



Magazine of the Hertfordshire Folk Association

PUDDINGSTONE

Issue 62

New series: Local Folk
History, Legends,
Myths and Monsters



Wurmenhurt...the St Albans Dragon



Spring 2015 April - July 40p Where sold



Standon Morris

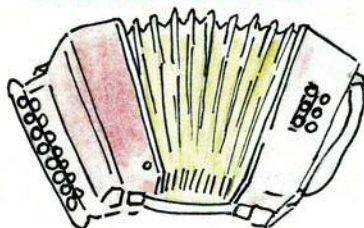
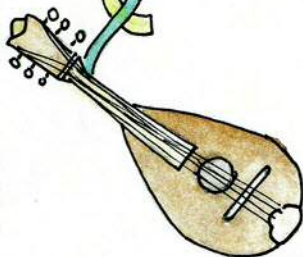
SUMMER PROGRAMME 2015

Fri 1 st May	Dance at sunrise in Standon <i>followed by breakfast at The Star</i>	5.30 – 7.30am
Sat 2 nd May	Stortford Music Festival	2pm & 3pm
Mon 4 th May	Standon Mayday Festival	2.30 – 4.30pm
Thu 14 th May	The Goat, Hertford Heath	8pm
Thu 21 st May	The Crown, Buntingford & The Sword in Hand, Westmill <i>with Letchworth Morris Men</i>	8.15 & 9.15pm
Thu 28 th May	The Pheasant, Great Chishill <i>with Fenstanton Morris</i>	8.15pm
Thu 4 th Jun	The Great Eastern Tavern, Hertford <i>with Hertfordshire Holly</i>	8pm
Wed 10 th Jun	The Rose & Crown, Bentfield Green <i>with Thaxed Morris Men</i>	8.15pm
Thu 18 th Jun	The Fox and Duck, Therfield & The Old Bull Inn, Royston	8pm & 9pm
Mon 22 nd Jun	The Steamer & The White Horse, Welwyn <i>with St Albans & Etcetera Morris Men</i>	8.15pm
Thu 2 nd Jul	The White Horse & The Black Horse, Hertford	8pm & 9pm
Thu 9 th Jul	The Old Bull's Head & The Worppe, Ware	8pm & 9pm
Thu 16 th Jul	The Golden Fleece & The Axe and Compasses, Braughing	8pm & 9pm
Thu 23 rd Jul	The Jolly Brewers, Bishops Stortford	8pm
Thu 20 th Aug	The Lordship Arms, Benington <i>with Letchworth Morris Men</i>	8.15pm

We make every effort to stick to the above, but occasionally circumstances will alter the schedule. We'll do our best to update our website – www.standonmorris.co.uk. Morris dancing by its nature is energetic but those taking part are generally a relaxed bunch and don't wish to become overly stressed about timekeeping, which means there will generally tend to be some elasticity with of our quoted timeslots. If you find yourself running a bit late when you're heading off, don't worry, as there's a good chance you'll still get to see us in action!

If you would like to check that we are definitely dancing before you make a special journey to come and watch us please call or text Catherine on 07808 969379 or e-mail standon.bagman@gmail.com

**NEW DANCERS & MUSICIANS ARE ALWAYS NEEDED
WOMEN, MEN, BOYS & GIRLS (over 10) ALL WELCOME
CALL CATHERINE & COME AND HAVE A BASH
AT ONE OF OUR PRACTICE NIGHTS**





HERTFORDSHIRE FOLK ASSOCIATION

Key contacts (see further details on middle pages)

Chairman:	Miss Hilary Vare 31 Firs Lane, London, N21 2HT Tel: 0208 360 6846
Temporary Membership secretary:	Adrian Burrows 1, Leyland Ave. St Albans, AL1 2BD Tel: 01727 866086
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2015)
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PUDDINGSTONE EDITOR

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The views expressed in this magazine are not
necessarily representative 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 will be
considered 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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Roger Swaine & Terry Elvins.

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

Editorial



Thank you for all the contributions to issue 62, of which there were so many I have had to add another four pages to fit them all in. There are two very interesting vintage articles, one from Watford and the starter of a new series about myths and monsters from around Herts. If you know of any local to you, I would very much like to hear about them. We have the last instalment about Graham Lynden Jones' career, and again I would like to hear your views about possible next candidates.

Thank you to Standon Morris and English Miscellany who have both provided reports and colour photographs. I continue to hope to hear from folk song clubs and sessions.

Since Nic Nicolson's sad death, members of the HFA committee are having to double up on duties, and would welcome the support of new committee members.

Adrian Burrows

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.

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Letter from Hilary Vare on the passing of Nic Nicolson

I was so very sad to hear of Nic's passing. Nic was a wonderfully reliable committee member of the Hertfordshire Folk Association and he contributed for many years - much longer than my own participation. During the years I knew him, he undertook responsibility for membership, ensuring accurate and up-to-date information for both groups and individuals and he also provided continual commitment to our Herts Summer Festival, attending all the various meetings and bringing so many ideas and practical suggestions so that younger generations enjoyed and will continue to our dance traditions. Nic was also responsible for all our committee minutes, providing us with clear and concise records of our meetings.

We are extremely grateful for everything Nic contributed to Folk in Hertfordshire for so many years and we are very appreciative that this was in addition to all his other folk commitments and varied other interests, voluntary work at Waddesden Manor and helping behind the scenes at the Abbey Theatre.

On behalf of the Folk Association I express our condolences to Nic's family at this very sad time.

Hilary Vare
Chairman, Hertfordshire Folk Association.

There was not time to prepare an obituary fully reflecting Nic's contributions for this issue.
One will be included in Issue 63

Extracts from an article written for Puddingstone (Summer 1985)
by Tony Barratt

St Albans Wormenhert Dragon

Between 1390 and 1400, Thomas Walsingham compiled the “Gesta Abbatum Monasterii Sancti Albani” (deeds of the Abbots), and included records from the earlier historian Matthew Paris (d 1259). Amongst these borrowings is a snippet of folk-law concerning a dragon’s lair (near the Abbey) called “Wormenhert” (meaning Serpent-earth, from Old English wyrm or wurm, and heorth or herthe). A recent translation of the Latin (under Ealdred, eighth Abbot, c 1010 AD) reads as follows:

“He filled up a vast cave set deeply in a hillside, a cave which a mighty dragon had once made and inhabited in a place which is called Wurmenhert, leaving nevertheless some traces for all time of the serpent’s dwelling place.”

Two folk-law books report the legend. One refers to a cave in a deep gorge in a hillside above the ruined city of Verulanium. The other states that : “connected to a deep ravine, Wormenhurt was surrounded by a mountain”, and that the Abbot “dispelled for ever traces of the Serpent’s lair”.... The Latin below is the earliest form available (To Tony at that time).

So at considerable labour and expense, rubble from Roman buildings was used to fill in the “cave” and flatten out the “ravine”, the legend evidently having such a hold on the local populace as to be “regarded as being dangerous to the faith”. It seems reasonable to accept, therefore, that at least a hole existed near the Abbey, and to enquire what it might have been and where it was situated. Suggestions include a Celtic tumulus....or a cave... Or even a swallow hole (as found elsewhere in Hertfordshire). A large cave in the soft chalk seems unlikely, but a water-worn fissure ending in a hole may be the answer.

The Abbey stands high on glacial gravel, but a great hill of chalk slopes steeply downwards only yards from its walls, changing abruptly again at the bottom of the valley to gravel and alluvium near the River Ver. Surely the “lair must have been in that “monte” of chalk., between the Roman city and the Abbey, and embarrassingly close to the latter.

And the dragon, neither described nor named, (and no doubt long departed even in Ealdred’s time), this sinister occupant of the hole may simply have been an invention-run-riot of worried parents, anxious to scare children away from danger. However if mind alone is responsible for dragons, then once again he is alive and well and stirring in St Albans!

PTO

SPECUM QUOQUE PROFUNDISSIMUS, MONTE CONTINUO
CIRCUMSPECTUM, CUM SPELUNCA SUBTERRANEA, QUAM QUONDAM
DRACO INGENS FECERAT, ET INHABITAVIT IN LOCO QUI "WORMENHERT"
DICTUR, IN QUANTUM POTUIT, EXPLANAVIT;
VESTIGIA TAMEN AETERNA HABITATIONIS SERPENTINAE
DERELINQUENS

The Dragon (Wyvern?) depicted on the front cover is a detail from:
"THE PSALTER OF PRINCE ALPHONSO" (1284)

I am not a Bag Lady!

Catherine Ward - First Female Bagman of Standon Morris

Standon Morris Men had been in existence for 59 years when they took the momentous decision to accept women as dancers. When an article appeared in the Hertfordshire Mercury in 2013 announcing this fact I leapt at the chance to join them after an absence of morris in my life for nearly 30 years.

I first became a morris dancer at the age of fifteen when a couple who had been members of Bath City Morris, Adrian & Colette Ayley, moved to mid-Wales and decided to set up a joint side from scratch. Morris Mynydd Ddu (which translates as Black Mountain Morris) was started in April 1980, their initial numbers being greatly helped by the fact that my mother dragged along her husband and four children to the first practice!

When I moved to Portsmouth to start my engineering degree course I was hardly ever able to dance as I was sponsored by Marconi and had to work every summer in Chelmsford. After graduating I thought it unlikely that I would ever be able to take it up again. After moving to Ware in 1996 I tried out a few practice nights with Hertfordshire Holly but North West Clog did not appeal to me in the same way as the Cotswold traditions and time and energy was lacking when I had three children under the age of 5 to deal with.

On 1st May 2014 I donned a green waistcoat, strapped on bells, grabbed my hankies and danced in the dawn as Standon's first official female dancer. I danced around the puddingstone safe in the knowledge that my hysterectomy operation 10 weeks earlier meant that I was safe to touch it without the risk of an unexpected fourth child!

My main reasons for doing morris are to have fun, make friends, keep fit and play my flute. I will always dance to the best of my ability but maintaining a high standard and keeping to tradition will always be secondary. I am five foot two, female and, agewise, have just passed my 'half-century' so, no matter how much I would love to, I will never be able to achieve the athleticism of a twenty-something male. Being involved in morris again has made me feel like a whole person once more.

PTO

A piece of me that I had not realised was missing has been put back into place and I will be doing all I can to ensure that it will remain there.



Standon Morris Men had been struggling with numbers for some time before I joined, as several of the younger members had headed off to university. Although we now have two female members our membership is still only just enough for us to be viable. When our bagman wanted to stand down after 5 years in the post I decided that I would rise to the challenge and do whatever I could to safeguard the continued existence of Standon Morris and in October last year I became their first female bagman (note: not bag or bagwoman, and certainly not Bag Lady!). I look forward to seeing us grow further as a solid, close-knit and entertaining team for the decades ahead.

I have just completed drafting my first



programme so come along and watch Standon Morris in action during the summer months. Details are listed on our advertisement or check our website for latest news and updates – **www.standonmorris.co.uk**. If you would like give it a try as a dancer or musician please contact me:

standon.bagman@gmail.com or call 07808 969379.

Catherine Ward

Beyond The Marches / Dros y Ffin:

featuring some of the finest young contemporary folk musicians on the scene, will explore and celebrate the shared history and culture of two nations, England and Wales.

Beyond The Marches / Dros y Ffin will be performed at three high profile concerts at Aberystwyth Arts Centre, Wales Millennium Centre in Cardiff and Cecil Sharp House in London in May 2015.

The concerts: Saturday 2 May, Aberystwyth Arts Centre,

8pm www.aberystwythartscentre.co.uk/music/beyond-marches

Sunday 3 May, Wales Millennium Centre, Cardiff,

7:30pm www.wmc.org.uk/BeyondtheMarches

Monday 4 May, Cecil Sharp House, London,

7:30pm www.cecilsharpshouse.org/component/content/article/21-shared/shared-events/2282-beyond-the-marches-dros-y-ffin

May Day in Watford 1893

Watford Folk Dance Group member Edna Mackenzie was delighted to receive from her son-in-law recently an article about May Day practices in Watford in the late nineteenth century. She passed me a copy of the article, commenting that she did not know anything about the author, Percy Manning. Nor did I, but a Google search provided some interesting information.

Born in Yorkshire, Percy Manning moved with his family to Watford when he was 10 years old. When he was 23 he had this article published in the magazine of the Folklore Society. Percy was having difficulties with his studies at New College, Oxford and had been removed from the college books that year, after repeated warnings, so he may well have returned home for a while. A major distraction from his studies was his membership of the Oxford Architectural and Historical Society being Honorary Secretary from 1891 to 1898, without any apparent disruption created by the college disciplinary action. He continued his studies at a private tutorial college to gain his BA and MA degrees and was elected as a fellow of the Society of Antiquaries in 1896.

Percy Manning was an avid collector and his interests extended to collecting details of popular folk custom and associated artefacts. He took the initiative in 1898 of reforming the Headington Quarry Morris Dancers. He equipped them so that they could perform in the Oxford Corn Exchange in March 1899. These were the dancers that entertained Cecil Sharp on Boxing Day that year which is oft quoted as the start of the English folk dance and song revival. But, had it not been for Percy Manning.....

I enclose a copy of the text of his article published in "Folklore" Vol 4, No 3, September 1893.

Fran Beak
Secretary, WFDG

PTO

"May-Day at Watford, Herts. On May Day, in this parish, groups of children, almost entirely girls, go about the streets from door to door, and sing the accompanying verses. They are dressed in white for preference, and decorate themselves with gay ribbons and sashes of various colours. I cannot find that any particular colours are prescribed by tradition. Two of the girls carry between them on a stick what they call "the garland", which, in its simplest form, is made of two circular hoops, intersecting each other at right angles; a more elaborate form has, in addition, smaller semicircles inserted in the four angles formed by the meeting of the hoops at the top of the garland". These hoops are covered with any wild-flowers in season, and are further ornamented with ribbons. The "garland" in shape reminds me of the "Christmas" which used to form the centre of the Christmas decorations in Yorkshire some few years ago, except that the latter had a bunch of mistletoe inside the hoops.

One of the children generally carries a purse or a small bag to hold the coppers which may be collected. The group, of which I have a photograph, was one taken quite at hap-hazard, as it passed the photographer's door. In this a boy with a bunch of flowers on a stick accompanies them, but this is not very usual.

Verses sung by Children at Watford, Herts, on May-Day

1 Here begins the merry month of May. The bright time of the year, When Christ our Saviour died for us, Who loves us so dear.

2 So dear, so dear, Christ loved us. And all our sins to save; We'd better leave off our wickedness. And turn to the Lord again.

3 I have been travelling all this night. And best part of this day, and now I have returned again, I've brought you a branch of May.

4 A branch of May I have brought you, And at your door I stand, It is but a bud, but it's well spreaded out, By the work of our Lord's hand.

5 A garland, a garland, a very pretty garland. As ever you wish to see, 'Tis fit for Queen Victoria, So please remember me.

6 I have a little purse within my pocket, Dressed up in silk and string. And all I want is a little piece of money. So please put within.

7 My song is done I must be gone. No longer can I stay; God bless you all, both great and small; I wish you a merry month of May.

Variants.

3 We have been walking all night. And the best part of this day; And now returning back again. We bring you a branch of May.

4 A branch of May we have brought you. And at your door it stands; It is but a sprout, but it's well budded out. In the shape of our Lord's hands.

Watford, Percy Manning"

HERTFORDSHIRE FOLK ASSOCIATION COMMITTEE

Elected Members & Officers as from November 2014

Chairman: **Miss Hilary Vare** hilaryvare@yahoo.com
Tel: 0208 360 6846

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

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

Temporary Membership Secretary: **Adrian Burrows**
adrian.r.burrows@btopenworld.com Tel: 01727 866086

Cttee Member: **Mrs Libby Byne-Grey**
Libbybyne-grey@outlook.com Tel: 01920 460553

Cttee Member: **Mr John Grey**
Libbybyne-grey@outlook.com Tel:01920 460553

The Committee has a number of vacancies and would be pleased to hear from individuals who might be interested in taking an active part in the running and organisation of the Association

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

2014-2015

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.

Apr 11	Winchmore Folk Dance Club , Trinity Church Hall, Church Street, Enfield. EN2 6AN 0208 926 7293 Judith Inman with the Forest Band	7.30pm
Apr 12	New Roots Finals , Trestle Arts Base St Albans. (See Advert)	
Apr 25	St Andrews Folk Dancers , Trinity Church Hall, Church Street, Enfield. 02083 663982 Rosemary Hunt with Orions Ring	7.30pm
May 9	Winchmore , John Wood with the Forest Band	7.30pm
May 16	Herts Early Dance. May Revels. 01442 2862545 info@hertsearlydance.org	
May 16	St Albans Abbey Folk , UR Church Hall, Homewood Road, St Albans, AL1 4BH 01727 834977 Ron Coxall with the Forest Band	7.30pm
May 23	St Andrews. Val and Ian McFarlane with the Forest Band	7.30pm
June 12/13	St Neots Folk Festival See advert	
Jun 13	Winchmore , Ron Coxall with the Forest Band	7.30pm
Jun 27	Friday Folk , Samuel Ryder Academy, Drakes Drive. St Albans. AL1 5AR 01727 856508 Chris Turner with Meg, Ali and Bill	7.30pm
Jun 27	St Andrews , Keith Wright with Nota Bene	7.30pm
Jul 11	Winchmore , Arnold Stem with the Forest Band	7.30pm

DIARY DATES 2015

July 18	Rickmansworth Folk Festival stimpsonm@aol.com 01923 770425	
July 19	Folk by the Oak , Hatfield House. See advert	
July 25	St Andrews , Barbara and Bill Kinsman with Spring Greens	7.30pm
Aug 8	Winchmore , Suzanne Harper with the Forest Band	7.30pm
Aug 22	St Andrews , Mary Bryan and the Forest Band	7.30pm
Sep 5	Chiltern Folk Playford Ball , Amersham Community Centre, Chiltern Ave. HP6 5AH 01628 486845. John Turner with the Forest Band	7.30pm
Sep 12	Winchmore , Mary Bryan and the Forest Band	7.30pm
Sep 26	St Andrews , Arnold Stem with the Forest Band	7.30pm
Oct 3	Staplers Folk Dance Club , St Ippolyts Parish Hall, Hitchin SG4 7RB 01582 881966. www.Staplers.org.uk, Ron Coxall with Stradivarious	7.30pm
Oct 12	Winchmore , Keith Wright with the Forest Band + AGM	7.30pm
Oct 26	St Andrews, AGM. Michael Holdup with recorded music.	7.15pm 7.30pm

HFA Affiliated Clubs & Groups

Please notify any corrections to Adrian Burrows, Temp Membership Sec by emailing adrian.r.burrows@btopenworld.com or phoning 01727 866086.

Dunton Folk – Simon Bailes 01767 301 424 or www.duntonfolk.co.uk

English Miscellany - info@englishmiscellany.com or 01483 755278

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

Herts Early Dance - Malcolm Gibbs, 114 Ridge Lane, Watford WD17 4SY

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

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 - A. Torrington. 44, Foxcroft, St Albans. AL1 5SP
01727 833028 or bagman@stalbansmorrismen.org.uk

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

Standon Morris Men - John Grey, Musley House, 9 Homefield Rd, Ware
SG12 7NG

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

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

Welwyn Garden City FDC - Terry Elvins, 01707 320299
or mail@ptelvins.plus.com

Winchmore FDC - Joyce Leedham 0208 886 2696

Tappalachian - Ange Williams 01923 330147

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!

Membership Renewal

The HFA membership year matches the calendar year so the subs for 2015 are now due. The rates are unchanged and are: Individual £2.00; Household £3.00; Group/Club £10.00. To have Puddingstone mailed to you an additional charge of £1.50 is levied. Each Member and Club is entitled to a copy of Puddingstone.

There appears to be confusion about distribution of *Puddingstone*. If you do not pay for your individual copy to be posted to your home you are still entitled to a copy but this must be via the bulk despatch to your Associated Club. Let either your Club Secretary know you wish to choose this route, or contact me (Adrian, 01727 866086, adrian.r.burrows@btopenworld.com) direct nominating the Club of your choice.

Although still set at a very low rate HFA membership helps to maintain our reserve at a workable level.

If you know of a past member who has not renewed please try and persuade them to rejoin.

Hertfordshire Folk Association

Membership Application Form 2015



Annual fees: Individual: £2
(annual membership Household: £3
Includes three issues Of Puddingstone) Group/Club £10

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

Club/group (if applicable): _____
Name/s: _____
Address: _____

(Inc. Postcode) _____
Tel: _____
E-mail 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 the completed form to:

HFA Temp Membership Secretary, Adrian Burrows, 1, Leyland Ave. St Albans, AL1 2BD

Alternatively pay by standing order: Hertfordshire Folk Association.

Sort code: 60 18 11 Account: 45217718



Finals April 12 2015

For further details, see
www.new-roots.org.uk
info@stalbandsfolkmusic.org.uk
01727 852111

Hertfordshire Early Dance May Revels

Saturday 16th May 2016

St Stephen's Church Hall, Watling Street, St Albans AL1 2PX

More information contact: 01442 862545 or info@hertsearlydance.org.uk

Rickmansworth Folk Festival - 18th July 2015

Organised by Phoenix Morris and the Rickmansworth Town Team

E-mail: stimpsonm@aol.com Tel 01923 770425

Broadstairs Folk Week:

7 – 14 August 2015. The 50th Anniversary Year

For details visit: www.broadstairsfolkweek.org.uk

or ring: 01843 604080 or email info@broadstairsfolkweek.org.

CHILTERN FOLK ASSOCIATION

(Affiliated to EFDSS)

AGM 7.30pm - 8pm Wednesday, 24th June
2015 followed by the 'COME ALL YE'
MIDSUMMER DANCE 8pm - 10pm
Barn Hall, Amersham Community Centre,
Chiltern Road, HP6 5AH

PLAYFORD BALL

Saturday, 5th September 2015
7pm - 10.30pm

Drake Hall, Amersham Community Centre,
Chiltern Road, Amersham HP6 5AH

JOHN TURNER with
THE FOREST BAND

£10 please bring some food to share
Further information 01628 486845
chilternfolk.org.uk

Please look out for the Family Dance in
October 2015



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

April 11 Judith Inman

May 8 John Wood

June 13 Ron Coxall

July 11 Arnold Stem

August 9 Suzanne Harper

7.30 – 10.30

Info: John Wood 020 8926 7293

How Did You Celebrate Your 40th Birthday?



Now that English Miscellany is 40 years old (having been formed like many dance groups in 1975) plans are afoot to celebrate, hopefully in style!

And for those of you who are not familiar with our group, we have a Cotswold side, Country Dance Group, North-West Morris side, Clog team, Song Group and Mummers, whose performances are ably accompanied by our own musicians – hence English Miscellany.



But how should we celebrate? With 40 occasions, days out, a weekend away of course - and with as many other groups from this and other countries as we can persuade to turn out a side and join us !

I started with the club towards the end of their 35th anniversary year and got some idea of how it was done, when I heard the plan to gather at the plague village of Eyam for a few days. Members and friends, current and past that is. I did gather a great time was enjoyed by all, though there seemed to be a large number of puzzling references to **rats** in connection with the celebrations!



English Miscellany Today

So this year will begin with an interval performance at the Unicorn Ceilidh (in the future as I write this) at the new venue of Baldock Town Hall, with Barry Goodman calling and Random playing. In Playford costume – a suite of dances: 'Mr. Isaac's Maggot', 'Nonsuch', 'Confess', 'Dargason', 'The Fair Quaker of Deal' and 'Hey Boys Up We Go', all to the music of our

musicians. That should get our celebrations off to a great start.

Without wishing to list all forty events – and more are being added to the calendar as the year progresses – we have several highlights: We join Folklore-kreis Gütersloh in May in Gütersloh to dance with groups from all across

Europe to help them celebrate our joint 40th.

PTO

Then Spånga Folkdansgille from near Copenhagen in Sweden, founded in 1976, join us to dance in August over the Bank Holiday weekend. Our Barn Dance in October is followed by our weekend away. We're off to Coalport and the Ironbridge Gorge World Heritage Site this time, 60 plus of us rather than 40, in November. No rats I hope!!!! And we'll finish our special year as usual with our Christmas Party. Wish us a very Happy Birthday!!!



Early Days – dancing out in 1978

For information on our year of celebration please visit our website; www.englishmiscellany.com or info@englishmiscellany.com speak to our Dance Director Liz Dobbing on 01483 755278, or look out for us at forthcoming events.

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.

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

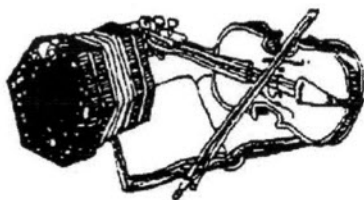
Summer 2015

- 10 Apr Mike Bennett & Spring Greens
- 17 Apr Nigel Close
- 24 Apr Barrie Bullimore and FF Band
- 1 May Maypole dancing with Mike Ruff
- 8 May Wendy Harrup and FF Band
- 15 May Dave Parsons
- 22 May Closed
- 29 May Bob Barrett and Spring Greens
- 5 Jun Suzanne Farmer
- 12 Jun Brenda Godrich and FF Band
- 19 Jun Chris Turner
- 26 Jun Ian Edlin and Spring Greens

27 Jun Saturday Special at Samuel Ryder. Chris Turner with Meg, Ali & Bill from Momentum. £8.

- 3 Jul Bob Lilley
- 10 Jul Colin Hume and FF Band
- 17 Jul Jive with Bob Barrett
- 24 Jul Garden Dance with Mike Ruff
(please phone for details)

St. Neots Folk Club



The Priory Centre,
St. Neots, PE19 2BH

Every Tuesday 8.00pm

Email - stneotsfolkclub@aol.com

Telephone - 01234 376278



www.stneotsfolkclub.co.uk

May 5 Na mara

May 12 Martin Curtis

May 19 Kieran Goss

May 26 Round the Room

Jun 2 Enda Kenny sup. Wildwood Jack

Jun 9 Winter Wilson

Jun 16 Kara

Jun 23 Kevin Dempsey & Rosie Carson

Jun 30 Round the Room

Jul 7 Ranagri

Jul 14 The Foxglove Trio

Jul 21 Richard Digance

Jul 28 Round the Room

ST NEOTS FOLK FESTIVAL

12 & 13 JUNE

Friday: Barn dance/Ceilidh with

The Hosepipe Band and Adam Hughes

Music & Song session

Saturday: Day of Dance

Les Barker & Faustus in Concert

Tickets on the door or from the Club or ticket application form

The Priory Centre, St Neots, PE19 2BH

For more information see website or ring 01234 376278

Woodwind across Europe

Graham Lyndon Jones recounts more of his musical life.

I decided to make a bassoon after I had seen one in Brussels. I wrote to the curator who gave us a date, so I drove round there, he knew what I wanted, I wanted to look at the Denner bassoon in order to make one. It's made in several sections which you plug into each other like a modern bassoon, it's got more keys than a curtal. When I got there Mr Maius was there, he said, "Ah, you have come!" I said, "Yes of course I've come." "Unfortunately it is a national holiday today, so I am here specially for you. Normally I would take the wife and the children to the seaside". We started work, then an American recorder maker turned up, he knew Mr Maius, "I should have written and told you I was hoping to come." "As Mr Jones is here you can stay too." He wanted to measure a cor anglais.

That first bassoon was so admired by one of the Brain family we made some more. Someone turned up and said, "Can I borrow a bassoon?" I said "The only one I've got is my prototype, which I don't normally lend, but you can borrow it for a concert." He took it away and that was the last I saw of it. He so loved it he offered me good money. So that's where it is and it's gone to somebody else from there. So I know that's a good professional instrument. I found a slightly easier method of doing things on the second, the third, the fourth. The prototype works perfectly so he got the only one that's been copied accurately.

The crumhorns I bought before I made them, were in a shop in Great Marlborough Street as copies, but they were the wrong wood, wrong size, wrong fingerholes, so they'd given up trying to get them like the old ones. In Brussels, they've got a lovely set of crumhorns, one of the best sets of crumhorns that's survived, in their case lined with striped pyjama cloth, beautifully done. So there's no excuse if you're going to make a crumhorn for doing anything differently to that. Moulder and Hanchet the English makers have got closer to it than anybody else. And the Early Music shop, then in Bradford, decided to make kits for various instruments, and it's possible to make one of their kits into a pretty accurate crumhorn. But it's also possible to do it using their instruction sheet.

The recorders in the museums I was going round looking at and trying, have a kind of resistance when you blow it. Particularly in a monastery in Austria, we went to see a Baroque recorder made about 1690 I suppose, and the monks for some reason or other had decided to order a set of recorders way back then. They must have been used for divine worship, we don't know, sometimes there's documents showing that they did. They would play an organ-like noise with four people who were just enjoying playing recorders.

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Denner was making his about 1720 in Germany, and the monastery ones are very valuable instruments, they're in such good condition because they were only ever used by old men for a short time and then put in a box. So we went there and they wouldn't let Barbara [Stanley] in because she's a woman. So Alec (from New Zealand) and I did a little bit of measuring, not that we were going to make Baroque recorders but we thought, here's a chance for researching, we did tests, holding things up to the light and photographing the curves. The sound of the bass recorder was utterly sublime. It had a brass crookpiece on it which modern bass recorders have, you just have a wonderful sound with the back pressure. So then we went back and started making, I've made a few sixteenth century recorders, other people specialised in that, I never did. Reed instruments was what took us.



Christopher Chatterton playing the baroque contrabassoon.

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Some of the flutes we saw in Italian museums were made in one piece, my first attempt failed, you can see it over the door as a curtain rod. It has a joint, which is also authentic. The biggest flute that has survived is that size, but is in one piece, you imagine what that's like in a lathe. There's one in Vienna, we don't know quite how the finger holes were made, you can just reach them. Those having the joint you can orient the mouth hole to the finger holes to make it easier to blow, if it's in one piece you can't. And the pictures show people playing the flute the wrong side – it was normal in renaissance music for instruments to be made so that you could play them either way round.

The finger holes were all in a straight line, except for the little finger, which is important in a recorder but doesn't exist in a flute. But then you have to repeat that the other side, or have any needful key shaped like a Y. otherwise you'd have two holes, one would be plugged that you didn't use. So they thought of everything.

Ed: They must have had some fairly sophisticated lathes to turn an instrument of that size.

We saw how John [Cousen] made flutes in Huddersfield, he put his hand round the other side to give it support, Barbara was better at it than I was, it's so smooth it doesn't burn like you think it would. You just get interesting banjo player's fingers. The books all tell you to have steadies and things but that doesn't work. When you finished an instrument and you liked it, you wrote off and told the customer, very few of them were British, it was time he paid the balance. That would come within a few days and then you'd have a lovely packing-up morning and hump it round to the post office and off it goes. Most of them got through undamaged but not always. American customs sometimes do the damage, looking for drugs. The Japanese seem to have run over one in a vehicle because you could see the tyre marks on the case, the case didn't protect it at all, not even a fibreglass case.

The Editor hopes you have been as enthralled as he was by Graham's accounts of researching and making early instruments.

Haddenham Ceilidhs

April 4 The Watch with Lisa Heywood plus Westminster Morris Men

May 2 Liam Robinson Dance Band with Liam Robinson

June 6 The Nina Hansell All Stars with Aiden Hansell plus Thrales Rapper

Haddenham Acoustic Concerts

April 4 Dan McKinnon Sometimes a person needs a story more than food
to stay alive. Dan's your man.

May 2 Tom McConville Scintillating fiddle, silky smooth voice, wide grin
and a dry Geordie wit

June 6 Martyn Wyndham-Read. Tremendously warm and hypnotic performer

DELTA LADIES

ROOTS, AMERICANA & WORLD VIBES

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of songs'
MAVERICK

'A hypnotic & mesmerizing
mix of Applachian dance &
Eastern rhythms (Zen Hoe-down)
...just brilliant!
AROUND KENT FOLK

They have a great
live act,
SHIRE FOLK.

'Shades of Zeppelin with
Fred Neal sensibility.'
TALI TROW
(The Coal Porters)

We had a stunning set
from the Delta Ladies
NICK GARNER
Promoter & booker
Bassment Chelmsford



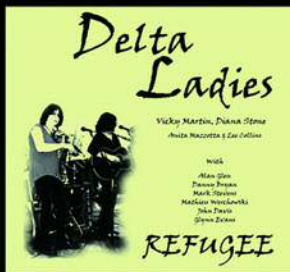
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