

Pensford Evergreens Thursday 23rd July 2026 7.00pm Band playlist and cues 16/7/26. Final.
Summer Revels - 1850s West Country music, words and mischief with Brigstowe Village Band

6.45 if/when circumstances permit Briggy + John M as groom circulate the audience

6.55 BVB main band come on from sides. Colin on stage front (7.00 Pensford committee meeting)

BVB 7.15 start: First half (*sub headings* for guidance)

Intro - Band: Rogues March x 4

1. In which we talk of Pensford etc

Liz: Thank you Pensford Evergreens for welcoming us to your lovely village; described as: "a great thoroughfare from Wells to Bristol." '..... Pleasantly situated in a fine wooded vale ... forming a pleasing rural scene from every part of the town.' **Band: Claps and Oooh.**

Lyn: The land use returns for Pensford in 1866 record ...:wheat etc , and a fine example, for some, of country life .

Singers : Country Life : 3mins

Liz : Brigstowe Village Band , carries the old name of Bristol the town on the bridge. We are 'purveyors of music for all festive occasions' – **Band: Hurray!**

Band: Butchers of Bristol x 4, Intro: basses, Colin counts

Band: 29th May x 5, Intro: wind (where we are short) add 2 fiddles (choose yourselves), last 4 bars, John L counts.

Colin: Thomas Hardy,, We have Thomas Hardy himself here to keep an eye on us.

2. In which Briggy gets a coloured scarf

Liz: You need something colourful from a member of the audience to protect the band as well?

Liz turns to Terry (caretaker) in the audience ... who puts scarf / hat on Briggy Liz: Are you pleased with that Briggy? Briggy nods. **Band Aaah...**

Band: Blaydon Races x16 bars only- Tony counts: **band starts without intro** . Play16 bars:

Briggy gallops off during Blaydon races - down the centre aisle

Colin: Village band musicians, ordinary men ... and dance tunes at the back. ... shows the audience the book

Lyn :Sometimes these folk tunes were repurposed as hymn tunes – actually a folk tune called 29th of May.

Colin (warning tone) As you will hear later this mixing of styles was to prove disastrous for village musicians in church. **Band: mutters disappointment, groan, oh dear etc** Liz: Here's another rather surprising folk tune from the west country

Band: Portsmouth x 3, Intro: boxes ,last 4 bars

3. Absent mindedness in a parish choir

Chris Mapp : Thomas Hardy suggests The culprits , presumably, were taken to cool off in the lock up in the village

Band : Shame etc: Roland : Hardy has a lovely story..... as they struggle to stay awake. **Band totally asleep, a few snores please....** As the sermon finally ends, he says 'Let us stand and sing the Evening Hymn. No 69'. He listens. Nobody stirs. Then he shouts: 'Let us stand and sing hymn No 69'. The band wakes up ... the church is dark ... they're not quite certain where they are, there are noises of bleary consternation. **Band reaction**

Tony counts in: 'a-one, a-two, a-1234 ' **Band: Devil Among the Tailors x 16 bars without intro, with great gusto**

Liz : STOP STOP music trails off... **Band ashamed silence** Roland The tune they played, ... natural enemy of a band like ours. **Band: Groan** Roland: Here, and to end our first half is a west country polka of the sort never to be played in church

Great Eastern Polka x 4, Intro: fiddles John L. last 2 bars of A (Band leaves stage for 15 mins approx, tea + biscuits)

BVB approx. 8.15 start second half

Band: Blaydon Races x 5, Intro: fiddles last 4 bars, John Lewis counts

4. Celebrating high summer

Liz: The second part of our programme is a celebration of summer time, customs, words and music from the nineteenth century when Pensford was still a mining village.

Lyn: For many centuries,at the heart of Somerset life. **Band agrees**

John M (moves forward) : The inhabitants of this county of Somerset, so proud of their own portion of it."

Band: Rising of the Larks x 4 Intro Fiddles last 4 bars . John Lewis counts

Singers: Farmers Boy

Band: Long Ashton Schottische

5. Briggy tries to protect the band from fairies

Briggy rushes in and whispers in Liz's ear. Liz: Briggy tells me that there is a big problem with July – it is a favourite month for fairies, shape shifting magical creatures. **Band: ...Oooh** Briggy (again whispers in Liz's ear) Liz: Briggy says there are good fairies and bad fairies. (Briggy perks up with concern). The bad ones might play a prank on you They might ... curdle the milk **Band : No!** Or make you park on double yellow lines (**Band and audience: No!**) ...or steal your baby and replace it with a fairy baby, a changeling **Band and audience: shocked; No!**

Liz: I have heard that there might be fairies around here - in the band - or the audience. Briggy have a look. (Briggy slowly scans the band and audience for fairies). **Band : curious OOH**

1. Briggy faces brass - Pauline in fiddles leans out and waves her fairy to make it visible to the audience – keep fairy up long enough to allow audience to laugh. Pauline puts down fairy as Briggy turns to face the fiddles
2. Meanwhile, Angela leans/ steps out and waves her fairy- keep it up long enough to allow audience to laugh. If Briggy turns even slightly to Angela – fairy moves out of sight (Briggy now has his back to the audience)
3. Lyn calls 'Behind you' from the audience. Briggy turns to face her. Lyn runs away down the aisles Briggy stands still just watching her ..
4. meanwhile Angela , Pauline and Pat wave their fairies. Briggy reluctantly turns slowly round and runs from one side to the other by which time the fairies have disappeared.

Liz: Stop, Stop - this won't do Briggy. It's difficult to catch these slippery creatures. To ensure full protection, the band need you to dance a dispersing charm to send them away. Slight pause (Briggy can you snuffle round the front row so I can get back to my seat)

Band: Fairy Prince x 4 Intro: Bass - Colin counts in, Liz get back to seat

Finale: 'Celebrations' singing and dancing

Liz. Across England in the 1850s dancing was hugely important socially because it was one of the only occasions where men and women could mix relatively freely We know that Pensford village had several bands over time probably playing for dancing who rehearsed in the little school room outside the churchyard gates, known by earlier generations as the 'band room'. We're now going to play you 3 (or 2 or 1 dances depending on timing)... the Sussex Cotillion, which was a popular set dance, followed by a local jig, the Radstock Jig – a tribute to the miners of the Somerset coal fields that contributed so much to this area and finally a hornpipe because the sea is important

Band: Radstock Jig x 4 No intro . Tony counts

Band: Sussex Cotillion – Intro: Chords. Tony counts

Band: Trumpet Hornpipe x 3. Intro: Boxes – last 2 bars of B

8.45 Liz: Our final song celebrates being together – again a chance to join in -we have the words to the chorus

Band and singers: Let Union Be: Intro: 4 quiet D chords then singers sing. NB Band needs to be able to see singers Bow, pause for applause. [Thank you (hopefully) – Final prayer] **Stay seated while the audience leaves. We may play Helston Furry dance or whichever ever of the last 3 dances we have missed out as the audience leaves.**