

Fair and musicians to delight and enlighten

THIS Saturday, there will be a full day of enlightenment at Glastonbury Town Hall with new age demonstrations and music from two top bands.

During the day from 10.30am-7pm, a psychic and holistic fair will be staged featuring psychic readers, healers, therapists, alternative and complimentary health, arts and crafts, talks, demonstrations and entertainment. Admission to the event is £2.50.

In the evening from 8pm, Glastonbury band Dragonfly will be performing as will be Nick Ashron and his band Elfin Spiral.

Dragonfly is an inimitable union of acoustic musicians who weave together instruments as diverse as hurdy-gurdy, mandolin, tabla, electric bass, bouzouki, and is fronted by the distinctive and rare talent of lead vocalist and piper Maya Preece. She is accompanied by Cliff Stapleton (ex Blowzabella), Daygan Robinson (Tsunami), Nathan Williams (Resonators), Tom Simenauer (Goma, Krishna Das), Duncan Moss (Shave the Monkey) and Thrisha Haldar.

This vibrant and original septet interlace new and old songs, tunes and dance pieces inspired by their personal experiences and musical backgrounds, be it Wales or India, medieval or contemporary folk. The result is a musical landscape of groove driven music that is at once passionate, and high energy yet tender and entrancing. The music celebrates community and the spirit of the land, enchanting the audience to sing, dance and be stirred.

The band has made its mark at festivals like Priddy Folk Fair, The Big Green Gathering and Glastonbury Festival, as well as playing concerts to a dedicated following across the South West of England. Dragonfly members have also worked on solo projects with other artists, including Eliza Carthy, Andy Cutting, Sheila Chandra and Billy Bragg.

Since he was a young boy, Nick Ashron had an "inner knowing." His journey through his lifetime has been to discover what it was he knew!

It was apparent at this early age that art and music were going to be the tools that would provide the insights, experience and wisdom that he has now come to understand.

He started writing songs at an early age while living in Borneo with his parents. On returning to England he attended art college and formed a band. After leaving college he set up his own portrait studio in a number of holiday resorts and became actively involved with the resident bands.

It was during this period that his interest and involvement in healing and spiritual development grew. Recognising the potency of music as a medium to channel healing energy, he started writing music with this intent and formed a band named Pegasus - a progressive New Age melodic rock band, and performed at one of the earliest Mind, Body and Spirit festivals held at Earls Court



SATURDAY CONCERT: Pictured above is the fusion band Dragonfly, who along with Nick Ashron (below) will be performing in Glastonbury.

London in 1979.

Nick then worked several years for a music copyright company in London as a licence negotiator, issuing licences for use of music in television, film, video and advertising productions. This gave him the motivation to set up his own music label - Wandering Minstrel Music, and initially produced four albums that represented the Four Elements of Earth, Air, Fire and Water.

Nick rapidly made a name for himself in and around the festivals and fairs that promoted a spiritual, ecological and holistic awareness. He performed at the Glastonbury Festival with the band he called Crazy 4 Animals (inspired by his then 12-year-old daughter Anna).

During the period prior to and during the creation of a double album project entitled Celestial Gateways and Tribal Awakenings, Nick formed his current band Elfin Spiral.

Doors for the concert open at 8pm, and advanced tickets are £7 from the Crystal Man in Northload Street or £8 on the door.

■ ANOTHER psychic and holistic fair will be held on Saturday 29 January at the Marine Theatre in Lyme Regis from 10am-5pm.

