

FOLK WEEKEND EXTRAVAGANZA IN YORK

Two days of the best in folk, roots and acoustic music, and all for FREE! Yes, it's time for the **2010 City of York Folk Weekend**, when dozens of singers, players and dancers gather together with scores of listeners to celebrate our diverse and flourishing acoustic music scene.

The dates are **5th and 6th June** and the venue is the **Black Swan Inn** on **Peasholme Green**, a relaxed, family friendly city centre hostelry which is home to York's long-established and BBC award-winning Black Swan Folk Club, as well as to much else in the way of live music.

From lunchtime until late evening on both days there will be performances going on simultaneously in a special marquee in the car park and in three separate rooms indoors. There are all-day concerts under canvas, a non-stop open musicians' session in the Bowes Room and a mix of other events in the upstairs Wolfe Room and the downstairs Oak Room, including plenty of "open mic" club sessions and singarounds for those who want a chance to sing and play themselves.

York-based bands appearing on the main stage include Americana favourites **Los Yobos** and **Union Central**, veteran easy-listening folk outfit **The Foresters** and dynamic young folk rockers **Blackbeard's Tea Party**. There are acapella vocal sounds from **Two Black Sheep & A Stallion** and **Ripple**, melodic folk-pop from **Two** and **Holly Taymar** and singer-songwriter fare from **Stan Graham**, **David Swann**, **Miles Cain**, **Sarah Dean** and **Paula Ryan**. Other stalwarts taking their turn include **Susie Fox**, **Eddie Affleck**, **Chris Euesden**, **Phil Cerny** and **The Fine Companions**.

Guests from the wider region include the delightful **Edwina Hayes** from Drifffield, rising star **Anna Shannon** from Scarborough, old favourites **Geoff Watson** from Hebden Bridge and **Blackwater** from Wakefield, shanty group **Monkey's Fist** and expatriate Scottish singer **Wendy Arrowsmith**. There is also a very welcome appearance on Saturday afternoon by **Duncan McFarlane** with his electric band, while Sunday evening is climaxed by Dylan covers specialists **The Basement Band**.

Saturday also sees a main stage set by members of the **York Young Fiddlers**, dance displays by **Acorn Morris** and **Ebor Morris** and a burst of Japanese drumming from **Kaminari Taiko**, with a **Poems & Pints** spoken word interlude in the Oak Room and an **Evening Concert** in the Wolfe Room with half a dozen fine acts we could not fit into the marquee line-up.

Indoor events on Sunday include a **Yorkshire Folk Songs** workshop with Yorkshire Garland, a **Jake Thackray** celebration, an **Afternoon Concert** and an evening of locally themed songs by members of the **York Songwriters Circle**. Also on Sunday, members of Soundsphere host a two-hour **Singing Workshop** at nearby St Crux Church, followed by an Open Sing at the Black Swan.

It is all entirely free (aside from the singing workshop, for which there is a small fee), so listeners are free to drop in for ten minutes or ten hours and can move freely from one room to another, space permitting. Hopefully the weather will smile on us again as it did last year. Learning his lesson from that hugely successful event, the landlord promises a fully stocked cellar of real ales and other drinks, with an extra beer tent this year to improve service, while catering will include a barbecue (with vegetarian options), a hog roast and fish & chips.

For safety reasons the pub car park will be closed to vehicles, but there is plenty of city centre parking nearby, while the Black Swan Inn sits on several major bus routes, including the Monk's Cross Park & Ride and the Coastliner from Scarborough, Malton and Leeds.

For the full draft programme go to www.blackswanfolkclub.org.uk or contact myself, Roland Walls, on 01904 632922, blackswanfolkclub@yahoo.co.uk. Singing workshop enquiries should be directed to 01904 345458, and to contact the pub itself ring 01904 679131, while if you want to find it on SatNav the postcode is YO1 7PR. Tell all your friends and we'll see you there!

Roland Walls