

# BOOKING FORM

*The Fife Traditional Singing Weekend 12, 13, 14 May*

Name:

Address:

Post Code:

Telephone:

Email:

## TICKETS:

*Tickets (add number in left column)*

I would like to order the following tickets:

--- *All-In Ticket (Friday to Sunday) @ £20 is £*

--- *Concessions @ £16 is £*

--- *Friday Evening Concert @ £7 is £*

--- *Concessions @ £5 is £*

--- *All day Saturday & Evening Concert @ £12 is £*

--- *Concessions @ £10 is £*

--- *Saturday Evening Concert @ £8 is £*

--- *Concessions @ £6 is £*

--- *All day Sunday @ £6 is £*

--- *Concessions @ £4 is £*

Concession prices are for Senior Citizens

### **Old Songs at The Ship in Newburgh**

**Monday 15 May 7.30pm**

--- *Old Songs and Bothy Ballads Concert @ £5 is £*

*(tickets for this event can be ordered here or purchased at the door)*

**Total in £ Sterling: £**

Cheques payable to 'East of Scotland Traditional Song Group'

Indicate camping or caravanning requirements (free):

### **Booking and Information:**

Fife Traditional Singing Weekend

c/o Peter Shephard

Balmalcolm House

Balmalcolm

Cupar, Fife KY15 7TJ

tel: 01337 830773

email: [pete@springthyme.co.uk](mailto:pete@springthyme.co.uk)

website: [www.springthyme.co.uk/events/fifesing](http://www.springthyme.co.uk/events/fifesing)

Note:  
Please photocopy  
this page if you  
prefer to keep  
the information  
sheet intact.

## **FifeSing2006**

### **Other Events:**

**Thursday 11 May**

8.00pm

**Acoustic Music  
Club**

Kirkcaldy

£6 (at the door)

Anita Best

with

Shephard,  
Spiers & Watson

In the Polish Club,  
Bennoch House,  
Forth Park Drive,  
Kirkcaldy

**Monday 15 May**

7.30pm

**The Ship Hotel  
Newburgh**

£5 (at the door)

**Old Songs &  
Bothy Ballads**

with

Ron Bissett

Anita Best

Jimmy Hutchison

Jim Aitken

and

Shephard, Spiers  
& Watson

*The East of Scotland Traditional Song Group  
presents*

## **FifeSing2006**

**The Fife Traditional Singing Weekend**

**Friday - Sunday 12, 13, 14 May**

at the Fife Animal Park, Birnie, Collesie

### **Other Events:**

**Thursday 11 May** at 8.00pm

at the Acoustic Music Club, Kirkcaldy

**Monday 15 May** at 7.30pm

at The Ship Hotel, Newburgh

*A celebration of traditional singing, the songs and the bothy ballads - for singers and enthusiasts!*

THIS IS our fourth Fife Traditional Singing Weekend - a unique opportunity to meet, hear and talk with a selection of the finest exponents of Scottish traditional singing to be found today - and, of course, to participate in the singing.

The weekend will include:

**Concerts** - featuring the guest singers.

**Singarounds and Sessions** - where all who wish can participate.

**Workshops/Talks** - on topics related to traditional song and culture.

### Guest Singers

Our special overseas guest this year is traditional singer **Anita Best** brought up in the fishing outports of Newfoundland. We again welcome local bothy ballad singer **Ron Bissett** of Falkland and a return visit by **Gordon Easton** singer, fiddle player and raconteur from Tyrie in Aberdeenshire. For the first time as guest we invite **Maureen Jelks** from Dundee and we welcome back our local, world renowned singer and storyteller **Duncan Williamson** and **Sheila Stewart** traditional singer and standard bearer of the Stewart Family of Blairgowrie.

### Workshops/Talks

**Arthur Watson** in conversation with **Duncan Williamson**: *The Horsieman - from a bow tent on the shores of Loch Fyne to world renowned storyteller.* **Bob Blair**: An illustrated talk: *The Song Carriers*. Recordings from BBC field recording archives as first presented by Ewan MacColl on radio in 1965. **Anita Best**: *Growing up with songs and ballads in the Newfoundland outports.* **Vic Gammon**: An illustrated talk: *Sexual symbolism in traditional song.*

### You - The Participants

You are invited not just as an audience but as a participant. As in past years, the traditional singer guest artistes are intended as a catalyst, and all participants will have opportunity to contribute to sessions during the weekend celebration of traditional song.

## Guest Singers:

**Anita Best** grew up in one of the Newfoundland outports - an island in Placentia Bay, depopulated during Newfoundland's community re-settlement program of the 1970s. Her early life in one of Newfoundland's most culturally rich regions inspired a fire and passion to collect and interpret a tradition and culture which seemed to be departing in tandem with the disappearing communities. Recognised as an outstanding traditional singer, she has recorded several albums, hosted a CBC Radio series and runs a bi-weekly concert in the summer months.

**Ron Bissett** of Falkland is a well known local bothy ballad singer and one-time member of the Fife Yokels that competed in the Bothy Nichts programme on Grampian TV in the 1960s. Born in Kincardineshire, Ron came to Fife with his family when his father came as head shepherd to Kippo at Kingsbarns. Ron took his first job at Letham in 1950 - driving a pair of horse and living in the bothy.

**Gordon Easton** lives at Wellhead of Tyrie near Fraserburgh in Aberdeenshire where, for many decades, he has worked the land as a market gardener along with his wife Isobel, land farmed before him by his father and grandfather. He has been referred to as a one-man folk festival - steeped in the tradition, he has been singing and playing (fiddle, moothie, trump, melodeon, whistle) all his life. In the last fifteen years, he has become a fixture on the festival competition scene, sometimes entering as many as five competitions!

**Duncan Williamson** was born in 1928 in a bow tent on the shores of Loch Fyne, the seventh of sixteen children. At fifteen he set out to begin a traveller's life working alongside dry-stane dykers and thatchers, learning the craft of a horsieman and earning his way in the scrap metal trade. His traditional tales and ballads transcribed for publication by his second wife Linda have brought him widespread fame with invitations to perform in over a dozen countries worldwide. He has lived many years in Fife and, now retired, lives in Ladybank.

**Sheila Stewart** from Blairgowrie carries on the singing and storytelling traditions of her family *The Stewarts of Blair* who came to public attention in the 1950s after local journalist Maurice Fleming tracked down the author of the song *The Berryfields o Blair* - the author being Sheila's mother Belle Stewart. Sheila's singing and her traditional ballads are now widely known through the several albums she and her family have recorded.

**Maureen Jelks** from Dundee inherited her love of singing from her mother. From the age of four she was brought up in the old Overgate but for many of her childhood years she lived in London. On returning to Dundee she soon met in with the Stewarts of Blair who paid her a great compliment by saying she had *the coniach* - the Stewart Family term for the 'right' way with a song. As well as her own two CDs she has contributed to several other compilations such as *Scots Women* on the Greentrax label. In 1991 she featured in Jean Redpath's Masterclass for BBC2. In 1996 she worked with a professional theatre group Northern Stage in Newcastle and played the part of a traditional singer in Garcia Lorca's *Blood Wedding* and last year she took part in the Celtic Women's Festival in New Orleans.

## Workshops presented by:

**Bob Blair** is a singer with a love of Scottish lyrical songs and traditional ballads and he plays concertina and guitar. Originally from Fife and now living in Glasgow, Bob is a member of the Glasgow group *Stramash*. Whilst living in England in the 1960s and 70s, Bob was a member of Ewan MacColl's *Critics Group* and it is Ewan's *Song Carriers* radio programme series that will be the subject of Bob's workshop on Saturday.

**Vic Gammon** is Senior Lecturer in Folk and Traditional Music at the International Centre for Music Studies at the University of Newcastle. He has interests in the vernacular musics of Britain and North America and is also a singer and musician. We are pleased to welcome him to the weekend and, on Sunday morning, he will present a workshop on sexual symbolism in traditional song.

## Hosted by:

**Shepherd, Spiers & Watson:** The singing weekend is organised and hosted by a committee of Peter Shepherd, Tom Spiers and Arthur Watson who also sing together as *Shepherd, Spiers & Watson*. All three are enthusiasts for traditional song. Pete is a singer, musician and folk song collector and runs the Scottish music label Springthyme from his home in Balmalcolm. Tom lives in Auchtermuchty, sings and plays fiddle and was for many years a member of the Aberdeen based group *The Gaugers*. Arthur sings and plays whistle, was also in *The Gaugers*, founded the renowned Peacock Print Makers in Aberdeen and is now Senior Lecturer in Fine Art at the University of Dundee. Their recently released CD: *They Smiled as We Cam In* has been enthusiastically reviewed.

## The Programme:

### Friday 12th May

Evening Concert (& Singaround):  
8.00pm - 10.30pm (& later)

The opening concert with songs and ballads from the guest artistes and with a chance for participants to join in a singaround with a song from their own repertoire.

### Saturday 13th May

Illustrated Talk: 10.00am - 11.00am

**Bob Blair:** *The Song Carriers*. Recordings from BBC field recording archives as first presented by Ewan MacColl on radio in 1965.

In Conversation: 11.30am - 12.30pm

**Arthur Watson** in conversation with **Duncan Williamson:** *The Horsieiman - from bow tent on the shores of Loch Fyne to world renowned storyteller and published author.*

Ballad Concert: 2.00pm - 5.00pm

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

Evening Concert: 7.30pm - 10.30pm

Songs from near and far: the guest artistes present their song and ballad traditions at a grand evening concert.

### Sunday 14th May

Illustrated Talk: 10.00am - 11.00am

**Vic Gammon:** *Sexual symbolism in traditional song.*

Illustrated Talk: 11.30am - 12.30pm

**Anita Best:** *Growing up with songs and ballads in the Newfoundland outports.*

Farewell Session: 2.00pm - 5.00pm

The guest artistes 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 to Fife Council Arts for their assistance and sponsorship.

## The Place:

The Fife Animal Park

The Fife Animal Park is on the B937 between Collessie and Ladybank on the left about half a mile south from the A91/B937 crossroads. Our hosts Jim and Edna Moffatt will be happy to answer any questions about the facilities available (*tel:* 01337 831810). There are good train services from Dundee or Edinburgh to Ladybank station. Taxi (*tel:* 01337 828630 or 828214) from Ladybank to the Fife Animal Park.

Restaurant: Food and Bar Facilities

Food will be available in the Birnie Loch Room 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 free camping and caravans 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

In Falkland: The Covenanters Hotel *tel:* 01337 857224), Hunting Lodge Hotel *tel:* 01337 857226, Ladywell House *tel:* 01337 858414 and Honeysuckle Cottage *tel:* 01337 858600. In Auchtermuchty: Forest Hills Hotel *tel:* 01337 828318). In Freuchie: Ochilview *tel:* 01337 858031. There is more basic accommodation at the Falkland Backpackers Hostel *tel:* 01337 857710. Several have googleable websites.

### NEWS UPDATE:

If you have access to the internet, you can get information as it is updated at: [www.springthyme.co.uk/events](http://www.springthyme.co.uk/events)

Other websites with artiste information:

**Anita Best:**

[www.ambermusic.ca/artist\\_anita.htm](http://www.ambermusic.ca/artist_anita.htm)

**Sheila Stewart:**

[www.mustrad.org.uk/reviews/stewart2.htm](http://www.mustrad.org.uk/reviews/stewart2.htm)

**Maureen Jelks:**

<http://www.maureenjelks.co.uk/>

**Duncan Williamson:**

[www.scottishstorytellingcentre.co.uk/storytellers/teller\\_display.asp?id=23](http://www.scottishstorytellingcentre.co.uk/storytellers/teller_display.asp?id=23)

**Shepherd, Spiers & Watson**

[www.springthyme.co.uk/ssw](http://www.springthyme.co.uk/ssw)