

# **SIDMOUTH** **FOLK FESTIVAL** **THE ANCHOR INN**



**THE GARDEN STAGE**  
**PROGRAMME**  
**1ST-8TH AUGUST 2025**



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FOLK FESTIVAL**  
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# Welcome to The 71st Sidmouth Folk Week!

Welcome to the 71st Sidmouth Folk Week at the Anchor Inn Garden Stage! We are a family-owned pub in the heart of the town and a proud Platinum Sponsor of the Festival. There is a packed 8-day programme of live music and dance at our Garden Stage from Friday 1st to Friday 8th August.

The ever-popular lunchtime and late afternoon Cèilidhs return this year. We also offer a wide range of unmissable live music with folk and roots at its core in the late afternoons and evenings. Dance the night and day away every day of the Festival with a packed programme of ceilidhs. The caller & the calling style for each ceilidh will be detailed in the Sidmouth Folk Festival Programme and website - available in July at [sidmouthfolkfestival.co.uk](http://sidmouthfolkfestival.co.uk).

This year we are pleased to have a wide and eclectic selection of music, from The Barefoot Bandit, fresh off tour with the Dub Pistols, to the Jamestown Brothers, Concrete Prairie and Our Atlantic Roots.

Our outdoor bar offers endless real ales, ciders, cocktails, Pimms and exceptional, value-for-money, locally-sourced food. Don't miss the Anchor experience, your festival isn't complete without a visit to the Garden Stage!



# Friday August 1st

## **12 noon - 2:30pm; Lunchtime Ceilidh with Stepcone Hill**

Enjoy the vibrant, driving rhythms of traditional English dance music with Bob Powell (melodeon), Adrian Wynn (guitar, mandocello, trombone), and Min Wild (whistles, soprano sax), formerly of Mrs. Midnight's Band.

## **3pm - 4.00pm; East Devon Rock Choir**

Come along for uplifting, feel-good songs with East Devon Rock Choir, an alternative experience to traditional classical or community choirs, singing rock, pop & Motown songs.

## **4.30 - 6.30pm; Afternoon Ceilidh with Bailey & Keely**

Saul Bailey and Mitch Keely met on the English session scene and instantly clicked over their love of pushing tunes past their limits. Now, they form a new and unique musical force.

## **7pm - 8.30pm; The Dilly Boys**

The Dilly Boys are an energetic folk band, bringing to life original and traditional songs, using banjo, accordion, violin, guitar and carefully constructed harmonies.

## **9pm - 11pm; The Barefoot Bandit**

With their infectious energy and genre-defying sound, The Barefoot Bandit have been making waves in the UK music scene, captivating audiences with their unique explosion of reggae, dub, world music and folk flair. Fresh off a headline tour and a stint on the road with the Dub Pistols, this band will make your day!



**The Barefoot Bandit**

# Saturday August 2nd

## **12 noon - 2:30pm; Lunchtime Ceilidh with Sunbird**

An exciting and refreshing Ceilidh sound, playing straight-up, joyful dance music. Catchy tunes, great rhythms and fun dances that everyone can join in with.

## **3 - 4.00pm; The McSmiths**

The McSmiths play original music written by Steve McSmith and arranged by the band. They deliver a mixture of folk and blues, happy and sad, up and down, that sort of thing. All hopefully with a smile on their faces (most of the time).

## **4.30 - 6.30pm; Afternoon Ceilidh with Jigfoot**

Traditional dance tunes with energy, inventiveness and, above all, swing. This is music that defies you to stay still!

## **7 - 8.30pm; Spin 2**

An exciting combination of instrumental virtuosity & soulful melodies from this well-travelled band of musicians. Spin 2 perform self-penned songs & tunes with influences of world, folk & popular music to create a unique alternative roots sound.

## **9 - 11pm; Ocean City Groove**

Ocean City Groove are a ten-piece funk, disco, soul and party band that have cut their teeth at weddings, parties, corporate events and festivals. They cover a range of popular tracks from September, to Boogie Wonderland, to classic soul tracks like Nowhere to Run and Mr Big Stuff. With a set that appeals to all generations, with modern party tunes such as Levitate, they will ensure everyone has a great time.



**Ocean City Groove**

# Sunday August 3rd

## **12 noon - 2:30pm; Lunchtime Ceilidh with EFDSS Ceilidh Bird**

Led by English fiddler Ross Grant, the English Folk Dance & Song Society's ensemble specialises in music for dancing.

## **3 - 4.00pm; Newtown Roots Band**

A community-driven folk band playing a variety of traditional tunes from around the world, all on acoustic instruments.

## **4 - 6.30pm; Afternoon Ceilidh with Bagas Fellyon**

Hailing from the depths of West Cornwall, Bagas Fellyon weave hypnotic rhythms using drums, bass, fiddle, accordion, and hammered dulcimer, reimagining the sound of Cornish traditional music.

## **7 - 8.30pm; Tricky Situation**

Tricky Situation are a four-piece smooth blues and soul band from Exeter. They formed in early 2019 out of a jam session at a pub in South Devon. Expect moving, soulful vocals from Verity Greenaway, masterful, soaring guitar riffs from Phil Bowler, funky bass lines from Nigel Bushell and bluesy rhythms from David Torras.

## **9 - 11pm; All For Jolly**

Formed in 2019, Cornish Celtic folk punk rockers All For Jolly hail from the rugged coastal town of Penzance, Cornwall, UK. The live-wired quintet have been turning heads and making new friends for their infectious sound that merges foot-stomping folk with a buoyant punky edge.



# Monday August 4th

## **12 noon - 2:30pm; Lunchtime Ceilidh with Out to Lunch**

Traditional English folk fiddler Taz Terry brings together a host of experienced dance musicians for this exciting new quintet.

## **3 - 4.00pm; Foxwillow**

Foxwillow are singer-songwriter Celie Sainsbury and Martin Dearmun, with Hazel Prior on the Celtic Harp. Their original songs encompass elements of country, folk and rock, enhanced by strong vocal harmonies to create a unique sound.

## **4.30 - 6.30pm; Afternoon Ceilidh with Frog on a Bike**

Rooted in English folk music, Frog on a Bike deliver vivacious energy, a distinctively big folk-rock sound and driving rhythms guaranteed to get you up and dancing.

## **7 - 8.30pm; Our Atlantic Roots**

Cornwall-based transatlantic duo Our Atlantic Roots fuse together poetic lyrics and cinematic instrumentation. They creatively present a blend of the cultures they are individually from, by merging genres characterized by their country and folk roots. Audiences consistently praise the duo for their tight vocal harmonies, honest storytelling and for Mac's impressive guitar performances.

## **9 - 11pm; King Cerulean**

A dynamic nine-piece, pop-funk band based in Cardiff, performing music across the UK. Evolving from small open mic nights to sold-out venues in Cardiff and London, they recently won Hot Vox's 'New Blood' competition, playing at the Isle of Wight Festival.



# Tuesday August 5th

## **12 noon - 2:30pm; Lunchtime Ceilidh with Diatonics**

Diatonics bring an energetic, eclectic fusion of folk dance music, driven by musicians from The Committee Band, Random, and Gas Mark 5. With deep roots in Morris and Ceilidh traditions, they guarantee a vibrant dance floor!

## **3 - 4.00pm; Dartmoor Harmony Choir**

An open and inclusive choir from the wilds of Dartmoor singing inspirational and moving songs from across the eras.

## **4.30 - 6.30pm; Afternoon Ceilidh with The Barber Band**

Traditional English music for dancing, performed in unique Barber Band style. Their combination of fiddle and melodeon, duetting with oboe and bass saxophone, produces a lively, foot-tapping, energetic sound.

## **7 - 8.30pm; Bow Creek**

Bow Creek is a U.K. based stompin' folk band with members hailing from Holland, Ireland and Devon. Their rousing set comprises unique arrangements of folk, Irish, Americana and songs of the sea - all peppered with traditional and European tunes.

## **9 - 11pm; State of Undress**

A difficult band to pigeon-hole, their songs move from the poignant and provocative to the downright shamelessly foot-tapping! With music that's 'a blend of roots, rock, country, Celtic flavourings and a full-bodied melodic musical assault' (R2 Rock n Reel), State of Undress promise you a musical roller-coaster of a gig.



# Wednesday August 6th

## **Sidmouth Hospice at Home Fundraising Day**

Although all music at the Anchor is free during folk week, we would love you to make a healthy donation to this cause. There will be plenty of collection pots for you to donate.

## **12 noon - 2:30pm; Lunchtime Ceilidh with Narthen**

Narthen is an exciting, joyous, and sometimes surprising quartet of family and friends: Jo Freya (sax, clarinet, whistles), Fi Fraser (fiddle, hammered dulcimer), Sarah Matthews (viola, fiddle), and Doug Eunson (melodeon).

## **3 - 4.00pm; Emily Monk's Shining Stars**

This act is based around musical theatre and features local children from the Sidmouth area performing songs from West End shows.

## **4.30 - 6.30pm; Afternoon Ceilidh with Folk Camps Party Band Lite**

A stripped-back version of the Folk Camps Party Band - but with none of the energy lost! It's fun, it's funky, and it's happening right now!

## **7 - 8.30pm; Sweet Black Angels**

Sweet Black Angels are a 5-piece Indie/Rock/folk band from East Devon. They began their musical path in 1995 and have supported The Levellers and Noel Gallagher.

## **9 - 11pm; Under The Radar**

Four musicians all living in the east of the county, all with previous big-city experience in other bands, and all sharing a huge passion to keep music "live and alive" for audiences in the south-west of England.



# Thursday August 7th

## **12 noon - 2:30pm; Lunchtime Ceilidh with Helen Gentle & Lewis Wood**

An exciting duo performing original and dynamic arrangements of European folk dance tunes on clarinet and violin. Their loose, ever-evolving arrangements create space for improvisation, showcasing the interplay between instruments and dancers.

## **3 - 4.00pm; Cleverly Brothers**

The Cleverly Brothers are duo Tim Webb & Merv Grist. They have appeared at festivals, folk clubs and parties including Village Pump, Sidmouth Folk Festival 11 years in a row, Chippenham, Priddy, Somerton and many others. Expect crazy comedy songs that will have you in stitches and audience participation by the shed load too!

## **4.30 - 6.30pm; Big Band Ceilidh led by Nick and Mary Barber**

The Sidmouth Big Band is a giant all-comers ceilidh band. A week of workshops culminates in this public ceilidh, playing for dancing in the Anchor Gardens.

## **7 - 8.30pm; Rage**

South Devon-based covers band Rage have been rocking for over 25 years! With sizzling female lead vocals, this 5-piece band include a wide mix of songs from all the decades, with classics to keep you entertained.

## **9 - 11pm; Jamestown Brothers**

This nine-piece collective mix a variety of country and Celtic influences. Staying true to the storytelling roots of folk, the Jamestown Brothers present an exciting and anthemic array of melodic sounds, ensuring the folk-punk genre continues to remain in safe hands. With a unique line-up of instruments, they create a huge live sound with high energy.



# Friday August 8th

## **12 noon - 2:30pm; Lunchtime Ceilidh with Stepcone Hill**

Vibrant driving rhythms of trad English dance music, from Bob Powell (melodeon), Adrian Wynn (guitar, mandocello, trombone), and Min Wild (whistles, soprano sax), from what was Mrs. Midnight's band.

## **3 - 4.00pm; Battle of the Bands Winner – Capacity 16**

Fresh from a triumphant win at the Devon Secondary Schools Battle of the Bands, Capacity 16 are all from West Buckland School in North Devon. They impressed the judges with their laid back rock music infused with soul.

## **4:30 - 6:30 pm; Afternoon Ceilidh with Bellows & Bows plus Special Guests**

After supporting the calling workshops all week, Bellows & Bows close the Anchor Ceilidh programme in style,

## **7 - 8.30pm; Concrete Prairie**

United by Folk, Country & Americana, Concrete Prairie are a 5-piece band delivering a soundtrack for the glamour and grit of modern living, tackling hardship, loss & mental health. Having headlined local festivals with support from BBC Introducing, the quintet released their debut album, recorded at Real World studios with John Reynolds (Sinead O'Connor, Damien Dempsey, Indigo Girls) to huge acclaim.

## **9 - 10.30pm; Mammoth**

This 5-piece band play funky, party floor fillers from the 80s to the present day! Winners of the 2022 South West Wedding Awards, Mammoth are sure to close Folk Week in style. Bringing together a high level of musicianship and a passion for entertaining, this band each have years of professional experience on the function scene.





# We Are Proud to Support Sidmouth Hospice at Home!



Wednesday 6th August is our charity fundraising day and this year we will be supporting Sidmouth Hospice at Home, the hospice Charity supporting the Sidmouth and Sid Valley community. If a person is diagnosed as having a life limiting illness that requires palliative care, it's their dedicated team of Specialist Palliative Care Nurses and wider support services that will provide Patient care 24/7, 365 days of the year, along with support for family members before and beyond bereavement.

Their model of care is considered both exemplary and pioneering and is unique in Devon and beyond. The Charity rely entirely on the kindness of community donation to fund their nursing team and services as they currently receive no governmental financial support with their service costs, which run in excess of £730,000 each year.

**In loving memory of the late  
Mark Halliwell, RIP**

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