

# Tea with William Barnes

A celebration of the Dorset Poet  
with music, song and poetry



Sturminster Newton Exchange

Sunday 23 February 2025

*Artsreach*

Registered charity no 1058198

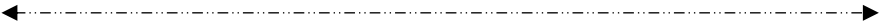
*Supported by Arts Council England and Dorset Council*

## William Barnes of Dorset – The People’s Poet

During the 1850s, William Barnes was instrumental in the setting up of the Dorset County Museum. After his death in 1886, the Barnes archive, consisting of hundreds of books, documents, poems, and other artifacts was bequeathed to the Museum. That archive is now kept in the Dorset History Centre, and the entire collection needs cataloguing to make it accessible to future generations.

The William Barnes Society, along with the Dorset History Centre and the Dorset Museum, are leading an appeal to raise sufficient money to allow this work to be completed. So many of us have enjoyed the wonderful poetry of William Barnes; this is our chance to help to ensure that the archive of this truly remarkable and much-loved writer will be available to future generations.

**For details on how to make a donation, please email treasurer [DaveParsons59@hotmail.com](mailto:DaveParsons59@hotmail.com), or talk to Brian Caddy or Tim Laycock at this performance.**



Thanks to support by Dorset Council, Artsreach is delighted to be working with Pageant Productions to live stream the 2025 Barnes Tea so that those unable to attend in person can enjoy the event by watching online.



*Cover image: wood engraving by Reynolds Stone*

# A Dorset Toast

(join in with the lines in bold!)



If you in Do'set be a-roamen,  
An' ha' business at a farm,  
Then woon't ye zee your eale a foamen!  
Or your cider down to warm?  
Woon't ye have brown bread a put ye,  
An' some vinny cheese a cut ye?

Butter?

**ALL: Rolls o' it**

Cream?

**ALL: Why, bowls o' it!**

Woon't ye have, in short, your vill  
A gi'ed wi' a right good will?

**ALL:**

**Friend and wife,  
Fathers, mothers, sisters, brothers,  
Happy, happy be their lives  
Vor Do'set dear,  
they gi'e woone cheer;  
D'ye hear? woone cheer!  
HIP HIP HIP HOORAY!**

# **Tea with William Barnes 2025 Programme**

Bringing in the Vinny / The Barnes Toast (*pg3 – please join in!*)

## **Major Malley's Reel/ Tink-a-Tink**

Two lively dance tunes from the Hardy family manuscript music books, formerly played by Thomas Hardy's father and grandfather at local gatherings in the Bockhampton area of South

*Poem: Blackmwoe Maidens*

## **I Live Not where I Love**

Robert and Henry Hammond made trips to Dorset in 1905-07 searching for folksongs. This lovely song was collected from one of their best singers, Robert Barratt of Puddletown. The text dates back to the 17<sup>th</sup> century.

*Poem: The Blackbird*

## **Rustic Childhood**

William Barnes also wrote in 'National English'. Phil Humphries chose to set this poem because the lyrics remind him of his childhood growing up on a farm near Verwood.

*Poem: The Love Child*

**Great Things** by Thomas Hardy, music by Lizzie Lucas.

*Poem: The Music O' the Dead*

## **Hark, Hark!**

A vigorous and rousing carol from Hinton St Mary.



**INTERVAL: A Dorset Cream Tea is served**

## Part 2



*Poem: Bob the Fiddler*

### **The Death of Queen Jane**

The Hammonds often visited local workhouses in search of songs. This one was collected in Dorchester Union from Robert White, and recalls the death of Jane Seymour, 3<sup>rd</sup> wife of Henry the Eighth.

*Poem: Nanny Gill*

### **New Poole [They That in Ships]**

William Knapp was the parish clerk of St James parish church in Poole. He composed many hymns and anthems, including this song that must have resonated with many of the seafarers and their families in the congregations at the church.

*Poem: Pentridge by the River*

### **Skeklers Waltz/ The Fiddleford Polka**

We very much enjoy the tunes written by Nick Dunckley. Here are two more, arranged for the Ridgeway Band by Phil.

*Poem: Zitten out the Wold Year, featuring the Ridgeway Ringers*

**Linden Lea** by William Barnes, music by Ralph Vaughan Williams. Please join in – the words are on page 6!



The Ridgeway Singers & Band and The William Barnes Society have CDs and publications available at this performance

# Linden Lea

*By William Barnes*

Within the woodlands, flow'ry gladed,  
By the oak trees' mossy moot;  
The shining grass blades, timber shaded,  
Now do quiver under foot;  
And birds do whistle overhead,  
And water's bubbling in its bed;  
And there for me,  
The apple tree  
Do lean down low in Linden Lea.

When leaves, that lately were a-springing,  
Now do fade within the copse,  
And painted birds do hush their singing  
Up upon the timber tops;  
And brown leaved fruit's a-turning red,  
In cloudless sunshine overhead,  
With fruit for me,  
The apple tree  
Do lean down low in Linden Lea.

Let other folk make money faster;  
In the air of dark-roomed towns;  
I don't dread a peevish master.  
Though no man may heed my frowns  
I be free to go abroad,  
Or take again my homeward road,  
To where, for me,  
The apple tree  
Do lean down low in Linden Lea



## **The Ridgeway Singers**

Peter Allison

Liz Askew

Will Best

Pip Howell

Hilary Charlesworth

Debs Coombes

Gina Dobbins

Peter Dobbins

Gillian Downham

Antony Edwards

Alyson Edwards

Mark Green

Jan Griffiths

Joy Jolliffe

Perilla Kinchin

Gaynor Kirby

Phil Lester-Shaw

Sally Lester-Shaw

Mike Lofthouse

Sue Lofthouse

Pat March

Alban O'Brien

Joy Parsons

Sue Payne

Paul Pinnock

Lyn Pullen

John Seymour

Janet Simpson

Paul Simpson

Mike Spencer

Rosie Spencer

Mayling Thirlaway

Katie Wilkinson



## **The Ridgeway Band**

Bridget Bowen – descant and tenor recorder

John Dike – violin

Margaret Dike – cello

Anneli Fisher - violin

Phil Humphries – serpent

Angela Laycock – tenor recorder

Tim Laycock – cello and concertina

Ruth Thompson – violin

Chris Pullen – viola

Roberta Winmill – violin

Phil Humphries conducts the Ridgeway Singers & Band

The Ridgeway Singers were created as part of 'Rooting Round the Ridgeway', an Artsreach Project exploring the traditional carols, folk song and dance music of the South Dorset Ridgeway area. The aim of this bigger Heritage Lottery supported project was to stimulate the creation of new songs and music inspired by the landscape and the musical traditions of the area. As the project ended, the enthusiasm generated was such that the group was determined to continue, and to explore a little further into other musical traditions in Dorset - we hope you find the results as entertaining and inspiring as we do!

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**Tim Laycock** has a particular interest in the traditional music, customs and stories of Dorset. He has recently been awarded the Gold Badge of the English Folk Dance and Song Society for services to folk music.

**Phil Humphries** is a renowned player of the trombone and serpent. He is a member of the Canzona and Convivial Brass Quintets and also freelances as an orchestral trombonist. As a serpent player he works with the Mellstock Band which specialises in the musical traditions of Dorset as recalled in Thomas Hardy's writings. Phil is also a member of the London Serpent Trio.

**With thanks to:**

Phil Humphries, principal arranger; readers Joy Parsons, Charles Buckler, Brian Caddy and Rod Drew. Thanks also to the Sturminster Newton Exchange team, and to the local businesses who have supported this event:

