

Magazine of the Hertfordshire Folk Association

Affiliated to
EFDSS

PUDDINGSTONE



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Issue 53

Summer 2012

April - July

40p

Where sold



HERTFORDSHIRE FOLK ASSOCIATION

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COPY DATE
for Autumn Issue
(Aug- Nov 2012)
1st July

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ADVERTISING RATES

Full page (A5) 197mm high x 130mm wide £17
½ page 95mm high x 130mm wide £11
¼ page 95mm high x 64mm wide £8.50

BACK COVER - £25

INSIDE BACK COVER - £20

Cheques and POs made payable to
the Hertfordshire Folk Association

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necessarily representative of those of the
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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)

COPY DATES

1st July for Autumn (Aug - Nov) Issue
PUBLISHED 1st AUGUST

1st Nov for Winter (Dec - March) Issue
PUBLISHED 1st DECEMBER

1st March for Summer (April - July) Issue
PUBLISHED 1st APRIL

Printed by **Triographics Printers** of Knebworth.
For more information, phone 01438 811905
or email alantriog@aol.com

Distribution with thanks to the
HFA committee, particularly
Roger Swaine, Nic Nicolson &
Terry Elvins.

For the very latest information on all our activities please
visit our web site at: www.hertsfolkassn.org.uk



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Editorial



Another bumper edition!

Of particular note are the change of venue for the HFA Children's Festival this Summer. Reviews of Pilgrims Way, a new band with "local boy made good" Edwin Beasant. I almost reviewed their CD, but was pipped at the post by their appearance on the front of the EFDSS mag. Northern Frisk, a band I have only worked with a few times joined me for their Friday Folk debut. Hopefully I will be doing a lot more with them. We received a lengthy epistle from Dave Skye telling us about developments for Dawn & Dave at the seaside. Jenny Lane has sent us more "Festivals, Folk & Foods". I had an interesting conversation with one of our contributors about

customs connected with Puddingstone some of which were mentioned in issue 49. He told me there is a piece perched on a wall in Abbots Langley, and I wondered if it had been put there to stop it producing baby stones. In the area of Bedfordshire where I spent my childhood these were called Motherstones and had to be marooned to stop them breeding! I wonder what other customs and traditions there are out there. Do drop me a line if you know any. Although I had lots of CD reviews I ran out of space so I will save them up for next time

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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 on page 2.

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

Why not contact the editor (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.

Adrian Burrows

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Festivals, folk and food

“Barnaby bright, Barnaby bright, Longest day Shortest night”
traditional rhyme

The feast day of St Barnabas is celebrated on June 11th, an important day in the church's year and one which pre 1752 and the calendar change, was Midsummer's day. Sadly nowadays it often gets forgotten. St Barnabas was an early Christian disciple who travelled with St Paul on several missionary journeys culminating with him being the founder of the Cypriot church, although it was in Cyprus that he was martyred. Traditional Midsummer celebrations therefore became linked to this feast day, with garlands of flowers; lavender, rosemary, roses and sweet woodruff being used to decorate churches, homes and as well as nosegays for people. On the eve of Midsummer it was traditional to light bonfires especially on hilltops.



Fire was seen to have purification properties, and a game of leaping over the fire once it had died down was said to bring good luck. Midsummer was seen as a time of powerful magic, fairies, and fortune telling, all seen as suitable activities for relaxation and a celebration of life around the central bonfire. Although these activities no longer occur in Britain at Midsummer, I know that in Northern Europe the tradition is very much alive, as members of English Miscellany were able to witness when they entertained Latvian visitors at Midsummer a few years ago. The bonfire, songs and customs of their country were adhered

to even though they were far from home and were very similar to those we used to participate in here.

After 1752 midsummer fell on June 24th, the feast day of St John the Baptist, with celebrations happening in the evening of 23rd. As well as being near to the summer solstice on June 21st, in this area it is likely that celebrations were held over several days as June 22nd is the feast day of St Alban. June was a very busy month in the agricultural year with the hay harvest being gathered, and the sheep needing shearing, so the feast days provided a welcome respite from all the hard work. As the evening drew to a close it was important to gaze into the embers of the fire to foretell the future and on this theme I came across a weird activity. On Midsummer's eve take a black pincushion, using the smallest pins to write your name. On the other side in large pins make a cross surrounded by a circle. At bedtime put the pin cushion into your right stocking and hang it up at the foot of the bed. During the night all of your future life will pass before you in a dream. So now to make a black pin cushion.....



Food recipes at this time of year often reflect the soft fruit becoming available in the gardens and hedgerows, with a favourite being summer pudding. An alternative that I like is Midsummer Syllabub which can be made with elderflower cordial in place of the traditional cider. Either version goes well with gooseberries, which in a good year may be ripe at this time.

¼ pint of dry cider or diluted (but strong)
elderflower cordial

Rind and juice of 1 lemon (a little extra in the elderflower version)

25g (1oz) caster sugar

½ pint double cream

Grated nutmeg in the alcoholic version

Combine all ingredients apart the lemon juice and cream in a large bowl. Pour in the cream and whisk until thick. Add the lemon juice and spoon into glasses or dishes on top of gooseberries if using, and chill before serving.

Jenny Lane

Northern Frisk

Friday Folkers knew what to expect on Friday 2nd March when the caller was Adrian. However to most of us his chosen band Northern Frisk were not known. As it turned out we had an excellent evening with dances of varying styles and rhythms drawn from Adrian's extensive repertoire.

Northern Frisk is a trio of Chris (fiddle and recorder), Olly (Double Bass and Tambourine) and Nicola (Piano Accordion). The variety of dance styles chosen during the evening were well within their capacity, although there was a couple of instances when the dancers found phrasing the music difficult and arrived at the end of a move before the phrase was complete.

Their name comes from a traditional North Country tune and if you Google Northern Frisk you can hear this tune played by Mary Humphries on an Anglo. Instead of ending the evening with a waltz the band finished with a rendition of this tune.

As they build up their local reputation there will be more chances of dancing to this band. It certainly would be worthwhile.

Nic Nicholson

Pilgrim's Way - Abbots Langley Winter Acoustic Concerts

12th February 2012

On a chilly Sunday afternoon in February a near capacity audience in the Abbots Langley Community Centre warmed to a stunning performance by the Manchester-based trio "Pilgrim's Way". Singer Lucy Wright has a clear voice and a wonderfully expressive style which really brings the songs to life, while Edwin Beasant and Tom Kitching provide backing vocals and subtle and sympathetic accompaniments, occasionally varied by a lively dance tune or two.

Pilgrim's Way present a fresh approach to a melodic repertoire of traditional and more recent songs, accompanied by fiddles, diatonic accordions, guitar, mandolin, harmonica and jew's harp. Of particular note on that afternoon were a pretty waltz and an uncharacteristically romantic Les Barker poem set to music. I greatly enjoyed Lucy's rendition of "Adieu Sweet Lovely Nancy" with slightly different phrasing from usual, giving it a new life, and the delightful "Only a Soldier", credited to the singing of Jeff Warner.

All this and some excellent musicianship. Tom and Edwin provided rhythmic backings which danced around the vocals, yet never got in the way. Lovely accurate fiddling from Tom, nice harmony work on the occasions that Lucy picked up her fiddle as well,

and really strong rhythms from Edwin, not only on the boxes, but also some great guitar work - particularly commended by a couple of guitarist friends of mine who were sitting in the front row!

This was the sixth concert in an innovative Sunday afternoon series. Our ambition was to bring some of the best of traditional and acoustic music to a local audience, many of whom would not normally be found in a folk club or festival. The Abbots Langley Community Centre has excellent acoustics and a comfortable ambience and the enthusiasm of the near capacity audience for the music was almost eclipsed by their relish for the tea and cakes in the interval, served as ever by the Dick's Folly crew. Go to www.oldsidetim.com/alwac.htm for details of future events at this venue (Oct, Nov 2012, Feb, March 2013). Pilgrim's Way can be seen again at the Haddenham Ceilidh on Saturday 5th May.

Details at www.haddenhamceilidhs.co.uk

Tim Brooks

Hemel Hempstead Folk Dance Club 50th anniversary

The 50th anniversary of Hemel Hempstead Folk Dance Club was celebrated at Warners End Community Centre on 29 October 2011 when members and invited guests enjoyed a reunion with buffet supper, followed by dancing to Roger Swaine and The Brookfield Band. Former member Keith Harrup called an interesting selection of dances embracing both old and new traditions. The guests included most of the previous Display Team which disbanded in 1999.

Whilst old accounts books and dancing manuals show that a Folk Dance Club existed in Hemel before the 2nd World War the link has been lost until the formation of a new club resulting from an evening class in the early 1960's. The original name of Gadebridge F.D.C. was changed when it became apparent that few people outside the town knew where it was.

Since its 'rebirth' the club has had very few leaders. After the evening class Betty Heather ran the club for a short while until Sheila Mitchell (later Anderson) took over. It was on Sheila and Philip's departure to the Midlands in 2002 that the club's present leaders Mike Heylin and Sue Samme took over. The club now has several members who have joined the calling rota which includes occasional visiting callers.

The Club is about to embark on a new phase of its life when it has to depart from its current meeting place at a church hall which is due to be demolished then rebuilt. On 3 February 2012 we will move to Grovehill Community Centre, Hemel Hempstead, HP2 6BJ.

Sue Samme.

St Albans Folk Festival, June 27 – July 6

Saturday June 30

Day of Dance in St Albans City Centre

Old Town Hall Folk Day, free events during the day with showcases,
open stages, sessions and singarounds in the cells

Concert 8pm Philip Henry and Hannah Martin

plus New Roots finalist

Wednesday July 4, St Michael's Street folk evening

Dancing in the street and music in its four pubs

Friday July 6, First Friday with the Devine Family

For details of these and other St Albans Folk Festival events see:

info@stalbansfolkmusic.org.uk www.stalbansfolkmusic.org.uk

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07807 521436

St Albans Tourist and Information Centre

Further information:

www.stalbansfolkmusic.org.uk

info@stalbansfolkmusic.org.uk

From our arts correspondent this year of 1536

A worthy new mummers' play

Mumming plays are humble country amusements not associated with controversial religious issues of the day—you might think. But the 12th Night Revels at St Albans just past witnessed one notable exception.

Called to entertain His Majesty King Henry VIII and his court on their progress through the town, the Jiggoloes, a troupe of players from Hertfordshire Early Dance, rashly presented a play that was a clear satire on His Majesty's recent break with Catholicism. It happened in this manner.

St George came in and none thought anything strange, but then entered his adversary, clothed as a cardinal and speaking his lines in Latin, clumsily translated by the narrator, whose command of the language was less than deft. The traditional battle took the form of the morris dance Upton upon Severn, performed with terrifying vigour and great skill by the two men, and when George of England, with admirable guile, slew the cardinal, who should enter but the Pope himself. Using the traditional device, it was the Pope who then had to bemoan the death of his son, which brought comment and much laughter.



The doctor was called and after showing both himself and the Pope open to bribery, suggested many comical cures but the only one that worked was an incantation that exorcised the demon of Catholicism and replaced it with His Majesty's own version. The man rose again as an Anglican.

Mercifully His Majesty seemed pleased with the confection and entered into the spirit of the company by pursuing the Lady Anne Boleyn around the floor as the players and the audience lustily sang the final song *The Hunt is Up*.

It appeared the audience much enjoyed the play, while His Majesty too was kindly amused perhaps less by the delightful music, superb acting and immortal poetry than by the fact that the audience laughed in all the right places and everybody booed the Pope. All kept their heads.

Elaine Corke

Editor's note: When Elaine and I sat down to plan the above play, we started with the idea of retro-writing a mumming play with what could have been a topical issue. At the time we had no idea how likely this would have been , but subsequently I came across the following in

"A brief history of Robin Hood" by Nigel Cawthorne :

{Sir Richard Morison complained to Henry VIII of the "plays of Robin Hood, Maid Marion, Friar Tuck, wherein besides the lewdness and ribaldry.....they should be forbidden, while other plays should be devised showing the abomination and wickedness of the bishop of Rome,and such like".}

Ed.

If you are interested in trying early dance for yourself why not come along to St Stephen's Church Hall (AL1 2PX) on Sun 1st & 22nd April, 2.15 - 5.00.

The group's Tudor May Revels, with entertainments, Dance, Song, Feast and Banquet is on Sat 12th May 3.00 - 9.00.

Contact Jan Guyatt 01442 862545 for more info and tickets.

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PUDDINGSTONE

Middle pages pull-out



HERTFORDSHIRE FOLK ASSOCIATION COMMITTEE

Elected Members & Officers as from November 2011

Chairman: **Miss Hilary Vare** hilaryvare@yahoo.com Tel: 02083 606846

Hon Treasurer: **Mr Roger Swaine** roger.swaine1@btinternet.com
Tel: 01707 324413

Correspondence **Mr Terry Elvins** mail@ptelvins.plus.com
& Diary dates: Tel: 01707 320299

Membership **Mr Nic Nicholson** nic.jackie@btinternet.com
Secretary: Tel: 01727 854183

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: **Karon Lyne** Karon.Lyne@btconnect.com

Puddingstone Ed: **Mr Adrian Burrows** editor@hertsfolkassn.org.uk

Co-opted Member Tel: 01727 866086

HFA Rep for Bursary Fund: **Brenda Brookes**

Affiliated Club Representatives: **Brenda Brookes (English Miscellany)**

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.

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 contact details on page 2).

Diary Dates 2012

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.

| | | |
|------------|--|-----------------------|
| April 14th | London Barn Dance , Cecil Sharp House, 2 Regents Park Rd, London, NW1 7AY Rhodri Davies with Fiddlegang | 8.00pm |
| April 14th | Winchmore , Trinity Church Hall, Church Street, Enfield EN2 6AN - 0280 9267293 Judith Inman with the Forest Band | 7.30pm |
| April 28th | St Andrews , Trinity Church Hall, Church Street, Enfield EN2 6AN - 0208 366 3982 Carol Hewson with Whirling Skirmish | 7.30pm |
| May 12th | Herts Early Dance , St Stephens Church Hall, Watling Street, St Albans. AL1 2PX - 01442 862545 May Revels (tickets £12.50 in advance only) | 3.30 to 9.00pm |
| May 19th | St. Albans Abbey , Homewood Rd, U R Church, Sandpit Ln, St. Albans, AL1 4BH - 01727 834977 Ron Coxall with the Forest Band | 7.30pm |
| July 7th | Childrens Summer Folk Dance Festival. NEW VENUE. - 01707 320299 Sherrerswood School, AL6 0BJ | 11.00 to 2.30pm |
| Aug 11th | Winchmore. Sue Needham with the Forest Band | 7.30pm |
| Aug 25th | St. Andrews. Ivan Aitken with JIP | 7.30pm |
| Sept 8th | London Barn Dance. Geoff Cubitt with Weston Country Dance Band | 8.00pm |
| Sept 8th | Winchmore. John Wood with the Forest Band | 7.30pm |

DIARY DATES 2011 (continued)

| | | |
|---------------|--|--------|
| Sept 22nd | St. Andrews. Arnold Stem with the Forest Band | 7.30pm |
| Oct 6th | Staplers , St. Ippolyts Parish Hall, Waterdell Lane, St. Ippolyts, Nr Hitchin. SG4 7RB -01582 881966 www.staplers.org.uk Mark Elvins with Stick Shift. | 7.30pm |
| Oct 6th | London Barn Dance Lynne Render with Vertical Expression | 8.00pm |
| Oct 13th | Winchmore (AGM) Terry Elvins with the Forest Band | 7.30pm |
| Oct 27th | St. Andrews (AGM) Michael Holdup with recorded music | 7.30pm |
| Nov 10th | London Barn Dance Andrew Swaine with Chesapeake | 8.00pm |
| Nov 10th | Winchmore Brian Jones with the Forest Band | 7.30pm |
| Nov 17th | Harrow . Shaftesbury High School, Headstone Lane, Harrow Weald. HA3 6NP - 0208 8687526 Ian & Val McFarlane with Toucan Play | 7.30pm |
| Nov 24th | St. Andrews Bill & Barbara Kinsman with Toucan Play | 7.30pm |
| Dec 1st | Staplers. Ron Coxall with Stradivarius | 7.30pm |
| Dec 8th | London Barn Dance John Turner with Fat Harry | 8.00pm |
| Dec 8th | Winchmore Barry Bullimore with the Forest Band | 7.30pm |
| Dec 22nd ? | St. Andrews Anne Dunn with recorded music | 7.30pm |

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 - 01923 234920

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

English Miscellany - info@englishmiscellany.com or 01483 755278

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

Friday Folk - 020 8366 1703 or gilltibbs@hotmail.com

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

Hemel Hempstead FDC - 01442 259578

Hertford CDG - 01438 714539

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

Offley Morris - 01462 624210 or bill@davis7.fsnet.co.uk

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

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

Roundabouts CDC - Barbara Gilder (Treasurer) 01462 453534

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

St Albans Morris Men -

01727 863727 or bagman@stalbansmorrismen.org.uk

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

Staplers FDG - 01582 881966 or www.staplers.org.uk

Tappalachian - 07957 614064 or miniange@postmaster.co.uk

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 - 01707 324413 or Lynda.swaine@btinternet.com

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

Hertfordshire Folk Association



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

7th July 2012
11 a.m. - 2.30 p.m.

**At Sherrardswood School, Lockleys,
Welwyn, AL6 0BJ**

(Note new location!)

Children's Dancing

Maypole Dancing

Displays

Refreshments

M.C. Barry Goodman

With music from

Jump the Vortex

Admission In advance: Adults £3.50, Children £2.50

Admission On the day: Adults £4.00, Children £3.00

For more information, please contact Terry Elvins
on 01707 320299

or at: mail@ptelvins.plus.com



Hertfordshire Folk Association
(affiliated to the English FolkDance and Song Society)
<http://www.hertsfolkassn.org.uk>

Piano-accordion workshop

Sunday 22nd April 2012

To be held at the Backhouse Room, 116, Handside Lane, Welwyn Garden City, AL8 6SZ.

Doors open 10am, workshop starts at 10:30, and ends at 4:30pm.

Unfortunately there are no eating facilities nearby, so please bring a packed lunch.

Tea & coffee & biscuits will be provided during the day.

Cost: £30

“Jazzing it Up” with Bert Santilly.

Bert Santilly is a familiar figure in the Accordion world as a teacher and performer and has played in a variety of venues both in the United Kingdom and abroad. His teaching work includes individual students and a number of successful jazz accordion workshops, as well as more generic workshops around the country involving disabled and able-bodied musicians working together.

Apart from his work as a solo musician, he plays as part of the duo “Café Mondiale”, a member of “Simply Jazz” – a quintet in which he doubles vibraphone, the “Bungalow Boogaloo Band” – a ceilidh band which has featured on Radio 4 and “Shakey Breaks The Ice” an innovative jazz/blues Klesmer ensemble whose music guarantees to “begin your Beguine....!!! Bert has also made many recordings.

Bert will show you to use Jazz ideas & techniques to add variety to your playing, looking at, e.g. ,rhythm, bass lines, phrasing and improvisation.

Booking is essential: Please telephone Roger Swaine on 01707 324413, or E-mail him on “roger.swaine1@btinternet.com” to reserve a place.

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 2012

13 Apr Mike Bennett & FF Band
 20 Apr Bob Lilley
 27 Apr Eileen Sinden
 4 May Dave Kerridge
 11 May Bob Barrett & FF Band
 18 May Dave Parsons
 25 May Paul Garner and Amphora
 1 Jun Club Callers
 8 Jun Suzanne Farmer & FF Band
 15 Jun Mark Elvins and Spring Greens

16 Jun Saturday Special at F Bacon
Geoff Cubitt, Vic Smith and Mollie Koenigsberger

22 Jun Bob Barrett
 29 Jun Mike Bennett
 6 Jul American Old & New with Ian Edlin
 13 Jul Colin Hume & FF Band
 20 Jul Garden Dance with Spring Greens (phone for details)

London Barndance

Saturday 14th April 8 p.m.

Rhodri Davies

Fiddlegang

Saturday 12th May 8 p.m.

Jim Kitch (USA)

Skylark

Saturday 9th June 8 p.m.

John Meehan

English Contra Dance Band

Saturday 14th July 8 p.m.

Adam Hughes

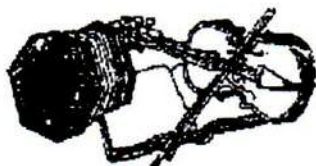
Kelly's Eye

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

St. Neots Folk Club



The Priory Centre,
St. Neots, PE19 2BH
Every Tuesday 8.15pm

Email - stneotsfolkclub@aol.com
Telephone - 01234 376278



www.stneotsfolkclub.co.uk

| | |
|-------------------------|------------------------------------|
| Apr 3 Judy Cook | May 1 Special Round the Room |
| Apr 10 Derek Gifford | May 8 Belshazzar's Feast (tickets) |
| Apr 17 Liz Simcock Trio | May 15 Winter Wilson |
| Apr 24 Cloudstreet | May 22 Suntrap |
| | May 29 Open Stage |

| | |
|---------------------------------------|--------------------------|
| June 5 Paul Downes & Mick Ryan | July 3 Nick Dow |
| June 12 Keith Pearson's Coop de Grass | July 10 Martin Curtis |
| June 19 Miriam Backhouse | July 17 Tyde |
| June 26 Round the Room | July 24 John Kirkpatrick |



8TH 9TH 10TH JUNE 2012

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QUICKSILVER ~ JO MAY ~ PAMELA WARD & PAUL CHERRINGTON PLUS OTHERS

www.stneotsfolkclub.co.uk

01234 376278

*All weekend – music sessions, real ale bar, food,
Saturday dance displays & workshops and Club Concert
Tickets available for individual events*

Confessions of a castaway

In 2010 Dawn & I left Hertfordshire for the balmy climes of Dorset.

It all started in 1997, when Kodak Research's annual team building event took place at the Rempstone Forest's Ropes Course, near Swanage, in Dorset. Having had childhood experiences in Swanage, I persuaded Dawn to come down for the weekend and we explored the area – discovering Poole. A weekend is very short, so we decided to return and found a lovely campsite with just a 5 minute drive to a free car park and the most wonderful spot for sailing, windsurfing, kayaking, cycling and walking. So for five years, this was a regular trip in the warmer months.

In 2002 I retired from Kodak, and started thinking, “wouldn't Poole be a wonderful place to retire to”!

We started looking around for suitable places, and with a slack market at the time, and few properties, I eventually had the idea of a postal drop. I made a little note to the effect, “if you want to sell then we are interested”. Dawn wandered around and leafleted the most suitable houses (character and likely price!), and on our return to Harpenden that evening there was a phone message responding to our note, and that was it. The house was lovely, right place and right price, so with my redundancy and the proceeds from Dawn selling the Practice we bought it. Job done!



We had various bits of work done – and in 2008, our son John told us we had to move – quite rightly – we would never have done it on our own!

So, with the invaluable help of Liz Rose, we left our house in Harpenden, sadly having to part with a large part of my instrument collection! We rented a flat in Harpenden for a year as Dawn was still working, and officially moved in in 2009.

With the use of the flat, we were still partaking in Hertfordshire activities. That year, Dawn had a back operation and was thus forced off work for a period. She went back briefly, but found it uncomfortable and decided to call it a day. So in 2010, we relinquished the flat and became full time residents of Poole, and Dorset.

With the ever increasing cost of fuel, it was less attractive to keep travelling up and down. I looked around for a Morris side and discovered Bourne River Morris, with whom I have been dancing now for two years.

Dawn quickly discovered an alternative West Gallery organisation to Bedford Gallery Quire, and was gobbled up in a flash. I later joined as a bass. So we are now members of the Purbeck Village Quire.

Dawn realised that she was unlikely to be able to do North West with her dodgy back and knees, so the local womens' side "Dorset Buttons" was not a dancing option. However, we discovered that just 500m away from the hall where Bourne River Morris practises, was a dance club, of the Playford to Pat Shaw regime. It starts at 7:30, so we toddle along, I get a half-hour of gentle, but sometimes mind-bending dancing before going off to Morris practice, and Dawn stays for the evening.

Dorset has a very rich folk tradition with Thomas Hardy and the Yetties representing rather opposite ends of the spectrum! And it is a small world. For those of you who know Ian Edlin and Jenny Harrison, from Friday Folk, who moved down to Dorset from Hertfordshire not long before us, they are now running regular dances in the village of Shillingstone. Dawn was going to call some dances for them in December 2010, but unfortunately Dorset ground to a halt because of heavy snow!

The Filly Loo

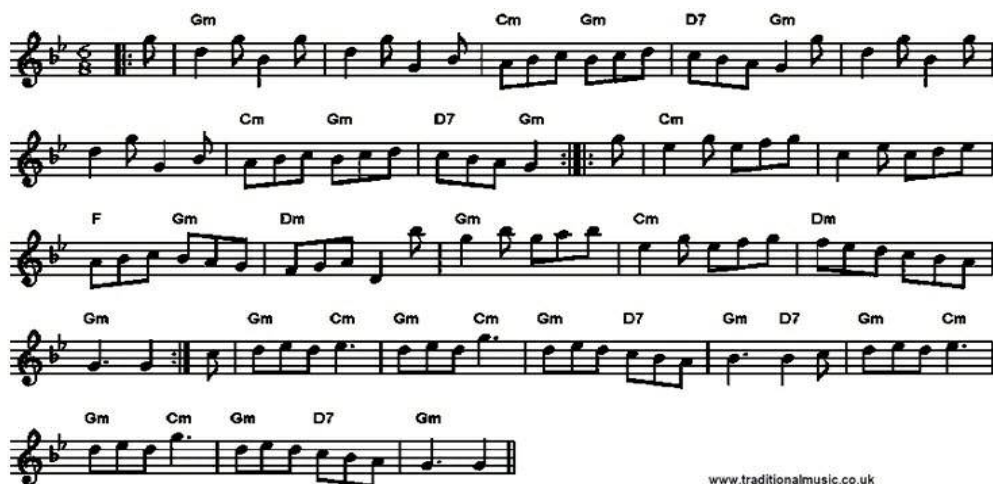
Two years ago, just after I had joined Bourne River Morris, but was not yet dancing out with them, we were present at a display outside a local pub when the foreman said – "You've got black britches and a white shirt, haven't you?"

"Yes", was my reply,

"Well", said Alf, the foreman, " Can you come along to the village of Ashmore for the annual Filly Loo" (don't ask!!), "You can join in the procession"

So we duly turned up , me in my black britches and white shirt, to be led away to be one of just SIX dancers performing the Abbots Bromley Horn Dance! Fortunately it was NOT a difficult dance.

Came the allotted time, as night was falling, and three of the dancers were dispatched to the other end of the village, and we three were at our end. Then, and this was the most incredibly eerie experience, the entire village, with incomers – probably 1000 people or more, fell completely silent. You could hear a pin drop. Then the music started – just one whistle and a drum, and we started the procession, with both halves coming in opposite directions to meet by the village pond and perform the dance. It really did send shivers down my spine to hear just nothing



but the music in the darkness amongst the silent crowds.

For those that may be interested here is the tune used for the dance. As for the folk life down here, there are dances and ceilidhs almost every week, several folk clubs and occasional singarounds, several dance sides featuring Cotswold , NW, Border, Molly, Rapper and Mumming.

For anybody travelling in the Poole area, you are most welcome to drop in for a cuppa and a chat, but DO phone first as we are rarely in!!

Dave Skye

CHILTERN FOLK ASSOCIATION
Amersham Community Centre HP6 5AH
ST GEORGE'S DAY CELEBRATIONS

21ST APRIL 2012

AFTERNOON WORKSHOPS:

2.30-4pm Clog & Longsword, 4.30-6pm Maypole
& Tudor, 6.15-7pm Displays

EVENING DANCE:

7.30-10.30pm Val & Ian McFarlane with
Mollie Koenigsberger & Vic Smith

Please bring plate of food to share for either
Workshops: Adults £5, accom Children £2 or
Evening Dance £10. Adults combined £14

Booking for workshops: 01628 486845 or email
chairman@chilternfolk.org.uk or 01344 646391

PAT SHAW BALL (Modern dress)

Saturday, 1st September 2012

Madeleine Smith with Mollie Koenigsberger, Vic
Smith & Ali Elacott at Colston Hall, Gerrards Cross
Memorial Centre, Bucks SL9 7AD

contact Val & Ian McFarlane val@mcf107.com or
01494 672782 www.mcf107.com for tickets



**Inchmore Folk
Dance Club** 

Trinity Church Hall

Church Street/Gentleman's Row

Enfield EN2 6AN

Resident Musicians

The Forest Band

Membership £7 + £4.00 per Dance

Guests £6.00 per Dance

Callers for 2012

| | |
|--------|-----------------|
| April | 14 Judith Inman |
| May | 12 Anne Dunn |
| June | 9 Arnold Stem |
| July | 14 Mary Bryan |
| August | 11 Sue Needham |

7.30 - 10.30

Info: John Wood 020 8926 7293

Hertfordshire Folk Association

Membership Application Form



Annual fees:
(Annual membership
includes three issues
of Puddingstone)

Individual £2
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

Alternative pay by standing order: Hertfordshire Folk Association

Sort Code : 60 18 11

Account : 45217718

Gladys Hill 1918 – 2011

Honorary President and former chairman of St. Andrew's Folk Dancers Enfield.

Gladys who died earlier this year was a long time member of St. Andrew's Folk Dancers and had many connections with clubs and dancers in Hertfordshire.

Gladys came into folk dancing through Camping Club holidays which she enjoyed with her husband Bill and their young family. She joined a local evening class and then with her husband became a member of St. Andrew's.

They served many years on the committee, Gladys eventually becoming chairman and Bill treasurer. With other friends they went to Hertfordshire Saturday dances taking part in displays at Gorhambury and later events at Hatfield House. She also regularly attended the Friday night dances at Cecil Sharp House.

She gave unstintingly of her time to the club until age and illness prevented her from doing so. Her hobbies included gardening and cooking, and the refreshments she provided for dances were much appreciated.

Gladys was a stylish dancer into her nineties, particularly enjoying Playford dances. It was appropriate that her funeral service closed with a medley of Playford tunes.

Anne Dunn.

St. Andrew's Folk Dancers Enfield

The Great Bed of Ware returns.

The Great Bed will be in Ware Museum for one year on loan from the V&A thanks to a Heritage Lottery Grant and a lot of behind the scenes work.

The Bed can be visited at the Museum from 6th April onwards, Mon to Thurs & Sats 11 - 4 and Sun & bank hols 2 - 4.

For more info Google "Great Bed of Ware".

Associated Folk in Tudor Square:

Herts Early Dance perform on 29 April at 2pm.

Herts Holly will dance on 26th May at 11am .

Standon Morris will dance on 21st June at 8.15pm.

Herts Folk Development fund

Hands up all those who are building their programme of activities for 2012!!!

Good news for those who need some practical help to develop their folk art capabilities! **The Hertfordshire Folk Development Fund is on the lookout for people who need support as we all try to grow 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.** Application forms (very simple and with 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)

Brenda Brookes has agreed to replace me as the HFDF representative on the HFA Committee

We look forward to helping you!

Norman Dobbing

Chairman, Herts. Folk Development Fund

Unicorn These monthly events take place at Hitchin Town Hall.
Ceilidhs 8.00 till late, (doors 7.30). Real Ale Bar. Admission only £8.
the last Friday in the month.

The Town Hall has a beautiful sprung dance floor - which means you can dance all night without getting tired! Come by yourself or bring a group - all are welcome. The caller always walks everyone through the dance beforehand, so there's no previous knowledge needed. There's a well-stocked real ale bar, clean loos - and a great atmosphere!

Current Bookings

| | | | |
|------------|----------------|---|---------------|
| 30th March | Cat Kelly | & | Jigalots |
| 27th April | Mike Griffiths | & | Captain Swing |
| 25th May | Gordon Potts | & | Panjandrum |
| 29th June | TBA | & | Peeping Tom |

See www.unicornceilidhs.org.uk, or ring Alan Creamer for a chat about the ceilidhs on 01582 733113 (w).

Alan Creamer

HARROW FOLK DANCE CLUB

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

40th PLAYFORD BALL

SATURDAY 17th NOVEMBER 2012

IAN & VAL MacFARLANE

~ ~ with music by: ~ ~

TOUCAN PLAY

**at SHAFTESBURY HIGH SCHOOL
HEADSTONE LANE, HARROW WEALD, HA3 6NP.
(near Headstone Lane London Overground Station)**

First dance 19.30 (promptly) – until 22.45 hrs.

Tickets (on the door) £8.00 including refreshments.

~ ~ ~ ~ ~ ~ ~

Forthcoming attractions:

***43rd Anniversary Dance – Sat. 16th March 2013
(Madeleine Smith with Mollie Koenigsberger & Vic.
Smith) 41st Playford Ball – 16th November 2013
(Carol Hewson with The Forest Band.)***

~ ~ ~ ~ ~ ~ ~

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

=====

***For further information contact:
Roy Martin – 020 8868 7526***

FOLK BY THE OAK

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SHOW OF HANDS THE UKULELE ORCHESTRA OF GREAT BRITAIN CARA DILLON

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