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Press Release



New Publication from The Ballad Partners

THE FORGOTTEN SONGS OF THE UPPER THAMES: FOLK SONGS FROM THE ALFRED WILLIAMS COLLECTION Edited by Martin Graebe

Between 1914 and 1916 Alfred Williams cycled 13,000 miles around the Upper Thames Valley to collect the words of nearly 800 songs. More than 400 of these were published in the *Wilts and Gloucestershire Standard* at the time, and of those about half were published in Williams's 1923 book *Folk-Songs of the Upper Thames*.

This new book by Martin Graebe contains the 205 songs that were not included in the book, together with Williams's introduction and conclusion, notes on the songs, and other materials.

Martin Graebe is a well-respected performer of traditional songs, along with his wife Shan, and is Secretary of the Traditional Song Forum. His extensive research and writing on notable figures in the history of traditional song includes his book *As I Walked Out: Sabine Baring-Gould and the Search for the Folk Songs of Devon and Cornwall* (Signal Books, 2017), which received both the Katharine Briggs Folklore Award and W.G. Hoskins Prize.

The Forgotten Songs of the Upper Thames: Folk Songs from the Alfred Williams Collection

is available from The Ballad Partners website <https://theballadpartners.co.uk>, price £15, plus £3.50 postage.

The Ballad Partners was set up as a charitable publishing company in 2018 in order to publish conference papers and books on traditional song, music, dance and custom and to raise awareness and encourage the study of the folk arts.

Note to magazine editors:

if you would like to review the book, please contact secretary@theballadpartners.co.uk to request a review copy.