

Music extra



Julian Lloyd Webber performs for the festival at the Memorial Theatre on Sunday, July 13, at 7.30pm. Tickets are £21



Glenn Tilbrook, formerly with chart toppers, Squeeze, heads to the festival with his new band The Fluffers playing the Cheese And Grain on Thursday at 8pm. Tickets are £16



Graham Gouldman and 10cc are at the Cheese And Grain music pub on Saturday, July 12, at 8pm. Graham was brought up in Manchester and took on the role of lead guitar in his first band Whirlwinds before rocking the world with such hits as I'm Not In Love, Art For Art's Sake, Rubber Bullets and Mandy Fly Me. Tickets are £28.50



Paul Merton and his ad lib chums – minus the robot – are at the Merlin Theatre on Tuesday playing to a sell-out crowd as part of the festival

Singer lived in haunted house

Frome Festival ticket hotline: 01373 455420

Seth Lakeman plays the Cheese And Grain on Wednesday at 8pm. Tickets are £16

NOT many folk singers can claim Colonel Gaddafi, the Libyan leader, as a fan.

Seth Lakeman not only played the university circuit in Libya at his request, but was invited to dine with the country's Foreign Secretary.

Because of the quintessential Englishness of the singer's music he is in demand in countries such as Malawi and Columbia.

"We are a story band with an English sound," said the fiddle player.

"I had an invite from Mr Gaddafi to play in the colleges in Libya and the dinner with the Foreign Secretary was very nice.

"We are doing a festival in Malawi in September and in Columbia in January."

When I spoke to Seth he was about to go on stage at Glastonbury and said his girlfriend was dancing round to the bands as we spoke.

"Hannah is a lovely girl, she is a nurse in Bristol. She is not a big folk fan but she likes our music," he laughed.

The singer/songwriter has been going to festivals since he was 15 years old and loves the vibe and watching other bands.

FLICKY HARRISON talks to Seth Lakeman about his festival dates and ghost stories

FACTFILE: SETH LAKEMAN

Born: March 26, 1977 in Somerset

Family: brother Sean plays in the band with him, and brother Sam lives in Devizes

Live now: Edge of Dartmoor

Keep fit: Running on the moor

Instruments: Fiddle, guitar, mandolin, anything string-based

Favourite music: REM, Peter Gabriel and World Music

First band: The Lakeman Brothers with Sean and Sam

"I caught The Levellers last night," he said.

Last weekend it was Glastonbury, this week Seth is playing at the Frome Festival thanks to his brother Sam and sister-in-law Cara Dillon who live in Devizes. Seth says he is looking forward to it.

"I love playing live, it is the best part of what I do."

He will be playing tracks from his new album, called Poor Man's Heaven, which was released last Monday on Relentless Records.

"It is a heavyweight, rhythm driven album which is rooted in the West Country," said Seth.

All his songs are narrative, with some true stories, such as

Soloman Browne, his interpretation of the Penlee lifeboat disaster in Cornwall, where 16 people died in 1981. The story was covered by his journalist dad.



"That was why I personally wanted to tell the story," said Seth. Other songs are ghost stories and creepy Wessex tales. Seth says he believes in ghosts because he once lived in a haunted house.

"It was an old lepers' washhouse and weird things kept happening, such as the TV flicking on and off and the gas hob suddenly lighting itself.

"Later we found out that an old woman had lived there and she was a harmless ghost."

Seth's second album, Kitty Jay, was recorded in his brother Sean's kitchen in Dartmoor for £300. The brothers' first gig was to a captive audience – the inmates of Dartmoor prison.

From then Kitty Jay opened the doors to hit singles such as White Hare and Lady Of The Sea, Mercury prize nominations and appearances on TV and festivals all over the world.

Hot stars from all worlds join festival frolics

FROME Festival has drawn some hot stars this year, including Claire Teal from the jazz world, comedy king Ken Dodd, singer/songwriter Andy Fairweather Lowe (formerly of Amen Corner)

and folk princess June Tabor. The festival runs until Sunday, July 13, with a host of stars, talks, activities, dance and arts workshops.

This year the festival even has an answer to

Glastonbury's Shangri La Fields with Lucid Lounge, Resonate, Late Night Flicks and Cabaret sans Frontiers. Courtney Pine, Spanish guitarist Maria Angel Garcia and the Jolly Jump Dance

Theatre, and the Frome Drama Club all entertain and the great hall at Longleat House will be open to the public.

The festival is a celebration of the world within Frome.