

The artists

Rowan Rheingans *vocals, fiddle, banjo*

Hazel Askew *vocals, melodeon, concertina, harp*

Hannah James *vocals, accordion, clogs, foot percussion*

“A Lady Maisery show always feels like a celebration; a celebration of harmony singing, of friendship and of female solidarity.” (*Gavin McNamara, Bristol Beacon*)

The combined vocal and multi-instrumental talents of Rowan Rheingans, Hazel Askew and Hannah James make up the uniquely captivating band **Lady Maisery** who have enthralled audiences for well over a decade throughout the UK and Europe.

As individuals they are three multi-award-winning artists. As Lady Maisery they form a unified voice, carrying stories of sisterhood, human struggle, the joy of living and the vitality of song with the “freshest possible take on traditional music” (*Folk Radio UK*). Their long-standing collaboration has been described as “adventurous and beautiful” (Mark Radcliffe, *BBC Radio 2*), “exquisite and thrilling” (*The Guardian*) and with “a generosity of spirit and joie de vivre that seems to emanate from every minute of their recorded output as well as from their exuberant live shows.” (*Folk Radio UK*)

Their fifth studio album *Tender* was released at the end of 2022 to general acclaim. An arresting record, exploring the power in vulnerability, the tenderness of collective wounds and strength in kindness, it was hailed as “a beguiling blend of ancient and modern” (*The Times*) and “both nurturing and raw, a sensitive response to the times we are living in.” (*Daily Info*)

Their latest recording, *Wakefire: a Summer Album*, appeared in May. It’s a sibling to their earlier 2018 production *Awake Arise: a Winter Album*, also with Jimmy Aldridge and Sid Goldsmith.

The group’s name occurs in a number of folk songs, and in particular the ballad *Lady Maisry*, published as number 65 in the second volume of Francis James Child’s monumental collection *The English and Scottish Popular Ballads* (1882-1898).

‘Lady Maisery are women with ideas, purpose and urgency.... powerful, enthralling work’ *Songlines* * * * * *

ladymaisery.com

Visit www.little-missenden.org

Festival Patron: David Matthews

Grateful acknowledgements

We thank all those who have helped with the Festival or supported us financially and in other ways. Special thanks to the funding bodies, sponsors and supporters listed below, without whose generous help there would be no Festival.

The Hinrichsen Foundation



Vaughan Williams Foundation

The Friends of the Little Missenden Festival

Little Missenden Parish Council

Little Missenden Parochial Church Council

St Peter and St Paul Church, Great Missenden

Great Missenden, Little Missenden

and Hyde Heath Schools PTAs

Rayners, Penn

Hamptons International Estate Agents

The Michael Cox Fund

Laurette Read

Bluepepper Designs

The Festival Volunteers

Piano: **Bechstein C-234** from **Jaques Samuel**

Tuner: **Jim Denton**

Flowers: **Rosemary Ladd**

Next Year's Festival

The 2027 Little Missenden Festival will run from Friday 8th to Sunday 17th October.

Festival Website little-missenden.org

- See the full **2026 Festival Programme**
- **Book Tickets** (or phone 0333 666 3366)
- Be added to our **Mailing List** for next year's brochure
- Find out about the **Friends** or **Sponsorship**

Booking Information

- Email: tickets@little-missenden.org
- Phone: 01494 958148 between 11am and 8pm

General Information

- Email: contact@little-missenden.org

Little Missenden Festival Executive Committee

Chair: Dick Ware

Committee: Angela Bishop, Polly Buston,
Martin Cunningham, John Glasson,
Beth Neill, Mark Stanton, Liz Wager,
Dick Wells, Rachel Wilcox

Programme Notes

LADY MAISERY



8pm, Thursday October 8th, 2026
Little Missenden Church

66th Little Missenden Festival