

Magazine of the Hertfordshire Folk Association

Affiliated to
EFDSS

PUDDINGSTONE



Inside
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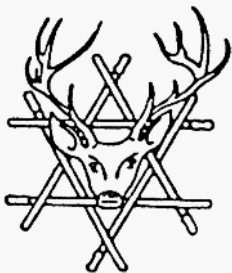
Issue 47

Summer 2010

May - August

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Where sold



HERTFORDSHIRE FOLK ASSOCIATION

Key contacts (see further details on middle pages)

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Tel: 01707 320299

COPY DATE

for Autumn Issue
(Sept - Dec 2010)

1st August

PUDDINGSTONE EDITOR NEW DETAILS!

Mr Adrian Burrows

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ADVERTISING RATES

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the Hertfordshire Folk Association

The views expressed in this magazine are not necessarily representative of those of the HFA or the editor.

The editor reserves the right to edit received items as appropriate.

Puddingstone welcomes articles, news, pictures, letters and music, as well as Advertising and will review CDs on receipt (space permitting). All material should be sent to the editor - preferably by email.

Preferred digital format for artwork:- .JPG or .PDF. Preferred text format:- Word or plain text. Other file types may be accepted on receipt.

If you would like an advert/article/piece of music etc. published in Puddingstone but do not have the facilities to electronically produce it, please contact me, as I may be able to do this for you.
(subject to available time)

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For more information, phone 01438 811905
or email alantriog@aol.com

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HFA committee, particularly
Roger Swaine, Nic Nicolson &
Terry Elvins.

The Hertfordshire Folk Association is now online! Check out
our web site at: www.hertsfolkassn.org.uk

Editorial



Well, the time has come for me to say goodbye. As you will read on page 5, Adrian Burrows has kindly agreed to take over the role as editor for Puddingstone. I'm sure he will do a fantastic job and would like to wish him all the very best of luck with it.

As some of you may be aware, I am the proud Mummy of a 15 month old son, Jack. Having recently returned to work, I have been struggling to find the time needed to produce Puddingstone.

I do intend to stay involved in the magazine and with the Herts Folk Association.

Sorry if this starts to sound like an awards ceremony speech but I do need to say some thank yous! Firstly to all contributors - without you there would be no magazine so thanks for all your work in getting articles and adverts written, produced and sent through.

Next I would like to thank the HFA committee for all their help and support, particularly those who have helped with the magazine distribution. I also need to say a massive thank you to my mum, Dawn Skye for a great deal of advert

chasing and general support. Finally, to both mum and dad for all of their proof-reading services!

I have thoroughly enjoyed my two and a half years and seven issues as editor and know that I will miss it.

All the best,

Sally Page

WANTED: CD reviewers

Puddingstone often receives CD's in the post to be reviewed. The editor does not often have time to do this and is always looking for reviewers. If you would be interested in receiving a **free CD** and writing a review, please contact the editor using the details opposite.

Do you have a story but no time to write it?

Why not contact the editor (please note the new contact details on page 2) and we will arrange for one of our reporters to contact you and write up your article. They will then send you a copy to approve and we will include it in our next edition.

Similarly, if you have any great photos from folk events, please send them in with the basic details of who/where etc. and we will include them.

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The largest free folk festival in the UK!

**Old Town, Library Gardens
& other venues in Leigh-on-Sea**

See web sites for full detail!

June 21-27 2010

**Jackie Oates, Alasdair Roberts, Megson
Cath & Phil Tyler, Nancy Wallace
The Owl Service, Vicki Swan & Jonny Dyer
George Papavgeris, Horses Brawl, Rosh
Kittiwakes, She'Koyokh Klezmer Ensemble
Famous Potatoes, Goldmaster All Stars
and many more to be announced....**

**With an international array of dance sides, including morris, clog, rapper, Irish,
Appalachian, cajun, salsa & belly dancing. Plus pub sessions, singarounds,
ceilidhs, mummers, open mic, music & dance workshops, procession, poetry,
multimedia, storytelling, kids' activities, and the beach!**

www.leighfolkfestival.co.uk

www.myspace.com/leighfolkfestival2009

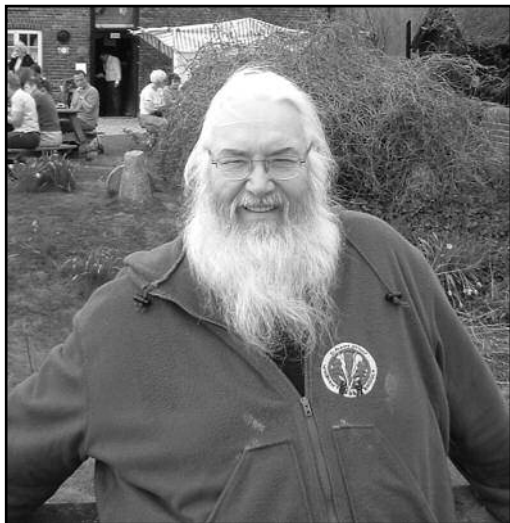
enquiries: 01702 715111

tony@priority.ms



**Essex Folk Association
affiliated to E.F.D.S.S. & East
Anglian Folk Council**

YOUR NEW EDITOR!



As I shall be taking over as editor for the next edition of Puddingstone, I felt it would be a good idea to introduce myself, and tell you a bit about my background. Sally has been showing me the ropes so I hope to be ready to take over without too many hitches, and look forward to your contributions. I was one of the founder members of English Miscellany, so Sally and I share many Folk experiences and contacts. I was introduced to Folk dance many years ago by my Grandmother. She loved barn dancing, but Grandfather didn't, so as soon as I was big enough to partner her I was treated to nights out round Bedford, mostly with the Orange and Blue. I became involved with helping run various folk clubs at University, Rothamsted and the Bull at Redbourn as

well as being a regular at the Goat in St Albans, About this time I was drawn into performing with English Folk Packet, which in turn led to my being part of the genesis of English Miscellany. I also started calling and teaching English Country Dance initially at an after School Club, and this has gradually expanded so that over the years I have worked with many of the local bands. The opportunity to contribute to Puddingstone coincides with retirement, so I look forward to being able to expand my folk life to include a new dimension. I would like to take this opportunity to say thank you to Sally for all her help getting me started and to the group of people working in the background to support each publication...please keep those contributions coming.

- Adrian Burrows

EFDSS news DCMS Consultation

EFDSS's responses to two Department for Culture Media and Sport consultations are now available to download from www.efdss.org.

The first consultation closed on 26 Feb and is on the proposed amendment to the Licensing Act 2003 so that entertainment facilities are not licensable if used solely for the provision of exempt incidental music.

The second consultation closed on 26 March, and is on the proposed exemption of small live music events from the

requirements of the Licensing Act 2003 so that live music events for audiences of not more than 100 people entertainment facilities are not licensable

Arts Council Funding

The English Folk Dance & Song Society (EFDSS) is delighted to announce that it has become one of Arts Council's Regularly Funded Organisations and will 400,000 of funding over two years. The funding will enable EFDSS to become a national development agency for folk music and set up a number of exciting new initiatives that will benefit the folk sector.

For further info, visit www.efdss.org

CD Review

Various Performers 'Many a good Horseman' Traditional Music Making from Mid-Suffolk – recorded 1958-1993

This double album first appeared as a set of audio cassettes and an accompanying book in 1985. The reissue on CD has been re-mastered from the original recordings, now in the National Sound Archives of the British Library. Most of the recordings were made by John Howson in the early 1980s, but there are some that date back to the late 1950s. The quality of the recordings does vary as most were made in less than ideal conditions, but the fact that they convey the atmosphere of a typical Suffolk song and music session in a pub – including background noises of conversation, clinking glasses, etc., only adds to their value as documents of social history as well as 'gold mines' for singers and musicians.

While earlier collectors, such as Sharp, tended to note down mainly 'ancient' ballads and 'old' songs, these recordings show that country performers often had wide repertoires that not only included classic 'Child' ballads but also Music Hall songs, Victorian 'tear jerkers' and anything else that took their fancy. The tunes played on

the melodeon, accordion and mouth organ are similarly wide ranging in style – marches, song tunes, polkas and hornpipes – tunes suitable for that East Anglian speciality, the step dance, being especially popular.

Any aspiring performer of traditional material will find much of interest here – several songs occur in different versions, sometimes to unfamiliar tunes.

As is usual with Veteran releases (double CD set: VTDC8CD), the accompanying booklet is packed with interesting biographical details of the performers and with full references to other recordings and publications. In addition further information and the complete words of the songs can be obtained from the Veteran website: www.veteran.co.uk or from Veteran Mail Order, PO Box 193, Stowmarket, IP14 3WZ. For enquiries, please call 01449 673695.

- John Grey



John Kirkpatrick In The Victorian farmer's year in song

Songs and music from the TV series

**Sunday May 23, 7pm
Music workshop, 2pm**

**Kingsbury Barn,
Branch Road, St Albans**

Further information and tickets
<http://www.stalbansfolkmusic.org.uk>
info@stalbansfolkmusic.org.uk
01727 852111

DanseHerts

French & Breton Music & Dance
now in our fourth year *SIFD Affiliated*

Our group meets
on the second Sunday of
each month

12:00 - 17:00

Musicians
session/practice
12:00 - 13:00

Dance Tuition to live music
13:00 - 14:00

Dancing to live music
14:00 - 17:00

Dancers, Musicians
of any level
always welcome

always help on hand
always fun

Please bring your own
drink, and food to share if
you wish

Sunday

11th April

9th May

13th June

11th July
(No Meeting)

8th August
(No Meeting)

12th September

at

Ickleford Village Hall
82, Arlesey Road,
Ickleford,
Nr Hitchin, Herts.
SG5 3TG

£5 (conc. £4)
Unless otherwise stated

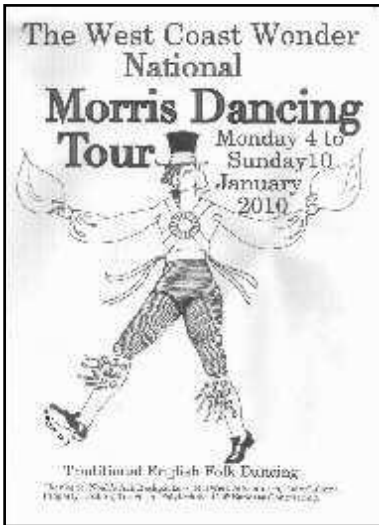
For further details visit:

www.danseherts.co.uk

New Zealand Morris Tour - January 2010

By Sylvia and Geoff Simmonds

(Wicket Brood Border Morris & Whitethorn North West Morris)



Geoff and I were lucky to be able to join the above tour during our recent holiday. We had been to New Zealand before and had danced with a North West side based in Christchurch. They are called Nor' West Arch Morris named after a local weather phenomenon. We had learnt some of their dances and had taught them some of our Border Morris dances. The other sides on the tour came from elsewhere in New Zealand and from Australia.

We all met at Greymouth on the west coast of the South Island. For this reason the tour was named the West Coast Wonder, the theme for the tour being based on the local 'wonders' coal, gold and jade. There were other 'wonders' as well such as the rain and the sand flies, but we did our best to avoid those. Modes of transport to Greymouth varied from the Trans-Alpine train, plane and in our case a mini-bus.

Accommodation was in either the Noah's Ark Backpackers or the Youth Hostel. The tour took over the Backpackers but a few of us were billeted to the Chapel in the Youth Hostel which was a 10 bedded room and very cosy. Breakfast and some meals were included in the cost of the tour but a lot of the time we ate on the move, grabbing the opportunity to have a drink or a snack whenever we could.

Traditionally there is a tour dance or two. This year Nor' West Arch taught Lancashire Clog. The Cotswold contingent (of whom there were many) taught Bold Arethusa. At each dance out all the members of the tour could join in with the group dance as well as doing dances with their own side.

The tour lasted for 7 days which included travelling and the first day which was taken up with registration and the teaching of the tour dances. On our second day the tour started at Shanty Town an open air museum where we had an audience and sunshine at 9.30am. After dancing we all went off to do a bit of gold panning and came away with our precious bottles of gold. We then travelled to Hokitika to dance outside the Jade factory in the main street. The Cotswold sides danced round the clock tower in the middle of the road.

The next day we all travelled to Punakaiki, first of all to dance and then to look at the pancake rock formations, a famous landmark on this stretch of the coast. The tour split up to go sightseeing and so during the rest of the day we either went on a train trip along the Nile river, through native forest or to Cape Foulwind to see seals. As Nor' West Arch were responsible for decorating the hall and doing the food for the



Tour Group

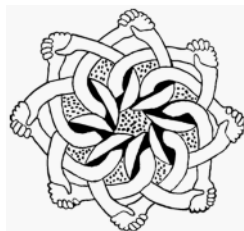
12th Night party we missed out on seeing the seals. Instead we went to set up at the Runanga Miner's Hall a historically interesting building in what had once been a vibrant coal mining community. After blowing up balloons and cutting up cheese and vegetables etc. we returned to Grey-mouth to put on our fancy dress gear. The theme for the night was West Coast Wonder and there was such a variety of imaginative costumes. I went as a sandfly and Geoff was a gold prospector. There were people dressed as pieces of gold, rain showers, pancake rocks and sandfly exterminators.

On our free day it poured with rain, so there was not much activity and we were all able to have a rest. The next day started wet and we arrived at our first spot, a park in Reefton in teaming rain. We were relocated to the town so that



All hands around

*Lively traditional music
in an acoustic style
for your barn dance or ceilidh*



*Alison Macfarlane
St Albans (01727) 852111
Geoff Perrin
Hemel (01442) 262320*

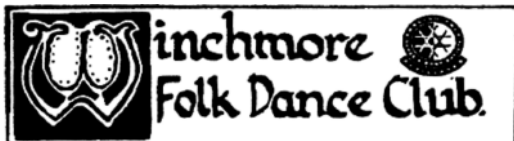
we could shelter under verandas. At that point the sun came out and shone on us for the rest of the day. Our sightseeing trip was to the Oceana Gold goldmine. Geoff and I had imagined walking underground beneath dripping roofs. However it was an open cast mine run by computers with high tech machinery. For our tour we had to wear high visibility vests, hard hats and safety glasses. Some Morris dancers tried this out as a possible new kit! We all returned to Greymouth and assembled outside the cinema to dance before the West Coast first showing of the film Morris, a Life with Bells on. We all expected

to see the film on a big screen but instead we were ushered into a small room, plastic seats and an OHP pull down screen. Oh well we were in quaint Greymouth after all.

On the penultimate day Nor' West Arch hit the streets of Greymouth and we practised our dances in a quiet corner. We then all set off for the Kumara Races where almost the entire population of the West Coast gathered in their finery for their equivalent of Ascot. Apparently it was always a hot, sunny day for this event and this year was no exception. Nor' West Arch supplied a picnic lunch alongside the famous Kokatahi

Band. We then all assembled to be led onto the race track to dance. The races were stopped for about 20 minutes while as many sides as possible had a turn at dancing in front of the grandstand. We could see ourselves on the big screen and the whole event was televised on national television. Along with being on the front pages of all the local newspapers the Morris dancing tour had a high profile in the area that week. Local news is big news on the West Coast.

We returned to Shantytown for the final evening Ale. We had a lovely hot buffet, plenty of wine and lots more dancing. We didn't realise at the time that this was to be the end of the tour. On the last morning it was pouring with rain so any hopes of a morning of dancing were abandoned and we all said our farewells and made off in various directions. Geoff and I climbed aboard our mini-bus with Nor'West Arch and returned to Christchurch to continue our holiday.



St. Paul's Centre

102 Church St. Enfield EN2 6AR
Traffic Light Junction, Old Park Ave
Resident Musicians

The Forest Band

Membership £7.00 + £4.00 per Dance
Guests £6.00 per Dance

Callers for 2010

May 8	Andrea Stodell
June 12	Ian & Val McFarlane
July 10	Keith Wright
August 14	(recorded music)
	Sue Needham

7.30 - 10.30

For more information, call John Wood on
020 8926 7293

Middle page pull-out PUDDINGSTONE

HERTFORDSHIRE FOLK ASSOCIATION COMMITTEE

Elected Members & Officers as from
October 2009

Chairman:	Miss Hilary Vare	hilaryvare@yahoo.com	Tel: 02083 606846
Hon Treasurer:	Mr Roger Swaine	roger.swaine1@btinternet.com	Tel: 01707 324413
Correspondence/ Events Secretary:	Mr Terry Elvins	mail@ptelvins.plus.com	Tel: 01707 320299
Membership secretary:	Mr Nic Nicolson	nic.jackie@btinternet.com	Tel: 01727 854183
Puddingstone:	Mr Adrian Burrows	Adrian.r.burrows@btopenworld.com	Tel: 01727 866086
Elected Member:	Mrs Libby Byne-Grey	l.byne-grey@herts.ac.uk	Tel: 01920 460553
Elected Member:	Mr John Grey	l.byne-grey@herts.ac.uk	Tel: 01920 460553
Co-opted Member:	Mrs Sally Page	sally.page4@ntlworld.com	Tel: 01992 413521

Club representatives:
Anne Dunn, Cyril Jones
Norman Dobbing

Our committee members represent several affiliated clubs and we would welcome representatives from any other club to attend out committee meetings. For details of the next meeting, please contact any of the members listed above.

Friday Folk



If you enjoy a lively barn dance, you'll find Friday Folk is a great way to meet like-minded people and have fun. Newcomers are always welcome. And there's no need to bring a partner.

From 7:45 to 10:00 pm at the
Methodist Church Hall, Marlborough
Road, St Albans, AL1 3XG.
www.fridayfolk.org.uk – 01727 856508
Standard Friday admission £3

Summer 2010

30 Apr	Paul Garner & Friday Folk Band
7 May	Thomas Bending
14 May	Colin Hume & FF Band
21 May	Dave Parsons
28 May	Club Callers
4 Jun	Ian Edlin & Spring Greens
5 Jun	Saturday Special at Francis Bacon: Mark Elvins & Kelly's Eye
11 Jun	Friday Special at Marlborough Rd: Seth Tepfer & Appalachian Storm
18 Jun	Suzanne Farmer & FF Band
25 Jun	Bob Barrett
2 Jul	Mike Ruff
9 Jul	Barrie Bullimore & FF Band
16 Jul	Ced & Lorraine
23 Jul	Garden Dance (phone for details)
14 Aug	Saturday BBQ (phone for details)
3 Sep	Autumn Term begins

Diary Dates 2010

ANTI-CLASH SERVICE : Please notify Hertfordshire's Events Secretary, Terry Elvins, of your Forthcoming Fixtures. If you are planning an event please contact him to check that your event will not clash with another taking place. Email him at: mail@ptelvins.plus.com
Other contact details available on page 2.

May 8	London Barndance , Cecil Sharp House, 2 Regents Park Road London NW1 7AY. Rhodri Davies with Vertical Expression - 01628 633962 www.barndance.org	8pm
May 8	Winchmore , St. Paul's Centre, 102 Church St, Enfield. Andrea Stodell with the Forest Band - 0208 926 7293	7.30pm
May 15	St Albans Abbey , United Reformed Church Hall, Homewood Road/ Sandpit Lane, St Albans. Barry Bullimore with the Orange and Blue - 01727 842 009	7.30pm
May 22	St Andrews , Trinity Methodist Church Hall, Church Street, Enfield. Eileen Sinden with Orange and Blue - 0208 366 3982	7.30pm
Jun 5	Friday Folk , Francis Bacon school, Drakes Drive, St Albans. Mark Elvins with Kellys Eye -01727 856508	7.45pm
Jun 11	Friday Folk Special (club night), Methodist Church Hall, Marlbor- ough Road, St Albans, AL1 3XG. Seth Tepfer & Appalachian Storm (USA) - 01727 856508	7.45pm
Jun 12	London Barndance , Seth Tepfer with Appalachian Storm - 01628 633962 www.barndance.org	8pm
Jun 12	Winchmore , Val & Ian McFarlane with the Forest Band - 020 8926 7293	7.30pm
Jun 26	St Andrews , Rosemary Hunt with Orions Ring - 020 8366 3982	7.30pm
July 10	London Barndance , Geoff Cubitt & Melodic Evil - 01628 633962 www.barndance.org	8pm
July 10	Winchmore , Keith Wright with the Forest Band - 020 8926 7293	7.30pm
July 24	St Andrews , Carol Hewson with the Forest Band- 020 8366 3982	7.30pm
Aug 14	Winchmore , Sue Needham with the Forest band - 020 8926 7293	7.30pm
Aug 28	St Andrews , Anne Dunn with Recorded music - 020 8366 3982	7.30pm
Sep 11	London Barndance , John Meechan & Weston Country Dance Band - 01628 633962 www.barndance.org	8pm
Sep 11	Winchmore , Arnold Stem with the Forest band - 020 8926 7293	7.30pm
Sep 25	St Andrews (AGM) , Michael Holdup with Recorded music. AGM 7.15pm -020 8366 3982	7.30pm

DIARY DATES 2010 (continued)

- Sep 25 **Roundabouts**, Methodist Church Hall, High Street, Sish Lane, Old Stevenage, SG1 3DB. Colin Hume with the Forest Band - 01438 316651 roundabouts@live.co.uk 7.30pm
- Oct 2 **Staplers**, St. Ippolyts Parish Hall, Waterdell Lane, St. Ippolyts, Near Hitchin, SG4 7RA. Carol Hewson with the Forest Band - 01582 811966 www.staplers.org.uk 7.30pm
- Oct 9 **London Barndance**, Rhodri Davies & Stick Shift - 01628 633962 www.barndance.org 8pm
- Oct 9 **Winchmore (AGM)**, Anne Dunn with the Forest Band - 020 8926 7293 7.30pm
- Oct 23 **St Andrews**, Bill & Barbara Kinsman with Toucan Play -020 8366 3982 7.30pm

Sue Fenton

During December 2009, Sue Fenton, who was leader of the Hoddesdon Group, died in a Care Home near Bognor Regis, aged 93 years. Sue and Frank Fenton set up the Hoddesdon group way back in the 1960's and she also called for many dances in Hertfordshire. When Frank died she thoroughly enjoyed continuing her dancing for many years until her move to Bognor Regis. Sue will be sadly missed.

Hertfordshire Folk Association Membership Application Form



Annual fees (due Jan): Individual £2

(Annual membership includes three issues of Puddingstone)

Household £3

Group/Club £10

Please add £1 to your fees to have Puddingstone delivered to your door

Club/group (if applicable): _____

Name/s: _____

Address (inc. postcode): _____

Tel: _____

Email address: _____

I/we would like to apply for Individual* / Household* / Group* membership
(*please delete as applicable)

I/we would like each edition of Puddingstone posted to us (£1 for the year) ☐
(please tick box)

and enclose a cheque payable to the Hertfordshire Folk Association

Please return completed form to:

HFA Membership Secretary, 6 Blackthorn Close, St Albans, AL4 9RP

Hertfordshire Folk Association



Hatfield House Hertfordshire

This year's Children's Summer Folk
Dance Festival takes place on:

Saturday 3rd July 2010

From 11.00 a.m. to 2.00 p.m.

Children's dancing

Maypole dancing

Displays

Refreshments

M.C. Chris Turner

With music from

Jump the Vortex

Admission: **In advance** Adults £3.50, Children £2.50
(including entry to the park)

On the day Adults £5.50, Children £3.50

(Pay £3.00 adults / £2 children on entry to grounds,
and the balance on arrival at the festival)

For more information, please contact Terry Elvins on 01707
320299 or at mail@ptelvins.plus.com
or email jean@jeanhewitt.orangehome.co.uk

Spring Sing - March 20th 2010

Three reports:

A Spring Sing was held at Hoddesdon for the first time on Sat 20th March in the local Conservative Club. While attendance was low, everyone seemed to appreciate a good venue and acoustics. Access to the venue is ideal, with regular public transport services to Hoddesdon High St. The event commenced at 12 noon and finished at 7pm and, while there was some confusion as to the finishing time of the event due to unclear publicity, the general feeling was one of satisfaction with the quality of both food and drink provided.

While I have been singing folk music for 30 years it never ceases to surprise me with the standard of singers and musicians I meet on a regular basis. It was a pleasure to meet yet more from places as far afield as Cambridge and Watford. I look forward to meeting you all again at some later date.

- Frank Lee

~~~~~

We found the venue difficult to find, as the arrow on the SreetMap UK attached map did not quite point to the right place! However, not much time was lost in finding the venue. The next small problem was that we thought we were at the wrong event as it was called "Frank and Friends" and had no mention of the HFA. This was soon resolved, and we joined the singaround, singing several songs which we had not sung for many years. One of the singers wrote his own material and sang some excellent songs. The low attendance may have been partly due to a big Rugby match on TV!

It was also interesting to note that most of the attendees were from the eastern side of the county and from Essex and we were the only people to come from the western side (St. Albans, Hatfield etc). We did not know about the provision of a buffet and had eaten before coming out which was a shame as the buffet was provided for about 100 people. It was sad that there were not more there to enjoy the food and the convivial and entertaining singaround.

- Dave Skye

~~~~~

We turned up at this years HFA spring sing to find a whole new sea of faces from the east of the county. In past years this event has been held in Hitchin and had folks from around there with lots of the St Albans regulars attending as well. It was interesting to find that a few people were relying on public transport (which is why I had not seen them before in the west of the county!).

Obviously an event of this type tends to grow when people become aware of it so hopefully we can make it an annual one. To all you singers, musicians and audiences out there, let's see if we can make this grow. It was excellent, wonderfully varied with a wealth of new and old things I had not heard for many years...and lots of fun!

- Dawn Skye



Folk at the Festival weekend
June 25-27
June 25 Opening concert
Redbourn Village Hall, 8pm
London Philharmonic Skiffle
Orchestra

June 26 Festival Parade and Day of Dance
Festival ceilidh, Alban Arena, 7.45pm
Florida with Chris Pitt

June 27 Events in St Albans City Centre
see web site for details
June 30 St Michael's Street folk evening

info@stalbansfolkmusic.org.uk www.stalbansfolkmusic.org.uk
Enquiries 01727 852111/ 833028 Tickets 01727 844488

COME and SEE US!

Jenny Lane, Publicity Officer

English Miscellany have a busy schedule of dancing planned, both locally and further afield over the summer and hope you are able to see one of our shows at the venues listed.

We will be celebrating St George's Day on the day itself April 23rd at Friday Folk where we are performing the Pace Egg mumming play. On the following day we will be in Luton for the St Georges Day celebrations, appropriately enough in St Georges Square between 10:15 and 15:00. The following week we are pleased to welcome visitors from Germany when Folklorekreis Gutersloh are with us for the May Bank holiday weekend. After dancing in London on Saturday and at Rochester Sweeps festival on Sunday, we will be at Ickworth May Day celebrations on May 3rd from 12:15.

Later in May we are at Chippenham Folk festival (see advert opposite), and on the following weekend we are at Muswell Hill church fete on Saturday and the Old Manor pub Potters Bar on Sunday. At the end of June on Saturday 25th we are joining other local folk groups at St Albans Day of Dance as part of the St Albans folk festival (see advert below).

The highlight of our summer comes with a trip to the Basque country of Spain where we are meeting a new group and dancing over the weekend at their local festival. On our return we will once again be in North London on 17th July at Roe Green and the next day back at the Old Manor pub Potters Bar. Finally, we will be at Flamstead Scarecrow Festival on Sunday 22nd August.

Full details and times of display can be found on www.englishmiscellany.com

We look forward to seeing you!



Join our e-mail list now !
www.lists.chippfolk.co.uk

CHIPPENHAM FOLK FESTIVAL

28th~31st
May 2010

James Fagan & Nancy Kerr

Distempo (Hoover the Dog Big Band)

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Tom McConville & David Newey

Pete Coe ~ Jeff Warner

Brian Peters ~ CMR

Hekety ~ Boka Halat

All Blacked Up

Woodpecker Band

Gordon Potts

3D, Ann Welch

Colin Hume

Wendy Graham (USA)

Geoff Cubitt, Skylark

Black Swan Rapper

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CD Review

'Shivering Sands & Scavenging Birds' – Songs & Tunes from the LEIGH FOLK FESTIVAL '09

The first thing I noticed about this compilation is its eclectic nature – new arrangements of trad. songs and tunes, a touch of what might be called psych-folk, some international offerings, a couple of banjo-driven numbers, and some breathtaking unaccompanied material...if this is an accurate representation of what the Leigh Folk festival has to offer, then I've been missing out...but this festival always seems to clash with something else. Worthy of note is the fact that all the tracks on this CD were donated free of charge by the artists!

Opening the album are the ever-reliable Faustus with 'The Betrayed Maiden' – their usual clever time signatures and superb instrumentation combine in a tale of lovers divided by class and parental disapproval...

Track 2 is Emily Portman's self-penned adaptation of a Norwegian folk fable, 'The Twelve Wild Ducks', with atmospheric backing from harp and cello. A memorable track, dark and haunting.

'Troubles' by the Smoke Fairies is a tale of the Northern ice with supernatural overtones, featuring striking 2-part female harmonies and moody electric guitar, backed by evocative strings. It grows on you with every listen.

I'm not that keen on foreign-language tracks, so Palinka's 'Fekete-Piros', a setting of a Hungarian poem, left me a bit cold – it's rather too frantic, with manic violin riffs and insistent harmony vocals. Of course it might be more interesting if we knew what it was about...

As a welcome relief, next up is Kelly Ali's haunting 'Water Under the Bridge'. This self-penned song features piano and strings behind fragile, atmospheric vocals.

Back to traditional instruments with track 4 - 'In the Kitchen', a rousing small pipes-based tune from Vicki Swan & Jonny Dyer, composed by the latter, with overlays of several other instruments and an infectious change of rhythm halfway through. A real toe-tapper.

The Straw Bear Band's 'Maverick You Are' is a tribute to 19th century inventor and pioneer of eugenics Sir Francis Galton...I'd never heard of him, but the band obviously have...

A great slice of Americana is next in the form of Rachel Harrington's 'Karen Kane', a banjo-accompanied tale of the hard life of a female prospector, with some nifty fiddle work.

3 lively tunes from Shona Kipling & Damien O'Kane lift the mood somewhat – Damien's compositions 'Fishing with Calum' and 'Broken Poached Eggs' lead into the traditional 'Willy Coleman's' – some fine Irish banjo on this great track...

'Standing on the Shore' by The Owl Service could almost have been recorded in the heady days of the late '60s/early 70s - reminiscent of what is now known as 'Psych-folk' or 'Wyrd folk', such as the long-lost gems found on the Kissing Spell and Sanctuary labels, this track is really haunting and mysterious, with ethereal female vocals and a really effective drone throughout the song...the highlight of the album for me. I really need to investigate this band!

You don't hear much Iranian music, so 'Dokhtar e Boyerahmadi' by Roshi featuring Pars Radio is a bit of a novelty. Labelled 'experimental folk' on some web sites, I found it slow, dull and uninspiring...not sure if it's folk, but it's certainly experimental.

By way of complete contrast, 'Another Day' by the Leigh-based reggae/ska band Goldmaster All Stars is a lively reggae number with female vocals and a hard-riffing brass section – I wouldn't mind seeing this outfit live! A white English band, they have achieved the distinction of backing a number of visiting top Jamaican artists – quite a compliment. Another reason to make the effort to get to this festival...

The haunting 'Lofoten Calling' by The Kittiwakes is an A Capella number with a really eerie atmosphere – a tribute to the Norwegian Lofoten islands, it is sung in almost plainsong style using a three-part harmony that really makes the hairs stand up on the back of the neck...I shall look out for this trio during the coming festival season.

I've known the rather naughty trad. song 'The Bonny Black Hare' for some 40 years, thanks to Fairport Convention's version on 'Angel Delight', but this is a refreshing and totally-unexpected Appalachian-style version for voice and banjo, with a compelling rhythm, from Jason Steel...not an artist I've heard of before, but a memorable version of a trad. classic.

'Saying Goodbye' by Isnaj Dui (the alter ego of one Katie English, 'experimental' musician and classically-trained flautist) is basically a series of flute passages over a repetitive (annoyingly so!) loop reminiscent of Indonesian gamelan music. Folk it isn't, and in my opinion this is not an experiment to be repeated...!

The traditional 'Ploughman Lads' by Nancy Wallace is a breath of fresh air after the previous track, with a simple and melodic arrangement backing the pure unaffected voice of Ms. Wallace...I shall be looking into her recorded work after hearing this cracker!

The traditional 'Go No More a-Rushing' is one of the 'riddle' or 'conundrum' family of songs (cherry without a stone, chicken without a bone, etc...). Sung (beautifully) unaccompanied by folk veteran Kiti Theobald, this proves that the unadorned human voice still has the power to hold the attention and convey a good song...'experimental' musicians please take note!

Bringing the CD to an end, 'A Seagull or Two' - from the unlikely pairing of jazz saxophonist Trevor Watts and traditional fiddler Peter Knight (he of Steeleeye fame) - starts promisingly: the sax part is very African-influenced and is backed by some highly rhythmic pizzicato violin. The trouble is, it never really gets going – I kept expecting them to break into some infectious South African 'township' music – but they don't. Knight does throw in a few folky bars, but not for long, and the track soon degenerates into some rather self-indulgent ramblings – and at almost 11 minutes long, I found it all too much. It's very clever, but it certainly ain't folk.

These minor criticisms aside, this CD is great value at only £6.50 (inc. p&p) from the Leigh Festival web site – plus it might just make you want to go to this year's Festival!

- Paul Klinkenborg

For more information about this year's festival, visit www.leighfolkfestival.co.uk or see their full advert on page 4.

HARROW FOLK DANCE CLUB

*(Charity Registration No. 801346; Affiliated to EFDSS,
Hertfordshire Folk Association, North London Folk & SIFD)*

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SATURDAY 20th NOVEMBER 2010

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~ ~ ~ ~ ~
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**39th. Playford Ball - Sat 19th November 2011
(David & Kathryn Wright with Folkus Pocus)**

~ ~ ~ ~ ~

*The Harrow Folk Dance Club meets most Mondays (except in August),
7.30 - 9.55pm at Belmont School Hall(entrance at the back of the school)
Hibbert Road, off Locket Road, Harrow Weald, HA3 7JT*

=====

For further information contact:
Roy Martin - 020 8868 7526

Letters



Dear Editor, I write in response to my learned friend, Ivor Mackenzie, who commented on my apparent remarks on the use of American terminology used by callers. To the best of my knowledge it was not the St Albans Liz Rose to whom these remarks are attributable. I doubt that she would dare to comment on the vocabulary of other callers, let alone in print!

Maybe there is another Liz Rose who is a regular reader and occasional contributor to this excellent publication named "Puddingstone"! If so the St Albans Liz would be highly delighted to meet her!

For those readers who have connections with the Cathedral and Abbey Church of St Albans they will recall another Liz Rose who rejoiced in the nickname of "Buffy". Why she should be called this remains a mystery. Given that she moved away from the district on account of her husband's work the current St Albans Liz believes that she is the only one in the world of Hertfordshire folk!

- Liz Rose

Jeremy Platten writes: '*Swing that girl or her...* this is what a lot of callers, including female callers, seem to be saying. They never say *swing that man or him.*' I believe that the new editor may take up this matter. As a caller he commented that 'swing your partner' was (or should be?) the convention. I'm sure any other comments would also be interesting.

YOUNG MISCELLANY FOLK DANCE GROUP



Dear Herts Folk
Association,

Thank you very much for your kind donation of £500 toward our fund raising efforts for our group's Salzkotten trip. This funding will allow more of our dancers the possibility to travel to Germany and gain from this wonderful opportunity

It is a great to have support from a recognized folk association. We will send you a report of our trip when we return.

On behalf of all Young Miscellany members, thanks again,

Yours Sincerely,
Mark Chamberlain,
(treasurer Young Miscellany)

**For more information about
Young Miscellany, visit
www.youngmiscellany.co.uk**

Dennis Rookward

Long-standing Essex Folk Association Member, Dennis Rookard, sadly passed away in March 2010. Dennis described himself as 'Folk Music Archivist and Researcher' and was a very popular figure, having been involved in radio broadcasting - including hospital radio - for a long time. Dennis's funeral was held on Wednesday 31st March in Brentwood.

He was very well-known to many in Essex and tributes have been pouring in. Obituaries will appear in the next issue of 'EFN Magazine'.

CD Review

Mike Martell - 'She Waits for Me' www.mikemartellmusic.ca

This CD contains 12 songs from the Canadian singer-songwriter, Mike Martell. He sings and plays the guitar with backing vocals from Tami and Sophie Martell and instrumental accompaniment from Tom Leighton on accordion and whistle, Gaston Bernard on mandolin and Bill Garrett on guitar.

While I liked the sound of Mike's clear, deep voice and the quality of the recording is very good, I did not enjoy the CD as a whole. All the tracks are rather slow in tempo and the songs all have a mournful or wistful quality so that it is not easy to distinguish individual songs one from another.

The accompanying booklet is well produced and contains the word of all the songs but no information about Mike himself or any of his fellow performers – this is a pity!

- John Grey

London Barndance



Saturday 8th May 8 p.m.

Rhodri Davies

Vertical Expression

Saturday 12th June 8 p.m.

Seth Tepfer

Appalachian Storm (USA)

Saturday 10th July 8 p.m.

Geoff Cubitt

Melodic Evil

All dances are held at
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London NW1 7AY

Further details from
Andrew and Jane:

01628 633962

home@barndance.org

Tickets: £9.50 (EFDSS £8.50, LBC & concs £7.50)
www.barndance.org

Puddingstone would like to hear about regular folk events taking place in Hertfordshire. If you are involved in a regular ceilidh or song session, we would love to hear from you (please use new contact details on page 2).

Folk Bursary – The GOOD NEWS!

Spring, they say, is a time for new beginnings and with the spring of 2010 our quest to set up a folk bursary fund in Hertfordshire has moved into a new, positive and very exciting phase! For those who have been following our progress as we seek to provide financial help to those wishing to develop their folk art skills, I can report that we now have some “start-up” money available to us. Donated by a generous individual (to get the ball rolling), a folk dance club and, of course, the HFA (who have been most supportive throughout), this will enable us to provide financial help in the personal development of a handful of individuals over the coming months – and hopefully sow the seeds for future successes.

From helping this initial group, we will gain the material needed to demonstrate the concept more widely – to show local companies, clubs and individuals what can be achieved, as we seek to establish more permanent financial support for the fund in the Hertfordshire area. As this structure matures, we will be able to help more folk enthusiasts develop their skills and keep English traditional art where it belongs – at the heart of our community.

Persistence, it seems, has paid off and I would like to thank all of those who have, to date, helped launch this enterprise - but at the same time to note that we still have some way to go!

If anyone out there would like to support our efforts in any way, please drop me a line at norman@dobbing.org.uk.

- Norman Dobbing, April 2010

www.DLBMUSIC.org.uk

In the late 1980s, Dave Brown founded Cotswold Music, a music publishing company. Now he publishes music and dance related items through DLBMUSIC. His e-books are £3.50 each and include the following titles:
'Dave Brown's book of tunes for Contra Dances and other Social Dance Events.',
'Memories in Waltz Time.....' and 'Teaching Children Country Dancing'.

Unicorn Ceilidhs

These monthly events take place at Hitchin Town Hall. 8.00 till late,
(doors 7.30). Real Ale Bar. Entry only £8.00
(various concession prices available):

May 28th - Moondance with Dave Townsend

June 25th - Time of Your Life with Barry Goodman

THERE ARE NO CEILIDHS IN JULY OR AUGUST

**More information is available from 01582 733113/724261/882831 or at
www.unicornceilidhs.org.uk. Myspace www.myspace.com/507169875**

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