



By The Way by David Wade

Here are some up and coming events that are worth a look at....

Midlands-North Banjo Rally will again be at Clowne near Chesterfield and will take place on

Saturday 6th May.

Clowne Community Centre is about 10 minutes drive East from the M1 Junction 30 - S43 4PL for those with SatNav. The day will follow the usual format with doors opening at 12 noon and the informal concert starting at 1pm with easy community pieces.

Contact Dave: 07976-875-619 for details.

American Banjo Fraternity

Next Rally: May 18th - 20th Newark Garden Hotel, Newark, NY

Theme: Tribute to Albert Baur Website: www.banjofraternity.org

Contact: Joel Hooks, Executive Secretary: joelhooks@me.com

Ukulele Society of Great Britain

Next Rally: Sunday 2nd April Digswell Village Hall, Welwyn, Hertfordshire AL6 0AT. Website: www.usgb.co.uk

Contact: via the Website for more information.

Lute Society

Residential School 'Lutefest 2017' 23rd - 26th March at Benslow Music Trust, Hitchin

April 22, EXTRA MEETING!, at the Dutch Church, joint study day with the Early Dance Circle on dancing to the lute in the 15th century.

AGM : 6th May at the Dutch Church, London, EC2N 2HA.

More information Chris Godwin: 01483 202159

Midland Fretted Orchestra - Change of venue

Instruments: All fretted instruments

Contact: Danielle Saxon Reeves on **07947 168192**

Venue: **St. Peter's Parish Hall, Pedmore Lane, Stourbridge,**

West Midlands, DY9 0SW. Time: Fortnightly on Thursdays **7.30 – 9.30pm excl. August.** Website: www.m-f-o.co.uk

And on the horizon:

The British BMG Federation Summer School 2017

June 16th - 18th. Knuston Hall, Irchester, Wellingborough, Northamptonshire, NN29 7EU. Contact: Sandra Woodruff : 07946-716-591

Classical Guitar Retreat

The ninth **Classical Guitar Retreat** takes place in the summer of 2017 5th July - 10th July Cathedral of the Isles on the island of Cumbrae off the West Coast of Scotland

Contact: Matthew McAllister : 07190-471-486

Web: www.cgretreat.com



Singer/guitarist and songwriter Grant Maloy Smith takes you on a haunting journey through America's worst environmental (and economic) disaster in the 1930s with his new album, 'Dust Bowl' — American Stories. His last album, 'Yellow Trailer', released in 2013, put him on the Grammy ballot for the eleventh time. 'Dust Bowl' picks up where 'Yellow Trailer' left off sonically and carries on down that same road, but with new twists and turns. You can catch this riveting musical tale on all streaming sites in early June 2017!

He takes cues from traditional Celtic music, making it a truly unique, distinctly American genre and celebrating the melting pot culture we have. In 'Dust Bowl', Smith tells heartfelt stories of real people set to the backdrop of the history of the 1930s. In addition, Smith blends in influences from the music made from the traditional instruments brought by farmers along their journey away from the drought-affected areas. Check out the first single on the link below, 'I Come From America', off the upcoming 'Dust Bowl' - American Stories album by Grant Maloy Smith, set to release on June 2, 2017.

<https://soundcloud.com/grantmaloy-smith/01-i-come-from-america/s-ZfiSp?in=grantmaloy-smith/sets/dust-bowl-american-stories/s-EnrDE>