

Cream Tees celebrate with 1st Birthday Bash

Cream Tees rounded off the first year with their debut public concert and ceilidh at **The Hub** in Barnard Castle before Christmas on Friday, 30th November. With nearly a hundred folk packed into the hall, the night was a rousing success!

Under the expert guidance of tutor, **Hinny Pawsey**, the M@HoT project's youth folk band had worked hard preparing for the gig practising their tunes, both old and new.

Entertainment at the interval was provided by '**Captain Mike and the BUMS**' – the project's Mike Bettison leading the

'Bowes Ukelele Minors Section'. Hinny was then joined on the stage by a couple of fine young professional musicians, **Sophie Ball** and **Ian Stephenson**, both fellow graduates from Newcastle's University's folk degree course, to round off the evening in style with a stomping ceilidh!

In rehearsals for the concert, the project's **Rosie Cross** had worked with the group to perform the old Teesdale lead miners' song '**Fourpence a day**'. She said afterwards, "We were nervous, but also excited because this performance marked the first birthday of the project."

M@HoT project coordinator **Neil Diment** added, "We hope this will be the first of several performances for Cream Tees, with appearances at the **Hexham Gathering** and **Newbiggin Chapel** among others in the pipeline for 2013."



Tutor Hinny Pawsey leads Cream Tees

Students lead 'Jammin' and Longsword dance sessions

New for 2013, the M@HoT project has teamed up with Newcastle's University's folk degree course to recruit two brilliant young musicians; 3rd year students **Alex Cummings** and **Izzy Burns**. They will be leading some 'Jammin' sessions, thanks to financial support from Teesdale Area Action Partnership.



Izzy and Alex leading a 'Jammin' session at The Hub

M@HoT project coordinator **Neil Diment** said, "We wanted to get the group together more often to practise the tunes that Hinny has taught us. At the same time we are offering the students some great teaching experience, working with an enthusiastic group of young folk musicians."

Alex will also be tutoring some longsword dance workshops. In his research for the project M@HoT's Mike Bettison has found references to the dance in both Startforth and

Gainford. He explained, "The longsword dance is a traditional folk dance mostly based in Yorkshire. Each set has six dancers and we'll use wooden swords to start with – for health and safety reasons! It was our intention right from the start to try to get a group of young people interested in the longsword dance tradition in the area – hence our logo!"

The longsword dance workshops are funded by the County Durham Community Foundation.

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Mike Bettison has been leading on the **research** side of the project. Here he explains what he's been up to...

The search and research

The first lesson I learned when I started researching the folk roots of Teesdale was not to expect to find what I was looking for and to find the unexpected.

During my travels I have visited the Vaughan Williams Memorial Library in London, the MacColl/Seeger Archive in Oxford, the BBC Written Archive in Reading, the County Records Office in Durham and the American Folklife Center at the Library of Congress, Washington DC. I'll probably make one more visit to London and then I'll be done for now.

The main collections I have found were made by Ralph Vaughan Williams in 1911, James Madison Carpenter in the late 1920s and Alan Lomax in the early 1950s (both Americans), Joan Littlewood and Ewan MacColl in the late 1940s and Peter Kennedy in the late 1950s. I should also mention a chap called Vic Ellis from Brighton who I met along the way. He came to Teesdale in the 1970s and made some recordings of Teesdale musicians and has kindly supplied me with the recordings. There are also some one-offs – a children's song called 'Rise Sally Walker'

collected by a Miss A. Eddleston in Gainford in the 1890s and a Christmas carol called 'God Bless You All' collected by Marie Howes at Christmas 1932 in Barnard Castle, sung to her by two children, Jean Betteridge and Hella Linsley.

By the end of the project, all this information will be available for everyone to access. One great joy is that now many of the tunes, songs and folklore records that are in the American collections are available online.

For instance Mark Anderson's playing of 'The Rakes of Mallow', a tune which Cream Tees have been playing in their workshops, can be found at: www.culturalequity.org

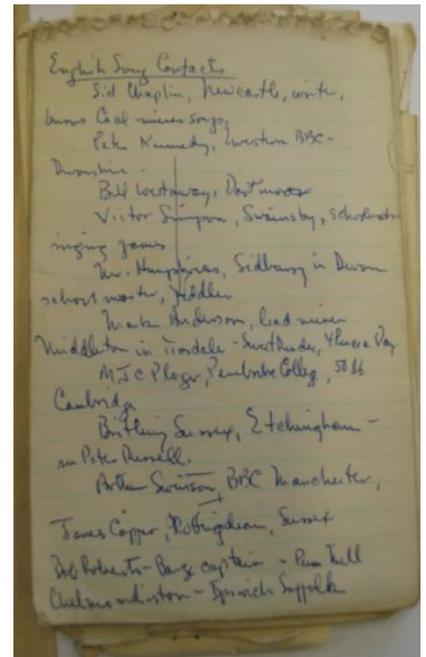
The information I leave will signpost all these references to enable those interested to



Jennifer Cutting, curator of Folklife collection, with Mike and Rosie at the Library of Congress, Washington DC

Our Newsletter Editor:

Hello, my name is Claire Jacques and I have just taken on this new and exciting role. I am a graduate of Stirling University, now living in Gainford and I've had great fun looking through all the fab things that 'Cream Tees' have been up to. If you have any questions or you would like to send me an article then you can contact me at: clairelouisejacques@gmail.com



Extract from Alan Lomax's field notes, held in the Library of Congress

readily find the material, access it online or know where to visit if they want to study the original material.

Unexpected things I have found? The local connection with the song Scarborough Fair was one. I have recently written an article regarding the song, which is due to be published in the next edition of 'English Dance & Song' magazine.

And things I expected – or at least hoped for? Well, I am still convinced there is some local connection with the Matty Groves/Little Musgrave ballad, but I've no supporting evidence... yet!



Experiences with Cream Tees:

Cellist Sally Watson and Fiddler Katherine Harding report...

Folk music, both traditional and contemporary, is not something that we get to experience much in our schools anymore which is why revivals, such as the M@HoT project, are so important. As **Sally** testifies: "I first heard about the M@HoT project through some posters that had been put up at school. I decided that I wanted to get involved because we would be playing at my level and I had never played any folk music before. I was curious. My usual playlists consist of rock-pop bands such as the Kaiser Chiefs so not only had I never played folk music before, I had never listened to it much either. It was the start of a new adventure..."

"I have really enjoyed playing folk music with my friends and the other young musicians. It has been a brilliant new experience for me and I feel more confident playing my cello. The area of cello playing that this project has helped me with most is definitely the listening and learning.

I had never needed to play off by heart before, but nearly all the pieces that we play in the Cream Tees are not written. This helped me greatly when I did an assessment recently, as one of the requirements is to play a piece off by heart. Thanks to M@HoT I passed. Yay!"

Another important aspect of the M@HoT project is in truly connecting the folk music with this beautiful area that we live in, giving the group a unique identity and allowing the landscape to inspire the music. As **Katherine** recounts:

"On the weekend of the 23rd June 2012, M@HoT young musicians met up for a residential weekend at Langdon Beck. The weekend consisted of practising for our first mini performance on the Saturday afternoon, getting to know each individual better, and choosing a band name for our group of talented players. Everyone had a lot of fun thinking up names for our band!



Sally Watson Katherine Harding

Suggestions of Folkal Warriors and Rolling in the Sheep were put forward, but in the end, a group vote was taken and 'Cream Tees' was our new official title."

"Having a group leader as **Hinny Pawsey** is such a pleasure. She's lovely, friendly and teaches tunes to a variety of different instruments all at the same time within 10 minutes with no music sheets! Or 'dots' as Hinny likes to call them! It also helps anyone who finds it difficult to read music, be able to listen to the notes and know what they are. I think everyone involved loved the weekend and would love to do it again! Smiles were all over the place and having Jam sessions was fun and enjoyed by everyone."

Katherine ended by saying: "I got involved with the project because it just means you can have a laugh while learning new stuff and appreciating your instrument in a different way." And **Sally** hopes that in the future "we will do more workshops, and go to see more folk bands, and play more concerts!"



Bridge over turbulent waters – the group at Langdon Beck

"Suggestions of Folkal Warriors and Rolling in the Sheep were put forward, but in the end, a group vote was taken and 'Cream Tees' was our new official title."

Diary Dates

March

Fri 8th till Sat 9th
Residential at Middleton
outdoor learning centre

Thurs 14th
Jam session 17:30 – 18:30
at The Hub, led by Izzy

Wed 20th
Darlington Folk 'Spring
Thing' at the Forum

April

Mon 22nd
Jam session 17:30 – 18:30
at The Hub, led by Alex

May

Thurs 9th
Jam session 17:30 – 18:30
at The Hub, led by Izzy

Fri 24th
Workshop 13:30 – 17:30
at The Hub, led by Hinny

Sat 25th
Various performances
Hexham Gathering 10:00 –
16:00 with concert and
ceilidh afterwards, led by
Hinny

June

Thurs 6th
Jam session 17:30 – 18:30
at The Hub, led by Izzy

Mon 17th
Jam session 17:30 – 18:30
at The Hub, led by Alex

Fri 28th till Sat 29th
Residential workshop, with
concert at Newbiggin
Chapel, led by Hinny

July

Thurs 4th
School performance at
Teesdale School, led by
Mike with Longsword dance
premier

What we hope to do

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

In particular we will:

- 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 hopefully...
- 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 will 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 our Tutor

Hinny Pawsey is a young fiddler with her feet very much in the traditional dance music of England and Scandinavia. She is a graduate of Newcastle University's Folk & Traditional Music degree. A member of the Bottle Bank Band based in Newcastle playing traditional music from the North East and beyond, she is also currently playing with Jez Lowe & the Big Bad Pennies.

Hinny is very keen to combine the more classical 'dots on the page' approach with learning by ear, linking to dance traditions.



Hinny with her fiddle

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.