



THE SIDMOUTH
FOLK FESTIVAL
31ST JULY - 7TH AUGUST 2026

FIND YOUR FESTIVAL

Eight days of
music, song, dance and
discovery by the sea.
Plan your week, book your
highlights, and join in!

Music • Dance • Song • Workshops • Storytelling • Free Events • For all ages



FREE TASTER PROGRAMME

Ear to the past - Eye on the future • Tradition and celebration since 1955

SIDMOUTHFOLKFESTIVAL.CO.UK



Welcome to

THE SIDMOUTH FOLK FESTIVAL

31ST JULY - 7TH AUGUST 2026

Every summer, for one extraordinary week, music, dance and song spill out across this beautiful Regency town. From sunrise on the seafront to late-night sessions in welcoming pubs, thousands of people come together to celebrate folk in all its forms - sharing traditions, discovering new favourites, learning new skills and, above all, enjoying each other's company.

Whether you're joining us for your very first concert, spending a day exploring, or returning for another full week, we're delighted you're here. We hope this Taster Programme helps you discover something unexpected and inspires you to find your own Festival.



Sidmouth has been welcoming folk lovers for over seventy years, but it has never stood still. Alongside well-loved traditions you'll find exciting new artists, international performers, creative collaborations and hundreds of opportunities to join in. However you choose to experience the Festival, we hope you'll leave with new music to love, new friends to meet and memories to treasure.

The following pages are packed with festival highlights - from world-class concerts and high-energy gigs to laid-back sessions, storytelling, workshops and hands-on activities. Many events are already selling fast, so don't miss out on your festival favourites.



Sidmouth Folk Festival is presented by a small not-for-profit Community Interest Company and made possible by the dedication of more than 400 volunteers, alongside a dedicated crew, artists, sponsors, partners, supporters and the people of Sidmouth. To everyone who helps create such a warm and welcoming Festival - and to the residents of Sidmouth for sharing their wonderful town with us each summer - thank you.

Most of all, thank you for being part of Sidmouth Folk Festival. Enjoy exploring, and we hope you have a wonderful week.

Tash Daly & Jason Knight
Co-Directors, Sidmouth Folk Festival Community Interest Company

"Folk is the culture of the people, by the people and for the people."

Martin Carthy MBE



This Taster Programme offers an overview of the festival: Visit sidmouthfolkfestival.co.uk and use the What's On drop down menu to explore more about the full range of festival events on offer.



Festival Highlights

No two days at Sidmouth are ever the same. One moment you could be listening to a festival legend in the Ham, the next discovering a future favourite in an intimate venue, joining a ceilidh, or singing into the early hours on Bulverton hill. This year's programme brings together great names, living traditions, new voices, international artists and one-off events you'll only experience here.

Big Concert Moments

The Ham Marquee hosts three concerts a day featuring artists including **Lindisfarne**, **Eddi Reader**, **Kate Rusby**, **Capercaillie**, **The Young'uns**, **Spiers & Boden** and more. At the Bulverton, standing concerts including **Talisk**, **Kathryn Tickell & The Darkening** and **Mad Dog Mcrea**, late-night ceilidhs, campfires and sessions create an unforgettable festival atmosphere.



Kate Rusby

Festival Collaborations

Sidmouth is home to one-off performances and new collaborations including **Peter's Field**, **Rooted & Rising**, **Steve Knightley & Friends**, **1918 – The Untold Stories of the Great War** and **KIT**.

Eye on the Future

Discover the next generation with artists including **Frankie Archer**, **Cerys Hafana**, **Owen Spafford**, **Will Allen & Ben Filmer-Sankey** and many more across the week.

Ear to the Past

Hear traditional music where it belongs – shared by today's finest performers and tradition bearers. Discover the Dublin ballads of **Macdara Yeates**, the Suffolk songs of **Alvar Smith**, the Manchester songs of **Jennifer Reid**, alongside **The Copper Family**, **John Kirkpatrick**, **Dan Quinn**, **Arthur Knevett**, **Will Duke** and many more.



Adriano Adewale

A Festival Without Borders

For generations, Sidmouth has welcomed artists from across the globe. This year continues that tradition with the joyous harmonies of Australia's **Spooky Men's Chorale**, Zimbabwe's **Black Umfolosi**, Gambian kora master **Jali Bakary Konteh** with **Sarah Deere-Jones**, **Suntuo Susso** and **The Gambian Superstars**, **Windborne** from the USA, and artists from Scotland, Ireland, Wales, Belgium and beyond. In partnership with the **Scottish Music Expo**, we're delighted to showcase some of Scotland's finest established and emerging artists, celebrating the traditions and fresh ideas shaping Scotland's folk scene today. Look out for **Capercaillie**, **Shooglenifty**, **Project SMOK**, **Malin Lewis Trio**, **Sian**, **Arthur Coates & Kerran Cotterell**, **Mec Lir** and more.

Join In

Sing in a session, try a workshop, join a ceilidh, follow the dance displays through town, listen to stories, gather round the Bulverton campfire or stay out late at Betsy's as the tunes carry on into the early hours.



Eddi Reader

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First Time at Sidmouth?

Sidmouth Folk Festival isn't all in one place; it's a whole town, by the sea, filled with music, dance and song.

From the **Ham** on the seafront to late nights at **Bulverton**, from the **Manor Pavilion** to church halls, pubs and streets across the town, the Festival unfolds in its own rhythm over eight summer days.

You'll hear music drifting through the town, come across dancers in the **Market Square**, **Connaught Gardens** and along the **Esplanade**, and find yourself drawn from one thing to the next.



Start with the heart of the Festival

If it's your first visit, a few places will quickly help you find your feet:

The Ham: the heart of the Festival, with large-scale concerts by the sea. **The Ham Hub** food and drink area is a natural place to gather.

Blackmore Gardens & the Blackmore Bar: a relaxed hub for food, drink and informal music, and home to the **Craft & Music Village** and spectacular dance displays.

Betsy's at the Bulverton: lively and social, a place to meet friends old and new, watch the sun set, and enjoy sessions that carry on into the early hours alongside **Bulverton** events, and just up from the **Campsite**.

Peacock Lawn: a welcoming family space in the heart of the town, home to the **Children's Festival** and a relaxed daytime base for younger festivalgoers.

These spaces give you a feel for the Festival, somewhere to pause, meet people, and decide what to do next.

Finding your own rhythm

There's no single way to do Sidmouth, it's many festivals within a festival.

You might:

- book a concert at the Ham and build your day around it
- head up to Bulverton for an evening and stay for the late-night dancing
- spend time around Blackmore or the town, dipping into music and sessions
- mix a few highlights with time to explore

Some plan every day. Others leave space to see what unfolds.



The shape of the day

A typical day might include:

- a workshop or concert in the morning or afternoon
- time around the town - food, shops, sessions and the seafront
- an evening concert or dance
- and, for many, something later into the night

Food and drink are very much part of the experience, from the **Craft & Food Village** to cafés, pubs and festival spaces where people gather between events.



A festival you can be part of

Sidmouth has always been as much about taking part as it is about watching.

Whether it's joining a dance, singing in a session, or simply being in the crowd, there's a strong sense of shared experience, people coming together around the music, dance, story and song.

You don't need to know anything in advance. Just come with an open mind.

Start somewhere

It might be your first concert at the Ham. A drink at Blackmore as the ceilidh starts up. A beginner's workshop, or an intimate gig at the Cellar Bar. Dropping into some storytelling, or your first dance in a packed hall.

From there, it all tends to fall into place.

See pages 6-27 to plan your week

This Taster Programme offers an overview of the festival.

Make the most of Sidmouth

There are lots of ways to experience the Festival, from free daytime events to a full week of music, dance and participation.

The Children's Festival, with events for all the family, is free during the day. Selected concerts are available to book in advance or during the Festival. All-in-One, Season and Bulverton-in-One tickets offer the best option if you're planning to attend multiple events.

Smaller concerts, ceilidhs and workshops are often available on the door (space permitting).

The Youth Festival, for ages 12-17, offers a full programme of workshops and events.

Whether you dip in for a few hours or join us for the full week, you'll find an option that works for you.



What's included?

Festival Events	All in One	Week Season	Bulverton in One
Ham Marquee Lunchtime Concerts	✓	✓	✗
Ham Marquee Afternoon Concerts	✓	✓	✗
Ham Marquee Evening Concerts (Sat 1st - Thu 6th August)	✓	✗	✗
Ham Marquee Evening Concerts (Fri 31st & Fri 7th August)	✓	✓	✗
Bulverton & Betsy's Events - Concerts, LNEs and Workshops	✓	✓	✓
Manor Pavilion	✓	✓	✗
Other Venues	✓	✓	✗
Workshops in Town	✓	✓	✗
Ceilidhs in Town	✓	✓	✗
Talks	✓	✓	✗
Children's & Youth Events	✓	✓	✗
Camping	✗	✗	✓
Live in Vehicle (additional charge)	✗	✗	✗
Bus Pass (additional charge)	✗	✗	✗

Important information

This Taster Programme provides an overview of the Festival. Full listings, timings and booking details will be available in the Main Programme (July) and online. All prices include VAT at 20% (VAT Reg 878 4532 77). No refunds or exchanges. Tickets are issued digitally. A receipt will be emailed and exchanged for wristbands/tickets on arrival in Sidmouth. Advance event tickets are issued as e-tickets for entry. Sidmouth Folk Festival C.I.C. (registered in England No 05610997) cannot guarantee that all events or artists will appear as advertised, but every effort will be made to deliver the programme as planned. We do not sell or share your personal data.

Flexible ticket options

Whether you're visiting for a day or the full eight days, there's a ticket to suit you:

All-in-One Tickets

The most flexible way to experience the Festival, including all events and concerts.

Season Tickets

Ideal if you're coming for several days and want a mix of events (excludes the Ham evenings concerts Sat -Thu).

Individual Event Tickets

Ideal if you're visiting for a day or just want to sample a few events. Available in advance for selected events (marked A in the listings) and on the door where space allows.

Young people

Children (0-11): tickets are free.

25 & Under (12-25): £10 tickets available for selected events.

Children under 12 (and under 16 for Bulverton Late Night Extras (LNE) must be accompanied by an adult. All ages are calculated as at 31st July 2026.

Booking your tickets

Online - Visit sidmouthfolkfestival.co.uk to book tickets and view full details, terms and conditions. Payment plans (Pay in 3) are available online.

In person or by phone - Call 01395 577952 or visit the Tourist Information Centre (TIC), Ham Lane, Sidmouth, EX10 8XR. Please check their website for opening times.

During the Festival - From 27th July, tickets are available at Festival prices from the Festival Box Office (near the Ham):

Mon 27th July: 12noon-8pm

Tue 28th July to Thu 6th August: 9am-8pm

Fri 7th August: 9am-6pm

Advance tickets - Events marked with **A** are available in advance. Advance rates apply until midnight 26th July, with At the Festival rates from Monday 27th July.

Personal Assistants - Free Personal Assistant tickets are available for those requiring assistance (qualifying documentation required, see website for details). Contact:

access@sidmouthfolkfestival.co.uk

At a Glance

The week's headline events at a glance. This is just a snapshot of the Festival, with major concerts, dances and highlights across the week. There are hundreds more events, including concerts, sessions and activities in venues across the town. See the relevant sections throughout this programme, and look out for the full programme (800+ events) in mid-July.

Ticket Guide

** The Bulverton Marquee is a Standing Venue. * Resident (EX10) discount available. † Resident (EX10) and Season Ticket holder discount available. ✓ Advance booking available. Bulverton evening tickets include Late Night Extra ceilidhs, Betsy's Bar and campfire sessions. All-in-One Tickets include all Festival events (excluding pre-festival concerts). Season Tickets include Festival events during the validity of the ticket, except pre-festival events and Sat-Thu Ham evening concerts. Most events offer £10 tickets for 25 & Under (12-25). Children (0-11) are free. See website for full details.

Time		Adult * †	Advance Booking
Thursday 30th July			
8pm	The Ham • Pre- Festival Special: The Bootleg Beatles	£41 †	✓
Friday 31st July			
3pm	The Ham • Pre- Festival Special: Fisherman's Friends	£39 †	Sold out
7.30pm	St Teresa's Church Hall • Welcome Contra	£17	✗
7.30pm	Methodist Church Hall • Mixed Dance	£17	✗
7.30pm	Blackmore Gardens Marquee • Dance with Naragonia	£17	✗
8pm	The Ham • Oysterband's John Jones with Ray Cooper and Al Scott + support This first concert is included in Week and Weekend tickets at no extra charge	£26*	✓
8pm	The Bulverton ** Doors 7.30pm • Frankie Archer Trio + We Are The Monsters	£18	✓
11pm	The Bulverton ** • Late Night Extra with Token Women Bulverton tickets include Late Night Extra, Betsy's & Campfire sessions		
Saturday 1st August			
11.30am	The Ham • Welcome Concert	Free	✗
3pm	Manor Pavilion • Halsway Young Folk	£10	✗
3.15pm	The Ham • The Copper Family + support	£18*	✓
3.15pm	Blackmore Gardens Marquee • Dance Spectacular	Free	✗
7.30pm	St Teresa's Church Hall • Contra Dance	£17	✗
7.30pm	Methodist Church Hall • Mixed Dance	£17	✗
7.30pm	Stowford Rise • Bal	£17	✗
7.30pm	Blackmore Gardens Marquee • Ceilidh with Jigfoot	£17	✗
8pm	Manor Pavilion • Yorkshire Evening with Bryony Griffith & Alice Jones	£19	✓
8pm	The Ham • Lindisfarne + support	£39 †	✓
8pm	The Bulverton ** Doors and Sessions 7pm • Shooglenifty + Jack Rutter	£25	✓
11pm	The Bulverton ** • Late Night Extra with Threepenny Bit Bulverton tickets include Late Night Extra, Betsy's & Campfire sessions		
Sunday 2nd August			
12noon	The Ham • Martin Simpson + support	£22*	✓
3pm	Blackmore Gardens Marquee • John Gasson Jig Competition	Free	✗
3pm	Manor Pavilion • 1918 - The Untold Stories of the Great War	£16	✓
3.15pm	The Ham • Steve Knightley & Friends + Black Umfolosi	£26*	✓
7.30pm	St Teresa's Church Hall • Playford Ball	£17	✗
7.30pm	Methodist Church Hall • Scandi Dance	£17	✗
7.30pm	Stowford Rise • Contra Dance	£17	✗
7.30pm	Blackmore Gardens Marquee • Ceilidh with Token Women	£17	✗
8pm	Manor Pavilion • Nancy Kerr & James Fagan + The Wilderness Yet	£19	✓
8pm	The Ham • Eddi Reader + The Rosie Hood Band	£36 †	✓
8pm	The Bulverton ** Doors and Sessions 7pm • Mad Dog Mcreea + Mec Lir	£18*	✓
11pm	The Bulverton ** • Late Night Extra with Monster Ceilidh Band Bulverton tickets include Late Night Extra, Betsy's & Campfire sessions		
Monday 3rd August			
12noon	The Ham • Tim Edey + Blair Dunlop	£22*	✓
3pm	Manor Pavilion • The Innocent	£16	✓
3.15pm	The Ham • Joshua Burnside + Miranda Sykes & Jim Causley	£18*	✓
7.30pm	St Teresa's Church Hall • Contra Dance	£17	✗
7.30pm	Methodist Church Hall • Irish Ceili	£17	✗
7.30pm	All Saints Church Hall • Bal & Scandi Dance	£17	✗
7.30pm	Blackmore Gardens Marquee • Ceilidh with Dirty Big Canal Dance Band	£17	✗

At a Glance

Time		Adult * †	Advance Booking
Monday 3rd August Continued			
8pm	Manor Pavilion • Miranda Sykes & Jim Causley + support	£19	✗
8pm	The Ham • Spooky Men's Chorale + support	£35 †	✓
8pm	The Bulverton ** Doors and Sessions 7pm • Steve Knightley & the Winter Yards Band + Project SMOK	£27*	✓
11pm	The Bulverton ** • Late Night Extra with Blowzabella Bulverton tickets include Late Night Extra, Betsy's & Campfire sessions		
Tuesday 4th August			
12noon	The Ham • Adriano Adewale and Friends: Rooted and Rising + support	£22*	✓
3.15pm	Blackmore Gardens Marquee • Dance Spectacular	Free	✗
3pm	Manor Pavilion • Michael McGoldrick and Tim Edey + support	£19	✓
3.15pm	The Ham • Blowzabella + support	£22*	✓
7.30pm	St Teresa's Church Hall • Step Ceilidh	£17	✗
7.30pm	Methodist Church Hall • Irish Ceili	£17	✗
7.30pm	All Saints Church Hall • Contra Dance	£17	✗
7.30pm	Blackmore Gardens Marquee • Ceilidh with Chimera	£17	✗
8pm	Manor Pavilion • Windborne + support	£19	✓
8pm	The Ham • Capercaillie + support	£34 †	✓
8pm	The Bulverton ** Doors and Sessions 7pm • Talisk + support	£25*	✓
11pm	The Bulverton ** • Late Night Extra with Trinculo Bulverton tickets include Late Night Extra, Betsy's & Campfire sessions		
Wednesday 5th August			
12noon	The Ham • Recovered Songs from the Crimean War	£22*	✓
3pm	Manor Pavilion • Chasing Crockern	£16	✓
3.15pm	The Ham • Gigspanner Big Band + support	£26*	✓
7.30pm	St Teresa's Church Hall • Contra Dance	£17	✗
7.30pm	Methodist Church Hall • English Dance	£17	✗
7.30pm	All Saints Church Hall • Bal	£17	✗
7.30pm	Blackmore Gardens Marquee • Morris Wednesday with Kettlehawk	£17	✗
8pm	Manor Pavilion • Granny's Attic + support	£19	✓
8pm	The Ham • The Young'uns + support	£30 †	✓
8pm	The Bulverton ** Doors and Sessions 7pm Kathryn Tickell & The Darkening + Arthur Coates & Kerran Cotterell	£24*	✓
11pm	The Bulverton ** • Late Night Extra with Simon Care All Stars Bulverton tickets include Late Night Extra, Betsy's & Campfire sessions		
Thursday 6th August			
12noon	The Ham • Owen Spafford, Will Allen & Ben Filmer-Sankey + support	£18*	✓
3.15pm	Blackmore Gardens Marquee • Dance Spectacular	Free	✗
3.15pm	The Ham • Daoiri Farrell + Will Pound & Jenn Butterworth	£22*	✓
7.30pm	St Teresa's Church Hall • Contra Dance	£17	✗
7.30pm	All Saints Church Hall • Playford Party	£17	✗
7.30pm	Blackmore Gardens Marquee • Ceilidh with Sidmouth Seaside Stompers	£18	✗
8pm	Manor Pavilion • Ballads and Songs: Sam Carter sings Nic Jones + support	£19	✓
8pm	The Ham • Kate Rusby + support	£39 †	✓
8pm	The Bulverton ** Doors and Sessions 7pm • Bonfire Radicals + The Gambian Superstars	£20*	✓
11pm	The Bulverton ** • Late Night Extra with The Bismarcks Bulverton tickets include Late Night Extra, Betsy's & Campfire sessions		
Friday 7th August			
12noon	The Ham • Grand Workshop Showcase	Free	✗
3pm	Manor Pavilion • Sailor Swift	£16	✓
3.15pm	The Ham • Peter's Field (Sean Cooney, Eliza Carthy & Sam Carter) + Eliza Carthy & Jennifer Reid	£26*	✓
7pm	Methodist Church Hall • Celebration Eurobal	£17	✗
7pm	Blackmore Gardens Marquee • Celebration Contra with WillPower	£17	✗
7.30pm	Manor Pavilion • Belinda O'Hooley & Jackie Oates + support	£19	✓
7.30pm	The Ham • Spiers & Boden + Malin Lewis Trio This final concert is included in Week and Friday Day tickets at no extra charge	£26*	✓
11pm	The Bulverton ** • Late Night Extra with BEARPIT	£15*	✓

There's much more to discover... Concerts at the Cellar Bar, Harbour Hotel, Methodist Church and other venues
 • Workshops and participation events • Storytelling and talks • Family and Youth Festival activities
 • Sessions and informal music across the town. Full details in the Main Programme (Mid July).

See www.sidmouthfolkfestival.co.uk for more details.

Pre-Festival Night in the Market Square



Great Western Morris

**Thursday 30th July, 7.30-9.30pm,
Market Square**

You know the Festival has begun when Thursday night in the Market Square comes around.

Don't miss your first chance to see familiar faces, find old friends, tuck into takeaway chips and enjoy plenty of mirth and merriment with **Great Western Morris, Sidmouth Steppers, Sidmouth Traditional Mummers** and other early arrivals.



Sidmouth Steppers

Pre-Festival Concerts at the Ham

To make the most of the fabulous Ham Marquee, we've programmed a couple of pre-festival concerts for those arriving early, and to give local and regional audiences more opportunities to enjoy this unique, one-week-only venue.

Tickets are available at an advance discounted price (shown in brackets) for All-in-One, Week Season and Weekend Season ticket holders, and local EX10 residents.

Limited £10 tickets for 25 & Under (12-25) are available.

A great way to start your festival early.

Thursday 30th July, 8pm, The Ham Marquee

The Bootleg Beatles

The world's most loved Beatles tribute band comes to Sidmouth.

Formed in 1988, The Bootleg Beatles are renowned for their meticulous recreation of the sound, look and spirit of the Fab Four. From the Cavern Club to Sgt. Pepper and beyond, they faithfully capture every era of The Beatles' legendary career – combining musical precision with charm, wit and plenty of good humour.

'Less a tribute – more a reincarnation.' The Daily Telegraph
'You have to pinch yourself that you're not seeing some kind of Al magic at play.' The Times

Advance Rate Tickets: £41 (£36)



The Bootleg Beatles

Friday 31st July, 3pm, The Ham Marquee

Fisherman's Friends

Celebrating over 30 years of performing together, Fisherman's Friends return by popular demand.

Hailing from Port Isaac, this much-loved group of lifelong friends have kept the tradition of sea shanties alive while balancing their day jobs as fishermen, shopkeepers and tradesmen. With top ten albums, a BBC folk award, a best-selling book, two hit films, and performances from Glastonbury to The Queen, their story is as remarkable as their music.

Sidmouth favourites, this show sold out in record time.

Tickets: Sorry, sold out



Fisherman's Friends

Arriving early? The Festival campsite opens on Wednesday 29 July: see FAQs on page 30 and website for full details.

The Ham Concerts



The festival's centrepiece concert venue, at The Ham grounds, next to the sea.

It's the number one spot for concert lovers, hosting three prestigious concerts every day of the festival. The Ham is fully seated, has its own bar, and boasts a wide array of food outlets to suit every taste. The Ham is the place to experience the biggest names and standout performances of the festival. Under 11s go free, and limited numbers of £10 tickets for 25s & Under (12-25) (Under 30 for EX10 residents) are available.

Friday 31st July

8pm Oysterband's John Jones with Ray Cooper & Al Scott + support A £26 (£21) £10

Three acclaimed roots musicians & Oysterband alumni reunite for an evening of powerful songs and tunes from over the years, from each of their back catalogues, alongside new songs and traditional numbers.



John Jones, Ray Cooper & Al Scott

Saturday 1st August

11.30am Welcome Concert with Sidmouth Town Band, Halsway Young Folk & festival guests Free entry

Open to all.

3.15pm The Copper Family + support A £18 (£13) £10

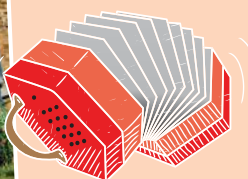
A rare chance to experience the living tradition of one of England's most celebrated singing families, performing songs and stories passed down through generations for over 400 years.

8pm Lindisfarne + support A £39 (£34) £10

Legendary folk-rock pioneers return with classic hits, soaring harmonies and the kind of feel-good live show guaranteed to have the whole marquee singing along.



The Rosie Hood Band



Sunday 2nd August

12noon Martin Simpson

+support A £22 (£17) £10

One of Britain's finest folk musicians delivers an intimate solo performance filled with masterful guitar playing, unforgettable songs and deeply moving storytelling.



Martin Simpson

3.15pm Steve Knightley & Friends

+ Black Umfolosi A £26 (£21) £10

Steve Knightley curates a special patron's Sunday afternoon concert celebrating the music of Bob Dylan and Martin Carthy, inspired by his album Positively Folk Street and the shared roots and profound influence of these two giants of folk song.

+ uplifting vocals and vibrant dance of internationally acclaimed Black Umfolosi. A unique Sidmouth Folk Festival event.



Black Umfolosi



Steve Knightley

8pm Eddi Reader + The Rosie Hood Band A £36 (£31) £10

Perhaps Scotland's greatest living female voice, Eddi Reader brings warmth, wit and world-class songwriting to captivate Sidmouth audiences.



Eddi Reader

'One of my favourite singers of all time.' Jools Holland

The Ham Concerts



Adriano Adewale and Friends



Monday 3rd August

12noon Tim Edey + Blair Dunlop A £22 (£17) £10

A double BBC Folk Musician of the Year, **Tim Edey** is a dazzling guitarist and melodeon player, renowned for his Celtic virtuosity and infectious live performances.

Award-winning singer-songwriter **Blair Dunlop's** superb guitar playing and contemporary folk songs have earned widespread critical acclaim.

3.15pm Joshua Burnside + Miranda Sykes & Jim Causley A £18 (£13) £10

Boundary-pushing contemporary folk from Joshua Burnside + the beautifully matched voices of Miranda Sykes and Jim Causley.

8pm Spooky Men's Chorale + support A £35 (£30) £10

Australia's Spooky Men's Chorale celebrate 25 years of gloriously offbeat music-making with their trademark mix of thunderous harmonies, absurd humour and unexpected beauty, an unforgettable show that swings effortlessly from the ridiculous to the sublime.



Spooky Men's Chorale

Tuesday 4th August

12noon Adriano Adewale and Friends: Rooted and Rising + support A £22 (£17) £10

Acclaimed percussionist Adriano Adewale brings together an extraordinary ensemble including Nancy Kerr, Cohen Braithwaite-Kilcoyne, Phoebe Harty, Jenn Butterworth, Camilo Menjura and Kuljit Bhamra for an ambitious new collaboration inspired by nature, folklore and musical traditions from around the world. Commissioned by the English Folk Dance and Song Society.



Blowzabella

3.15pm Blowzabella + support A £22 (£17) £10

Driving rhythms, hypnotic melodies and unmistakable soundscapes from one of the most influential and original bands in European folk music in what is likely to be one of their final Sidmouth appearances.

Following the sad death of founding member Dave Shepherd in 2026, the band continues as a six-piece, honouring his legacy through the much-loved tunes he composed.



Capercaillie

8pm Capercaillie + support A £34 (£29) £10

Having recently celebrated 40 years at the forefront of traditional music, the Celtic music trailblazers bring their stunning fusion of Gaelic song, contemporary sound and virtuoso musicianship to Sidmouth. Karen Matheson's iconic voice is at the centre of an unforgettable live show.

'Nobody does it better.' Q Magazine

This Taster Programme offers an overview of the festival.

The Ham Concerts



Gigsanner Big Band

Wednesday 5th August

12noon Recovered Songs from the Crimean War A £22 (£17) £10

A unique and powerful collaboration bringing new life into words written during the Crimean War by ordinary Victorians responding to the conflict.

Created with Professor Simon Rennie and developed at Halsway Manor, featuring Nina Zella, Jackie Oates, Granny's Attic, Benji Kirkpatrick, Nancy Kerr & James Fagan, Saul Rose, and members of the Ukrainian Kozachky Choir.

3.15pm Gigsanner Big Band + support A £26 (£21) £10

Dazzling musicianship meets bold musical invention. Led by legendary Steeleye Span fiddler Peter Knight and featuring members of Edgelarks and Bellowhead, the band blends traditional roots with fearless creativity to create folk music that is both deeply rooted and exhilaratingly expansive.

8pm The Young'uns + support A £30 (£25) £10

Celebrated for their uplifting live shows, The Young'uns combining powerful contemporary folk songs, glorious close harmonies and quick-fire humour with storytelling full of compassion, humanity and hope.

Thursday 6th August

12noon Owen Spafford, Will Allen & Ben Filmer-Sankey + support A £18 (£13) £10

Three exceptional young traditional musicians present English folk music at its most raw, intimate and brilliantly played.



The Young'uns



3.15pm Daoirí Farrell + Will Pound & Jenn Butterworth A £22 (£17) £10

Award-winning Irish folk song from Dubliner Daoirí Farrell, plus virtuosic 'musical cat and mouse' from outstanding musicians.

'The torch bearer for Irish folk song.' The Irish Times

8pm Kate Rusby + support A £39 (£34) £10

One of the most cherished voices in British folk returns with a beautifully uplifting evening of song, stories and trademark Yorkshire charm.

'Kate Rusby's voice remains one of the most beautiful in British folk – tender, pure, and utterly distinctive.' The Guardian



Kate Rusby



Friday 7th August

12noon Grand Workshop Showcase

Festival participants and tutors come together for a celebratory finale showcasing the creativity, music and community spirit of the week.

3pm Peter's Field with Sean Cooney, Eliza Carthy & Sam Carter + Eliza Carthy & Jennifer Reid A £26 (£21) £10

A powerful and evocative musical retelling of the Peterloo Massacre, one of the most defining moments in British working-class history. Original songs amidst a spoken narrative derived from hundreds of eyewitness accounts create a radio-ballad-like, evocative and haunting show.

Eliza Carthy also joins forces with Jennifer Reid for a celebration of women in folk music.

7.30pm Spiers & Boden + Malin Lewis Trio A £26 (£21) £10

The celebrated duo return with dazzling traditional music, infectious energy and the chemistry that made them one of folk's defining acts + Malin Lewis Trio brings a bold mix of West Coast tradition and exhilarating contemporary folk.

'It's all exquisitely played – the pair are still the dons.' The Observer

Big Nights Out @ The Bulverton (Standing Venue)

The Bulverton is where the Festival turns up the volume.

Home to some of the most exciting live acts of the week, it combines big concert energy with late-night dancing, ceilidhs, sessions and unforgettable festival atmosphere.

Watch the sun set over Sidmouth, catch two outstanding live acts, then stay for Late Night Extra – with ceilidhs, midnight dance displays and music into the early hours at Betsy's, the legendary festival bar and home of Sidmouth's famous late-night sessions.

Whatever your tittle - cocktails, mocktails, ales or ciders – the friendly Betsy's volunteer team will keep you refreshed throughout the evening.

With stunning views across the valley, a welcoming crowd, food from **Crazi Jalfrezi**, campfire sessions and the **Festival Car Park** just next door, it's easy to arrive for an evening and find yourself still there hours later (sunrise looks great across the valley too!)

Many festival-goers return night after night. Once you've discovered "the hill", you'll understand why.

Daytimes at the Bulverton

Bulverton isn't just for night owls. Lively Morning dance workshops sit alongside engaging craft workshops, song sessions, mindful mornings and one-off events, all set against some of the best views in Sidmouth. Discover the full daytime programme in mid July.

The Bulverton Big Nights Out Programme Standing Concerts & Late Night Extra (LNE) Ceilidhs

Evening ticket includes access to the Late Night Extra ceilidhs, Betsy's Bar and campfire sessions.

Doors and Sessions open at 7pm, with first act from 8pm and second on stage around 9:05pm (unless otherwise stated).

Late Night Extra (LNE) runs from 11:15pm to 1:15am, with dance displays at midnight.

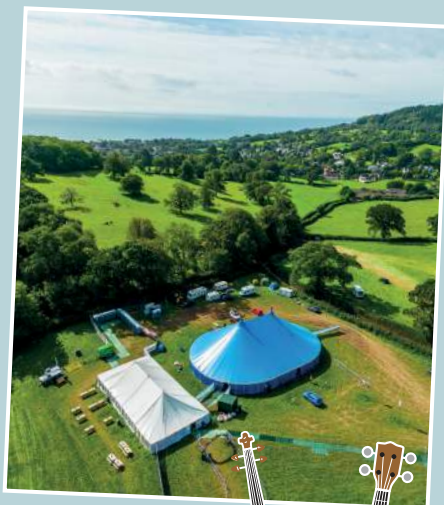
Friday 31st July

Frankie Archer Trio + We Are The Monsters A £18 (£10)

Frankie Archer fuses traditional song with contemporary electronics, while **We Are The Monsters** bring a euphoric electro-folk rave ceilidh to the dancefloor.

LNE Ceilidh with Token Women

Seven exceptional musicians deliver inventive arrangements, European dance tunes and infectious energy. Midnight dance spot by **Kittiwake Border Morris**.



Frankie Archer



Shooogenifty

Saturday 1st August

Shooogenifty + Jack Rutter A £25 (£10)

Scottish folk-fusion legends **Shooogenifty** bring their irresistible grooves, joined by one of the leading voices of modern English folk.

LNE Ceilidh with Threepenny Bit

Dance the night away with one of the festival circuit's favourite ceilidh bands. Midnight dance spot by **Orion Longsword**.

This Taster Programme offers an overview of the festival.

Big Nights Out @ The Bulverton



Mad Dog Mcreea

Sunday 2nd August

Mad Dog Mcreea + Mec Lir A £18 (£10)

Devon favourites **Mad Dog Mcreea** deliver their trademark high-energy folk-rock, alongside Celtic fusion innovators **Mec Lir**.

LNE Ceilidh with Monster Ceilidh Band

A powerhouse ceilidh band featuring Heather Ferrier and John Lambeth. Midnight dance spot by **Clausentum Morris**.

Monday 3rd August

Steve Knightley & the Winter Yards Band with True Foxes + Project SMOK A £27 (£10)

Powerful new folk from **Steve Knightley and friends**, plus the exhilarating trad-fusion sound of **Project SMOK**.

LNE Bal with Blowzabella

One of folk music's most distinctive bands provides the soundtrack for a memorable late-night bal. Midnight dance spot by **The Outside Capering Crew**.



Steve Knightley Winter Yards Band

Tuesday 4th August

Talisk + support A £25 (£10)

One of the most exciting and innovative folk bands of recent years returns to Sidmouth.

LNE Ceilidh with Trinculo

Driving, joyful dance music with deep traditional roots and irresistible grooves. Midnight dance spot by **Black Swan Rapper**.



Talisk

Wednesday 5th August

Kathryn Tickell & The Darkening + Arthur Coates & Kerran Cotterell A £24 (£10)

Northumbrian tradition meets contemporary folk brilliance in an evening packed with atmosphere and energy.

LNE Ceilidh with Simon Care All Stars

A rocking ceilidh led by the driving melodeon of **Simon Care**. Midnight dance spot by **Moulton Morris**.



Kathryn Tickell & the Darkening

Big Nights Out @ The Bulverton



Bonfire Radicals



The Gambian Superstars

Thursday 6th August

Bonfire Radicals + The Gambian Superstars

A £20 (£10)

Global influences, dazzling musicianship and infectious rhythms from two extraordinary live acts.

LNE Ceilidh with The Bismarcks

Classic English dance tunes and outstanding musicianship from a ceilidh institution. Midnight dance spot by Chelmsford Morris.

Friday 7th August

Final Night at the Bulverton

After the Torchlight Procession, head up the hill for one last dance and a final night of festival magic.

LNE with Bearpit A £15 (£10)

A joyous, welcoming all-trans queer ceilidh band bringing huge tunes and huge energy to close the week. Midnight dance spot by Silver Flame Rapper.



Bearpit

Bulverton events are included in the All-In-One, Bulverton-in-One, and relevant Season tickets. A limited number of £10 tickets for those aged 25 and Under are available in advance for each Bulverton Evening.

Evening ticket includes access to the Late Night Extra ceilidhs, Betsy's Bar and campfire sessions.

Daytimes at the Bulverton

Discover dance traditions from across the Isles in morning workshops led by our visiting Display Dance teams. Get creative with Mark Clarke and the team in daily craft sessions – from stone carving to ironwork – all set against stunning views over the Sidmouth Valley. Don't miss the Mindful Morning sessions and one-off song workshops. Discover the full daytime programme in July.



Beyond the Main Stages

Beyond the Ham – Discover the Unexpected

Sidmouth Folk Festival is much more than the headline concerts. Beyond the main stages lies a whole town alive with music, stories and discoveries, where intimate venues become the setting for some of the festival's most memorable moments.

From atmospheric cellar bars and historic chapels to hotels and community spaces, every venue has its own character, and its own musical surprises.



Arbrevyn

Pushing Boundaries, Rooted in Tradition

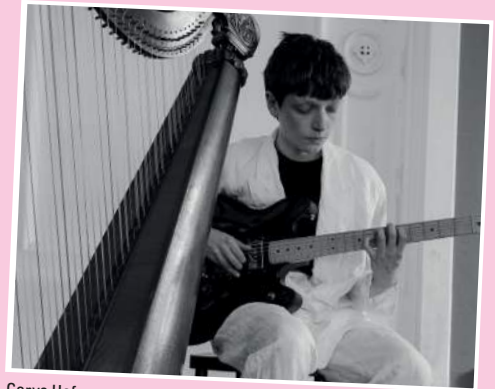
Looking for something different? Our smaller venues are where tradition meets innovation.

The Cellar Bar at Kennaway House has become a festival favourite, hosting intimate concerts where folk music takes unexpected turns. Explore A Cellarful of Folkadelia, where traditional music meets new influences, or discover tomorrow's stars through the EFDSS Presents series, showcasing some of the most exciting artists on today's folk scene.

Elsewhere, venues including the Old Dissenters Meeting House, Methodist Church, Arts Centre, Guide HQ and Harbour Hotel offer everything from traditional ballads and acoustic concerts to adventurous collaborations, song, storytelling and fresh perspectives on folk.



Jali Bakary Konteh and Sarah Deere-Jones



Cerys Hafana

Discover Something New

The smaller venues are where you'll often stumble across your new favourite artist.

Look out for **The Furrow Collective, Emily Portman, Hannah James & Toby Kuhn, Alastair Roberts & Donald Lindsay, Honey & the Bear, Pressgang Mutiny, Pagoda Project, Cerys Hafana Trio, Jali Bakary Konteh with Sarah Deere-Jones, John Kirkpatrick & Cohen Braithwaite-Kilcoyne, The Wilderness Yet, Mikey Kenney, She Shanties, Ainsley Hamill, Arbrevyn** and many more besides.

Whether you're drawn to traditional song, experimental folk, global influences or intimate acoustic performances, there's always another musical discovery waiting just around the corner.

Planning your visit

One of the joys of these smaller venues is their spontaneity. They're all included in **All-in-One and Season Tickets**, so you can wander in, discover something unexpected and perhaps find your favourite performance of the week. Individual tickets will be available on the door, subject to availability.



Hannah James & Toby Kuhn

Manor Pavilion

In the heart of Sidmouth, the Manor Pavilion offers a more intimate festival experience, with comfortable raked seating, excellent sightlines and its own bar.

From acclaimed musicians and special collaborations to storytelling, spoken word and one-off productions, the Manor is home to many of the Festival's most distinctive and memorable events. Perfect for listeners who enjoy great songs, exceptional musicianship and a chance to get closer to the performers.

Good to know: Priority admission is given to All-in-One and Season Ticket holders up to 10 minutes before the start time. Most Manor Pavilion events have tickets available on the door (subject to availability), making them a great way to add something extra to your day.

Selected Highlights:

Saturday 1st August, 3pm
Halsway Young Folk in Concert
£10 (£5)

The next generation of folk talent showcase the results of their summer residential.

Saturday 1st August, 8pm
Yorkshire Evening A £19 (£10)
Bryony Griffith and Alice Jones host a celebration of Yorkshire song, music and performers on Yorkshire Day.



Bryony Griffith & Alice Jones

Sunday 2nd August, 3pm
1918 – The Untold Stories of the Great War A £16 (£10)
Chris Hoban and Sidmouth Town Band bring overlooked voices from the First World War vividly to life through story and song.

Sunday 2nd August, 8pm
Nancy Kerr & James Fagan
+ **The Wilderness Yet** £19 (£10)
Thirty years of exceptional song and musicianship from one of folk's most loved duos, joined by the richly atmospheric harmonies of **The Wilderness Yet**.

Monday 3rd August, 3pm
The Innocent A £16 (£10)
Mick Ryan's powerful musical drama tells the story of Thomas Helliker, the "Trowbridge Martyr", through song, music and spoken word.

Monday 3rd August, 8pm
Miranda Sykes & Jim Causley + support £19 (£10)
Two of English folk music's most distinctive voices come together for an evening of songs old and new.

Tuesday 4th August, 3pm
Michael McGoldrick & Tim Edey + support A £19 (£10)
Two BBC Folk Award winners combine virtuosity, musical chemistry and decades at the forefront of Celtic folk music.

Tuesday 4th August, 8pm
Windborne + support A £19 (£10)
The acclaimed American vocal quartet bring powerful harmony singing and songs of social change into the present day.

Wednesday 5th August, 3pm
Chasing Crockern A £16 (£10)
Storytelling, folklore and the sounds of Dartmoor combine in a captivating exploration of Devon's rich traditions.

Wednesday 5th August, 8pm
Granny's Attic + support £19 (£10)
One of England's finest young folk bands, combining outstanding musicianship with infectious enthusiasm for traditional music.



Granny's Attic



Sam Carter

Thursday 6th August, 4.30pm
Shooting Roots & Stream of Sound Showcase Free Entry
A fantastical showcase from the **Youth Festival**. All welcome.

Thursday 6th August, 8pm
Ballads and Songs: Sam Carter Sings Nic Jones A £19 (£10)
BBC Folk Award winner **Sam Carter** celebrates the songs and legacy of one of folk music's most influential artists.

Friday 7th August, 3pm
Sailor Swift A £16 (£10)
Pete Morton blends songs, stories and comedy in a wonderfully entertaining voyage through 400 years of song.

Friday 7th August, 7.30pm
Belinda O'Hooley & Jackie Oates + support A £19 (£10)
Two of British folk music's most distinctive voices unite for an intimate and beautifully crafted collaboration.



Belinda O'Hooley & Jackie Oates

Ceilidhs

Dance the night (and day) away throughout the Festival.

Whether you're a seasoned dancer or stepping onto the floor for the first time, Sidmouth's packed programme of ceilidhs and social dance offers something for everyone.

At the heart of the town, the **Blackmore Gardens Marquee** hosts a packed programme of evening ceilidhs and dances throughout the week. With the **Blackmore Bar, Craft & Music Village, food stalls** and **free afternoon dance displays**

all nearby, it's one of the Festival's most sociable spaces and a great place to soak up the atmosphere.

New to folk dancing? Join **Kerry Fletcher's Absolute Beginners Dance Workshop** on Friday 31 July at 3.50pm and discover just how easy it is to join in. Friendly callers guide the dances, so no experience or partner is needed - just comfortable shoes and a willingness to join in.

For a Social Dance programme overview see pages 20 & 21.



Evening Highlights at the Blackmore Gardens Marquee

Included in All-in-One and Season Tickets. Individual tickets may be available on the door, subject to capacity.

Friday 31st July, 7.30pm

Welcome Dance with Naragonia

Belgian folk favourites Naragonia bring their glorious melodies, rich arrangements and irresistible dance music to launch the week in style.



Naragonia

Saturday 1st August, 7.30pm

Grand Ceilidh Night with Jigfoot

Traditional dance music with energy, imagination and infectious swing.

Sunday 2nd August, 7.30pm

Grand Ceilidh Night with Token Women. Performance by Lancashire Wallopers

Seven exceptional musicians deliver inventive arrangements, European dance tunes and infectious energy.

Monday 3rd August, 7.30pm

Grand Ceilidh Night with Dirty Big Canal Dance Band. Performance by Ouse Washes Molly Dancers

An Oxford ceilidh supergroup bringing soaring melodies, funky rhythms and guaranteed floor-fillers.

Tuesday 4th August, 7.30pm

Grand Ceilidh Night with Chimera. Performance by Mary Rose & Royal George Morris

A vibrant Manchester folk band with plenty of energy and dancefloor appeal.

Wednesday 5th August

Ceilidh for All with Wren Music, 3pm

Enjoy an inclusive ceilidh with dances adapted to be more accessible for everyone. Free Entry.

Morris Wednesday with Kettlehawk & Clausentum Morris, 7.30pm

This year's theme is Back to School! Fancy dress, games, skits, prizes and plenty of festival fun.

Ceilidh with Kettlehawk, 9pm

High-energy ceilidh music with soaring melodies, driving rhythms and plenty of festival spirit.

Thursday 6th August, 7.30pm

A Stomping Family Ceilidh Performances by Boggart's Breakfast and Jenny Read

After a week of learning tunes together, the **Sidmouth Seaside Stompers** make their festival debut. An evening of music, dancing and festival fun with this year's theme: **CHECK IT OUT!** Everyone welcome.

Friday 7th August, 7pm

Celebration Contra with WillPower Caller Charlotte Rich-Griffin

A joyful end to the week with one of the most exciting dance bands on the circuit.



Token Women

Callers throughout the week include **Annie Bolt, Barry Goodman, Fee Lock, Nick Walden, Sheena Masson, Hannah Moore, Jane Bird, Nancy Potts, Michael Catovsky.**

Full calling and teaching styles will be detailed in the Main Programme, available in July.

More Dancing Across the Festival

Anchor Garden Ceilidhs - FREE

The Anchor Inn's garden on Old Fore Street hosts a lively programme of free lunchtime and late-afternoon ceilidhs throughout the week, featuring **Stepcote Hill, The Bismarcks, Jigfoot, Oakstone Trio, Chimera, Trinculo, Ceilidh 360** and more, plus a Cornish Nos Lowen with **Bagas Fellyon.**

Bulverton Late Night Extras (LNEs)

Keep dancing into the early hours with **Token Women, Threepenny Bit, Monster Ceilidh Band, Trinculo, Simon Care All Stars, The Bismarcks, BEARPIT** and **Blowzabella's** final Sidmouth dance. See pages 12-14 for details.

LNEs are included with **Bulverton** evening tickets, **Bulverton-in-One** tickets, **All-in-One** tickets and relevant **Season Tickets**. Individual tickets may also be available on the door.

Dance Displays

Throughout the week, the town and seafront come alive with a vibrant celebration of dance, showcasing colourful and diverse regional traditions from across the UK.

Enjoy a fantastic programme of free events, including lively processions, "Chance to Meets," and dynamic dance displays in the Market Square and along the seafront.

Don't miss the spectacular free shows at the Blackmore Gardens Dance Marquee and Connaught Gardens – everyone is welcome.



HIGHLIGHTS

Dance Spectaculars

3.15pm - Saturday, Tuesday, Thursday

Blackmore Gardens Marquee. Free

2.30pm - Monday, Wednesday, Friday

Connaught Gardens. Free

A vibrant showcase of British dance traditions – a kaleidoscope of colour, spectacle, and sound.

Daytime Processions

2.30pm - Saturday & Thursday

From the seafront to Blackmore Gardens

Join the energy as dance teams parade through town in a lively celebration of tradition and performance.

Late Night Dance Displays

Midnight - Friday to Friday, Bulverton Marquee

Think you know morris? Think again. Award-winning, boundary-pushing performances after dark.

A Chance to Meet

1pm - Sunday to Friday

Blackmore Gardens Marquee. Free

Meet the teams, discover their styles, and learn more about the traditions behind the dances.



Invited teams include...

Black Swan Rapper • Chelmsford Morris • Clausentum Morris • Kittiwake Border Morris • Lancashire Walllopers • Mary Rose & Royal George • Moulton Morris Men • Old Speckled Hen • Orion Longsword • Ouse Washes Molly • The Outside Capering Crew • Silver Flame Rapper



Sidmouth Horse Trials

1.30pm - Sunday 2nd August, Connaught Gardens.

Free

Hobby horses and fantastical beasts compete for the prestigious Aardman Trophy in this much-loved festival event.

The 38th John Gasson Jig Competition

3pm - Sunday 2nd August,

Blackmore Gardens Marquee. Free

An internationally renowned competition showcasing an exceptionally high standard of energetic jig dancing.

Morris Wednesday -

Back to School Fancy Dress

7.30pm - Wednesday 5th August,

Blackmore Gardens Marquee

A lively evening of ceilidh and more, hosted by Clausentum Morris



Torchlight Procession

10pm - Friday 7th August, Esplanade

Join us for the traditional torchlit finale of the Festival.

Discover More – Workshops & Talks

From Appalachian to Border, Clog to Cotswold and beyond, explore a wide range of regional dance workshops and talks running daily, suitable for all levels of experience. Full details will be available in the Main Programme in July.

Please give generously to the volunteer Festival Collectors and help support the future of Sidmouth Folk Festival.

Workshops, Talks & Learning

Immerse yourself in folk culture and learn new skills through one of the UK's most extensive folk workshop programmes.



While the artistic programme celebrates the creativity of folk traditions on stage, Sidmouth offers the rare opportunity to step in, join the music and become part of it. Spend one day watching a master musician on stage, then the next join them in a workshop.

Whether you fancy trying a one-off singing session, spending the week in a scratch band, learning a new instrument, exploring dance styles from around the world, or discovering the stories behind folk traditions through our Talks programme, there's something for everyone.

With **over 500 hours** of music, dance, song, craft, storytelling and spoken word, you'll learn alongside inspiring artists in a welcoming community of fellow festival-goers. Many workshop series culminate in showcase performances, giving participants the chance to share what they've learned.

It's a wonderful opportunity to indulge your curiosity and develop new skills in a safe, welcoming community of professionals and fellow learners.

Here's a taste of what's on offer...

Song

Sing with the uplifting Festival Choir led by **Janice Burns & Jon Doran**, explore harmony with **Windborne** and **The Wilderness Yet**, discover Shape Note singing, Sheffield Carols and Sean-nós.

Instrumental

From absolute beginners to accomplished players, there's something for every musician. Join **John Kirkpatrick's** Festival Concert Band or **Nick & Mary Barber's** Big Band, improve your fiddle or melodeon playing, try whistle, bones, bodhrán, banjo or flamenco, explore Scandinavian and Early Music traditions. New to sessions? **Well Known Tunes at a Steady Pace** is the perfect place to begin.

Dance

From Appalachian to Austen, Balfolk to Bhangra, Step to Scandi, Contra to Cotswold, explore dance traditions from Britain and beyond. Workshops range from complete beginners to experienced dancers, with opportunities for aspiring dance callers to develop their skills too.



Crafts

Get creative with hands-on making sessions at the Bulverton, alongside Mindful Mornings and relaxed creative workshops throughout the week.

Storytelling & Spoken Word

Develop your storytelling skills through daily Storyrounds, poetry sessions with **Ilse Pedler**, workshops with **David Heathfield** and **Ean Richardson** and sessions exploring the past and future of the story tradition.

Talks & Lectures

Explore folk culture past and present with talks from **The Baggpipe Society**, **Martin Graebe**, **Peter & Barbara Snape**, **Nancy Kerr**, **Katie Howson** and many more.

Something for Every Age

The Children's Festival offers a packed programme of creative workshops for ages **0-4**, **5-7** and **8+**, while the Youth Festival provides dedicated opportunities for **12-17-year-olds**.

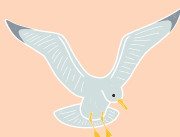
New to folk - or to Sidmouth? Many workshops are designed specifically with beginners in mind. Whether it's your first festival or your fiftieth, you'll find a friendly welcome and something new to discover.

Planning your visit

Workshops and talks are included in All-in-One, Week, Weekend and Day Season tickets - no additional workshop ticket is needed. If you're coming primarily for the workshops and don't have one of the above festival tickets, discounted 6-session Workshop Passes are also available.

Individual workshop tickets (ages 12+) are available on the door, subject to space, at a single price (no youth discount).

Workshops take place at venues across the town. Full workshop listings and venue information will be available at sidmouthfolkfestival.co.uk in mid-July.



Folk Dance

Social dance has been woven into Sidmouth Folk Festival since 1955, and 2026 brings another glorious week of dancing by the sea.

Across five town centre venues, more than 75 dances and workshops await - so pack your dancing shoes for a step-filled summer week.

New to social dance?

Many dances are friendly, welcoming, and guided by expert callers - just turn up and join in. Check out our expansive workshop programme during the day, whether you're completely new or an experienced dancer, there's something here for you.

What to expect

From high-energy contra and ceilidh to elegant Playford, European balfolk and Scandinavian styles, the programme offers a wide range of ways to dance across the week.

Louise Siddons, Sam Tetley-Smith, Charlotte Rich-Griffin, Mark Elvins, Daisy Black, and Geoff Cubitt will bring their expert calling to the contra dances, with high-energy music from the **Linda Game Band, Contrary Faeries, Stomping Ground, WillPower, and Box of Frogs.**

Kerry Fletcher will once again host a variety of Euro dances, with **Oscina and Helen Gentile & Lewis Wood** providing the perfect musical backdrop for these sociable and engaging dances. Scandi dancing is back with **Andy Parr** and music from **Nicky McConkey & Chris Dyer.**

Irish Set Dancing returns with **Kevin & Carol Monaghan** delivering high-energy workshops and social sets.

English Country Dance will be led by renowned callers **Andrew Swaine, Louise Siddons** with music from **Mollie Koenigsberger & Dave Yeomans, Double Dichotomy,** and an exciting project from Paul Hutchinson, the **Pagoda Project.** **Charlie Turner** and **Mark Elvins** will be calling and teaching a mixture of ECD and contra.

Want to do some truly historic dancing? **Tim Walker** will lead Early Dance workshops, with music from **Terry Mann & James Larcombe** and their workshop musicians. Early, Regency and Playford Dance master **Ann Hinchcliffe** will guide dancers through Regency-era style country dances loved by Austen, including Cotillion, Quadrilles and Minuets. **Andrew Swaine** will be leading us through Playford dances in all their varieties.

Evening dances feature Playford, European bals and Scandi dancing, Irish Set dance ceili, English, and mixed evening dances. The Playford Party will feature music from **Oakstone Trio,** whilst the Step Ceilidh, now a firm fixture in the evening dance programme, will be hosted by **Jen Cox** with **Kerry Fletcher, Lewis Wood & Mitch Keeley.**

The calling and teaching styles will be detailed in the main programme, available in July.

So much choice, only one week to fit it all in!



Contrary Faeries

Evening highlights include

Friday 31st July

7.30pm St Teresa's Church Hall

Welcome Contra with **Louise Siddons** and the **Linda Game Band**

7.30pm Methodist Church Hall

Welcome Mixed Dance with **Mark Elvins** and **Mollie Koenigsberger & Dave Yeomans**



Saturday 1st August

7.30pm St Teresa's Church Hall

Contra Dance with **Sam Tetley-Smith** and **Contrary Faeries**

7.30pm Methodist Church Hall

Mixed Dance with **Mark Elvins** and **Box of Frogs**

7.30pm Stowford Rise

Bal with **Kerry Fletcher, Helen Gentile & Lewis Wood** and **Oscina.**

Sunday 2nd August

7.30pm St Teresa's Church Hall

Playford Ball with **Andrew Swaine** and **Contrary Faeries**

7.30pm Methodist Church Hall

Scandi Dance with **Nicky McConkey & Chris Dyer**

7.30pm Stowford Rise

Contra Dance with **Louise Siddons** and **Stomping Ground**

This Taster Programme offers an overview of the festival.

Folk Dance

Monday 3rd August

7.30pm St Teresa's Church Hall
Contra Dance with Geoff Cubitt and Contrary Faeries

7.30pm Methodist Church Hall
English Dance with Charlie Turner and Pagoda Project

7.30pm All Saints Church Hall
Bal & Scandi Dance with Kerry Fletcher, Helen Gentile and Lewis Wood, Nicky McConkey and Chris Dyer.



Tuesday 4th August

7.30pm St Teresa's Church Hall
Step Ceilidh with Lewis Wood & Mitch Keeley, Jen Cox and Kerry Fletcher.

7.30pm All Saints Church Hall
Contra Dance with Andrew Swaine and Contrary Faeries

7.30pm Methodist Church Hall
Irish Ceili with Kevin & Carol Monaghan and WillPower

Wednesday 5th August

7.30pm St Teresa's Church Hall
Contra Dance with Stomping Ground and Daisy Black

7.30pm All Saints Church Hall
Bal with Kerry Fletcher and Oscina

7.30pm Methodist Church Hall
English Dance with Louise Siddons and Pagoda Project



Helen Gentile & Lewis Wood



Thursday 6th August

7.30pm St Teresa's Church Hall
Contra Dance with Mark Elvins and the Linda Game Band

7.30pm All Saints Church Hall
Playford Party with Andrew Swaine and Oakstone Trio

Friday 7th August

7pm Blackmore Gardens Marquee
Celebration Contra with Charlotte Rich-Griffin and WillPower

7pm Methodist Church Hall
Celebration Eurobal with Kerry Fletcher, Oscina, Nicky McConkey & Chris Dyer



Tickets

All dances & workshops are included in All-in-One and Sunday Tickets - on sale now

Individual event tickets may be available on the door (space permitting):
£17 (£10 for 25 and Under).

Many people mix it up with dances across the week alongside concerts and daytime events.



In The Tradition

The Grassroots Heart of the Festival

One of the many joys of our week-long, town-wide festival is the chance to experience artists not only on the big stages, but up close in intimate venues across Sidmouth.

This is where Sidmouth's living tradition thrives. From centuries-old ballads to modern folk revivals, lively sessions and singarounds, the festival's smaller venues are where music is shared, stories are passed on and lasting friendships are made. **Hear directly from tradition bearers, respected performers and passionate enthusiasts who keep these songs, tunes and customs alive for new generations.** Whether you're a lifelong folkie or simply curious to discover more, you'll find a warm welcome and something to inspire.



Music, Song & Sessions

The Arts Centre (next to the Manor Pavilion) is home to daily talks and lectures, acoustic **Meet the Artist** sessions and evening **Traditional Nights Out**, hosted by **Dan Quinn** and **Mike Bettison**. Get there early; these popular round-robin performances celebrate traditional song and music at its finest.

Daily **Ballad Sessions** with **Sheila Miller** and **Moira Craig**, alongside **Folk Arts Acoustic** (the Festival Folk Club) with **Bob & Gill Berry**, have moved to the cosy Con Club with its real ale bar for 2026.

Across the town, the music never stops. Join welcoming sessions and singarounds throughout the week, from **Well Known Tunes**, perfect for newcomers, to lively late-night sessions at **Betsy's at the Bulverton** and chorus songs in the **Bedford Hotel**, where the singing continues long into the night.

Guests include **Arthur Knevett**, **Alvar Smith**, **Bennery Quinn**, **Jennifer Reid**, **Jo Freya**, **John Kirkpatrick**, **Kathryn Tickell**, **Macdara Yeates**, **Rosie Upton**, **Seb Stone**, **Will Duke** alongside our regular hosts and many more festival artists.



Jennifer Reid

Talks & Discoveries

A varied programme of talks and films explores the people, places and traditions that have shaped folk culture, with speakers including **Barry & Gill Goodman: Down the Canal**, **The Bagpipe Society**, **Martin Graebe**, **Matt Quinn: In the Roud** live podcast recording, **Mike Bettison**, **Peter & Barbara Snape**, **A Basket Full of Eggs: 'Romani and Traveller Voices in Music Archives**, and more.

Planning Your Visit

Most concerts, talks and hosted sessions are included in **All-in-One** and **Season Tickets**, with individual tickets available on the door where space allows. **Many informal sessions and singarounds are free to join or simply enjoy as a listener.** Drop in for an hour or spend the whole day exploring Sidmouth's grassroots folk scene.



John Kirkpatrick

This Taster Programme offers an overview of the festival.

Beyond the Expected

From thought-provoking exhibitions and giant puppets to immersive storytelling adventures, these unique events invite you to experience folk culture in unexpected ways.

Field System presents KIT

A celebration of contemporary clothing used for ritual, resistance and reclamation

Friday 31st July - Thursday 6th August

Old Dissenting Meeting House (Unitarian)

KIT is an exhibition of clothing and artifacts used for ritual, resistance, and reclamation. Featuring contemporary artists and makers, the show explores how what we make and wear can express identity, belief, and cultural belonging in the present day.

KIT is hosted and curated by Field System, a gallery and shop on the edge of Dartmoor specialising in artworks and crafts that are inspired by folk cultures and the esoteric. The exhibition explores diverse folk identities and invites visitors to consider how clothing can signal cultural alignment, personal mythologies, acts of resistance and unity.



KIT

Swim From the Wild Shore

Saturday 1st - Monday 3rd August

Would you swim into a story?

Every year, the sea calls. The mysterious Shore Sisters need brave swimmers to retrieve the Sea Runes from the floating Seaflower before the ocean's magic is lost.

Created by award-winning theatre company **Burn the Curtain**, Swim From the Wild Shore is a unique blend of wild swimming, storytelling, music and imagination. Help our storyteller weave a tale powerful enough to calm the sea for another year.

Suitable for confident sea swimmers aged 14+ (under-18s must be accompanied by an adult in the water). Bring your swimming costume, a towel and a sense of adventure.

See website for booking requirements in mid-July.



Swim from the Wild Shore

Tourneperre - Giant Puppet Walkabout

Thursday 6th August

Standing over three metres tall, Tourneperre is a breathtaking giant and guardian of birds, visiting Sidmouth from another world.

Created by **Compagnie Des Invisibles**, this poetic, highly interactive walkabout blends theatre, storytelling and audience participation, inviting festival-goers to reconnect with the natural world and reflect on the fragile beauty of disappearing wildlife.

Planning Your Visit

These special events take place at locations across the Festival. See the Main Programme (available in mid-July) and sidmouthfolkfestival.co.uk for full details, times, locations and any booking requirements.



Tourneperre - Giant Puppet Walkabout

Storytelling & Spoken Word

Storytelling has always been at the heart of Sidmouth Folk Festival. From intimate sessions in the historic Dissenters Meeting House and All Saints Church Hall to major productions blending story, music and theatre, you'll find stories around every corner of the festival.

This year's programme journeys through folklore, history, myth and spoken word, with storytelling circles, creative workshops, book talks, ghost stories and unforgettable performances throughout the week.

Whether you're discovering traditional tales for the first time or are a lifelong folklore enthusiast, there's something to captivate every imagination.

Highlights include...



Daily Storytelling Circles & Workshops

Start the day with **Ean Richardson's** welcoming storytelling circles, then delve deeper with workshops exploring the craft of storytelling, from Beginners to Improvers with **Ean Richardson**, **David Heathfield**, **Hannah Moore** and more.

History Through Story & Song

History comes vividly to life through story, song and spoken word. **Daisy Black** brings *The Bayeux Tapestry: The Full Yarn* to life through medieval stories, poetry and song, while *1918 - The Untold Stories of the Great War*, featuring **Chris Hoban** and **Sidmouth Town Band**, gives voice to the lesser-known stories of the First World War. *Time and Tide* explore the resilience and bravery of the wives and families of the Tolpuddle Martyrs through traditional song and spoken narrative, while *Peter's Field* and *The Innocent* continue the journey with powerful musical storytelling exploring protest, injustice and ordinary lives caught up in extraordinary events.

Books & Spoken Word

Charlie Creed shares *The Cat's Tales*, celebrating the stories behind our feline companions, while poet **Ilse Pedler** returns with daily poetry sessions at the Royal Glen Hotel, culminating in a Friday showcase.

There's much more to discover throughout the week, including early evening Storyrounds with **Mo Keast** and **Tom Goodale**, late-night ghost stories, and opportunities to hear and share stories in welcoming, intimate settings.



Time & Tide

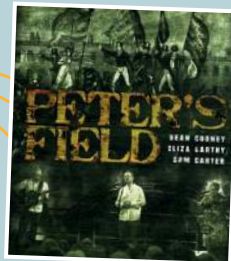
Planning your visit

Book ahead for: *Chasing Crockern*, *1918 - The Untold Stories of the Great War*, *Peter's Field* and *The Innocent*.

Many of the remaining storytelling events take place in intimate venues such as the Dissenters Meeting House and All Saints Church Hall, creating the perfect atmosphere for tales, myths and spoken word. These events are included in All-in-One and Season Tickets, with individual tickets available on the door, subject to availability.



Chasing Crockern



Peter's Field

Folklore & Myth

Journey into Devon folklore with **Sara Hurley** and **Lisa Schneidau's** *Chasing Crockern*, discover haunting tales in **Ean Richardson's** *The Curse of the Most Beautiful*, or explore temptation and choice in **Hannah Moore's** *The Devil Dares You*.

Theatre & Traditional Tales

Trudgepig Folk Theatre reimagine *The Wickerwork Man*, while **David Heathfield** explores stories from Britain and beyond, alongside workshops and a special evening of Palestinian folk tales in support of young storytellers in Gaza.



The Wickerwork Man

Youth Festival

Sidmouth's packed Youth Festival for ages 12-17 is the place to make friends, learn new skills, perform, play, and hang out by the sea.

Run by young people, for young people, it's a week full of music, dance, singing, storytelling, creativity and late-night festival fun.

Based in the central All Saints Church classrooms, your hub for the week, Shooting Roots and Stream of Sound lead a brilliant programme of workshops through the week, ending in showcase performances from newly formed bands, dance sides, choirs and theatre groups at the Manor and on the seafront.

And when the sun goes down, don't miss the legendary Betsy's Bash sessions up on Bulverton Hill: banging tunes, big songs, silly games and one of the favourite early-evening hangouts for young festival-goers.



Shooting Roots

Shooting Roots return to Sidmouth with six different workshop strands for 12-17 year olds across the week. Whether you're brand new or coming back for more, start with the Welcome Session on Saturday to meet the tutors, play some games and discover the theme for the week ahead.

Stream of Sound

Stream of Sound bring splendiferous songs, scrumptious harmonies and a healthy dose of pure silliness. Join their a cappella workshops, or catch them performing elsewhere around the Festival too.



Youth Workshops include:

Craft Day: On Sunday, newbies and old hands alike can get stuck in, learn traditional craft skills and make something to take home.

Theatre: Make new friends, build confidence and unleash your creativity in lively workshops full of laughter and collaboration, leading to a showcase on Thursday.

Storytelling: No experience needed: try your hand at the traditional art of storytelling, with Shooting Roots' unique twist, and work towards a Storyground at the end of the week.

Dance: Learn some brilliant folk dances and perform in your very own spot on the Esplanade on the final Friday.

Band: Bring your instrument and help create a great big funky band. Suitable for all abilities, with a showcase on Thursday.

Song: Join Stream of Sound's Harmonious Throng and get swept up in the glorious sound of unaccompanied singing.



No experience is needed for any of the workshops, and there's no pressure to take part in the end-of-week performances - though they're great fun if you do!

The folk scene is bursting with extraordinary young performers, and we're delighted to welcome more of the county's finest young folkies from **Halsway Youth Folk**, alongside even more rising talent in our **Eye on the Future** concerts.

Join for the full week to get the most out of workshops, make friends and take part in end-of-week showcases.

Plus sessions and festival adventures, there is never a dull moment in Sidmouth's Youth Festival.

See you there!

The best way to experience the Youth Festival is with an **All-in-One or Season Ticket**, giving access to all youth workshops and other events across the week.

If you're not joining for the full week, **individual workshop tickets may be available on the door** (subject to space). Concert tickets for ages 25 and under (12-25) are just **£10** in advance for most Ham, Bulverton & Manor Pavilion.



Free Children's Festival - Free, Creative, All Day



Right at the heart of the Festival and the Town, Peacock Lawn is the place for children and families.

A safe, welcoming and fully programmed space, the Children's Festival runs throughout the day with a huge range of activities, and **everything here is free to attend.**

Bring a picnic rug and stay all day, or dip in and out between other Festival adventures.

A Week Designed for Families

From relaxed play spaces to hands-on creativity, there's something for every age and energy level.

Rainbow Tent - A drop-in play area for younger children - and a calm space to recharge away from the bustle.

Peacock & Seagull Marquees - Workshops throughout the week including crafting, songwriting, dance, singing and forest school.

Midday Music - A perfect picnic spot, with lunchtime performances at the **Puffin Marquee.**

And don't miss the **Sidmouth Postman**, delivering the Children's Festival postal service throughout the week.



Summer School by the Sea

For children who want to dive a little deeper, week-long workshops build skills, confidence and friendships, often leading to a Festival performance.

Music

Seaside Stompers (8+ Years) - For young musicians who play any instrument, building towards a special ceilidh band performance at the Blackmore Gardens Marquee.

The Minims (5-7 Years) - A daily music workshop tailored to beginners, leading to a main Festival performance.

Song

SongSwell Choir with Bryony Griffith (8+ Years) - Learn traditional songs, and perform as part of the Children's Festival Showcase.

Mini Singers with Jackie Oates (5-7 Years) - Fun, friendly sessions full of singing and making new friends.

Dance

If movement is your thing, we've got you covered with morris and sword dance workshops, plus maypole sessions every morning on Peacock Lawn.



Festival Highlights for Families

Sidmouth Folk Festival Pyjama Party - Start the week in style with a magical evening on Peacock Lawn. Put on your pyjamas and join us for a fabulous Party. Enjoy a Pyjama Ceilidh, the **Out of the Box Circus Show**, Teddy Bear in the Bed crafts and Bedtime Bingo. Don't forget your teddy!

Download the full Children's Programme here:



CLUCK! - A brand-new original musical inspired by the bizarre true story of Mike the Headless Chicken (a chicken from 1940s Colorado who lived for 18 months without its head!).

Head on down to the farmyard where the chickens come together to tell you the true story of one of the legends of chicken-kind in this fast paced, comic musical that has to be seen to be believed!

Expect puppetry, live music and plenty of eggcellent puns.



Family Campfire Session - Back by popular demand, join us at the Bulverton for a special family campfire singalong, hosted by Rob Pudner, with brilliant live music guests curated by Bryony Griffith.

Lantern Making & Torchlight Procession - Create your own lanterns during the week and take part in the spectacular Torchlight Procession to close the Festival.

Easy to Join In - Tickets

To make the most of the Children's Festival, book a **free Children's (0-11 years) Season Ticket**. This gives priority access to activities across the week (space permitting). Available online or from the Tourist Information Centre. Children attending ticketed events must be accompanied by a ticket-holding adult.

Families at the Wider Festival

There's plenty more to explore across Sidmouth, from free outdoor performances to storytelling and dance displays.

For ages 12-17, see the Youth Festival, with even more opportunities to get involved.

Soak up the Festival Spirit - For Free!

Sidmouth comes alive during the Festival - and wherever you are in town, you're never far from the music.

Alongside the main concerts and dance programme, a whole world of free entertainment unfolds across the town.

From seafront dancing to pub sessions, storytelling to hands-on workshops, there's a huge range of free events to discover throughout the week. Wander through town and you'll find something happening at every turn - processions, performances, singarounds and those spontaneous moments that make the Festival what it is.

Whether you're joining in or simply soaking up the atmosphere, it's all part of the Sidmouth experience.



Join In: Sessions & Singarounds

Sidmouth Folk Festival is full of informal music-making - bring your voice, your instrument, or just come and listen.

The Volunteer Inn - Lunchtime traditional sessions hosted by **Dave Vaughan** and guests

Upstairs at The Anchor - The Middle Bar Singers - unaccompanied singing, lunchtime and evening

Royal York & Faulkner - Morning singarounds and evening music sessions

Royal Glen Hotel - Afternoon themed singarounds

Sidmouth Rugby Club - Hosted music and song sessions - all welcome

Esplanade Shelter - West Gallery singing, 2pm daily

Bedford Hotel - Late Night Sing

You'll also find music at The Swan, The Radway (English tunes), The Anchor main bar, Bedford Pynes Bar, Sidmouth Cricket, Tennis and Croquet Club and more across town.



Free Highlights, Every Day

The Anchor - Lunchtime and afternoon ceilidhs - jump in or just watch

Blackmore Gardens Marquee - Afternoon dance showcases from teams across the Festival

Royal Glen Hotel - Daily poetry workshops with Ilse Pedler, plus a Poetry Open Mic

Storytelling for Adults - Morning Storytelling Circle (9:30-11am, Twyford House, excl. Sunday)
Evening Storyground (5-6:30pm, Manor Pavilion Bar)

Dance Workshops on the Esplanade - Mon-Fri, 11am-12noon - Wild Thyme Border Morris (all levels)
Sun-Fri, 6-7pm - Herbaceous Border Morris (come in kit if you have it)



Support the Festival

If you enjoy the free events, please consider giving to the collectors' tins - your support helps keep the Festival open, accessible and thriving.

Food & Drink, Craft & Music - Our Festival Hubs

Open to everyone, these are the social hubs of the Festival, places to meet, refuel and feel part of it all, day and night.



Blackmore Gardens

At the centre of town, Blackmore Gardens is a natural place to pause, explore and spend time.

The Craft & Music Village (daily, 10am–7pm) showcases makers and traders from across the South West – perfect for browsing, gifts and festival finds.

Alongside, the **Food Village** offers everything from quick bites to full meals, with plenty of vegan, vegetarian and gluten-free options. The popular **Blackmore Bars** team serve local ales, lagers and ciders, alongside low and no alcohol drinks – grab a drink and settle in.

Right next door, the **Blackmore Marquee** hosts morning dance workshops, free afternoon displays and evening ceilidhs – an easy next step if you're ready to experience more.



Betsy's at the Bulverton

For sunset views and late-night atmosphere, head up the hill.

With great drinks, hearty food and a welcoming, laid-back feel, **Betsy's** is a favourite gathering spot. Run by a volunteer crew of dancers and musicians, it's full of character, especially as the evening rolls in.

Enjoy cocktails, ales and more, alongside pizzas, curries and other festival favourites. At the **campsite hub** below, you'll also find breakfast served each morning.

Next door, the **Bulverton Big Top** comes alive at night with major concerts and ceilidhs. Don't miss the campfire sessions and daytime craft workshops.



The Ham

Right by the sea, **The Ham** is perfect for relaxing and taking it all in.

From coffee and snacks to full meals, there's something for all tastes, with plenty of dietary options. **The Ham Bar** keeps things flowing throughout the day, inside and out.

You're moments away from the **Ham concerts** – three seated shows a day featuring world-class folk artists.

Across all festival bars, enjoy local ales from **Exeter Brewery** and ciders from **Sandford Orchards**, alongside a wide range of other drinks.

Bring your reusable cup – or buy a Folk Festival one for sustainable sipping.

Get Involved - be part of the Festival magic

There are many ways to be part of Sidmouth Folk Festival – before, during and beyond the week itself.



Join Our Volunteer Team

Sidmouth Folk Festival thrives thanks to the dedication of hundreds of volunteers, from directors and collectors to car park teams, venue stewards and more.

We're looking for enthusiastic people to help bring the Festival to life. Whether you're welcoming audiences, supporting artists, helping on the campsite or getting involved behind the scenes, there's a role for you.

- In return, you'll receive:
- Free Festival pass
- Free Festival camping
- One free Ham Evening Concert ticket (subject to availability)
- Discounts on Pre-Festival and other Ham Evening Concerts
- Discounts at Festival caterers
- Discounted youth season tickets
- Discounted Festival bus passes

Apply now at sidmouthfolkfestival.co.uk and be part of what makes the Festival so special.



Partner with Us – Support Sidmouth Folk Festival

Sidmouth Folk Festival is more than a programme of events, it's a week-long community, bringing together artists, audiences and the town in a shared celebration of music, dance and tradition.

We work with partners who want to be part of that experience.

From supporting stages and venues to enabling workshops, family activity and participation across the town, our partnerships are built around creating meaningful moments for audiences.

With tens of thousands of visitors each year, the Festival offers a unique opportunity to connect with an engaged, loyal and wide-ranging audience – from dedicated festival-goers to families, day visitors and holidaymakers.

Whether you're a local business or a national brand, we'll work with you to create a partnership that reflects your goals and feels at home within the Festival.

Be part of something special. Visit sidmouthfolkfestival.co.uk to explore partnership opportunities.



Get Festival-Ready with Official Merchandise

Celebrate the 72nd Festival in style by pre-ordering this year's official T-shirt and wearing it from day one.

You'll also find a selection of exclusive archive merchandise online at sidmouthfolkfestival.co.uk, or browse in person at our stalls on **The Ham** and in **Blackmore Gardens** throughout the week.

Take a piece of the Festival home and keep the spirit alive all year round.

Sidmouth Folk Festival Charity

Established in 2005, the Sidmouth Folk Festival charity (Sidmouth FolkWeek Ltd) is dedicated to ensuring the Festival's long-term success. Our trustees are passionate Festival supporters, bringing diverse expertise and a strong connection to the event. In addition to organising collections, the Charity offers both a legacy and Friends scheme to further support our Festival.

Join The Friends of The Sidmouth Folk Festival

For over 70 years, the Sidmouth Folk Festival has enriched both the town and the national folk music and dance scene. The Friends of The Sidmouth Folk Festival are dedicated to ensuring its longevity. Join us in preserving this cultural gem for just £3 a month. Read more about the Charity and Friends Scheme at sidmouthfolkfestival.co.uk/charity/



Find Us - Where is Sidmouth?

Sidmouth is located on the East Devon Jurassic Coast and is easily accessible via Junction 30 of the M5. The nearest railway stations are Exeter and Honiton, with regular bus services into the town.

Festival Venues

The Festival takes place across Sidmouth in a wide range of venues, including seated and standing spaces, permanent buildings and marquees. Both indoor and outdoor shows form part of the experience.

For full details, including accessibility information, visit: sidmouthfolkfestival.co.uk/venues/

Arriving at the Festival:

Transport & Parking

The Official Festival Car Park is next to The Bulverton, a short walk downhill to the campsite bus stop and around 1.5 miles from the town centre.

Additional parking is available at The Cricket Club, The Rugby Club, The Ham and Manor Road.

Lift-sharing is encouraged where possible.

Sidmouth is also on National Cycle Network Route 2, with bicycle parking available near the Swimming Pool.

Festival Bus

A timetabled, ticketed Festival Bus runs between the campsite (near The Bulverton) and the town centre.

Bus season passes are available online, with single journeys payable by cash or card onboard.



The Festival Campsite

Located at EX10 9DW on Bulverton Road (B3176), approximately 1.5 miles from the seafront, the campsite welcomes tents, motorhomes and caravans.

Facilities include trailer toilets, showers, washing-up sinks, a box office, catering, a general meeting area and an accessibility area.

Festival ticket holders receive discounted camping rates. Non-ticket holders can stay at a higher non-ticket (NT) rate. Children aged 11 and under camp free. Under 18s must be accompanied by a responsible adult.

Open from noon Wednesday 29th July to noon Saturday 8th August.



Accessibility

We aim to make the Festival accessible and inclusive for everyone.

Accessibility details for venues and events are available on the website and in the Main Programme. Free Personal Assistant tickets are available for those requiring assistance (qualifying documentation required – see website for details).

Most venues offer wheelchair access, and our volunteer stewards are on hand to help.

For enquiries or information in an alternative format, please email: access@sidmouthfolkfestival.co.uk

Dogs

Well-behaved dogs on leads are welcome at the Festival Campsite, The Hub, Connaught Gardens, Blackmore Gardens, and the Anchor Garden. Recognised assistance dogs are permitted within festival venues, including Peacock Lawn and the Blackmore Gardens Marquee, but other dogs are not allowed.



A Safe & Welcoming Space

We want Sidmouth Folk Festival to be a welcoming, inclusive and enjoyable experience for everyone. We ask all attendees to respect volunteers, fellow visitors and other festival-goers.

Aggressive, discriminatory, disruptive, harassing or offensive behaviour will not be tolerated. If you have any concerns, please contact:

info@sidmouthfolkfestival.co.uk

Sustainability

Sidmouth Folk Festival is committed to reducing its environmental impact wherever possible:

- No polystyrene or single-use plastics used by caterers
- Waste is sorted offsite and recycled appropriately
- Drinks are served in reusable cups – please keep and reuse, or bring your own
- Water refill points are available around town

Tickets & Further Information

For ticket information, see page 5. This Taster Programme provides an overview of the Festival. For full timings and details, see the Main Programme and the Free Children's Festival Programme, available in July.

Find out more:
sidmouthfolkfestival.co.uk/faqs/

A Taster of Sidmouth Folk Festival

Day-by-Day Artist Guide

Use this page to see who's appearing each day and start planning your festival. Many artists appear several times during the week – don't miss them in workshops, talks and informal sessions too.

See the Main Programme (available in July) or sidmouthfolkfestival.co.uk for full times, venues and booking information.

Thursday pre-festival specials

The Bootleg Beatles**

Friday pre-festival matinee

The Fisherman's Friends (sold out)**

Main festival programme highlights

Friday 31st July

Frankie Archer Trio ● Jali Bakary Konteh with Sarah Deere-Jones ● Naragonia

Oysterband's John Jones with Ray Cooper & Al Scott ● Stepcote Hill ● Token Women ● We Are The Monsters

Saturday 1st August

Bryony Griffith & Alice Jones ● Burn the Curtain – Swim to the Wild Shore ● Cerys Hafana Trio ● Daytime Procession

Jack Rutter ● Jigfoot ● Lindisfarne* ● Mikey Kenney ● Shooglenifty ● She Shanties ● The Copper Family

Threepenny Bit ● Welcome Concert with Sidmouth Town Band, Halsway Young Folk & festival guests

Sunday 2nd August

1918 – The Untold Stories of the Great War ● Black Umfolosi ● Burn the Curtain – Swim to the Wild Shore ● Eddi Reader*

Mad Dog Mcrea ● Martin Simpson ● Mec Lir ● Monster Ceilidh Band ● Nancy Kerr & James Fagan ● Sidmouth Horse Trials

Spooky Men's Chorale ● Steve Knightley & Friends ● The 38th John Gasson Jig Competition ● The Rosie Hood Band

The Wilderness Yet ● Token Women

Monday 3rd August

Blowzabella ● Burn the Curtain – Swim to the Wild Shore ● Chimera ● Joshua Burnside ● Miranda Sykes & Jim Causley

Project SMOK ● Spooky Men's Chorale* ● Steve Knightley & The Winter Yards Band ● The Innocent ● Tim Edey

Tuesday 4th August

Adriano Adewale and Friends: Rooted and Rising ● Blowzabella ● Capercaillie* ● Charlie Creed – The Cat's Tales

Dirty Big Canal Dance Band ● Michael McGoldrick and Tim Edey

Step Ceilidh with Kerry Fletcher, Jen Cox, Lewis Wood and Mitch Keeley ● Talisk ● Trinculo ● Windborne

Wednesday 5th August

Arthur Coates & Kerran Cotterell ● Chasing Crockern ● Family Campfire Session ● Gigspanner Big Band ● Granny's Attic

Kathryn Tickell & The Darkening ● Kettlehawk ● Morris Wednesday – Back to School theme

Recovered Songs from the Crimean War ● Simon Care All Stars ● The Young'uns*

Thursday 6th August

A Stomping Family Ceilidh ● Ballads and Songs: Sam Carter sings Nic Jones ● Bonfire Radicals ● Compagnie des Invisibles

Daoiri Farrell ● Daytime Procession ● Hannah James & Toby Kuhn ● Kate Rusby*

Owen Spafford, Will Allen & Ben Filmer-Sankey ● The Bismarcks ● The Furrow Collective ● The Gambian Superstars.

Will Pound & Jenn Butterworth

Fri 7th August

BearPit ● Belinda O'Hooley & Jackie Oates ● Eliza Carthy & Jennifer Reid ● Hannah Moore

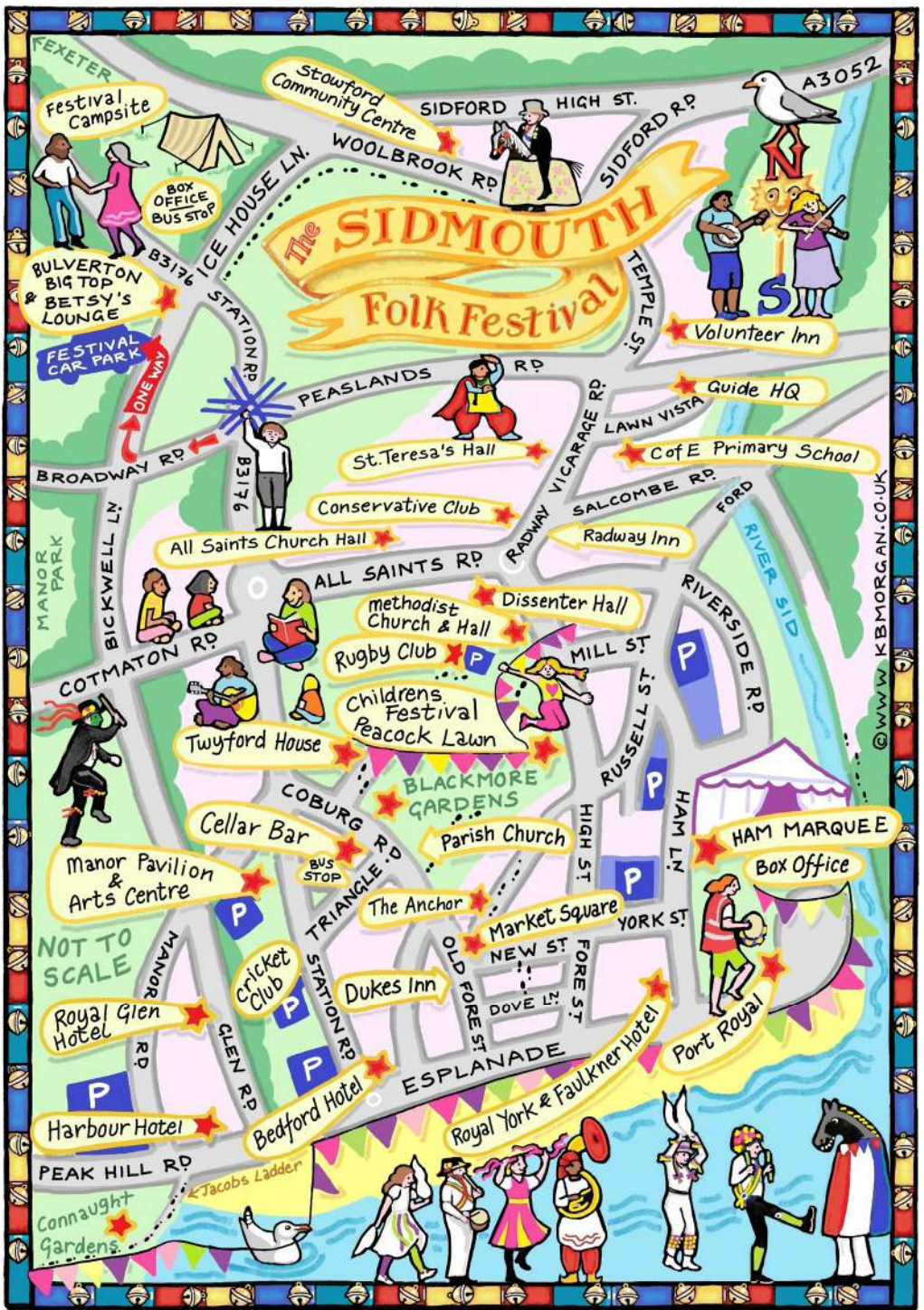
Malin Lewis Trio ● Peter's Field with Sean Cooney, Eliza Carthy & Sam Carter ● Sailor Swift ● Spiers & Boden

Stepcote Hill ● Torchlight Procession ● WillPower

** Pre-Festival concert

* Ham Evening concert

Box Office 01395 577952 ● www.sidmouthfolkfestival.co.uk



For full details on the programme, venues and more visit www.sidmouthfolkfestival.co.uk