



News archive for 2010

TSF Meeting - 'Broadsides II', London 26th Feb 2011

The next TSF meeting will be another day focussed on broadside ballads, with a new range of topics and, I am sure, a few more things to learn about this important topic. Once again, the meeting is being held in association with EFDSS and will take place at Cecil Sharp House, London on 26 Feb 2011. Further details will be made available shortly.

(30th Nov 2010)

TSF meeting - Dublin 13th November 2010

The meeting in Dublin was very enjoyable and we have had some good feedback from those who attended. The notes from the meeting are now available and can be read [here](#)

(30th Nov 2010)

Secret Songs of Silence

Ian Spring's new publishing company, Hogs Back Press, has recently released Secret Songs of Silence; a collection of 76 erotic and bawdy songs from the north-east of Scotland taken from Peter Buchan's manuscript from which the book takes its title. An article on this can be seen [here](#) and the book can be ordered from the [Hogs Back Press website](#).

(30th Nov 2010)

The Imagined Village (The Book)

Georgina Boyes let me know that the new edition of her book, The Imagined Village, is now available. This long-awaited revision of her influential book has some lovely illustrations as well as some other new material. You can see details and buy the book at the [No Masters website](#).

(9th Sept 2010)

Web resources updated

At the last TSF meeting I said that I would update the list of web resources on the site - that job is now done and you can find it in 'The Library' or here [Moved to 'Resources' tab]. It is not (and is not intended to be) complete, but gives a good sample of what is available for those who are coming to folk song research for the first time.. If you find any sites that you think should be added to the list, please let me know. And, please, let me know of any broken links or other problems.

(10th Aug 2010)

A Sussex singer

In response to my request for news Mike Tristram has written to say:

You ask for news – my exciting news is that I have got to know a lovely man called Ron Johnson who is a grandson of John Johnson of Fittleworth (d. 1941). I decided to see if I could find John Johnson's exercise book in which he wrote down his songs, and find what else was in it, apart from the songs which Bob Copper recorded from 3 of John Johnson's children (Gladys Stone, Leslie and John Johnson).

I had originally expected to find it in a museum somewhere but even better, it is being treasured still in John's family. I found Ron after a lucky break in an enjoyable series of random phone conversations with people by the name of Stone or Johnson across Sussex, through which I found a totally unrelated person called Johnson whose wife had known Ron when a child. I am a very lucky person! Ron turns out to be a retired vicar a village or two away from me. He tells me that John worked on Street Farm Fittleworth opposite the Swan (where he no doubt sang), and had responsibility for over 30 working horses there.

Ron has kindly allowed me to make a copy of the song book and to share it with other interested people so I will be getting a copy to VWML some time in the next few months, and then it can be Roud-indexed. I need first to get my digital copies of the pages into order and photo-edited for clarity and then I will type up at least a list of titles and first lines to send to Tradsongers.

We don't know when John wrote the songs down but I presume it to be some time in, say, the 30 years before his death, this would be 1910-1940. There are some music hall type songs in there, so there might be a song composed in say 1930 and then we would know it was after 1930 that he wrote out the songs at least up to that point. Some of the songs are very similar to other collected versions where I am familiar with those, which is not surprising as he was a singing companion of Bill Sebbage George Attrill and others. Others have variations of their own (John was writing them down from (at least mainly) oral tradition). One of the Johnson songs Bob collected 'Poor Lonely Widow' seems to be the only instance of its Roud number? So there might be some other rarities in there.

Whether so or not, 'twas quite delightful just to have John's book in hand and sing a few of the songs with his grandson. All thanks to Bob's inspiration leaving another trail to follow, and to John's family's respect for the inheritance they have been treasuring.

(21st June 2010)

Internet publication of sheet music

Lewis Jones has sent me a revised version of his notes on the publication of high quality sheet music on the Internet. This replaces the article that he provided for the site some years ago and which he updated last in January 2009. You can find these notes on the 'Articles' page within the 'Library' on this site - but, if you are desperate to get there now, click here [now under 'Articles' tab].

(21st June 2010)

Notes from TSF meeting at Cecil Sharp House, London, 12th June 2010

The meeting notes from this enjoyable meeting are now on the site and can be found [here](#).

(21st June 2010)

East Anglian Traditional Musical Trust - Traditional Music Day

EATMT are holding the 9th of their traditional music days on Saturday 4th September 2010. There will be a mix of Story-telling, dance, music and, of course, song, with a number of well known performers of traditional songs on the bill. Details [here](#).

(21st June 2010)

Internet resources listing

At the London meeting, it was agreed that we would update the TSF list of online resources, which appears on this site (go to the 'Library' to see it or click [here](#)). We would be very grateful if you could have a look at the list and suggest any additions or changes that you think should be made, bearing in mind that the intention is to provide newcomers to research into traditional song with places to go to find out about it. Please e-mail your suggestions to me - martin.graebe@btinternet.com

(21st June 2010)

Notes of TSF meeting in Newcastle 6th March 2010

The notes of our meeting in Newcastle were written by Peter Wood, to whom I am very grateful, as I knew that other commitments would prevent me from doing them in as timely a fashion. You can read the notes [here](#). A recording of the presentations is available from Martin Graebe on a CD-R for £1-50. If you would like a copy please contact me (martin.graebe@btinternet.com). I will not, now be able to send this to you until late May, but if you let me know now I will get in touch with you then.

Copies of the speaker's notes from the meeting will be made available when I have them. At present I have two of them: Susan Tilley's Presentation is [here](#), Pete Woods notes are [here](#). I will add the other two in the next update.

(20th Mar 2010)

Cecil Sharp's Diaries on-line

The series of Cecil Sharp's diaries covering the years 1915 - 18 when he visited America to collect songs in the Appalachian Mountains can now be viewed on the EFDSS website. To view the diaries go [here](#). Do take the opportunity to have a look at the slide show about Sharp's work and the diaries prepared by the EFDSS for the BBC with a commentary by Malcolm Taylor. There is also a link to an excellent article by Mike Yates on Cecil Sharp in America, which is on the Musical Traditions site.

(20th Mar 2010)

Future TSF Meetings:

The next TSF meeting will be held at Cecil Sharp House in London on 12th June 2010. Apart from the usual forum discussion the main feature of the day will be a presentations of rare films of traditional singing. Full details will be made available in the next few weeks.

On the 13th November we are planning a meeting in Dublin, where we will be the guests of the Irish Traditional Music Archive, a remarkable institution that is one of the key centres for studying folk song in Ireland. Because we expect people will want to arrive on Friday and leave on Sunday we are arranging a 'social programme' with singing sessions and a bit of sightseeing. We will make full details available in good time so that you can make your arrangements for travel and accomodation. This should be an outstanding meeting.

(20th Mar 2010)

Folk Song in England

EFDSS and TSF are jointly organising a series of six evening classes to be led by Steve Roud. Intended for new comers to folk song, the classes will explore the history and development of English traditional song over the last 200 years. The classes will run from 19:00 - 21:00 on Monday evenings, starting on 15 Feb 2010. To find out more contact [Steve Roud](#). To book places contact [EFDSS](#) (Phone: 0207 485 2206 extension 25).

If these classes prove a success, then it is hoped to roll them out to other UK locations and, possibly, folk

festivals. Further details can be found [here](#) and on the [EFDSS website](#) .
(5th Feb 2010)

Upcoming conferences

I have heard of a few conferences coming up in 2010, that you might like to know about. They include:

Celebrating Scot(t)s Voices - Schonberg, Germany, 9 - 12 Sept 2010

Subtitled "An International Conference in Honour of Mrs Brown of Falkland (1747-1810)", this conference is being organised by Johannes Gutenberg University, Mainz (contact Dr Sigrid Rieuwerts). More details and the call for papers [here](#).

40th Ballad Conference - Amsterdam and Terschelling, Netherlands, 5 - 10 July 2010

The theme for next year's Ballad Conference is simply 'Water' - a topic that should allow for a very interesting range of papers. The event will commence at the Meertens Institute in Amsterdam and then continue at the maritime Institute in Terschelling. There will be a full range of visits and social activities associated with the conference. More details and the call for papers can be found [here](#).

(23rd Nov 09)