

THAMESIDE FOLK - FEBRUARY NEWSLETTER

Hi All,

The first Thameside Folk event of 2020 proved as diverse as ever. We had record 16 different floor spots, representing many of Essex's leading folk clubs. Our four features were of different genres.

The first feature act were two ex-pats living in Spain, but spend time in Essex, Keith and Maureen Deller presented a showcase of Maureen's songs. Starting off with her version of 'Viva Espana' and ending appropriately with 'I Got You Babe' this was intertwined with a song about being an Essex girl. 'Makeover Song' and song about love for men in glasses 'I'm A Sucker for A Geek'.

Dunav (the name that the Balkan's call the Danube) Balkan group captivated a large audience with their programme of exclusively Bulgarian, Greek, Albanian, Romanian and Croatian music. The group consists of Caroline, Brian, Dominic and Oliver playing an assortment of instruments, some familiar others not, some of their titles were 'Boys Dance', from Albania 'Shota'. Two interesting interlocked items were a tune and a song about a horse drawn carriage pub crawl, drinking plenty of ouzo.

Father and daughter combination Ray and Catherine Spillman, Ray great singer guitarist, sang the Humblebums classic 'Her Father Didn't Like Me Anymore' with Catherine on the Flute. Catherine then took centre stage singing five songs, with a fine voice reaching a selection of the high notes starting with the Shirelles hit 'Will You Love Me Tomorrow' and the 200 year Canadian song 'Peggy Gordon' which some of us thought it was Irish or Scottish. Their set was finished with a cracking version of 'House Of The Rising Sun' to rousing applause.

The fourth and final feature was a young duo called the 'Sidekicks', who gave a well performed set of mainly modern songs, alternating with slow and fast songs, One that was a favourite with the audience was 'By My Side' written by David Choi. Bringing us back to the eighties with Soft Cell's number one 'Tainted Love' and a final light hearted song having a bit of fun with a ghost.

Of the floor spots Rod and Phil sang a couple of songs 'Rock Me Mamma' and 'Tequila Sunrise'. Jim Kelly, one of the mainstays of the Romford and the Haverfolk clubs, sang the Everly Brothers 'Devoted To You'. Dave gave us a tune on the Bowed Psaltry playing 'El Condor Pasa'. Joe Migdal one of our August feature sang 'Ruby Tuesday'. Alfie another regular of the Romford clubs sang 'Danny Boy'. Our piano accordionist Richard played 'Beautiful Dreamer'. The first set of floor spots was finished with Smolowok singing 'Living in London'

The second set of floor spots opened with joint M.C. Bill Pardon singing about a 'Jolly Little Tailor'. Helen Islip one of our features later on in the year sang a Scottish song 'Bonny Suzie Clelland' about a young lady from Dundee who was burned at the stake for loving an Englishman. Jean Taylor who normally sings with a guitar sang a wonderful unaccompanied rendition of 'Shenandoah'. We had two poetry readings from Sue, another Romford regular, who read a Pam Ayres poem 'You Should Of Asked My Husband', while Liz Montgomery, organiser of the Fab Club, read one of her own poems entitled 'February Garden'. Phil Ericson a popular singer guitarist, always in demand, sang us 'The Green Green Grass Of Home'. One of our resident instrumentalists Carl Vaughan played us a bossa nova 'Rio By Night'. Carl runs the Downham Troubadours club at Downham Village Hall last Friday of the month. John Clarke played two tunes on the concertina. Mick Turner and Nora Kelson aka Mikanora, back from their travels in Glasgow, sang a song they acquired there called 'Let The Mystery Be' by Iris Demont. Rod Standen and friends performed 'Red River Valley' and 'Everybody's Talking'. The club's organiser Clive sang Monni Aldous's 'Valentine Song' ending the floor spots

Many thanks were given to the Wildlife Centre and all their staff, Linda on the P.A, the M.C's and of course the feature acts who gave their services for the Charity.

Our next meeting on Sunday 5th of April when the feature acts will be Alan Gore, Deja Vu, Hoy Shanty Crew, Jane and Richard, and Bernard Hoskin. Having been donated the Copper Family L.P. Box Set, 'A Song For Every Season' this will be a special prize in April's raffle. This Box Set is a collectors item.

On Sunday the 7th of June we have Mick Brown, Laurie Walker, Revival, Cian Gill, Arfur Doo and the Toe Rags, and Keith Kendrick and Sylvia Needham.

The August meeting on the 2nd is a Essex Folk and Music club day, anyone wishing to register a club contact me by E-mail c.paish@sky.com or by phone on 0208 262 5118. Each club will get a 30 minute feature, there will be two stages an indoor and an outdoor, and allocation will be first come first served.

Just a few dates for some of our local clubs:-

The Fab Club, a monthly club, next meeting 16th February with a guest, at the White Hart Grays 2.30p.m.-5.30 p.m.

Waltham Abbey folk club have guest's on Monday 17th February with Martin Young, and on Monday the 9th March they have Daria Kulesh, meeting at the Sultan Waltham Abbey.

Romford folk club meets at the Sun Romford on Tuesday nights. On the 18th February they have Emma Scarr, on the 3rd of March Rod Standen, and 17th of March is a St Patricks Day theme night, (which is also Champion Hurdle Day), On March 31st they have Jim Kelly and Alfie Sibbons.

Haverfolk meet every Wednesday at the Golden Lion, Romford. The First Wednesday of the month they have theme nights, in March its Traditional Songs, and in April its Comedy. Their guests are 26th of February Arfur Doo and the Toerags, and on 11th March they have Terry Hiscock.

The Boathouse, Abbey Road Barking 3.00p.m. to 6.30p.m, have a folk afternoon on Sunday 22nd of March featuring Bill Farrow and Richard Milton, Smolowyk, and the Odines, plus floor spots.

Loughton Folk Club meet on every Thursday at the Loughton club with guest's.

Other singers clubs, 3rd Sunday of the Month Hogeys Men at the Horseshoe Melier Street near London Bridge station. First Monday of the Month Jingling Gate folk club at the Swan Hornden On The Hill. The Old Hall Tavern Chingford have an Open Mike session 3rd Thursday of the Month, with resident group Loose Change.

See you all in April.

Clive and Linda Paish.

For you ref:- Thameside Folk is at
Essex Wildlife Trust Cafe
Thurrock Thameside Nature Park
Mucking Wharf Road
Mucking, SS17 0RN.