

Notes

The Newsletter
of Readifolk

Issue 23

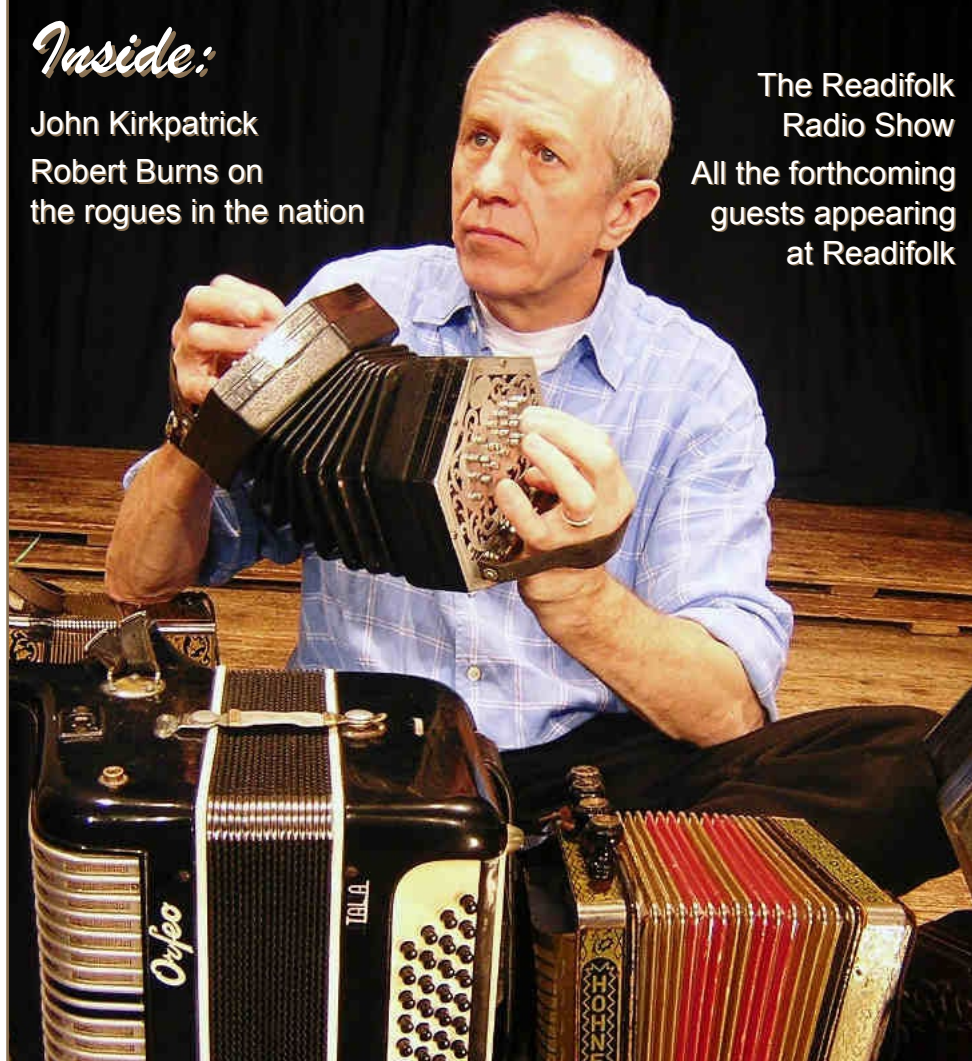
Reading's folk song
and music club

Autumn 2014

Inside:

John Kirkpatrick
Robert Burns on
the rogues in the nation

The Readifolk
Radio Show
All the forthcoming
guests appearing
at Readifolk



Folk Heroes

The legendary John Kirkpatrick will be visiting Readfolk this season. Steve Bingham, our own legend, looked into some of his background.

John Kirkpatrick

John Kirkpatrick was born in Chiswick, West London, in August 1947. He developed a liking for folk music at an early age and joined the Hammersmith Morris Side more or less at its formation in 1959. By 1970 he had become a regular at Dingles Folk Club and led their resident band.

In 1973 he married Sue Harris and moved to Shropshire, where he formed Shropshire Bedlams to perform local Morris dances. Shropshire Bedlams and Martha Rhoden's Tuppenny Dishes, the ladies Morris side formed by Sue Harris at the same time, are still flourishing in 2014. John's marriage to Sue came to an end in the mid-1980s. He is now happily remarried and still living in Shropshire.

Through his work with Ashley Hutchings in the Albion Country Band, and a spell with Steeleye Span, John had become a well-known musician. His services were required by many artists including Viv Stanshall (Bonzo Dog Doo Dah Band), Gerry Rafferty and many folk singers. The sound of his melodeon or Anglo concertina can be heard on many albums from the mid-1970s onwards.

Over the years he has worked with a number of different musicians both in the studio and touring. An early success was the **Plain Capers** album made with Martin Carthy. Perhaps the longest lived of these collaborations is Brass Monkey - a band which was formed after the National Theatre's production of Lark Rise to Candleford. One reason for its longevity is that it is an occasional band; the members John, Martin Carthy, trumpeter Howard Evans and Martin Brinsford (Old Swan Band) get together as required for tours or recording. The use of brass instruments gives the band a very strong sound which is used to heighten the drama in songs such as George's Son.

In the 1990s he formed the John Kirkpatrick Band to perform his own version of folk/rock. They produced two critically acclaimed albums and toured extensively.

Although John is best known for his work of preserving and writing music for morris dancing, he is no mean songwriter. He is capable of writing very moving songs like *A Length of Yarn* (a fisherman's wife examining the jumper of a drowned fisherman to establish his identity) and *Have a Little Drink* (about a poacher, caught in a mantrap, trying to get his dog to leave him before the gamekeepers come). He can also turn his hand to comedy songs: *Laundroloverette* and *What Do You Do In The Day?* He also seems to have a special turn with amusing Christmas songs such as *Carolling and Crumpets* and his only single so far, *Jogging Along With My Reindeer*.



I have attended many of John's shows over the years but I think the one that I remember most was the night at Nettlebed when John Kirkpatrick and Roger Watson performed together. The two of them had a lot of music in common but they each brought their own style to the show. It was an excellent evening which ended with them more or less being forced off the stage but they continued playing *All I Have To Do Is Dream* until they were out of the hall.

Unfortunately, little of John's work with Sue Harris is currently available on CD or to download. However many of the albums he made with Ashley Hutchings are available. All of the Brass Monkey material is readily available including a CD and DVD set of their 30th anniversary concert. The two John Kirkpatrick Band albums have been recently re-released. The best introduction to John's music, if you can find it, is the Topic release **A Short History of John Kirkpatrick** which contains material from most parts of his career.

News and Stuff

Readifolk's very own radio show, helmed by Ian Freedman, has expanded its listenership with a new home on Blues and Roots Radio. It will still be broadcast, as usual, by Blast 1386 from the Reading College campus, which means that if you are near the college you can tune in on 1386kHz on the AM waveband, as well as hear it over the internet by going to blast1386.reading-college.ac.uk and clicking on the [Listen Live](#) link. Blast broadcasts the show every Wednesday from 7 - 9pm, with a repeat on Friday at the same time. Its new slot on www.bluesandrootsradio.com is at 10.00pm on Tuesday evenings. This should also help alleviate problems that arise if Blast goes off line during the college holidays. Blues and Roots Radio is a new station, and although it is based in Canada, it hosts programmes from around the world, with many originating in the UK, including Mike Harding's Folk Show (which he still continues to make despite the BBC dispensing with his services). The Readifolk Radio Show is also available as a podcast, which you can find at www.mixcloud.com/ianfreedman18.

With only 12 notes to a scale, plus a bit of rhythm and harmony to play with, its hard to think that there could be a great many more musical genres than those you already know about. In fact some people would say there are really only two - the stuff you like, and all the rest. But it soon becomes apparent that there must be a few more - for example, there is the stuff you used to like, but are now a bit fed up with, and there's the stuff that had to grow on you slowly. And, of course, there is the stuff that the neighbours play too loudly that annoys the heck out of you. But according to 'Data Alchemist' Glenn McDonald, there are actually 1,248 different musical genres. And I should point out that last week there were only 1,246, so that number may well be out of date by the time you read this. The names of them all, plus links to examples, are on a somewhat baffling website called everynoise.com where you can ponder the subtleties of Vintage Swoon, Deep Freestyle, Norwegian Hip Hop and Ectofolk. This should make our singers nights even more diverse than usual.

Contact us:

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Ian about the radio show radiofolk@readifolk.org.uk

www.readifolk.org.uk



A roundup of news snippets, information and disconnected folk jottings.

Beverley Martyn, one time spouse of the late John Martyn, has had a fairly turbulent life. Her own singing and recording career stalled after their split in 1980, with only occasional live appearances since. But earlier this year she released a new, warmly received, CD called *The Phoenix And The Turtle*. The opening track, *Reckless Jane*, is a song she co-wrote in the 1970s with Nick Drake, and has never been recorded before. Drake was a close friend of both John and Beverley Martyn, and soon after his death, his record company gave Beverley a tape of early recordings he made. Now, without any income from her earlier recordings with John Martyn, and in failing health, she wants to raise some money by selling the tape to a collector who will continue to look after it, and possibly make the recordings public. But Drake's record company and estate have prevented this, by questioning who has rightful ownership of the tape, and it is now unclear whether the recordings will even be allowed a public release.

Farewells

Johnny Winter - died 16/7/14 aged 70. Electric blues guitarist of great repute, his enthusiasm for the music was, in part at least, a contributing factor to the revival of interest in the mentors he held in such esteem, such as Muddy Waters, Howling Wolf, et al.

Roger Wyndham Barnes - died 29/7/14 aged 66. At the heart of many a blues session and performance in and around the Reading area, he gave up teaching at Ashmead comprehensive in the 1970s to pursue a life of fishing and the blues, fronting groups including Jive Alive with what he called the Loddon Delta Blues, finally succumbing to a brain tumour.

Glenn Cornick - died 28/8/14 aged 68. Bass player with early incarnations of Jethro Tull, who straddled the juncture of prog. rock and folk from the late '60s.

Shows Worth Seeing

Previewing the new season of guest nights coming to Readifolk.

We start our Autumn programme on **5th October** with a visit from the exciting new band **Stick in the Wheel**.



What they say:

We play the music of our people. We sing in our own accents. We record in our kitchens and living rooms. This is our culture, our tradition.

What others say:

"Hottest new folk band for ages" - Ian Anderson, *fRoots*.

"A real discovery" - Tom Robinson, *BBC6 Music*. "Their delivery has an energy that is raw, primal and uplifting, and moves at a fair rousing pace" - *Folk Radio UK*.

What we say:

We are delighted to introduce Stick in the Wheel to the Readifolk audience. We are sure that you will be enthralled!

Hear more:

www.stickinthewheel.com

www.youtube.com/watch?v=7dIBnQJOdB

www.youtube.com/watch?v=shDHMIJ8ONl



On **12th October** our guest is the highly talented **Sunjay Brayne**.



What he says:

A captivating young performer; Sunjay is an extremely talented blues/folk singer/songwriter and guitarist. Reminiscent of Ralph McTell, John Martyn and Jackson C Frank, Sunjay's performances have been described as 'mature and confident', while his guitar playing has been hailed as 'superb, brilliant, experienced, intricate and faultless'.

What others say:

"Sunjay Brayne has so many songs in his pocket he has to carry his keys in his shoes" - *Exposed Magazine*.

"A great guitarist who can sound so much like me that it scares me. He can also sound like Steve Tilston. Come to think of it, he can probably sound like anyone he wants, including himself" - *Chris Smither*. "Great playing and above all else it really swings... I'm going to have to connect jump leads to your fingers" - *Steve Tilston*.

What we say:

An exceptional talent - and still only 20 years old. Winner of the Wath Festival Young Performers Award 2012 and BBC2 Young Folk Awards Nominee 2012. Don't miss this opportunity to see him at Readifolk, your local Folk Club.

Hear more:

www.sunjay.tv

www.youtube.com/watch?v=XA-UreBvr-Y

www.youtube.com/watch?v=aXftwv4362A



On **26th October** we have a welcome return visit of the wonderful **Bailey Sisters**.

What they say:

We're not sisters... and we don't drink Baileys! The



Bailey Sisters are Shelley Rainey, Karen Dyson & Aly Rainey. They offer a wide variety of traditional, self penned and classical material, ranging from the thirteenth century to

the present day. However, they are becoming particularly known for their cappella performances.

What others say:

"An album that is both uplifting and melancholic, in roughly equal measure, mainly because it is so heartfelt. You can really pick out the emotional input. I miss traditional a cappella singing, particularly when it's this good" - *Neil King, Fetea Magazine*. "The trio are clearly comfortable performing together, and their edifying harmonies provide a strong backbone to the album. A charming mix of original, early and traditional music" - *Mark Dishman, Young Folk*.

What we say:

Their a cappella singing is top class - harmonising beautifully and with the added attraction of sensitive guitar and fiddle accompaniment to some songs. We are sure that you will be mightily impressed.

Hear more:

www.baileysisters.co.uk

www.youtube.com/watch?v=ByppxzMN_SQ

www.youtube.com/watch?v=y3lxO5pOTSA



On **2nd November** the widely acclaimed Irish band **Craobh Rua** visit Readifolk for the first time.

What they say:

Craobh Rua (pronounced Crave Roo-Ah) translates from Irish to Red Branch and is a name that is well known in Celtic history from The Red Branch Knights of Ulster. Hailing from Belfast they perform Irish Traditional music with their distinctive Northern style. Their music has delighted audiences and earned them wide acclaim and recognition and they are now regarded around the world as one of the finest ambassadors of Irish Traditional Music.

What others say:

"The mighty Northern style of Irish Traditional Music cruises through their veins" - *fRoots*.

"Craobh Rua are a free advertisement for everything that's good about Irish Traditional Music - they play it



from the heart and they play it superbly" - *Belfast Telegraph*.

What we say:

We are delighted to showcase this superb Irish band. Their music and songs will entrance you.

Hear more:

www.craobhrua.com

www.youtube.com/watch?v=opFXH4ojktQ

<https://myspace.com/craobhrua>



On **9th November** we are delighted to have a return visit of the **The Foxglove Trio**.

What they say:

The Foxglove Trio is a group of multi-instrumentalists who perform mostly traditional songs from around the British Isles in English and Welsh. Gathering material from sessions, published song collections and contemporary artists, these talented musicians are making a name for themselves on the UK folk scene for their beautiful harmonies, creative new arrangements and engaging live performances.

What others say:

"The Foxglove Trio were fantastic - a beautiful blend of fabulous vocals, guitar, cello, melodeon, concertina and

bodhran, their music was gorgeous and they were witty and charming as a group."

- *Helen Chinn, Watford Folk Club*.

"Ffion Mair sings with a power and clarity I have not heard in folk music since Maddy Prior first sent shivers through me. Her low notes are disturbingly good, the high notes thrilling, and all sung with sufficient decoration to establish her as one of the finest singers around." - *John Timpany, Woburn Sands Folk Festival*.



What we say:

We look forward to another wonderful evening of music and song from one of our favourite groups.

Hear more:

www.thefoxglovetrio.co.uk

www.youtube.com/watch?v=IUUZSyBkg94

www.youtube.com/watch?v=2NpWT6Gpr0Y



Four-piece band **Porchlight Smoker** entertain us on **23rd November**.



What they say:
Often described as

the 'real deal', every Porchlight Smoker show is different and no song is ever performed quite the same way twice. They play a varied and at times virtuoso repertoire that mixes self-penned works with covers made very much their own. A range of instruments, including banjo, guitar, lapsteel, stand-up bass and mandolin, even clarinet, accompany the band's trademark four-part vocal harmonies. Based in the south-east, Porchlight Smoker started out as a duo in 2006 and since have expanded into the four-piece band that today play across UK.

What others say:

"Absolutely great stuff, I love this, a great mix of folk, bluegrass and country" - *Johnny Coppin, BBC Radio Bristol*. "Porchlight Smoker are a lovely band" - *Bob Harris, BBC Radio 2*. "I just thought, wow, amazing, this is great stuff" - *Dave Cash, BBC Radio Kent*.

What we say:

We have heard great reports of this dynamic four-piece band and are looking forward to seeing them live.

Hear more:

www.porchlightsmoker.com

www.youtube.com/watch?v=q1PI6ojZwBk

www.youtube.com/watch?v=YkxIKMRhafo

Reading's very own super-group **Dolly & the Clothespegs** are our guests on **7th December**.

What they and others say:

"Dolly and The Clothespegs are an eclectic bunch of Reading-based musicians playing a mixture of their own songs, traditional tunes, classic country and reworked pop covers - dubbed Kennet Delta Folk - that can be beautifully ramshackle, heartfelt and fun. Fronted with gorgeous harmonies and accompanied by a whole lot of whoopin' and hollerin'" - *Reading Evening Post*.



What we say:

Having seen Dolly & the Clothespegs at many local gigs we are sure that the

Readfolk audience will love them. Their repertoire includes many songs from the acclaimed **Alan Lomax Blues Song Book**.

Hear more:

<https://myspace.com/dollyandtheclothespegs>
www.youtube.com/watch?v=p8ag60b4Yww
www.youtube.com/watch?v=flz6qxSfKwM



Our Christmas celebrations begin on **14th December** when **John Kirkpatrick** entertains us with his solo Christmas show 'Carolling & Crumpets'.

What he says:

Taking a profound look at the pagan urges that race through us all at this time of year, John peels away the commercial gloss of modern Christmas to reveal the life and death struggle that is symbolised in so many traditional songs and customs. And if that sounds a little too intense, then rest assured that the mysterious and murky goings-on in these magical songs of wassailing, wren hunting, stirring the fire, and incessant feasting, all come dressed up in a glittering finery of toe-tapping tunes and cracking choruses.

What others say:

"JK delivers all the boisterous bonhomie and seasonal good cheer anyone could want" - *Joan Crump, English Dance & Song*. "The inventiveness and dynamism of John's playing are just as top-notch as one has come to expect of such a perfectionist" - *Mike Greenwood, Taplas Welsh Folk Magazine*.



What we say:

One of the most highly rated figures on the English folk scene, John is sure to delight us all with his entertaining festive show.

Hear more:

www.johnkirkpatrick.co.uk
www.youtube.com/watch?v=g9qpeHduPUU
www.youtube.com/watch?v=ID42nuQHRpk

A Song Worth Singing

By the beginning of the 18th century, Scotland and England were considered to be two separate kingdoms, though, in fact, since James VI of Scotland had also become king of England in 1603, they were both ruled over by one king. But in 1707, the two nations' parliaments negotiated a union to form one kingdom - the Kingdom of Great Britain.

At the time, Scotland was in a serious financial crisis, with a small population of less than two million and an economy depending largely on the sale of livestock and textiles to the English. With their much greater wealth, this gave the English great leverage in the negotiations, but the Scots won trading agreements to give them access to the international markets of the British Empire. So, by a large majority, the Scottish parliament voted to accept the Treaty of Union, and the two parliamentary and economic systems became one.

But accounts of the time show that the treaty was

Such A Parcel Of Rogues In A Nation by Robert Burns

not popular amongst large numbers of Scots, with heated debates and civil unrest preceding its acceptance.

Robert Burns spent the whole of his short life under the Treaty of Union. He was born in early 1759, when the union was already nearly 52 years old, and died at the age of 37, a little over three years before a subsequent treaty formed the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland. But it is clear that he despised the union, and this song expresses his deep suspicions about its formation. He speaks of a "...hireling traitor's wages", of how "...English gold has been our bane", and of being "...bought and sold for English gold" and it is clear that he believed the Scottish parliamentarians were bribed with English gold, buying their votes in favour of the treaty.

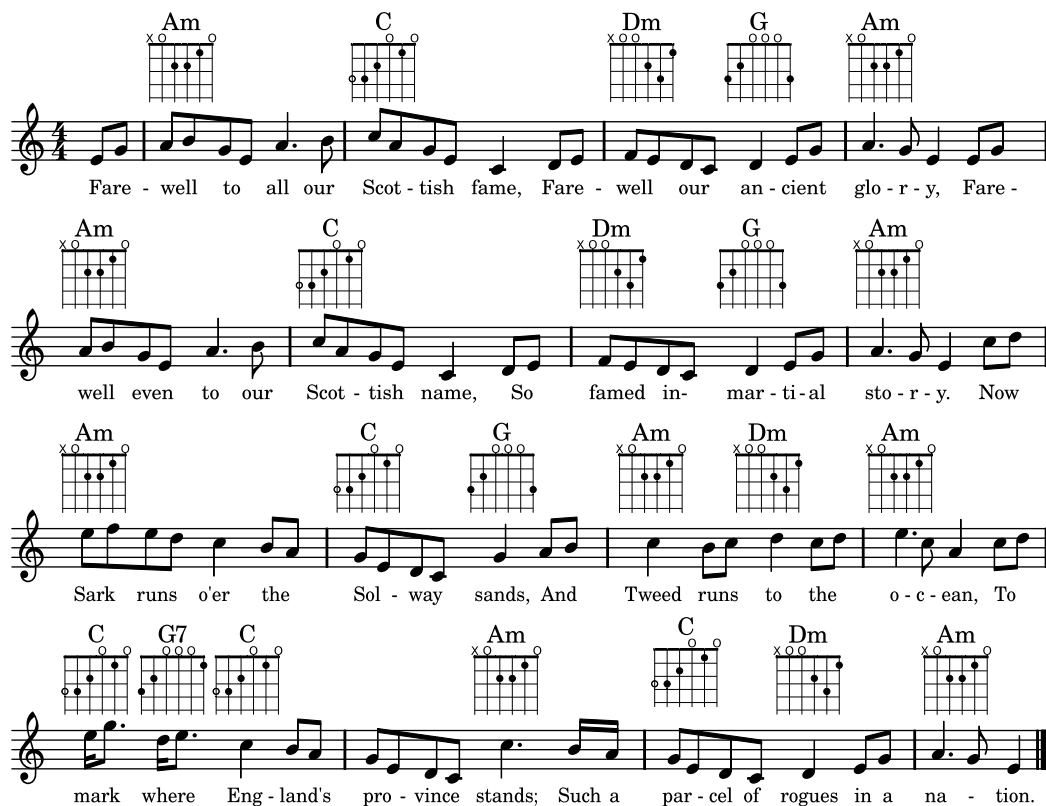
In his lifetime, he never acknowledged authorship of the song, which may be because he was, at

times, an employee of the British government, and would have feared for his livelihood. But it appears in Allan Cunningham's 1855 Complete Works of Robert Burns, where he comments "This song was written by Burns in a moment of honest indignation..."

With Burns dying so young, there is some unintended irony in the despair he expresses that such a treaty should have been reached

before he dies as someone old and grey. At the same time, he references Robert The Bruce and William Wallace, who both engaged in earlier battles to gain independence from the English in the late 12th and early 13th centuries.

But many would disagree that the union brought the end to Scotland's fame and glory - past or present. Such things seem far more durable than could be cast asunder by a treaty of unity.



Am C Dm G Am

Fare - well to all our Scot - tish fame, Fare - well our an - cient glo - r - y, Fare -

Am C Dm G Am

well even to our Scot - tish name, So famed in - mar - ti - al sto - r - y. Now

Am C G Am Dm Am

Sark runs o'er the Sol - way sands, And Tweed runs to the o - c - ean, To

C G7 C Am C Dm Am

mark where Eng - land's pro - vince stands; Such a par - cel of rogues in a na - tion.

1. Farewell to all our Scottish fame,
Farewell our ancient glory,
Farewell even to the Scottish name,
So famed in martial story.
Now Sark runs o'er the Solway sands,
And Tweed runs to the ocean,
To mark where England's province stands;
Such a parcel of rogues in a nation.

2. What force or guile could not subdue,
Through many warlike ages,
Is wrought now by a coward few
For hiring traitor's wages.

The English steel we could disdain,
Secure in valour's station,
But English gold has been our bane;
Such a parcel of rogues in a nation.

3. O, would, or I had seen the day
That treason thus could sell us,
My old grey head had lain in clay,
With Bruce and loyal Wallace,
But pith and power, till my last hour,
I'll make this declaration
We're bought and sold for English gold;
Such a parcel of rogues in a nation.



READIFOLK

READING'S FOLK SONG & MUSIC CLUB



Every Sunday 8:00 - 10:30 p.m.

Reading International Solidarity Centre (RISC)

35-39 London Street, Reading RG1 4PS

PROGRAMME OCTOBER - DECEMBER 2014

5 Oct	Stick in the Wheel www.stickinthewheel.com	<i>An absolutely brilliant band from East London. "Their delivery has an energy that is raw, primal and uplifting", and moves at a fair rousing pace" - Folk Radio UK</i>
12 Oct	Sunjay Brayne www.sunjay.tv	<i>An extremely talented blues/folk guitarist and singer/songwriter. One of the best young solo performers on the English acoustic scene.</i>
19 Oct	Theme 'Ways & Means'	<i>Readifolk is again included in this year's Reading International Festival (17 - 31 October), which has the theme 'There is an Alternative'. With tonight's theme you have the chance to provide some answers with your songs on the subject.</i>
26 Oct	The Bailey Sisters www.baileysisters.co.uk	<i>Firm favourites at Readifolk, this trio combine stunning vocal harmonies with fine guitar and fiddle accompaniment.</i>

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2 Nov	Craobh Rua www.craobhrua.com	<i>This widely acclaimed band from Belfast is regarded as one of the finest exponents of Irish traditional music.</i>
9 Nov	The Foxglove Trio www.thefoxglovetrio.co.uk	<i>A welcome return of this lively young trio with lots of instruments, playing and singing mainly traditional songs from the British Isles.</i>
16 Nov	Singers Night	<i>An opportunity for you to make a contribution to a warm and friendly evening.</i>
23 Nov	Porchlight Smoker www.porchlightsmoker.com	<i>Newcomers to Readifolk, this versatile 4-piece band perform a mix of traditional and self-penned songs. A wide range of instruments accompany the band's trademark four-part vocal harmonies.</i>
30 Nov	Theme 'North of the Border'	<i>It's St Andrews day so let's mark it with appropriate songs from across the border.</i>

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7 Dec	Dolly & the Clothespegs www.myspace.com/dollyandtheclothespegs	<i>Reading's very own super-group perform wonderful vocal harmonies with multi-instrument accompaniment.</i>
14 Dec	John Kirkpatrick 'Carolling & Crumpets' www.johnkirkpatrick.co.uk	<i>We start off our Christmas celebrations with one of the most highly rated figures on the English folk scene - here performing his entertaining festive show.</i>
21 Dec	Christmas Party	<i>The celebrations continue here. Come and enjoy the music and the festive fare.</i>
28 Dec	Singers Night	<i>Get ready for the New Year festivities with an evening of song and music in friendly company.</i>

Admission: £6 Guest nights; £2 Singers & Theme nights

More information from our web site www.readifolk.org.uk

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Find us on Facebook www.facebook.com/readifolk and Twitter www.twitter.com/readifolk

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<http://blast1386.reading-college.ac.uk> click on 'Listen Live'. And now on www.bluesandrootsradio.com too.