

Traditional Music Workshop Weekend With John Spiers, Jo Freya and Fi Fraser 7/8 April 2018 in Adderbury



John Spiers has made a name for himself as one of the leading squeezebox players of his generation. Well known for his partnership with Jon Boden as well as his contribution to Bellowhead, John has also played with Eliza Carthy's Ratcatchers and a number of local folk-dance bands. John was born in Birmingham, but moved to Abingdon in Oxfordshire at an early age where his association with the traditional folk music and dance began. John has always written tunes and music for the melodeon in the traditional style and many of them can be heard performed on albums as well in sessions. He is keenly working on ways of marrying the infectious pulse of traditional English dance music with modern musical influences for audiences both at home and abroad.

Jo Freya is a dynamic performer and composer, singing and playing a variety of instruments including saxophones, clarinets, traditional whistles and piano. She is part of headlining acts such as Blowzabella, Moirai, Maalstroom, The Old Swan Band, Token Women and Coope, Boyes, Simpson, Fraser, Freya & Boyes. Steeped in the knowledge of traditional English music, Jo also composes songs and tunes for bands and uses her musical knowledge to compose for film, theatre and community projects —she creates haunting, melodic and memorable melodies.



Fi Fraser is Jo's big sister. Fi started playing traditional English fiddle music in the 70's with the Old Swan Band and has spent much time with some of the foremost exponents of southern English songs and tunes. She went on to be a founder member of Token Women, and she is a member of Polkaworks. Her style whilst both harmonic and melodic has a driving rhythm. She sings with Jo in the Fraser Sisters, with the Lal Waterson Project, with Coope Boyes and Simpson, Jo Freya and Georgina Boyes (six piece accapella group). Her latest project, The Old Fashioned is a mixture of tunes and songs with a piano, fiddle and upright bass line-up.

When

- Saturday 7 and Sunday 8 April 2018.

Where

- The Bell Inn, The Institute, and The Lucy Plackett Centre, Adderbury, Oxfordshire.

What to Expect: A relaxed atmosphere for all levels of musician!

Building on the success of our annual English and Euro tunes 'playing for dance' workshops, and in response to feedback and ideas discussed at the recent workshops, we have designed a new format workshop.

This will not replace the playing for dance workshop, but will complement it. This workshop is focused on making music sound interesting and good to listen to—for the audience and for singers and other musicians whom you are playing with— so it will suit those keen to improve their session playing as well as those with 'concert' interests or aspirations.

Participants will be split into one of three groups for the weekend —basic player/novice, intermediate, advanced— and each group will have a full half day session with each of the three tutors (Saturday and Sunday mornings 09.30 – 12.30, Saturday afternoon 14.00 – 17.00).



Each tutor will have a theme for the workshop; John will focus on tune set arrangements, Jo will focus on accompanying tunes and song, and Fi will focus on harmonising and improvising (particularly when accompanying tunes you don't know in sessions). The tunes and songs used for each theme will be different for each of the groups and will suit the level of the group.

Sunday afternoon will be our grand finale concert where each group will perform the sets that they have worked on over the weekend for other participants—so nine different sets in all.

This concert will not be open to the public, but participants may invite friends and relatives if they wish.

After supper on Saturday night you can session as hard as you like at the Bell Inn—you can also session on the preceding Friday night if you wish; most participants usually arrive for Friday night.

All tunes explored will be DG melodeon friendly, ie in the keys of D and G major with Em, Am and Bm. On the booking form, please tell us about your main instrument and what else you'd like to bring (we encourage you to bring other instruments providing that you can play them to some degree).

We will also need to allocate you to the most suitable group —basic, intermediate or advanced. So on the booking form you will need to select which descriptions best applies to your playing:

1. Basic —people at this level need to have mastered some of the basics of their instruments meaning that they can play a few tunes even though they might not be able to pick up new tunes easily. You basically know how your instrument functions and are willing to have a go at arrangements in a tutored setting having had a little time with the suggested tunes in advance. *Absolute beginners on instruments (i.e people who got their first fiddle for Christmas) would be unlikely to get very much from the workshops as we're not teaching the actual instruments.*

2. Intermediate —people at this level are comfortable on their instruments but don't consider themselves to be anywhere near where they want to be with them. You can play quite a few tunes and readily join in the tunes you know in sessions. You might lead a tune or three in a session and feel confident about having a go at most tunes provided they are not over complicated and taken at an even pace whilst you are getting to grips with them.

3. Advanced —people at this level know their instruments well and regularly have a go at tunes they don't know and pick them up reasonably quickly. You have also been known to harmonise or decorate a tune and can join in most things in most sessions.

What it Costs:

With the move to Adderbury, regrettably venue hire prices have increased and we have to pass this on so both days will cost £87. Day bookings (£45) will only be possible if the weekend is not fully sold out. If you cannot make both days and want to join one of them, please call or email.

Accommodation, Refreshments & Dinner:

Participants are responsible for finding their own accommodation; there are B&Bs in and around Adderbury and camp sites nearby.

Tea and coffee will be available throughout the day and is included in the fee. You can choose what and where to eat, but lunch and evening buffets will be offered at the Bell.

Questions? Please email jeremy@tozerofdevon.net or call 07717 461972.

Booking forms are downloadable from the tunes and workshops page at www.montysmaggot.co.uk