

The Lost Quantock Singers

100 years ago, on regular visits to Somerset, a London music teacher would clamber on a battered old bicycle and pedal off across the countryside. The roads were bumpy and muddy, but he would cycle miles and miles criss-crossing Somerset hoping to meet country people who could sing local folk songs.



His name was Cecil Sharp and he is credited with saving hundreds of old songs that by now might have been lost and forgotten. In 1908 and 1909 he rode that bike across the Quantocks to **Spaxton** to listen to the songs of local farm workers and their families, including Daisy Wesley, Thomas Stanley and a Mrs Stanley.

Wherever his old bike took him Sharp noted down the words and tunes he heard. He also photographed the people who sang to him and, thankfully, many of those pictures survive. The songs Sharp collected eventually were published and they went on to inspire a generation of British composers, including Vaughan Williams, Butterworth and Holst.

Professional singer and lecturer **Yvette Staelens** will sing a selection of the songs at Broomfield's intimate Village Hall, including the ruder verses that prudish Edwardian publishers would not print! She'll also talk about the local singers that Sharp met and show many of the pictures he took.

Yvette's shows on **20 June** and **11 July** (a repeat performance to meet the demand for tickets) begin after a cooked "Somerset" supper at 7pm. Yvette is researching the journeys that Sharp made on his bicycle. Her work has revived interest in Somerset folk songs and will mean that the Quantock people who sang to Sharp, like their songs, won't be lost and forgotten.

*A midsummer's evening of songs from Somerset ...
and memories of the local people who sang them*



Presented and sung by: Yvette Staelens
Singer and lecturer Bournemouth University
7pm-10.30pm - Saturday, 20 June / Saturday, 11th July

Broomfield Village Hall

Tickets £8 (including supper)

from Peter Lewis 01823 451162 / 07973 663597

onthequantocks@yahoo.co.uk

- STOP PRESS: ONLY 30 TICKETS LEFT -

WI Meeting



The next meeting of the WI is on July 1st at 7:30 in the village hall when Joanna Steele Perkins will be talking and sharing her ideas and knowledge on make up and looking good.

Entry is £2.50 for visitors with coffee/tea/biscuits/raffle at 50 pence.

Hope to see you there.