

# BOOKING FORM

*The Fife Traditional Singing Festival 10, 11, 12 May 2024*

Name (first person booking - and additional names below):

Address:

Telephone:

Email:

Names of others included in the booking:

## TICKETS:

Tickets booking (add number in left column)

	TOTALS
___ All-In Weekend Ticket (Friday to Sunday) @ £60 (includes Buffet Lunches & Saturday Traditional Concert) NOTE: Festival Dinner must be booked separately.	£
___ Friday Evening Gathering @ £10 (BYOB Refreshments)	£
___ All day Saturday & Traditional Concert @ £38 (includes Buffet Lunch)	£
___ Saturday Morning Workshops/Talks @ £8	£
___ Saturday Afternoon Ballad Concert @ £10	£
___ Festival Dinner Saturday. Covenanters, Falkland £16	£
___ Traditional Concert (Falkland Hall) @ £12	£
___ All day Sunday @ £24 (includes Buffet Lunch)	£
___ Sunday Morning Workshops/Talks @ £8	£
___ Sunday Farewell Concert @ £10	£
___ Camping/ Campervan @ £10 (Campsite is at the Freuchie Cricket Club)	£
<b>TOTAL in £ Sterling:</b>	<b>£</b>

## Booking Tickets:

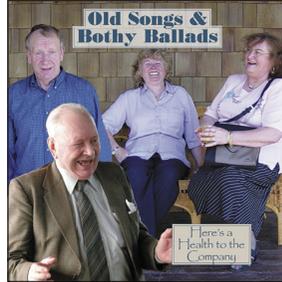
Complete the Booking Form above and post or email to the address below. Cheques payable to 'East of Scotland Traditional Song Group'. OR: Preferably use the Online Booking Form below and Pay by BACS Online Transfer. If you are booking the Festival Dinner please select your menu choice on the Online Booking Form (or enquire). Download the Online Booking Form: <https://tinyurl.com/54yrmkdz>

Fife Traditional Singing Festival  
Peter Shephard, Balmalcolm House, Balmalcolm, Cupar, Fife KY15 7TJ  
Tel: 01337 830773  
email: [progress@springthyme.co.uk](mailto:progress@springthyme.co.uk)

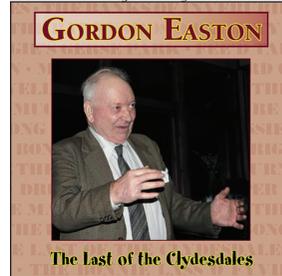
## FifeSingCDs

now £5.00

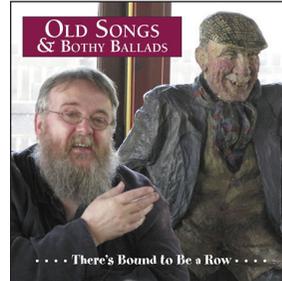
FifeSing - Volume 1:  
*Here's a Health to the Company*



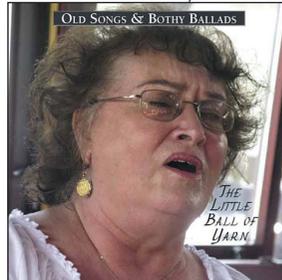
Gordon Easton:  
*The Last of the Clydesdales*



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



FifeSing - Volume 11:  
*The Little Ball of Yarn*



*The East of Scotland Traditional Song Group  
presents*

# FifeSing2024

**The Fife Traditional Singing Festival**  
**Friday - Sunday 10, 11, 12 May**

**All events are in Freuchie and 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 twenty first **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.

## NEWS

When we cancelled the live FifeSing Traditional Singing Festival of May 2020 and ran the weekend online with ZOOM we never realised how well this could work to bring together song enthusiasts from far and wide - from America, Canada, Australia, Japan and of course from England, Ireland and Scotland - joining us online here in Fife. Videos of all these are on our FifeSing Facebook page. We may still run the occasional Zoom Gathering but join us now for another 'Live' FifeSing. For updated news and information check out our Website and Facebook pages.

Fife Traditional Singing Festival

<https://www.springthyme.co.uk/fifesing>

If you are not on our email list then let us know.

<https://www.facebook.com/fifesing>

<https://www.facebook.com/fifesing/videos/>

[Brochure2024\_v3]

## Guest Singers:

**JOE AITKEN** is one of the great upholders of Scotland's traditional song and Bothy Ballad traditions. Winner of many singing competitions including becoming Bothy Ballad "Champion of Champions" at Elgin for a seventh year in 2020, Joe has been a guest on many occasions at TMSA festivals and at our FifeSing Weekends. Joe was born into the bothy ballad tradition in 1944 to parents who were both from Aberdeenshire. His father became griever on a farm near Meigle, in Perthshire and Joe's earliest memories are of that farm and hearing his father singing. Joe lives in Kirriemuir where, until he retired, he and his wife Pat had berryfields just outside the town. In recent years he has been a driving force on the Kirriemuir TMSA Festival Committee.

**MARTIN CARTHY:** Born May 1941, Martin is one of English folk music's most influential singers, inspiring the likes of Bob Dylan and Paul Simon. He is a master of the guitar and also plays the banjo, mandolin and dulcimer, performing traditional songs in his own unique and distinctive style. Twice a winner of the BBC Radio Folk awards Folk Singer of the Year and won their Lifetime Achievement award in 2014. He is associated with many names during his long career from Dave Swarbrick to the Waterstones, Steeleye Span and Brass Monkey and of course with his family the late Norma Waterson and daughter Eliza Carthy. But it is his love of unadulterated traditional song that shines through it all, inspired in his creativity by the older generation of traditional singers he has known.

**NATALIE CHALMERS** from Fraserburgh, started singing traditional songs and Bothy Ballads at concerts and festivals when only 7 years old. After winning at junior and senior level, Natalie became in 2012 only the third woman to qualify for the Elgin "Champion of Champions." After taking lessons from the great North East traditional singers Elizabeth Stewart and Stanley Robertson, she spent two years at the National Centre of Excellence in Traditional Music at Plockton before returning to University in Aberdeen. Although she now works in Glasgow, Natalie is on the committee of the Aberdeen branch of the TMSA and is co-host with Allan Taylor of "Trad Time with the TMSA" on Keith Community Radio – dedicated to keeping the song and bothy ballad traditions of the North East alive – and nominated last year as "Scots Project of the Year." Natalie is an enthusiast for her native Doric and was recently crowned Scots

Performer of the Year at the 2023 Scots Language Awards.

**ELLEN MITCHELL** was born in Glasgow. Although there was music in her family – she remembers a great aunt rattling out tunes on her granny's piano, her father's enthusiasm for classical music and jazz and an uncle who was in a skiffle group – but it was the discovery of folk clubs and festivals that gave her an enthusiasm for traditional song. She has recorded for the Musical Traditions label (in a double CD along with her late husband Kevin) and has been a guest at several festivals including Whitby and Auchtermuchty and at the National Festival in England. She has taken part in competitions run by the TMSA and won three times as Traditional Singer – the first with the song Twa Brithers.

**TED POLETYLO** was born in St Andrews (Craigton) 1949, he is one of Scotland's finest traditional singers and has won several of the TMSA's singing competitions. Now living in Glenrothes he was, until he retired, an events coordinator in the University. In 2022 he was Winner of Sandy Watt Quaich (for the third time) at the annual competition held by the Glenfarg Folk Club in the Memorial Hall in Gateside, Fife. Ted has been a great admirer of the traveller singers that he met at festivals, particularly the Auchtermuchty Festival in the 1980s, including Duncan Williamson, Willie McPhee and Betsy White – and he sings several songs learnt from their singing.

**VIC GAMMON** is a performer of English traditional music (singer, anglo concertina, and melodeon) a writer, researcher and member of the Editorial Board of the Folk Music Journal. He has composed music for a number of stage and radio plays and has performed in various groups including The Etchingham Steam Band with Shirley Collins in the 1970s and recorded the CD 'Black Crow/White Crow' with his current band Dearman, Gammon and Harrison. His album 'The Tale of Ale' (Free Reed Records) issued in 1977 is considered a classic. Vic retired in 2019 as director of the Folk Music Course at the International Centre for Music Studies at the University of Newcastle. Vic has been with us on many occasions at FifeSing both the 'live' event and at the Zoom Gatherings and we welcome him this year where he will be presenting a talk on the ballad Barbara Allen – perhaps the most widely known and popular of all the Child Ballads.

## The Programme:

**VENUE:** Most events of the weekend will take place in the Lumsden Memorial Hall in the main street in Freuchie. Late evening singaround on Friday will be in the Freuchie Bowling Club. The Festival Dinner will be in the Covenanters Hotel, Falkland, and the Traditional Concert on Saturday evening in the Falkland Community Hall.

### Friday 10th May

**The Gathering: 8.00pm - 10.30pm**

A singaround in the Lumsden Memorial Hall with songs and ballads from the guest artistes and participants. Seats around tables: BYOB - food & drink.

**Singaround: 10.30pm - 12.30am**

An opportunity for more songs (Bowling Club).

### Saturday 11th May

**Illustrated Talk: 10.00am - 11.00am**

**VIC GAMMON:** *Barbara Allan: The great ballad scholar Bertrand Bronson wrote that it was 'strange that a song about a pair with such an alacrity in dying should have so tenacious a hold on life!' In this presentation Vic Gammon will consider the long history of this hugely popular song, illustrated by performances, ballad sheets and pictures.*

**Interview: 11.30am - 12.30pm**

**NATALIE CHALMERS:** *Chris Miles talks with Natalie about her influences and enthusiasm for Scots song and the Doric and her award as Scots Performer of the Year 2023.*

**Ballad Concert: 2.00pm - 5.00pm**

The classic big ballads - the muckle sangs. – in the Lumsden Memorial Hall.

**Festival Dinner: 5.00pm - 6.30pm**

**Concert in Falkland Community Hall:  
7.30pm - 10.00pm**

**Singaround: 10.30pm - 12.00am**

Another opportunity for all – in The Covenanters.

### Sunday 12th May

**Interview: 10.30am - 11.30am**

**MARTIN CARTHY:** *Jimmy Hutchison talks with Martin about his love of song, his many years of making music and the singers and musicians he has known.*

**Presentation: 12.00 noon - 1.00pm**

**SUBJECT:** *To be agreed.*

**Farewell Concert: 2.30pm - 5.00pm**

The guest artistes lead a Farewell Concert in the Lumsden Memorial Hall, Freuchie.

## The Place:

### Freuchie & Falkland, Fife

Freuchie & Falkland both lie against the north slopes of the Lomond Hills in the ancient Kingdom of Fife just off the A92 and A912. The nearest station is at Ladybank (4 miles) on the main line from Edinburgh to Dundee. Buses from Edinburgh stop on the A92 at the Freuchie road end.

### Restaurant: Food and Bar Facilities

The Festival Dinner is in the Covenanters Hotel, Falkland on Saturday (see Booking Form: £16). Buffet Lunches Saturday & Sunday are included in the price for Weekend and Day tickets. There is an excellent bar – the Albert Tavern in Freuchie (no food). Lunches and meals are also available in The Covenanters Hotel, The Hayloft, Lomond Tea Room and Campbell's in Falkland. Other excellent eateries are the nearby Kettlebridge Inn and the Pitlessie Village Inn and the Boar's Head in Auchtermuchty. The Lomond Hills Hotel in Freuchie is unfortunately now still closed.

### Camping, Campervans & Caravans

Provision for camping, caravans and campervans in the Cricket Club ground in Freuchie. Charged at £10 per Tent, Campervan or Caravan (see Booking Form). Car parking behind the Lomond Hills Hotel.

### Hotel and B&B Accommodation

**Falkland:** The Covenanter Hotel. **Nearby:** Pitlessie Village Inn. **Also:** Balgeddie House Hotel, Glenrothes. **Other accommodation:** AirBnB for Freuchie or Falkland and Booking.com.

## Organised & Hosted by:

The current committee of the ESTSG: **PETE SHEPHEARD**, singer, musician and folksong collector. In 2018 he was awarded the Hamish Henderson Services to Traditional Music Award. **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 and the 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.

## Website News:

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