

Head Teachers' Comments

"We love having the Holly and The Ivy Roadshow in School because it is so lively. The children are totally involved in enjoying traditional festive music of a kind they don't get the chance to hear anywhere else. This is the kind of musical event where everyone leaves smiling with a feeling that Christmas is indeed just around the corner."

*Hilary Cooper
Barnes Junior School, Sunderland*

"The Holly and the Ivy Roadshow is an annual event at our school. The children learn about traditions through joining in with songs and stories which are delivered in a fun and active way. Our children and staff look forward to David and his team's arrival every Christmas time!"

*Angela Hunter
Burradon Primary School, North Tyneside*

"The Holly and the Ivy show is one of the highlights of our Christmas end of term celebrations. It is most enjoyable for both staff and children as all take an active part. It is so refreshing to hear traditional songs and music, some quiet and peaceful, the children were engrossed throughout!"

*Judith Cunningham
Church High, Newcastle upon Tyne*

For further information and to book the Roadshow, contact
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The Holly and The Ivy



A Midwinter Roadshow for Schools

*presented by David Oliver,
Laura Connolly and Stewart Hardy*



David Oliver
Accordion, Vocals

Laura Connolly
Flute, Clogs, Vocals

Stewart Hardy
Fiddle, Vocals

David Oliver is one of Britain's most experienced folk educationalists as well as a fine performer. A former head teacher and chair of FolkArts England, he was for sixteen years Folkworks Education Director.



Laura Connolly is a superb dancer, a graduate of Newcastle University's Folk Music Degree and member of The Demon Barber Roadshow; she made a big impact when featured in the BBC4 TV programme 'Come Clog Dancing'.

Stewart Hardy is a internationally-acclaimed performer, composer and teacher with numerous recordings and broadcast credits to his name.

All are seasoned workshop leaders with vast experience (and conspicuous success) in working with children and teachers.

The Holly and the Ivy

Schools Folk Roadshow for Midwinter

The Schools Roadshow began as a Folkworks project and has run very successfully for 7 years. Some schools love it so much that they book it every year and the feedback has been 100% positive - no exceptions.

It's a concert lasting between 45 and 60 minutes, presenting songs, stories, dances and customs associated with Midwinter, Christmas and the New Year. It's lively, informal, participative and highly professional. It includes both Christian and secular material – or rather it doesn't distinguish between the two - all of it traditional in both content and style. There are some moments for quiet listening, and lots of opportunities for children to join in the singing, and to dance and/or join the band.

As well as being a lively and enjoyable concert, the roadshow helps children and teachers to gain deeper insights into the significance of many of our midwinter customs and traditions. Schools receive a detailed preparatory letter and a teachers' notes, giving background information and words and music for some of the material.

The schools roadshow is both highly entertaining and genuinely educational – lively, serious and fun. Though originally designed for upper primary or middle school age-groups, it has proven suitable for a wide range of ages, both Primary and Secondary, and is often performed to whole-school audiences. It is performed acoustically, and up to three performances per day can be given.

