

Interview – Judy Andrews

Summary

MW introduces, asks JA to talk about herself and how she got into folk music. JA states she got into it via dancing, entered Hoxne Hundred Morris in her twenties, went round the country to festivals, had sessions afterwards. Learned Pleasant and Delightful. Picked up songs from festivals and others' singing. Describes going to Rochester Folk Festival 30 years ago, seeing Coope, Boyes and Simpson singing in the cathedral with son, Nick. Would go to see them if they performed locally, learned songs from them. Saw Artisan at Ely Folk Festival, the Voice Squad at Towersey, learned some songs from them. Musical Roots started in Horham 15 years ago, JA learned songs to sing there, first time singing on her own. Learned songs from Kirsty Bromley after seeing at the Apex. Learned songs from Jim Causley, Melrose Quartet. Rarely has sought out songs, eg a May song. Learned Searching for Lambs this way. Describes teaching children singing at school with a friend (Tracey) at Halesworth and Yoxford. Had a whole school choir. "The Whalers" (local band Quay Street Whalers) came to school once. Enjoys learning songs for the Chorus Cup (at Blaxhall Ship). Has an ambition to sing with a small group, for own enjoyment. MW asks about what attracts JA to songs in particular. JA says she has to sing songs that she likes. Sometimes she is taken with the tune, sometimes the words. Likes songs where woman gets the upper hand, particularly earlier on. MW asks why JA keeps going to folk events. JA says she dances regularly with her rapper side. Describes the "song part" of being at a festival, sessions. Sessions keep you in touch with local people. MW asks if social aspects are an important part. JA says after the lockdown experience it is a huge part because you miss seeing people and catching up. MW agrees. MW asks which JA values more - social or musical. JA says they are equal. She is more into singing than playing, can't bring herself to learn new tunes. Likes to sing for herself but doesn't pick up box (melodeon) much. Says she "wings it" in sessions. MW asks if there is anything about folk music in particular that attracts JA, whether she likes any other kind of music. JA says she never got into pop music. She enjoys some classical music, has sung in choirs. Says folk is her favourite. MW asks for any reasons. JA says the live music. Folk is more accessible, you can go and sit and listen for an evening. Has no desire to go to a pop concert with thousands of other people. MW thanks and concludes.