

HERE'S A HEALTH TO THE BARLEY MOW (WITH GUEST APPEARANCES FROM THE ELECTRIC EDWARDIANS)

WITH MUSICAL ACCOMPANIMENT FROM ROB HARBRON AND MIRANDA RUTTER

Screening: Saturday 21st April, 9pm



Image courtesy of bfi Stills, Posters and Designs

A cornucopia of shorts from the acclaimed BFI DVD releases, Here's a Health to the Barley Mow and The Electric Edwardians. Musical accompaniment will be provided by Robert Harbron and Miranda Rutter with a guest appearance from the Festival's own Günther Buchwald.

Robert Harbron is a sought-after folk musician and composer and one of the country's leading players of the English concertina. He performs widely with Fay Hield as well as with Jon Boden and the Remnant Kings, and leads the English Acoustic Collective Summer School. His tunes are played and admired by folk musicians across the land, and he has recently been commissioned to write music by the Royal Geographical Society, and the English Folk Dance and Song Society. Rob will be working with Miranda Rutter, a fiddle and viola player, founder member of unique string quartet Methera and co-leader of the English Acoustic Collective Summer School.

Programme

Here's a Health to the Barley Mow
The opening sequence to the 1952

film shot at The Ship pub in Blaxhall.

Bacup Coconut Dancers 1930.

There's nothing quite like the Britannia Coconut Dancers of Bacup in Lancashire. In the strangest-looking costumes in English custom, in which red and white predominate, wearing clogs, they dance through the streets all day on Easter Saturday, to a tune played repeatedly by a silver band which trudges along with them. Steve Roud

Films Taken from Kinora Spools (1912).

Kinora spools are a series of small individual photographs printed on card and mounted on a wheel, which, when turned and viewed through a lens, create the illusion of a motion image, rather like a flip book. The four films shown are:

George Butterworth dancing, circa 1912

Maud and Helen Karpeles dancing extracts from 'Lumps of Plum Pudding' (Bampton version) (Kinora no.935)

Maud Karpeles dancing the first part of 'Jockie to the Fair' (Headington version) (Kinora no. 939)

Cecil Sharp, George Butterworth, Maud Karpeles and Helen Karpeles dancing 'Hey Boys, Up Go We' (Kinora no.937). Shona Barrett

Bampton Broom and Morris Dances. 1928.

Two short segments filmed at Bampton, Oxfordshire on 28 May 1928:

Broom Dance: Sam Bennett from Ilmington;

Bampton Morris Dance, 'Bacca Pipes'.

Sword Dances circa 1927.

Westerhope Sword Dancers.

A Day in the Hayfields (Cecil Hepworth)

Dances by Ilmington Teams in the Grounds of Peter De Montfort's House 1220 AD. Fiddler Sam Bennett 1926. This early sound film features the legendary fiddler and dancer Sam Bennet performing a traditional morris dance, maypole and country dancing tunes in his native Warwickshire. Bennett's performances were recorded or 'collected' many times by the famous collectors of traditional music such as Cecil Sharp, Mary Neale and James Madison Carpenter. In six separate sequences we see Bennett playing fiddle to 'We Won't Go Home till Morning', the very ancient 'Selling's Round' which dates from Elizabethan times and 'Pop Goes the Weasel' while local girls dance in front of Ilmington Manor. Bryony Dixon

Bampton Dancers circa 1928 – 36.

Clipping Sunday, Painswick, Gloucestershire, September 1928;

William Wells of Bampton, fiddling, leading to William Wells and three revival dancers dancing in Bampton.

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Here's a Health to the Barley Mow 1952

Cyril Poacher leading us all in song with his rendition of The Nutting Girl

Shrove Tuesday Football Games from the 1920s.

Royal Shrove Tide Football takes place at Ashbourne on Shrove Tuesday and Ash Wednesday, and traditionally involves those born to the north of the River Henmore against those born to the south. The goals are at Sturston and Cliffdon, three miles apart.

600-Year-Old Custom!

In Hallaton, Leicestershire, the traditional 'football' game is called 'bottle-kicking', although it does not involve bottles, nor is anything kicked very much. In fact, the items that the teams content over are small wooden kegs.

The Game of Haxey Hood (1929).

In Haxey, Lincolnshire, the item for which the teams must tussle is a rolled-up piece of leather, the 'hood', rather than a ball. As elsewhere, two teams of indeterminate size struggle to get the hood to their own goal – in this case one of two pubs – and anything goes to get it there.

Sheffield United V Bury 1902. (Films from the Mitchell and Kenyon Collection)

This film offers an early example of the celebrity footballer, in the person of William 'Fatty' Foulkes, Sheffield United's infamous international goalkeeper. Filmed at Bramall Lane in September 1902, the 20-stone goalkeeper helped his club to a 1 – 0 victory over Bury and was part of the FA Cup Final teams of 1899, 1901 and 1902.

Dewsbury V Manningham 1902. (Films from the Mitchell and Kenyon Collection)

This film features Manningham Rugby Club who in September 1903 switched allegiance to the round ball and re-

formed as Bradford City.

New Year Fireball Festival, Stonehaven. 1965.

Greater London / Llandudno May Queens 1926 and 1927.

The celebration of May Day has long roots, going back at least to medieval times, but it was Victorian social reformers who crafted most of the standard features of the celebration which we might recognise today. Steve Roud.

Boy Bishop of Berdon 1925.

An ancient Essex ceremony is revived: a choirboy is chosen to be a 'bishop' for a day.

Merry England 1928.

This story of the Knutsford, Cheshire May queen celebrations appeared in the Manchester edition of this Topical Budget Newsreel.

(Films from the Mitchell and Kenyon Collection)

Manchester Band of Hope Procession 1901.

The Band of Hope was a Temperance Society founded in the 1840s to combat the evils of drink. To reach its target audience of children, the Band deployed the latest technologies, such as the magic lantern in the 1840s and the cinematograph, in its fight against the perils of alcohol.

Whitsun Tide Fair at Preston 1906.

This film reveals the full glory of the Edwardian fair, complete with steam-powered roundabouts and the marvels of the travelling cinematograph show, and is a record of just one of the 150 events that took place weekly in the United Kingdom.

Sedgwick's Bioscope Show Front 1901.

This film not only shows the exterior of one of these travelling cinematograph shows, which could hold up to 1000 people, but the Wakes crowd itself entering the cinematograph show.

Blackpool Victoria Pier 1904.

Filmed on 28th May during the Whitsuntide holiday weekend, this film emphasises the diverse nature of the visitors to this part of Blackpool.

Boys and Girls Summer Camp in Mablethorpe 1920.

Children enjoy a visit to the seaside for the first time in their lives courtesy of a Leicester-based charity.

Panoramic View of the Morecambe Sea Front 1901

Albert Quay in Cork 1902

Panorama of Queenstown Harbour 1902

The film shot in May 1902 gives us a fleeting glimpse of Ireland's most strategically important port of call for transatlantic liners and the foremost port of emigration.

North Sea Fisheries, north shields 1901

Film of commercial shipping fleets and the fisherwomen who followed the Scottish fleet down the coast, cleaning and preparing the fish caught and then sold at the ports.

Cunard Vessel at Liverpool 1901

The film shows the majesty of these ocean-going ships and the extent of the workforce needed to service them. It is probably the HMS Skirmisher, associated with RMS Lucania which could carry approximately 2,000 passengers.

Programme notes courtesy of BFI DVDs.