

Rockin' Replay Another chance to see Rob Carey, kicking up a storm with John Dixon and his roustabout chums as RR dig into the very best of old school rock and roll. The Stooges, The Sonics, The New York Dolls - none of these will feature. For Rockin' Replay, Eddie Cochran is king. C'mon everybody! **(Pier: 5pm)**

Sheelanagig We knew they were good, but it was only after they'd blown us away at the Ritz Acoustic Club's Christmas party that we knew Sheelanagig would be the perfect closers for our fest. Combining Western swing, Irish reels, gypsy jazz, Eastern tunes and ska, they are awesome musicians and fantastic fun. The comic competition between flautist Adrian Sykes and violinist Aaron Catlow is worth the price of admission on its own. At least it would be if there was a price of admission. **(SUNDAY 4.30pm approx)**

Bob Smith A former punk, Bob is a big fan of Steve Earle and Springsteen as well as The Clash. His country rock songs of war, floods, mining disasters and love are soulful, catchy and real. A great live performer. **(Somerset & Dorset: 3pm)**

Pete Stearn & Kate Riaz With Pete's gruff tones and mean guitar and Kate's seriously impressive cello skills, this is perhaps the fest's most unusual duo, a rock and classical combination that's both forceful and touching. We're absolutely delighted to have them back. **(Victoria: 3pm)**

StrungOut Duo StrungOut, featuring the intricate guitar of Mark Forde and the haunting vocals of Donna Samuel, blend folk, jazz and country, their honest, forthright songs ranging from the in-your-face drive of Hard Time Rock'n'Roll to the gentle, plaintive Forever Autumn Years. Excellent. **(Dunstan: 4pm)**

Janey Summer Someone with very big hair once said that God gave rock and roll to us. That's easy to believe when you consider Janey Summer, a one-woman balls-to-the-wall bombardment. Once described as a female Chris Cornell, she could also be compared to Dio, Bon Jovi and even Cher. Come, all ye rockers, to the temple of the queen. **(Dunstan: 5pm)**

Dave Sutherland This is a real coup for the fest. A south London cult artist, Dave has been mentored and produced by none other than Pentangle's Bert Jansch, and also praised by the likes of John Prine and Ralph McTell. Dark, witty, funny and poignant, his new CD, On The Waiting List, will please all fans of Dylan, Squeeze and Exile On Main Street. Don't miss it. **(Railway: 2pm)**

Three Sheets T'Wind

Formerly known as The Louts, this is five young guys from Pontrefract performing Pogues-style numbers with old punk energy and North Yorkshire style. Led by John Lenin, they're influenced by "women, alcohol and the dole" and kick up a hell of a racket. Like their new CD, they're rough, but brilliant. **(Railway: 8pm)**

Tinkerscuss

Playing acoustic guitar and 16-string gothic harp, folk duo Tinkerscuss are of Celtic origin. They can be dark and eerie, light and joyful, seductive and venomous, and perform wonderful covers of Lal Waterson's Scarecrow and Fine Horseman. Really special. **(Somerset & Dorset: 4pm)**

Ron Trueman Border Hugely popular on the acoustic scene, Ron's a songwriters' songwriter, blessed with both high literacy and a real feel. He was superb in the park last year when accompanied (all too briefly) by Jackie Oates. We had to ask him back. **(SUNDAY 12.30pm approx)**

Matt Wescott From the band Tremor, young Matt's an excellent guitarist with a fine vocal range. Musically awakened by Kurt Cobain and led to maturity by Ocean Colour Scene and Paul Weller, he's a rapidly improving writer, too, his songs being both grand and soulful. **(Dunstan: 3pm)**

Wilcox & Brooks With two guitars and one voice, Brian Wilcox and Nick Brooks deliver well-crafted, literate and heartfelt songs that may remind you of David Gray. They mean it, man. **(Lighthouse: 6pm)**

Matt Woosey & The Strange Rain If you like your blues with soul, swing and a groovy groove, if you're a fan of Free or Rory Gallagher, then these are the boys for you. **(Somerset & Dorset: 5pm)**

Wyrd Guy This is Kim Guy of Elowen, and, as her stage name suggests, she delivers folk with an ancient spin. Reminiscent of Sandy Denny and Shelagh McDonald, her work is sparse and honed - nothing gets in the way of that beautiful voice and those fantastic songs. Chillingly good. **(Chaplins: 4pm)**

y'Strel's Band

Fronted by the giant personality of John Bullock, y'Strel's Band are experimental folksters with nerve, wit and a penchant for the unusual. They claim to be influenced by Martin Carthy and Tom Waits, but you'll hear Brecht and Brel in there, as well. There'll be bouzouki, flute and squeezebox, and possibly a scythe, too. So remember to duck at the appropriate moments, eh? **(Pier: 7pm)**

Zoox We saw Zoox at Priddy last year and just had to book them. A female trio playing fiddle, mandolin, sax, whistles and contrabassoon, they're steeped in Celtic, Appalachian, African and Cuban music, rock and classical, and their sound winds and hypnotises. One of them, Becky Menday, was in the Royal Philharmonic Orchestra. Yes, they're that good. **(Lighthouse: 7pm)**



Who's Who at Burnham-on-Sea's FOLKFEST 2008 (plus when and where they are playing)

Christi Andropolis With her powerful blend of Appalachian roots music and Scottish and Irish trad, American fiddle-singer Christi was brilliant at the Ritz back in March. Accompanied by singer-songwriter David Newey, she'll deliver a really strong and varied set. **(Victoria: 6pm)**

The Appletree Boys Formerly known as Krusty and Boob, this Bath-based duo is both earthy and ethereal, being influenced by the likes of John Martyn and Elliott Smith. Their soft vocals harmonise wonderfully on songs like Roll Me A Biffer (And Don't Be Shy). **(Victoria: 4pm)**

Bag Of Rats Stars of last year's fest and, indeed, every fest they play, the mighty Rats are back to blast us with their hi-octane brand of folk, punk and psycho-skiiffle. Wholly verminous, gratifyingly unwholesome and utterly contagious. **(Pier: 2pm) (also SUNDAY 2.30pm approx)**

Pete Beach & Greg Aylmer Saturday night at Chaplins traditionally ends in joyful chaos as Pete, Greg and their mental mates bang out classics from Leadbelly, Tom Rush and Cradle Of Filth (one of those is a lie). Buy 'em a pint of ale and a bag of scratchings and they may let you join in. **(Chaplins: 9.30pm)**

Debbie Beckett With a wicked voice cast somewhere between Janis Joplin and Stevie Nicks, Debbie is a great favourite at the Ritz Acoustic Club. Ask her nicely and she may blow you away with her show-stopping covers of Landslide and Mercedes Benz. **(Lighthouse: 4pm)**

Neil Biddiscombe If you're looking for action then Neil's your man, his fingers a blur as he rampages through his bluesy rock repertoire. This should get the Dunstan off to a roaring start. **(Dunstan: 1pm)**

The Boys From Melbourne Street Sheer class. These Exeter boys have a smooth, easy-going sound influenced by Cat Stevens and James Taylor. They also have a bassist who looks like the young Robert Powell. So get down to the S&D and worship - he welcomes all sinners. **(Somerset & Dorset: 8pm)**

Tex Braithwaite & The Biryani Brothers How glad we are to welcome back Tex, the ultimate country-rock reprobate, as his performances are now as rare as bluebottles on a buckin' bronco's butt. At the S&D last year he was scorching but limited for space. At the Vic he'll be able to pull out all the stops. Laugh, dance, or simply wonder at the madness of it all. **(Victoria: 9.30pm)**

Broken Road

Yet more Exeter talent. Fronted by Suzy's pleasingly lived-in vocals, 4-piece Broken Road are a fascinating mix of Americana, folk and Bossa Nova, slipping from the sleazy rock of Blackmail to punchy covers of Van Morrison and KT Tunstall. Their latest CD, Talking To Strangers, will be available. **(Railway: 3pm)**

Steve Brown Though still not fully recovered from the Scousers' righteous thrashing at the hands of Chelski in the Champions League semis, guitar maestro Steve, the Ritz's own fakir of the fretboard, will nevertheless deliver a classy set of beauty and humour. **(Chaplins: 5pm)**

Rob Carey Can anyone match the extraordinary range of Rob Carey, known at the Ritz as the Encyclopaedia Rocktannica? The songs of Buddy Holly, Elvis, Bobby Darin, even Ronan Keating may get an airing in Rob's inimitably warm style. **(Railway: 1pm)**

The Ceili A 4-piece cut to three for this evening, The Ceili boast both a virtuoso banjo player and an ex-punk guitarist. This is classic Irish stuff like Mountains Of Mourne and Red Hair Mary, but delivered with a real American tweak, sometimes almost a Dixie style. You'll love it. **(Lighthouse: 8pm)**

The Clap Powerful stuff, The Clap are a duo from Bath who combine sparse, melodic folk guitar with hardcore streetwise rap. Reminiscent of both The Streets and the classic Renegade Soundwave, they tell tough, often X-rated tales of life in the underground, mixing a seriously impressive lyrical barrage with beautiful songs. Very unusual and quite brilliant. **(Pier: 6pm)**

Cruel Folk This is guitarist Paul Holden and his vocalist and multi-instrumentalist brother Sean, purveyors of quite outstanding contemporary folk. Influenced by the likes of Show Of Hands, Martin Simpson and even the songwriting of Kate Bush, this year they've already played Glastonbury and the Cambridge Folk Festival. **(Lighthouse: 3pm)**

The Dambuskers This will be great. Led by the Madman of Folk, Steve Ruffe, and inspired by the music of North Devon, The Dambuskers combine bass, fiddle, guitar and bodhran to create a truly rocking trad sound reminiscent of The Levellers and The Waterboys. Unspeakably good fun. **(Somerset & Dorset: 9.30pm)**

Tim Dean & Paul Stradling All hail Tim and Paul, the imams of innuendo, the nabobs of naughtiness, the shoguns of salaciousness, the dukes of the double entendre, with their scopophilic classics and pointed, often hilarious tales of life in blighted Blighty. We thank God they exist (though God, apparently, is refusing to take responsibility). **(Somerset & Dorset: 7pm)**

DMP This is Gordon Moir and George Paterson, supremely talented singer-songwriters dealing in their very own brand of acoustic soul. They can be delicate or rollicking, soft or furious, maudlin or upbeat. Imagine a cross between Del Amitri and Joe Cocker. That good. **(Victoria: 5pm)**

Dragonsfly Dragonsfly have topped the bill of both our fests so far, impressing everyone with their groove-driven fusion of Celtic and Eastern European music. This year they'll bring their bagpipes, hurdy-gurdy, bouzouki and tabla to our opening concert at the Ritz, where you can get all hot and sweaty with Maya and the boys for an obscenely cheap £6. **(FRIDAY: Ritz: 8pm. £6)**

The Drunken Ginger Last year, under the name Ginger Sex, Curly, Dale and the lads brought acoustic anarchy to the S&D. This year's moniker offers us no hope of improved behaviour. So, what do we do with The Drunken Ginger? You can be sure the captain's daughter will be selling her story to the News Of The World. Or at least the Burnham & Highbridge Times. **(Chaplins: 2pm)**

Tracy Neil Elliss-Brookes Formerly of Longdog, Bristol-based TNEB is a songwriter of great distinction, his tunes ranging from the gentle, Nick Drake-like Butterfly to the spacey blues of Keep On Rollin'. Enjoy. **(Chaplins: 1pm)**

Elowen This is a real gift for Wyrd Folk fans, the kind who worship at the altar of Trees, Mellow Candle and Vasheti Bunyan. Elowen are a Cornish 4-piece using flute, violin and guitar to back their awesome harmonies. Honestly, this will be the most beautiful music at the fest, so don't miss it. **(Somerset & Dorset: 6pm)**

Nick Elswood Formerly a Loan Shark, now an increasingly accomplished solo performer, Nick deals in the absolute best of the Sixties and Seventies, his cover of Love's You Set The Scene being notably spectacular. There may also be blues, and the wild and wailing gob-iron of Nick's bawdy, buccaneering brother, Chris. **(Chaplins: 3pm)**

Ember It's taken 2 years, but at last we've managed to book Ember, a duo comprising Welsh songstress Emily Williams and Utah guitarist Rebecca Sullivan. Combining deep folk and bluegrass they can be sensitive, rockin' and downright hilarious. They were awesome in the Ritz in July and, as then, they'll be backed by loony percussionist Job Verveijen. **(Victoria: 8pm) (also SUNDAY 3.30pm approx)**

Forcenra! A great new band from Glastonbury. Formed by Dora McKinley and Gem Quinn and influenced by Dave Swarbrick and Steeleye Span, Forcenra! deliver wonderful laments concerning betrayal, hunger and death, yet still manage to celebrate life in all its glory. **(Victoria: 2pm)**

The FOS Brothers This is East Belfast brothers Dave and Sam McCrory, backed by innovative south-west percussionist Rom Dobbs, performing a fusion of original and traditional Irish songs with hypnotic acoustic guitars and great lyrics. Recommended by Show Of Hands. **(Railway: 4pm)**

Gary French A recent cover star of Scrumpy 'n' Western magazine, Gary's a Ritz legend, for years entertaining us with his sharp and moving covers of The Eagles, Dr Hook, Marianne Faithfull and many more. He'll kick off the fest in fine style. Gawdblessya! **(Victoria: 1pm)**

Gangreen There were fears last year that Gangreen, quaffing deeply of the festival spirit, would be too drunk to perform. How wrong can you be? Their brilliant, boozy set of Irish classics had the crowd dancing all over Victoria Street and the call for encores was deafening. **(Lighthouse: 9.30pm)**

The Ginger Whingers This'll be an electric performance from Burnham's most popular band, a guaranteed riot of ska-fuelled merriment. Unless, of course, their efforts as The Drunken Ginger have got them banned by Pub Watch, in which case there'll be an hour of strawberry-blonde silence. **(Victoria: 7pm)**

Robin Gray Robin started off back in the Sixties, performing at Priddy and the Cheddar Folk Club with The Taverners, The Brothers Gray and Four Square Circle. Now he's back with his famous chorus songs, mean guitar and fantastic stories. **(Pier: 1pm)**

Jason Grey & Nas Adal They could rock you - Jason is an arse-kicking expert on the Queen back catalogue - but they're more likely to seduce with their bittersweet songs of love and loss. A real mid-afternoon delight. **(Pier: 3pm)**

The Groanbox Boys No question, this duo is world class, playing their foot-stompin', sweat-drippin'-from-the-ceilin' old-time American blues, folk, rags and mountain songs on accordion, guitar, gourd banjo, harmonica and shackles. Their sound sees the conservatoire drunk on jug-band spirit and you will not have heard anything like it before. They're also bringing nutty percussionist Paul Clifford, who will be bashing logs, tin cans, recycled bits and bobs and the band's own Freedom Boot (you'll have to go see that for yourself). **(Railway: 9.30pm)**

Elliot Hall A seriously excellent late addition to the bill, Elliot is a singer-songwriter of rare power. Backed by his wife Suzie on mandolin and percussion, he has the energy of Jack White, the attitude of Neil Young and the deep gravity of Nick Cave and Mark Lanegan. And a set of fine, fine songs. This is real music. **(Lighthouse: 5pm)**

Dave Harris Known as The Busker for his cheery resourcefulness, Dave's a wizard on the squeezebox and harmonica. Watch out for his killer cover of Werewolves Of London. Aaaaooooo! **(Lighthouse: 1pm)**

Laura Hewison One of the big hits of our very first fest, Laura's back with her red-hot cello-playing and wondrous voice. This girl sings shanties like no one else. You'd be mad to miss her. **(Railway: 5pm)**

Jankie Fardal Jankie Fardal delivered a blistering set at the S&D last year and this year all seven of them will be crammed into Chaplins. With fiddles, mandolins, whistles and a strong Irish feel, they'll be rocking the house with their fast, vibrant, beer-guzzling set. Those who see this one will remember it for years. **(Chaplins: 8pm)**

Jerichova If your taste runs to skiffle then Jeff Hague and the lads, with their deep love of Lonnie Donegan, Chas McDevitt and The Vipers, will definitely push your buttons. This is good-time music for good-time people. Why not end your evening with a giant grin? **(Dunstan: 9.30pm)**

Diana Johnstone Schooled in the famous Cornish folk scene of the late Sixties, Diana has a talent that's very hard to describe. Quiet, graceful and deeply moving, with her lovely voice and delicate songs she can silence even the rowdiest of rooms. A rare beauty. **(Chaplins: 6pm)**

Phil King When the electrics blew last year, Phil kept going, giving the crowd at the Vic a genuinely acoustic treat. His jazzy, bluesy, contemporary yet timeless lovesongs have seen him gain major radio coverage in the last 6 months. So good we booked him twice. **(Railway: 7pm) (also SUNDAY 1.30pm approx)**

Kiss The Mistress All the way from Ipswich, Kiss The Mistress were formed around the musical partnership of accordionist John Ramirez and Ginny Davis, the acclaimed cellist from Strangeworld. Backed by Roy Jones' bodhran, they deliver dynamic, deceptively moving music in the Gaelic tradition. Really, really good. **(Pier: 8pm)**

Late Licence Runners-up in the BBC's FolkQuest competition and fronted by singer Sophie Lake, Late Licence ply an exciting brand of English and Irish folk, harmonising superbly on the trad likes of Ramble Away and Seventeen Come Sunday. **(Railway: 6pm)**

Alex Lipinski Flitting between Weston and London, Alex is an embarrassingly gifted young songwriter, influenced by Crowded House, Jeff Buckley and The Beatles and dealing in rock, indie, alt country and folk. An energising start to the day at the Lighthouse. **(Dunstan: 2pm)**

Eddie Martin Bluesmaster Eddie always packs 'em in on his visits to Burnham, he's a long-proven talent. With his last album, though, he improved still further and can now justifiably claim to be one of Britain's foremost blues artists. We're proud to have him back. **(Pier: 9.30pm)**

Mireille Mathlemer Originally from Holland, now based in Bristol, Mireille sings songs of loss, denial and hope in a wonderfully smoky voice that's seen her compared to Aimee Mann, Chrissie Hynde and Joni Mitchell. We might also mention Bettie Serveert. Because we can. **(Dunstan: 7pm)**

Mervin Ordinarily punky cover-merchants, local heroes Vermin like to shake it up for FolkFest, singing their own songs of angst, rebellion and scrumpy-induced flatulence. We were going to ask them to play the Stranglers' hit Don't Bring Harry, but no one likes a smartarse. **(Somerset & Dorset: 2pm)**

Monostone This is a new duo featuring Pete Taylor, winner of BBC Gloucestershire's Solo Folk Performer of the Year competition in 2007, and Andy Williams. Think drama, think power, think Counting Crows. **(Lighthouse: 2pm)**

Morgan Morgan, as in Mountain Jack Morgan, will be giving us blues, country and swing in the great Johnny Cash tradition. Of course he'll be singing of mean men, bad boys and the redemptive power of love. **(Dunstan: 7pm)**

Nimming Ned A pair of vagabond storytellers influenced by The Levellers and Idlewild, Nottingham's Nimming Ned boast a long string of excellent acoustic numbers marked by a pastoral feel and fine lyrics. Ones to watch. **(Chaplins: 7pm)**

Norcsalordie Down from Leicester, Norcsalordie are another folk duo, but touched as much by punk as Ewan MacColl. Singer Paul McHugh is concerned with the folklore and history of his hometown, Grimsby, but the lads steer clear of doleful contemporary folk, being far more interested in making people dance and drink beer. **(Dunstan: 8pm)**

Pink Froot With guitar, bass, flute, fiddle and percussion, Pink Froot are a seriously trad 6-piece and a must for fans of Sandy Denny. Expect such classics as Wind That Shakes The Barley, Lily and I Am Stretched On Your Grave. **(Pier: 4pm)**

Sally Pritchard & Kathy King Ah, the angels of Milverton - an odd description as they're not from Milverton and they're certainly no angels. Nevertheless, the ludicrously likeable Sally and Kathy do conjure magical harmonies and are sure to win over the crowd at the S&D. If we're lucky, they'll be accompanied by the godlike multi-instrumentalist Alan King. **(Somerset & Dorset: 1pm)**