



gatharings

PRESS KIT

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TEN80
PRODUCTIONS

ABOUT:

SERIES TITLE: Gatherings

"A six part journey through Britain's most extraordinary folk rituals and seasonal customs..."

GENRE: Documentary / Folklore / Cultural History

DURATION: 6 episodes x 30 minutes

LANGUAGE: English

FILMMAKER/DIRECTOR: Dave Brewis

PRODUCED BY: TEN80 Productions Ltd.

COUNTRY OF ORIGIN: UK

RELEASE YEAR: 2025

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DIRECTOR'S STATEMENT

"This subject matter demands an authentic approach so the stories are told only by those who participate. The films resist 'interpretation from above' but instead invite the viewer into a direct encounter. Like the rituals themselves each of the six films feels unique, but when viewed collectively we see powerful themes emerging – continuity, belonging and our evolving relationship with place and nature. Gatherings is a realisation of my long held desire to hold a mirror to these extraordinary events, and document them with authenticity and without prejudice."

- DAVE BREWIS DIRECTOR / PRODUCER



WHERE THE SEASONS ARE MARKED

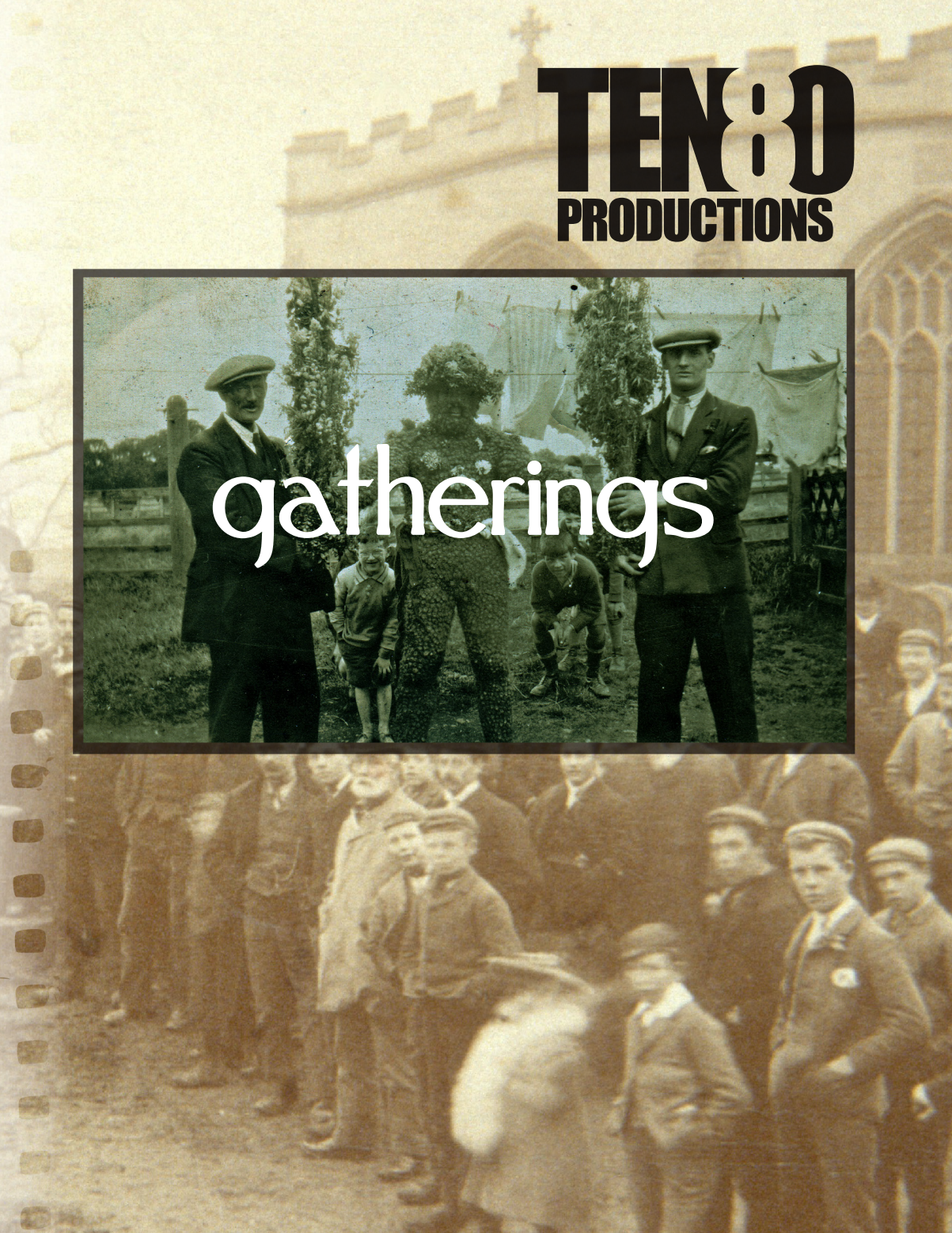
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SERIES SYNOPSIS

Gatherings is a six-part documentary series exploring Britain's most extraordinary folk rituals and seasonal customs – from the inside. With compelling interviews, intense action and the use of unseen archives, we explore how these practices are handed down through time, and we see why they are thriving today. Gatherings is your front row seat for the sights, sounds and intensity of ritual.

A UNIQUE APPROACH...

The films are told entirely via the voices of those who organise and participate in folk rituals, without the use of presenter or narrator. The result is an honest and direct record of these living traditions, capturing how they are prepared, performed and passed on within their communities. Gatherings is a documentary series which reveals much about continuity, place and our sense of belonging.



WHERE TO WATCH

Gatherings is available to watch on Apple TV, Amazon Prime Video and YouTube TV & Movies from October 2025. Check here for full details and links:

www.gatherings.tv/buy-and-watch



Gatherings on Apple TV

Format: 4k

Available: October 2025

Regions: United Kingdom, United States, Canada, Australia

Link: www.gatherings.tv/buy-and-watch



Gatherings on YouTube TV & Movies

Format: HD

Available: October 2025

Regions: United Kingdom, United States, Canada, Australia

Link: www.gatherings.tv/buy-and-watch



Gatherings on Amazon Prime TV

Format: HD

Available: October 2025

Regions: United Kingdom, United States

Link: www.gatherings.tv/buy-and-watch

Episode 1

THE BURRY MAN

Title: THE BURRY MAN

Runtime: 27:40

Location: SOUTH QUEENSFERRY, SCOTLAND

Synopsis: With the use of unseen archives, this documentary explores an extraordinary and unique practice which takes place annually in August. Covered head to toe in sticky burrs the Burry Man walks the streets of South Queensferry as this living tradition unfurls before our eyes. The story is told via interviews with the man inside the costume, and with those who have gone before him. Folklorist and 'dresser' Doc Rowe helps us delve deeply into this act of endurance and sacrifice. The result is a rare unfiltered portrait of a custom deeply rooted in place, memory and identity.

WHERE TRADITION MEETS COMMUNITY



Episode 2

RUSHBEARING

Title: RUSHBEARING

Runtime: 29:08

Location: SOWERBY BRIDGE, WEST YORKSHIRE

Synopsis: Revived in 1977, the ancient custom of renewing rushes on church floors has evolved into one of Britain's most striking folk processions. This episode follows the preparation behind the two-day Rushbearing Festival. With no presenter or narration, the story is told entirely through the words and actions of its custodians – the chairman, vicar, clogmaker, cartpullers and maidens – offering an unfiltered insight into a ritual that continues to bind a community together. We hear from the man responsible for the revival. We travel with the cart over its two day journey and experience the sights and sounds of this extraordinary folk tradition – deeply rooted in the valley.

WHERE PRIDE MEETS PLACE



Episode 3

HORN DANCE

Title: HORN DANCE

Runtime: 29:09

Location: ABBOTS BROMLEY, STAFFORDSHIRE

Synopsis: Once a year a small group of locals set out on an extraordinary journey via the lanes and fields and farms around Abbots Bromley. Come witness what is widely regarded as England's oldest living traditional dance. Told entirely by those who take part, the film invites viewers into a world where continuity, community, and ritual move in time with the dancers. Via the voices of its custodians and unseen archives, Abbots Bromley Horn Dance reveals itself not as a performance, but as a living thread connecting the village to its past.

WHERE NATURE MEETS DANCE



Episode 4

JETHART HAND BA'

Title: JETHART HAND BA'

Runtime: 28:43

Location: JEDBURGH, SCOTLAND

Synopsis: Every year on the streets of Jedburgh in the Scottish Borders, a centuries-old contest erupts between the Uppies and Doonies in a raw, chaotic struggle for possession of the "ba"—a small leather ball with huge symbolic weight. Played in the streets and alleyways, the game has no referees, no rules and no fixed duration. This episode captures the tension, preparation, and customs of Ba' Day entirely through the voices and perspectives of those who play and protect the game. With no outside narration, the film offers an unfiltered view of a community at full tilt—where pride, belonging, and endurance collide in one of Britain's most visceral and ancient folk rituals.

WHERE GAMES ARE STILL PLAYED



Episode 5

BONFIRE

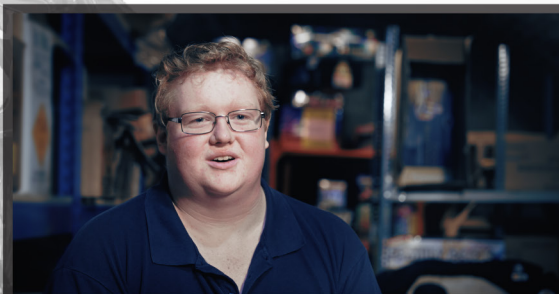
Title: BONFIRE

Runtime: 29:41

Location: RYE, EAST SUSSEX

Synopsis: Each November, the medieval streets of Rye in East Sussex ignite with fire, sound, and ceremony as the town stages one of the most theatrical and defiant bonfire celebrations in Britain. Effigies, torchlit processions, and spectacular fireworks mark a night where history, rebellion, and community spirit burn bright. This episode follows the meticulous preparations and dramatic culmination of Bonfire Night through the voices of those who make it happen—local society members, torchbearers, builders, and marshals—whose pride and effort sustain this fiery tradition. With no narration or outside commentary, the film captures the raw energy and meaning of Rye Bonfire as seen from within, offering an unfiltered perspective on a ritual that fuses folklore, protest, and pageantry. Rye burns its boats!

WHERE CUSTOMS REFUSE TO DIE



Episode 6

HAXEY HOOD

Title: HAXEY HOOD

Runtime: 29:26

Location: HAXEY, LINCOLNSHIRE

Synopsis: In midwinter each year the quiet village of Haxey in North Lincolnshire becomes the stage for a muddy, sprawling ritual known as Haxey Hood. This ancient and unique game sees up to two hundred men battling to 'sway' a leather tube—"the Hood"—toward one of four local pubs. This film is a deep dive into the folklore surrounding the game, and the story is delivered by those who have lived it for a lifetime. We study the fool and his speech, the role of the boggins and the origins of the game. With the use of unseen archives, we witness exactly how this tradition is passed on. This is a raw and intimate portrait of a community proudly intent on keeping this tradition alive.

WHERE GAMES ARE STILL PLAYED



DIRECTOR BIO

Since 2006 Dave Brewis has filmed over 100 folk rituals and customs, building an extensive video archive of folklore subject matter primarily from the UK and France. His work is artistically shot, features extraordinary interviews and contains all the building blocks necessary for storytelling across short-form and long-form documentary / factual.

Dave has developed a deep interest in 'living folklore' and enjoys the challenge of authentic documentary storytelling.

TEN80 Productions is a UK based TV / video production & marketing outfit run by Dave Brewis. TEN80 was initially set up in Paris to provide TV production services, before going on to produce two successful 6 x 30 minute factual series - both distributed internationally. TEN80 is today a vehicle for the development and production of documentary titles such as Gatherings, and separately provides Video/Marketing services to a broad range of customers.

www.davebrewis.com

www.ten80.com



WHY I MADE GATHERINGS

"For years I covered offbeat subject matter for TV—primarily for news and magazine style programmes. Folk customs would always be lumped in with 'daft competitions' and framed as weird, offbeat or eccentric. Mainstream media has always given these subjects short shrift—from early 20th century Pathé reels to the news & magazine programmes we all grew up with. More recently social media has fuelled renewed interest in folklore, but really only incites the viewer to hover over the subject and doesn't get further than the aesthetic. I've always felt that these events contain real depth and demand way more investigation. They are each unique and often deeply rooted in a specific place.

To the documentary maker they are strikingly rich in theme: They speak to our sense of belonging, communal identity, creativity and passion. Participation is often multi-generational, and they are a vehicle for artistic expression. Many speak to our relationship with nature. Most were there before us, and will continue after we are gone. They are intangible but immortal, and are a reflection of who we are and what we value—over time. Gatherings is a realisation of my long held desire to hold a mirror to these extraordinary events, and document them with authenticity and without prejudice."

DAVE BREWIS
FILMMAKER





CONTRIBUTOR: DOC ROWE

Doc Rowe was born in Torquay, Devon. With an early interest in traditional song – stemming largely from BBC broadcasts from the 1950's – he began collecting local folklore and folksong material. A chance meeting with Radio producer Charles Parker who, with Ewan MacColl and Peggy Seeger, was working on the 'Radio Ballads' (1957-64) developed into a long working relationship on a variety of folksong and drama projects. Doc became increasingly guided by the relevance of the oral tradition, the importance and potential of recording technology and documenting popular culture and the vernacular 'folk arts'.

An equally important and parallel incident was a visit to Padstow Mayday in the early sixties – the first of constant annual visits which started an overwhelming involvement with seasonal events and popular cultural traditions. Using a wide variety of media, Doc has accumulated a unique collection of contemporary and historical material on the traditional culture of the British Isles.

With a degree in Fine Art, Doc has taught a wide range of subjects and apart from contributions and regular broadcasts on aspects of folklore and tradition, he has worked on productions as researcher, consultant and writer including Philip Donnellan's TV versions of the 'Radio Ballads' and a joint editorial advisor on his 'The Other Music' (BBC 2, 1981). Most notable was working with Elizabeth Wood on the acclaimed Channel 4 series "The Future of Things Past" in 1986.

In 2002, The University of Sheffield awarded him an honorary doctorate for his research work into vernacular culture and, in 2006, the English Folk Dance and Song Society presented him with their Gold Badge for documentation of traditional Song and Dance; a year later he received the Folklore Society's prestigious Coote-Lake Medal for contribution to folklore research.

www.docrowe.org.uk

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Doc_Rowe

POSTER ART



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www.gatherings.tv/screenings-and-press

STILLS

PLEASE SEE IMAGE USE TERMS (Next Page)

Episode 1 THE BURRY MAN



Burry Man 1
The Burry Man, South Queensferry
"Burry Man Andrew Taylor gets final touches during dressing"

Episode 2 RUSHBEARING



Rushbearing 1
Sowerby Bridge, West Yorkshire
"Procession through Warley Village"

Episode 3 HORN DANCE



Horn Dance 1
Abbots Bromley Horn Dance, Staffordshire
"Abbots Bromley Horn Dancers performing on Horn Dance Day"

Episode 4 JETHART HAND BA'



Jethart Hand Ba' 1
Jedburgh, Scottish Borders
"Player and custodian Billy Gillies"

Episode 5 BONFIRE



Bonfire 1
Rye Bonfire, East Sussex
"James Foster, Chairman of Rye & District Bonfire Society"

Episode 6 HAXEY HOOD



Haxe Hood 1
Haxe Hood, Lincolnshire
"Phil Coggon, Lord of the Hood"



Burry Man 2
The Burry Man, South Queensferry
"Burry Man Andrew Taylor supported by his two attendants"



Rushbearing 2
Sowerby Bridge, West Yorkshire
"Cart Pullers pulling the Rushcart"



Horn Dance 2
Abbots Bromley Horn Dance, Staffordshire
"Terry Bailey, Jester, explains the tradition"



Jethart Hand Ba' 2
Jedburgh, Scottish Borders
"The Boys Ba' is played in the streets"



Bonfire 2
Rye Bonfire, East Sussex
"A boat is placed on top of the bonfire"



Haxe Hood 2
Haxe Hood, Lincolnshire
"Gathering on the top field before the game"



Burry Man 3
The Burry Man, South Queensferry
"Doc Rowe provides insight into The Burry Man"



Rushbearing 3
Sowerby Bridge, West Yorkshire
"Morris Dancers perform at Rushbearing"



Horn Dance 3
Abbots Bromley Horn Dance, Staffordshire
"Abbots Bromley Horn Dancers performing"



Jethart Hand Ba' 3
Jedburgh, Scottish Borders
"Billy Gillies presenting a Boys Ba' winner with his prize"



Bonfire 3
Rye Bonfire, East Sussex
"Silhouette with boat burning in background"



Haxe Hood 3
Haxe Hood, Lincolnshire
"The sway collapses"

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TEN80
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DAVID SCOTT

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THE EAST WING

Additional Branding & Design
JAY KINGMAN

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For interview requests or contact with any participants featured in the series, please email info@gatherings.tv. We're happy to pass along relevant requests.

