

EIGG SINGING HOLIDAY 2024.

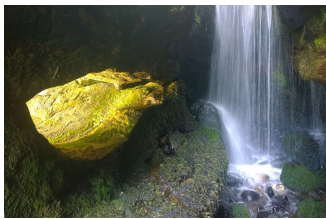
with Bill Henderson

Saturday 4th – Friday 10th May.

In May 2024 we look forward to our 16th year of this singing holiday on the wonderful Hebridean Island of Eigg, one of the Small Isles; a week of singing, walking, laughter, merriment and, of course, delicious fully-catered vegetarian food.



To confirm a place, please return the booking form below together with a deposit of £100. As seems to happen every year now, several people have already indicated that they are definitely coming so if you are interested I urge you to get in touch soon if you want to ensure a place. I will offer remaining places on a first come first served basis.



What to expect. This week is open to singers of all levels, and I will suit the repertoire to the ability of the group. Teaching will be mostly by ear so you do not have to read music. I love songs of many different styles and from different cultures and traditions. “Inspirational songs from around the World” sums it up. If it inspires me I teach it!



I've been leading music and singing groups for over 30 years and love the sense of community that being together in this way creates. I make a safe space for people to take exciting new steps in their singing, whatever their standard or previous experience; building confidence; opening doors for new musical excursions; above all, using singing to increase our sense of well-being. My musical experience is very diverse and I bring this diversity into the range of songs I teach. I love the rhythmic charge of African, Gospel and Jazz as much as the profundity of a Georgian Lullaby or a Taize chant; the familiarity of a Beach Boys or Beatles favourite arranged in 4 part harmony as much as an arrangement of a traditional Scottish song; something easy and simple as much as something more challenging.



“A sky lark singing over the centre of our circle was a highlight of the week” – Duncan, Findhorn.

The daily schedule will include a morning and evening singing session with plenty of time for exploring/relaxing in the afternoon. The remarkable An Sgurr beckons as do the Singing Sands, the Massacre and Cathedral Caves or the cafe/pub for an afternoon pint or cup of tea. Like several before, you might be tempted by the luxury of an afternoon siesta or sit and read in the wonderful sun-room.

One of the joys of being on an island is that feeling of separation from the busyness of everyday life. I invite you to resist the temptation to bring all your electronic gadgets with you and instead to take the opportunity to minimise or even do without “screen-time” during your stay. Your experience will be the richer and you will indeed be more, rather than less connected!!

Over the years I have loved developing a deeper connection with this **island and the islanders**. Some of the islanders will join us as ever for several of the sessions and as usual we will meet more of them for one evening of song either in the old “Big House” or the Village Hall. There is a genuine warmth from the islanders to this week of singing which I love seeing grow year by year. This is a real bonus. We may also sing outside in some of the special places on the island expecting to be able to enjoy warm late Spring weather at this time in May. The island has so much to offer that some have said that the week is worth coming to just to enjoy the island and island life - regardless of the singing!!

“The whole week seemed to me like a seamless, dreamlike, trippy kind of experience. Put me down for next year!” - Graham, Scotland.

Food: As ever the food will be vegetarian wholefood and we have our usual excellent caterer, Kunie. You will eat well!! Participants will be asked to sign a rota to help with washing & clear-ups and some food preparation: the wonderful cook can cater for most special diets but does need advance warning!

“Warm fresh bread for breakfast!” - Don, Morayshire. “Simply joyous” – Kathryn, Perthshire.

Please indicate any special dietary requirements and/or allergies on the booking form.

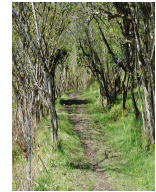
There is a range of tea, herb teas, coffee and coffee-alternative – but if you have a special/unusual favourite, it's best to bring your personal supply! We order almost all of our food for the week from the island shop so as to support the Eigg community, and we would encourage you to visit the shop during your stay: chocolate, wine, treats and other goodies are all stocked.

Travel: by public transport or car to Mallaig, from where we catch a ferry to Eigg. **NB There may be parking charges in at least one of the Mallaig Car Parks.** There is only one ferry at approx. 2pm on Saturday, so participants usually meet each other at Mallaig and travel together. Please make sure you arrive in good time. One year there was an accident on the road from Fort William and many people almost missed the ferry! Mallaig is a good place to spend a night if you need to break your journey BUT PLEASE BOOK EARLY. The return ferry departs on Friday in the morning. If you want to stay on in the hostel (or come early) this might also be possible depending on availability. Many before you have also extended their holiday in the region before or after the workshop to enjoy the other delights of Scotland's Highlands and Islands or a few days in Edinburgh or Glasgow.

“I was impressed by your endless patience”
– Cath, Moray.

“Being able to get out of my singing comfort zone, in comfort.” - Lesley, Edinburgh.

On the last evening we have a wee ceilidh – so bring a song, a story, a joke, a dance to share with the rest of the group – no pressure!!



Accommodation is in comfortable shared (single sex) dormitories mostly in bunks.

What to bring: towels and indoor shoes/cosy socks are essential; warm clothes, waterproofs, walking shoes, special treats, and binoculars are all good ideas as is sun cream!

If you wish to come as a couple it is not usually possible to share a room. There are other places to stay on the island in a variety of B&Bs and self-catering. Do talk to me first as we have found that B&B proprietors' estimates of walking distance to the hostel can be slightly underestimated! Some camping is also available at the hostel at a reduced price.

“Bill is a great teacher” – Julie,
Perthshire.

“A very special time” - Kathleen,
Blairgowrie.

Booking: Cost of the course is £550-£650 on a self-selected sliding scale depending on your circumstances. This includes accommodation, all food and teaching but not travel to Eigg. I try to keep prices as low as I can and invite you to tune in to what you would like to pay, given that, if there are a larger number of bookings at the higher prices this may enable someone to have a bursary place. Bursaries will be awarded only as funds allow. If you'd like one, please let me know as soon as possible. **I also strongly recommend taking out travel insurance to cover any unforeseen eventualities.**

THE BALANCE OF THE FEE IS DUE BY 31st MARCH 2024.

Should you have to cancel before 31st January 2024 the deposit is refundable. Thereafter, I can only guarantee to refund your payment if I can fill your place. Please complete the booking form and return it by e-mail to billhendersonmusic@gmail.com or by snail-mail to:

Lagganlea, 6, Pilmuir Road West, Forres, Moray IV36 2HL.

For more info about the workshop, and enquiries nearer the time: 07876 213576 or email billhendersonmusic@gmail.com. If you want to check out more about the Island of Eigg and Glebe Barn, visit: www.isleofeigg.org and www.glebebarn.co.uk. To find out more about my work take a look at my websites: www.billsmusic.co.uk and www.forresbigchoir.info and www.soundsdeep.uk which are 2 community choirs that I lead or co-lead in Forres, nr. Inverness.