

## Review

Pennymoor Singaround CD

*Pennymoor Singaround*

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The Pennymoor Singaround is the longest running folk song club in Devon, at least under the same name. After a break of a few years at the Black Dog Inn, it has now returned to its original venue, the Cruwys Arms, Pennymoor. For just on 35 years it has kept the same format – no guests, just a friendly gathering of singers and musicians in the bar or skittle alley all ready to contribute their song or tune when called upon by the MC. Several of the current regulars were there at the beginning – Clare Penney (whose late husband, Ken, started the Singaround), Len & Cissy Christopher, Margaret Palmer, and musicians John & Wendy Wilson.

It's surprising that a recording of a typical Pennymoor Singaround session has not been produced before. Thanks are therefore due to the Henrywood family for their efforts in capturing an iconic part of the Devon folk scene.

Apart from Jim Causley, none of the performers on this CD are professional musicians or singers and most have never been previously featured on an album. This gives a tremendous variety in the material presented and demonstrates that there is a wealth of talent amongst the 'floor singers' who are the backbone of folk clubs. In a short review it is not really possible to comment separately on every singer's contribution, much as I would like to do so. Those people already identified above ably offer a well-known song or tune while others render one of their favourites – Jon Shapley with Lavenders Blue, Paul Snow with The Brave Deserter, for example. I love the Graeme Miles song, Where Ravens Feed, sung here as well as anybody I've heard by Kath Parry. If you remember the days before Honiton, Exeter and Okehampton had a by-pass, you'll appreciate the humour of the Miles Wootton composition sung by Ross Causley.

*For more information, please contact Nicola King - details above and on page 18*

*Colin Andrews*

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#### Contact

**Brian Chappell, Colin Andrews or Sue Hamer-Moss  
(contact info p. 20)**