

Magazine of the Hertfordshire Folk Association Affiliated to
EFDSS

PUDDINGSTONE



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AGM 2011 edition
Affiliated Clubs & Chairman's Report

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Issue 51

Autumn 2011
September -December

40p

Where sold



HERTFORDSHIRE FOLK ASSOCIATION

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PUDDINGSTONE EDITOR

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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 produce it electronically, please contact me, as I maybe able to do this for you.
(subject to available time)

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Roger Swaine, Nic Nicolson &
Terry Elvins.

For up to date information on all our activities please visit
our web site at: www.hertsfolkassn.org.uk

Editorial



I am keeping the editorial quite short this issue, partly because I am also reviewing a DVD (Here's a health to the Barley Mow) and in order to fit every thing else in. We have a report from Katy Hunter who danced at the Hatfield Children's Festival, a family review of Vin Garbutt's new DVD. The next installment of Festivals, Folk & Food. Reports on the HFA Accordion workshop (which I couldn't fit in last issue), E.M.s German trip & the Herts Early Dance May Revels. As it is A.G.M. time we also have the annual report and agenda. We would be very please to see more of your club representatives come along to both the A.G.M and Committee meetings. **Just a reminder that we are changing our copy and publication dates to fit better into holidays and printing schedules. The next issue will be the first to change from the old pattern. The new dates from this Autumn this will be: 1st Nov for the Winter issue on 1st Dec. 1st March for Spring issue on 1st April & 1st July for Summer issue on 1st August.**

Adrian Burrows

Reminder: If you or your club/group have not already renewed your membership of the HFA - (or joined!), now is the ideal time to do so - the application form is on page 15. If you are already a member please pass on the application form to a friend or print off a few copies from the website - www.hertsfolkassn.org.uk to distribute at your next meeting or event . If you would like to pay each year by standing order, the HFA account references are : Sort code 60 18 11 : Account 45217718. Account name : Hertfordshire Folk Association.

- thanks for your support!

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Festivals, folk and food

The feast day of St Michael, the archangel, falls on September 29th. He is spoken about in both the Old and New Testaments as the opponent of the devil. In this role he appears in some mumming plays, hence a direct link with folk activity in some areas of the country. St Michael is also the patron saint of horses and soldiers, as well as of the Mount in Cornwall.

Michaelmas is also a quarter day and so an important day to settle dues and pay rent. It was also a time post-harvest when service could be terminated, and so at this time Hiring Fairs would be held. Workers would wear an emblem for their trade which could then be swapped with a new employer's distinctive ribbon and a token to be spent at the fair. It is from these origins that some folk groups have a favour made of ribbon in club colours, though nowadays this has been replaced with a badge for many groups.

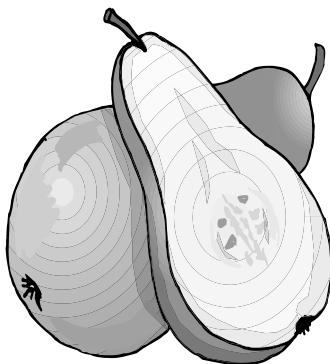
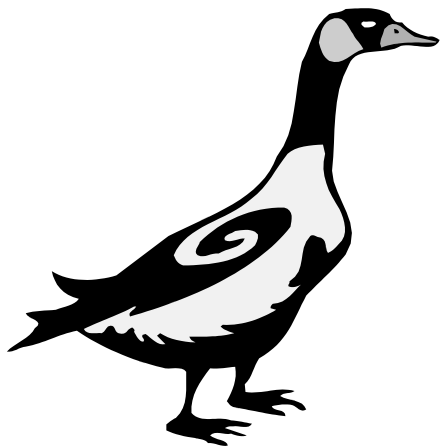
In Bedfordshire, a two- day fair used to be held, presumably in the area near to Warden Hill, a feature of which was the sale of baked pears known as Hot Baked Wardens. The pears were sold hot from earthenware pots with the vendor advertising their wares with this rhyme:

Smoking hot, piping hot
Who knows what I've got in my pot?
Hot baked Wardens
All hot! All hot! All hot!

We have two pear trees in our garden and this recipe has been a favourite for many years, and an excellent way of using the glut of pears as it can be used for bottling or freezing.

HOT BAKED WARDENS
6 large pears
25g (1oz) soft brown sugar
 $\frac{1}{2}$ - $\frac{3}{4}$ pint of red wine

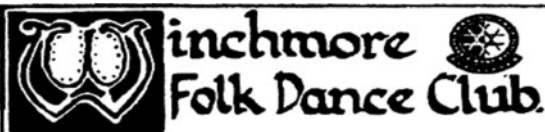
Pinch of spice, usually cinnamon and ginger or mixed spice
Peel the pears and put into an oven- proof dish. Mix the wine, spices and sugar and pour onto the pears. Bake at 180° C for 20 – 30 minutes.



Also associated with Michaelmas was the tradition of eating goose. Geese, having been released onto the fields to feed on gleanings of corn or barley, became suitably fattened before being walked to the nearest Goose Fair. One of the most famous was Nottingham Goose Fair due to its size. In the 16th century it was recorded that 20,000 geese were sent to the fair, some travelling a great distance from Lincolnshire and Norfolk. To cope with such a lengthy journey their feet were prepared with a mixture of tar and sand. As a child growing up close to Nottingham, I eagerly awaited Nottingham Goose Fair, not alas for the chance to eat goose, but for the enormous funfair with a wide range of rides. At least the name lives on. I think I'd now prefer to settle for a roast goose dinner, in the hopes that this traditional rhyme comes true.

Whoever eats goose on Michaelmas Day
Shall never lack money for his debts to pay.

Jenny Lane



**Trinity Church
Church St, Enfield EN2 6AN**

Resident Musicians
The Forest Band

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

Callers for 2011

Sept 10 Val & Ian McFarlane
Oct 8 **AGM** John Wood
Nov 12 Suzanne Harper
Dec 10 Chris Turner

7.30 – 10.30

Info: John Wood 020 8926 7293

TRY SCOTTISH COUNTRY DANCING

*Welwyn Garden City
Scottish Country Dance Club*

**Lemsford Hall, Brocket Road. AL8 7TT
Wednesday 8pm to 10pm.**

From 7th September 2011

Enjoy lively jigs and the elegance of
Strathspeys to recordings
By top Scottish bands.

Social dancing, help given, re-caps, walk
throughs and calls when needed.
Bring flat comfortable soft shoes.

£2 week including tea/coffee and biscuits, plus
A small annual sub. first visit is free

Call Marion on 01707 394845
Or e-mail welwyn.scdc@ntlworld.com

An update of Staplers' events

Saturday 1st October 2011
Anniversary Dance 7.30 p.m.
Barrie Bullimore with Deo Volente
St. Ippolyts Parish Hall,
Waterdell Lane,
St. Ippolyts (nr. Hitchin),
Herts. SG4 7RB Cost: £8.00

Sunday 6th November 2011
Workshop: "Dances with a Step"
2.00 - 5.00 p.m.
Colin Hume. Music: Roger Nicholls
St. Ippolyts Parish Hall
Cost: £7.00
'The "Dancing English" were once known for their use of steps, but these days everything tends to be walked. In the workshop I will be looking at steps as well as dances. Rant, polka, pas de bas, single-skip, skip-change, slip and waltz will be taking their place alongside the dance walk (which will also be given a wash and brush up). The idea is not to exhaust you with a whole afternoon of rants and polkas, but to remind you of the variety available in English Country Dance. The dances will be interesting, including one or two Scottish, not all energetic, and Colin hopes to show you that the use of steps can add to your enjoyment of dancing.'
Colin Hume

Saturday 3rd December 2011
Christmas Dance 7.30 p.m.
Andrew Swaine with Momentum
St. Ippolyts Parish Hall
Cost: £8.00

Contact: (01582) 881966

VIN GARBUTT – TEESIDE TROUBADOUR (DVD)

Before watching this 82-minute DVD we hadn't actually heard of Vin Garbutt, but by the end we were wondering how we hadn't. The fact is that this is a man who has never craved commercial success and has always stuck to his principles. He is also a very fine folk musician (singer, guitarist and tin-whistle player) and, above all perhaps, an almost unfeasibly nice person. He is interested in everything and everybody, and deeply touches those he comes into contact with, in places as far afield as Australia, Malaysia, North America and Holland – as well as domestic locations such as the well-established Sage in Gateshead, with which he has a strong connection. What strikes most people interviewed in the DVD is his humour and the charm and passion within his songs.



Vin Garbutt is a Teessider to the core. His music is shaped by local traditions, events and landscapes (both urban and rural). It is also influenced by the folk music of Ireland, where his mother is from. Most of his material is self-penned, and the songs reflect his own passions and experiences, many of which come from his travels around the world. One song in particular that illustrates this is one he wrote about a boy with cystic fibrosis

whose mother had such a hard time bearing him and then the emotional journey that the family took. Sadly the boy died when he was only 15 years old. This song really illustrates his concern for people and his philosophical views on life.

This DVD tells you a lot about Garbutt's life, his career, his family and his views on many things. You also get a chance to listen to his music, and there is an hour of concert footage in addition to the main documentary. If you don't know about him, getting hold of this DVD is an excellent way to put that right. If you do, you've probably seen it already!

Godfrey, Karon, Naomi and Nathan Lyne

H F A Children's Summer Folk Dance Festival **at Hatfield House**



On Saturday 2nd July, lots of schools from all over Hertfordshire took part in the Folk Dance Festival at Hatfield House.

The sun was shining as we danced a variety of country dances. It was a beautiful and enjoyable occasion for the children, staff and parents who took part or watched.

The highlight of the events was the maypole, there were 7 this year. Thank you to the band, the schools, staff and organisers! You made this a fun day!

By Katy Hunter (age 11) from Green Lanes School



HERTFORDSHIRE FOLK ASSOCIATION

(Affiliated to the English Folk Dance & Song Society)

NOTICE OF THE SEVENTEENTH

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

To be held at:

29 Turmore Dale, Welyn Garden City, AL8 6HT

On:

Tuesday 1st November 2011
at 7.45 p.m.

AGENDA

- 1 To receive apologies for absence.
- 2 Minutes of Annual General Meeting held on 2nd November 2010
- 3 To approve Report and accounts for 2010/2011
- 4 To elect an Hon. Treasurer
- 5 To elect up to 7 Committee Members
- 6 To appoint an independent Examiner of Accounts
- 7 To consider any other business
- 8 Date and venue of next AGM

Seventeenth ANNUAL REPORT

For the period ended 31st August 2011-08-08

Notification of our AGM is included in this issue of Puddingstone and we hope you will be able to attend; full details are listed in the Folk Dance Diary section and we look forward to seeing you there.

Once again, throughout this last year, Hertfordshire Folk Association have continued their support, promotion and contribution to a wide variety of folk activities. Our Children's Summer Folk dance Festival continues to be extremely successful, the programme of Maypole, Song and Children's dancing being ably led by Barry Goodman with music from Jump the Vortex.

This year we were able to provide financial support to both Young Miscellany and Tappalachian. We again ran our accordion workshop during April and a second Spring Sing was held at Broxbourn during March, with grateful thanks to Roger Swaine and John Grey respectively; we anticipate doing both again next year.

The Hertfordshire Folk Development Fund (HFDF) continues making good headway and applications are presently being considered. Updates will be provided in Puddingstone and current details are available from our web site or directly from Norman Dobbing at Norman@dobbing.org.uk.

It was unfortunate that Adrian Burrows, our new Puddingstone Editor, experienced some ill health earlier this year but we were extremely grateful to Brenda Brookes for her excellent locum editorship. Adrian has since recovered and is now back at the helm so please ensure he continues to receive plenty of articles and contributions. This edition of Puddingstone lists all our affiliated Clubs/Groups from which Hertfordshire Folk Association welcomes a representative, with your ideas and comments, to our Committee meetings; Minutes of each last meeting notes our future dates. Continuing with communication news, our web site continues to thrive; it provides details of our activities and diary dates, as well as links to other relevant sites so, access us on www.hertsfolkassn.org.uk and contact Roger Swaine re any additions / comments etc. We are certainly indebted to his continued commitment that ensures everything is relevant and up-to-date.

As always, we owe a vote of thanks to all our present committee members who work so hard on your behalf but particularly, our Officers, Roger Swaine and Terry Elvins. Nic Nicholson continues as our East Anglian Council Representative and we are also grateful for his continuing work as both Minutes and Membership secretary. We must also thank the members of our Festival Sub-Committee whose hard work ensures the on-going success of our Hatfield Day of Dance which, of course, enables the participation of our younger generations in the enjoyment and continuation of our folk traditions.

You, the members of Hertfordshire Folk Association are our strength. Thank you for your continuing support and, on your behalf, we look forward to furthering our activities during the coming year.

Hilary Vare
Chairman

HERTFORDSHIRE FOLK ASSOCIATION COMMITTEE

Elected Members & Officers as from November 2010

Chairman:	Miss Hilary Vare	hilaryvare@yahoo.com	Tel: 02083 606846
Hon Treasurer:	Mr Roger Swaine	roger.swaine1@btinternet.com	Tel: 01707 324413
Correspondence & diary dates:	Mr Terry Elvins	mail@ptelvins.plus.com	Tel: 01707 320299
Membership secretary:	Mr Nic Nicolson	nic.jackie@btinternet.com	Tel: 01727 854183
Puddingstone Ed.	Mr Adrian Burrows	editor@hertsfolkassn.org.uk	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
Elected Member	Vacancy		

Affiliated Club Representatives: Norman Dobbing (English Miscellany)
Karen Lyne (Young Miscellany)

Open invitation - there is a vacancy on the committee at present - if anyone would like to take a more active role in shaping folk activities in Hertfordshire please contact any of the members listed above. Don't forget that all Affiliated Clubs can send a representative to committee meetings, so we look forward to seeing you! There are only four or five meetings a year and your input would be welcomed. Just get in touch for more information.

Diary Dates 2011

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

Sept 10	London Barndance , Cecil Sharp House, 2 Regents Park Rd, London, NW1 7AY. Mark Elvins with Weston Country Dance Band – 01628 633962 www.barndance.org	8.00pm
Sept 10	Winchmore , Trinity Church Hall, Church Street, Enfield, EN2 6AN. Val & Ian McFarlane with The Forest Band – 0208 926 7293	7.30pm
Sept 24	St Andrews , Trinity Church Hall, Church Street, Enfield, EN2 6AN. Michael Holdup (AGM) with recorded music – 0208 366 3982	7.30pm
Oct 1	Staplers , St Ippolyts Parish Hall, Waterdell Lane, St Ippolyts, Nr Hitchin, SG4 7RB. Barrie Bullimore with Deo Volente - 01582 881966 www.staplers.org.uk	7.30pm
Oct 8	London Barndance , Andrew Swaine with Chesapeake	8.00pm
Oct 8	Winchmore , John Wood (AGM) with The Forest Band	7.30pm
Oct 22	St Andrews , Mary Bryan with Toucan Play	7.30pm
Nov 6	Staplers Workshop, Dances with a Step , Colin Hume with (Music) Roger Nicholls	2.00pm/ 5.00pm
Nov 12	Winchmore , Suzanne Harper with The Forest Band	7.30pm
Nov 19	London Barndance , John Meechan with Fiddlegang	8.00pm
Nov 19	Harrow , Shaftesbury High School, Headstone Lane, Harrow Weald, HA3 6NP. Kathryn & David Wright with Folkus Pocus– 0208 868 7526	7.30pm
Nov 26	Friday Folk , Francis Bacon School, Drakes Dr, St Albans, AL1 5AR. Colin Hume with Fiddlegang – 01727 856508	7.45pm
Nov 26	St Andrews , Arnold Stem with The Forest Band	7.30pm
Dec 3	Staplers , Andrew Swaine with Momentum	7.30pm
Dec 10	London Barndance , Rhodri Davies with Ian, Charlie, Gareth & Linda	8.00pm
Dec 10	Winchmore , Chris Turner with The Forest Band	7.30pm
Dec 15	St Albans Abbey , Homewood Rd U R Church Hall, Sandpit Lane, St Albans, AL1 4BH. Andrea Stodell with The Turnabouts - 01727 834977	7.30pm
Jan 2	Winchmore , Andrew Kellett & Keith Wright with The Forest Band	7.30pm
Jan 7	Roundabouts , Stevenage. Mark Elvins with The Ivel Valley Band – TICKET ONLY	7.30pm
Jan 14	London Barndance , TBA	8.00pm

Jan 14	Winchmore , (Cyril Jones Birthday) Invited Callers with The Forest Band	7.30pm
Jan 28	St Andrews , Barrie Bullimore with Toucan Play	7.30pm
Feb 4	Staplers , Colin Hume with Orange & Blue	7.30pm
Feb 11	London Barndance , TBA	8.00pm
Feb 11	Winchmore , Hilary Vare with The Forest Band	7.30pm
Feb 25	St Andrews , John Wood with Recorded Music	7.30pm
Mar 3	Welwyn Garden City , Civic Centre, Prospect Place, Welwyn, AL6 9ER. Mark Elvins with Deo Volente – 01707 320299 mail@ptelvins.plus.com	7.30pm
Mar 4	Staplers Workshop, American With Style , Colin Hume with (Music) Alison Ellacott & Mollie Koenisberger	2.00pm/ 5.00pm
Mar 10	London Barndance , TBA	8.00pm
Mar 10	Winchmore , Keith Wright with The Forest Band	7.30pm
Mar 17	Harrow , Ron Coxall with Orange & Blue	7.30pm
Mar 24	St Andrews , Val & Ian McFarlane	7.30pm
Apr 14	London Barndance , TBA	8.00pm
Apr 14	Winchmore , Judith Inman with The Forest Band	7.30pm
Apr 28	St Andrews , Carol Hewson with Whirling Skirmish	7.30pm

Hertfordshire Folk Association

Membership Application Form



Annual fees: Individual £2
(Annual membership includes three issues of Puddingstone) Household £3
Group/Club £10

To have Puddingstone delivered to your door, please add £1.50 to your annual fees

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 (£1.50 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

HFA Affiliated Clubs & Groups

Please notify any further corrections or updates to Nic Nicolson, Membership Secretary by emailing nic.jackie@btinternet.com or phoning 01727 854183.

Croxley Green FDC - J.W. Rowe, 109 Winton Drive, Croxley Green, WD3 3QS

Danse Herts - Ashleigh Milner 10 Swinburne Ave, Hitchin, SG5 2RG

English Miscellany - Mr R Swaine, 29 Turmore Dale, Welwyn Garden City, AL8 6HT

Fleetville FDG - Mrs B Howlett, 39 Westfields, St. Albans AL3 4LR

Friday Folk - Mrs Gill Tibbs, 35 Gloucester Road, Enfield, EN2 0HA

Harrow FDC - Mr Roy Martin, 57 Waverley Road, Rayners Lane, Harrow, HA2 9RG

Hemel Hempstead FDC - Mrs Samme, 118 Crawley Drive, Hemel Hempstead, HP2 6BX

Hertford CDG - Mrs J Newton, 15 Station Road, Digswell, Welwyn, AL6 0DU

North London Folk - Vivien Mallindale, 40 Summerlee Ave, London, N2 9QP

Offley Morris - Dr P. Burton, 1 The Lodge, Bedford Rd, Hitchin, SG5 3RZ

Phoenix Morris - PO Box 115, Rickmansworth, WD3 1WB.

Rainmakers International FDC - Mark Balaam, 133 Arlesey Road, Ickleford, SG5 3TH

Roundabouts CDC - Mrs S Welch, 510 Archer Road, Stevenage, SG1 5QL

St Albans Abbey FDC - 60 Woodland Drive, St Albans, AL4 0ET

St Albans Morris Men - 4 Abbey View Road, St Albans, AL3 4QL

St Andrew's FDC - Mrs A Dunn, 3 Conway Gardens, Enfield, EN2 9AD

Staplers FDG - Miss C A Mills, 73 Hexton Road, Barton-le-Clay, MK45 4JZ

Tappalachian - Angela Williams, 47 Vivian Gardens, Watford, WD19 4PG

The 31 Club Broxbourne U3A - Colin & Liz Elve, 97 Silverfield, Broxbourne EN10 6PA

Watford FDC - Eileen Fudge, 30 Beechpark Way, Watford WD17 3TY

Welwyn Garden City FDC - Mr T Elvins, 32 Templewood, Welwyn Garden City, AL8 7HX

Winchmore FDC - Carol Rensch, 41 Lincoln Crescent, Enfield, EN1 1JZ

Woodside Morris Men - 39 Holland Gardens, Garston, Watford.

Young Miscellany - Lynda Swaine, 29 Turmore Dale, Welwyn Garden City, AL8 6HT

Affiliated clubs and groups are welcome to send a representative to HFA committee meetings - please ask for details!

HFA piano-accordion workshop

"On 10th April a number of piano-accordionists assembled at the Back-house Room, Welwyn Garden City, for the latest in what has become a series of annual piano-accordion workshops, organised by the Herts Folk Association. The tutor this year was Chris Walker, who was born in Scotland and has played the accordion since he was a child. This means that he has a huge amount of knowledge and experience in playing Scottish music on the instrument, so he was asked to take this as his subject.



Not surprisingly, he leads a local band the "Silver Cross" Scottish Country Dance band.

Chris skillfully & patiently led eight accordionists through many aspects of Scottish music, covering not only reels, jigs, strathspeys (modern & traditional) and waltzes, but also airs, polkas, two-steps, marches, and retreat marches. All present went away with a much better appreciation of the music, and also some good examples of each type.

All being well, there will be another workshop in 2012, on 22nd April, when we will be seeing how we can use jazz to spice up our playing. Watch out for the advert in the December edition of Puddingstone, which will give further details."

Roger Swaine

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

Autumn 2011

- 2 Sep Bob Lilley
- 9 Sep Bob Barrett & Friday Folk Band
- 16 Sep Adam Hughes
- 23 Sep Club Callers plus AGM
- 30 Sep Playford with Colin Hume & Spring Greens
- 7 Oct Eileen Sinden & FF Band
- 14 Oct Dave Kerridge
- 21 Oct Paul Garner
- 28 Oct Frances Oates & The Turnabouts
- 4 Nov Mike Bennett & FF Band
- 11 Nov Dance through the Ages with Mike Ruff
- 18 Nov Suzanne Farmer
- 25 Nov Bill Thorne

26 Nov Saturday Special with Colin Hume and Fiddlegang
 at F Bacon School, AL1 5AR, £8

- 2 Dec Mark Elvins & FF Band
- 9 Dec Christmas Special: Chris Turner
- 16 Dec Carol Singing around St Albans

Hertfordshire Folk Development Fund Update

We're still looking for people to help!!!

Good news for those who need some practical help to develop their folk art capabilities! The newly established **Hertfordshire Folk Development Fund** is still looking for candidates it can help to support the growth of these skills in the county. If you think your own development, as a musician, a dancer or a teacher for example, might benefit folk generally in the area, you may just be the person we're looking for. Funding application forms (complete with guidance notes) are available through the secretary to the fund, Roger Barnes (email: Barnesstab@aol.com)

If, on the other hand, you would like to help support the fund, as a club or as an individual, please contact our treasurer, Barry Goodman (email: Barry.Goodman1@Ntlworld.com)

We look forward to hearing from you!

Norman Dobbing

Chairman, Herts. Folk Development Fund

“To Jigge or not to Jig?” That is the Question.

“Now for something completely different a Jigge.”

These were the opening words of this year's entertainment at the the Herts Early Dance May Revels. This year's Revels - whilst being held on the 12th May – welcomed in the summer in traditional (?) style with an opening ceremony initiated by a fanfare from 'The Presence' on Elizabethan-style instruments and a procession of costumed dancers carrying posies of flowers.

The flowers were added to our decorated May Pole while the Northill May song was sung. Step in the May Lord with an expertly delivered speech from 'The Knight of the Burning Pestle' [an Elizabethan play by Beaumont and Fletcher], ably followed by our resident Green Man who selected and crowned the May Queen.

The May Queen raised a toast – alcoholic of course – and presided over the dancing led by Anne Daye; Jigs? No! Branles, Pavaues and Country Dances? Yes we danced quite a few!

Seasonal songs sung in suitable celebration entertained us while the feast was set out. As in previous years the feast certainly lived up to its name. Our members had prepared wonderful Elizabethan-style dishes such as whole salmon decorated with watercress and pansies, seasoned pork, salads containing oranges, spinach and rosewater tarts, bean dips, manchet bread and more even options for vegetarians and coeliacs! This was all eased down with liberal quantities of punch and 'Chairman's Ale'.

Wow – just as well the dancing did not start again until after our 'Jiggaloos' had entertained us in right royal style with yes a Jigge [an Elizabethan play often set to music and usually including dance].

The theme of the entertainment was rivalry between the England and Spain. It commenced with a competition in song between a Cheshire Man and a Spaniard, with a Cheshire Round saving the competitors from almost certain death by cheese (Cheshire, of course) or by Spanish sword.

The scene then changed to the court of Queen Elizabeth I, receiving a marriage proposal from the King of Spain conveyed by an enthusiastic, rumbustuous Spanish Ambassador.

Then followed a dialogue between a Spanish gentleman and an English lady, from a source dated around 1590, in which he persuades her to come to his 'chambre' so that he can teach her some 'spaniolaye'. Next, a very elegant display of Spanish prowess expressed through the Canario and a somewhat estranging version of the Spanioletta. In response, the English enacted a sea battle with real(?) ships and lots of banging and crashing about by the English/Spanish fleets, to the music of the Battle Pavan. Rounds of party poppers fired from the fo'c'stle of each ship completed the scene of destruction, love, royalty, music and dance that was sadly all over in less than half an hour!

Our dancing then continued with a mix of C15th and C16th dances from Europe, and the whole evening ended with some country dancing, but only after our banquet. This selection of sumptuous sweet subtleties was decorous and delicious and devoured with an (small) element of elegant Elizabethan in character.

.... and all finishing before the watershed ... (9:00pm)!
.... and all in the best possible taste... and loads of fun.

Jan Guyatt

If you would like to try out the dancing or playing music that forms the basis of our Club – possibly in readiness for next year's Revels – the dates of sessions are given below:

VENUE: St Stephens Church Hall, Watling Street, St Albans AL1 2PX.
TIME: Usually 2:30 to 5:00.

Please contact me for more information: Jan Guyatt: 01442 862545
earlydanceherts@btopenworld.com and
www.hertsearlydance.btinternet.co.uk

Sun 11 Sep 2011	Sun 02 Oct 2011	Sun 23 Oct 2011
Sun 20 Nov 2011	Sun 11 Dec 2011	

Sunday 8th January 2012 Twelfth Night Celebrations

Sun 29 th Jan 2012	Sun 19 th Feb 2012	Sun 11 th Mar 2012
Sun 1 st April 2012	Sun 22 nd April 2012	

Saturday 12th May 2012 (3:00 to 9:00) MAY REVELS

Sunday 3 rd June 2012	Sun 24 th June 2012
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London Barndance

Saturday 10th September 8 p.m.

Mark Elvins

Weston Country Dance Band

Saturday 8th October 8 p.m.

Andrew Swaine

Chesapeake

Saturday 19th November 8 p.m.

Henry Morgenstein

Fiddlegang

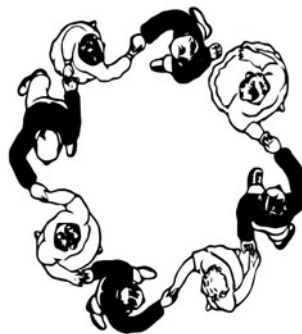
Saturday 10th December 8 p.m.

Rhodri Davies

Ian, Charlie, Gareth and Linda

Tickets: £10 (EFDSS £9, LBC & concs £8)

www.barndance.org



All dances are held at
Cecil Sharp House
2 Regents Park Road
London NW1 7AY

Further details from
Andrew and Jane:
01628 633962
home@barndance.org

DVD Review..."Here's a health to the Barley Mow"

If you have not seen this DVD yet, you really must! There is something in it for anyone who has any interest in "Folk". However unless you enjoy everything to do with "Folk" you are going to find some parts hard work to sit through. It comes on two discs, the first starts with dance and song and is one of the parts I found most fascinating. Performances dating from 1912 to 2003, this is a mixed collection including material from the early days of EFDSS as well as traditional Morris and Sword dance sides. It was interesting to see that some things haven't changed at all, with small children copying the dancers, members of the audience who are only there to chat, and dancers who are having a moment of confusion. As someone brought up to revere Cecil Sharp, a clip of him bumping into George Butterworth and falling about laughing about it, gave me a whole new perspective. The clip which gives the DVD its title is of a group singing in their local. This resonated with memories of my family during my childhood on Saturday and Sunday evenings at my Grandparents' or Great Aunts & Uncles homes, singing folk songs, lubricated by a little home brew, country wine or cups of tea.

The section dealing with extreme sports didn't hold my attention for long, I'm afraid I don't get very excited about watching any sport event, let alone ones that seem to be nearly all crowd scenes and little else!

I was a little disappointed by some of the Mumming film, as dubbed on music is no substitute for words. I wish the compilers had found a lip reader to dub on the dialog instead!

The Newsreels on the second disc were generally interesting, although some suffered from the original film makers' desire to be "arty" and only had small gems of folk history embedded in a lot of beautiful scenery.

Another annoying tendency of these non-folk film makers was to cut the feet off the dancers. Why only film the top half of Dick Hewitt in action?

However taken as a whole I'm very happy to have received this DVD for my birthday and strongly recommend it to anyone who can watch the early footage, which I found wonderful, without being too upset by the dull parts.

Adrian Burrows

Come and Join us

Would you like to have the opportunity to keep active, have some fun and try some folk dance? A warm welcome can be found with English Miscellany Folk Dance group who perform several different styles of folk dance. You can choose from Country Dance including Playford, or try Morris dancing, Cotswold for the men and Northwest for the women. For those with rhythmic feet you could join our step clog dancers. Our performances include all of these elements and each section will be pleased to see new members this Autumn. More information can be found at www.englishmiscellany.com or contact me at

publicity@englishmiscellany.com

Jenny Lane

BandaBér o

From Nevers in central France

French dance workshop, 5.30pm

French dance, 8.00pm

Saturday October 29

Frances Bacon School

Drakes Drive, St Albans AL1 5AR

Tickets: Dance £9, workshop £3

01727 852111, on door or

online at www.allaboutstalbans.com

Further information:

info@stalbansfolkmusic.org.uk

www.stalbansfolkmusic.org.uk

www.myspace.com/dominiqueforges



English Miscellany go to Gütersloh

Very early on Friday morning of the late May bank holiday almost 30 members of local folk dance group English Miscellany set off by coach to the north west of Germany. We had been invited to visit by our friends in Folklorekreis Gütersloh.

The journey was going to be long, but the tedium was relieved by a real brain-teaser of a quiz devised by Jenny and Peter. There were over 70 significant world events between 1940 and 2011 to correctly date. Remembering what happened last week is a challenge for some of us, but it was astounding to realise that recalling internationally important incidents can be triggered by the most trivial of personal memories. Celebrating a birthday “on board” and of course music and song also helped the time to pass. Our arrival was delayed by ferry and traffic problems, but the dispersal to hosts and welcome drinks and food soon dispelled travel fatigue.

We had an early start the next morning for a walking tour of the historic town of Rheda-Wiedenbrück. Our knowledgeable guide told us fascinating details about the many half-timbered houses that had detailed carvings, ornamentation and inscriptions. We were dressed in our “Playford” costume, because of a performance later, which added to the local colour.



The town was also staging its now annual display of “everyday people”. These are groups of around 60 life-sized concrete

sculptures distributed around the streets, depicting people in real-life situations. They certainly brought smiles to our faces and as you can see below we became part of the spectacle!

We were then off to a festival in Rheda and shared display spots with our hosts and another local group. There were other music and dance performances for us to watch as we wandered around the many food stalls and sampled the international dishes on offer. After lunch we put on an hour-long display at an old people's home, but not until after we had been given substantial slices of delicious cake and coffee (at least the calories gave us energy!). The building was modern and the gardens were beautifully maintained - an ideal place to spend your twilight years. This venue also gave us the opportunity to show all of the rich and varied traditions of English dance and song; almost every section of the club was able to perform.

We ended the day with a communal meal at a local farmhouse. It was a relaxed and sociable affair with lots to eat and drink, but we, and most of Folklorekreis, were unaware of what was to come. Three members of our group had been spirited away at the end of the meal and secret preparations were taking place; an elaborate murder mystery was about to be re-enacted.

The "English" had the roles of Miss Marple, Mr Stringer and Fritz, the young son of one of the other characters. Fritz (played by EM's leader, Norman) was dressed in a charming sailor suit with short trousers, clutching a large teddy bear and sucking his thumb. His role was to interrupt his "mother" every time she spoke, to ask for a lolly in impeccable German, whilst everyone else spoke their lines in English. Much of the action took place on a train and the cast had gone to incredible lengths to film sequences in a restored railway carriage and interspersed these with "live" action in the room. The whole thing was an absolute triumph. At the conclusion, we all had to vote who we thought the killer was. The correct answer was given by the only member of Folklorekreis who could speak no English at all, so he could not have understood any of the plot – this brought the house down!

Sunday saw us departing in the coach for Berlebeck to the Adlerwarte, Europe's oldest and largest centre for birds of prey. Seeing the eagles and vultures close up was impressive, but we were then treated to a display of aerial acrobatics by a variety of birds.

The setting, high on a hillside looking down a wooded valley was perfect. However, we couldn't linger too long because we were to take part in a festival in Bielefeld in the afternoon. This was a huge event – the centre of the town had been completely taken over by a bewildering array of stalls selling beer, wine and food whilst entertainment was provided by fairground rides, bands, talent competitions and of course us. We had just enough time to sample some of the attractions before we had to get into costume ready to dance on a small stage conveniently located next to an outdoor bar! We watched a number of different dance groups perform to an enthusiastic and very vocal crowd before it was our turn. Our last performance was soon over and it was time to make our way back home for a relaxed meal with our host families. This is the opportunity to really get to know the people, their customs and culture and establish lasting friendships; the best part of such trips.

Monday had been organised as a sight-seeing and shopping day to give us time to get to know the area a little better. We started off by visiting a wildlife park in Olderdisen. It was a fine, warm day and we enjoyed exploring the extensive grounds to view the native animals. We saw on the schedule that after lunch we were going to the Miele Museum in Gütersloh. Many of us struggled to imagine what a museum of domestic appliances could have of interest for us. How wrong can you be? It was absolutely fascinating! Our guide was brilliant; describing the origins of the company in the revolutionary design of butter churns that later evolved into simple washing machines, improving the lives of so many rural workers. Through the decades the design of each piece of domestic equipment was innovative and beautifully functional. By the time we reached the section on modern kitchens the women in the group were looking enviously at steam ovens, induction hobs for woks and immense fridge freezers; the men were just looking worried!

Our last evening was spent all together at the farmhouse, eating a wonderful meal prepared by our hosts and sharing dances, songs and games. All too soon it was the time for the exchange of gifts, final speeches and goodbyes. We all came away with many happy memories of our days spent with Folklorekreis Gütersloh and we look forward to the next time we can meet.

Brenda Brookes

HARROW FOLK DANCE CLUB

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

39th. PLAYFORD BALL

SATURDAY 19th NOVEMBER 2011

KATHRYN & DAVID WRIGHT

~ ~ with music by ~ ~

FOLKUS POCUS

**at SHAFTESBURY HIGH SCHOOL,
HEADSTONE LANE, HARROW WEALD, HA3 6NP.
(Near Headstone Lane National Rail Station)**

First dance 19.30 (promptly) - until 22.45 hrs.

Tickets (on the door) £7.00 including refreshments.

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Forthcoming attractions:

42nd. Anniversary Dance - Sat. 17th. March 2012

(Ron Coxall with Orange & Blue.)

40th. Playford Ball - Sat. 17th Nov. 2012

(Ian & Val McFarlane with Toucan Play)

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***The Harrow Folk Dance Club meets most Mondays (except in August),
7.30 - 9.55pm at Belmont School Lower 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