

Shindig Autumn/Winter 2008/09 Tour

Shindig's Autumn/Winter programme was full of great shows for the autumn, going up until Christmas and beyond into the New Year! There was a variety of high quality tours appealing across all age ranges.

Below is a description of each show that toured around Wychavon and the comments received regarding each show.

HOOVER THE DOG - In Concert

Welsh borders trio Hoover the Dog are purveyors of inventive, intelligent music, featuring the virtuoso combination of John Hymas' strings, the athletic accordion of Paul Hutchinson and guitar/bouzouki man Tony Harris' light, fluid fingerings. Exhibiting bags of technical brilliance and the gift of making music clever and funny at the same time the music ranges from stylish and understated to gutsy and gleeful.

Friday 19th September – 7.30pm

Severn Sailing Club House, Bredons Norton, GL20 7HD

Comments – *“The Audience was rapt, mesmerised by the musical content and the high standard of musicianship”*

Sunday 21st September – 8.00pm

Cleeve Prior Memorial Village Hall, WR11 8LE

Comments – *“A thoroughly enjoyable experience”*

Friday 17th October - 7.30pm

Himbleton Parish Hall, WR9 7LG

Friday 7th November - 7.30pm

Offenham Village Hall, WR11 8QD

THE OPERA DUDES - Licensed to Trill

In their new show, *Licensed To Trill*, our two intrepid Singing Agents, Tim Lole and Neil Allen, are back from their travels.

Expect the unexpected - opera, swing, showstoppers and impressions! Music comes in a variety of guises from Grand Italian Opera to London's West End favourites and Andrew Lloyd Webber. As well as terrific singing the show includes funny stories, sing-alongs, a concert piano solo and another silly piano duet!

Sunday 5th October – 7.30pm

Birlingham Village Hall, WR10 3AB

Comments – *“ This was one of the best, we were enthralled, Comedy, passion, a superb night”*

Friday 28th November - 8.00pm

Abbots Morton Village Hall, WR7 4NA

Sunday January 11th - 7.30pm

Beckford Village Hall, GL20 7AA

Saturday 7th February - 7.30pm

Rous Lench Village Hall, WR11 4UN

Comments – *"Excellent – a mix of serious and comedy with brilliant voices, the audience was mesmerised"*

Sunday 8th February - 7.30pm

Harvington Village Hall, WR11 8NQ

Comments – *"An outstanding show, many of the audience said it was the best show they had ever seen"*

CLAP TRAP PRODUCTIONS - Not About Heroes

A biting recognition of the obscenity of war, commemorating the 90th Anniversary of the end of the Great War. A moving and intimate drama by Stephen MacDonald about the reallife relationship between two great First World War poets, Wilfred Owen and Siegfried Sassoon. The play, taken from their actual writings, shows the "strangely fruitful encounter between Siegfried Sassoon, soldier, poet and war hero, now obsessed with exposing every sham ideal used to justify war, and Wilfred Owen, recovering from shellshock, looking desperately for a hero who was not immune to the pity of war." (Times Literary Supplement).

Sassoon looks back on the first meeting with Owen, in Craiglockhart War Hospital, in the summer of 1917. Their friendship deepened only to be cruelly cut short when a sniper killed Owen, just one week before the armistice.

Clap Trap is a North Yorkshire touring theatre company creating intimate, involving and memorable drama.

Sunday 19th October - 7.30pm

The Fleece Inn Barn, Bretforton, WR11 7JE

Comments – *"Excellent show, great acting. Audience reaction was very positive"*

QUONDAM THEATRE COMPANY - The Last Waltz

Quondam continue to develop their highly successful brand, of theatre-with-music, with *The Last Waltz*. The performance style combines the drama of story telling with the entertainment of music and song, and all the music is played live!

The Last Waltz is a poignant comedy with music and a love story about the very last working day in a rural railway signal box. This is 2008 and management has decreed that remote, detached Agency workers will save money. Philip is the signalman about to be made redundant, but out of this sad moment comes real happiness when he re-discovers, after 20 years, his long lost teenage love, the love of his life. His defiance rings out over the hills: *"They can take my signal box, but they can't take my soul"*.

Anyone who saw *Voices or Unruly Women* will recognise a familiar theme that positive outcomes emerge from dark, difficult circumstances. Great family theatre!

Friday 31st October - 8.00pm

Ashton Under Hill Village Hall, WR11 7SW

Comments – *" Delightful evening. Play was witty and musical items were superb"*

THE SINGING SOUS CHEFS - Alive Again

Comedy, *a cappella* singing and time travel for all ages. Directed by John Nicholson of Peepolykus Theatre Company.

Comical musical interactive time-travelling adventure with three Italian chefs. Dr Who without the glitz. Featured at Edinburgh 08 Fringe Festival. Directed by John Nicholson of the side-splitting Peepolykus Theatre Company.

Three Italian chefs helter-skelter down the continuum of Time through the congestion zone of Space across the wide-open bison plains of History and back again before last orders. Meet Michelangelo, Merlin, Newton's Apple and The Future. Travel the globe. Feel its bigness.

With songs by Joe Jackson, Dionne Warwick, Ry Cooder, The Everly Brothers, Iggy Pop, Coope Boyes & Simpson, Lou Reed, The Spooky Men's Chorale and other iconic grooves of our Time.

Locally sourced by Jim Howden, Adrian Mealing and William Tooby.

Wednesday 12th November - 8.00pm

The Fleece Inn Barn, Bretforton, WR11 7JE

NEW ROPE STRING BAND - In Concert

The New Rope String Band is made up of four hugely experienced, highly talented musicians playing beautiful, lively acoustic music from various traditions around the world. Pete Challoner and Tim Dalling (from The Old Rope String Band) have joined forces with two amazing musicians, Jock Tyldesley and Vera van Heeringen, and together they sing, dance and play their socks off, on fiddle, guitar, piano, accordion, mandolin and anything else that comes to hand.

But people just laugh at them.

Saturday 14th February - 7.30pm

Eckington Village Hall, WR10 3AU

Comments – *"Superb musicality, absolute mayhem and continuous laughter, the audience were rolling around in their seats"*

THE MELSTOCK BAND - The Shepherd's Calendar and Christmas Is Come

A costume presentation of music, song and spoken word with early and modern instruments creating afresh the English village band.

Christmas Is Come presents a lively mixture of songs, stories, carols and tunes which draws on many sources to portray seasonal festivities of the English countryside. The country poets John Clare and William Barnes tell of ceremonial house-visiting from mummers, wassailers, carol singers, while Thomas Hardy chronicles the disasters suffered by a country choir. The music and song of the season are also presented from the more gentrified perspective of the Reverend William Holland and George Eliot. The show also includes a performance of a Dorset Mummers' Play!

Saturday 22nd November - 8.00pm

Cleeve Prior Memorial Village Hall, WR11 8LE

The Shepherd's Calendar takes us from Bonfire Night, through Christmas, springtime, sheep-shearing and hay-making to harvest. As the year rolls by, you will encounter midnight capers, shepherds courting, midsummer magic, cider-making, girls racing and an embarrassed parson. The show also includes courtship, weddings and other festivities of the rural year and the words of Thomas Hardy, John Clare and the Somerset Parson, John Holland.

Sunday 23rd November - 7.30pm
Eckington Village Hall, WR10 3AU

MARTIN SIMPSON - In Concert

Martin Simpson is without doubt one of the finest finger-style and slide guitarists in the world. He is also a superb interpreter of traditional songs and a spellbinding performer of his own material. At this year's BBC Folk Awards he won Album of the Year for *'Prodigal Son'* and Best Original Song for his profoundly moving song about his father *'Never Any Good'*. He has won Musician of the Year twice.

Martin appeared on the Jools Holland show in November 2007 singing one of the songs from his new album. He performed solo at the first-ever Folk Proms in July. Much of Martin's music reflects the places where he's lived; time spent in his native England and the United States underpins his work but he continually adds new colours to his musical palette expanding on his interest in British, Anglo- American and Afro-American traditional forms.

Saturday 20th December - 7.30pm
Harvington Village Hall, WR11 8NQ
Comments – “Superb professional show”

Sunday 25th January - 7.30pm
Crowle Parish Hall, WR7 4AZ
Comments – “The quality of the performance was first class”

KING VILLA - Swingers in Suspenders

This show will definitely appeal to the over 50s as well as the huge number of young swing fans. Anyone who likes MGM musicals, *film noire*, nostalgia, romance...and suspenders! A musical journey through the songs and stars of the Swing era. The 1930s, 40s and 50s are brought back to life by Jo King and Alexi Harden with live piano, trumpet, sax and guitar. Dance, comedy, puppetry, fabulous costumes and superstar guests are all used to create a first class vaudeville cabaret evening. (Joan Crawford, Frank Sinatra, Groucho Marx, Marlene Dietrich and Bing Crosby have already 12+ agreed to lend their talents!) Be there!

Sunday 25th January - 8.00pm
Ashton Under Hill Village Hall, WR11 7SW
Comments – “The audience were happy with what they saw”

Sunday 1st February - 7.30pm
Bishampton Villages Hall, WR10 2LY
Comments – “A really enjoyable and entertaining show”

Saturday 21st February - 8.00pm
Cleeve Prior Memorial Hall, WR11 8LE
Comments – “A very pleasant show well received by almost everyone in the audience, the show is very varied and great fun”

Sunday 22nd February - 7.30pm
Birlingham Village Hall, WR10 3AB

Comments – “ *Excellent in every respect, no one wanted to go home*”

OXFORDSHIRE TOURING THEATRE COMPANY - *Hansel & Gretel*

OTTC has commissioned award winning children's writer Mike Kenny to produce a new version of the Brothers Grimm tale, *Hansel and Gretel*. The show will be at once a dark and humorous re-telling of this well-loved story (complemented by fabulous design and original music and songs) sure to excite and delight family audiences and provide an opportunity for a real, shared, intergenerational community event at that special time of the year!

Desperate times call for desperate measures! So when food is short and there are mouths to feed, something's got to give. But when Mum and Dad leave the kids in the wood, there turn out to be more questions than answers...

Will the woodcutter turn out to be a man or a mouse? Will Hansel and Gretel ever find their way back home? Will the future be free-range or oven ready?

Find out in Mike Kenny's sparkling re-telling of this familiar tale of breadcrumbs and witches: it's the perfect recipe for a great night out for all the hungry family!

Saturday 31st January - 7.00pm

Elmbridge Village Hall, WR9 ODA

Comments – “*A high quality and professional performance, ingenious set, thoroughly enjoyed by all*”

TOM BLISS - *SLIPJIG - Tales of Time and Tide*

A development from the much acclaimed *Island Slices*, Tom's new show, *Tales of Time and Tide*, is a multi-media, multiinstrumental storytelling, song and dance show (only he's fibbing about the dancing!). The show is funny, informative, moving and gripping and will appeal to all ages and musical tastes - in fact, everyone who enjoys a great yarn!

Video clips, pictures, sound-bites and sound effects enhance Tom Bliss' 'charismatic' and 'gripping' storytelling and his diligently researched and beautifully told tales lead directly into inspirational and moving narrative songs. The stories all have maritime and historical connections and are based on real events as well as ancient and modern myths and legends. Tom sings 'like a lark' and accompanies his voice with guitar, mandocello, long-necked dulcimer and duet concertina plus he plays whistle and other instruments during the show. He's a singer, writer and film director with a national reputation; his love and understanding of traditional song and music informs all his work.

A great family show.

Sunday 25th February - 8.00pm

The Fleece Barn Inn, Bretforton, WR11 7JE

Comments – “*A good show, well received and fun – audience joined in beautifully*”

OPERA ON THE RUN - *Turning Heads*

With their unique brand of operatic entertainment, dynamic duo Tim Armstrong- Taylor and Ian Bloomfield present a tale based on the true events of a fictional stag weekend in Amsterdam. City boys, John and Dan, exhausted and disenchanted by the mundane loneliness of their lives and the gravity of their imminent middle-age, escape to Amsterdam for a hedonistic spree.

A simple tale, but one that is told with skill and inventiveness. Underscored with the world's best loved classical music (*Sabre Dance*, Bach's *Tocatta and Fugue*, Strauss' *Also Sprach*

Zarathustra, Pomp and Circumstance by Elgar) with added bespoke operatic lyrics and singing and combined with lots of running, posturing and general chaos, makes this piece fun and light-hearted.\


Turning Heads will take you on a rollercoaster journey through one thousand, six hundred and eighty three bars in just 59 minutes and sung, as always, by fabulous opera singers!


Age range: suitable for an adult audience and young people of 16 years and upwards. Contains some adult material; certainly no bad language.

Sunday 22nd February - 7.30pm

Bishampton Villages Hall, WR10 2LY

Comments – “Excellent performance, enjoyed by all”

For more information on  [Shindig](#) or if you fancy promoting / hosting a Shindig show in your village / town please contact

Sue Roberts, Shindig Co-ordinator on 01544 327877 or email  sue@artservice.org