined by Bill Murray. FREE EVENT Royal British Legion Informal Evening Concert 7.30pm-10.30pm where they will be joined by Katie Howson. This is a ticketed event. Doors open at 7.00pm.
	Mary Humphreys & Anahata
	Mary and Anahata are folk singers and musicians, specialising in traditional English material. They were based in Cambridgeshire for almost twenty years and are now based in West Yorkshire. Stowmarket Scout Centre Mary will be presenting a talk on "Lesser Known East Anglian Songs" 2.30pm-3.30pm. FREE EVENT Royal British Legion for the Informal Evening Concert from 7.30pm- 10.30pm. This is a ticketed event. Doors open at 7.00pm.
THE HEY AT ANCHER	The Medlars Essex based trio, The Medlars, formed in 2009 and since 2017, their current line-up features Emma Hardy, Tom Hardy and Alie Barnes. They perform songs and tunes originated and rooted in the folk tradition, revisiting and creating new arrangements of classic English folk songs with a contemporary feel. Royal British Legion -showcase performance from 4.00pm-5.00pm. FREE EVENT
	Michael Sheehy Michael plays the piano accordion and is one of the finest exponents of the music of the Cork, Kerry, Limerick border. He plays in a style which is firmly rooted in the traditions of Sliabh luachra. Michael is joined by fiddler Alan Block who also featured on Michael's album on Veteran. The Cat's Rambles. Royal William 12.00pm– 2.30pm Traditional Irish Music Session with Michael Sheehy and Alan Brock. FREE EVENT
All Shares	Mike Bettison & Dan Quinn
	Mike & Dan play melodeon and ukulele and sing. Together and separately they were part of bands which changed the way English dance music is played – Flowers & Frolics and Gas Mark 5. They also sing songs from the music hall and one or two more recent ditties. 11 Market Place Join Mike and Dan for a Music and Song Session from 3.00pm-4.30pm (FREE EVENT). Royal British Legion Hosting the Informal Concert at the Royal British Legion from 7.30pm-10.30pm. This is a ticketed event. Doors open at 7.00pm.



Morris sides

September sees the end of the Morris dance out season and Traditional Music Day will be, for many, their final dance out this year. They are all making plans for their autumn/winter practices and recruitment drives. We have 14 sides joining us from across East Anglia. If you're looking for a fun, active new hobby, take a serious look at these sides and follow the links below for more details about their individual groups.

North West Clog

Haughley Hoofers, AnnieMation, Alive & Kicking, Rising Larks, Danegeld

Cotswold

East Suffolk. Hoxon Hundred

Border

Green Dragon, Bouddica, Belchamp Morris, Hells Bells

Molly

Oxblood Molly, Milkmaid Molly

Rapper

Old School Rapper



Credit – SJG Event Photography, Traditional Music Day 23 – Green Dragon Morris

There will be an opportunity to purchase merchandise from a number of musicians as well as from EATMT and stalls like **Rod Ward Violins** and **Veteran**. Of particular note is newly released material including:

"Handmade in Music: Suffolk Voices from the John Howson Collection" by Megan Wisdom – as discussed with Katie Howson at 11.00am "Pootling Through: A Life of Diversions" by John Row The Larks They Sang Melodious Volume 2 - Recording

We would like to thank **Stowmarket Town Council**, **Mid Suffolk District Council**, the people of Stowmarket. Thanks to our venues: The John Peel Centre for Creative Arts, The Church of St Peter's and St Mary's, St Peter's Church Hall, 11 Market Place, Stowmarket Library, Stowmarket Scouts Centre, The Pallet Bar/Fox Yard, The British Legion, The Royal William, Queen's Head and the Royal Oak.

 Whilst you are out and about around Stowmarket, look out for the Tinkler's Quest art trail
 an art project created in 2023 showcasing Storyelling paintings in situ at 9 venues over the town.

Do support the town's **Monthly Farmers' Market** as well as our local shops during the day!



Art – part of the Tinkler's Quest Art Project



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