

City Of York (Roland Walls) Folk Weekend 2026

This Folk Weekend is dedicated to our late friend and long-time organiser Roland Walls. Roland died from Motor Neurone Disease in 2019 and had been the inspiration for live folk and roots related music in and around the city of York for the last 40 years.

Neither musician nor performer, he dedicated his spare time to encouraging, supporting and promoting a huge variety of local music events.

Since the early 1980s Roland was the sole organiser of the Black Swan Folk Club in York. The club, established in the early seventies, is one of the longest running in the UK. His superb organisation and meticulous attention to detail resulted in the BBC Folk Club of the Year accolade in 2009. In 2016 it was voted Best Small Music Venue in a poll conducted by the Yorkshire Gig Guide.

Under Roland's guidance the folk club has supported many local community events including the York Residents' Festival, providing an afternoon and evening of folk music every year in January, free to all York residents, and he went on to inaugurate this annual City of York Folk Weekend. This extremely popular free folk festival is now well established as a major event in the Yorkshire music calendar and has become something of a magnet for tourists.

His efforts were recently recognised by way of a 'Special Mention' during the ceremony at the York Culture Awards for 2018 and he also received a Lifetime Achievement Award from the Yorkshire Gig Guide.

He was a true champion of all music related to folk traditions and cultures which he tirelessly supported and encouraged.

Festival Organization: Stan Graham

Marquee Sound: Chris Euesden & Eddie Affleck

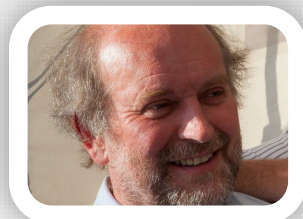
Marquee MCs: John Storey, Sarah Dean, Paula Ryan, Judith Haswell

Wolfe Room Sound: Mick O'Kelly

Wolfe Room MCs: Phil Cerny

Information Desk: Jack and Janet Costello

Christine West



The Black Swan Inn, Peasholme Green, York YO1 Tel; 01904 679131

Programme

City Of York

(Roland Walls)

Folk Weekend 2026

Fri 5th/Sat 6th/Sun 7th June



'A big thank you to everyone involved in our festival, performers, stage crew, organisers and all at The Black Swan Inn. We couldn't do this without you.'

Folk Weekend Main Stage Artists

CHECHELELE ('Cheh-cheh-leh-leh') World Music Choir Chechelele have been delighting audiences from Edinburgh to Dresden with enchanting, vibrant harmonies from a global repertoire of traditional songs of love, freedom, suffering and celebration. Still principally acapella, recent years have seen the addition of musical accompaniment, percussion and strings, to a number of songs where appropriate. www.chechelele.co.uk

DUNCAN MCFARLANE BAND - Energetic folk-rock band Fiddle, guitars, melodeon, bass & drums and we all sing! We get dubbed 'vibrant, lively, energetic' and play a mix of our own and traditional songs... very much rocked up! "Chock full of absolutely great stuff, really powerful playing and singing. "He writes some great stuff that guy and I love their lively versions of traditional folk songs" - Mike Harding www.duncanmcfarlane.com

HOLLY TAYMAR Holly is a inspirational singer-songwriter, who crafts folk-pop melodies with poignant lyrics exploring love, loss, and personal growth. Her soulful voice invites listeners into the complexities of human emotions, drawing from her own experiences. www.hollytaymar.co.uk

LES RUSTIQUES - Traditional French Music Les Rustiques are Janet Porter, Jonathan Bynoe and Nigel Swan who play traditional French music such as bourrées, mazurkas, polkas and Scottishes with occasional cafe style tunes on clarinets, recorders, pipes, octave mandolin and guitar. nigelswan@tiscali.co.uk

MONKEY'S FIST - Acapella Harmonies and Shanties Rooted firmly in the tradition of Sea Shanties and vocal harmony, Monkey's Fist are now four voices with a passion for storytelling through song.

SUSIE COYLE & MARY MALOLLOY - Mary and Susan have been performing together for the past decade, appearing at several esteemed festivals. Susie, a singer and guitarist from Co. Cavan, boasts a diverse repertoire encompassing both traditional and contemporary folk songs. Mary, hailing from Co. Wexford, is a renowned button accordion player with thirty years of experience in Irish traditional music.

RAMSHACKLE - The Black Swan Resident Band Chris, Stan, Eddie Judith, finish off the evening sessions with a great mix of folk, jazz and country. With all your old favorites to sing along to, if you're around, join in.

CARAMBA; - Caramba is a 3-piece band unashamedly addicted to Afro-Latino music, from Cuba to Capetown, Bamako to Brazil. Polyphonic and multi-instrumental, we blend song and instrumental riffs into a seamless web of foot-tapping virtuosity. The band members are: Rob Kealey, Frans Maathuis, and John Low.

LES ROUSTIQUES - Les Rustiques are Janet Porter, Jonathan Bynoe and Nigel Swan who play traditional French music such as bourrées, mazurkas, polkas and Scottishes with occasional cafe style tunes on clarinets, recorders, pipes, octave mandolin and guitar. nigelswan@tiscali.co.uk

GRAHAM HODGE; - One of York's finest, Graham breathes new life into every song he performs. He will doubtless once again entertain us with some superb renditions of contemporary and traditional folk songs plus some of his own compositions.

www.blackswanfolkclub.org.uk/blackswanfolkclub@yahoo.co.uk

Folk Weekend Wolfe Room Artists

MARY CALLAN - Poet and story-teller Mary has honed her craft during twenty-five years at the Black Swan. For six years she performed her one-woman shows at the Edinburgh Fringe. This Sunday's show, HERE BE DRAGONS, celebrates monsters old and new, and dips into some of her recent publications. Visit Mary's new website www.notsodeadpoet.com

SIMON ALEXANDER - Singer Songwriter Simon has been performing at the BSFC for over a decade. His performances feature sensitive self penned songs and a few covers combined with nimble guitar work. He has released two CDs, Adelaide Street in 2009 and Skylark in 2017 both of which have been well received.

SARAH DEAN - Celtic Harper/Singer Songwriter

Affectionately known as "The Incredible String Blonde!" Her songs are set against beautiful & mesmeric soundscapes. A member of alto-folk trio White Sail her solo performances are spellbinding & also full of warmth and wit! www.sarahdeanmusic.com

STAN GRAHAM - Multi Award Winning Singer/Songwriter Our ever-popular club resident and well-known, multi award-winning singer songwriter. Stan's songs are being covered by an increasing number of folk artists across the world. He has seven highly acclaimed albums to his name and his latest album "One Man and His Guitar" has been praised for its songwriting quality, by no less than American Folk Legend Tom Paxton. www.stangraham.co.uk

TONI BUNNELL - Singer songwriter & Multi-instrumentalist Possesses one of the best voices I've ever heard from a traditional style singer' Rock N Reel. Original songs include reflections on life, social commentary, the environment, myth and legend. Toni accompanies her songs using guitar and bouzouki.

TOMMY COYLE - Singer songwriter An excellent singer songwriter. An honest and thoughtful lad from York. Lyrics that are always immediately touching and provoking are spliced with simple memorable melodies.

RAMSHACKLE - The Black Swan Resident Band. A chance to finish off the weekend with a great mix of folk, jazz and country. If you're around, join in. All musicians and singers welcome!

LOUIS GIBB; - Louis brings his own unique style to a fine collection of Scottish and English traditional songs, accompanies on his concertina.

ALEX O'NEIL; A very accomplished and entertaining Classical guitarist who performs his own compositions - .

FLUTE& FIDDLE FOLK; comprise Kerry Merriam (flute, whistle, vocals and percussion), Glenn Stott (guitar, vocals, percussion) and Helen Davies (fiddle, vocals). The Band particularly enjoy singing unaccompanied traditional songs, experimenting with exciting harmonies and playing lively tunes, all interspersed with some questionable jokes!

www.blackswanfolkclub.org.uk/blackswanfolkclub@yahoo.co.uk

Folk Weekend Main Stage Artists

SOUNDSPHERE - The Soundsphere style specialises in singing 'a cappella'. This tradition of singing means, basically, without accompaniment, textured harmonies give the arrangements a rich and vibrant sound. Most of the songs in their repertoire are sung without accompaniment but percussion and drums are frequently used to great effect - if the song calls for it! Some are old, some are new and some are self-penned pieces but all are sung because they are special.

THE MINSTER STRAYS MORRIS GROUP Are a mixed morris side, based in the York/Ryedale area. The side was founded in 2003. Wearing green, burgundy and gold waistcoats and colourful tatter jackets, they dance both Cotswold and border. minsterstrays.org.uk

JANGLEBUDDIES: - *Phil and Dickie are lifelong friends, they perform original and traditional songs and tunes in a variety of styles and moods. Equipped with guitar, bouzouki, harmonium and percussion, they accompany themselves and their well-crafted harmonies to perform songs and music ranging from thoughtful to exuberant. Previously, as part of the Philip Cockerham Trio they have performed in theatres and clubs, on trains (!) for festivals and concerts and they have regularly appeared on radio, including on the BBC. Now, with their friend Helena and her delightful cello playing and vocal, Phil and Dickie step into the light again as 'Janglebuddies' with music for all who wish to join in!*

WHITE SAIL - Melding glorious 3-part harmonies over beautiful instrumentation, the trio accompany themselves on guitar, harp, mandolin, wind instruments, percussion & more. They weave their magic on self-penned and traditional songs. "White Sail are rooted in the music of the people and the music of the land. There is a heart driven energy in the way they share their music and songs. I had the pleasure of touring with them 2 years in succession. We made a lot of music together venturing in to the unknown" ~ *Liam Ó Maonlaí ~ Hothouse Flowers.*
www.whitesailband.com

JON PALMER BAND ; - An award-winning, high-energy 6-piece folk, roots, and rock & roll band from West Yorkshire. Known for their lively performances, they've built a strong reputation as one of the most exciting live acts around. Led by prolific songwriter Jon Palmer, the band delivers music that's both engaging and socially aware. Blending folk, roots, and rock & roll, the band has been described as "*Springsteen meets Fairport.*" Their sound is a dynamic mix of acoustic melodies and upbeat rhythms, with lyrics that often reflect on the world we live in. You can expect an energetic and engaging live performance packed with life, emotion, and thought-provoking storytelling. Their shows are known for their high energy, leaving audiences thrilled and entertained

KING COURGETTE; - King Courgette are a five-piece self-styled "vegetable string band" described by Americana UK magazine as 'one of the finest junk band, depression-era, old-time drinking music.' They combine bluegrass, a hint of swing and a whole lot of hoedown into a righteously spiced ratatouille.

LEATHER'O; - The ever popular Leather'o are a high energy Alternative Celtic – Gypsy Band based in York. They play all acoustic, traditional instruments in venues from pubs to major festivals, extensively reworking tunes and songs from the Irish, Scottish and Eastern European traditions.

www.blackswanfolkclub.org.uk/blackswanfolkclub@yahoo.co.uk

Folk Weekend Wolfe Room Artists

CHRIS EUESDEN - Singer/Songwriter/Instrumentalist Chris is perhaps better known as the voice behind "Blonde On Bob" but has been guiding and organising the club since Roland passed away and is doing a superb job. A singer-songwriter in his own right who plays several instruments including keyboard and guitar.

EDDIE AFFLECK - Scottish Songs Eddie Affleck, originally from Edinburgh, tends to concentrate on traditional folk songs mainly from Scotland, he also includes songs from England, Ireland, Canada and the USA. Eddie has just released a new CD 'Love Found, Love Lost'.

JOHN STOREY - Singer Songwriter A talented singer-songwriter, John has long been part of the North Yorkshire Folk Scene and is an acclaimed writer of captivating songs. A regular MC and floor singer at BSFC. . www.johnstoreymusic.net

JUDITH HASWELL Singer and songwriter Judith has been a regular floor singer and support for the club since she moved to York from Guisborough over 7 years ago. She occasionally sings with Trish McLean from Guisborough and the two of them gave us a great night as guests at the club in January. Tonight she is appearing solo with a lovely blend of self-penned and contemporary and traditional songs.

MICK O'KELLY "Mick is a singer/guitarist who plays an eclectic mix of self-penned and more modern melodic songs. Relatively new to performing at this level, Mick generally likes songs which tell a story or express a sentiment, with the odd twist in the tail."

PAUL CULKIN - Ukelele & Songs Paul began writing songs while at school in the 60s. Influenced by trad jazz, music hall, and The Beatles. He switched from guitar to ukulele in 1991. He has performed in the USA, Canada and several European countries., as well as on regional TV and radio in the UK.

PAULA RYAN - Songstress Paula is a compelling singer / songwriter, born and bred in Tipperary, Ireland, whose powerful, insightful songs are inspired by the lyricism and musical passion of her Irish roots and driven by the funky rhythmic influences and instruments of music from other cultures. Paula charms and beguiles audiences with: sheer delight in music-making, unmistakable joy of singing, potent, thought-provoking lyrics, and lively Celtic wit and humour.

PETER LISTER - Singer/Songwriter Peter is a singer songwriter from York who performs his own music and selected acoustic covers. His influences include James Taylor, Paul Simon, Ralph McTell and many more. His songs have been played on a number of local radio stations including BBC Radio York.

PHIL CERNY Phil plays an eclectic mix of traditional music -- from Britain to America, from ballads (songs with stories) to blues and country, from rural to industrial societies, from the local to the global -- as well as a few favorite contemporary songs. www.philcerny.co.uk

www.blackswanfolkclub.org.uk/blackswanfolkclub@yahoo.co.uk

Additional Events in the Wolfe Room



Friday 5th June 2026

With

Paula Ryan,

Sharon Maher

Mary Malloy & Susie Coyle

Mise Agus Me Star

Ramshackle

www.blackswanfolkclub.org.uk/blackswanfolkclub@yahoo.co.uk

What's On At The Black Swan Folk Club

EVERY THURSDAY

DOORS OPEN 7.30

MUSIC FROM 8.00

11th June Open Mic

18th June John Watterson

25th June TBC

2nd July Open Mic

9th July Gary Stewart

(Plays Paul Simon)

16th July Open Mic

23rd July Janglebuddies

30th July Sherburn, Bartley,
Saunders

August Closed

Sept 3rd Plum Hall

Sept 10th Open Mic

Sept 17th The Quiggs

Sept 24th Joe Topping

Oct 1st Open Mic

Oct 8th Jon Wilks

Oct 15th Hannah Scott

Oct 22nd Rueben & The
Bridge

Oct 29th Open Mic

Nov 5th Edwina Hayes

Nov 12th Open Mic

Nov 19th Holly Taymar

Nov 26th Bob Fox

Dec 3rd Open Mic

Dec 10th Janic Burns & Jon
Doran

Dec 17th Xmas Party



The Club holds regular Open Mic Nights
where all singers, listeners and musicians are
welcome.



www.blackswanfolkclub.org.uk/blackswanfolkclub@yahoo.co.uk

NCEM THE NATIONAL
CENTRE FOR
EARLY MUSIC



THE CRESCENT
COMMUNITY VENUE

YORK'S INDEPENDENT DIY VENUE

LIVE MUSIC - DJ'S - LOCAL ALES - POOL - BILLIARDS - VIDEO GAMES - EVENTS

CD Sales and Donations

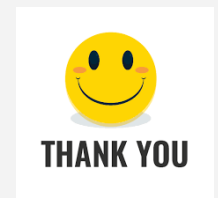
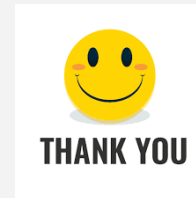
We will be offering a wide selection of pre loved CDs for sales at £1 for 3 CDs.

Any money raised this weekend will be donated to

Motor Neurons Disease Charity in York.

In Memory Of Roland Walls

[Our Just Giving Page](#)



Scan me

Saturday Afternoon

**1.00pm - 5.00pm "Musicians Session" run by
Toni Bunnell.**

A casual musicians get together in the front room, come along and join in our tunes session hosted by Toni Bunnell.

All musicians welcome.

Saturday — Marquee Stage — 1.00 pm to 7.20 pm

1.00 - Les Roustiques
1.40 - Leather'o
2.30 - White Sail
3.20 - King Courgette
4.10- Janglebuddies
5.00 - Graham Hodge
5.50 - Monkey's Fist
6.40 - Chechelele

Saturday — Wolfe Room — 7.00 to 11.00

7.30 - Phil Cerny
8.00 - John Storey
8.30 - Toni Bunnell
9.00 - Paul Culkin
9.30 - Peter Lister
10.00 - Judith Haswell
10.30 - Ramshackle

Sunday - Marquee Stage 1.00 pm - 6.30 pm

1.00 - Caramba
1.50 - Holly Taymar
2.45 - The Duncan McFarlane Band
3.45 - The Minster Strays Morris
4.20 - Susie Coyle & Mary Molloy
5.10 - Soundsphere
6.05 - Jon Palmer Band

Sunday - Wolfe Room 2.00pm - 5.30pm

2.00 - Phil Cerny
2.30 - Alex O'Neil
3.00 - Flute & Fiddle Folk
3.30 - Mary Callen

4.00 Louis Gibb
4.30 - Mick O'Kelly
5.00 - Simon Alexander

Break

Sunday - Wolfe Room 7.00pm - 10.30pm

7.00 - Tommy Coyle
7.30 - -- Sarah Dean
8.00 - Stan Graham
8.30 - Chris Euesden
9.00 - Paula Ryan
9.30 - Eddie Affleck
10.00 - Ramshackle (Jam Session)