



Bob Dylan — Roots & Branches

A friendly singaround for all ages & abilities

When & Where

Friday 29 August, 7.00–9.00 pm

Centre 70 (next to the KineCroft), Wallingford

Host: Greg Mayston

On this day... Friday 29 August was the opening day of the 1969 Isle of Wight Festival; Bob Dylan's set was on Sunday 31 August. Let's mark the weekend with songs from the roots and branches, and from Bob himself!

What's this about?

A relaxed, welcoming singaround celebrating Bob Dylan's songs, his source material (the Roots: Woody Guthrie, country blues, American & British Isles folksong) and the music he inspired (the Branches: The Byrds, Fairport Convention, The Band, Jimi Hendrix, Bruce Springsteen, and so many more).

Come to sing, play, or just listen. Guitars, banjos, fiddles, harmonicas, voices, hand percussion — all welcome. Beginners to seasoned pros.

How it works

- Round the circle — offer a song/tune, request one, or pass.
- All levels welcome. If you'd like quiet backing, say the key; if not, fly solo.
- Choruses & harmonies encouraged — give us the line and a nod.
- Short intros welcome (a root/branch link or fun fact).
- Aim for ~3–5 mins so everyone gets a turn — but let the music breathe.

Nice-to-have (totally optional)

- A song or tune title and (if you know it) a key.
- A chorus line to teach or 1–2 lyric sheets.
- A capo/tuner if you play; harmonica in C or D is handy.
- Mostly: curiosity, kindness, good ears.

Quick-pick song ideas (no pressure!)

Dylan classics (easy to join):

Blowin' in the Wind • Knockin' on Heaven's Door • I Shall Be Released • Don't Think Twice, It's All Right
• I'll Be Your Baby Tonight • Mr. Tambourine Man • You Ain't Goin' Nowhere • All Along the Watchtower
• Forever Young • The Times They Are A-Changing • I Shall Be Released

Roots — songs Dylan drew from:

Woody Guthrie (Pastures of Plenty, I Ain't Got No Home) • Traditional ballads (e.g., Barbara Allen, Lord Randall) • Country blues & songster repertoire (Lead Belly, Mississippi John Hurt, Rev. Gary Davis) • British/Irish folk (Child ballads; Nottamun Town-type airs) • Early country & gospel standards

Branches — artists & versions he inspired:

The Byrds • Fairport Convention • The Band • Jimi Hendrix • Joan Baez • Judy Collins • Johnny Cash • Bruce Springsteen • The Waterboys • The Pogues • Neil Young • Grateful Dead

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Fancy lining something up in advance? Totally options of course!

Drop Greg a quick note with:

- Your name & instrument/voice
- Song/tune title
- ROOT or BRANCH (and source/artist)
- Key (or “we’ll find one”)
- Chorus-friendly? (Y/N)

Message/Sign-up: Greg — gregorymayston@aol.com

Hosted by Greg Mayston. Guitar backing available or if you'd prefer, invite the whole room in — or go solo. The spotlight is on you and the songs.