

Folk at Tiddy

On Saturday 24th November 2007 we held the 16th Folk Night since we resurrected them in 1996. Our guest was Johnny Silvo, see photograph. He has a fantastic voice and includes folk, blues and jazz in his repertoire. Some of



you may remember when he used to perform in the old Tiddy Hall accompanied by Dave Moses. He later went on to appear in television programmes like Playschool and Playaway. He lives in Norway and has done so for the last twenty years. It is hard to believe we first met him nearly forty years ago!

As always our evening commenced with *The Last Straw*, who never fail to entertain us, as does Bob Buckingham with his jocular sense of humour, and not forgetting Tony Collin's excellent input as MC for these events. The purpose of this particular evening was to raise money for Tiddy Hall funds and we achieved the grand sum of £710.25.

Draught Porridge and the Yetties

Folk at the old Tiddy Hall was started by John Townsend, late of Shipton Road, Ascott, in 1968 and Tony Collins was MC although not living in Ascott then. In those days they were called Ceilidhs and were held once a month. We had guests like *The Yetties*, Johnny Silvo, Dave & Toni Arthur, Pam Ayres, Isla St Clair, Martin Carthy and Noel Murphy, to name but a few. Noel Murphy used to be in a duo called *Draught Porridge* with

Davey Johnstone. Davey later went on to play in Elton John's band and for some years now has been Elton's musical director. *The Yetties* and Noel Murphy have since been guests at the new Tiddy Hall.

In Memory of John

John Townsend became ill in the late 1980's and he died of Lupus in April 1995. After the new Tiddy Hall was opened in 1994, we were asked many times to resurrect the folk evenings, so in 1996 we thought it would be a good idea to have a folk night in memory of John Townsend. *The Ripley Wayfarers* were our main guests and a good night enabled us to give a donation to a Lupus charity, as well as to raise funds for the new hall. We then went on to hold a Folk Night once a year, usually around October time to raise money for Tiddy Hall funds. These have raised over £8,000. But it didn't end there! In 1998 a new Sports pavilion was built on the playing field. The Sports Club needed funds to help with the running costs, so we started having Folk Nights to help them, the first being in March 2002. This has resulted in raising over £3,500 for the Sports Club and about £600 from raffles to Coldstone Angling Club. The next planned Folk Night is on **29th March 2008**. For those of you who have never been to one of our Folk Nights why not give it a try next time? Look out for posters or on the Ascott website:

www.ascott-under-wychwood.org.uk

Lyn Collins