

ARCHIVE `NEST' LAUNCHED AT WREN

Devon's leading Folk Arts project is joining with a leading westcountry folklore archivist to launch a local initiative with national significance.

Okehampton based Wren Trust are engaging the services of an experienced folklore librarian to organise, promote and make accessible their `nest' of reference material. This will involve indexing thousands upon thousands of song titles held in books and manuscripts and cataloguing hundreds of hours of tape recordings of local traditional singers.

Wren are fortunate to engage Jacqueline Patten, an archivist, local historian and performer currently engaged in ground breaking research on the manuscripts of Cecil Sharp and Baring Gould.

From their base in Morchard Bishop, Jacqueline and husband Bob have established an enviable reputation as the Westcountry's leading folk collectors. They are also recognised for their exceptional abilities as documentors, responding to countless requests for research material each year and publishing such milestones as A Somerset Scrapbook with its own sound cassette.

If this scheme goes well, there are plans to link the Patten archive more closely with Wren and to act as a reference point for other collections throughout the south west.

"We see the resulting archive as a living thing", said Jacqueline, "useful to musicians, singers, community projects, local historians, schools, students, theatre companies and the media."

"We are happy to engage Jacqueline, since an archive is more useful the more knowledgeable, approachable and energetic the archivist" said Marilyn Tucker, Wren Projects Co-ordinator, "we see this as a resource with not only regional, but national and international potential."

Launch date has now been set for Tuesday November 29, when the process of building a well-ordered nest will begin.

Jacqueline may be contacted direct, and other times a message can be left at Wren Trust Office.

Above article dated 24th November 1994 - source not named - supplied by our President.