



News archive for 2009

Broadsides meeting - London, 10th Oct 2009

The meeting held at Cecil Sharp House on the 10th October was a great success. The morning session was focused on members activity and on discussing some particular issues of interest to members. The afternoon session, held jointly with EFDSS, was focused on broadside ballads and printed literature and their influence on traditional song. The report of the meeting, including a summary of the content of the talks by Roy and the Steves can be viewed [here](#). A number of members have expressed an interest in having a copy of a recording of the talks and a copy of them, as MP3 files, can be obtained by sending me a cheque for £1-50 (to cover the cost of the disk and UK postage). Alternatively pay this amount through PayPal, using the e-mail address martin.graebe@btinternet.com.

Bronson re-issued

When I was in the USA in June I met Dick Greenhaus who was in a state of high excitement because he had just received the first copies of the reprinted 'The Traditional Tunes of the Child Ballads,'. Loomis House Press have worked with Dick and his CAMSCO operation to produce a facsimile edition of all four volumes of Bronson at a very sensible price in both soft and hard-cover editions. As an indication of UK price Dick is saying £23-75 for each soft cover volume and £28-50 for the hard cover. Postage and packing on a set of four will be £11-00. These prices are currency dependent so you should contact Dick (dick@camscomusic.com) or Loomis House Press (<http://www.loomishousepress.com/>) to place your order. I understand that tea and sympathy may be available for those (like me) who paid large sums of money for second-hand copies

Meanwhile Mark Heiman assures us that progress on the 5th volume of their re-working of Child continues.

(17th Aug 09)

Devon Traditions Project

With the appointment of project worker Mel Smith by Wren Music the Devon Traditions project has now started its work to digitise key song manuscripts from the Baring-Gould collection and the recordings made by Paul Wilson in Devon. The project has been made possible by a grant from the Heritage Lottery Fund. Wren will be issuing full details of the project shortly.

(17th Aug 09)

The 'Take Six' project

The 'Take Six' Archive website is now live on the VWML section of the EFDSS website. Go to <http://library.efdss.org/archives> where you will find an outstanding collection of images of the original manuscripts behind a very well designed database driven index. An outstanding piece of work and a very useful resource. Well done everybody!

(17th Aug 09)

Peter Kennedy's 'folktrax' website

I reported below that Peter Kennedy's 'folktrax' website was available through the 'Wayback machine' of archive.org. Sadly we discovered shortly afterwards that the new owners of the URL had blocked access and that it was no longer available. Mark Heiman of Loomis House Press kindly offered to host a version of the site and it can now be found at <http://folktrax-archive.org/>. I am very grateful to mark for agreeing to provide a long-term home for this useful resource. The home page of the site has been rewritten as a small memorial to Peter and Beryl Kennedy. Otherwise the site remains as he left it with a number of useful resources that throw light on his collection and those of others.

(17th Aug 09)

Report of the Exeter meeting, 21st Feb 2009

The meeting held in Exeter was enjoyed by all who attended and brought in a number of new people to hear some talks with a West Country theme. The morning discussion was also lively and you can read all about it in the notes of the meeting which you can find [here](#).

Details for the next three meetings are currently being thrashed out and it is likely that we will be meeting in London, Suffolk and Newcastle over the next 12 months - probably in that order. Details will be confirmed as soon as we know ourselves.

(12th Mar 09)

Peter Kennedy - Archived Website

After Peter Kennedy's website was taken down in September 2007, following his death and that of his wife, Beryl, I agreed with his family that I would try to find a way to launch a modified version of his 'folktrax' website as a memorial to Peter and Beryl and to answer the calls from a number of people who had found it a useful resource, because of the huge amount of information that it contained. I approached a number of people but had not been able to secure a permanent home for the site. I have just discovered, though, that it can be accessed on the web through the 'Wayback Machine' on Archive.org. There are versions of the site there that date back over many years, though not all of them are complete replicas. For the purpose of reference I would suggest using the last version which appears to be all there. It can be found here [*deleted – no longer available, see above*]

(21st Jan 09)

Songs and Ballads of the West - now available online

Talking of the Internet Archive on Archive.org, I discovered the other day that a new tranche of texts by Sabine Baring-Gould has been added to the archive, bringing the total to 377 (though some are duplicates). One of the new texts is the 1891 edition of Songs and Ballads of the West' – the first version of the collection, with Henry Fleetwood Sheppard as musical editor. Baring-Gould himself preferred this version and wished, in old age, for it to be republished as a memorial to Sheppard. It's taken 75 years, but this is a welcome republication, in a medium that would have amazed but delighted it's author. It is an agreeable coincidence that it should appear so close to the 175th Anniversary of Baring-Gould's birth. You can find it [here](#).

(21st Jan 09)

Resources in Essex:

Sue Cubbin has written to me from Essex to tell me that she will be retiring from Essex Record Office at the end of March. You will probably have seen the excellent publication that Sue produced on Vaughan Williams collection of folk songs from Essex and she has also given a lot of support to others working in the area. She also talked at the recent day focused on Vaughan Williams collecting in the East of England which was organised by East Anglian Music Trust. Sue is now tidying things up before she retires and she has sent me two very useful lists of folk song and dance resources to be found in the Essex Record Office. I have added them to the items in our 'Library' but you can access them from these links as well

[Essex Record Office - Folk Music and Song Resources](#)

[Essex Record Office - Folk Dance Resources](#)

Thanks, Sue!

(11th Feb 09)

New Carol Book

Ian Russell has written about a new publication from Village carols. He says:

You may like to know that The Sheffield Book of Village Carols, ed. Ian Russell (Sheffield: Village Carols, 2008), casebound ISBN 0-9524871-3-6, 192pp. is available from Village Carols, P.O.Box 2099, Sheffield S35 0XU (01224 645486), £16.00 plus £6.00 p&p (UK). See <http://www.villagecarols.org.uk/> (11th Feb 09)