

Cream T-shirts for Cream Tees

This year Cream Tees have a new addition to the group in the form of specially hand-crafted designer T-shirts!

Local textile designer, **Catherine Howard**, created a number of designs for a Cream Tees logo and the group decided on the one that they liked the best. Plain cream T-shirts were then ordered in time for a screen-printing workshop, held at the NeST in Barnard Castle after

Easter, where Catherine taught the kids how to print the logo onto the T-shirts.

With the screens already produced, it just remained for the young musicians to try the fun and messy bit with red ink and a squeegee!

Careful removal of the screen then revealed the T-shirts with their new logo. A quick blast with a hair dryer and they could be tried on and photographed.



Tabitha Gillard and textile designer, Catherine Howard, both hard at work



The Cream Tees lads model their new T-shirts



It wasn't long before the T-shirts would have their first outing at Ovington for the Maypole celebration and they have now become a fixture at every gig that Cream Tees play.

The T-shirts are a great complement to the group. They provide an extra sense of identity and cohesion. We owe a big thanks to Catherine for helping design such professional T-shirts for Cream Tees!

Calling all young musicians

Cream Tees are a thriving folk band for young musicians, aged 11-18. Set up by the Music at the Heart of Teesdale (M@HoT) project, the group regularly meets for practice sessions at The Hub in Barnard

Castle and has played at a range of interesting gigs.

This is a really remarkable opportunity for budding musicians to gain real experience in performing for

the public and learning how to play in sync with a group.

So, if you are interested in folk music, play an instrument and fancy coming along to a session to give it a go, then please get in contact with project coordinator, Neil Diment, by emailing him at: neil@ndiment.co.uk or phoning: 01833 638263.

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A busy summer for Cream Tees!

Since M@HoT's youth folk band 'Cream Tees' formed just over a year ago, our talented group of young musicians has steadily been gaining momentum. Through all their hard work and effort they earned themselves an active schedule of events over the summer just gone. On these pages we showcase their five main summer gigs. Congratulations and thank you to all those who took part so enthusiastically and made these events possible!



A relieved wave from Milly.

Monday 6th May, Ovington Maypole Dancing

Cream Tees performed on Bank Holiday Monday for the dancers who were celebrating around the Maypole on the village green in Ovington. They were invited by fiddler Ross Wilson's mother who's a local resident.

Ross said, "I was quite proud to play in front of a home crowd but to begin with I was a bit embarrassed and very nervous." The 'Gig on the Green' also marked one of the first times that the group have played in the open air.

Fellow fiddler, Milly Diment, remarked, "It's very different playing outside because the acoustics sound very different and the sun was in my eyes. But it was really good fun too and great to experience playing in different conditions."

Saturday 25th May, The Hexham Gathering

Billed as 'England's biggest folk music festival for young performers' and organised by Folkworks of The Sage, Gateshead and the Queens Hall, Cream Tees played four sets at different locations around the town in the brilliant sunshine throughout the day to appreciative audiences.

There was just one complaint, from an elderly member of the audience for our first, indoor, performance who turned up having read the programme expecting to be served a 'cream tea' – but stayed to enjoy the music just the same!

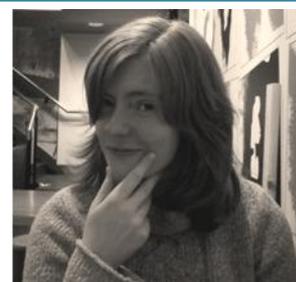


Cream Tees perform at the bandstand for the Hexham Gathering.

The editor's corner

Welcome to the second issue of the M@HoT News. It's been a busy summer for Cream Tees and there are still many events to come – for more details take a look at the diary dates on page 4! If you have any questions or you would like to send me an article then you can contact me at: clairelouisejacques@gmail.com

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Saturday 8th June, Durham Regatta

Invited to perform by Durham Music Service, Cream Tees took to the bandstand beneath the towers of the cathedral. As the rowers raced by, the watching crowd sat lazing in the sunshine on the banks of the River Wear and were treated to local tunes from the band's expanding repertoire including the 'Durham Reel' and 'Jamie Allen'.

'Jammin' tutor Izzy Burns, from the Newcastle University Folk degree course, joined us for this gig which ended with a rousing rendition of one of the band's favourite tunes that she had taught them – 'Izzy's Mazurka'.



Playing in the Durham bandstand.



The fiddlers in the marquee.

Saturday 22nd June, Gainford Big Weekend

A rousing set was played to match the medieval theme, as the crowds gathered round to listen in the marquee. Other events included a battle re-enactment by 'Dawn of Chivalry', a hog roast and a dance in the evening.

As rain battered down on the marquee roof, drowning both those outside and the sound inside, Cream Tees abandoned any carefully planned thoughts of individually introducing their tunes. Instead they just launched into their set, which included a couple of tunes about a certain lady called Maggie (who gets drowsy from eating too many pancakes we reckon), and were suitably rewarded with some cakes of their own at the end!

Saturday 29th June, Newbiggin Chapel

For our final concert of the summer, 'an afternoon of folk and traditional music from Teesdale and beyond' was promised as the dale's youngest folk band played in 'the UK's oldest Methodist chapel in continuous use'.

To start us off, M@HoT's own Rosie Cross and Mike Bettison played and sang an entertaining set of Teesdale tunes including the old lead miners song, 'Fourpence a Day', and the amusing 'High Force Agricultural Show'.

They were followed by Gina D'Oyley from Barnard Castle School who amazed us all with her confident solo playing of some of her favourite tunes on the Northumbrian pipes.

Cream Tees then rounded the concert off with a half hour set that began with what has become the band's signature tune, 'Small Coals', the first one taught to them by tutor Hinny Pawsey, and ended with their ceilidh set.

Unfortunately there was no room for dancing but the 'Chapel Ladies' more than made up for that with their delicious cream teas all round for everyone at the end!



Rosie Cross, on hammer dulcimer, and Mike Bettison, playing his melodeon, opened the concert at Newbiggin Chapel.



'Cream Tees' in full flow at Newbiggin Chapel.

Diary Dates

2013

September

Thurs 26th

'Icebreakin' session
lead by Alex, 5 - 6.30pm
at The Hub

October

Fri 18th, 1.30 – 5.30pm

Workshop lead by
Hinny at The Hub

November

Fri 29th

Hinny's Farewell:
Workshop, Concert and
Ceilidh at The Hub

December

Weds 11th

Teesdale School concert

2014

January

Sat 25th

Opening act for Jez
Lowe at The Witham

March

Fri 21st - Sat 22nd

Spring Residential

May

Fri 23rd - Sat 24th

Workshop at The Hub,
followed by Hexham
Gathering

June

Fri 20th - Sat 21st

Midsummer Residential
at Langdon Beck YH

September

Sat 13th or Sun 14th

'Heritage Open days'
tour

N.B. Other dates to be
announced.

What we do

The Music at the Heart of Teesdale (or 'M@HoT') project works with young people from the area to revive Teesdale's folk music traditions, inspired by the landscape of Teesdale.

In particular we:

- Run a series of folk music sessions and residential workshops for young people aged between 11 and 18 who live or go to school in the Heart of Teesdale project area, based in Barnard Castle; and in addition ...
- Play a number of formal and informal gigs throughout the area – and in the wider region.

Over the three years of the project (from 2012-15) we will also:

- Research into the history of folk music from Teesdale and produce an archive of the material gathered. We use the Teesdale folk material gathered in our sessions, workshops and gigs;
- Produce a new piece of music, inspired by Teesdale folk traditions and the special landscape qualities of Teesdale;
- Perform and record a CD of the specially commissioned piece along with other folk tunes from the area.

Meet the Folk: 'Jammin' tutor Alex

Alex Cumming is a final, 4th year student from Newcastle University's Folk degree course. He frequently leads the Cream Tees 'Jammin' sessions at The Hub, and brings his own infectious brand of humour and enthusiasm to tutoring M@HoT's longsword dance workshops as well.

"It has been an honour to work with all involved with Cream Tees over the last year, both the music and dancing side of the project," he said when asked to contribute a few words for this newsletter. "One aspect I am really looking forward too is getting the longsword group and band to collaborate in a show some time. That would take the house down by storm! It's going to be another exciting year, and as long as you can put up with me again I feel we are gonna make some really cool sounds and dances!"



Alex and ... a Teacup?

The M@HoT project is part of the wider 'Heart of Teesdale Landscape Partnership' which is supported by Barnard Castle Vision, Durham County Council and the National Lottery through the Heritage Lottery Fund. The project is also very grateful to the County Durham Community Foundation, Teesdale Action Partnership and Blaize for their funding and support.