**The Holloway: 2nd full album from duo Milton Hide**

**Album release: 31 March 2023**

Milton Hide (AKA husband and wife Jim and Josie Tipler), who live at the foot of the Long Man of Wilmington hill figure in East Sussex, are set to release their 2nd full album.

*The Holloway* aims to capture the atmosphere of an acoustic band playing right in front of you. Just like every Milton Hide performance, these original self-penned songs are are extremely varied in style and content - from traditional-sounding ballads to contemporary gently-picked emotive songs and political satire. Compared to their widely praised debut album, *Temperature’s Rising* (2021) which was highly produced and featured lots of guest musicians, the band’s latest release takes a slightly different approach.

Jim Tipler: *“We are so proud of Temperature’s Rising and felt it would be very hard to top it. So we thought, as we are an acoustic act, we’d present these songs as if we’re performing just for you, the listener. We approached Phil Jones of Long Way Home Music, who we felt would keep us on track”*

*“We write songs in order to perform them to an audience”* added Josie *“so all of these songs have been performed live already. That meant that the arrangements were pretty much in place. But recording is very very different to performing live - there is nowhere to hide.”*

In order to keep the simplicity and honesty of this album there is very little overdubbing - in fact a couple of the tracks are recorded as a single live take. The only other performers are producer Phil Jones who plays bass and bodhran, Simon Yapp on strings and Bruce Knapp on electric guitar.

**Single release**

The first single, *Widow’s Revenge*, is scheduled for release on **19 January**, accompanied by a video created by the band themselves

*“It’s a song of revenge”* says Josie *“Our first ep, Little Fish, included a murder ballad called Monkyn Pyn which features two female victims and we felt strongly that they deserved to have their voices heard!”*

In keeping with the tale, the video, shot by Jim and Josie in their living room, is very dark and builds on the shadow style the couple used on a previous video (*Littlefield*, released 2020).

**Album title**

*“The Holloway? We got the idea for the album name from a beautiful place we walk with the dog.”* Says Jim. *“ The path has got lower and lower over the centuries and trees have grown overhead to form a kind of tunnel. You can’t help but imagine the thousands of feet that have trodden it. We didn’t have a title track, so I said Josie should write a tune on the clarinet to finish the album. It’s one of my favourite bits”.*

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**Video for *Widow’s Revenge* single release (embargo until 18 Jan 2023):**

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=PoVvaxtL4nQ

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**Milton Hide are:**

Jim Tipler: vocals, guitars and mandolin

Josie Tipler: vocals, clarinet, cajon, xylophone

**Album Guest musicians:**

Phil Jones: double bass, electric bass and bodhran

Simon Yapp: violin and viola

Bruce Knapp: electric guitar

Produced by Phil Jones and Milton Hide

Album artwork: Dappled Holloway by Josie Tipler

Band photography: Alex Thomas

**The Holloway - Album by Milton Hide**

**TRACK NOTES**

**All Gone South**

A stomping, up beat song with recurring celtic style clarinet riff and a catchy chorus. It’s a song of three parts all on the theme of things ‘going south’ - both literally and metaphorically. The first verse is about a fellow musician, Dave, who moved to France and every year headed south to winter in Spain - he was the first inspiration for the song which Jim wrote on a small, slightly wonky guitar hand made by Dave. The second verse is a lament about the English ‘north/south divide’, manufacturing having taken a back seat to financial services. The final verse is about the perceived hypocrisy of some well-known Brexit supporters who retain property in Europe!

**Cuckmere**

A gentle Sunday afternoon, laid-back song featuring sparkling twelve string guitar overlaid with mellow yet soaring clarinet and delicate vocal harmonies. Originally written by Jim for a previous band he played with, The Dawgs, the lyrics have changed from a country style death-row song, to become a sentimental song about the nature and landscape of Josie and Jim’s beloved Cuckmere Valley. (Interestingly, the chorus is unchanged from the original ‘death row’ version)

**Found Drowned / A Perfect Place**

Both heartfelt laments, *Found Drowned* is an a capella duet, inspired by a painting of the same name by Frederick Watts. The term ‘Found drowned’ was used on death certificates in Victorian times for those who had taken their own life so they could have a christian burial. It is used here as a metaphor for the feelings held at the time by many after the result of the Brexit vote. *A Perfect Place* is a hauntingly melodic instrumental piece on guitar and clarinet - originally recorded with lyrics as *A Perfect Place To Hang* on Milton Hide’s debut EP, *Little Fish* (2018).

**The Ballad Of Gabriel Oak**

With simple, classic mandolin and pure vocals, this folk song epic relates the story of *Far From The Madding Crowd* (Thomas Hardy) centring on the book’s hero, Gabriel Oak. The chorus line ‘…when I look up it’s you I’ll see. When you look up it’s there I’ll be’ is borrowed from a well known phrase in the book. The tune was composed on a mandolin Jim bought from the estate of local amateur luthier, Ronnie Moore. The instrument was one of hundreds of unfinished instruments Ronnie created from wood reclaimed from his job as caretaker at the old Hellingly mental hospital.

**A Little Bit Alike**

Gently swinging with slight Americana feel, the instrumental riff based on a traditional cajun tune, this call and return duet with single guitar is about how the differences between us make life good. The band perform this as both a gentle sentimental song and an up tempo rocking song - they recorded the slow version for the album in a single live take.

**Widow’s Revenge**

The tale of a woman wrongly accused of being a witch who returns to wreak her revenge, this atmospheric and dark track features layers of vocals, rhythmic and melodic guitar as well as double bass, clarinet and cajon. The song gradually builds from a gentle, melancholic start to a frenzied pagan dance. *Widow’s Revenge* is a follow up to Milton Hide’s murder ballad, *Monkyn Pyn* which featured on their debut EP, *Little Fish* (2018).

**Anning’s Fossil Depot**

A beautiful string arrangement by Simon Yapp weaves amongst the delicate guitar and vocals of this track. Originally composed on piano, the riff in this short melodic song gives a gentle nod to the *Fossils* of Camille Saint Seans’ *Carnival Of The Animals*. Mary Anning was an 18th century palaeontologist who lived in Lyme Regis. Her contribution to science has only been fully recognised in relatively recent years.

**Sparkle Jar**

Inspired by the book *Fingers In The Sparkle Jar* by Chris Packham this track has the natural, gentle feel of *Tales of the Riverbank*. Dreamy twelve string guitar meanders around the vocal harmonies and clarinet. It tells the story of a boy totally absorbed in the ground level world of nature and trying to find his place in the world. *“…beautifully worded song”* Chris Packham

**Unsaid**

Unsaid was written after the sudden passing of a friend who had gifted Jim a twelve string guitar. With its heartrending soaring chorus and contemplative quiet moments, this is a very emotional song which is sometimes challenging for the band to sing through tears. Their friend left a young daughter without being able to say goodbye properly and this is Josie’s imagining of what he might have said to her - the mundane and the profound.

**The Happiest Man On Earth**

A surprisingly upbeat song with a gentle country rock feel featuring additional bodrahn and electric guitar, *The Happiest Man On Earth* is a tribute to a book of the same name by Eddi Jaku. Auschwitz survivor, Eddi, was an inspirational speaker, having vowed to be the happiest man on earth as a mark of respect for all of those lost in the holocaust.

**The Holloway**

As title track, this is the only one written specifically for the album. A very short but emotive instrumental piece, slow clarinet flows through lilting guitar, guiding the listener along the dappled holloway. To walk along a holloway is to tread a well-worn, ancient path. Shafts of sunlight guide you through a tunnel of intertwined trees.

**Milton Hide, *Temperature’s Rising* 2020 - what They say:**

*“Eclectic in style, sound and subject matter. Delightfully engaging and distinctly moreish …There’s political comment and dark undercurrent across many of the tracks, yet so subtle and easy is the music that you don’t realise the stiletto has arrived until it’s slid in…A very welcome addition to the contemporary roots scene”* RnR Magazine

*“‘Riding The Whale’ – achingly gorgeous track and certainly one of the best I’ve heard so far this year …Superior storytelling and well-crafted arrangements.. this is one of the strongest debuts of the year so far”* FATEA

*"There isn’t a bad track on this album and it left a big smile on my face. It is some of the most heart-warming and uplifting music I’ve heard in a while.”* Spiral Earth

*"…‘Temperature’s Rising’ will also help bring the duo’s unique talents as songwriters, singers and musicians to a much wider audience…"* Darren’s Music blog

*"…Temperature’s Rising should deservedly seem them greatly widening their fanbase horizons.…"*  Folking.com

*“…elements and overtones reminiscent of The Moody Blues, praise indeed!”* Living Tradition

*“…one of this year’s ‘must have’ folk albums.”* Get Ready To Rock

**Notes for Editors:**

Media enquiries to: **Jim Tipler** +44 (0)7980 892072

info@miltonhide.com

***The Holloway.* Private Soundcloud link** (for review/preview purposes only): *<https://soundcloud.com/user-309342621/sets/the-holloway/s-DPHYBrCEv5V?si=dfbb8a9ca9244aa98fbe66debf3a6685&utm_source=clipboard&utm_medium=text&utm_campaign=social_sharing>*

***The Holloway* Press Pack** including images, mp3s, etc available here: *<https://www.dropbox.com/sh/u40rb7rct5q107r/AADOFoXtVLiBnjVNrjQnpFfva?dl=0>*

**Band Website:** *<https://www.miltonhide.com/>*

**Facebook:** *<https://www.facebook.com/miltonhide/>*

**YouTube:** https://youtube.com/playlist?list=PL2yKNMDRprSLv\_Bw\_q05HH45UCBZtpRHn

**Instagram:** *<https://www.instagram.com/milton_hide/>*

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