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Fantastic folk lure

BROMYARD Folk Festival, the last major folk event of the year, promises a celebration of traditional folk music set in the beautiful Herefordshire countryside.

There will be plenty on offer in the way of great music, singing, dancing, eating, drinking and entertainment during the event, which runs from Friday, September 13 to Sunday, September 15.

England's finest and most popular roots duo, acoustic folk legends Show of Hands, are headlining this year.

Steve Knightley, who writes most of Show of Hands' inspired material, and has been described by Radio 2's Mike Harding as 'one of England's great singer-songwriters', and Phil Beer, a dazzling multi-instrumentalist, have built up a huge following which has seen them sell out the Royal Albert Hall three times, headline major festivals from Glastonbury to WOMAD and play all over the world.

Voted Best Live Act by the public at the 2004 BBC Radio 2 Folk Awards, the jury is still out on just what kind of music they play. A genre-defying mix of rock, roots, blues, country and trad, and often influenced by the music of other countries, it is played out on an



array of instruments from slide guitar to fiddle, mandolin to South American cuatro.

Folk roots will be revived by the high energy Gordie MacKeeman and his Rhythm Boys, who serve up old-time roots music with an energy level that practically yanks you out of your seat by the collar.

The Rhythm Boys were given the Galaxie Supernova Award at the 2012 Ottawa Folk Festival for outstanding live performance - you can catch them on Saturday.

Also on offer is the chance to get retro with the French traditional Texan combo that is the Cajun dance band Sarah Savoy and the Francadians, comprising David Rolland on accordion, Manolo Gonzales on upright bass, with Vincent Blin on fiddle.

Earlier in the summer Sarah and the band per-

formed on Radio 2's Mark Radcliffe's Folk Sessions, a set that's available to download on iTunes.

Sunday brings the opportunity to feast your ears on the fine female folk quartet of Eliza Carthy, Bella Hardy, Kate Young and Rachel Newton - replacing Lucy Farrell, who is unable to make the festival as previously announced.

With more than 175 hours of live entertainment, there is a wide variety of concerts, ceilidhs, workshops and displays to choose from, and the town comes alive with the torch-lit Morris procession and the pubs buzz with musicians.

On the music festival site there is also a craft tent crammed with traditional hand-made products, a wide variety of freshly cooked cuisine options and a great selection of real ales and ciders.

A popular feature of the

festival, the Dancers' Day of Dance once again features a busy programme of dances and dance workshops on Saturday from 10am to 10pm at the Falcon Ballroom in Bromyard town centre, while one of Sunday's highlights is the Future of Young Folk Award, taking place in Falcon Mews from midday to 1.30pm.

Open to any singer up to the age of 25, application forms are available from the Information Office on the festival site to be submitted by 6pm on the Saturday. The winner will receive a handsome trophy and be booked to appear at next year's Bromyard and Warwick Folk Festivals.

To book tickets for Bromyard Folk Festival, call The Courtyard box office on 01432 340555, visit courtyard.org.uk or bromyardfolkfestival.com, where you will also find full programme details and further information.

Show of Hands headline Bromyard Folk Festival.

Bottom: The Rhythm Boys.

Inset: Sarah savoy and the Francadians.



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