

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



THE GARDEN STAGE **PROGRAMME** **2026**

8 DAYS OF LIVE MUSIC
FREE ENTRY



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

Welcome to The 72nd Sidmouth Folk Week!

Welcome to the 72nd 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 31st July to Friday 7th August, all free to enter and enjoy!

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 with a packed programme of ceilidhs for the entire festival. 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.

This year we are pleased to have a wide and eclectic selection of music, from Ez Dickens, Kaya Street, Barefoot Bandit, the Jamestown Brothers, King Cerulean, Our Atlantic Roots and recent young Battle of the Bands winners.

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! Ceilidh Photo Credits Kyle Baker.



Friday July 31st

12 noon - 2:30pm; Lunchtime Ceilidh

3pm - 4.00pm; Fluorescent State, Battle of the Bands Winner

Fluorescent State is a high-energy, four-piece pop-rock and indie covers band based in Torquay, who were finalists in the 2026 Devon Secondary Schools Battle of the Bands. One of the region's most exciting up-and-coming live acts, they specialise in an explosive mix of modern pop-rock hits and timeless indie anthems, designed to get any audience moving.

4.30 - 6.30pm; Afternoon Ceilidh

7pm - 8.30pm; Kaya Street

Led by Bristol-based singer, songwriter, multi-instrumentalist and producer, Kaya Street bring a sound seamlessly weaving reggae, Afrobeat, soul & socially-conscious themes.

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 1st

12 noon - 2:30pm; Lunchtime Ceilidh

3 - 4.00pm; Cloudi Lewis

Cloudi Lewis is a singer-songwriter from a small seaside town in Devon. Cloudi has been writing and performing for many years and since having some time away from the performance side to settle into family life is back with her new EP Daylight Hours.

4.30 - 6.30pm; Afternoon Ceilidh

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.



Sunday August 2nd

12 noon - 2:30pm; Lunchtime Ceilidh

3 - 4.00pm; True Foxes

True Foxes, an acclaimed Folk/Americana cousin duo, are quickly gaining popularity in the South West and beyond. Amie's powerful vocals and soulful songwriting has been compared to the likes of Laura Marling and Brandi Carlile, performing on Acoustic Guitar. Together with Chloe's ethereal harmonies and melodic bass lines, the duo's storytelling and sisterly banter take the audience on an emotional journey. Recently, they have been playing some impressive shows supporting Steve knightly and Show of Hands

4 - 6.30pm; Afternoon Ceilidh

7 - 8.30pm; Hannah Wood Music

Vocalist and songwriter who draws influences from folk, soul and pop to create dreamy, sometimes haunting sounds. Melancholic vocals and introspective lyrics mirror and bring comfort to our shared struggles. Hannah crafted her sound on the Bristol music scene and has played at popular venues such as The Canteen, The Fleece and The Louisiana.

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.



Monday August 3rd

12 noon - 2:30pm; Lunchtime Ceilidh

3 - 4.00pm; The Flukes

The Flukes are an East Devon-based, all female, ukulele and close vocal harmony band. Bringing the joy to Sidmouth Folk Week, this foot-tapping act is guaranteed to lift your afternoon and are not to be missed.

4.30 - 6.30pm; Afternoon Ceilidh

7 - 8.30pm; Olwyn

Powerhouse singer Livvy Hylton-Smith takes the stage for a real treat with her live band. Playing a mix of Blues, Soul, Motown, Funk and Jazz through the ages, with a few original songs. Olwyn is a sensational performer and her band is made up of brilliant players that will truly uplift your spirits!

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.



Tuesday August 4th

12 noon - 2:30pm; Lunchtime Ceilidh

3 - 4.00pm; Sidmouth Steppers

Sidmouth Steppers are a Ladies' North West Morris Dance Side based in Sidmouth. Traditional Lancashire clogs with bobbins are worn for the dances, as these were originally worn by mill workers with strong origins in folk music.

4.30 - 6.30pm; Afternoon Ceilidh

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; 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.



Wednesday August 5th

12 noon - 2:30pm; Lunchtime Ceilidh

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

7 - 8.30pm; Sweet Black Angels

Celebrating an extraordinary thirty-year journey, Sweet Black Angels take to the stage for what will be their final performance as a band. Formed in the mid-90s and known for their heartfelt songwriting, rich musicianship and unmistakable camaraderie, the group has become a beloved fixture of the local music scene.

This farewell show holds deep significance. The band returns to The Anchor, the venue of their last performance with late founding member Dan Phillips, whose passion and spirit shaped the band from its earliest days. As they bring their story full circle, the evening will serve as a tribute to Dan's life, legacy and the countless memories created along the way. In a special moment for the band and audience alike, Dan's son Fin will join them on stage

9 - 11pm; Ez Dickens

Ez Dickens, South-West solo artist and alternative singer-songwriter, delivers a live show powered by rhythmic grooves, crafty lyrical content, soulful vocals and infectious energy. Having recently released her EP 'Words That Mean Nothing', with single 'Someone' surpassing 200,000 streams, Ez has been on the rise this past year going from strength to strength at UK festivals, headline shows and a support tour with The Undercover Hippy in Autumn '25.



Thursday August 6th

12 noon - 2:30pm; Lunchtime Ceilidh

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 for many years, 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; Afternoon Ceilidh

7 - 8.30pm; Hendrix By Name, Willow By Nature

Hendrix By Name, Willow By Nature combine original songs and quirky, mixed-genre acoustic covers. They have, in a comparatively short time, established themselves with enthusiastic reviews of their numerous local performances.

9 - 11pm; Conscious Club

Since forming in 2016, Conscious Club have played weddings and events all over the UK. They are a trusted supplier of all the top wedding venues in Devon and Cornwall because they love what they do and really get the party started!



Hendrix By Name Willow By Nature

Friday August 7th

12 noon - 2:30pm; Lunchtime Ceilidh

3 - 4.00pm; 54 North

A 3-piece Celtic Folk Fusion Band, 54 North features 3-part vocal harmonies and a wide range of instruments including cajon, fiddle, synth, guitar, mandolin and Bb cornet. Their music combines elements of folk, blues and hints of 80s synth to create a sound that represents each of the musicians in the band in both original music and arrangements of traditional folk songs.

4:30 - 6:30 pm; Afternoon Ceilidh

7 - 8.30pm; Seatrees

Seatrees are a popular and experienced pop-rock covers band adding some zesty twists along the way, throwing in the occasional original to dabble your taste buds. Covering all your favourites, they will set the scene for a memorable musical experience!

9 - 10.30pm; Wight Hot Pipes

A five-piece Celtic Rock band playing covers from all genres with vocals and bagpipes, playing large functions to theme nights, New Year's Eve parties and international events. With a prime slot on the Glastonbury Croissant Neuf Stage in 2019 (where Ed Sheeran made his Glastonbury debut) and their album 'Any Time It Rains' released in June 19, Wight Hot Pipes are really making their mark. Hailing from the musically-creative shores of the Isle of Wight, they are now an internationally acclaimed five-piece band who commanded a standing ovation at the BB King Club in Broadway Manhattan in 2017.



Wight Hot Pipes



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 serving 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 relies 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**

**The Anchor Inn
Old Fore St
Sidmouth EX10 8LP
theanchorinn-sidmouth.co.uk
Phone: 01395 514129**



**THE SIDMOUTH
FOLK FESTIVAL**
1ST - 8TH AUGUST 2025