



Magazine of the Hertfordshire Folk Association

PUDDINGSTONE

Issue 63

Hertfordshire
Folk
Association
AGM
notice.

Autumn
2015
Aug - Nov

Piers Shonks
Norman Knight,
Dragon Slayer
or Hertfordshire Giant?



Chairman's
report
2014 - 2015

40p
Where sold



Nic Nicolson...some memories by Liz Rose

In a photograph album I have some small black and white pictures. The title reads "Sidmouth 1968" and the captions "Coventry" and "Mona's Delight (Isle of Man)". Little did I realise that the leading couple, Jackie and Nic Nicolson, would become our friends in St Albans some 40+ years later!

Nic was a very kind and likeable person. He listened, he discussed and he shared ideas and opinions. He was a good organiser who was not afraid of hard work.....and he could be quite persuasive. On occasion he quietly displayed a somewhat wicked sense of humour!

I would like to share some of these moments with you, the readers of Puddingstone.

I cannot remember when I first met Nic but he was persuaded to call for our pre-wedding ceilidh. It was no easy task with a room full of very experienced country dancers and some complete beginners. Undaunted.....he produced a programme and everyone enjoyed themselves!

I came to know Nic when we were, I recall, members of the District Committee of EFDSS, the predecessor of The Hertfordshire Folk Association. The District Secretaries, Mavis and Ted Roadhouse, used to produce an informative newsletter.....cutting a stencil and then duplicating several sheets of foolscap paper. Following their retirement Nic and I felt that a new looking newsletter was required. And so "Puddingstone" in the form of an A5 booklet was "born".

As copy date arrived we would gather the material, often hand written, and descend on the Nicolson household. There, with much crawling around the sitting room floor and cutting and sticking, we would assemble the first draft of the new-look newsletter. Nic's long suffering secretary at work would type this up. More cutting and pasting ensued followed by more typing and retyping and eventually Puddingstone would emerge. Remember that this was long before the advent of today's modern technology! I often wonder how Jackie managed to endure these evenings; the sitting room must have resembled the cutting room floor of an old fashioned film maker.

Nic represented the Hertfordshire District on The Eastern Area Council which met quarterly in Cambridge on Saturday mornings at 9.30. Traffic was less in those days giving us opportunities to chat. I think that it was on one such occasion that Nic happened to mention that someone was required to represent the Eastern Area on the National Executive Council of EFDSS. "There are only four meetings a year...perhaps you would like to take on the role?" Such were Nic's powers of persuasion that I had agreed to this without really considering the implications!

Some readers may remember the Gorhambury festivals. It was indeed an experience to be able to enjoy music, dance, sunshine and a picnic in the grounds of a stately home. Some of you may also recall another not so

pleasant experience....the lavatories. The "Ladies" consisted of five or six buckets in canvas tents situated behind a hedge. The "Gentlemen" was a trench dug around a tree with a hessian screen for privacy. I believe that the Gents tree is still standing!

Times move on and such primitive means become out-dated especially when the number of tickets sold was in excess of two and a half thousand. The estate management were approached and Nic managed to persuade them that a mobile set of flushing loos, "plugged" into the main sewer, would be more suitable. Sadly the old Earl died and his successor in title indicated that he would not welcome the presence of the festival...or the loos...by digging up the lawn on which we had danced. A change of venue and when Nic was in the country he was always willing to help in any way possible. Nic was always keen to share his knowledge and many of us were lucky enough to have had the opportunity to learn some of the Manx dances from him. Since he in turn had learned them direct from Manx folk we benefitted from this first-hand knowledge, hearing about and seeing the finer points of the tradition.

Nic was also a long standing member of St Albans Morris Men, about which you will read in the next edition.

In addition to his many contributions to Hertfordshire Folk activities, including mucking out stables in Sandridgebury in preparation for a BBQ on a wet summer evening, Nic was also a very practical person. In preparation for performances in The Abbey Theatre, Holywell Hill, St Albans Nic could be found somewhere behind the scenes working with the design and set building team.

Following his retirement Nic worked as a volunteer at Waddesdon Manor. I met him, by chance, one Christmas when he was driving his little train, transporting passengers from the stable block to the main house. As ever, with great courtesy, he helped us descend without mishap.

Animals featured in the Nicolson family. There were always dogs but they were well behaved and never assisted with the production of Puddingstone. There were horses to attend to at Sandridgebury. Come the annual Herts Show at Friar's Wash Nic would appear in appropriate dress, sporting his bowler hat!

Through the years Jim and I have spent happy evenings in the company of Nic and Jackie, creating much noise and merriment. I have benefitted from Nic's wisdom and diplomacy when chewing the cud over some tricky folk matter. I shall also miss the times we spent simply passing the time of day and catching up on the activities of the next generations.

Forgive me for any errors or omissions for this is but a snap shot. Our thoughts and sympathies go out to Jackie and the family. It has been a privilege to have known Nic. He will be much missed by many.

Thank you Nic.

Liz Rose



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

Membership secretary: **Adrian Burrows**
1, Leyland Ave.
St Albans, AL1 2BD
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Hon Treasurer: **Mr Roger Swaine**
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Correspondence & diary dates to: **Mr Terry Elvins**
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for Winter Issue
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March 2016)
1st November

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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
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be a 10% reduction
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HFA committee, particularly
Roger Swaine & Terry Elvins.

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

Editorial



Once again much of the copy in this edition is from individuals and groups in the St Albans area, largely because these are the people I see regularly and “encourage” to contribute. I really would like to have more copy from further afield and also from session and song groups and clubs. As you will have seen we would be very keen to welcome new (or old) blood onto the Committee, and to recruit more members and affiliated clubs (there are discounts for adverts as an incentive!). I was very surprised by the number of Hertfordshire myths and settled on Piers Shonks largely because I liked the name. Again if anyone fancies contributing a Hero or Monster I would be very pleased to hear from you.

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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Accordionists' Workshop 2015

Sunday 8th March 2015 was a lovely spring day, with blue skies and bright sun. However, 14 accordionists chose to spend it inside East Hyde Village Hall. The reason for this was that they had come to an accordion workshop, organised by the Hertfordshire Folk Association, and led by Bert Santilly. The theme of the workshop was playing the Tango, and to this end Bert had produced detailed accordion arrangements of four famous tangos, which differed in terms of difficulty and style. The Tangos were:-

- La Cumparsita (Rodriguez)
- Libertango (Piazzolla)
- Jealousy (Gade)
- Nueve Puntos (Camaras)

As the notation had been sent out in advance, most of us had had time to get reasonably familiar with the notes, so that Bert was able to concentrate on how to get the best out of the tunes with our own instruments, illustrated with examples from his own fine playing. I can't say that we all had mastered the pieces by the end of the day, but we all improved a lot – and had an enjoyable and instructive time!

There are plans to hold another accordion workshop in Spring 2016, probably in Welwyn Garden City. If you would like to be added to the mailing list for this, please let me know, by emailing: roger.swaine1@btinternet.com .

Roger Swaine

CHILTERN FOLK ASSOCIATION

(Affiliated to EFDSS)

PLAYFORD BALL

Saturday, 5th September 2015

7pm - 10.30pm

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

JOHN TURNER

and THE FOREST BAND

£10 Please bring some food to share.

OCTOBER FAMILY DANCE

Sunday, 25th October 2015

Amersham Common Village Hall

2.30pm - 5.30pm

White Lion Road, Amersham HP7 9JD

VAL & IAN MCFARLANE

And TOUCAN PLAY

£5 Please bring some food to share

Accompanied children under 16 free

**Contact for both dances 01628 486845 or
(chilternfolk.org.uk)**



**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 2015

August 9 Suzanne Harper

September 14 Mary Bryan

October 10 Keith Wright

+ AGM

November 14 Madeleine Smith

December 12 Barry Bullimore

7.30 – 10.30

Info: John Wood 020 8926 7293

“Dance Disguised and Obscured”

Dolmetsch Historical Dance Society study forum

On the 23rd March this year several members of Herts Early Dance went up to Goldsmith's University in South London, to attend a study forum held by the Dolmetsch Historical Dance Society.

We enjoyed a number of interesting papers and workshops, one by our esteemed Puddingstone editor.

Hazel Dennison started the day with a talk on the mummings and disguisings of John Lydgate (c1370-1430), including one performed at Hertford Castle involving "rude uplandish people complaining on their wives". Although little mention is made in the texts of any music or dance, the performances would certainly have included dancing, and Hazel demonstrated some steps and patterns that might have been used.

Jeremy Monson explored the connection and similarities between Cotswold morris dances and dances in the early editions of Playford. For example, they both involve sets, where each person interacts with five other people, not just their partner. Also, both typically use the "USA" formula (Up and back, Siding, Arming) for the figures, plus a chorus. Jeremy noted that the Cotswold morris tradition is mainly located within 20 miles of Oxford, and suggested that perhaps this had something to do with the fact that the royal court was based there during the civil war and there may well have been some exchange of ideas between the court dancers and the locals.

Chloe Metcalfe gave us an introduction to stave dancing. This originated in the Friendly Societies in the West Country, where each society had its own distinctive staves to carry in processions. Using the sparse historical sources, these dances have been reconstructed, particularly by Roy Dommett. While the original records suggest that only men carried the staves, the dances are now performed almost exclusively by women. Chloe then gave us the opportunity to sample a dance and to create one based on the Stourton Caundle records.

Peter Harrop gave an entertaining talk on the way mumming (along with other folk traditions) has been misinterpreted by scholars who tried to relate it to such things as ancient Greek drama, or pagan ritual.

There seems to be a desire to make these traditions appear exotic, even where there is no evidence of any such connection. Peter neatly summed up his affection for the tradition by showing a picture of a wet day in Yorkshire, with three sad looking mummers, and no audience. PTO

We also learned some interesting new words, such as "exoticising", "liminality", "idiolects", "metafolklore" and "alterity".

Adrian Burrows continued the subject of mumming and related folk plays, including Robin Hood, Pace Egg and Plough plays.

Adrian has done a lot of work in recreating these plays for public performance from early written material (some of it going back to the 1820s), taking the best bits and leaving out some things that don't seem to make much sense.

He then presented performances of the plays both on video and live, inviting the audience to take part in two of them. This resulted in some amazing acting, as well as some quite violent looking fights. It was good to see the way Adrian has incorporated dance as an integral part of the play.

The day concluded with a general discussion. It was noted that "mumming" is used in two very different ways, one meaning something like mime and the other a sort of folk play. It was suggested that maybe the connection is the fact that professional actors often refer to themselves, self-deprecatingly, as "mummers".

Links to other forms were also mentioned, such as the Elizabethan stage jiggles, ring morris, pantomime and commedia dell'arte. This to me was the most important part of the day, since the point of a study forum is not so much the actual papers, but is the interaction of and contributions from the participants.

Derek Guyatt

Schott Music and Boosey & Hawkes have released the following new publications which you may find interesting. If you would like to review any, please contact Puddingstone's editor.:

The Most Beautiful Folk Songs (Magolt) – Schott Music

Schellack-Hits & Evergreens (Gerlitz) – Schott Music

Irish Folk Songs (Lawson) – Schott Music

Exploring Klezmer Fiddle (Haigh) – Schott Music

The Sea Faring Fiddler (Huws Jones) – Boosey & Hawkes

Irish Folk Tunes for Viola (Taylor) – Schott Music

The Folk Collection (Carson Turner) – Schott Music

Irish Folk Tunes for Guitar (Burns) – Schott Music

Please follow the link below for more information.

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Twenty First ANNUAL REPORT

For the period ended 31st August 2015

This issue of Puddingstone includes notification of our AGM and full details are listed in the Folk Dance Diary section. We hope you will be able to attend and 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.

The annual Spring Sing took place in March and we again ran our accordion workshop, with grateful thanks to John Grey and Roger Swaine respectively.

Unfortunately due to unforeseen circumstances the Children's Summer Folk Dance Festival had to be cancelled at very short notice. Again thanks are due to our sub-committee and everybody concerned for all their hard work.

We continue to support The Hertfordshire Folk Development Fund (HFDF). Details are available from our web site and applications that meet the required criteria are invited. Updates are provided in Puddingstone, which continues thrice-yearly, and I am sure you will agree that Adrian has once again ensured this year's editions have provided interesting articles and reports. Please keep him supplied with contributions and details of your folk activities. This issue of Puddingstone lists all our affiliated Clubs and Groups, from which Hertfordshire Folk Association welcomes a representative, with your ideas and comments, to our Committee meetings. Minutes of each last meeting note our future dates. Please let us know if any details about your Club /Group need to be up-dated. Continuing with communication news, our web site provides details of our activities and diary dates, as well as other relevant links, 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.

It is very sad that this report must document the passing of Nic Nicholson earlier this year. He was a wonderfully, reliable and hard working committee member for Hertfordshire Folk Association and his commitment over very many years was invaluable. This issue of Puddingstone contains an obituary and on behalf of the committee, I also record herewith, our grateful thanks for all his contributions. He will be sorely missed.

Please do consider if you are able to help the committee, we meet about four times a year and are keen to encourage ideas and participation from all our members. Club representatives are also very welcome, our constitution having always included them. 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

(Affiliated to the English Folk Dance & Song Society)

NOTICE OF THE TWENTY FIRST ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

To be held at:

29, Turmore Dale, Welwyn Garden City, AL8 6HT

on

Tuesday 17th November 2015
at 7.45pm

AGENDA

- 1 To receive apologies for absence
- 2 Minutes of Annual General Meeting held on
18th November 2014.
- 3 To approve Report and Accounts for 2014 / 2015
- 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

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

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

2015-2016

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.

Aug 8	Winchmore , St Paul's Centre, 102 Church Street Enfield. 0208 926 7293 Suzanne Harper with the Forest Band	7.30pm
Aug 22	St Andrews , St Paul's Centre, 102 Church Street Enfield. 0208 366 3982 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 , (Please check venue) Mary Bryan and the Forest Band	7.30pm
Sep 26	St Andrews , (Please check venue) Suzanne Harper 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 10	Winchmore , Keith Wright with the Forest Band + AGM (Please check venue)	7.30pm
Oct 17	Friday Folk , Samuel Ryder Academy, Drakes Dr. St Albans. AL1 5AR. 01727 856508 www.fridayfolk.org.uk Mary Devlin (USA) with Wild Ride - a new band, Robbie, Holly & Bob Tracey	7.30 pm
Oct 24	St Andrews , AGM. (Please check venue) Michael Holdup with recorded music.	7.15pm 7.30pm
Nov 14	Winchmore , (Please check venue) Madeline Smith with the Forest Band	7.30pm

DIARY DATES 2015 - 2016

Nov 21	Harrow , John Greer Hall, Eastcote U.R.Church, Bridle Rd. Eastcote. HA5 2SH 0208 868 7526 Chris Turner with Mollie and Vic	7.30pm
Nov 28	St Andrews. (Please check venue) Club callers with Toucan Play	7.30pm
Dec 5	Staplers , Kathryn and David Wright with Focus Pocus	7.30pm
Dec 10	St Albans Abbey FDC , Homewood Rd. U.R. Church, Sandpit Lane. St Albans AL1 4BH 01727 834977 Phyllis Chapman with the Forest Band	7.30pm
Dec 12	Winchmore , Barrie Bullimore with the Forest Band	7.30pm
2016		
Jan 1	Winchmore , Anglo Scottish Dance, Andrew Kellet and Mary Bryan with the Forest Band	7.30pm
Jan 9	Winchmore , Brian Jones with the Forest Band	7.30pm
Jan 23	St Andrews. Eileen Sinden with Spring Greens	7.30pm
Feb 6	Staplers Carol Hewson with the Falconers	7.30pm
Feb 13	Winchmore , Sibby with the Forest Band	7.30pm
Feb 27	St Andrews. Keith Wright with Toucan Play	7.30pm
Mar 5	Welwyn Garden City F.D.C Welwyn Civic Centre Prospect Place, Welwyn AL6 9ER 01707 320299 Mark Elvins with Ali and Mollie	7.30pm
Mar 12	Winchmore , Colin Hume with the Forest Band	7.30pm
Mar 19	Harrow T.B.A.	

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

Please Note Change for 2016

The HFA membership rates are still unchanged and are: Individual £2.00; Household £3.00; Group/Club £10.00. However to have Puddingstone mailed to you an additional charge of £2.40 is now levied (increased due to rising p & p costs). You may need to contact your bank if you have an automatic payment. 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 2016



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 £2.40 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 (£2.40 for the year)

(please tick box)

☐

And enclose a cheque payable to the Hertfordshire Folk Association

Please return the completed form to:

HFA 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

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.

Join us for our 50th Anniversary Celebrations
A whole week of country dancing based at our lovely campsite.
Great callers, great musicians, great facilities, car parking
- all this in a delightful seaside town.

The Hoddesdon Crownsmen have retired

Mysteriously none of us is getting any younger, and with no new members we can't dance out as much as we should. We've had a great time dancing in the Albert Hall and on TV, touring abroad, and showing the others how it should be done, so we've decided to quit while we're ahead. Thanks to everyone who's supported us over the years.

The Hoddesdon Crownsmen danced rapper, a traditional form of dance from the North East of



The Hoddesdon Crownsmen's
40th birthday 2010

England, as well as performing morris jigs and a mummers' play.

You can find out more about what we did, and look at some photos or
videos @ <http://www.hoddesdoncrownsmen.org.uk/>

The Hoddesdon Crownsmen....Photo by Catherine McArdle.

The English Folk Dance and Song Society launches its Resource Bank Free online. This free online resource (a lasting legacy of EFDSS' celebrated project, The Full English), is to encourage more people to learn and teach folk related music, dance, drama and other arts .
It is freely available to anyone to browse at www.efdss.org/resourcebank and features three main components: **Beginners' Guides** – introductions to folk music, dance, song, drama, costume, customs and collectors
Resources and Teaching Tools – a variety of resource packs, many with audio and video resources, for use in educational, and other informal learning settings. **Jargon Buster** – an easy reference guide for folk related terms and phrases.

CD Review Nightshade by Bryony Griffith

I have seen and heard Bryony Griffith perform when she was playing with the Demon Barbers and I was very impressed by her talent. I was therefore very interested to hear her solo CD. Nightshade is a collection of traditional tunes from Yorkshire and the North Counties that Bryony Griffith has put together. She plays or sings on all the songs and her talent is very obvious.

I enjoyed listening to the CD but it didn't have the energy or contemporary feel that was present when Bryony was with the Demon Barbers. I felt that the best track was track 5 Flame/Edinburgh Zoo/Lawrenson's Spurtle which was more upbeat than some of the other tracks. Overall Nightshade is a showpiece of Bryony Griffith's fine musical talents and a good collection of traditional tunes.

www.bryonygriffith.com

info@selwynmusic.co.uk

Reviewed by

Karon Lyne

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

Autumn 2015

- 4 Sep Bob Barrett and Spring Greens
- 11 Sep Mike Bennett and FF Band
- 18 Sep Club callers and AGM
- 25 Sep Bea Hawkins
- 2 Oct Wendy Harrup and The Gallows Hillbillies
- 9 Oct Colin Hume and FF Band
- 16 Oct Paul Garner and Spring Greens

17 Oct Saturday Dance at Sam Ryder Mary Devlin (USA) & Wild Ride

- 23 Oct Dance in History with Mike Ruff
- 30 Oct Bob Barrett
- 6 Nov Suzanne Farmer and FF Band
- 13 Nov Frances Oates and Turnabouts
- 20 Nov Dave Kerridge
- 27 Nov Cajun with Tim and Madeleine
- 4 Dec Mark Elvins and FF Band
- 11 Dec Christmas Special with Mike Bennett and live music
- 18 Dec Carol singing around St Albans

Sidmouth FolkWeek from 31st – 7th August,

As Mike Harding says: “one of the greatest folk festivals of the world!”. Building on the success of last year’s Diamond Anniversary celebrations, the quality bar remains high - with major names from the folk music scene as well as fantastic emerging talent – moving forward into the next generation of the festival. FolkWeek offers a diverse range of events: major concerts, intimate sessions, fantastic folk dance, cracking ceilidhs, high quality Children’s Festival family fun, Shooting Roots’ youth sessions, storytelling, spectacular displays and processions and an unrivalled 200+ event workshop programme. This year a revamped Bulverton Marquee includes a new late night Betsy’s Lounge chill-out venue, with a new special ticket deal available for 18-25 year olds.

What’s on offer in 2015?

Amazing pre-festival concerts feature South West shanty-singing Port Isaac’s Fisherman’s Friends (with support from Devon’s creamiest singer Jim Causley) on Fri 31st July at 3pm, and darling of the British folk scene contemporary singer Kate Rusby (with support from Dorset’s Ninebarrow) on Thurs 30th July at 8pm.

Headliners throughout the week include: Irish stars Altan; Festival Patrons and acoustic trio Show Of Hands; Australian vocal The Spooky Men’s Chorale; Gaelic singing Julie Fowlis - of Pixar’s Brave fame; Skye-based party starters Peatbog Faeries; English and reggae roots from Edward II; Demon Barber’s XL new show Disco At The Tavern; Bristol’s Spiro and The Poozies featuring Sally Barker from BBC One’s The Voice. Upcoming artists are featured in the EFDSS Folk Rising Plus concerts with Ange Hardy, Maz O’Connor, Jaywalkers as well as fRoots Cellarful of Folkadelia sessions Stick In The Wheel, Martha Tilston, Heg & The Wolf Chorus, Amadou Diagne, Lynched and Hootenanny@Carinas evenings with the likes of Keston Cobblers Club, Rob Heron & The Tea Pad Orchestra and Harp and a Monkey.

As well as concerts expect diverse dance traditions taking to the streets – the Tibetan Tashi Lhunpo Monks and Bacup’s Britannia Coco-nut Dancers! Thanks to the generous support of Creative Scotland we are able to run a series of Spotlight Scotland events, showcasing talent from North of the border. A major part of this year’s funding is focused on Feis Rois Ceilidh Trail, a Scottish traditional music outreach programme, performing on main stages, joining our own Shooting Roots for joint workshops and events. Other acts include The Tweed Project, Barluath, Rachel Newton, Mischa Macpherson, Ewan McLennan Trio, Twelfth Day and Arthur Coates. Sharing stages with the likes of Peatbog Faeries, The Poozies and Emily Smith.

The full programme will be available in July at www.sidmouthfolkweek.co.uk

Sarah Coxson

Alan Bearman Music

07748 772040

Herts Early Dance invited to Hedingham Castle:

“Over the Tudor bridge the Castle’s keep towers over the inner Bailey, its massive 110 feet high walls a testament to Norman power in a conquered country”.

I had never visited before, but would certainly visit Hedingham Castle again. A lovely setting for anything historical, and so particularly apt for the members of our early dance group, who danced out there in June.

Herts Early Dance were invited to attend Hedingham Castle by their friends and fellow historical dancers of the Colchester Historical Dance Group, led by Jackie Marshall-Ward. Both groups were accompanied by their musicians, The Presence (for HED) and Colchester Waits playing for their Colchester group. The setting was a Norman



Castle Hedingham

castle, the occasion connected to the signing of Magna Carta, but accompanied by re-enactors jousting and an archery contest. At first we danced under the edge of the castle, each group alternating to perform the 15th century medieval dances from simple branle to basse dance from the dancing masters Arbeau, Domenico and Ebreo.

Following the first performance from both groups the maypole was put up and the children invited to join in.

Now having danced out on a number of occasions this year it has been my delight to watch children in our various audiences, particularly the very youngest, who jig and bounce quite unreservedly to the music and copy our steps totally unabashed. However, it was quite a challenge to get enough children to have a go at Maypole Dancing – so another chance for me to try something new – my first ever ‘go’ at it, and hopefully not my last try.

In our second and third set we were dancing in the arena where the enactors



**Colchester Waits and
Colchester Historical Dance**

PTO

had skirmished and fought before us. Just as well that this time we joined together in the dances we both had in our repertoire for it was a huge space, with spectators picnicking around the ring. One set of dancers would certainly have looked quite lost! Now we had a much larger audience, relaxing on a lovely sunny day, well fed and watered by the various stands selling food and drink around the site.

We managed to fit in our own picnics, and a tour of the castle buildings and grounds of the estate which is now owned by the Lindsay family. They live in the Georgian Mansion House next to the keep which is what remains of the Norman castle built in 1140 by their De Vere ancestors, Earls of Oxford.

(The first of whom, one Aubrey de Vere, Lord of Ver in Normandy had arrived in England with his brother-in-law, William the Conqueror).

At the end of our joint stints of dance we set out to gather in the audience to join us in a farandole. How pleasing to have lots of 'volunteers' such that the string of dancers snaked right across the arena space and the 'snail' figure wound tightly in and out looked quite spectacular.

What a lovely way to spend a summer afternoon in the sun. Let's hope we get invited again!

Helen Stamp



**English
Miscellany**
folk dance group



Saturday 31st October 2015

Barn Dance

**Music from: Fat Harry
Caller: Barry Goodman**

**St George's School,
Harpenden, AL5 4TD**

From 8.00pm - 11.00pm

Bar Opens at 7.30pm

Tickets: £10.00 Under 16's £6.50

Tickets available from: **Brenda** on 01582 629732
or **Helen** on 020 8386 3779

www.englishmiscellany.com

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 or 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.

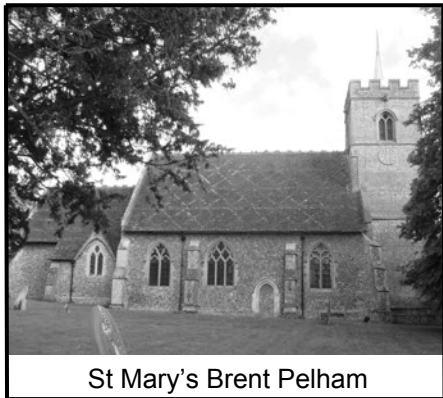
(subject to available time)

Hertfordshire's monsters, myths and legends

When I started researching this article I was worried I wouldn't be able to find much. I was wrong, not only is Herts riddled with Dragons, Knights and Giants, but many have several different local versions.

One of the earliest I came across was the legend of Piers Shonks (first recorded in *Chronica Majora* by Matthew Paris), as a 23 foot giant, left over from the days before the Celts arrived (supposedly as refugees from the sack of Troy), he was also variously: a Norman Knight and Lord of the Manor of Pelham, a famous huntsman and slayer of dragons and a cunning bowman fit to rival Robin Hood !

Piers, who died in 1086 according to the tomb's inscription, is buried in a niche in the wall inside St Mary's Church, Brent Pelham. (According to the Church notice the tomb top dates to the period 1200 - 1350, and the inscription to the 16th Century, possibly re-written by the then incumbent Vicar). The tomb is only just over five feet long, so I think we can discount the 23 foot giant version.



St Mary's Brent Pelham

There are two versions of how Piers came to be buried where he is, both start with a fiery dragon terrorising the Pelham district (hence the name Burnt Pelman, now corrupted to Brent Pelham). Piers is said to have tracked it down to a field near the church where it was snacking on a local ox, and straightway stuck his lance down its throat, killing it. The dragon then collapsed into a pile of scales, and the Devil jumped up from the pile to curse Piers for killing its

pet. The Devil vowed to take Piers' soul off to Hell, whether his body was buried in the church or out. In one version Piers was mortally wounded by the dragon's fire, in the other many years later when he became an old man the Devil reappeared and (in either case), as he lay dying he said he would fire an arrow into the air and be buried wherever it landed if the Devil agreed. The bargain was struck and Piers shot his arrow through the Church window, it stuck in the wall opposite and so Piers was interred neither in the Church yard, nor the Church floor, but in the wall thus outwitting the Devil and ascending to Heaven.

Adrian Burrows



A medieval depiction of the Devil from the web.

HARROW FOLK DANCE CLUB

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

43rd PLAYFORD BALL

SATURDAY 21st NOVEMBER 2015

CHRIS TURNER

~ ~ with music by: ~ ~

‘Mollie & Vic’

**in The John Greer Hall, Eastcote UR Church,
Bridle Road, Eastcote, HA5 2SH**

(at the junction with Rushdene Road)

(This is our new venue.)

Limited car parking on site – access only from Bridle Road.

Street parking in adjacent roads – please park responsibly

Bus route H13 (Ruislip to Northwood Hills) stops outside the Hall.

First dance 19.30 (promptly) – until 22.45 hrs.

Tickets (on the door) £8.00 includes refreshments.

~ ~ ~ ~ ~

Forthcoming attractions:

46th Anniversary Dance – 19th March 2016

(Judith Inman with Toucan Play)

44th Playford Ball – 19th Nov. 2016

(Carol Hewson with Momentum)

~ ~ ~ ~ ~

***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.

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Further information from Roy Martin – 020 8868 7526

ENGLISH MISCELLANY VISITS GERMANY

I am a new member of English Miscellany and when the trip to Gutersloh was announced I had not yet got over my terror of dancing in front of people, never mind representing my country. So it was with trepidation that I found myself at 4.45 in the morning of the Friday of Late May Bank Holiday waiting for the coach to take us to Harwich to begin our journey. The occasion was the 40th anniversary of Folklorekreis Gütersloh, a dance group very similar to English Miscellany. Also there to celebrate were groups from Austria, France, Flanders and two from Russia as well as a couple more German groups. The crossing to the Hook of Holland was very smooth and enjoyable and we even found time for a bit of last minute practice on the deck. The journey by coach on the other side was long and we had some difficulty finding the hotel where we were to meet our hosts. We finally found it with only 10 minutes left before the driver had to take his legal break so we were all holding our breath in case we all had to sleep in the coach!

When we arrived at the hotel we received a very warm welcome from Georg Chatzigeorgiou, the organiser of the festival, and we met up with our hosts. There was much hugging as some of the members met hosts that they had stayed with previously. My husband and I were quickly found by our lovely hosts, Vicki and Klaus, and were whisked off to Bielefeld to their charming house. Klaus produced some absolutely delicious wine and we sat chatting until late – we were clearly going to get on.

The next morning our group and the Russians went to an old people's home to dance and you can see a bit of this on English Miscellany Facebook page. On the way we were thrilled to see large bill boards advertising the festival. We danced country dance, Cotswold Morris, clog dance and the song group did a couple of songs, although what the old folk made of the actions to the Leathern Bottell it was difficult to tell. Vicki and Klaus came to watch and we then went out for a most enjoyable lunch in Gutersloh followed by coffee and cream cake in the local museum – who can visit Germany and not have coffee and cake?.

In the afternoon we practised for a performance at the International Folklore Festival in the Dance School in Gutersloh. By 6.30 we were all ready and the audience began to arrive. I had explained to Vicki and Klaus that we were to do a Playford dance in 18th Century costume and that it would be so different to the country dance they had seen in the morning. They were disappointed, then, that this was not explained to the audience. Maybe Gutersloh people still think that all English folk dance is slow and stately. However it was great to see all the other groups doing their performances, and all so different: the French group, Chants et Danses du Berry, danced to the music of hurdy-gurdy which I had never seen played before; Vrijspel, from Flanders, played amazing foot-tapping music.

PTO

However the group that drew gasps from the audience were Jugend-Tanzgruppe Pfalzdorf, a German Youth group whose young men were strong enough to swing the girls completely off their feet.

On the Sunday, after breakfast and a tour of our hosts' garden, Vicki packed us a picnic and Klaus took us down to meet the bus to take us to the Garden Show Park at Rietberg. Here we found a proper stage and tiered seating - now I'm nervous! Things were a little chaotic here as each group had been allocated times which were not that strictly adhered to. In addition we were all changing in the same small area, not a problem for some groups who did not need to change, but for English Miscellany which has so many different aspects it was stressful. Again, while other groups did their one thing, EM danced Cotswold Morris, North West Morris, Clog, and Country Dance as well as singing some songs accompanied by Rauschpfeifes. In between performances we wandered round the Park which was full of families enjoying their sunny Sunday out. I drew many curious glances in my country costume complete with Victorian sun bonnet.



The bit of the weekend I enjoyed most was on Sunday evening when there was a party and each group did a 'turn'. It was such fun. EM did a mummers play where we encouraged booing and cheering, although I think most people there had no idea what was going on even though we had provided a translation in German. The hosts did an amazing international dance skit, the Austrians made everyone laugh with their leather hosen, bottom-slapping dance in which they encouraged others to join. The children did a knee-puppet show with faces painted on their knees and costumes around their legs. Then the Flemish group began playing and it became impossible to sit still. There was so much dancing and laughter that it made all the worrying I had done fade into insignificance, which, after all, is what dancing is about!

Eileen Heylin