

# BOOKING FORM

*The Fife Traditional Singing Festival 13, 14, 15 May 2016*

Name (first person booking):  
Address:

Post Code:  
Telephone:  
Email:  
Names of others included in the booking:

Camping: Please tick: Tent  or Campervan (<7m):   
Camping and campervans (up to 7 metres) on Falkland Estate charged at £15 per tent or campervan (weekend) or £12 for one night. Advance booking is not essential. Hardstanding for caravans and larger campervans is available - phone to discuss possibilities.

NOTE: The Saturday evening Traditional Concert takes place in Falkland Village Hall. Most other events in the Old Town Hall.

## TICKETS:

*Tickets (add number in left column)*

I would like to order the following tickets:

- \_\_\_ All-In Ticket (Friday to Sunday) @ £36 (£32) is £  
\_\_\_ Friday Evening Gathering @ £12 (£10) is £  
\_\_\_ All day Saturday & Evening Concert @ £20 (£16) is £  
\_\_\_ Saturday Morning Workshops/Talks @ £8 (£6) is £  
\_\_\_ Saturday Afternoon Ballad Concert @ £8 (£6) is £  
\_\_\_ Traditional Concert (Village Hall) @ £12 (£10) is £  
\_\_\_ All day Sunday @ £12 (£10) is £  
\_\_\_ Sunday Morning Workshops/Talks @ £8 (£6) is £  
\_\_\_ Sunday Farewell Concert @ £10 (£8) is £  
\_\_\_ Camping/ Campervan @ £15 or £12 is £

Concession prices (in brackets) for Senior Citizens, Students & Unwaged  
Total in £ Sterling: £

Cheques payable to *East of Scotland Traditional Song Group*

### Booking and Information:

Fife Traditional Singing Festival  
c/o Peter Shephard  
Balmalcolm House, Balmalcolm  
Cupar, Fife KY15 7TJ  
tel: 01337 830773  
email: connect@springthyme.co.uk  
website: www.springthyme.co.uk/fifesing

*Please  
photocopy this page  
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the information  
sheet intact.*

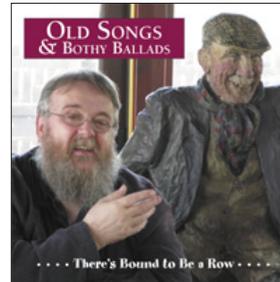
## FifeSingCDs

£10.00

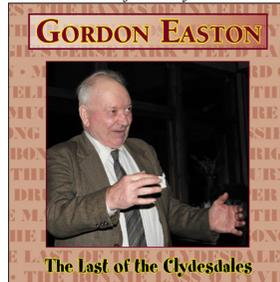
FifeSing - Volume 2:  
*For Friendship & for Harmony*



FifeSing - Volume 6:  
*There's Bound to Be a Row*



Gordon Easton:  
*The Last of the Clydesdales*



FifeSing - Volume 8:  
*The Little Ball of Yarn*



*The East of Scotland Traditional Song Group  
presents*

# FifeSing2016

**The Fife Traditional Singing Festival**  
**Friday - Sunday 13, 14, 15 May**  
The Old Town Hall, Falkland, Fife KY15 7BY

**All events are in historic Falkland in the  
ancient Kingdom of Fife.**

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

THIS IS the fourteenth Fife Traditional Singing Festival weekend - a unique opportunity to meet, hear and talk with a selection of the finest exponents of traditional singing to be found today - and, of course, to participate in the singing at sessions and singarounds.

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.

## Guests

This year we have guests from England, Scotland and Ireland. From Skene in Aberdeenshire we welcome **Jim & Kate Taylor** - both fine singers with extensive repertoires of old songs and bothy ballads of the northeast. From Ripponden in Yorkshire we welcome **Pete Coe** who has been involved in many aspects of the folk music scene as musician, singer, collector, dancer and teacher for the last half century. Pete will also be giving a workshop on the collector Frank Kidson. We are honoured to have with us flute player, tin whistler and traditional singer **Cathal McConnell** of The Boys of the Lough - one of the best-loved performers in the world of Celtic music. Originally from St Andrews, Fife we welcome a fine singer and old friend **Chris Hendry** and her husband Tynesider **Johnny Handle** with their extensive repertoire of Scots songs and ballads and Tyneside songs. Johnny will also be presenting a workshop on Newcastle songs. Making a return visit, we welcome **Alex Clarke** with his repertoire of Dundee songs and tales. This year we will also be giving guest status to committee member **Pete Shephard** - founder member of the TMSA, singer and musician whose repertoire of songs has been gleaned from traditional singers over many years.

## Concerts/ Singarounds/ Workshops/Talks/Lectures

Full details of the events of the weekend, titles of the workshops and biographies of the guest singers are on the website at [www.springthyme.co.uk/fifesing](http://www.springthyme.co.uk/fifesing)

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## Guest Singers:

**JIM AND KATE TAYLOR:** Jim was born near Garlogie where he still lives, and is a retired Quantity Surveyor. A nephew of the late King of the Bothy Ballads, Tam Reid, Jim aims to keep his uncle's repertoire alive. Jim is in great demand as a compere, which allows his native North East humour to shine through. **Kate Taylor** started singing at the tender age of 40 and has not stopped since. She is passionately fond of traditional singing and has been influenced mainly by Sheila Stewart, Elizabeth Stewart and Jane Turriff. Kate is a member of the Aberdeen Folk Club and the Aberdeen Branch of the TMSA. Jim and Kate have both been guests at folk festivals and singing weekends.

**PETE COE:** Pete lives in Ripponden near Halifax. He first became inspired by traditional singing when he went to the local folk club in the 1960s when he was at college in Cheltenham. "The first night I went along, the guest was Louis Killen playing a concertina and singing wonderful songs. I'd never heard a Geordie at all – I couldn't understand a word but I thought it was wonderful – I was hooked." Pete has had extensive appearances at clubs and festivals up and down the country as singer and musician. He is also an expert step dancer and dance caller and has made important contributions to song collecting – notably from the Cornish traveller Betsy Renals.

**CHRIS HENDRY:** Chris is a Scottish singer who learnt many of her songs first hand from such important source singers as Jeannie Robertson, Norman Kennedy and the Stewart family. As a teenager in the early 1960s she became part of the Fife folk club scene, based at St. Andrews, and was recorded by Hamish Henderson for the School of Scottish Studies. Later moving to North East England to study and teach, Chris joined the team of residents at the prestigious *Folksong and Ballad Club* in Newcastle. After working in the south of England and performing regularly at Oxford and Bristol, she returned to Tyneside/ Northumberland where she now lives with her husband, Johnny Handle.

**JOHNNY HANDLE:** Johnny was born in Wallsend-on-Tyne in 1935. Although he started work in the pits when he left school he had been in the school trad jazz band and he soon became involved in dance halls, concert parties and pub piano gigs. He had also become proficient on guitar, banjo, bass and played trumpet at Winlaton Mill village dance and started his own trad jazz band - *The Levee Ramblers*. In 1958 Johnny met folksinger Louis Killen and enthused by the revival of folk music, they started the *Folksong & Ballad Club* in Newcastle. During 1961 his musical interests took him into the world of television and he met up with

Ewan MacColl, Peggy Seeger and AL Lloyd in various radio and TV projects. Soon he was playing melodeon, accordion and Northumbrian pipes and, in 1965, as well as starting teacher training, he formed the famed *High Level Ranters* folk group.

**CATHAL MCCONNELL:** As flute player, tin whistler and singer with Edinburgh based *Boys of the Lough*, Cathal is one of the best-loved performers in the world of Celtic music. Born in Bellinalleck, County Fermanagh, N. Ireland in 1944, McConnell traces flute playing back through four generations in his family. He was playing tin whistle at age eleven and at age fifteen took up the flute and, in 1962, he won the All-Ireland championship on both instruments. A true character in every sense of the word, Cathal's instrumental skills have sometimes masked the fact that he is a fine traditional singer. His decades of singing and collecting are reflected in his large repertoire which includes long ballads and serious songs, as well as some more humorous pieces. We are honoured that he has accepted our invitation to be with us at FifeSing2016.

**PETE SHEPHEARD:** Pete is a singer, musician and folksong collector. A founder member of the Traditional Music and Song Association of Scotland (TMSA) in the mid 1960s, his enthusiasm as a singer and collector resulted in the creation of Springthyme Records in the 1970s. His contacts with the Scottish traveller traditions of the Stewarts of Blairgowrie and Jeannie Robertson's family led to exploration of traveller tradition in Ireland and England as well as Scotland. He has presented lectures and workshops based on his song collecting, ballad repertoire, traditional singing style, song tradition among the Romany gypsies in Gloucestershire and among the Scottish travelling and farming communities in Fife, Tayside and Aberdeenshire. Pete has recorded two CDs as a member of *Shepherd, Spiers & Watson*.

**ALEX CLARKE:** We are very pleased to welcome a return visit by Alex with his repertoire of Dundee songs and tales (Saturday and Sunday). Alex was brought up in a tenement just off Dundee's Hilltown - hence his signature song - *We're the lads fae the tap o the hill*. His mother was a weaver in the jute mills as was his granny, his father an engineer. As a boy he started out singing Harry Lauder songs and was soon singing in concert parties. He was taught Highland dancing as a boy, later took up Scottish dancing, forming his own troupe appearing with the White Heather Club. His granny Clarke was a source of songs and old stories of Dundee. He was first 'discovered' by Maurice Fleming in the 1950s and was later recorded on the *Coorse and Fine* LP of Dundee songs on Springthyme in 1985.

## The Programme:

**VENUE:** Most events will take place in the Old Town Hall in the main street opposite Falkland Palace. Some refreshments (tea, coffee) will be available in the venue. If you wish to have other drink in the hall please bring this with you - especially for the Friday Gathering where seats will be around tables. Late evening singarounds will be in back room of the Bruce Inn with late licence till 1.00 am. The Traditional Concert on Saturday evening will take place in the Falkland Village Hall.

### Friday 13th May

The Gathering: 8.00pm - 10.30pm

This year the opening event will be more of a singaround than a concert with songs and ballads from the guest artistes and participants - continuing as:

Singaround: 10.30pm - 12.30am

More songs & some music - in The Bruce Inn.

### Saturday 14th May

Illustrated Talk: 10.00am - 11.00am

**PETE COE:** *From Leeds to Glasgow in search of Frank Kidson's Collection.*

Interview: 11.30am - 12.30pm

**CATHAL MCCONNELL:** *Jimmy Hutchison talks with Cathal about his music, love of traditional song, singers and musicians he has known and the songs he sings.*

Ballad Concert: 2.00pm - 5.00pm

The classic big ballads - the muckle sangs.

Traditional Concert in Falkland Village Hall: 7.30pm - 10.00pm

Old Songs & Bothy Ballads - The Living Tradition from England, Ireland and Scotland.

Singaround: 10.30pm - 12.30am

Another opportunity for all - in The Bruce Inn.

### Sunday 15th May

Illustrated Talk: 10.30am - 11.30am

**JOHNNY HANDLE:** *Newcastle Songs - the singers, the songs and their social and historic background.*

Reminiscences: 12.00 noon - 1.00pm

**ALEX CLARKE:** *A Dundee Life (Revisited) - The Hilltown, the jute mills, daft songs, Will Fyffe, William McGonagall, Scottish dance, the butcher's shop and his granny Clarke's memories of the fall of the Tay Bridge..*

Farewell Concert: 2.30pm - 4.30pm

The guest artistes lead a farewell concert.

## The Place:

### Falkland, Fife

The historic village of Falkland lies against the north slopes of the Lomond Hills in the ancient Kingdom of Fife just off the A912. The nearest station is at Ladybank (4 miles) on the main line from Edinburgh to Dundee. Taxi (tel: 01337 858722). Go to the website to download a road map and street plan of Falkland.

### Restaurant: Food and Bar Facilities

Falkland is well provided with places to eat: The Bruce Inn, The Covenanter, Lomond Inn, The Hay Loft, The Stag Inn and Campbell's. Wonderful coffee from the Fayre Earth in the square.

### Camping, Campervans & Caravans

Facilities for Tents and small Campervans in the Falkland Estate (5 minutes walk). Hard standing for larger Campervans and Caravans close to the centre at Smith Andersons. Maps available online and in the Old Town Hall.

### Hotel and B&B Accommodation

**Falkland:** The Bruce Inn 01337 857226; The Covenanter Hotel 01337 857163; **Newton of Falkland:** Kiln House B&B tel: 01337 857118 **Freuchie:** Lomond Hills Hotel tel: 01337 857329 **Auchtermuchty:** Redwood Cottage tel: 01337 828272 **Gateside:** Edenshead Stables tel: 01337 868500 **Strathmiglo:** Gorno Grove House tel: 01337 860483

*For more B&Bs see website link below.*

### Organised & Hosted by:

The current committee of the ESTSG: **PETE SHEPHEARD**, singer, musician and folksong collector. **JIMMY HUTCHISON**, originally from South Uist - his mother a Gaelic speaker, his father from Glasgow, has been singing traditional songs for many years, was involved in the St Andrews folk club in the 1960s and, along with Pete, was a founder of the TMSA's Blairgowrie Festival. **CHRIS MILES**, born in Falkland, now living in Kirkcaldy has been singing old songs for many years and was a member of Palaver.

### With thanks:

Thanks to all who have given free use of their recordings to the East of Scotland Traditional Song Group for their CD series. Profit from their sale goes towards the Fife Traditional Singing Festival and events organised by the Group.

### Website News:

[www.springthyme.co.uk/fifesing](http://www.springthyme.co.uk/fifesing)  
[www.facebook.com/fifesing](https://www.facebook.com/fifesing)

Look up our website for fuller biographies, links to guest websites, Google map and Plans of Falkland.