

# OffBeat FolkFilmFestival *Programme*



2025 **OB**  
**FFC**

# OffBeat FolkFilmFestival

When we started The OffBeat Folk Film Club three years ago, we didn’t have very high expectations. The idea was to screen films about folk music and culture and invite a small handful of friends and family along to a screening. We showed two: *Oss Oss Wee Oss!* (1953) and *Travelling for a Living* (1966), a black-and-white documentary following the folk group The Watsonsons as they travel by bus from their shared home in Hull to perform in folk clubs and pubs across the country. We wanted to recreate the atmosphere of the folk clubs they were playing in, so we gave a short introduction before each film, included an intermission between them (even though their combined runtime is well under an hour), and chose to hold the screening at an old working men’s club, The Walthamstow Trades Hall. Despite our expectations and the fact the event looked practically empty with so few friends spread out across such a large dance floor, it was a success. In fact, it worked really well.

These obscure documentaries made in far-off parts of Britain some 60 or 70 years ago, held the audience in a way we couldn’t have predicted. Even though few, if any, had heard of the Padstow May Day celebration or the Obby Oss at its centre, and even if no one had listened to The Watsonsons before, they felt a connection. The films resonated with them. They painted a portrait of Britain that was familiar but slightly out of reach. The films showed England not in a broad or nationalistic sense but through intimate, human stories that captured the essence of life on these islands. At a time when the shambles of post-Brexit, Conservative rule had reached a crescendo, the films presented an image of Britain that was historical but not nostalgic, patriotic but without the baggage of politics. They celebrated a joyful and eccentric culture of people who had little and made much of it, a message that felt especially poignant amid a cost-of-living crisis where many who were watching felt they had less and less. They created a feeling that was familiar and quintessentially British but also alien and out of reach.

For us, this feeling, and the culture of everyday people was a far more relevant and compelling embodiment of ‘folk’ than the dances and songs shown in the films. We saw a parallel between then and now and wanted to use film to talk about it. Just as The Watsonsons used 19th-century ballads to articulate the struggles of the 1960s, we were using TV films, the storytelling medium of the 20th century, to communicate with a struggling, disaffected and disconnected contemporary audience. We wanted to show a progressive, depoliticised, and kinder vision of British identity, one that people could, dare we say it, feel proud of. And there was no shortage of films in the archives that did just that. Gentle television documentaries about coal miners and hill sheep farmers. About lighthouse keepers and wassailers. About the small, idiosyncratic traditions that make these islands at the edge of the earth so special and unique.

Since that first event, we have hosted screenings in Walthamstow every other month, as well as at venues across London in between. What began as a small gathering of friends has grown into a feature of the landscape of the folk revival movement. We’ve managed to carve out a niche and stand out by being perhaps less preoccupied with tradition and the occult as we are with the innate character of the people of Britain. As our following has grown, we’ve looked harder at OffBeat’s aims and what we’re really about. What we originally saw as a series of screenings has evolved into something more significant. An exploration of what it means to document and preserve folk culture in a modern age.

At its heart, OffBeat is a project showcasing documentaries, and for a long time, we’ve relied on the Regional Archives to preserve, restore, digitise, and make available to us television films from the 1950s to the 1980s. These films document vanishing traditions, heritage crafts, rituals, and dances that, if not already extinct, are clinging on for survival. But recently, we’ve come to realise that the medium we set out to celebrate is itself endangered. Documentary filmmaking is now so competitive that, unless serialised or presented by a celebrity, it might struggle to gain traction. Gentle, slow-moving films which once thrived on the BBC and regional broadcasters are now homeless. These films, without narration or presentation, capture a sense of place rather than follow the most compelling narrative structure. There are very few platforms where this type of filmmaking is properly showcased and celebrated. We wanted to do what we could to keep it alive.

And so, we started The OffBeat Folk Film Festival, the first festival dedicated exclusively to the lived experiences of everyday people in the British Isles. The first National Folk Film Festival.

Just as with our first screening, we had no idea what to expect. But the response and reception has been overwhelming. We were inundated with submissions and struggled to select just 48 films that best showcase Britain at its weirdest and most wonderful. The films featured in the 2025 OffBeat Folk Film Festival range from the story of a man training to become a town crier to a woman building a flying machine. There are films about sheep invading villages, dry stone wall builders, and Welsh dolmens. There’s a documentary about East London’s infamous pickled egg-eating competition, and, of course, a film about the Padstow Obby Oss. Over nine events, spread across a week in May, we’ll tell the story of Britain, its folk and the culture of everyday people from every angle. This festival will be a true celebration of folk culture today. And what better way to celebrate than with an awards ceremony followed by the incredible Daisy Rickman performing a live gig at The Mildmay Club? We hope that this festival will support our aim not only to showcase films but also to create a space where conversations about folk culture, past and present, can grow.

We’ve loved watching every single film submitted and agonised over narrowing them down to the 48 that made the cut. We truly believe this programme represents the very best of folk film. Thank you to everyone who submitted. We couldn’t have done it without you.

That’s all folk.

## Mike & Rita OffBeat Founders



# The Events

## Town & Country

12TH MAY • 18:30 • WALTHAMSTOW TRADES HALL

A selection of contemporary documentaries exploring where town and country meet. These films capture the tensions, contrasts, and connections between urban and rural life.

## Folk Traditions: Old & New

13TH MAY • 18:20 • GARDEN CINEMA • SCREEN 3

A collection of films that look at Britain’s most iconic folk traditions and the heritage culture surrounding them. Expect a fascinating look at the weird and wonderful, from tar barrels to the famous Padstow Obby Oss.

## Tied To The Land

13TH MAY • 18:40 • GARDEN CINEMA • SCREEN 4

Short documentaries that examine Britain’s deep and complicated relationship with the land. These films focus on the people who live and work on it, exploring themes of belonging, work, and tradition.

## Narrative Shorts and Beyond

13TH MAY • 20:30 • GARDEN CINEMA • SCREEN 3

For the first time, OffBeat is screening narrative fiction. This collection of shorts tells weird and wonderful stories that celebrate the unique character of the British Isles and the people who call them home.

## Short & Sweet Folk Tales

13TH MAY • 20:45 • GARDEN CINEMA • SCREEN 4

An eclectic curation of very short films showcasing Britain’s folky stories. These experimental shorts embrace the country’s eccentricity, celebrating its strangeness with creative and imaginative storytelling.

## Trades & Crafts

14TH MAY • 18:30 • SET SOCIAL, PECKHAM

A deep dive into the trades and crafts of the British Isles, from weavers to thatchers. These films highlight the skills, traditions, and artistry of those who keep these heritage practices alive.

## In Conversation: Britishness - An Uncomfortable Identity

17TH MAY • FROM 14:30 • MOROCCO BOUND

OffBeat’s founders will be joined by guests to discuss the folk revival movement, why people are once again turning their attention to Britishness, and how we might begin to navigate the complex, often uneasy relationship many have with these islands. In recent years, Britons have looked afresh at folk heritage, culture, and their own place within it all. Is it just coincidence that this revival has come during one of the most uncertain periods in recent history? A pandemic, an escalating climate crisis, over a decade of austerity, rising prices, war in Europe, and, of course, Britain’s departure from the European Union.

## OffBeat People

18TH MAY • 12:00 • MILDMA Y CLUB

Short documentaries celebrating the people who make these islands and their culture so unique. These films focus on human stories, capturing the strange, idiosyncratic creativity of folk culture.

## People With A Plan

18TH MAY • 14:30 • MILDMA Y CLUB

A showcase of individuals in Britain who are on a mission, those who set their minds to something and make it happen. These moving and inspiring films offer glimpses into passion projects, determined efforts, and personal journeys.

## Daisy Rickman Live + Guests

18TH MAY • 18:30 • MILDMA Y CLUB

Closing the festival, musician Daisy Rickman takes to the stage for a live gig alongside special guests. The evening will also include the festival’s award ceremony and a special bonus film to round off the celebration.

## Acknowledgements

OffBeat is Mike Hankin & Rita Conry. The jury was Maxine Peake, Lally MacBeth, Laura Venning, Angeline Morrison and Nick Duffy. Programme design and illustration was by Mike Hankin. Poster illustration was by Lucy Sherston. Events Manager was Sophie MacManus and Lead Programming Assistant was Cat Riley.

Festival awards were designed and made by Hannah Rot.

We would also like to thank OTOG Studio, Poppy Hankin, Jack Pell, The Walthamstow Trades Hall for their ongoing support & Daisy Rickman.

And, of course, the filmmakers.



# Town & Country

## 12th May Walthamstow Trades Hall

Doors 18:30  
Films Start 19:30

### Common Ground - Cat and Dog Pond



**Annick Wolfers**  
2023 • 4 MIN • DOCUMENTARY  
Five years ago, Nick and Mark received permission to excavate an old pond on Wanstead Flats, the southernmost part of Epping Forest in Leytonstone, East London. This area has a rich history of activism, with past protests here credited for helping launch the UK’s conservation movement and the Right to Roam. After clearing away the reeds and rubbish they created a thriving aquatic ecosystem where frogs and newts now breed. This film is part of Common Ground, a multimedia documentary project exploring the ecology of Wanstead Flats and the people who use it.

### Probably Not The Haircut

**Idea Space**  
2023 • 15 MIN • DOCUMENTARY  
Probably Not The Haircut is a short film that celebrates Mario’s Barbers, one of Leytonstone’s oldest businesses. It looks at the importance of community and gives you a glimpse inside the shop with Costa and his customers. Mario’s Barbers on Leytonstone High Road has kept its traditional interior from the day it opened in 1967. It has affordable prices for local people, and has endured the test of time, thanks to Costa’s well-respected local reputation, inherited from his father, Marios.

### Mirrors



**Paul Daly**  
2022 • 29 MIN • DOCUMENTARY, EXPERIMENTAL  
What began as a document of trades, traditions, cultures and home environments in contemporary England evolved and expanded to become an all-consuming project. Mirrors is a witness to unprecedented events as they unfolded on this singular isle over seven extraordinary years. From volatile public demonstrations to intimate domestic scenes, the film reveals the experience and emotions of living in England, explored through the lives of total strangers as well as family and friends. Shot exclusively on 16mm film, Mirrors is both lucid diary and poetic map - a meditation on human resilience in the most challenging era of our lifetime.

### The Farm on Our Street



**Hackney City Farm**  
2025 • 13 MIN • DOCUMENTARY  
For 40 years, Hackney City Farm has been a place of learning, growth and connection. To mark this milestone, a team of volunteers have come together with the community over the course of 6 months to create The Farm on our Street. A film that captures the voices, memories and moments that have defined the farm over the years.

### Saoirse

**Marion Bergin**  
2019 • 9 MIN • DOCUMENTARY  
Dublin is a city in the midst of a building boom, with hotels and student blocks rising across the skyline. As gentrification takes hold, the city’s traditional horse culture is fading. Saoirse profiles men of different generations as they struggle to keep their hobby alive.

### Holmie Day

**Brian McClave**  
2024 • 9 MIN • DOCUMENTARY  
A short film documenting the dying tradition of Holmie Day, where islanders on Papa Westray, in Orkney, sail across to the nearby uninhabited island to shear the sheep.

### King For a Day



**Barbara Santi**  
2023 • 62 MIN • DOCUMENTARY  
King for a Day is a poetic archive-led documentary immersing us in the personal story of the people of Padstow in Cornwall, their ancient rituals and the challenges they face in a rapidly changing world. The tension between tradition and progress punctuates the significance of cultural identity and the relevance of folk customs in our globalised society. King for a Day is an intimate portrait of a place and community pushed to the margins. A cinematic journey interweaving audio-visual archive spanning 150 years. Will this be the last generation to tease the ‘Old Oss’ from his stable to welcome the Summer?

### Awake!

**Sophie Austin**  
2023 • 10 MIN • DOCUMENTARY  
Awake! is a short experimental documentary about a liminal moment in the calendar - midwinter - observed by the inhabitants of a small rural village in England. A time outside time, magic is everywhere and anything is possible. Bearing witness to this turning point, the inhabitants gather for a wassail - a centuries old thanksgiving ritual in which folk gather to honour the slow return of the sun and bless the apple trees whose fruit are essential to the village ecosystem, not least the crumbles, juice and cider that sustains them throughout the year.

### The Badgers

**Xena White and Matthew Feurtado**  
2024 • 20 MIN • DOCUMENTARY  
“The Badgers” delves into the contentious issue of free-roaming sheep as an ancient but contested tradition of the Forest of Dean. As commercialization encroaches upon the forest and a dearth of younger individuals willing to uphold the tradition emerges, this age-old practice faces jeopardy. Through the perspective of the badgers, the narrative navigates between observation, interviews, and sensory immersion, offering an exploration of the stakes for this unique community.

## Folk Traditions: New & Old

## 13th May The Garden Cinema

Films Start 18:20 + Intro  
Screen 3

### Ottery



**Tom Chick**  
2015 • 8 MIN • DOCUMENTARY  
Exploring the Devon town of Ottery St Mary and its flaming tar barrel festival.



# Tied To The Land

# 13th May The Garden Cinema

Films Start 18:40 + Intro Screen 4

## Wild Folk

*Laura Clark*  
2024 • 7 MIN • DOCUMENTARY

Meet Marcus Tribe, a fifth-generation forester, one of Britain’s last woodsmen. He lives in his wooden yurt on a 6-acre woodland in Devon and has spent over 20 years preserving the land and living self-sufficiently. Now in his older years, as he witnesses the climate crisis, he wishes to share his lifetime of knowledge in the hope of inspiring younger generations to reconnect with the land. Marcus’ hopeful wisdom believes what ancestral people taught; “that what you did in your lifetime wasn’t for you, it was for the next seven generations... So you made sure you left Mother Nature in the same condition for them.”

## Without Bounds to Beat



*Oliver Endersby*  
2019 • 7 MIN • DOCUMENTARY

Without Bounds to Beat is an experimental documentary that recounts a town’s revival of an ancient folk tradition and places it in contrast to today’s digital technologies.

## In the Veins

*Andy Burns and Graham Relton*  
2024 • 24 MIN • ARCHIVAL

A story of hardship and hope, division and defiance, perseverance and pride; this is not a history lesson, it’s an emotional journey that digs deep into the heart of a community built on coal. For centuries, men toiled in the bowels of the earth to build a nation, creating prosperity and improved standards of living, before experiencing the gut-wrenching end to livelihoods, a cost to people and their communities that is still having an impact across the generations.

## Living with the Cuckoo People

*Nick Fallowfield-Cooper*  
2024 • 13 MIN • DOCUMENTARY

An English novelist, marginalized by life in the UK, seeks solitude living in a yurt in a Normandy forest.

# Narrative Shorts and Beyond

# 13th May The Garden Cinema

Films Start 20:30 + Intro Screen 3

## The Corpse Road

*Joseph Daly*  
2023 • 12 MIN • SHORT

A begrudging 16th century peasant must traverse the eerie and unrelenting Cumbrian fells to deliver the body of his loathed late mother-in-law to holy ground.

## Peter

*Emily May*  
2007 • 3 MIN • ANIMATION

An animated paint on glass film about lost family and the strangeness of Suffolk.

## The Birdwatcher



*Ryan Mackfall*  
2024 • 14 MIN • SHORT

“Investigators visit the site of a strange disappearance – a solitary birdwatching hut, deep in the forest. This story is about the dangers of cutting ourselves off from ‘the other’; that which we choose not to engage with or understand. It’s a look at the insipid repetition that creeps into our lives when we shun diversity and connection. This is a tale of someone so lost in another time that they can never make it back to reality, and those who seek to help but are only dragged down with them.

Fear of the unknown can become so ingrained and insidious that it becomes an inherent need that begs to be replenished – as we cut ourselves off from other cultures and make our world smaller, we only pivot to find new evils within our communities, locked in a futile cycle of creating fresh monsters as a distraction from our own shortcomings and responsibilities. A gripping, cinematic expedition into that darkness, the film serves as a warning about isolating ourselves from a greater world that requires us to learn and listen on a regular basis.”

## Out of The Peat



*Tabitha Carless-Frost and Theo Rollason*  
2024 • 12 MIN • SHORT

An amateur archaeologist arrives on a desolate peatland in Lancashire, their mind filled with the strange power that peat-bog waters hold to preserve organic matter. They have come to excavate the peatland. They have come to exhume a body. But, in digging into the peat — and into the past — they unearth much more than mere relics. The peat holds forgotten histories, uneasy truths, and vast stores of climate-change-accelerating carbon. Reflecting the attempt to document and preserve this landscape via the moving image, the film becomes both a lament and a call to action for local peat-bog restoration and protection.

## The Grove: Reveries Of A Village Ghost

*Simon Nunn*  
2024 • 29 MIN • SHORT

Exploring the reports of a spectral mansion on the outskirts of Rougham, a village in the Eastern county of Suffolk. The film delves into local folklore surrounding these sightings as villagers recount their haunting experiences against the desolate backdrop of rural Britain. It reflects on themes of memory, place, and the fading tradition of oral storytelling, evoking the eerie atmosphere of a fractured England and our growing disconnect from the natural environment.

## Gossip

*Hannah Renton*  
2024 • 17 MIN • SHORT

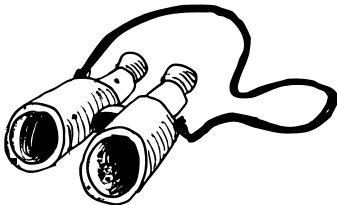
A 16th century tale of community, power and resistance. It tells the untold story of witches as they really were - midwives, healers, women with knowledge and power.

## Seal Coal



*Graham Vasey*  
2024 • 9 MIN • SHORT

Set on the Northeast Coast where Barry (played by Ben Pearson) haunted by his past ekes out a harsh existence gathering sea coal from the windswept beaches of County Durham. With original poetry from Joseph S. Kelley and sound and music from Rupert Ludlow Philbrick. Sea Coal was filmed entirely using expired 16mm film stock which was hand processed by the director.





# OffBeat FolkFilmFestival



2025 OffBeat  
FolkFilmFestival



# Short & Sweet Folk Tales

13th May  
The Garden Cinema

Films Start 20:45 + Intro  
Screen 4

## Baled y Dolmen (Ballad of The Dolmen)



*Leigh Arthur and Bryony Beynon*  
2024 • 4 MIN • MUSIC VIDEO

Baled y Dolmen is a search for salvation at motorway services and Neolithic burial chambers. Our protagonist reenacts a road trip she took with her old flame, to show him the strange and perfect haunted modernism of her hometown, Swansea. Awkward memories of heartbreak are released, and absorbed by the ancient presence of the 25 tone capstone of 2500 BC megalith & burial chamber Maen Ceti, Cefn Bryn.

## Stone Hatch

*Edward Summerton*  
2023 • 7 MIN • EXPERIMENTAL

Stone Hatch documents the rare sighting of the birth of a stone circle. From it leaving the chamber of the Pictish souterrain to its migration across the moors to its final destination in the Scottish highlands.

## Avebury Sanctuary Complex



*Paul Vivian*  
2024 • 7 MIN • EXPERIMENTAL

Filmed at Avebury Stone Circle, West Kennett Barrow, Silbury Hill, and The Cove, Avebury Wiltshire UK. A world heritage site, the location is home to the largest stone circle complex in the UK, the film documents the site with a soundtrack of audio which has been recorded directly from standing stones within Avebury Stone Circle, West Kennett Avenue and Avebury Cove. The work is part of a wider field recording project documenting and recording the sonorous audio of these standing stones. Paul Vivian is an artist whose work encompasses Neolithic stone circle sites across the UK and Europe.

## The Final Known of the Unknown

*Pat Monahan*  
2025 • 6 MIN • SHORT, EXPERIMENTAL

A wandering monk must deliver a holy relic to its rightful place of worship, all the while evading nefarious forces.

## The Angel In The Stone



*Elias Mendel*  
2022 • 4 MIN • EXPERIMENTAL, ANIMATION

A folk tale of an angel in a stone. Shot at Hackney Filter Beds, East London, where the filmmaker grew up. Inspired by folk tales associated with stone circles he has spent his life exploring. This stone circle is, however, created during a mysterious art project of the 1980s. The film re-imagines the stone as time-in-memoriam and is a homage to Derek Jarman’s work on Stone Circles, *A Journey to Avebury*.

## Passing Clouds



*Hannah Brown and Javier Irazuzta*  
2024 • 7 MIN • DOCUMENTARY, EXPERIMENTAL

Set against the desolate Scottish landscape, the film shot on Super 8 captures an alternative possibility on how clouds are born by witnessing what a flock of sheep do when no one is watching them.

## Fools Gambit Morris



*Crusoe Weston*  
2023 • 3 MIN • DOCUMENTARY

A short film exploring the joy and importance of Morris dancing for a group of young people.

## Mirie It Is (Dusking II)

*Lucy Wright*  
2024 • 7 MIN • EXPERIMENTAL

Dusking is a project by the artist Lucy Wright—a newly invented tradition, conceived as the counterpart to the morris dancing that takes place on 1 May marking the arrival of summer. Taking place instead on 31 October, it invites participants—who join in remotely around the world—to ‘dance the sun down’ and honour the gifts of rest, reflection and replenishment associated with the darker months of the year.

## “Summat to be Seen”

*Liz Morison*  
2024 • 2 MIN • SHORT  
From a story told to Ella Maty Leather about a coach from Burghill to Hereford where you could see pig climbing up a tree backwards

# Trades & Crafts

14th May  
SET Social,  
Peckham

Doors 18:30  
Films Start 19:30

## The Nettle Dress



*Dylan Howitt*  
2022 • 68 MIN • DOCUMENTARY

Textile artist Allan Brown spends seven years making a dress by hand just from the fibre of locally foraged stinging nettles. This is ‘hedgerow couture’, the greenest of slow fashion but also his medicine. It’s how Allan survives the death of his wife that left him and his four children bereft, and how he finds a beautiful way to honour her.

The film follows the whole journey through all the seasons and years. Foraging, spinning, weaving and cutting the cloth. Finally a healing vision of the dress back in the woods where the nettles were picked, worn by one of his daughters. It’s a kind of alchemy: transforming nettles into cloth, grief into renewal. A labour of love in every sense, The Nettle Dress is a modern-day fairytale and hymn to the healing power of nature and slow craft.



## Oatmeal Stout

*Lewis Kerr Baillie*  
2023 • 5 MIN • DOCUMENTARY

Following Gordon Hush - a warm and charismatic bottle digger, we gain an insight into his average day.

Having spent the last 30 years in the library researching various locations of Victorian dumps within his local area, Gordon has made a name for himself within this niche community. Digging up bottles from abandoned dumps - what started as a hobby, has turned into a lifestyle. In this short documentary, we follow Gordon on his never-ending quest to find the perfect bottle.

## Layers of Reed



*Mark Hannant*  
2023 • 9 MIN • DOCUMENTARY

Deep in the heart of the Waveney valley, Master Thatcher Nick and his apprentice Olly work on the ancient roofs of East Anglia. Keeping the craft alive, they challenge modern practices, following long standing traditional methods using local materials.

This film accompanies them over a short day in their working lives, following their methods & musings and uncovering the ‘truth on the roof’.

## Fíodóra

*Tom Oliver*  
2025 • 6 MIN • DOCUMENTARY

Fíodóra, named after the Irish word for weaver, offers an intimate portrait of award-winning textile artist Lara Pain, as she invites us into her London studio to experience the ancient magic of handweaving. Through elegant cinematography and an enchanting soundscape that samples the rhythmic beat of Lara’s loom, fíodóra transforms the slow, meditative pace of handweaving into an immersive, sensory experience. The result is a poignant reflection on tradition, sustainability, and the creative process, offering a quiet rebellion against a world favouring perpetual speed and mass production.

## The Pole Liner

*Martin Evans*  
2016 • 10 MIN • MOCKUMENTARY

An interview with the last of the Telegraph Pole Alignment Officers out on his patch somewhere in rural Wales.

# In Conversation: Folk and Britishness

## 17th May Morocco Bound

Doors 14:30  
Discussion 15:30



OffBeat’s founders will be joined by guests to discuss the folk revival movement, why people are once again turning their attention to Britishness, and how we might begin to navigate the complex, often uneasy relationship many have with these islands. In recent years, Britons have looked afresh at folk heritage, culture, and their own place within it all. Is it just coincidence that this revival has come during one of the most uncertain periods in recent memory? A pandemic, an escalating climate crisis, over a decade of austerity, rising prices, war in Europe, and, of course, Britain’s departure from the European Union.

# OffBeat People

## 18th May The Mildmay Club

Doors 12:00  
Films Start 12:30

## The Zen Art of Stone Squeezing



*Harry Wheeler*  
2023 • 11 MIN • DOCUMENTARY

Back in Spring 2022 Harry Wheeler got a phone call from local community activist and death doula Mary Clear. She tells him that she’s helping a man out by the name of John Mounsey, “he only has four weeks left to live” and wants to document his last days on film. Since then, Wheeler and Mounsey have been chatting and collaborating. ‘The Zen Art of Stone Squeezing’ is a by-product of a film Wheeler is making about a precognitive dream that involves John dancing in his own coffin. John takes us through his life of being a Dry Stone Waller and how by integrating Kung Fu into his practice, he has been able to overcome adversity and live a life of poetry, where inner places seem to match and coincide with the physical landscapes he finds himself working in.

## Seven Days To Sidmouth

*Peter Vaughan*  
2019 • 10 MIN • DOCUMENTARY

Following Simon on his maiden voyage with Eddie, his horse, travelling on foot from Dorset to Devon in time for the Sidmouth Folk Festival. Meeting friends and strangers along the way, a glimpse into the life of a British Traveller.

## Under The Forest

*Ryan Powell*  
2021 • 13 MIN • DOCUMENTARY

In the Forest of Dean is a community of people continuing the ancient practice of Freemining: a traditional way of mining for coal and iron ore in small scale mines. The detailed knowledge involved has been passed on by oral tradition since time immemorial. This film gives a snap shot of three of the last operational mines in the Forest and the people that work them.

## How Fast Can You Eat A Pickled Egg?



*Daniel England*  
2025 • 13 MIN • DOCUMENTARY

At a pub in East London locals gather to see who can eat a pickled egg the fastest. In this documentary short meet the founders of the event, uncover the surprising origin story and join the locals as they take part in an all-day egg eating event.

## Jessie’s Cabinet of the World



*Katya Julia Kasterine*  
2024 • 8 MIN • DOCUMENTARY

Jessie has transformed his childhood home into a cabinet of over 700 artefacts. Set over the course of a day in Luton, the film follows his journey as a passionate collector and aspiring museum owner. We accompany Jessie and his mother as they chat over lunch and rummage through second-hand shops in search of his next treasure.



# People With A Plan

## 18th May The Mildmay Club

Doors 14:30  
Films Start 15:00

### Learning to Cry



**Lewis Lewis**  
2025 • 21 MIN • DOCUMENTARY

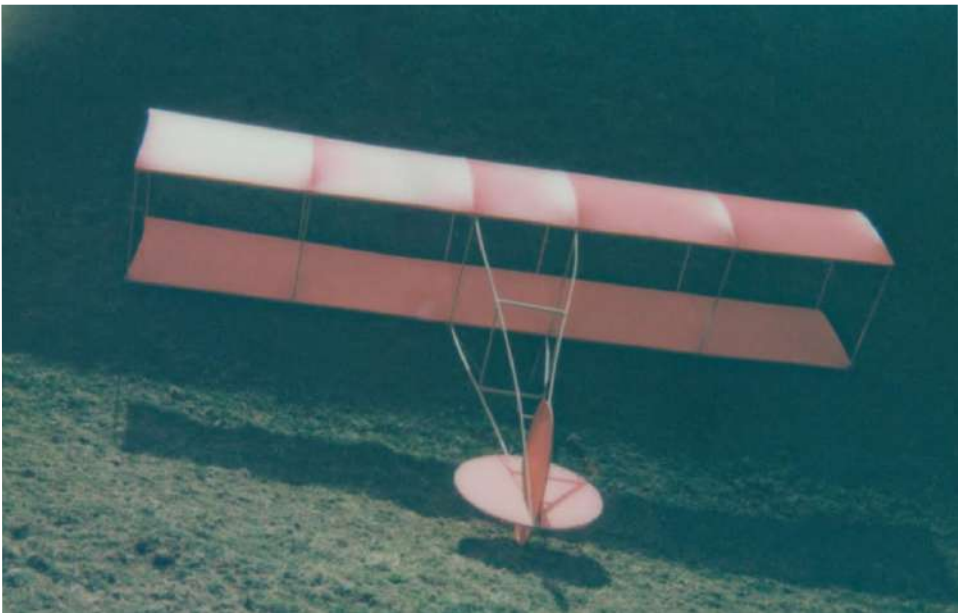
Crying in public is something people try not to do. For some men, it's a way of life. As the audition to become the new Town Crier of Much Wenlock nears, Joffrey, the only applicant, must decide if he's ready to take the role seriously.

### In Mist or Cloud

**Willow Senior**  
2023 • 8 MIN • DOCUMENTARY

Seagulls are an essential requirement to any British seaside story, and it is surprising to learn that over the past 55 years their population has declined by over 75%, making them one of the fastest declining bird species in the UK. This story takes its name from a line of 'The Rime of the Ancient Mariner' by Samuel Taylor Coleridge, and follows the group one day in Summer as they release gulls back to the sea. I also worked with a local folk singing group using a few lines of Coleridge's poem to develop a small piece of music.

### Zizzou



**Joel Kerr**  
2023 • 7 MIN • DOCUMENTARY  
'Zizzou' is a short film of an aviation enthusiast, who builds a flying machine the archaic way in her studio in Dorset, and attempts to launch off Eggardon Hill.

### Bellsmyre Caledonia

**Jack Guariento**  
2022 • 6 MIN • DOCUMENTARY  
'Bellsmyre Caledonia' looks at housing, work and leisure during the pandemic, and considers the way in which the time opened up by Lockdown presented an opportunity for expanded critical thought.

### Fortunes Is Our Family Name

**Marcos Ricardo Shephard**  
2024 • 20 MIN • DOCUMENTARY  
Fortunes is our family name, is a short documentary showcasing the heritage and tradition of a dying craft, emphasising the importance of keeping these historic processes and their proprietors alive and in business. We capture the daily life of Barry Brown and touch upon the history of Fortunes Kippers in Whitby.

### Leaward

**Crusoe Weston**  
2024 • 7 MIN • DOCUMENTARY  
Filmed in a single day in spring 2024, Leaward is a short form documentary profile piece about the people and places surrounding the River Lea, in north East London. Through a series of audio interviews we discuss the significance of the area with community activists, volunteers, local business owners and local residents. Portraits and atmospheric B roll footage illustrate the dialogue finding beauty in the everyday and ordinary.

# Daisy Rickman Live

## 18th May The Mildmay Club

Doors 18:30  
Event Starts 19:30

### Awards Ceremony

To finish off the festival, we're hosting the first ever OffBeat Awards Ceremony, a celebration of some of the standout films from this year's programme. We'll finish the evening with a live set from Daisy Rickman at The Mildmay Club. A proper end to the week. We've asked the emerging artist and designer Hannah Rot to create a series of handmade and individual ceramic awards. We will be awarding prizes in four categories:

*Best Sound and Music*  
*Best in Folk*  
*Community Award*  
*OffBeat Award*

### Of The Sun & Moon



**Alex Cantouris**  
2022 • 17 MIN • EXPERIMENTAL

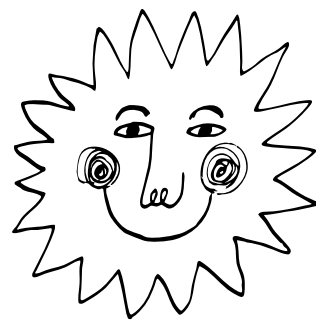
Two supernatural beings embodying the forces of the Sun and the Moon must work together to sustain the balance of the world.

### Daisy Rickman & Guests

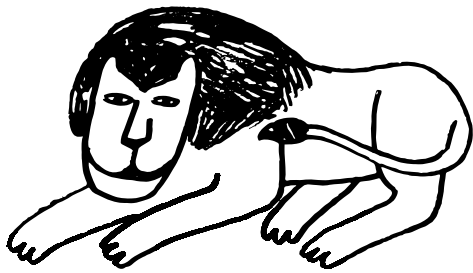


We're going to be closing the Festival with a live set from Daisy Rickman and her guests. Daisy is a musician and artist from Mousehole, Cornwall, whose music blends hypnotic folk melodies with a dreamlike, psychedelic feel. Deeply inspired by Cornish landscapes and folklore, she ties together delicate fingerpicked guitar, rich vocals, and a whole array of instruments, all of which she records and produces herself. Her albums Donsya a'n Loryow and Howl show her ability to create really immersive, atmospheric soundscapes that feel timeless and personal.

Beyond music, Rickman is also a visual artist, with her paintings reflecting the same mystical and natural themes found in her songs. We are absolutely delighted to welcome her to the OffBeat Folk Film Festival for a special live performance. An unforgettable way to close out this year's programme.







OffBeat started in 2022 with a handful of friends in a working men's club in Walthamstow. Since then, it's grown into a regular screening night and now this, the first film festival dedicated to British heritage and working culture.

This first festival takes place in venues across London where we will be screening and celebrating contemporary films about Britain.

We were bowled over by the number and quality of submissions we received, and we hope this is just the beginning of something that can grow.

Thank you to the filmmakers for their wonderful submissions, we enjoyed watching every one of them.

[WWW.OFFBEAT.FILM](http://WWW.OFFBEAT.FILM)  
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