



Magazine of the Hertfordshire Folk Association

PUDDINGSTONE

Issue 64

**English Miscellany 40th
Anniversary day of dance**



**Winter
2015-6**

Dec - March

40p

Where sold





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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



I would like to start by wishing all our readers an early Season's Greetings and Happy New Year. Having written an article on Jack O'Legs, I'm not extending the series on Herts Myths as others I've researched seem similar. I'd very much welcome contributions on interesting folk related topics.

Sadly this issue has included remembrances of many individuals well known in folk circles. This has made us reflect on our own ageing committee. We would be *very* pleased to welcome new younger members who feel they have the time and enthusiasm to join us.

A big "thank you" to those who have sent in items for this issue. More contributions always welcome!

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

Piano-accordion workshop

Sunday 13th March 2016

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 about 3:30pm.

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

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

Cost: £40

Playing for Morris Dancing with Rod Stradling.

Rod joined his first Morris Team in the early 60s and, shortly after that, he started Scottish Country Dancing and rapper sword dancing at school.

In the 70s he moved to London and started English Country Dancing. He joined the Beaux of London City Morris Men and took up playing the piano accordion at folk clubs and for folk dances.

Later his job moved to the United States where he played for English and Scottish Country Dance groups. He joined the Strathspey and Reel Society of New Hampshire shortly after it was formed and made his first CD with Barbara McOwen as part of The Carfuffle Ceilidh Band, appearing several times at Pinewoods, a camp site on Cape Cod dedicated to traditional dance and music. Now based in the Midlands north of Birmingham, he is a member of Green Man's Morris and Sword Club. Over the past couple of years he has played at many dances and appeared at festivals at Sidmouth, Eastbourne, Lichfield, Whitby, Purbeck and Southam & in January 2016 he'll be playing for the Morris Ring Jigs Instructional.

During our workshop he will be covering playing for Cotswold, North-West, Longsword and Rapper.

Booking is essential as places are limited: Please telephone Roger Swaine on 01707 324413, or E-mail him on "roger.swaine1@btinternet.com" to reserve a place.

My Memories of Nic Nicolson

I first met Nic at the St Albans Morris Men's practice hall in 1970. It was my first night and I was a bit apprehensive to say the least. I found out that I was not the only first timer with the Club, there were three of us that night: Dr John King from Durham, Chas Whitlock from Coventry and Nic, also ex-Coventry. Now because we were the new boys me being brand new, we formed a small group of "outsiders" when we went to the pub. Nic gathered me up to others just to make me feel welcome. This action was very typical of him with new and visiting dancers both in the Morris and outside of it, all were welcome in Nic's point of view until they proved otherwise.

When Nic became the squire of SAMM he showed a fine balance between leading the Men, dealing with Ring politics and ensuring that the Club ran extremely well. There were one or two small things about his first term, one that was talked about as a sort of Morris Folk Myth, there was the All Pasta Morris Feast.

Now Jackie, Nic's wife, had attended a function put on by Pasta Foods in St Albans. This seemed to be a good idea for a SAMM Feast. A meeting was arranged and Miss Pesta of Pasta Foods became known to SAMM. Now the arrangement was that in return for a small amount of advertising for Pasta Foods we could have free, yea free, pasta for the Feast. In those days that was 100+ men so this was a good offer. Then the bolt went in that pasta had to feature in *every course!* Oh yes –all of them.

Okay then, soup-minestrone, hors d'oeuvres- a medley of pasta salads, main-Goulash with noodles, dessert-banana custard with pasta, cheese and biscuits no pasta and coffee.

By the time the Goulash had arrived the Men were getting a bit restive, the Dessert had them downright worried to the extent that some started to dredge their coffee to find where we had hidden the stuff!

The good lady wot was helping us had never cooked for that many in her life. The most she had done was planning a dinner party for 12! Not 120, but 12! Shopping resulted in about two stone of bananas, twelve pounds of parsley, as a garnish (we could have garnished all the flaming men with that amount) and enough cold pasta left over for everyone to get sick of the sight of it! Strangely enough it was many a long year before we had pasta at a Feast again. Oh, we never saw hide nor hair of the publicity people from Pasta Foods.

Nic was an extremely good organiser and driver, it was unfortunate that his work then took him abroad on an almost permanent basis for quite a few years after, with the Club I think being the poorer for it.

This is a very brief glimpse of some of my memories of Nic Nicolson one time Squire of St Albans Morris Men.

James T. Rose *Fool of SAMM*

CD Review

Navajos and Pirates

This is the third album by Hertfordshire-based duo na-mara (Rob Garcia and Paul McNamara). It's an eclectic mixture, including self-written songs, translations of traditional French/Breton songs and tunes from Galicia, with accompaniments on guitar, mandolin and mandola. The CD is nicely produced, with some fine musicianship. I particularly like the French songs, which have a haunting quality; my favourite is "The Lover from Nantes". The tunes rattle along nicely, and I suspect some of them may well find their way into the session repertoire. Their own songs explore some unusual themes, such as commemorating the courageous people (the Navajos and Pirates of the album title) in 1930s Germany who stood up against fascism. These songs are well crafted and powerfully sung, although personally I enjoyed them less than the other tracks.

Derek Guyatt

CHILTERN FOLK ASSOCIATION
(Affiliated to EFDSS)

NEW YEAR DANCE

Saturday, 9th January 2016 6.30pm-10.00pm
Amersham Community Centre, Drake Hall,
Chiltern Avenue, HP6 5AH
IVAN AITKEN with KELLY'S EYE
£10 including a lucky raffle ticket
Please bring some food to share

FAMILY DANCE

Sunday, 21st February 2016 2.30pm-5.30pm
Amersham Common Village Hall,
White Lion Road, HP7 9JD
TED MORSE with TOUCAN PLAY
£5 Please bring some food to share
ACCOMPANIED CHILDREN VERY WELCOME – UNDER
16 FREE

ST GEORGE'S DAY DANCE

Saturday, 23rd April 2016
Amersham Community Centre HP6 5AH
Afternoon workshops and an Evening Dance
MARK ELVINS with FOREST BAND

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



**Inchmore Folk
Dance Club**



Trinity Church Hall 7.30 – 10.30
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 2015-16

December	Sat 12	Barry Bullimore
January	Fri 1	(Anglo-Scottish)
		Andrew Kellet & Mary Bryan
January	Sat 9	Brian Jones
February	Sat 13	Sibby
March	Sat 12	Colin Hume
April	Sat 9	Memorial Dance for Arnold Stem

Also: term time **TUESDAY** mornings

10 - 12 noon at: The Village Hall,

St Peter's Church, Vera Avenue N21 1RJ

Info: John Wood 020 8926 7293

Honorary Membership of Bedford Gallery Quire for Graham Lyndon-Jones

At their AGM in February Bedford Gallery Quire voted unanimously to confer the title of Honorary Member of Bedford Gallery Quire upon Graham in recognition of his contributions to the quire since its inception in 2003. Graham was presented with a framed certificate and a framed photograph of him playing his bass horn.

Graham's ability to play a serpent, a bass horn and a bassoon at a concert demonstrated not only his musical talents but also the instrumental accompaniment to the bass part of the quire. During the interval of quire concerts it was not unusual to find members of the audience clustered around Graham's instruments, like bees round a honey pot, asking questions and sometimes attempting to play his serpent!

Reluctantly Graham has decided to relinquish his regular participation in quire rehearsals and concerts but is willing to teach someone to play his serpent, loaning them his very valuable instrument. In that way the West Gallery tradition of including a serpent in the band of the Bedford Gallery

Quire can be maintained. More about the quire can be found on the website

www.bedfordgalleryquire.org.uk

We are always seeking new members and instrumentalists. If you are interested in learning to play Graham's serpent for use with the quire please contact Liz Rose on 01727 867 308.



L to R: Michael, Graham & Liz Rose

Michael Dunkley

Joe Stead and Gareth Scott of Kimber's Men are offering folk clubs their services in a joint evening of songs. One half of the show will be dedicated to "An audience with Joe Stead" where he will both chat and sing about his life of song writing and his memories with Pete Seeger, Paul Robeson, Alex Campbell and others, whilst Gareth will concentrate on a session of folk and self penned songs. Joe's heritage, starting in the 1960's, should be well known to you. Gareth is comparatively new on the scene, so here are some recent live reviews for Gareth solo:... "Rich soulful tones and a warm personality, he engages audiences with great skill and a friendly wit". D Forshaw, Clennell Hall Folk Festival...."Gareth's voice is completely beguiling and we're really looking forward to having him back at the festival next year" Esther Ferry Kennington. Todmorden Folk Festival.

Contact Joe Stead on 01422-833659 or 07704-512060 for more details, or to negotiate booking. Gareth can be contacted separately on 07787-934536

NEW SESSION IN STEVENAGE

A new traditional session has begun in Stevenage, of all places. Surrounded by folk activity, the town itself has been bereft for perhaps 20 years. The marvellous Stevenage Sword has persevered, and Hitchin Folk Club nearby. But although sessions have been at Hertford, Chapmore End, Benington, Knebworth, Codicote, Kimpton, Pirton and Baldock (apologies for omissions) the town has become a folk desert. In the 1970s was the folk club at the Red Lion, before it moved on. Small sessions emerged there in the 1990s, and Stevenage Sword practices would end in sessions at the Chequers, Ditchmore Lane.

I set up a Facebook page, still called '**Campaign for a Stevenage folk music session**', added some obvious names, shared the link on the 'Hertfordshire Folk Musicians' and 'Stevenage Sword' pages and waited for interest to grow. **Our Mutual Friend** was mooted as a music-friendly pub, and it agreed to host a session. It serves real ale and the smaller of its bars has a raised, enclosed, seating area which seemed ideal. The pub recommended Mondays as the quietest night, and so it began.

It is a traditional acoustic round-robin style of session, with joining-in as appropriate. Much appreciated is the help from 'veteran' folkies from Hertford and Ware; local audience support has begun to emerge, but the latent Stevenage singers and musicians remain to be tapped into. I want it to be welcoming and supportive so that from the town's huge population might emerge those new to folk and to sessions. The music could be a mixture of honed performance and people just finding their way, and building their confidence. For the moment, once a month is working well.



Everything is in place. Please come along, and tell people, so we have numbers, presence and momentum:

**Our Mutual Friend,
Stevenage,
2nd Monday of the
month.**

Facebook as above, or
moyle.mason@ntlworld.
com.

Gary Moyle

Brenda Bamford

On Sunday 6th September 2015 Herts Early Dance held a celebration of the life of Brenda Bamford (1927 - 2015). This was attended by many friends from her wide variety of interests. There were collections of photos, costumes she had made, video of events she had taken part in, tributes and anecdotes, and some of her favourite dances.

"We all thought she would go on for ever, but time has finally caught up with Brenda. Participating in historical dance for about fifty years, she is a much-loved figure in the memories of many. This tribute draws on several responses to her passing, and gives an insight into her rich life and character. Remembered as passionate about all aspects of history and right to the end having a fantastic memory for dates, places, people and dogs, with a gift for friendship, and wonderful sense of fun, but above all as a graceful and committed dancer.



"Brenda was born in Watford on 19th November 1927, her father's family having been in the area for several generations. She treasured a picture of her grandfather Walter as Head Gamekeeper at Ashridge Park. Although she retained her maiden name, Brenda had been briefly married after the war. Around this time, she worked as a nurse in Bedford, but later her main career was as a draughtswoman. No doubt the skills needed for this job supported her wonderful needlework and construction of period costumes. Not only was she always beautifully turned out for dancing, but generous with advice and even undertook the making of garments for others: examples of her exquisite blackwork are borne by several people. She enjoyed a full life, even after age and infirmity slowed her down a little, being an intrepid traveller, naturalist, walker, volunteer at Westminster Abbey and following a variety of pursuits and courses in cultural and historical topics.

"Being able to join in the dance meetings in St Albans, with a helpful car lift from Watford, gave Brenda a second lease of life in enjoying historical dance, and also in exercising her histrionic skills in jigs and scene setting for the Twelfth Night and May revels. Although frustrated in latter days by being less able to participate, she nevertheless kept on dancing. Her mastery of different styles, sequences and music was wonderful, and she was a model of grace, carriage and fluid movement."

Anne Daye

Jack O'Legs

In the village of Weston near Baldock one can see a village sign which has a picture of a Robin Hood like figure, seemingly shooting an arrow at a church. According to the local legend, this depicts Jack O'Legs, a character probably dating back to the middle ages (Baldock was founded c.1148, so the legend dates from after that time.), Jack is reputed to have lived in a cave in a nearby wood; he was said to be a sort of cross between



Robin Hood and Little John, He was an expert archer, being able to shoot a bird out of the air half a mile away, and when shooting for distance could manage three Miles. This shouldn't be too surprising as Jack was said to be between twelve and fourteen feet tall. He was reported to be able to chat to local villagers by leaning his elbows on their upstairs window sills and talking to them through their bedroom windows.

Like Robin Hood, Jack was in the habit of robbing the rich for the benefit of the poor. His particular dislike was for the Baldock Bakers, who had a reputation for giving short measure and overcharging. This was so bad that the local villagers were at risk of starvation. Jack, instead of taking the bakers to court (they had a very strong Guild in Baldock), took direct action in the form of wealth redistribution. This was not well thought of amongst the bakers, who devised a plot. When Jack came to market at Baldock, they ambushed him, knocking him down with a long poleaxe, and securing him with iron chains. Poor Jack was then dragged to a gibbet. (This was said by John Skelton in his 1521 poem "Speak Parrot" to have been made especially for Jack.) Jack was then blinded and told he was to be hanged. He asked for one last favour, to be able to shoot his bow towards Weston, and to be buried wherever his arrow landed. He hit the spire of Holy Trinity Church (three miles away), and is said to be buried in the churchyard, between two markers which are fourteen feet apart.

Adrian Burrows

Refs: Nathanael Salmon 1728 *History of Hertfordshire*.
John Skelton, 1521, *Speak Parrot*,
https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jack_o'_Legs



HERTFORDSHIRE FOLK ASSOCIATION COMMITTEE

Elected Members & Officers as from November 2015

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

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roger.swaine1@btinternet.com
Tel: 01707 324413

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& Diary dates: 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.

Diary Dates

2015-16

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.

Dec 5	Staplers Folk Dance Group , St Ippolyts Parish Hall, Hitchin SG4 7RB 01582 881966. www.Staplers.org.uk , Kathryn and David Wright with Folkus 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 , St Paul's Centre, 102 Church Street Enfield. 0208 926 7293 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 9	Chiltern Folk Ass. Amersham Community Centre, Drakes Hall, Chiltern Ave. HP6 5AH. 01628 486845. (see advert)	6.30pm
Jan 10	Herts Early Dance . St Stephens Church Hall, Watling Street. St Albans. AL1 2PX 01442 862545 Twelfth Night Celebrations	2.30 - 6.00pm
Jan 23	St Andrews . St Paul's Centre, 102 Church Street Enfield. 0208 366 3982 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

DIARY DATES cont.

Feb 21	Chiltern Folk Ass. Amersham Common Village Hall White Lion Rd. HP7 9JD. 01628 486845 Family Dance, Ted Morse with Toucan Play	2.30pm
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 13	Herts Folk Ass. Piano - Accordion Workshop (see advert)	
Mar 19	Herts Folk Ass. Spring Sing (see advert)	
Mar 19	Harrow John Greer Hall, Eastcote U.R.Church, Bridle Rd. Eastcote. HA5 2SH 0208 868 7526 Judith Inman with Toucan Play (see advert)	7.30pm
Mar 26	St Andrews, Suzanne Harper with the Forest Band	7.30pm
Apr 9	Winchmore, Memorial Dance for ARNOLD STEM	
Apr 23	St Andrews, 80th Anniversary Dance. Anne Dunn with Spring Greens	7.30pm
Apr 23	Chiltern Folk Ass. Amersham Community Centre, Afternoon workshops and evening dance Mark Elvins with the Forest Band (see advert)	2.30pm 7.30pm
May 7	Friday Folk Dance. Samuel Ryder Academy, St Albans. www.fridayfolk.org.uk - 01727 856508 Cis Hinkle with Mollie K and Ali Ellacott.	7.30pm
May14	Winchmore, Andrea Stodell with the Forest Band	7.30pm
May 14	Herts Early Dance. May Revels	2.00 - 9.00pm

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

Ofley Moris Men - Squire: 01462 624210 Bagman.
email: info@offleymorris.org.uk

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@stalbanismorrismen.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!

HFA Spring Sing 2015

At noon on Saturday March 21st 2015 a dozen singers and reciters gathered in the back room of the Crown Inn in the North Herts market town of Buntingford for the annual Spring Sing. After a brief time to allow for furniture rearrangement, personal greetings and introductions and, of course, the purchase of some vocal cord lubricants, we started a series of 'round the room' song and verse sessions.

Between 12.30pm and about 6.00pm (with a couple of short breaks) we heard over 60 songs and poems of all imaginable types, serious, humorous, short & long, traditional and recently composed, solos and sing-a-long choruses. There were sea shanties, love songs, hunting songs with long choruses suitable for improvised harmonies, music hall ditties, songs of social comment and those recalling historical events and, of course, a few drinking songs. We even had a few songs in Polish from a rather shy and charming young lady who had seen the publicity and come along to find out what was happening.

We all had a very enjoyable time and hope to meet again, to participate in a similar event, all are welcome, next year on Saturday 19th March 2016, again at the Buntingford Crown Inn (SG9 9AB) for another Spring Sing afternoon.

John Grey

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)

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).

Haddenham Ceilidhs First Saturday of the month

November 7 The Diatonics with Sheena Masson plus Rockhopper Morris

December 5 Festival Ceilidh – The Old Swan Band with Barry Goodman

January 2 Asha with Simon Loake plus Simon & Jo Harmer

February 6 Peeping Tom with Hugh Rippon

March 5 The Pigeon Swing with Barry Goodman plus Armaleggan

For more information including the Festival, and purchase of tickets, visit our website or email john@actionfolk.co.uk or phone John on 07717 047 039 or go to www.haddenhamceilidhs.co.uk



Hertfordshire Folk Association

Spring Sing 2016

Saturday 19th March

12 noon – 6pm

At

THE CROWN

**17 High Street, BUNTINGFORD
Hertfordshire, SG9 9AB**

**ADMISSION £5
(food available from the bar)**

**For further information
See www.hertsfolkassn.org.uk
Call John Grey 01920 460553
Or email Libbybyne-grey@outlook.com**

Membership Renewal

Please Note Change for p & p

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 Group/Club £10
Of Puddingstone)

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



If you are under
25 and play
traditionally
based music, this
is for you.

There are two categories, under 18 and 18-24. The judges will give helpful advice and award performance opportunities.

Closing date January 31

To enter, send a CD with up to
15 minutes of your music to:

Alison Macfarlane, 40 Warwick Road,
St Albans, Herts AL1 4DL.

Finals April 10 2016

Trestle Arts Base, St Albans

www.new-roots.org.uk,
info@stalbansfolkmusic.org.uk

New Roots 2016

The call is out to young musicians under the age of 25 who sing or play traditionally based music to enter for New Roots 2016. Whether your style is traditional or contemporary folk, roots or world music, whether you perform traditional material or write your own, the organisers would like to hear from you. There are two categories, under 18 and 18-24. New Roots has been running since 2000 and the standard rises every year.

The list of judges for 2016 has now been finalised.

Between them, Valmai Goodyear, Andy Stafford, Bryony Griffiths and James Findlay represent a wide spectrum of insights into the folk scene.

Alison Macfarlane

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.

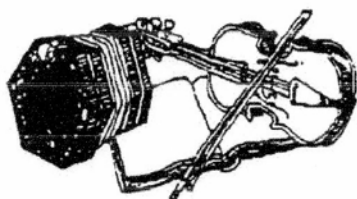
Meeting Fridays from 7:45 to 10:00 pm
at The Church Hall, Marlborough Road,
St Albans, AL1 3XG.

www.fridayfolk.org.uk – 01727 856508
Standard Friday admission £3

Dec 2015 to Mar 2016

- 4 Dec Mark Elvins and FF Band
- 11 Dec Christmas Special with Mike Bennett and Cloudburst
- 18 Dec Carol singing around St Albans (phone for details)
- Christmas break
- 8 Jan Bob Barrett and Spring Greens
- 15 Jan Colin Hume and FF Band
- 22 Jan Bob Lilley
- 29 Jan Mike Bennett
- 5 Feb Suzanne Farmer
- 12 Feb David & Rebecca Capron and FF Band
- 19 Feb TBA
- 26 Feb TBA
- 4 Mar Jane Pfaff and FF Band
- 11 Mar Andrea Stodell
- 18 Mar Spring Greens
- 25 Mar Closed for Easter
- 1 Apr New term begins

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

Dec 1 Nick Dow

Dec 8 Open Stage

Dec 15 Churchfitters (£12&£10)

Dec 22 Club Christmas Party

Dec 29 Club Closed

Jan 5 New Year Singaround

Jan 12 Terence Blacker

Jan 19 Steve Tilston (£12&£10)

Jan 26 Round the Room

Feb 2 Maz O'Connor

Feb 9 PerKelt

Feb 16 North Sea Gas

Feb 23 Round the Room

Mar 1 Steve Turner

Mar 8 Pete Coe & Alice Jones

Mar 15 Open Stage

Mar 22 Tom Lewis

Mar 29 Round the Room

ST NEOTS FOLK FESTIVAL

10, 11 & 12 JUNE

Friday: Ceilidh with Parson's Nose Ceilidh Band

Music & Song session

Saturday: Day of Dance

Martin Simpson, Andy Cutting & Nancy Kerr in Concert

Sunday ev. Concert - The Bram Taylor Band + others tbc.

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

Jack Dimmer

Jack, husband of Irene, was one of those people who was always there and quietly got on with things in the background. They both worked tirelessly for the Herts District on many an occasion, usually smiling it seemed. They danced with the Hemel group and Irene became very involved with square dancing. Jack also liked to play the violin.

One of Jack's endearing qualities was his quiet sense of humour. I vividly recall a Folk East planning meeting held at their house. Their dog was summoned from the sitting room but refused to come preferring to hide behind the sofa. It was Jack's tone of voice when he then addressed the dog that had us all in stitches..."Alright.....go there....I will be obeyed". A good meeting followed!

Jack died peacefully in his sleep early on the 16th October at their home in Milton Keynes after a long illness patiently borne.

Liz Rose

Watford remembers Meg Cunningham

Watford Folk Dance Group (WFDG) recently lost a long-standing member in Meg Cunningham. Meg and her husband Mal joined Watford in the early 1980s as accomplished dancers. They had been members of London Folk for many years and had been prominent with them at the Albert Hall on many occasions. Meg had especially fond memories of the year when they were chosen to lead their team into the arena.

Meg met when Mal, a London policeman who danced the Morris with the Beaux of London City, called at a dance in her parish. They married soon after, setting up home in Camden near to Cecil Sharp House and later moving to Bounds Green where they brought up their family. A move out of town to Rickmansworth in 1981 resulted in them joining WFDG where they became very active members.

Mal died suddenly in 1989 and Meg, devastated, did not return to folk dance until some twelve months later. Folk dance took up much of Meg's spare time – she danced regularly with Amersham Folk Dance Club and the Sunday Club at Cecil Sharp House as well as WFDG. She was always the first to welcome and help "Beginners", being very able and having a great deal of patience when things went wrong.

She became Treasurer of the group, a post she held for fifteen years until she handed over in late 2014 after recognising that her health was failing. She had undergone several operations in the previous three years, bravely coming back to dancing as soon as she was able and continuing to keep the books for WFDG. Meg frequently remarked how much she had enjoyed an evening's dancing and that Mondays with Watford always gave a lift to her week.

Meg died in June 2015 having moved at the end of 2014 to join family in Milton Keynes where she was given the loving care she needed.

Meg is very much missed both as a good but modest dancer and as one of the "pillars" of WDFG.

Gerry Swallow, Eileen Fudge and Fran Beak

EFDSS News

Fiddle player and BBC Radio 2 Folk Musician Of The Year Sam Sweeney has been named as the inaugural Artistic Director of the English Folk Dance and Song Society's (EFDSS) new National Youth Folk Ensemble.

Sam will work closely with EFDSS to develop the programme in its first year. He will lead on the artistic vision of the Ensemble, collaborate with a team of professional folk artists, devise content for the residential courses and co-create repertoire with the young musicians by drawing on English regional traditions and styles.

Recruitment for the first cohort of young musicians to join the Ensemble will begin in spring 2016, with the National Youth Folk Ensemble formally starting in October 2016. A series of sampler days will take place across England between March and June 2016 as the first-level audition process for joining the Ensemble.

Keep up to date with news about the ensemble at
www.efdss.org/nationalyouthfolkensemble
and tweet @theEFDSS #youthfolk

English Folk Dance and Song Society serves up 'The Full English Extra'

This new project will digitise three more archive collections and deliver a learning programme in partnership with three national museums.

The English Folk Dance and Song Society (EFDSS) is to add to several important collections to its online archive and partner three national museums in a new initiative to preserve and promote the folk arts.

The collections of Mary Neal, suffragette, radical arts practitioner and founder of the Esperance Girls Club, and folk dance educator Daisy Caroline Daking will be added to the Vaughan Williams Memorial Library online archive, alongside its collection of 19th-century broadside ballads and songsters.

EFDSS will work with three national museums – the Museum of English Rural Life at the University of Reading, the National Coal Mining Museum for England near Wakefield in Yorkshire, and the National Maritime Museum in Greenwich, London – combining folk arts and museum education to provide powerful new learning experiences for schools.

The Full English Extra builds on the success of EFDSS' flagship project The Full English, which created the world's largest digital archive of folk songs, dances, tunes and customs, and a nationwide learning programme that reached more than 15,500 people.

HARROW FOLK DANCE CLUB

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

46th ANNIVERSARY DANCE

SATURDAY 19th MARCH 2016

JUDITH INMAN

∞ ∞ with music by: ∞ ∞

‘TOUCAN PLAY’

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

(at the junction with Rushdene Road)

(This is our new venue since November 2014.)

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:

44th Playford Ball – 19th Nov. 2016

(Carol Hewson with Momentum)

47th Anniversary Dance – 18th March 2017

(Caller and Band to be announced)

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***The Harrow Folk Dance Club meets most Mondays (except
in August) 7.45 – 9.45 pm at Belmont School, Upper Hall,
(Hibberd Road, (off Locket Road) Harrow Weald, HA3 7JT.
(ample car parking on site)***

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Further information from Roy Martin – 020 8868 7526

English Miscellany Day of Dance

What better if you're celebrating the 40th Anniversary of your dance group than to enjoy a whole day of dance? Having invited your friends to join you, all you then really need is a fine day and an audience.

So English Miscellany (who practise in East Hyde and Rothamsted) and Whitethorn Morris from Harrow assembled in Harpenden on Saturday July 11th to dance in three spots around the town for the busy folk as they shopped and strolled, accompanied by our friends, some of whom joined in the dance and music. Both groups accompanied also of course by their own musicians.

A perfect pairing, as Whitethorn danced North-West Morris and English Miscellany clog, country dance and Cotswold as well, so the public watching throughout the day had a varied programme of dance unfold in front of them.

Our opening spot – in front of the public toilets and alongside a restaurant - may not sound like the perfect opening choice – but was shaded, had a good solid flat floor and attracted a fair number of people who might have thought they had an ordinary day of shopping in front of them. They seemed not only surprised – but glad of the spectacle! Each side performed a set, and we moved on to the next venue, the Concourse.

You might have thought, as we were in the middle now of a considerable shopping crowd that we would encounter the 'head down I'm on a mission to the supermarket and you're in the way' expression on some faces, but quite the reverse. We were in the thick of it in the middle of the main street, and in the middle of the throng of a busy Saturday morning. How delighted we were then to see a good number watching and enjoying the dance. The second set by our guests Whitethorn – and still I hadn't seen them repeat a dance. Again, English Miscellany alternated Country dance with clog, men's Cotswold Morris and women's North-West Morris. Our audience certainly couldn't say folk dance was all the same, and don't we look as if we were enjoying ourselves?

Time then to refresh ourselves and top up the energy levels – but not to stop dancing, for our buffet lunch in a central and very welcoming hostelry was followed by a combined clog and numbers from the Song Group – as well as a general all in together and give it a try with our fellow diners– who even surprised themselves by their level of enjoyment and involvement, and didn't stop laughing at the surprise till we moved on to our next slot. Remember what I said about having a quiet shop, stroll or chat on a warm sunny Saturday? At our third, less busy spot where again the groups alternated, the musicians from each group seemed to have amalgamated and became more animated with each dance.

Here we stopped too for a photograph, which I think shows us tired and happy but not finished, for back we went to the Concourse for the fourth and last spot on this our 40th Anniversary Day of Dance. Plenty of energy left for the dance, even if it is uphill, before we then adjourned for a well-earned tea followed by an evening of celebration. Had we had a good day? Hadn't we just - thanks to many for their organisation and involvement and not least to the good people of Harpenden who shared our enjoyment and helped us to remember why we dance together for fun and friendship.

Helen Stamp

Whitethorn
Northwest Morris



English Miscellany
Northwest Morris



English Miscellany
Country Dancers



English Miscellany
Cotswold Morris



English Miscellany day of dance with Whitethorn Morris

