

Notes

The Newsletter
of Readifolk

Reading's folk song
and music club

Issue 28

Winter 2015/16

**Harp And A Monkey come to Readifolk on
24th January**



Shows Worth Seeing

Previewing the new season of guest nights coming to Readifolk.

The delightful **Liz Simcock** makes a long-awaited return visit to Readifolk on **10th January**.

What she says:

Liz Simcock writes songs and performs them in folk and acoustic clubs in and around the Southeast and beyond. In 1999 she featured on the Playpen Album of New Acoustic Music alongside Eliza Carthy, Billy Bragg, Eddi Reader and



Kathryn Williams. Since then she has trodden an independent path, gaining a growing reputation as a performer and songwriter.

What others say:

"Each song offers up a slice of life, some sad, some funny and all with a message that's redolent of reality that's lived by us all, and delivered by a voice that brings them alive" - *Folk Words*.

"Liz is a consummate songwriter who manages to not only write serious pieces of everyday life... she also writes some great comic numbers" - *Kent Online*.

What we say:

Liz is a firm favourite at Readifolk. If you haven't yet seen her, don't miss this opportunity.

Hear more:

www.lizsimcock.com
www.youtube.com/watch?v=3nGf8SEqQn8
www.youtube.com/watch?v=5hfFMNSKnkQ



On **24th January**, Manchester-based trio, **Harp and a Monkey** make their first appearance at Readifolk.

What they say:

Songs about cuckolded molecatchers, a lone English oak tree that grows in Gallipoli, care in the community and medieval pilgrims... we can only be talking about the folk experimentalists Harp and a Monkey. The harp 'n' banjo driven electro-folk-storytelling is imbued with a deep Lancashire sensibility that shines through in their beautifully crafted and sometimes spooky vignettes of northern life, love and remembrance.

What others say:

"Undoubtedly one of the most vital and charismatic things happening in English folk music right now" - *fRoots Magazine*.



"Harp and a Monkey – voted best act through our doors in 2014. They may well win again in 2015" - *Jamie Knowles, The Globe, Derbyshire*.

What we say:

This is a band that is making waves on the folk scene - a unique style with innovative

interpretations of songs, traditional and contemporary. Certainly a band not to be missed.

Hear more:

www.harpandamonkey.com
www.youtube.com/watch?v=tRc1NHatsME
www.youtube.com/watch?v=I7LDD-xXACc



On **7th February** we have a return visit of the wonderful **George Papavgeris**.

What he says:

George only began songwriting in 2001, but since then he has written 200+ songs and produced no less than eight CDs of his material. A dozen of his songs are already covered by singers like Vin Garbutt, Andy Irvine, Roy Bailey, Jim Causley, Cloudstreet and Enda Kenny to name but a few. He has also made numerous appearances on UK and Australian radio and toured in Australia three times, including performances at the prestigious Australian National Folk Festival.

What others say:

"George is something special" - *Martin Carthy*. "The best thing to happen in UK songwriting in many a year" - *Harvey Andrews*.



What we say:

George is a remarkable songwriter. We look forward to hearing his songs, old and new, on his return visit to the club.

Hear more:

www.folk4all.net
www.youtube.com/watch?v=8iulM9K_oww
www.youtube.com/watch?v=OIVhYQndunE



North Sea Gas cross the border to entertain us on **21st February**.

What they say:

Over thirty years and stronger than ever. One of Scotland's most popular folk bands with great vocals and tremendous three part harmonies. Guitars, mandolin, fiddle, bouzouki, whistles, bodhrans, banjo and good humour are all part of the entertainment. They have received Gold and Silver disc awards from the Scottish Music Industry Association and regularly have sell-out shows at the Edinburgh Festival Fringe.

What others say:

"Rip-roaring vocal harmonies, lyrical ballads, thoughtful arrangements and lashings of good clean humour are the winning formula offered by North Sea Gas" - *Nick Westcott, Eastbourne Folk Club*. "Thank you all for the



brilliant evening that you gave us. You entertained us with your excellent music, humour, and banter. A wonderful all round performance that made Seaford Folk Club 'rock' " - *John Cave, Seaford Folk Club.*

What we say:

They have been to Readifolk before so we know what to expect. Be sure that you are there.

Hear more:

www.northseagas.co.uk
www.youtube.com/watch?v=XvFcBm3AEFM
www.youtube.com/watch?v=ehz2vanHyQs



On **6th March** the renowned singer/songwriter **Johnny**



Coppin makes a long-awaited return to Readifolk.

What he says:

Johnny Coppin is a singer/songwriter, composer and poetry anthologist, formerly with the folk-rock band

Decameron. His clear voice, together with his ability to write fine songs, make his music essentially English while having universal appeal.

What others say:

"One of the land's finest singer-songwriters, his music is as natural as the sun on the hills or the fresh waters of the stream" - *Brum Beat*. "Strong clear vocals and songs of substance" - *Daily Telegraph*.



A roundup of news snippets, information and disconnected folk jottings

During their recent state visit to the UK, China's President Xi Jinping and his wife Peng Liyuan were entertained by the Queen at a banquet during which several pieces of traditional Chinese folk music were played. In her homeland Mrs Xi is well known as a folk singer, and a CD of her songs was given to the Queen. However, it's unclear whether Her Maj is at all partial to the music of common people.

and even the odd guitar. He can also carry out repairs and restorations, setups, refretting and reconditioning. Anyone needing his services can contact him on bogdan.dobraszczyk@hotmail.co.uk, or visit his website at bogdandobraszczyk.co.uk.

Carly Simon has finally told us who *You're So Vain* is really about - or at least who inspired verse two. It turns out it really is about Warren

What we say:

We have waited a long time for this return visit of this legendary songwriter. A fantastic evening is promised.

Hear more:

www.johnnycoppin.co.uk
www.youtube.com/watch?v=1R0sht1iv3c
www.youtube.com/watch?v=Rn7LvungAy4



Jim McLean makes a very welcome return visit on **20th March**.

What he says:

Jim McLean is a composer, musician and singer-songwriter. His music is acoustic-based and live performances usually contain a blend of traditional, self-penned songs and covers from his favourite artists.

What others say:

"Jim is popular in clubs throughout the area, so no apologies for managing to book him again. He's a crowd-puller and a crowd pleaser" - *Birch Hill Festival 2015*.

What we say:

Jim is one of our all-time favourites. You are sure of a lively evening with lots of audience participation.

Hear more:

www.acousticvillage.co.uk
www.youtube.com/watch?v=EbglBoQczw
www.youtube.com/watch?v=amEelKkZrHo



Regular Readifolkers will know Bogdan, he's the calm one in local band Rye Wolf. Well now he's setting up as a mandolin luthier. Trained at South Merton College in musical instrument-making and repair, he has a fully equipped workshop and can make instruments of the mandolin family such as mandolins, mandolas, celtic bouzoukis, citterns,

Beatty, as rumours have often suggested. But she's less forthcoming about who the other verses are about - contenders include rumoured former lovers Cat Stevens and Mick Jagger (who provided backing vocals on the song) amongst others, but she's keeping mum; at least, perhaps, until volume two of her autobiography.

Not content with producing an album - **Fortified** - just in time for Christmas, our good friends, the duo Loreley (Simon and Maddy) have started The Village Folk Night, a local open acoustic session, every third Thursday of the month, at 9.00 pm, hosted at the Eldon Arms, in Eldon Terrace. It has already attracted some well known as well as not so well known musicians. Bring along a song or an instrument and join in the fun, and maybe mix with famous people.



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 JANUARY - MARCH 2016

3rd January	Singers Night	<i>The usual format – a song, a tune, a poem, a joke or just come and listen. Everyone is welcome.</i>
10th January	Liz Simcock www.lizsimcock.com	<i>An exquisite voice singing her own beautifully crafted songs, often in an autobiographical style.</i>
17th January	Theme ‘A Winter’s Tale’	<i>Whatever the weather, come in and warm us with your seasonal songs.</i>
24th January	Harp and a Monkey www.harpanamonkey.com	<i>A really entertaining trio from Manchester who are rapidly making a name for themselves on the Folk scene.</i>
31st January	Singers Night	<i>Another opportunity to exercise your vocal chords in a warm and friendly atmosphere.</i>



7th February	George Papavgeris www.folk4all.net	<i>A brilliant songwriter; George has gained further recognition since his last visit to the club.</i>
14th February	Theme ‘For Love or Money’	<i>It's St Valentine's Day and your chance to sing an appropriate song or not.</i>
21st February	North Sea Gas www.northseagas.co.uk	<i>One of Scotland's most popular folk bands with great vocals and tremendous three-part harmonies.</i>
28th February	Singers Night	<i>Another one of our ever-popular DIY nights. You can do it!</i>



6th March	Johnny Coppin www.johnnycoppin.co.uk	<i>Renowned singer/songwriter Johnny makes a long-awaited return to Readifolk.</i>
13th March	Theme ‘Fish and Ships’	<i>Lots of possibilities with this theme. Let's hear your songs of the sea etc.</i>
20th March	Jim McLean www.acousticvillage.co.uk	<i>Acclaimed Scottish singer performs traditional and self-penned songs – great vocals and distinctive and original guitar style.</i>
27th March	Singers Night	<i>Your last chance this quarter to come and entertain us or be entertained by us.</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

The Readifolk Radio Show is on the internet every Wednesday 7 - 9pm and Friday 5 - 7pm
<http://blast1386.reading-college.ac.uk> click on 'Listen Live'. And now on www.bluesandrootsradio.co.uk