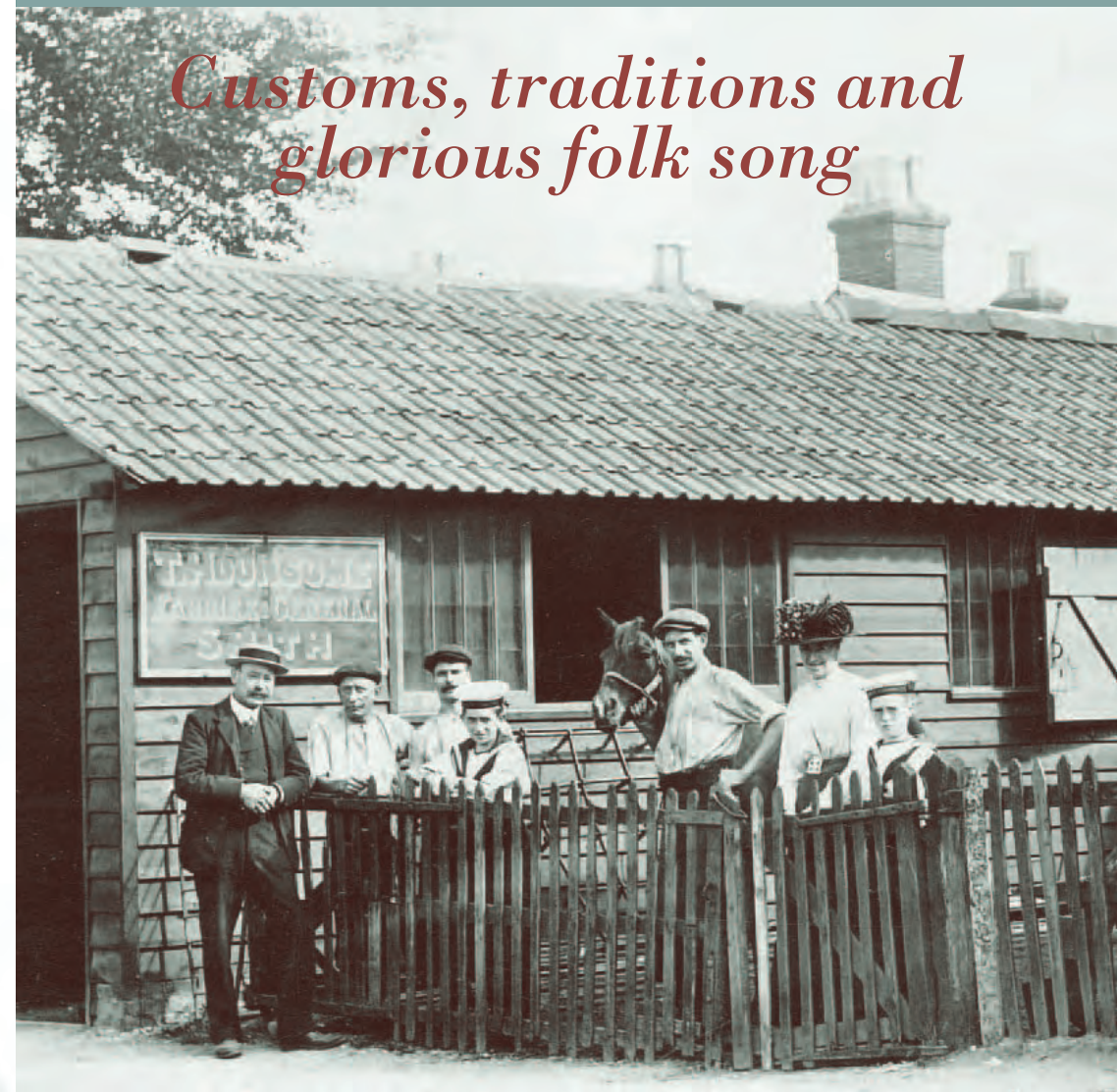


# Customs, traditions & glorious folk song ALL YEAR ROUND

# HAMPSHIRE FOLK MAP



## 400 YEARS OF ENGLISH FOLK MUSIC

1557 Stationers' Company begins to keep register of ballads printed in London.  
 Mary Tudor queen. Loss of English colony at Calais.  
 1624 'John Barleycorn' first registered.  
 Civil Wars 1642-1651. Execution of Charles I.  
 1660s-70s Samuel Pepys makes private ballad collection. Restoration places Charles II on throne.  
 1765 Reliques of Ancient English Poetry published by Thomas Percy. First printed ballad collection.  
 Mozart in London.  
 1780s Robert Burns collects songs for Scots Musical Museum.  
 1780s-1830s Romantic Movement in literature and music.  
 1787-1803 Scots Musical Museum published.  
 French Revolution begins. Revolutionary and Napoleonic Wars.  
 1802-3 Minstrelsy of the Scottish Border published by Sir Walter Scott.  
 Battle of Waterloo.  
 1820 Oldest folk singers collected from by George Gardiner born.  
 1839 John, James, and Henry Broadwood collecting songs in Surrey and Sussex. Folk song collecting begins in Russia and Germany.  
 1843 Old English Songs published by John Broadwood.  
 Queen Victoria on throne. Nationalist Movement in music.  
 1852 George Gardiner born.  
 1878 Nursery Rhymes and Country Songs published by M.H. Mason.  
 1886-91 William Henry Long begins collecting song words on Isle of Wight. Songs of the West published by Sabine Baring-Gould. Sussex Songs by Lucy Broadwood (daughter of Henry). Traditional Tunes by Frank Kidson, English Folk Songs by William Barrett.  
 1893 English County Songs published by Lucy Broadwood and John Fuller Maitland. First attempt at a national folk song book.  
 1898 Folk Song Society founded by Kate Lee and A.P. Graves.  
 1899 Folk Song Society publishes first Journal.  
 Queen Victoria dies. Edward VII on throne.  
 1903 Cecil Sharp and Ralph Vaughan Williams begin collecting.  
 1904 Kate Lee dies. Folk Song Society re-founded by Lucy Broadwood.  
 1905-6 George Gardiner begins collecting in Hampshire. Percy Grainger begins collecting in Lincolnshire. Somerset Rhapsody by Gustav Holst. Norfolk Rhapsodies by Ralph Vaughan Williams. Green Bushes by Percy Grainger. Mary Nee's Esperance Club begins to give public performances of folk songs and morris dances.  
 1907 English Folk Song: Some Conclusions published by Cecil Sharp. First theoretical book on English folk song. First volume of Morris Book published by Cecil Sharp and Herbert MacLwaine. First book to give detailed instructions on morris dancing.  
 1909 Last volume of Folk Songs from Somerset published by Cecil Sharp.  
 1910 George Gardiner dies.  
 1911 English Folk Dance Society founded by Cecil Sharp. First World War.  
 1932 Folk Song Society and English Folk Dance Society merge to form present English Folk Dance and Song Society.  
 Second World War.  
 1948 Last folk singer collected from by George Gardiner dies. King George VI on throne.

### Acknowledgements

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## JANUARY

Old Hampshire remedies to keep you healthy in winter, from members of the Hampshire Federation of Women's Institutes.

For stiffness: apply hedgehog fat  
 For chilblains: apply primrose ointment

To prevent colds: rub a tallow candle on the chest

For fry: fry some mice whole and eat them or alternatively the livers of 40 green frogs prepared and dried.

Source: It Happened in Hampshire - Doings, Sayings, and Interests, past and present. (1936). Compiled and arranged by Winfred G. Beddington and Elsa B. Christy, Hampshire Federation of Women's Institutes.

## FEBRUARY

St Valentine's Day, 14 February, is said to be the day birds begin courting - and not just birds, according to this Hampshire saying:

When the elder leaf is as big as a mouse's ear, that's when a man is at his most dangerous.



## FEBRUARY/MARCH

1 Pancake Day is Shrove Tuesday, the day before Ash Wednesday which begins the forty days of fasting for Easter, during which the consumption of eggs and butter was forbidden. So pancakes were made to use up these supplies. Pancake races are held at Beaulieu, Grayshott and Fareham.



## MARCH

2 The Tichborne Dole, Lady Day, 25 March



This traditional charity dates back to the 12th century. On her death bed, Lady Mabella Tichborne asked that a donation of flour be made to the poor each year. Local legend is that her husband, Sir Roger, did not approve of her charity, and agreed to the bequest on condition that



the Dole consisted only of produce from land that she was able to encircle while carrying a burning torch. Mabella is said to have crawled around a 23-acre field (still called 'The Crawls') before the torch went out. The Dole is still delivered today. Adults from the parishes of Tichborne and Cheriton are entitled to claim one gallon of flour, and children half a gallon. The Tichbornes are among the most prominent English Catholic families and were often in trouble in the 16th century. Chideock Tichborne was executed for his part in the 'Babington Plot' of 1586.

## APRIL/MAY

Rogationtide begins in the sixth week after Easter and culminates in Ascension Day, 'Holy Thursday', forty days after Easter Day. It is the traditional time for Beating the Bounds, still carried out by several Hampshire parishes. The original purpose was to confirm parish boundaries. The clergy and leading men of the parish went round the boundaries, accompanied by children, usually boys. The marker stones were beaten, usually with willow rods, and sometimes the children were beaten to make sure they remembered the occasion.

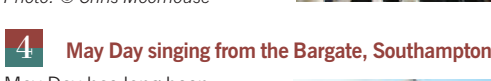
## MAY

3 May Day  
 Many May Day customs are celebrated at sunrise. Wickham Morris Dancers gather at dawn to dance in Wickham Square.



## Wickham Horse Fair

Wickham's annual horse fair, held in late May, is a big event and an important gathering for the gypsy community.



## 4 May Day singing from the Bargate, Southampton

May Day has long been greeted in Southampton by singing from the top of the Bargate, most recently by the choir of King Edward VI school (up to 2004).

## JUNE

5 Aunt Sally, Botley



The Aunt Sally is a traditional game often seen at fêtes and village gatherings in and around June and has been recorded in the Botley area. An Aunt Sally was originally a figurine head of an old woman with a clay pipe in her mouth and the object was for players to throw sticks at the head in order to break the pipe. This is a rare survival of the Aunt Sally figure in the Hampshire County Museum collections.



You may safely shear your sheep  
 When the elder blossoms peep.  
 (HAMPSHIRE FOLKLORE)

Midsummer Day  
 24 June is the Feast of St John the Baptist, and one of the old Quarter Days when rents became due and servants were hired. Quarter days occur every three months close to the two solstices and two equinoxes starting with Lady Day (25 March), then Midsummer Day (24 June), Michaelmas (29 September), and ending with Christmas (25 December).

## JULY

6 St Swithun's Day, 15 July

Saint Swithun was Bishop of Winchester from 852 to his death on 2 July 862 and was later adopted as patron saint there. Today he is known for the proverb which says that if it rains on St Swithun's Day, it will rain for forty days. The traditional explanation is that Swithun wished to be buried out of doors, so that he could enjoy the rain, 'the sweet gentle rain', and when his body was moved to an indoor shrine in 971 he indicated his displeasure with a deluge. His remains were later split between a number of smaller shrines and his skull is at Evreux Cathedral in Normandy.

St Swithun's day if thou dost rain  
 For forty days it will remain  
 St Swithun's day if thou be fair  
 For forty days 'twill rain no more

## AUGUST

Wearing the Rose on Minden Day, 1 August

Minden, fought on 1 August 1759, was among the battles of the Seven Years War, and the scene of an unprecedented (and unrepeatable) feat of arms in which infantry attacked cavalry without support and were victorious. It was a kind of successful Charge of the Light Brigade. According to the usually-accepted story, six British infantry regiments were ordered to advance 'on beat of drum' against the cream of the French cavalry, in co-ordination with their own cavalry and artillery. But they misinterpreted the order to mean 'with beat of drum' and advanced alone. This should have been suicidal, but the regiments drove the cavalry from



The 1st Battalion The King's Own Scottish Borders and the Royal Hampshire Regiment commemorate Minden Day with red roses in their caps.

the field, engaged and defeated the French foot guards, and then marched back to their own lines. Various stories say they marched through a rose garden when going into action, or picked wild roses from the hedgerows, or picked the flowers on the way back, and stuck them in their hats. Since then, the Minden Regiments have worn the rose. The 37th Foot which fought at Minden became the Royal Hampshire Regiment, now merged into the Princess of Wales's Royal Regiment, and they carry on this proud tradition.

7 Sea Cricket on The Bramble Bank

The Bramble Bank is a Solent sandbar which is uncovered at low tides and is the bizarre location for an annual cricket match which started in the 1950s. The opposing teams come from the Island Sailing Club (Isle of Wight) and the Hamble-based Royal Southern Yacht Club. They arrive by boat, wait for the tide to expose the 200 metre 'pitch' and immediately leap from their boats to erect the wicket and temporary drinks bar. The teams usually play for about an hour.



A higher sea level than usual for the annual Brambles Bank Cricket Match. Photo: © Mike Jones

## AUGUST

8 The Knights of the Green, Southampton

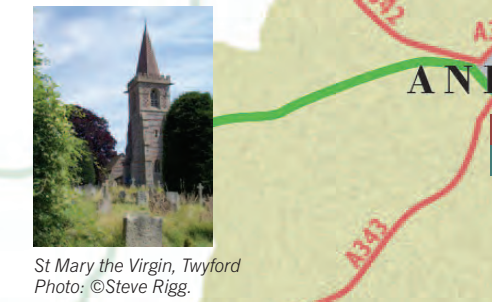
Southampton's Old Bowling Green is reputed to date from 1299 and to be the oldest in the world. Every August, at 3pm on the last Wednesday, the



'knighthood' competition is held when members play for a silver medal. The winner becomes a 'Knight of the Green', is addressed as 'sir', and officiates in future knighthood competitions dressed in top hat and tail coat.

## OCTOBER

9 Bellringer's Feast, Twyford



St Mary the Virgin, Twyford Photo: © Steve Rigg

Local tradition states that early in the 18th century, William Davis was lost and riding through fog when suddenly the bells of Twyford church rang out. Hearing their location and realising that he was heading in the wrong direction he stopped and discovered that he was about to plummet into a deep quarry. In gratitude, Davis bequeathed £1 for a peal of bells to be rung annually with a feast provided for the bell ringers.

## OCTOBER

10 Trafalgar Day, Gosport

On 21 October, Naval Officers gather on the Quarterdeck of HMS Victory to mark Trafalgar Day and to remember the death of their greatest hero, Lord Nelson. Wreaths are laid at the exact spot where Nelson was shot and in the Cockpit on the Orlop deck below, where he died.



Photo: © 'The News', Portsmouth

## OCTOBER

11 Titchfield Carnival, last Sunday in month

Titchfield Bonfire Boys Society continue an old tradition - the Titchfield Village Carnival. Established in 1880 the Carnival has grown to become one of the longest surviving carnivals in the South. From midday until 9pm it features a parade through the village, a funfair, a variety of floats, fireworks, and a bonfire.



## OCTOBER

8 Southampton Court Leet, 29 October

Court Leet meetings are legacies of laws dating from the Norman Conquest originally designed to protect the landowner and fix rights and standards for tenants. They were held by the Lord of the Manor or his Steward who appointed the Bailiffs and other minor officials and had the power to enquire into and punish crimes or petty transgressions. Southampton still has the right to judge crimes but not to punish.

## DECEMBER

12 Christmas Mumming

Hampshire has a strong tradition of mumming plays, and ninety-four locations for traditional Christmas Mummings have been recorded. Although many groups died out in the early 20th century some have been revived and can be seen over the Christmas period.

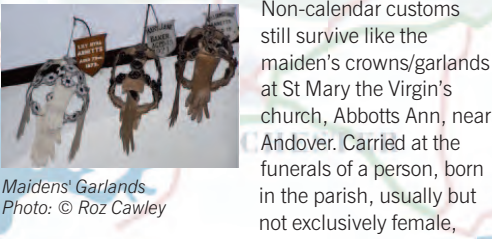
Otterbourne Mummings give one performance of their play, dating from 1857, on the Sunday before Christmas. Others, such as Crookham and Overton (pictured) perform at several locations on Boxing Day. The Crookham Mummings can be seen outside the George and Lobster pub at noon on Boxing Day, to enact a play that has been performed in Crookham village since 1880. Overton Mummings perform their ancient play outside The Greyhound pub at 2pm on Boxing Day. There are also many Morris dance sides that perform local plays over the festive period.



Overton Mummings Photo: © Roz Cawley

## NON-CALENDAR CUSTOMS

13 Maidens' Garlands, Abbots Ann, near Andover



Non-calendar customs still survive like the maiden's crowns/garlands at St Mary the Virgin's church, Abbots Ann, near Andover. Carried at the funerals of a person, born in the parish, usually but not exclusively female, who had led an unblemished life and had died unmarried. The garland was carried over the coffin at the funeral and then hung in the church, where it stayed until it rotted away. Originally made of fresh flowers in more recent times they have been made of white paper. Among the forty-three extant virgins' crowns at Abbots Ann are a garland for a boy of 15 who died in the last year of the Great War and the most recent for Florence Jane Wisewell who died in 1953.

14 The Wayfarer's Dole, Winchester

Weary pilgrims might find food and drink at the St Cross Hospital and Almshouse of Noble Poverty in Winchester. This is a 12th century foundation famous for its Wayfarer's Dole. Today's Dole, comprising bread and ale is still given at the Porter's Gate to visitors who request it.



The Wayfarer's Dole Photo: © David F. Gallagher



