

This 38-track double CD is the record of a concert held in Bow last June, part of the celebration of the life and work of Cicely Fox Smith (described in the Winter 2014 issue of WA). The concert was recorded and engineered to an impressively high standard by Ross Henrywood: it features over 20 singers from all parts of the country, people who know and love the work of CFS. These include Martyn Wyndham-Read, who sings the moving Farewell to Anzac; Moira Craig, who finished the concert with the late Sarah Morgan's beautiful setting of Home Lads Home, and Tom Lewis, who spent many years in Canada, where CFS immersed herself in the lives and stories of the sailors on Vancouver Island.

CFS wrote hundreds of poems about life at sea and the country life of England at peace and war. Many of her verses follow the rhythm and pattern of traditional songs, inspiring folk musicians such as Dave Webber, Rupert Kirby and Danny McLeod to set them to music: all the songs on the CD, except the first, are settings of words by CFS. Rupert Kirby is a fine singer and guitarist, and one of the highlights of the CD is his rendition, with other members of Shake A Leg from North Devon, of The Blue Peter. Others, for me, are Tom Lewis's All Coiled Down, two powerful shanties by Gideon Barrett and Nigel Chapman, and Lee Fore Brace, sung by Jackie Williams.

The CD also includes readings of the poems, some humorous and some rooted in a sense of place, most notably The Old Cob Wall read in local dialect by Doreen May of Bow. The CD conveys the atmosphere of the concert and the pleasure the audience took in hearing so many fine singers inspired by the work of CFS, and in joining in the choruses of songs they know and love. Highly recommended for some fine performances of powerful songs, the CD can be obtained via

www.barleycornproductions.co.uk or by email: folk@bowstation.com (see separate advert).

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