



Story Records Limited, The Glebe, Sampford Brett, Taunton, Somerset, TA4 4LA

Web: [www.angehardy.com](http://www.angehardy.com) Twitter: @AngeHardyMusic Facebook: [www.facebook.com/angehardy](http://www.facebook.com/angehardy)

Bookings and tour manager: Rob Swan on 07703 677 578 or [rob@story-records.co.uk](mailto:rob@story-records.co.uk).

## Along the Coleridge Way

West Somerset folk music star Ange Hardy (nominated at the 2015 BBC Radio 2 Folk Awards) has been awarded public funding by the National Lottery through Arts Council England for her next folk music project; to write and present an evening of music inspired by the life and work of the romantic poet Samuel Taylor Coleridge and to present it at 14 rural locations along the route of The Coleridge Way in October of this year.

The funding, which is being delivered in three stages, covers a range of activities including researching and writing the material as well as organising and promoting the tour which will also include a limited number of song writing workshops. Ange has secured funding for Exeter based session musician Lukas Drinkwater to accompany her on the tour to provide backing vocals, double bass, and guitar. As an active and exceptionally talented musician Lukas has performed live on the Radio 2 Folk Show several times this year, as well as at the launch concert for Ange's last album.

In January Ange completed the task of writing the new songs, which includes music inspired by Coleridge's relationships with friends, family and acquaintances, verses of his poetry set to music, new songs inspired by his characters and stories, and even tales based on fragments of his dinner table conversations. Ange's music has often been observed as being deeply personal, this project sees Ange stepping outside the familiar comfort zone of her own experiences and into the life of another.

Since winning the FATEA Female Vocalist of the Year award in January 2014 Ange Hardy has established an enviable reputation as one of the fastest emerging folk acts in the UK, a position cemented by her BBC Radio 2 Folk Award nomination this year. Her third studio album 'The Lament of The Black Sheep' was one of only three folk albums last year to be awarded 5-stars by The Telegraph. Bringing the story full circle it was in January 2015 awarded FATEA's most prestigious award of all, Album of the Year, in the same week that Mike Harding referred to Ange Hardy as "one of the most interesting, powerful and talented singers and songwriters to come out of the last couple of years".

The initial idea of applying for Arts Council funding was broached at a BBC Introducing residential which took place at Halsway Manor in August 2014. Ange and her husband Rob (who is also her sound engineer, manager, and co-runs her record label) made the application themselves directly from the Arts Council website after several months of planning and having taken advice from other local groups involved in the Coleridge Way including ARTLife.

Speaking of the project Ange said "I'm honoured and overwhelmed by the wonderful opportunity that Arts Council England have given me – I never got the chance to finish school or study music so this is the first time in my life I've been able to approach a project like this - it's going to sound amazing! Once I had a firm idea of what the project was going to look like the application was fairly easy to complete; the hardest bit was writing the detailed budget. We had to show that the project would generate an amount of money that was equal to the amount we were asking for - the majority of that is coming from ticket sales during the tour, or being provided as support in kind through time and resources being donated by members of the community".

For more details and to stay updated on the project join the mailing list at [www.alongthecoleridgeway.co.uk](http://www.alongthecoleridgeway.co.uk).

The tour venues have now all been confirmed:

Saturday October 3rd*	<b>Nether Stowey Village Hall</b>
Sunday October 4th*	<b>Halsway Manor</b>
Tuesday October 6th	<b>Holford &amp; District Village Hall</b>
Wednesday October 7th*	<b>Bicknoller Village Hall</b>
Thursday October 8th	<b>East Quantoxhead Village Hall</b>
Friday October 9th	<b>Sampford Brett Village Hall</b>
Saturday October 10th*	<b>Stogumber Village Hall</b>

Sunday October 11th	<b>Moorland Hall at Wheddon Cross</b>
Monday October 12th*	<b>Roadwater Village Hall</b>
Wednesday October 14th	<b>Luxborough Village Hall</b>
Thursday October 15th	<b>Luccombe Village Hall</b>
Friday October 16th*	<b>Porlock Village Hall</b>
Saturday October 17th	<b>Brendon &amp; Countisbury Village Hall</b>
Sunday October 18th*	<b>Lynmouth Pavilion</b>

\* indicates afternoon writing workshop