

Spikedrivers

Innovative and exciting, Spikedrivers combine the delta blues of Robert Johnson with the scope and vim of Jimmy Page. Led by red-hot guitarist Ben Tyzack, they also feature drummer Maurice McElroy, known as The Groove Meister, and bassist Constance Redgrave, who once played with goth punks Christian Death. World class entertainment. (Victoria: 9.30pm)

Stompin' Dave Allen

Many people like to enjoy a leisurely Sunday lunch and wander over to the Gardens about 3. Not this year, not unless you want to miss the incredible guitar playing and electrifying dances of Stompin' Dave. The man's a miracle. For your own sake be there. (SUNDAY: 1.30pm)

Surfin' Turnips

Cider-fuelled pirate rockers. With their bass, drums, guitar and accordion attack the Turnips are a cross between the Wurzels and the Ramones. They may occasionally slow down for a shanty or two, but mostly it'll be cider-to-the-ceiling madness. (Somerset & Dorset: 9.30pm)

Nicky Swann

One of Devon's finest vocalists, Nicky delivers a warm spiritually-tinged country, as well as rockier material, coming on like the soul-sister of Lucinda Williams and Chrissie Hynde. (Lighthouse: 2pm)

Becky Syson

This girl is brilliant. Nottingham-based Becky Syson has been described as folk rock but that doesn't cover it at all. Her songs are intimate and passionate, while her voice approaches the range, power and ethereal quality of Julianne Regan's. Her debut album will be on sale. After hearing her, you'll want one. (Pier: 4pm)

Pete Taylor

In 2007 Pete was named BBC Gloucester's Solo Folk Performer Of The Year. Last year he played our fest as part of the duo Monostone. This year he's back on his own, once more bringing to mind both Damien Rice and Counting Crows. (Dunstan: 3pm)

Three Sheets T'Wind

Last time Three Sheets played Burnham their singer, John Lenin, did so on one leg, having earlier leapt drunkenly from the sea wall. This time they'll be at full strength, delivering their Irish classics with real power and punky panache. (Pier: 8pm)

Steve Turner

Starting out in the Manchester folk scene of the late Sixties, Steve then spent time in the Geordie band Canny Fettle. After 13 years away, now he's back with his trusty concertina and a strong set of songs, including The Isle Of St Helena. (Victoria: 4pm)

Martin Vogwell

One half of Cheltenham duo Crow Crag, talented guitarist Martin will be laying down some easy folk, spooked blues and psychedelic Sixties-style pop. (Dunstan: 1pm)

Barry Walsh

From Wraxhall, Barry was known in the Seventies as Barry St John and has had his songs recorded by the likes of Colin Blunstone and Ruby Turner. Now he's back with a new repertoire. Dramatic, heartfelt, with a Jim Croce feel. (Dunstan: 4pm)

Wilcox & Brooks

This is an acoustic folk duo with real heart, singing driving songs of injustice, communication breakdown and the cruelty of modern life. Attention-grabbing stuff. (Pier: 3pm)

The Winkers

Usually known as the Trisexual Winkers, Tim and Paul are here slipping their naughty bits to one side to avoid a visit from the Vice Squad, and possibly Health & Safety, too. Still, as Burnham's finest songwriters, they're bound to be hilarious, thought-provoking and massively entertaining. (Lighthouse: 8pm)

Woody

For years the main man in funk-rockers Armitage Skanks, now Woody's returned to his acoustic roots. Not that he's any less joyful or abrasive, his excellent songs being packed with humour and brimstone. (Dunstan: 6pm)

Matt Woosey & The Strange Rain

Still out on their never-ending tour, Matt and the lads are bound to shake you up with a bluesy gospel groove that recalls both World Party and Hot Tuna. Get down! (Dunstan: 7pm)

Wyrd Guy

A prime mover in the wonderful Elowen, Kim Guy last year showed her pedigree with a lovely set at Chaplins, then her sense of fun when she joined in with Nick Elswood. There'll be more, much more, this time. (Lighthouse: 5pm)

y'Strel's Band

Last year, at the Pier, y'Strel's John Bullock felt the audience was too far away, too uninvolved. At the S&D this charismatic man will be right in your face with his captivating Dorset folk, absurd humour and often controversial material. You'll have no choice but to love it. (Somerset & Dorset: 2pm)



The Appletree Boys

Gruff and Boob are a Bath-based folk duo blessed with great humour and talent. Influenced by Bela Fleck, Andy McKee and Jeff Buckley, they're pastoral, hypnotic and generally fab. (Chaplins: 4pm)

Bag Of Rats

How can one accurately describe Mad Mary and the glorious Rats? Psycho skiffle? Pumped up country? Frenetic folk? They are all these things and so much more. Chaplins will be packed and in uproar. (Chaplins: 8pm) (also SUNDAY: 3.45pm)

Pete Beach

It's a fest tradition that anyone still standing should end Saturday in the company of the mighty Pete Beach and his reprobate buddies, singing drunkenly along to the songs of Tom Rush, Christy Moore and Lonnie Donegan. A guaranteed great time. (Chaplins: 9.30pm)

Debbie Beckett

The voice of an angel? Only if that angel happens to be Stevie Nicks after she's gargled with sulphuric acid. Debbie's a firm Ritz favourite, gushing with good cheer and great music. Fleetwood Mac, Janis Joplin, even Leonard Cohen may be covered. (Dunstan: 5pm)

Neil Biddiscombe

Frighteningly fast when he hits his rhythm, Neil's a big fan of Tommy Emmanuel, as well as the old blues masters. This will be punchy, fierce and enlivening. (Lighthouse: 1pm)

Broken Road

Exeter 4-piece Broken Road are a wonderful mix of American roots rock and Bossa Nova with a bright pop twist. Their songs are excellent, and now delivered by new vocalist Jo Hare. (Dunstan: 8pm)

Steve Brown

The Fernando Torres of the Ritz, Steve's brought on when the crowd needs a lift. We know him as the Faust of the Fretboard, the Machiavelli of the Machinehead, the Robespierre of Reverb. Bring it on! (Lighthouse: 4pm)

Rob Carey

We call him the Encyclopaedia Rocktannica for the incredible range of songs he's mastered. If you fancy a trip back to the Fifties and Sixties, Rob's your man. (Somerset & Dorset: 1pm)

The Ceili

These guys blew us away at the Ritz in January with their brilliant mix of singalong Irish mayhem and banjo-led bluegrass craziness. So much fun it should be illegal. (Railway: 3pm)

Ceilidh-Jo

With her beautiful, clear voice and excellent country folk tunes, Stroud-based Ceilidh-Jo has us thinking of both Kate Rusby and the Be Good Tanyas. With her band adding relaxed power, she'll be truly impressive. (Pier: 2pm)

David Chave

Heavily influenced by Isaac Guillory, as well as Sting's jazzier moments, Mr Chave is smooth, so very smooth. The master of the telling phrase, both literal and musical. (FRIDAY Ritz: 8.45pm)

The Cherry Pickers

What a band. The Pickers deal in deep trad Americana, while also delivering cute, heartfelt and moving covers of Nirvana, Hank Williams and The Beatles. Is it sexist to say they're also gorgeous? Probably. (Victoria: 8pm)

Drew Crow Star

This man's a real one-off, a purveyor of streetwise romance, dealing in pop, punk, folk, goth and hip-hop. Imagine a cross between Marc Almond and Carter USM. He's not really like that at all. (Somerset & Dorset: 3pm)

Coracle

A young Somerset trio playing flute, accordion and fiddle, Coracle deliver trad folk reels and waltzes with a youthful twist and zest. They'll have you dancing for sure. (Pier: 6pm)

The Dambuskers

Appledore 4-piece The Dambuskers are awesome, featuring the Wild Man of Folk, Steve Ruffe, and classically trained fiddler Chloe Watson. They wrecked the S&D last year, so we're letting them loose in the park. Irresistible. (SUNDAY: 5pm)

Mark Darkside

Possessed of a fine, very English voice, Mark can be solemn, his strong melodic songs like hymns, but also hopeful and upbeat, landing somewhere between Snow Patrol and Peter Hammill. (Chaplins: 3pm)

Kerry Devine

Peterborough's Kerry is an unusual acoustic folk rocker, sometimes soft like Nick Drake, or romantic like Tori Amos but, as with her song Cathedral, also capable of sounding like Polly Harvey fronting the White Stripes. Powerful. (Somerset & Dorset: 7pm)

Who's Who at Burnham-on-Sea's FOLKFEST 2009

(plus when and where they are playing)

Rosie Eade

Exeter-based pixie Rosie was trained in classical and jazz but now deals in trad folk and her own fine songs. Her strong, beautiful voice reminds us of Celia Humphris from Trees. Yes, she's that good. Don't miss her. (Victoria: 2pm)

Nick & Chris Elswood

Since the end of The Loan Sharks, young Nick's been spreading his wings, now bashing out cool covers of Love, The Doors and Syd Barrett, as well as his own self-penned numbers. The wailing gob iron of his casually outrageous brother Chris may come into play, too. (Lighthouse: 6pm)

The Ely Plains

This is warm, rootsy, twangy, shuffling Americana, a taste of the dust bowl, the canyon and the cotton field. With a new 4-track EP out, Ely Plains are on the road to somewhere - no doubt about it. (Victoria: 7pm)

Tim Fardon

Formerly of The Flamin' Yahoos, Tim's a local lad with talent to spare. Here he'll be blasting you with some proper old school blues and bending your brain with high-tech instrumentals borrowed from the likes of Don Ross and Andy McKee. Exceptional. (Somerset & Dorset: 8pm)

Clare Farrar Chapman

Second at the MBF Songwriting Awards for her wonderful Little Room, Clare's work is delicate and quietly dramatic. Though she shares Lily Allen's guttural delivery, Clare's deeper, seeking the heights of Joni Mitchell. (Somerset & Dorset: 5pm)

The FOS Brothers

Seeing them at our Easter fundraiser we knew they had to headline at the fest proper. Veering between tough folk and blistering psychedelic rock, the FOS Brothers achieve a kind of religious musical ecstasy. They will blow you away. (Pier: 9.30pm)

Gary French

Gawdblessya! If you're looking for someone to raise the spirits with corking covers of Dr Hook, Marianne Faithfull, the Stones and the Beatles, Gary is el hombre. Arribal! (Somerset & Dorset: 4pm)

Gangreen

Perennial FolkFest favourites Gangreen are arguably more Irish than the Irish. They certainly know how to put 'em away and this will be another night of roaring ribaldry, featuring the unexpurgated version of Seven Drunken Nights, as well as the insanely attractive Greg Aylmer. (Dunstan: 9.30pm)

Julian Gaskell & His Ragged Trousered Philanthropists

From Cornwall and unignorable, this band use accordion, balalaika, guitar, tuba, cello, washboard and kazoo to make a brilliant, super-dramatic form of gypsy folk-punk. A cross between Gogol Bordello and The Clash. More fun than you can shake a stick at. (Railway: 9.30pm)

Dave Gibbon

Ritz regular Dave's a real find, his quiet but powerful ragtime and Ralph McTell covers never fail to move. This will be his first proper gig - the first of many, we're sure. (Chaplins: 1pm)

Jason Grey & Nas Adal

Make no mistake, these guys love to rock, but Jason and Nas are here less likely to bludgeon you into submission than steal your hearts with their winning songs of love and loss. (Lighthouse: 7pm)

Elliot Hall

With his guitar, harmonica and husky vocals, Elliot stands alongside Cohen, Cave and Tom Waits, digging for beauty amidst the pain and the dirt. Check out his song The Candleflame. Awesome. (Chaplins: 7pm)

Dave Harris

The supreme all-rounder, Dave can rock you with harmonica, guitar or his trusty squeezebox. He's busktastic! (Pier: 1pm)

Harry & The Hecklers

Strange, very strange, a funky 3-piece pop band who push at the boundaries of sense and sanity while still entertaining the hell out of you. They may well be your cup of tea - if you like your tea laced with marshmallows and arsenic. Funny, in more ways than one. (Pier: 7pm)

Bruce Hudson

Often to be found delving into the Kris Kristofferson back catalogue, Bruce is a giant smoothie, a musician of great taste and grace. Come along to Chaplins and help him make it through the afternoon. (Chaplins: 5pm)

Insomniac Jack

A Bristol 5-piece featuring the dueling guitars of Denny and John and the powerful voice of the gloriously named Jinx Storm. She'll be leading the guys through a strong set of countrified blues that'll bring to mind Crowded House and Neil Young with a pinch of Lovin' Spoonful tossed in for good measure. (Railway: 5pm)

Inu

Bath-based Inu, dealing in an amazing Irish and Eastern European fusion, can be a 5, 6 or 7-piece. Driven on by Marick Baxter's extraordinary flute-work, they are always, always mind-blowing. (Victoria: 3pm)

Jankie Fardal

Last year this Bridgwater 7-piece destroyed Chaplins. This year they set their sights on the Lighthouse. You have no choice but to submit to their high-powered and infectious Celtic-Balkan revelry. It'll be loud, it'll be sweaty. It'll be amazing. (Lighthouse: 9.30pm)

Jonny Kearney

Accompanied by Lucy Farrell and coming all the way from Newcastle, Jonny draws on pop, folk and music hall, recalling both Jake Thackray and The Streets. A vital young talent. (Railway: 6pm)

Richie Keedwell

Richie can't make Saturday due to a wedding, so we're squeezing him in on Friday night. That's how keen we are on his fabulous, frenetic blues. A star in the making. (FRIDAY Ritz: 8pm)

Phil King

Phil's played Burnham a few times now and never fails to impress with his jazzy folk and soul. His voice gets ever more touching, his guitar work ever stronger. His new album, They Come & They Go proves yet again that he will be a star. (Pier: 5pm)

Krazy Roscoe

Wookey Hole's finest, Roscoe's an atmospheric blues-folk guitarist with driving, intense songs concerning devils, dogs and ju-ju queens. Highly entertaining. (Lighthouse: 3pm)

Mad Dog McRea

Could we get better festival openers than Plymouth's monumental Mad Dog McRea? With their whistles, fiddles, guitars and banjos they're Irish Americana at its best - vibrant, colourful and free. Their staggering drinking songs and wild instrumentals make them unmissable. (FRIDAY: 10pm)

Marie-Claire

This will be haunting and expressive alternative folk-pop from neo-mediaevalist multi-instrumentalist Marie-Claire. Mixing the continental mystique of Piaf with the otherworldliness of Kate Bush. Superb. (Chaplins: 6pm)

Mireille Mathlener

Originally from Holland, Mireille's a big favourite at the fest. With her smoky voice, songs of loss, power and denial, and her countrified indie jangle pop she thrilled the Dunstan last year. This time she'll be charming the Vic. (Victoria: 5pm)

McDowell

A late arrival to the bill, but one of the best bands on it, McDowell create an incredible kaleidoscope of sound, a spooky, psychedelic, baroque folk rock, sometimes reminiscent of Jefferson Airplane at their oddest. Superior stuff. (Railway: 1pm)

Mervin

They call themselves Mervin but really they're Vermin, one of Burnham's most popular bands. Much like the early Clash, they're punky, soulful and reggaeified. Anarchy in the West Country! (Railway: 2pm)

Mississippi MacDonald

This guy's travelled the world seeking the heart of the blues. He also owns the world's smallest blues museum, possessing a Robert Cray guitar pick and a splinter from the shack where Muddy Waters was born. This is music direct from the delta. (Railway: 4pm)

My Name Is Ian

With his smart, witty, homely and funny repertoire, Ian's sure to entertain you. His set-list includes the songs Posh Drug Dealer and Pretentious People Don't Sing Along. He's got something. (Chaplins: 2pm)

Pitchpole Jack

Cheltenham/Bristol trio with keys, melodeon and fiddle, Pitchpole Jack can either move you with old school versions of Scarborough Fair and Swansea Town, or get you dancing with their ceilidh-style instrumentals. Fun. (Somerset & Dorset: 6pm)

Polly & The Billets Doux

Anyone who saw Polly and the boys at the Ritz in June knows we're in for a treat here. The Doux deal in smooth jazz, cool folk and even the occasional cosmic psychedelic wig-out. The perfect hangover cure - don't miss them. (SUNDAY: 2.30pm)

Sally Pritchard & Kathy King

Wellington's most seductive love vixens, Kathy and Sally will be owning the stage down at the Vic, their dreamy harmonies drifting up through the town to soothe the tired ears of the unwary. Brilliant. (Victoria: 1pm)

Susie Ro & Ayla

A folk duo often described as sirens, Susie and Ayla deal in beautiful, oddly percussive harmonies and songs that feel both contemporary and ancient. They're tremendous musicians and great fun. With luck they'll also bring their rather exotic band. (Victoria: 6pm)

The Roots Union

An Exeter band fronted by Tobias Ben Jacob, The Roots Union draw on American, English and Irish traditions to create the kind of Big Music dreamt of by the Waterboys' Mike Scott. We have some great acts at FolkFest but, with their rich pop sensibility and instantly memorable songs, this band are the most likely to hit big. (Railway: 8pm)

Sandals & Socks (AKA The Ginger Hitlas)

Now the Hitlas are all getting engaged or married and settling down to a life of domestic bliss, we're expecting a few lazy covers of Perry Como and Val Doonican. Yeah, right. Stay away from the Dunstan if you're not primed to party. (Dunstan: 2pm)

Scattered Few

A moody and mesmerizing Reading duo, shifting between warm ambience and disturbed psychedelia. Jena and Andy will wow you with their delicate, intricate tales of love and woe and may remind you of the very great Sneaker Pimps and the even greater Madder Rose. (Railway: 7pm)