



y'Strel's Band



Helen Coombs and John Bullock

present

The Little Red Book Tour

songs from

The New National Song Book (1905)

(as suggested by the Board of Education)

Dates of performances:

11th Sept: The Roman Townhouse, Dorchester

25th Sept: Upwey Old School Village Hall

16th Oct: The Black Bear Hotel, Wareham

30th Oct: Fifehead Magdalen Village Hall

13th Nov: The British Legion Hall, Bridport

27th Nov: Dorchester Arts Centre

Registers will be taken at 7.30pm

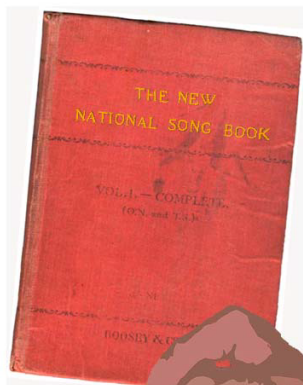
Admission: £8.00 on the door

(and maybe an apple for the teacher)

Warning: there will be community singing
and general fun

No parents' excuse notes - thank you

For more information: 01305 889256 or ystrel@tiscali.co.uk



The Little Red Book Tour

Songs anchor our memories in time. I hear a song and can't help but associate it with a specific period - occasionally a specific event - in my life, and the sounds and the smells sometimes come along for the ride with that aural wash of memory.

But what of the songs themselves - what stories could they tell us if we could only sit down with them and hear their tale?

A song is created. Perhaps it first appears on stage, a piece of musical theatre, where it's good enough to be picked up by its hearers and gets passed around the bars and salons.

Somehow, the song manages to find itself on board ship, sung at the captain's table as the port is passed around - all of those men far away from home and all of those memories.

And maybe, once the years at sea are behind them, they sing the same song for their children - embellished with tales of derring-do and heavy weather.

A father's song.

If it's strong enough to keep its place at the forefront of the mind, it will find itself being passed from listener to listener - down through the years - until someone decides it's time to honour this now venerable song, and find it a permanent home between the covers of a book - which for our purposes, we'll call **The New National Song Book** - over 200 song memories brought together for the benefit of 'older children' in 1905.

Even in 1905 some of the songs went back over two hundred years, having survived some of the most tempestuous years in the history of these islands.

And the songs lay between the book covers, waiting for us to meet them in the early 1960s - by now obscure tunes and strange words that made little sense to ears used to the recorded delights of Light and Third programmes. And the stories of these songs could all have ended there - but they really are strong enough - and exotic enough - to survive for more generations yet.

Like the Tardis, the Little Red Book is bigger on the inside. And - also like the Tardis - it takes us travelling; back to the days of our youth, and back to those wonderful days when Song was young.

Attendance Notes - please read carefully!

Roman Townhouse: tickets also available from Dorchester Tourist Information Centre: 01305 267992

Upwey Old School Village Hall: a ploughman's supper (!) is being offered beforehand for those who fancy coming along for some grub. £12 for supper and music. 6.30pm start. (Music from 8.00pm)

Contact Bill Crumbleholme: 01305 812030 or bill@upweypotters.com

Fifehead Magdalen Village Hall: there is no bar at the village hall so **BRING YOUR OWN!** and maybe a few nibbles to share with your neighbours. Great Stuff!