

# The Balladeer

Monthly newsletter of Acoustic Routes, Wellington's folk music club

*Acoustic*  *Routes*

[www.acousticroutes.org.nz](http://www.acousticroutes.org.nz)

*Don't Forget the Acoustic Routes AGM, Sunday 19 August, 2pm  
Upstairs at the Sprig and Fern, 342 Tinakori Road, Thorndon*

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This newsletter can be printed out from a pdf located on the website <http://acousticroutes.org.nz/news/the-balladeer/>

## **1. Acoustic Routes AGM, upstairs at the Sprig and Fern, 342 Tinakori Road Thorndon, Sunday 19 August, 2pm**

Come and find out how we've been going and have your say on what the Club should be doing over the next year and help choose the new committee. Better still – join the committee! We are always looking for keen people with fresh ideas.

Remember, you have to be a paid-up member to vote at the AGM. Subscriptions for the new year are due now. Go to the website [www.acousticroutes.org.nz](http://www.acousticroutes.org.nz) for details on how pay your subscription. You can also renew your membership at the AGM.

## **2. Plimmerton Open Mic Comes to Acoustic Routes, Roseneath School Hall, Thursday 23 August, 730 pm**

The amazing Captain, Roy Mc Guinness has steered the ship at the Plimmerton open mic so ably for the last four to five years. This wonderful monthly event now regularly attracts around 80 people. Wall-to-wall music from a large number of very fine, musicians, singers and performers. We thought that it was about time that Plimmerton Open Mic put on a concert for us at Roseneath. It is

entirely in Roy's capable hands to present what is bound to be an amazing night's entertainment - not to be missed.



**Ticket price:** \$15 (non-members) and \$10 (members)

## **3. President Murray's Musings**



Hi Folkies

This is my final Musings as Acoustic Routes President for the 2017-2018 year. Your club will be holding it's AGM in the upstairs room of the Sprig and Fern starting at 2pm Sunday the 19<sup>th</sup> of August. This will be an opportunity for you to elect a new committee and office holders - maybe offer yourself in one of these roles and have a say about what you would like from the club. It would be lovely to have your support with this. If you want to have me, I am happy to stand again as President.

This last month has seen an amazing range and amount of music presented within and outside our club, from our musical community.

In mid-July. I attended an afternoon and night of the Holler at Tatum Park. A lovely, friendly, well-run event with some awe-inspiring music. Thanks very much Tony and Karen.



I also made it to one of the Sunday open mics on Sunday at the Office bar, this one run by Vivien. A really nice group of very talented local musical artists, presented their songs. A lovely event, which included an unexpected but delightful appearance, from our Auckland based folkie, Mike McGuire. Thanks so much Vivien.

Also at the Office, Pat Higgins presented, as an Acoustic Routes activity, an inspiring Alternative Guitar Tunings workshop. I can't wait to get into the things he showed us, maybe when I've finished writing out Acoustic Routes memos?

I was fortunate enough to be invited to a book launch by one of our folkie community, Don Franks.



We were well entertained by musicians from his Aro Valley Community.

Congratulations Don.



The same evening, I attended one Annie and Roy's "Close Up and Personal" concerts. This was a double bill with Caboodle, Diana and Julian, giving us the very beautiful first half performance that we have come to expect from them.



The PJs - Pam and my little sister Jenny - gave an extremely classy and varied performance. Big congratulations to all four of the performers and a big thank you to Roy and Annie for presenting yet another wonderful concert.

As a follow up from Don's Book Launch, I was invited to record a half hour of Kiwi songs for Don's weekly Radio Access program, which I have done. You can listen to Don's podcasts from the Radio Access website.

I know that monthly the open mics that Kevin is running on our behalf, upstairs at The Office, are well attended and offer an opportunity for lots of very good performers, to strut their stuff. Thanks so much for your tireless and valuable efforts Kevin.

Roy's monthly Open Mic, run in association with Acoustic Routes, continues to attract a capacity crowd, of very high-quality performers. Thanks very much once again Roy.

Our Acoustic Routes August concert, will be organised and presented by Roy and will be made up from people who perform regularly at the Plimmerton Open Mic. I believe that at this concert, our J. A. Pan Memorial Trophy winner and general everywhere, sound man, Dominic, will be given an opportunity to perform, as is

required, if you hold the trophy.

Last Thursday The Victoria University Folk Club took on the responsibility of presenting our monthly concert. I had expected great things, but I wasn't prepared for the incredible display of talent and musicianship that they presented. When we have such wonderful talent on our doorstep, I wonder why we ever bother with touring artists.

The Friday after our club concert, I attended a very friendly monthly open mic at St Peter's Hall in Paekakariki, run by local folkie Tony Fuel. A really lovely evening, thanks Tony.

Mainly Acoustic's July concert, was a really engaging, Come All Ye which featured a number of artists presenting two or three songs each. I thoroughly enjoyed the evening.

I would like to thank our very hard-working committee for their efforts throughout the year. Also John Burnell for managing our electronic communications. Janette for stepping into the breach so often. Dom for managing the sound so ably. Philippa for producing such a wonderful Balladeer for my loose jottings each month. Finally, each and every one of you for continuing to support Acoustic Routes.

A very busy month - see you at our AGM.

Cheers

Murray Kilpatrick.

### **Campaign Statement**

When I became President of Acoustic Routes, I signaled that I wanted to make changes to how our club runs. These are my own opinions and ideas and don't represent the views of the committee or anybody else. However, I was asked by a committee member to post these and with the AGM coming very soon, I felt that it was appropriate for me to do so, to promote further thought and discussion. I would welcome feedback. [musicianmurray@gmail.com](mailto:musicianmurray@gmail.com)

1. First and foremost, I would like to build up community ownership of the club. I believe that this community is made up from people who like to play, sing, perform, and interact. I feel that we need to provide many more opportunities for each and every one of you to perform and interact musically and socially in a variety of different ways that meet your needs.
2. In my view, the club should aim to operate at least once a week, maybe even more frequently. It should offer a wide variety of activities that include, but are not restricted to, concerts, sing arounds, open mics, workshops, interest groups, jam sessions, dances, lessons, discussions, fun, ... To do this, I think we need a different venue, one that offers us greater space, time, location and financial flexibility.
3. The Club should involve a much wider age group, particularly a much younger club community. Young people can lead the way and provide succession for our club to future generations.

4. I would like Acoustic routes to be seen as the centre, a sort of umbrella under which different interest and activity groups within our folkie scene can freely interact and run the sort of events that they want, within or outside the main committee. I also think we should form closer links with all other musical and performance organisations.
5. Acoustic Routes needs a strong committee and group of helpers outside the committee to run a larger number of activities. The club needs your ideas, help and involvement.

#### 4. Open Mic, Plimmerton Boating Club, 66 Moana Road, Plimmerton, Thursday 9 August, 7 pm

A highly popular monthly event in a lovely venue. Low cost drinks and food, and a sound system. Contact: Roy on (021) 433-878.



#### 5. Open Mic Upstairs at 'The Office', Newtown, Sunday 12 August and Sunday 26 August, 530-8pm



AR open mic Sunday the 12<sup>th</sup> is a friendly wee open mic in a music-friendly space. Contact: Kevin Ikin (021) 167-0823; [kevin.ikin@supermail.co.nz](mailto:kevin.ikin@supermail.co.nz)

Then Sunday 26<sup>th</sup> with Newtown Acoustic Sound. The last few sessions have been fantastic. Lots of talent and variety. Thanks to all those making our Sunday evenings a treat. Contact: [newtownacousticsound@gmail.com](mailto:newtownacousticsound@gmail.com)

Singers, songwriters and poets all welcome. Expect to perform two songs. On a quiet night, there might be time for an extra item.

## 6. Riverslea Retreat, Otaki Gorge Road, 25-27 August



The Riverslea Retreat is an annual highlight of the Acoustic Routes calendar. A great opportunity to drive away the winter blues with warm company and wonderful music.

Located on the Otaki Gorge Road, Riverslea can accommodate up to 37 people, including people with disabilities and mobility problems.

Tea, coffee and milo are provided and there will be a shared meal on Saturday night. Pillow, pillow case and bottom sheet are provided on the bunks.

Charges are \$55 per night and \$25 for a day visitor. Please contact Anne McGregor to register: [annemcgregor@xtra.co.nz](mailto:annemcgregor@xtra.co.nz) or (04) 2338567.

## 7. The 2018 Joan Prior Young Performers Award



The Joan Prior Young Performers Award, which Acoustic Routes initiated in 2014, is back again after a year's break.

Joan was an inspiration to generations of singers, musicians and dancers around Wellington from the late 1950s. Originally from northern England, she was dubbed 'The Johnsonville Songthrush', and had a huge repertoire of mainly British folksong. After she died in 2010 her family donated her collection of instruments, recordings and memorabilia to Acoustic Routes, and this enabled us to set up the award in her name.

The award is open to solo or duo performers aged 15-25 years on 30 September 2018 and resident in the Wellington area, with a prize of \$500.

It is a fully integrated part of the Wellington Folk Festival. There will be a single concert at the festival where entrants will perform before a panel of judges who will select the winner. Full details, with conditions and entry form, will be posted on the Acoustic Routes website [www.acousticroutes.org.nz](http://www.acousticroutes.org.nz). Also check [wellingtonfolkfestival.org.nz](http://wellingtonfolkfestival.org.nz) and Facebook pages. **Applications close Friday 30 September.**

**Please note:** normal festival entry costs will apply. Either a full weekend or relevant day pass will need to be purchased by entrants and anyone else attending.

For more information contact Kevin Ikin, (04) 478-4160 or [kevin.ikin@supermail.co.nz](mailto:kevin.ikin@supermail.co.nz)

## 8. Review, Pat Higgins alternative guitar tunings workshop, 22 July

Pat Higgins very generously offered this workshop and I decided to attend, along with a comfortable-sized group of other aspiring guitarists.

Pat had decided that, in the interests of preserving the remainder of the world's forests, this workshop would be paperless. He kindly emailed his teaching notes not only to attendees, but to anybody we had contacted in promoting the workshop.



Pat introduced us to four alternative tunings and I was amazed by his knowledge. Rather than give us a series of chords, for each tuning he explained what kinds of music each could be used for and gave us some very sound advice on ways that we could explore the tunings for ourselves.

I came away thoroughly inspired to have a go, build up my own knowledge and play tunes for a start, using at least one tuning. I am sure we all felt similarly. Pat was humble and dedicated to helping each of us explore this strange world. His knowledge, willingness and ability to assist everyone was wonderful.

Thank you so much, Pat. You are a wonderful, generous and dedicated musician guitarist, teacher and person. This was one of the best interactive workshops I have every attended - an inspiration.

Cheers, Murray Kilpatrick

## 9. Review, VicFolk at Acoustic Routes, 26 July

What a great night we had!

Acoustic Routes had invited the Victoria University Folk Club to do the July concert, with a free rein to fill the bill in whatever way it chose. What the VicFolk folks gave us was a showcase of their music and talents that demonstrated why they have become a refreshing new force on the local Celtic music scene.



VicFolk emerged only last year, drawing its members from both staff and students at the university. Fiddler James McNamara, one of its creators, brought to the club his experience of leading the Cambridge University ceilidh band during his time studying there. Its first outing was a St Patrick's Day ceilidh in the Aro Valley Community Centre and since then it's barely paused to draw breath, hosting regular dances as well as music sessions.

And VicFolk gave the audience at this concert little chance to draw breath either, with a full-on programme of tunes and songs that had us beating the feet and reeling and jigging in our seats.

There were eight performers in the line-up, which featured fiddles, pipes, accordion and recorder, as well as singers. The full band began and finished each half of the programme, pumping out the energy with sets of reels, jigs, polkas and hornpipes. In between, we were entertained by combinations of duets and solos that mixed and matched the multiple talents on display.

So, we heard piper, Kris Nielsen swap the uilleann pipes for the Scottish small pipes in a solo set that started with a slow air. Kris, on small pipes and low whistle, teamed up with fiddler Emily Griffiths for two sets. Emily, a very busy bee that night, also joined forces with accordionist Jonathan Berkahn, for a couple of items, and with James McNamara for a sizzling set of polkas. James also joined fellow fiddler Gillian Gillies for a set of reels and did a solo piece as well. He teamed up with the hard-working Jonathan on another couple of sets, including some Scandinavian polkas composed by Jonathan.

And, the cream on the cake - the songs. Cynthia Wratt gave us "Red Is The Rose", Emily sang "She Moved Through The Fair" and Francesca Moore, "The Skye Boat Song", all sung with real feeling and backed by Jonathan, the grand master of accompaniment. Then Emily topped it all with an absolutely belting version of "Byker Hill".

The band pulled out "Star of the County Down" as an encore and a final set of jigs to send us home bouncing.

Kevin Ikin

P.S. If you want some more of VicFolk, their next ceilidh is on Saturday, August 4th, from 7 pm at Thistle Hall. Take your dancing shoes. Check out their website, here: [www.vicfolkmusic.wordpress.com](http://www.vicfolkmusic.wordpress.com)

## 10. Acoustic Routes membership, July 1, 2018 – June 30, 2019

### Subs

Single	\$25.00
Double/family (children under 18)	*\$40.00
Other (Student, life member partners, beneficiaries)	*\$15.00
Where one person is over 65 and the other is under the membership is *\$40.	
Where both parties are over 65, or receive benefits the membership is *\$30	

### What being a member gives you

An annual programme of concerts by top-class musicians  
Regular performance opportunities at a range of other musical events  
Regular communications about what's on  
Discounted entry to club events and concerts  
Discounted entry to participating folk clubs  
Discounts on selected items at Alistair's Music, Cuba Street  
Voting rights at the AGM or any subsequent SGM

### Payment options

Complete this form and post it with a cheque made out to Wellington Folk Centre, P.O. Box 27-191 Marion Square WELLINGTON 6141  
Pay by internet banking to 'Wellington Folk Centre Inc.': ANZ account 01 0505 0182241 00 (*ensure your name is included for reference*) and simultaneously forward your details (as below) to [treasurer@acousticroutes.org.nz](mailto:treasurer@acousticroutes.org.nz) .  
Hand your form plus payment to a committee member at an Acoustic Routes event.

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PLEASE COMPLETE: many thanks for your support

Amount paid:        \$\_\_\_\_\_ Choose one: Single, Double /Family, Other  
Donation:            \$\_\_\_\_\_ (Wellington Folk Centre is a registered charity  
and donations of \$5.00 or more are tax-deductible. A receipt will be issued.)  
Payment has been made by cheque/direct credit/other  
NAME(S): \_\_\_\_\_

POSTAL ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_

POSTCODE: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone number \_\_\_\_\_

YOUR CURRENT E-MAIL ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_

## 11. Balladeer music noticeboard

Where you can advertise your music-related items—lessons, instruments, gigs, band members wanted, etc.

### a) Who the Folk is That? The Third Eye, Wellington, Saturday 4 August, 730 pm

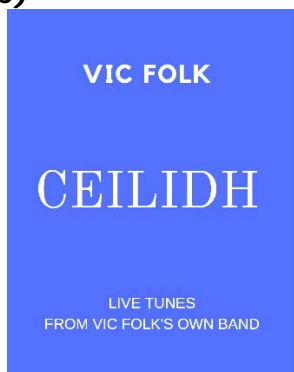


Another exciting new folk initiative in Wellington, organised by the next generation.

[tix@undertheradar.co.nz](mailto:tix@undertheradar.co.nz)

\$10 advanced, \$15 at the door

b)



### b) Trad Singing Session, Upstairs at the Sprig and Fern, Thorndon, Monday 6 August, 6:30 pm

With Dave Barnes hosting, this session celebrates unaccompanied singing in traditional style. Fine beer and food to be had at the bar. Contact: Dave Barnes [david.barnes@xtra.co.nz](mailto:david.barnes@xtra.co.nz)

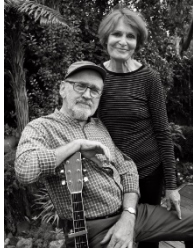
### c) RavenMavens Up Close and Personal Concert Greytown, Friday 17 August, 730pm

We've enticed the wonderful Raven Mavens, Marian Price-Cater and Cindy Muggeridge, over the hill for a house concert - a little bit bluesy, a little bit jazzy, a little bit soulful, this will be a wonderful night.

At the home of Niels and Janette Gedge, 75 North Street, Greytown. \$15 koha on the door, supper included, BYO. Please text bookings to 02102361951.



**d) John and Susan Sutherland Up Close and Personal Concert  
Plimmerton, Saturday 18 August, 730 pm**



Guaranteed to be a wonderful evening with two fine musicians and lovely people.

Arrive from 6:30 to mix & mingle with concert starting at 7.30. BYO drinks and small plate to share for supper. \$10.00.

Contact Anne – 0274699377 [annemcgregor@xtra.co.nz](mailto:annemcgregor@xtra.co.nz)

**e) Paekakariki open mic, St Peter's Hall, Beach Rd, Paekakariki,  
Friday 24 August, 730 pm**



Paekakariki Non-Profit Music Collective presents this new event, featuring talent from Paekakariki, the Kapiti and Wellington regions and much, much further off... Musicians and singers – all welcome! Sign up at the door to perform, or just come and listen. Sound system available.



Admission by koha - please be generous!

Info from [tonyfuell@gmail.com](mailto:tonyfuell@gmail.com) or 021 0231 9547

**f) Fig Tree Cottage Greytown, Weekender Specials for AR Members**

Janette and Niels Gedge are offering special deals to paid-up Acoustic Routes members at the cottage on their lovely property, 75 North Street, Greytown, for the following dates.

- Friday 3 August to Monday 27 August: \$50/night for one couple, \$75/night for 2 couples (there is a fold-out settee that makes a double bed for a second couple in the cottage lounge).
- Thursday 1 November to Friday 30 November: \$80/night for one couple, and \$105/night for 2 couples.

Check it out at [https://web.facebook.com/FigTree-Cottage-Greytown-386476615201227/Fig Tree Cottage](https://web.facebook.com/FigTree-Cottage-Greytown-386476615201227/Fig%20Tree%20Cottage)

For reservations, contact Janette or Niels  
[janettekwg@gmail.com](mailto:janettekwg@gmail.com) (021) 0236 1951, or (022) 188 9216

**g) Want to review for the Balladeer?**

We have a handful of willing writers who regularly get shoulder tapped to review AR concerts and we are very grateful to them. The AR committee offers a free concert ticket to anyone who reviews a concert for the Balladeer. It is great to hear a range of voices and opinions, so if you are interested please contact Philippa [balladeer@acousticroutes.org.nz](mailto:balladeer@acousticroutes.org.nz)

## 12. Want to perform?



AR Committee would like to hear from you if you are interested in performing at our events, including support acts for our monthly concerts. Contact us [performers@acousticroutes.org.nz](mailto:performers@acousticroutes.org.nz)

## 13. About Acoustic Routes

Acoustic Routes (Wellington Folk Centre Incorporated) is a club for people who enjoy playing and listening to folk and acoustic styles of music.

The fourth Thursday of the month generally features a concert, usually with a visiting artist and support acts from amongst our membership. Check the website or the Balladeer for updates about the venue.

Membership of Acoustic Routes costs \$25 a year for individuals, \$40 for couples or families, or \$15 for students and beneficiaries – and as we're now into the second half of the financial year, all membership rates are half price to join from now until June 2017. Membership entitles you to door-charge discounts at Acoustic Routes events, at events put on by most other folk clubs, and at Alistair's Music.

Members get priority access to performance opportunities, and can have input into the club's activities. To join, email [treasurer@acousticroutes.org.nz](mailto:treasurer@acousticroutes.org.nz).

Acoustic Routes publishes this newsletter (The Balladeer) at the start of every month, and also an acoustic gig guide for the Wellington region (Acoustic Routes update). You can [subscribe online](#), or contact [publicity@acousticroutes.org.nz](mailto:publicity@acousticroutes.org.nz)

## 14. Acoustic Routes contacts

**President:** Murray Kilpatrick [musicianmurray@gmail.com](mailto:musicianmurray@gmail.com)

**Correspondence:** Kevin Ikin [secretary@acousticroutes.org.nz](mailto:secretary@acousticroutes.org.nz)

**Treasurer/Membership:** Sue Ikin

[treasurer@acousticroutes.org.nz](mailto:treasurer@acousticroutes.org.nz) **Balladeer:** Philippa Boy

[balladeer@acousticroutes.org.nz](mailto:balladeer@acousticroutes.org.nz)

**Acoustic Routes update email:** Murray

Kilpatrick [musicianmurray@gmail.com](mailto:musicianmurray@gmail.com)

**Performance opportunities:** [performers@acousticroutes.org.nz](mailto:performers@acousticroutes.org.nz)

**Postal address:** PO Box 27-191 Marion Square, Wellington, New Zealand.

**Website:** [www.acousticroutes.org.nz](http://www.acousticroutes.org.nz)

## 15. Other regular folk events/contacts in the region

### Ceol Alba Scottish Music Club

When: 4th Friday of month, 7.30 - 9.30pm. A club for playing and/or listening to (mostly) traditional Scottish music. Sheet music supplied or downloadable.  
Where: Lower Hutt.  
Cost: \$5 per night  
Contact: Lynne Scott, 04 565 0164 [lynne@scott.gen.nz](mailto:lynne@scott.gen.nz)

### International Folkdancing

When: Every Wednesday from February to December, 7.30 to 9.15 pm  
Where: Tarrant Dance Studios, 125 Cuba St, Wellington  
Contact: Cashy Yates (04) 569 1618 [cashy@ihug.co.nz](mailto:cashy@ihug.co.nz)

### Kapiti Live Music Club

When: 2nd Wednesday of the month, an acoustic social evening for listening and/or singing and playing, from 7:30.  
Where: Paul and Kimbra's; 3 Jade Lane, Paraparaumu. Off the east end Mazengarb Road as it changes name and turns toward Kapiti Road.  
Contact: [enquiry@klmc.org.nz](mailto:enquiry@klmc.org.nz) and <http://www.klmc.org.nz>

### Kelburn Pub Live Music

When: Live music every Sunday 3-5pm.  
Sunday Roots on the first Sunday of each Month, 4-7pm. Hosted by Pip Payne and featuring a different guest artist each month. Details: 'Sunday roots' on Facebook. Contact the Pub if you are interested in performing.

### Levin Folk Club

When: 2nd Friday of month, 7.30 pm, blackboard concert plus guest artist. Entry: Members \$5, Non-Members \$10, Children \$3 (including supper) 4th Friday of month, 7.30 pm, acoustic night.  
Where: Horowhenua, Scottish Society and Pipe Band hall, cnr Bartholomew Rd and Middlesex St.  
Bookings: Dale Webb [dalewebb@clear.net.nz](mailto:dalewebb@clear.net.nz)  
Website: [www.levin-folk-music-club.org.nz](http://www.levin-folk-music-club.org.nz) Facebook: Levin Folk Music

#### Mainly Acoustic Music Club

When: (Mostly) every 2nd Tuesday of the month,  
7.30pm Where: Mayfair Cafe, 116 Main  
Street, Upper Hutt

Contact: Mary Khalil 021 02314505  
[mary.khalil@xtra.co.nz](mailto:mary.khalil@xtra.co.nz) Club committee  
email: [info@mainlyacoustic.co.nz](mailto:info@mainlyacoustic.co.nz)

Website: <http://mainlyacoustic.co.nz/coming-attractions/>

Morris dancing: Dave Barnes <http://www.morrisdancing.org.nz/>

#### Music and Poetry at the Metro

When: Second Sunday of the month, 3.00pm to  
5pm

Where: Metropolitan Restaurant and Bar Lydney  
Place Porirua

Cost: free

Contact: Phil McConnell:  
[musicandpoetryatthemetro@gmail.com](mailto:musicandpoetryatthemetro@gmail.com) Phone (04)  
237 9902 or 027 786 5542  
[www.facebook.com/music.metrobar](http://www.facebook.com/music.metrobar)

#### Pukerua Bay Folk Club

When: 1st Thursday of month, 8 pm Where: 9 Donlin  
Rd, Pukerua Bay

Contact: Murray or Julie Kilpatrick, (04) 239 9951, [julmur@paradise.net.nz](mailto:julmur@paradise.net.nz)

#### Wellington Bluegrass Society

When: 3rd Friday of month, 8.00  
pm Where: 54 Richmond  
Street, Petone

Contact: Andrew Bicknell, (04) 477 0069,  
[bluegrass@paradise.net.nz](mailto:bluegrass@paradise.net.nz) [http://  
wellingtonbluegrass.net.nz/](http://wellingtonbluegrass.net.nz/)

#### Wellington Scottish Fiddle Club

When: Varies, but mostly monthly around the first Sunday

Where: Depends on who is hosting it this time! A club for learning tunes in the  
traditional "by ear" style, it welcomes fiddlers of all levels.

Cost: Mostly free

Contact: Iain Matcham 04 568 8635, email [iain@jumbletree.com](mailto:iain@jumbletree.com)