

Guest Singers:

JEFF WARNER from New Hampshire is a talented musician on a variety of instruments and a singer of the old songs - from the Outer Banks fishing villages of North Carolina, to the lumber camps of the Adirondack Mountains and the whaling ports of New England. He is the son of Frank and Anne Warner who were major song collectors travelling extensively through Canada, New England, and the American south from the late 1930s to the 1960s in search of traditional songs and singers. One of their most important discoveries was the traditional singer and instrument maker Frank Proffitt from Laurel, Tennessee - the source singer for the outlaw song Tom Dooley - a hit of the 1960s folk revival. Jeff is at present editing a reissue of their important collection..

JILL PIDD has been hailed as one of the best kept secrets of the folk world. Formerly of Hull she now lives between Robin Hood's Bay and Whitby and was a founder member of Hull's famous Rugby Hotel Folk club whose residents also included Ian Manuel, Jim Eldon and Mike Waterson. In the early 90s she toured for four years as one of the Watsons. She has been a regular at Whitby Folk Week, The National, Holmfirth, Forkhill, Innishowen and Cullerlie and is known to have been English folk singer Fred Jordan's favourite woman singer, performing at his funeral in 2002.

SHEILA STEWART - One of Scotland's finest traditional singers and the 'last in the line' of the **Stewart's of Blair**. The contribution made by **Alex and Belle Stewart** and their two daughters Cathy and Sheila to the Scottish folk revival of the 1960s and 70s was immense. The Blairgowrie Festival that brought young folk enthusiasts from all over Scotland into contact with the rich song and ballad traditions of the Scottish traveller community could never have happened without them. The Blairgowrie Festivals of 1966 to 1970 led not only to the founding of the TMSA but gave inspiration to the founding of many other traditional festivals. Sheila has recorded several CDs, has written a biography of Belle and is working on a theatrical production of Belle's life.

TERRY CONWAY is an excellent singer with a distinctive voice and a fine repertoire of English and Scottish traditional folksongs and ballads, many with a historical subject. He has been known to take part in the Border Ballad competition at Newcastleton. Terry is also a songwriter and some of his own songs have been taken up by such luminaries as **Kathryn Tickell** and **Rachel Unthank** and the **Winterset**. He usually accompanies himself on guitar but is a fine unaccompanied singer. His partner Liz Law often adds accompaniment on Apalachian dulcimer or hammer dulcimer.

JOCK DUNCAN was brought up in the ballad-rich farming country of rural Aberdeenshire. The great northeast singer **John Strachan** farmed close to Jock's family farm and for several years Jock sang with John Strachan's concert party. Jock knew **Jimmy McBeath** and remembers giving him a sixpence for his rendition of an old bothy ballad at a cinema queue. Jock is one of Scotland's foremost traditional singers. He is an honorary member of the TMSA and, in 2006, he was inducted into the Scottish Traditional Music Hall of Fame in recognition of his contribution to Scottish culture.

JIMMY HUTCHISON is originally from South Uist - his mother a Gaelic speaker, his father from Glasgow. Jimmy has been singing traditional songs for many years. In the 1960s he was involved in the St Andrews folk club and the Blairgowrie Festival and became a great admirer of **Jeannie Robertson**, the **Stewarts of Blair** and old **Davie Stewart**. Jimmy now lives in Newburgh where he runs a joinery business.

GEORDIE MURISON was born and brought up on a farm at Fetteresso near Stonehaven and he now has a contractor business nearby. A chance meeting with Jim Taylor, Tam Reid's nephew, in 1997, led to Geordie attending Aberdeen Branch TMSA sessions. There he met **Tam and Anne Reid** who encouraged him to enter competitions at festivals and, in February 2008 he won the Elgin Rotary Club's champion of champions Bothy Ballad competition. Geordie has been a stalwart supporter of traditional song events and of our own FifeSing weekends and we welcome him back as a guest.

PHYLLIS MARTIN was with the well-known group *Stravaig* for more than 20 years. When she first started singing she found there were few songs from her own area of south-west Scotland - so she started asking around. She quickly discovered that old people were a wonderful source of songs and music and says it was always a thrilling moment when she found a song she hadn't heard before. On Sunday morning Phyllis will present a workshop on the songs and singers of Dumfries and Galloway.

Additional Workshops:

DOC (OR DAVID) ROWE was born in Torquay, Devon. With an early interest in traditional song stemming largely from 1950s BBC radio broadcasts, Doc started collecting local folklore and folksong material. In 1963, he met BBC producer **Charles Parker** who, with **Ewan MacColl** and **Peggy Seeger**, was working on the BBC Radio Ballads (1957 to 1964). A visit to Padstow May Day in 1963 started his overwhelming involvement with film recording of seasonal events and popular cultural traditions. Doc will be presenting some of his film archive on Saturday morning.

JOHN WATT, a native of Dunfermline, now lives in Kinross after many years in Milnathort. He has been involved in the Scottish folksong movement for over forty years - starting Fife's first folk club **The Howff** in a basement in Dunfermline in 1960 and later the TMSA's Kinross Festival in 1971. A singer, raconteur and composer, his work has been recorded by singers in Scotland, Ireland, Denmark and Canada. He has recorded two albums of songs, the first *Shores of the Forth* in 1976 and more recently *John Watt - Heroes* produced by old friend, Fifer and singer/ songwriter **Rab Noakes**. On Sunday morning Jimmy Hutchison interviews John Watt - his life and contribution to the folk revival since the 1960s.

Hosted by:

SHEPHEARD, SPIERS & WATSON: The singing weekend has been organised and hosted each year since 2003 by a committee of Peter Shephard, Tom Spiers and Arthur Watson all of whom are enthusiasts for traditional song and who also sing together as *Shephard, Spiers & Watson*.

The Programme:

Friday 14th May

Evening Concert: 8.00pm - 10.30pm

The opening concert with songs and ballads from the guest singers and participants - continuing as:

Singaround: 10.30pm - 12.30am

An opportunity for all to join in a singaround with songs from their own repertoire.

Saturday 15th May

Illustrated Talk: 10.00am - 11.00am

JEFF WARNER: *Folksongs and ballads from the Frank and Anne Warner archive.*

Archive Film: 11.30am - 12.30pm

DOC ROWE: *Doc introduces a selection from his archives including film of Jane Turriff and Lizzie Higgins.*

Ballad Concert: 2.00pm - 5.00pm

The guests and participants with traditional ballads from their repertoire. The classic big ballads - the muckle sangs.

Evening Concert: 7.30pm - 10.30pm

Songs from near and far: Guest singers present their song and ballad traditions.

Singaround: 10.30pm - 12.30am

Another chance for all to join in a singaround with songs from their own repertoire.

Sunday 16th May

Illustrated Talk: 10.30am - 11.30am

PHYLLIS MARTIN: *Song collecting in Galloway: the singers and their songs.*

Reminiscences: 11.45am - 12.45pm

JIMMY HUTCHISON AND JOHN WATT: *Jimmy Hutchison interviews John Watt - his life and contribution to the folk revival since the 1960s.*

Farewell Concert: 2.00pm - 5.00pm

The guest singers lead a farewell concert and singaround with songs from all who still have a good song to sing and a voice left to sing it!

With thanks:

We wish to give enormous thanks to all the singers who have given free use of their recordings to the East of Scotland Traditional Song Group. All money raised from the sale of these CDs goes towards the Fife Traditional Singing Festival and events organised by the Group.

The Place:

The Fife Animal Park

The **Fife Animal Park** is on the B937 between Collesie and Ladybank on the left about half a mile south from the A91/B937 crossroads. There are good train services from Dundee or Edinburgh to Ladybank station. Taxi from Ladybank *tel:* 01337 858722 or 857485 or 830256.

Restaurant: Food and Bar Facilities

Food will be available throughout the weekend between events - from Friday at 6.00pm and for Breakfast and Lunch (Saturday & Sunday) and Evening meal (Saturday). Full bar facilities at all events.

On-site Accommodation

The **Fife Animal Park** has a paddock for caravans and free camping with on-site toilet facilities. Let us know at the time of booking if you plan to bring a caravan.

Hotel and B&B Accommodation

Freuchie: Lomond Hills Hotel *tel:* 01337 857329
Ochil Villa B&B *tel:* 01337 858031 **Falkland:** Ladywell House B&B *tel:* 01337 858414 **Newton of Falkland:** Kiln House B&B *tel:* 01337 857188 **Auchtermuchty:** Redwood Cottage *tel:* 01337 828272 **Gateside:** Edenshead Stables *tel:* 01337 868500 **Newburgh:** Ninewells Farmhouse *tel:* 01337 840307

For more B&Bs see Website News below.

Celebrating Fife 2010:

The East of Scotland Traditional Song Group was formed by Peter Shephard, Tom Spiers and Arthur Watson in 2003 as a vehicle for running the Fife Traditional Singing Weekend. The Group has now been formed into a Trust with the addition of two new trustees - Jimmy Hutchison from Newburgh and Chris Miles from Kirkcaldy.

We are very happy to thank Fife Council for the support given towards FifeSing2010 under Fife Council's Celebrating Fife 2010 programme.

Website News:

There will be regular updates of programme changes given on the FifeSing website:

www.springthyme.co.uk/fifefing

Look up the FifeSing website up for fuller biographies on the guest singers and for links to their own websites and for Google map of routes to the Fife Animal Park.