

Carols are not just for Christmas

We have a post-Victorian, romantic, view of medieval Christmas celebrations and carolling. This talk aims to dispel this idea and give a more realistic impression of medieval carolling, not just at Christmas but at any time of year and on some very irreligious topics.

The talk is in four parts.

1. A background introduction to secular medieval carolling as a popular activity.
2. A study of a manuscript in the British Library that contains some interesting and surprising carols, especially considering its author, who was a Franciscan Friar.
3. Case studies of some familiar carols including The Boar's Head Carol and Down in Yon Forest. A look at the work of the folk collectors Vaughan-Williams, Cecil Sharpe and others, and the folk carols
4. Some participatory carolling based on a carol contained in a 1550 publication Richard Kele's *Christmas Carolles Newly Inprinted*.

This talk would appeal particularly to literary societies, history societies and music societies, among others.