

The Miss Varwells Throwleigh

The Miss Varwells Throwleigh was performed in Throwleigh Village Hall by local residents in March 2017. It is our interpretation of one woman, Emmie Varwell, and her views and feelings about the place she had come to love and call home.

It combines extracts from her publication, '*Throwleigh – The story of a Dartmoor Village*' with photographic images taken from the collection of the Throwleigh Archive. In addition there are tunes and songs, some specially written using her words, whilst others are drawn from the English folk and ecclesiastical traditions, together with some contemporary popular songs mentioned in her book.

The production aimed to be enjoyable, but also to enhance a 'sense of place' about this very special part of the world.

The Music

Act 1

- 29th May – Playford
- *Lemady* – traditional
- *But You Must Believe in Pixies* – Emmie Varwell / Jon Bell
- *All Change Now* – adapted from a song by 'J' Cunningham
- *Mayden Lane* – traditional, arranged by Paul Wilson
- *The Mariners Way* – Trevor Munkenbeck
- '*Old Brimmie*' – Emmie Varwell / Jon Bell to a tune by Henry Clay Work
- *Onward Christian Soldiers* – S Baring-Gould to a tune by A Sullivan
- *Who Would True Valour See* – Words John Bunyan / traditional
- *When The King Enjoys His Own Again* – Martin Parker
- *The Diggers Song* – Gerrard Winstanley / traditional
- *All Change Now* – reprise



Act 2

- *Tommy Roberts' Hornpipe* – traditional Dartmoor step dance tune
- *All Change Now* – reprise
- *Off to Philadelphia In The Morning* – sound recording of J. McCormack
- *The Keel Row* – traditional
- *The Old Arm Chair* – Frank B. Carr
- *Go And Leave Me If you Wish It* – traditional
- *Frocks and Socks* – Emmie Varwell / Jon Bell to a tune by Paul Clark
- *To Be A Farmer's Boy* – traditional
- *Ghost Walk Beginnings* – Emmie Varwell / Jon Bell
- *Lord in the Morning* – Isaac Watts
- *Farewell My Dearest Dear* – Adapted from a traditional song arranged by Shirley Collins
- *Lemady* – reprise



'Throwleigh – The Story of a Dartmoor Village'

Emmie Varwell's account of the village was first published in 1938 at a time when Throwleigh had changed little in comparison to the social revolution that would occur in the mid and later twentieth century. It is very much a book 'of its time' highlighting the interests of an educated, unmarried lady of independent means living, together with her sister, in an isolated rural community. She was interested in the landscape, nature, local history, the people and their way of life and concerns. But, as an incomer herself, she was particularly fascinated by the 'characters' she encountered and their stories, sometimes of events long ago. It reflects a way of life that would have been typical of many other contemporary villages, both on Dartmoor and beyond.

Emmie and her sister Elizabeth who, confusingly, was always known as Michael, arrived in Throwleigh in 1909. They lived first at '*Pease Close*' and then '*Wooda*.' Emmie died in 1952 and Michael in 1973.

'Throwleigh – The Story of a Dartmoor Village' has been reprinted and is now available from The Throwleigh Archive – archive.throwleigh@virgin.net