

69 **fRoots**

most relaxed festivals in the UK

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Friday 9th August 2015
Bareham, Hampshire

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South
Side



SAVE £20 ON 'EARLYBIRD' SEASON TICKETS

Andy Fairweather-Low
duettes • The Dhol Foundation
ck • Edward II • Martin Carthy
/ Band
Spectacular



successes, disasters and
retreads: enthusiasm,
tedium and dismay
noted in passing.

The albums – good (👍), adequate (👎) and bad (👎) – which didn't get the full-length treatment, contributed individually by a selection of our various reviewers covering under the cloak of collective anonymity.

👎 **Michael Chapman *Savage Amusement*** (Secret Recordings SECCD115). Reissue of 1976 album, recorded by Stax producer Don Nix. Toughened-up band versions of *Shuffleboat River Farewell* and *It Didn't Work Out* alongside well-chosen covers make for an

👎 **River Drivers *River Drivers*** (Own label, no cat no). Songs of the disenfranchised and the oppressed that speak for themselves, so say the sleeve notes. Not sure how *Whiskey In The Jar* qualifies for that. But if you're into meaty chorus singing and Dubliners territory these are hearty, if familiar, items from a band who obviously have a passion for their repertoire. www.riverdrivers.com

👍 **Jig Jam *Oh Boy*** (JJ CD 111). Irish trio who successfully combine elements of their own traditional music with bluegrass. Irish tunes work particularly well, singing also up there so a lot to be pleased about. www.jigjam.ie

👍 **Lindsay Lou & The Flatbellies *Iona*** (Earthwork 7 00261 41468 3). More original acoustic music from Michigan quartet. Outstanding lead singing from Lindsay Lou. Often edgy, with good mandolin and dobro playing, plus top supporting harmonies from band. Songs avoid all bluegrass clichés and are better for it. www.lindsayloumusic.com

👎 **Dorten Yonder *Dorten Yonder*** (Own label, no cat no). A group which got together at Whitby Folk Week to sing the songs of Maggie Eiseman-Renyard. Some interesting songs amongst them, but nothing very special in the performances. www.facebook.com/DortenYonder

👍 **I Draw Slow *White Wave Chapel*** (Own label, no cat no). Irish acoustic outfit, fiddle-led instrumentally, highlighting the singing

👎 **Tim Jones & The Dark Lanterns *St Giles' Bowl*** (Cotton Mill Records CMR002). Evocative of an era when groups called Flibbertigibbet, Spriguns Of Tolgus and Brandywine Bridge walked the earth, and with an historical songwriting style not dissimilar to present-day Fairport, this should appeal to English folk-rock fans young and old. www.cottonmillrecords.co.uk

👎 **10,000 Maniacs *Twice Told Tales*** (Cleopatra Records, no cat no). Once-great band releases collection of standard "folk songs from the British Isles": *Marie's Wedding*, *Wild Mountain Thyme*, *Do You Love An Apple?*, *Carrickfergus*, etc. "The most ambitious album of their career," claims PR blurb. "Pants on fire!" says *fR*. www.maniacs.com

👍 **Johnny Adams *I Won't Cry: The Complete Ric & Ron Singles 1959-1964*** (Ace CDCHD 1424). I defy anyone not to feel their spirit soar on hearing the soulful pleas of Johnny Adams. Grab a significant other (or squeeze yourself) and smooch relentlessly around a dancefloor to some sweet, sweet New Orleans soul and R&B. Reckon you're on a promise! www.acerecords.com

👎 **The Drystones *A Tale Of Sound & Fury*** (Own label no cat no). Growing in confidence Drystones' second offering is a maturer work which sees guitar and fiddle expanding beyond the expected into other instrumental combinations. Tunes now augmented by songs both trad and Gillian Welch's *Rock Of*