



Magazine of the Hertfordshire Folk Association

PUDDINGSTONE

Issue 65

Hertfordshire Folk Association

SUMMER FOLK DANCE FESTIVAL



Children's Summer Folk Dance Festival

ALAS NO MORE

April
2016

April - July

40p

Where sold





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COPY DATE
 1st July for
AUGUST ISSUE
 (Aug - Nov 2016)

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Printed by **Triographics Printers** of
 Knebworth. For more info contact
 01438 811905 or alantriog@aol.com

ADVERTISING RATES		
Full page (A5)	197mm high x 130mm wide	
½ page	95mm high x 130mm wide	
¼ page	95mm high x 64mm wide	
Back Cover (A5)	in Colour	- £45.00
Inside Back Cover (A5)	in Colour	- £40.00
Inside full page (A5)	in Colour	- £35.00
Back Cover (A5)	black & white	- £25.00
Inside Back Cover (A5)	black & white	- £20.00
Inside full Page (A5)	black & white	- £17.00
½ page	black & white	- £11.00
¼ page	black & white	- £ 8.50
Cheques and POs made payable to the Hertfordshire Folk Association		

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.

Special Advert Rates
There is a 10% discount on adverts for affiliated clubs and groups.

COPY DATES
 1st July for August Issue
 (Aug - Nov)
PUBLISHED 1st AUGUST
 1st Nov for December Issue
 (Dec - March)
PUBLISHED 1st DECEMBER
 1st March for April Issue
 (April - July)
PUBLISHED 1st APRIL

Distribution with thanks to the 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



I am going to begin by adding my voice to the chorus of lamentations over the loss of the HFA Children's Dance Festival. If it were only this opportunity for children to meet others at a social folk event it would be bad enough, but added to this is the loss of the introduction to their folk culture while learning the dances at school. So many people have only the faintest knowledge of the English folk heritage that it is a great shame to deny several hundred children a year this opportunity. Archiving material seems the order of the day. HFA have started to put together a Puddingstone archive (now complete back to 1987, and we are starting to gather information and memorabilia of the Children's Festival and the St Albans Folk Dance Festival which was its genesis. If you have any material about either which could be added in electronic form, please contact me.

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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Tappalachian says "Thanks" to Nic Nicolson

Many members of Tappalachian have known Nic Nicolson for many years through St Albans Morris Men, Friday Folk and many other folk dance connections, including helping promote folk dancing to children with the Hatfield House Dance Festival for Schools. Over the years he has supported countless folk dance events locally but for most of Tappalachian our last memory of Nic will be at the Black Boy pub in Bushey last summer where we danced with SAMM and Etcetera Morris on one of their Monday evening pub nights. This was always a successful evening with a good audience and Nic 'compered' the evening: announcing the dances and regaling the audience with the odd anecdote.

What Nic didn't mention that evening was that he was instrumental in Tappalachian being able to dance there.

When we formed the team nine years ago we needed to raise the funds to buy our own transportable boards: having been able to borrow some initially. Nic was a member of Herts Folk Association, who also support local folk groups, and he knew they often awarded dance groups with grants to help them fund equipment. He suggested we approach them. A bid was duly drawn up and with Nic's support on the evening we were awarded about a quarter of what we needed in total. When added to the existing funds this was enough for us to order the lovely, custom-made boards we now dance on.

We have danced on these boards at many folk festivals and events since then. Without Nic's support it would have taken us a lot longer to raise the funds and we are grateful for his help.

Unfortunately, Nic's health declined and he sadly died later that year. Nic was always a supporter of local folk dance and music and a truly nice man who is missed by all those who had the pleasure of dancing with him.

Thank you from Tappalachian.

Maisie Prett (one of the dancers)

I would like to thank everyone who sent donations to Rennie Grove Hospice Care in Nic's memory. These donations totalled £1,445.

The Rennie nursing team, together with the Community nurses and the McMillan nurses gave incredible support to us during those last few weeks and I can't speak too highly of their care.

Best wishes

Jackie Nicolson

CD Review

Dave Ellis & Boo Howard; Facebook Friend

This latest release by Dave Ellis and Boo Howard provides another insight into the lives and minds of two seasoned performers. The songs explore strong themes of family, nostalgia and reflective social conscience. Whilst retaining the energy of their live performance the studio gives these multi-instrumentalists the chance to explore warmer, thicker textures with Home Again and a pulsing, bluesy sound for Back to Default and title track Facebook Friend.

The jewel in this album for me is God Save Olive Cooke (released as an iTunes single for the British Legion), a haunting and contemplative track about changed values which brings a gravity to the whole album.

No shortage of storytelling and plenty of humour, this varied album hints at shades of Eric Clapton and Fleetwood Mac and makes for an upbeat and enjoyable experience. I recommend it with a Sunday afternoon armchair and a cup of tea. Happy listening

Beth Gifford

CHILTERN FOLK ASSOCIATION (Affiliated to EFDSS)

ST GEORGE'S DAY DANCE

Saturday, 23rd April 2016
Amersham Community Centre HP6 5AH

AFTERNOON WORKSHOPS

2.30pm-4pm Dutch Crossing
Break for Tea/Coffee
4.30pm-6pm Long Sword and Singing
(please note – no children at evening dance)

EVENING DANCE

7.00pm-10.30pm
MARK ELVINS with MOLLIE
KOENIGSBERGER & ALI ELLACOTT
Please bring some food to share

WORKSHOPS £6 ADULTS, £3 CHILDREN 8-
16YEARS (MUST BE ACCOMPANIED)
EVENING DANCE £10 JOINT TICKET £15

PLAYFORD BALL

Saturday, 3rd September 2016
7.00pm-10.30pm
Amersham Community Centre, HP6 5AH
CAROL HEWSON with FOREST BAND
£10 Dress to impress

Contacts for both dances 01628 486845 or e-mail
chairman@chilternfolk.org.uk or 01344 646391 or e-
mail jasyymm@ntlworld.com



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 2016

Sat 9 April:

Memorial Dance for Arnold Stem

St Paul's Centre, 102A, Church Street,
Enfield. EN2 6AR

Sat 14th May **Andrea Stodell**

Sat 11th June **Bob Barrett**

Sat 9th July **Anne Dunn**

Sat 13th Aug **Judith Inman**

Sat 10th Sept **John Wood**

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

Hertfordshire Summer Festivals -Farewell

Liz....Folk dancing, both social and ritual, has existed in Hertfordshire for decades. Abbey Group in St Albans was formed in 1929 and St Albans Morris was founded in 1930. Their roots lay in the Abbey and both clubs are still in existence.

Dawn...We know that there were Summer Festivals held in the great houses of Hertfordshire for many years before the war and before either of us were around! Rollo Woods, now age 90 and living in Swanage, recounted the story of going to the Hertfordshire Summer Festival in 1939 at Fanhams Park near Ware. The team from Barnet travelled in a coach. Every class in the county led a procession onto the green. He was 14 and he and his brother led the team from Barnet onto the green as they had MEN!

Liz....Mollie Du Cane, born and bred in St Albans, was very influential in teaching both country dancing and Morris and Sword having, we believe, learned from Douglas Kennedy and performed with "The Headquarters Team". Being an accomplished violinist Mollie was able to both call, play and lead the band simultaneously, some achievement.

In 1953 a festival was held in the grounds of St Michael's Manor, most probably instigated by Mollie. The festival moved to Gorhambury, the seat of the Earl and Countess of Verulam, in 1954. Here it remained until about 1979 (Dawn writes "The last record I have of it in my personal diary!")

The afternoon consisted of displays of country dancing accompanied by Mollie and her band, opportunities for the children to perform the dances which they had practised at school, Morris displays and some general dancing for all. Some readers may remember the Tutti poles and the Jack in the Green. Picnics were in abundance, "facilities" were primitive and the afternoon culminated in an early evening "adults only" country dance party, finishing at about 8.00. The sun nearly always shone! *Did it really?* Attendance was high...over 3000 the year I sold tickets with several differing price categories.

When the "old Earl", as he was affectionately known, died his son inherited the title and the estate. Having no interest in the world of folk the new Earl made it clear that the festival was no longer welcome. Indeed part of the garden which we had used for picnics and for dancing was ploughed up!

This posed a huge problem for the District committee. Where could we relocate a festival which could accommodate large numbers of adults and children and in a beautiful almost magical setting? Woodside Sports Centre provided a venue for a few years and subsequently Queenswood School, but both lacked the appeal of surroundings which would attract parents, visitors and performers.

Dawn...My husband and I had been performing at The Hatfield House Banquets since 1973 so I had got to know many of the people involved in the running of the Estate. The District committee needed somewhere for The Summer Festival and I had the contacts. So after much negotiation we held our first Festival at Hatfield House on the 28th June 1986. It was wonderful! A beautiful backdrop of the house, a good grassy place to dance, ice cream and tea and coffee stalls at hand. There was a restaurant if needed and the lovely grounds to explore if all the family did not want to watch Folk Events.

We had big ambitions, we wanted to take Folk to the people, the morning was for the children and the afternoon was displays from St Albans Morris Men, English Miscellany, The District Dancers and others. We had songs and plenty of dancing for all. The then Lady Salisbury always used to come down and visit The Festival if she was at home. Over the years we had lots of other local sides, bands and callers but gradually the adults got older and less enthusiastic and eventually it became a morning festival for the children.

The Hatfield House team changed. It became a very popular Wedding Venue and having hordes of children in the place was no longer so attractive. Again The Festival needed a new home and local schools were used.

Liz.....All good things must come to an end. Alas, in the current educational climate we cannot ask teachers to add yet more to their workload, to run “after school clubs” and then turn up on a Saturday to participate in a festival of children’s folk dancing. With a few exceptions we no longer enjoy the expertise of the likes of Mollie, who visited schools and ran after school courses which cost nothing.

We welcomed the support of the county PE department and enjoyed a weekend of folk singing and dancing at Offley Place, then owned and run by County for the benefit of Hertfordshire teachers and advisers. The costs were minimal and participants had time to learn in a comfortable, relaxed environment including singing until the early hours!

We must acknowledge the work of the district secretaries, the many volunteers, teachers, performers, bands and callers who have made the festivals so successful in the past. Heartfelt thanks go out to all of them. Dawn and Liz hope that you have enjoyed this little history of The Festival and will forgive us if we have made any errors or failed to list so many people without whom they would have been impossible.

We would like to compile a “collection of memories” of the Summer Festivals. If you are able to send us a written memory or contact The Editor with your own stories we would be most grateful.

Dawn Skye and Liz Rose

The Hertfordshire Folk Dance Festival – the latter years

(I only have records going back to 2005, so I'll take up the story from then).

In 2005, and for the following few years, the festival was in a healthy state. We were able to hold the festival in a lovely site (the "Cricket Pitch" at Hatfield House), and regularly had over 1000 people attending. However, the then Lord Salisbury died, and his wife (a good friend of the festival) moved away from Hatfield.

In 2010 we were told that we had to hold the festival at another location at Hatfield House (the "Elizabeth Field"). This had rougher ground, and although it was closer to where the cars were parked, it was a lot further from the toilets, the restaurant, etc. We had to provide our own portable toilets, which cost us nearly £500.

In 2011 we were told that we couldn't use Hatfield House at all. This caused a lot of work for the committee, as we had to find another site quite quickly. Fortunately we found another site (Sherrardswood School). This went ahead, and went quite well.

2012 we planned to hold the event once more at Sherrardswood School, but met a disaster. On the day of the festival it poured with rain, and the police found a chemical spill on the only access road to the school, and closed the road. When the police were asked how long the road might be closed, we were told that it could be three hours. Since it took us about 2 hours just to get everything set up for the event, there was no way we could proceed. We had to return all the monies that we had received, and ended up losing nearly £1,000.

2013 was held again at Sherrardswood School, but much fewer people came than before (which meant that we lost about £500), and we were told that the School would not be available for us the next year. So we had to find another site.

We did find another site (Stanborough School) for the 2014 festival, but less than 200 people came, and we lost money again.

We decided not to run the festival in 2015, but were contacted by another school, offering its site for free, so we started planning a (cut-down) festival. However, we were then informed that we could only get onto the site after 11am, which was totally impractical. At this stage we gave up!



Dancers at the Children's Festival a few years ago

In retrospect, the rot set in when we lost Hatfield House. People were happy to come when they had a wonderful place for the festival, and to spend the rest of the day. Without it, the festival just wasn't the same. I think also that education policy, with its emphasis on targets and exam results, discouraged teachers from spending time on teaching folk dancing, which meant that our clientele vanished. One other factor was the increase in postal charges. We used to send letters (for free) to all 500 schools in Hertfordshire via a facility at the County Council. When they withdrew this we had to use post, which cost a great deal. We switched to E-mail, but I doubt if this had the same impact.

I'm not pessimistic about Folk Dancing – go to any of the many Folk Festivals around the country and you'll see lots of it – but it's a pity that Herts children get less opportunity to enjoy it.

Roger Swaine

NEW SESSION IN ST. ALBANS

A new monthly session started on **March 13** at the Great Northern, London Road, St Albans and more will follow at 6.00pm on: **April 10, May 8, June 12** plus extra festival session on **June 19**.

St Albans Folk Festival, June 18 and 19

Saturday June 18

Day of dance in City Centre

Free showcases, sessions and singarounds in local pubs

Festival Concert 8pm

Lady Maisery

Maltings Art Theatre

**Black Scarr singing their winning song from Watford Folk Club
songwriting competition plus New Roots finalist**

Sunday June 19 Sessions and singarounds in local pubs

**Concert tickets £12, £10 students Online at www.ticketsource.co.uk/ovo, or
from St Albans Tourist & Information Centre, 01727 864511.**

For further details of St Albans Folk Festival

**eventsinfo@stalbansfolkmusic.org.uk www.stalbansfolkmusic.org.uk Tel.
01727 852111/ 833028**

DanseHerts When DanseHerts started in October 2006 our door price was £4 (£3 Conc.) This remained unchanged until January 2010 despite the monthly hall charge having risen by £8 over this period. In January 2010 the door price was increased to £5 (£4 Conc.) This remained unchanged until February 2016 despite the monthly hall charge having risen by a further £7.50 over this period. In February 2016 the door price is being increased to £7 (£6 Conc.). There will be the usual variations to cover the cost of visiting bands as appropriate. As well as offsetting yearly increases in the hall charge and a decline in participants in 2014/2015, this increase also counters the slowly changing ratio of those paying full price compared to those paying the concession price. Our yearly outgoings include the web site (hosting plus URL charges) and our SIFD membership which provides us access to Public Liability Insurance. We are very keen not to lose anyone, so if this price rise brings you genuine hardship please talk in confidence to Martin or myself. Looking forward to seeing you soon. www.danseherts.co.uk

Ashleigh



HERTFORDSHIRE FOLK ASSOCIATION COMMITTEE

Elected Members & Officers as from November 2015

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

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

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

Membership 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.

Apr 9	Winchmore , Memorial Dance for ARNOLD STEM St. Pauls Centre, 102 A Church St. Enfield. EN2 6AR Andrea, Suzanne, John and Peter with the Forest Band 0208 926 7293	7.30pm
Apr 23	St Andrews , 80th Anniversary Dance. Trinity Church Hall, Church St. Enfield. EN2 6AN Anne Dunn with Spring Greens 0208 366 3982	7.30pm
Apr 23	Chiltern Folk Ass. Amersham Community Centre, Afternoon workshops and evening dance Mark Elvins (see advert Pg.5)	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. (see Pg.18)	7.30pm
May 14	Winchmore , Trinity Church Hall, Church St. Enfield. EN2 6AN. 0208 926 7293 Andrea Stodell with the Forest Band	7.30pm
May 14	Herts Early Dance. May Revels (see advert Pg 23)	2.00 - 9.00pm
May 21	St. Albans Abbey F.D.C. Homewood Rd. U.R.Church Hall, Sandpit Ln. St. Albans. AL1 4BH Ivan Aitken with The Forest Band. 01727 834977	7.30pm
May 28	St. Andrews. Phyllis Chapman and Spring Greens	7.30pm
Jun 10, 11 & 12	St. Neots Folk Festival , The Priory Centre, St. Neots, PE19 2BH. 01234 376 278 (see advert Pg 19)	
Jun 11	Winchmore. Bob Barratt with the Forest Band	7.30pm
June 18/19	St. Albans Folk Festival. (see advert Pg 10)	

DIARY DATES cont.

Jun 25	St Andrews. Mary Bryan with the Forest Band	7.30pm
July 9	Winchmore. Anne Dunn with the Forest Band	7.30pm
July 23	St Andrews. John Wood with the Forest Band	7.30pm
July 24	Folk by the Oak. Hatfield House (see back cover)	
Aug 13	Winchmore. Judith Inman with the Forest Band	7.30pm
Aug 27	St Andrews. Peter Leedham with recorded music	7.30pm
Sep 3	Chiltern Folk Assn. Playford Ball, Amersham Community Centre. Carol Hewson with the Forest Band (See advert Pg 5)	7.00pm
Sep 10	Winchmore. John Wood with the Forest Band	7.30pm
Sep 24	St Andrews. Barrie Bullimore with the Forest Band	7.30pm
Oct 1	Staplers F.D.C St. Ippolyts Parish Hall, Hitchin. SG4 7RB www.staplers.org.uk 01582 881966 Ray Goodswen with Kellys Eye	7.30pm
Oct 8	Winchmore AGM. Keith Wright with the Forest Band	7.30pm
Oct 22	St Andrews. AGM Michael Holdup with recorded music	7.30pm
Nov 12	Winchmore. Barrie Bullimore with the Forest Band	7.30pm
Nov 19	Harrow Playford Ball, John Greer Hall, Eastcote. URC Carol Hewson with Momentum 0208 868 7526	7.30pm
Nov 26	St Andrews. Val and Ian McFarlane with Toucan Play	7.30pm
Dec 3	Staplers FDC Mark Elvins with Deo Volente	7.30pm

HFA Affiliated Clubs & Groups

Please notify any corrections to Adrian Burrows, 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

Country Section 2nd/3rd/4th Wednesdays in a month
NW/Cotswold sections 1st and 3rd Sundays in the month

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

Harrow FDC -

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

Club night: Mondays (except August and Bank Holidays) 7.45 - 9.45.

Belmont School, Hibbert Road (off Locket Road) Wealdstone, HA3 7JT

Hemel Hempstead FDC - Mrs Samme, 118 Crawley Drive,

Hemel Hempstead, HP2 6BX

Hertford CDC - Jenny Newton.

tel. 01438 714539

or e-mail janewton39@gmail.com"

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

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

Ofley Moris Men - Squire: 01462 624210 Bagman.

email: info@offleymorris.org.uk

Phoenix Morris - Michael Stimpson, Heron Wharf, 12 Heron Close,

Batchworth, Herts. WD3 1NF Tel: 01923 770425 www.phoenix-morris.co.uk

Practice on Wednesday evenings at 8.30

Rainmakers International FDC - Mark Balaam, 133 Arlesey Road,

Ickleford, SG5 3TH

Roundabouts CDC - Jenny Newton. tel. no. 01438 - 714539

or e-mail janewton39@gmail.com"

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

We practice on Monday evenings October to April.

Men and women welcome as dancers or musicians"

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

HFA Affiliated Clubs & Groups (continued)

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

Mondays 8.00 - 10.00 p.m. St. John's Community Centre, Hitchin SG4 9JP,

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

Practices 2 Sunday mornings per month, at Park Hall, Leyton Road,

Harpenden, AL5 2LX. Dates listed on website www.youngmiscellany.co.uk.

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

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

Date Concerts (usually 8.30pm - 11pm) Ceilidhs 8pm - 11.30pm

2nd April Andy Cutting Polkaworks called by **Aidan Hansell**

7th May Jeff Warner. support:

Joe Allen and friends

Albireo called by **Lisa Heywood** 4th

June Jackie Oates

The NYFTE Musicians An Allstars event

with Tristan Seume

M.C. Gareth Kiddier

called by **Dave Leverton & Gareth Kiddier**

For more information visit our website or email john@actionfolk.co.uk or phone John on 07717 047 039 or go to www.haddenhamceilidhs.co.uk

St Albans Folk Festival on the Alban Weekend, June 18 & 19

This year the St Albans Festival is branching out in new directions, while maintaining its essential character. In recent years, we have held the festival in St Albans Old Town Hall, with showcases and singarounds during the day and a concert with guest performers in the evening. Now the Town Hall is being turned into a state of the art museum and it is time for us to move on.

We have moved our **evening concert** to the Maltings Arts Theatre and the guests on Saturday June 18 will be **Lady Maisery**, an exciting vocal and instrumental trio. It is made up of Hazel Askew, who came to St Albans with her sister Emily a number of times in her teens to take part in New Roots; Hannah James, whose previous visit to our festival was as a duo with Sam Sweeney; and Rowan Rheingans who will be performing in St Albans for the first time. Supporting them will be **Black Scarr**, winners of the latest Watford Folk Club songwriting competition and a New Roots finalist.

During Saturday June 18, we will spread our activities around the City Centre. We will have a **Day of Dance** and a number of morris sides have already accepted our invitation. The showcase performances, **singarounds** and **tune sessions** will be spread between pubs including the Mermaid, the White Hart Tap, the Farmer's Boy, the Great Northern and the Portland Arms. The Ver Players Ukulele Band will be with us again, performing and leading a **workshop** in the Maltings Arts Theatre, where there will also be a **workshop** with Lady Maisery.

This year's festival is on the Alban weekend, with its own programme of events in the City Centre. On Sat June 18, St Albans Abbey will be running events, and its **giant puppets** will take to the streets to tell the story of Alban. Local bell-ringers will be in the Civic Centre demonstrating bell ringing on a portable **miniature set of bells**, and inviting spectators to have a go.

On Sunday June 19, the Council will close St Peters Street for a **'street party'**, with food and drink stalls and music. We will have music at the historic Clock Tower and more singarounds and sessions in local pubs. The day will end with a new band, Bathtub Gin, playing in the Farmer's Boy.

So we are all set to run with a small friendly festival in a historic town with plenty of opportunities to sing and play as well as listen. For a full programme go to our website www.stalbansfolkmusic.org.uk
We hope to see you in St Albans on June 18 and 19. If you want to perform in one of the showcases, contact us at info@stalbansfolkmusic.org.uk

Tickets for the **festival concert**, £12, students £10, can be bought online at www.ticketsource.co.uk/ovo, by phone on 0333 666 3366, in person at St Albans Tourist & Information Centre, 01727 864511, or on the door. All other events are unticketed but there will be collections.

Alison Mcfarlane

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

Dunton Folk Concert Update

Miranda Sykes and Rex Preston Saturday 30th April

In the space of three years, Miranda Sykes & Rex Preston have emerged to become one of the most sought after duos on the English folk & roots scene. The striking combination of the flame headed double bass player & virtuoso mandolin player create music that Folk Roots say is:

“A musical partnership made in heaven. Scintillating, sensitive and brilliant!”

Well known for the last 9 years as a central component of Show of Hands, Miranda has an exquisite and spine-tingling voice, whilst Rex, with his exuberant and flamboyant playing style, has built a reputation as one of the finest mandolin players in the UK. The duo are continuing an extensive tour of the British Isles in support of their arresting new CD “Sing A Full Song”.

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

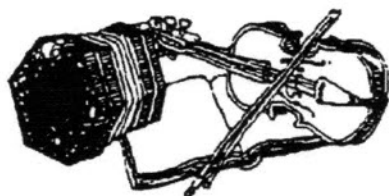
Summer 2016

- 1 Apr Bob Lilley
- 8 Apr Colin Hume and FF Band
- 15 Apr Chris Turner and Spring Greens
- 22 Apr Bob Barrett and Mollie, Colin, Susan & Harold
- 29 Apr Mike Ruff and FF Band
- 6 May Nigel Close and Spring Greens

7 May Saturday Special at Sam Ryder
Cis Hinkle (USA), Mollie and Ali

- 13 May Wendy Harrup and Mike Ruff
- 20 May Mark Elvins and FF Band
- 27 May Closed
- 3 Jun Paul Garner
- 10 Jun Dave Kerridge
- 17 Jun Mike Bennett and FF Band
- 24 Jun Bob Barrett
- 1 Jul Suzanne Farmer
- 8 Jul TBA
- 15 Jul David & Rebecca Capron and FF Band
- 22 Jul Garden Dance, Spring Greens

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

Apr 5 Ninebarrow

Apr 12 QuickSilver

Apr 19 The Worthys &

Karen Johnson & Tony Clark

Apr 26 Round the Room

May 3 Open Stage

May 10 Jimmy Aldridge & Sid Goldsmith

May 17 Clive Gregson

May 24 Jeff Warner

May 31 Round the Room

Jun 7 Pete Morton

Jul 5 Open Stage

Jun 14 Dave Gibb

Jul 12 Kim Lowings & Greenwood

Jun 21 Sam Kelly Jul 19 Máire Ní Chathasaigh & Chris Newman

Jun 28 Round the Room Jul 26 Round the Room

ST NEOTS FOLK FESTIVAL

10, 11 & 12 JUNE

Friday - Ceilidh with Parson's Nose + Music & Song session

Saturday - Day of Dance + evening Concert

Martin **Simpson**, Andy **Cutting** & Nancy **Kerr**

Support : The Worthys

Sunday ev. The Bram Taylor Band

Black Scarr + local talent!

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

Máire Ní Chathasaigh and Chris Newman

14th February 2016

Abbots Langley Winter Acoustic Concerts

Not unexpectedly, Chris and Máire gave a dazzling display of instrumental virtuosity at this Sunday afternoon concert. They took us through a wide selection of pieces, selected not only from their work as a duo, but also from pieces which they had previously performed and recorded with The 'Heartstring Quartet' - a group formed by combining their forces with Arty McGlyn and Nollaigh Casey (Máire's sister), and other pieces taken from Máire's latest venture, 'Sibling Revelry', performing with Nollaigh, and their other sister, Maréad.

They started full-on with one of their self-composed swing style numbers, featuring Máire's unique approach to what Chris has dubbed the 'Hot Club Harp'. Not for the faint hearted harpist, as the celtic harp she plays is essentially diatonic, but Máire unfalteringly achieves the chromatic runs required through animated mid-tune use of the tuning levers, each of which sharpens one of the strings by a semitone.



In this and most other pieces two musicians alternated roles between accompaniment and lead - sometimes faithful to the original melody, and sometimes taking wonderfully improvised diversions.

The rest of the concert was a lovely mix of traditional and traditional-style music from Ireland and around the world, from Scott Skinner's testing 'Triplet Hornpipe', to a beautiful air 'Connamara' from the unpublished Bunting Manuscripts, which Máire had dug out from the library of the Queens University, Belfast, and played solo in the 'old style', letting the reverberation of each phrase die away before she played the next in a breathtakingly controlled performance.

In a couple of the introductions, Chris opened a little window into his younger years in Bushey nearby, describing how neighbours would bring him back recordings from their (then rare) trips abroad, which he would study avidly, and how on his first foreign holiday in Spain with his parents he had been fascinated by the little bands in the restaurants - leading to them performing a composition reflecting this distinctly Spanish sound.

Other notable pieces were 'Carolan's Concerto', Andy Hornby's 'Pheasant Feathers', and a set of traditional American reels which culminated in a blisteringly fast version of 'Old Joe Clark', and the whole performance was capped off by one of my personal favourites from their repertoire - another 'Hot Club' style number composed by Chris, 'Stroll On'

The acoustics of the Abbot's Langley Community Centre are perfect for these concerts, and an attentive audience means the music can be heard clearly right at the back of the hall with minimal amplification. The twenty minute interval allows plenty of time to grab a cup of tea or coffee - and one of the scrummy cakes - all included in the ticket price, and gives the audience a chance to browse the crafts, and chat to the artists. A very pleasant way to spend a Sunday afternoon!

Tim Brooks

Winchmore Folk Dance Club



Memorial dance
for

Arnold Stem

Saturday April 9th 2016

St. Pauls Centre

102A Church Street, Enfield,
EN2 6AR

Resident Musicians The Forest Band

For more information phone John: 020 8926 7293

2016 HFA Accordion Workshop

This year we were once more in the Backhouse Room, Welwyn Garden City, where we had Rod Stradling as our tutor, teaching us how to play for Morris dancing . As Rod started as a morris dancer in his youth, has been involved ever since, and now lives in Lichfield, he has a great deal of expertise, which he passed onto us, covering Longsword, Rapper, as well as a whole array of Cotswold (and related) dances. Rod was a very knowledgeable and pleasant teacher, so we did a lot of playing and learnt a lot!



We're hoping to arrange another workshop next year. If you wish to be notified about it, contact roger.swaine1@btinternet.com

Roger Swaine

Hertfordshire Early Dance

May Revels

Saturday 14th May 2016

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

3:30pm – 8:30pm (doors open 2:30)

Welcome in the summer with:

- **Tudor feast**
- **Dancing led by Anne Daye**
- **Crowning our May Queen**
- **Music by 'The Presence'**
- **Entertainments & much merriment!**

Tickets: £12.50.

Please note that The Revels start promptly at 3:30 and run until 8:30.
We suggest you arrive about 2:30 to allow plenty of time to change!

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

The group meets on Sundays at the above address from 2.30 to 5.00,
with a short break mid way.

Dates for the remainder of this term are:

Sun 3rd Apr

Sun 24th Apr

Sat 14th May 3.00-9pm MAY REVELS

with dancing plus entertainment, feast & singing

Sun 12th June Picnic Outing. To be confirmed

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HATFIELD HOUSE, HERTS, SUNDAY 24 JULY 2016

A festival of folk's finest acts gathered in beautiful leafy parkland for one uplifting summer day of music.

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EMILY PORTMAN & THE CORACLE BAND

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THE RHEINGANS SISTERS • KELLY OLIVER

LONDON YOUTH FOLK ENSEMBLE

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