



THE SELSEY SHANTYMEN

Songs of the sea. Stories, harmonies, humour - and a proper live show.

ELECTRONIC PRESS KIT | 2026/27

Traditional and contemporary maritime songs from the Sussex coast

ABOUT THE BAND

Who are the Selsey Shantymen?



The Selsey Shantymen are a Sussex-based group of singers and musicians with the sea at the heart of their repertoire. They perform traditional working shanties, call-and-response songs and forebitters alongside later folk and popular songs that belong naturally in a maritime set.

The repertoire can move from Leave Her Johnny, The Leaving of Liverpool and Mingulay Boat Song to Sloop John B, A Sailor's Still a Sailor, Sailing Man and Sussex My Home. The result is rooted in tradition without being trapped by it.

Most of the band may qualify as 'greybeards', but the hallmark of a Selsey Shantymen performance is its warmth. Sets are prepared; what happens between the songs is often spontaneous. Humour, good-natured banter and a genuine connection with the audience are as much a part of the show as the harmonies.

Live & in full voice



A Selsey Shantymen set is made to be shared. Big ensemble vocals, solo leads, instruments, call-and-response and songs audiences can join in with - delivered with the easy informality of a group that enjoys being on stage together.

REPERTOIRE SNAPSHOT

- Traditional working shanties and walk-backs
- Forebitters and songs of sailors' leisure time
- Folk songs and maritime favourites
- Contemporary and reworked material with a strong sense of place

The band is equally at home in a theatre, at a folk or maritime event, or on an outdoor festival stage. The aim is simple: strong songs, strong voices, and an audience that feels part of the occasion.

FESTIVALS & APPEARANCES

At home on a festival stage



CHICHESTER GALA



OOSTENDE VOOR ANKER, BELGIUM - MAY 2025

From outdoor stages to formal venues, the Selsey Shantymen bring a visual identity that reads immediately: striped shirts, red neckerchiefs, a bank of voices and the relaxed confidence of an ensemble used to performing together.

The Selsey Shantymen were invited to perform at Oostende voor Anker in Belgium for three consecutive years, reflecting the band's natural fit with maritime and folk events. For festival programmers, the format is flexible: a lively stage set can combine traditional material, familiar songs, audience participation and the band's own distinctive repertoire.

A live album recorded in 2026 provides a further snapshot of the band in performance and is available on the major streaming services.

COMMUNITY & CHARITY

A significant part of the band's work each year supports local and national charities, including the RNLI and the Chichester Mayor's charities. Throughout the summer, the Shantymen perform free in front of Selsey Lifeboat Station, as well as supporting charitable and community events at many other venues.

Watch. Listen. Book.

Everything you need to hear, see and book The Selsey Shantymen.

WATCH

Performance videos & online

www.theselseyshantymen.co.uk

LISTEN

Live at the Minerva

album.link/vnpzvsjr9h84f

BOOK

Bookings & enquiries

Brian Sullivan

brian@theselseyshantymen.co.uk

+44 (0)7546 591471

PRESS

Images & further information

www.theselseyshantymen.co.uk

Suggested one-line description

Traditional and contemporary songs of the sea, delivered with big voices, warmth, humour and an unmistakable Sussex character.

PRESS PHOTOGRAPHY

High-resolution publicity images are available on request.

Photography by Bev Downie.