



Cirencester Archaeological and Historical Society

A Cotswold Garland

Talk by Martin Graebe

23 May 2018 at 7.30 pm, The Ashcroft Centre, Ashcroft Road, Cirencester, GL7 1RA

Non-members of CAHS are welcome, £3 at the door.

A circle of ten miles in diameter, drawn on the map and centred on Cirencester Parish Church touches Tetbury, Purton, Fairford, Aldsworth, Northleach, Birdlip, and Avening. In his talk, Martin Graebe will describe the traditional song, dance, and drama to be found within the circle and tell the stories of some of the men and women involved.

You will hear about three very different men who came into the area to collect folk songs between 1907 and 1935. There will also be a chance to learn about some of the men and women from the area who sang for them.

You will also meet the Cirencester printer who, from 1825 – 48, produced the broadside ballads that were sold at the fairs that were held in the Market Place, just outside his door and which helped spread traditional songs through the area.

You will see how the efforts of a small group of women, who organised events in Coates, Sapperton, and Cirencester, led to the creation of the first branch of the English Folk Dance Society in 1911.

And much more besides

The talk will be illustrated with archive photographs, film, and recordings, as well as a few songs and tunes from Martin and Shan Graebe.