

Chairman's
report
2015 - 2016



Magazine of the Hertfordshire Folk Association

PUDDINGSTONE



New Roots Finalists
playing at the Trestle
Arts Base



HFA
AGM
Notice.



August 2016 Issue 66 40p

Aug - Nov

Where sold



HERTFORDSHIRE FOLK ASSOCIATION **Key contacts (see further details on middle pages)**

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PUDDINGSTONE EDITOR

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The views expressed in this magazine are not
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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



I am very pleased to have two articles about young people involved in folk activities in this issue of Puddingstone, although as ever the majority of the copy is from the same group who regularly contribute ..Many thanks

With my Membership Secretary hat on I am very aware that we do not have many members from the younger end or the age spectrum, and would encourage them and anyone aware of youngsters interested in folk to join, contribute to Puddingstone, make suggestions about activities HFA could help out with, or even come along to the AGM or Committee meetings to join in (the dates are published on our website www.hertsfolkassn.org.uk)

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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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 at folk festivals
and clubs

Closing date January 31

To enter, email an entry form and you will
receive information about how to upload 15
minutes of your music.

Entry form and details at:

www.new-roots.org.uk,

info@new-roots.org.uk

Finals April 2017

Trestle Arts Base, St Albans

Summer education programme for National Folk Arts Centre

Get Your Folk On! Plus

A fun and accessible introduction to folk
music for disabled 12-19 year olds and
their siblings and friends (*young people
with any learning disability and / or physical
or sensory impairment). 16-18 Aug, 2-4pm
Fee: £10 per session per young person

Get Your Folk On!

A creative course of fabulous folk music
making for 12-19 year olds. 15 - 19 August,
10.30am-4.30pm. An exciting five-day
course exploring traditional folk music from
the British Isles. Learn and arrange folk
music and song, try out new skills and
instruments, play and perform as a band.
For musicians of all levels and instruments.
Ends with an informal concert for family and
friends. Complete Bronze level Arts Award
as part of this course for an additional £30.
Fee: £150 / £100 conc. To enrol, contact:
education@efdss.org 020 7241 8953

CHILTERN FOLK ASSOCIATION

(Affiliated to EFDSS)

PLAYFORD BALL

Saturday, 3rd September 2016

7.00pm-10.30pm

Amersham Community Centre, Drake Hall

Chiltern Ave. Amersham HP6 5AH

CAROL HEWSON

with **THE FOREST BAND**

£10 Plate of food to share please
Costume or Dress to impress

FAMILY DANCE

Sunday, October 23rd 2016

2.30pm - 5.30pm

Amersham Common Village Hall,

White Lion Road, Amersham HP7 9JD

Val & Ian McFarlane with

Toucan Play

£5 - Children under 16 free

All children must be accompanied by an adult

Please bring a plate of food to share

Contacts for both dances 01628 486845 or e-mail
chairman@chilternfolk.org.uk.



**Inchmore Folk
Dance Club**



Trinity Church 7.30 start

Church Street

Enfield EN2 6AN

Resident Musicians: **The Forest Band**

Membership £7 + £4.00 per Dance

Guests £6.00 per Dance

Sat 13th Aug

Sat 10th Sept

Sat 8th Oct (AGM)

Sat 12th Nov

Sat 10th Dec

Judith Inman

John Wood

Keith Wright

Barrie Bullimore

Peter Leedham

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

Families, Festivals, and a lot of Gumption
New Roots 2016 Finalists answer the question:
How do you come to be here playing Folk Music?

Under 18

Saul Bailey (Melodeon)

It started with my dad who began morris dancing, first with Letchworth, then Baldock, and he decided he wanted to play the melodeon. I was introduced to lots of musicians in the morris world, and I learnt to play the English concertina. Then aged 12 I just nicked my dad's melodeon and started playing it for morris, and eventually got my own. Then I was introduced to Cambridge Folk Festival, and playing with the Hub Band Project. Now I'm with Standon.

Sherwan (Jack) Qasm (Oud)

I come from Iraq, more than one year now I stay in England and play instruments. I play lute and an Arabic oud, and I play Turkish, Persian instruments and a clarinet. More than ten years I play music, a lute. My father loved music, he liked to see me do it. In Iraq I have been in a classical Iraqi group, and played in concerts. Now I'm very happy, playing with young people.

Intermediate

Shorelark: Finn Collinson (Recorder)

I've been playing music around the Essex / Suffolk border for a long time. My parents are both into folk music, as is my little sister, my mum has a PhD in Scottish Gaelic song. I've crafted my own path, I've been immersing myself in every kind of English folk music, I love playing it and I love listening to it. I've been playing recorder since I was about 4, I'm classically trained and I play baroque, early music, renaissance. I also play mandolin with Shorelark.

Shorelark: Georgia Morgan Turner (Vocals)

We both go to a music school, Aldeburgh Young Musicians based at Snape Maltings. We do different kinds of music there, but we hadn't had much folk music. A couple of us emailed in, Could we organise a weekend and ask around, Who wants to do some folk? And only three people turned up. But after working closely with each other we decided we'd like to work as a duo. My family, we listen to and play a lot of Brazilian music.

18-24

An Dhá: Jaya Hanley (Fiddle)

I'm from Brighton and what inspired me to learn the fiddle at first was seeing a folk fiddle player at a wedding ceilidh. I learned classically, I went to music college in London, Trinity Laban Conservatoire, and there I met Sarah, and we play classical and a lot of other things, we play for weddings. Sarah's sister went to the Isle of Skye to a folk course, and she said, It's amazing, you gotta go and try this out. So we went, it's the Alasdair Fraser and Natalie Haas fiddle course, it was really really exciting. This led us to write our own tunes, play traditional tunes and explore a little more the folk world.

An Dhá: SarahJames (Cello)

I was brought up in a musical family, my mum plays the piano and does a lot of folk singing and my dad is a Highland bagpiper. I studied classically, at music college I met Jaya, and we discovered we had a mutual love for folk music. And we went to the Isle of Skye for a folk music course - it was a completely different world. If you compare it to the classical world where everyone is very picky about your intonation and musicality and the phrasing and the bowing. And we went to the Isle of Skye and I was playing in a session thinking, Is my bow straight, am I in tune? No-one cares, it's about the music – and that atmosphere was incredible and it changed something in us, definitely something in me clicked.

Jack Patchett (Guitar, Vocals)

I started playing classical guitar when I was growing up, then got into writing my own folk songs, influenced by the fact that I'm on the same line of the family tree as Seth Lakeman, I'm a second cousin of some kind, a tenuous link, but it's a great influence on me. Where I focus, it's just me and a guitar writing and singing stories. And living in Holmfirth near Huddersfield, they've got a big folk festival there every year.

The Lion's Share: Jimmy Grayburn (Banjo, Vocals)

I got into folk music from listening to, friends showing me music when I was sixth form time. I'd gone to a lot of live music before that, it was more rock stuff, and when I listened to something live that I'd already heard recorded, it never sounded as good live. When I started listening to folk music, I found that if anything it sounded better live - it was great to hear, there wasn't all this massive distortion of sound. I formed a band when I was about 18, and I'd been learning the banjo since I was about 16 or 17 and that pushed me to look into more music. When I got to uni, I wanted to meet more people who were interested in that Bob Dylan-y kind of music. And there wasn't any society so I set one up, and met loads of people through that. So over the last four years at UCL I've been immersed in folk music.

Sophie Crawford (Accordion, Vocals)

I'm from Stoke Newington, and my family have been going to Towersey Folk Festival for forever, so I've been going since I was a baby. I started doing lots of plays when I was young, and they often wanted accordion in shows, so I started playing the accordion, and stuck with it. So it's always been the baseline of everything I do, the one thing that I really really love, and then everything else goes on top of it. I make lots of theatre, but folk music's always at the heart of everything.

Rosie and Rowan: Rowan Piggott (Fiddle, Vocals)

I grew up in County Galway, my dad was in De Dannan, an Irish traditional band, so I was dragged around sessions from the year dot, and learned to

play the fiddle. It's quite a new thing for me, accompanying singing, I've been doing it a couple of years now. A totally different style from jigs and reels. My dad lives in Cork now, I go over quite a lot to play with him.

Rosie and Rowan: Rosie Hodgson (Vocals)

I grew up in Midhurst in West Sussex, my parents were morris dancers, they sang together and my dad played the melodeon. My dad was from Yorkshire and sang in a lovely accent. I love singing and have done from when I was a little girl, and I started writing songs at about 11. I love singing and playing and dancing and being in festivals, my whole family are involved. We both still dance and play for Knockhundred Shuttles.

Iona Fyfe (Vocals, Keyboard)

I am a folk singer, and how I got into our traditional music is by the means of Doric Recitation. This is poetry in Doric, so poets like Ian Middleton, Charles Murray, J C Milne, quite formidable prolific writers, they would write pretty funny stuff, in the Doric language, or dialect. My cousin used to recite Doric at festivals like the TMSA festivals (Traditional Music and Song Association of Scotland). So I'd be dragged along and I'd end up doing the Doric recitations. My uncle played accordion, and my family being musical, playing fiddle, accordion, piano, guitar, I started learning the piano, just to learn an instrument. And then singers would be at the festival like Joe Aitken or Tam Spears, important people of the folk movement in Scotland. And they would say, Do the ballad, or Do the bothy ballad, because effectively it was just Doric recitation with melody to it. That's how I got into doing the ballads and bothies, because it was all in Doric anyway. I decided to do a degree in Scots song, so met lots of other folkie people.

Two's Company: Alice Baillie (Vocals, Flute)

Neither of us really grew up with folk, but we met at uni in Cambridge and found we had a shared interest in this music that maybe not so many people knew and loved, and that's where our duo started. I'm a singer, I've played the flute since I was 8, and I played the recorder before that, so I've always been musical but not necessarily folk.

Two's Company: David Jenkinson (Cello-Mandolin, Guitar, Vocals)

I wasn't a folkie child either, but I have had music in my life since birth. My mum's a pianist, and I started out on piano, played the trumpet, then moved on to guitar, cello, mandolin. I got into folk when I was 15 or 16, I went to Fairport's Cropredy Convention in 2006 or 7. I guess Show of Hands were the initial driver behind my interest and I've never looked back. Met Alice at uni and we've been playing together ever since.

Ben Moss (Fiddle, Vocals)

My parents were both morris dancers, I started dancing at 9 or 10, but I was already playing the fiddle at that point so I played some of the simple tunes that the team danced with. Then about 15 or 16, meeting people at festivals, being in morris teams, playing a few sessions, and I formed a small trio. I didn't get into singing until a morris team from America / Canada came over and we did a big show together, Morris Offspring and Maple Morris. They had these great songs and that social aspect of getting round and singing songs together, we were all blown away by it. We saw them a couple of years later and we'd all been furiously learning songs, and a lot of us are now really into folk singing, session singing with people. So morris dancing's definitely to blame. I originally danced with Great Western in Exeter. I dance now with Hammersmith and Seven Champions Molly Dancers.

The Barber Sisters

Lydia (Fiddle) In our family we all play instruments but all learnt the classical way. We grew up in Derbyshire, and travelled down to Sidmouth every summer for the festival. At first it was just a bit of fun – but even going to the festival didn't inspire us until we found the type of folk we really enjoy playing.

Isobel (Fiddle) Our parents took us to Sidmouth because our uncle and aunt run band workshops there. They mostly play English tunes, but after going to a few fiddle workshops there we found that we really loved playing Scottish tunes. So we bought a few fiddle albums and loved them, and ever since have dragged our parents up and down the country to go to concerts and workshops – but now they love it too!

Ellie (Viola) Another thing that really inspired us was Folkworks Summer Schools - they happen in Durham [www.sagegateshead.com] – it's a week of tutoring and crazy folk music. The first year we went it was run by Kathryn Tickell, we had some really great Scottish fiddle tutors so we got really into it. There were loads of other young people there – folk is so much more fun when you're not playing it on your own. My viola? Our violin teacher was a viola player, so he was always trying to convert his pupils to viola. Also I had a friend who played the cello, so we thought, if one of us played the viola we could play string quartets. So I volunteered. And I like it, so I stayed.

You can find more info about these musicians by searching online.

Fran Burrows

Twenty Second ANNUAL REPORT

For the period ended 31st August 2016

This issue of Puddingstone includes notification of our AGM; 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 has continued to support, promote and contribute to a variety of folk activity. As planned, our Spring Sing and accordion workshop, both regular annual events, took place in March and we extend grateful thanks to John Grey and Roger Swaine respectively for all their organisation and hard work in ensuring successful events.

If you would like us to consider any other workshops, please let us know.

For many years the Bill Ranscombe award has been presented to those who have given valuable services to English folk dance, song and music in Hertfordshire and the committee are considering future recipients. If you would like to submit proposals for consideration, please contact one of our committee members. Previous awards have been given in recognition of long-term commitment and outstanding contributions to folk activities in the county of Hertfordshire.

We are very grateful to Adrian for his continued editorship of Puddingstone, which continues to thrive, and once again he has ensured that this year's editions have provided interesting articles and reports. The articles about English Miscellany have been particularly interesting and it is good to know that they continue to provide excellent facilities for younger people to enjoy so many folk activities. This issue of Puddingstone lists all our affiliated Clubs /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 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. We are also grateful that Adrian Burrows has taken on responsibility for Membership and Libby Byne-Grey who minutes our meetings.

You, the members of Hertfordshire Folk Association are our strength and a representative from your club /group would be very welcome at our meetings. . 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:

32, Templewood, Welwyn Garden City, AL8 7HX

on

Tuesday 22nd November 2016
at 7.45pm

AGENDA

- 1 To receive apologies for absence
- 2 Minutes of Annual General Meeting held on
17th November 2015.
- 3 To approve Report and Accounts for 2015 / 2016
- 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

Please contact us if you hope to attend (01707 320299)



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

2016-2017

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.

Sep 3	Chiltern Folk Assn. Playford Ball, Amersham Community Centre. Carol Hewson with the Forest Band (See advert Pg 4)	7.00pm
Sep 10	Winchmore. John Wood with the Forest Band Trinity Church Hall, Church St. Enfield. EN2 6AN. 0208 926 7293	7.30pm
Sep 24	St Andrews. Barrie Bullimore with the Forest Band Trinity Church Hall, Church St. Enfield. EN2 6AN 0208 366 3982	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 7	Folk at the Maltings Maltings Arts Theatre, St Albans AL1 3HL Na-Mara plus others tba 0333 666 3366	8 pm
Oct 8	Winchmore AGM. Keith Wright with the Forest Band	7.30pm
Oct 15	Friday Folk Dance Samuel Ryder Academy, St Albans www.fridayfolk.org.uk 01727 856508 Barrie Bullimore with Narrow Escape	7.30pm
Oct 22	St Andrews. AGM Michael Holdup with recorded music	7.30pm
Oct 23	Chiltern Folk Assn Family Dance Amersham Common Village Hall, Val & Ian McFarlane with Toucan Play (see advert pg 4)	2.30pm
Nov 4	Folk at the Maltings The Devines plus New Roots Finalist Jimmy Grayburn	8 pm

DIARY DATES cont.

Nov 12	Winchmore. Barrie Bullimore with the Forest Band	7.30pm
Nov 26	Harrow Playford Ball , John Greer Hall, Eastcote URC Carol Hewson with Momentum 0208 868 7526 (see advert pg 23)	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
Dec 10	Winchmore. Peter Leedham with the Forest Band	7.30pm
Dec 15	St. Albans Abbey F.D.C. Homewood Rd U.R.Church Hall, Sandpit Ln. St. Albans. AL1 4BH 01727 834977 Andrea Stodell with Spring Greens	7.30pm
	2017	
Jan 2	Winchmore. (Anglo -Scottish) Andrew Kellet and Andrea Stodell with the Forest Band	7.30pm
Jan 14	Winchmore. Brian Jones and guest callers with the Forest Band	7.30pm
Jan 28	St Andrews. David Kerridge with the Forest Band	7.30pm
Feb 4	Staplers F.D.C Colin Hume with Folkus Pocus	7.30pm
Feb 11	Winchmore. Anne Dunn with the Forest Band	7.30pm
Feb 25	St Andrews. Suzanne Harper with Spring Greens	7.30pm
Mar 4	Welwyn Garden City F D C Welwyn Civic Centre, Prospect Place, Welwyn AL6 9ER 01707 320299 Ivan Aitken with the Forest Band	7.30pm
Mar 11	Winchmore. Mary Bryan with the Forest Band	7.30pm
Mar 25	St Andrews. Bob Barratt with the Forest Band	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

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

HFA Affiliated Clubs & Groups (continued)

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"

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

Staplers CDG - 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 Meet on Thursday evenings 8 - 10
at U R Church, Church Road, Welwyn Garden City (Opposite Sainsburys)
- 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

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

Rainmakers International Folk Dance Group celebrating 40 years!



Rainmakers are holding a 40th Anniversary Dance, on Saturday 10th September, 7.45pm to 11pm at Ickleford Village Hall, 82 Arlesey Road, Ickleford, Hitchin, SG5 3TG, and invite everyone who is interested to join us (RSVP to Roger 01438 812766 roger.lowes@ntlworld.com or Mark 01462 454210 markbalaam2@sky.com)

Rainmakers started when Jill Bransby moved to Letchworth in 1976 and met Roy and Renee Bowtell and Gordon and Dalphine Stacey. The five founder members launched Rainmakers on 10 September 1976 in Stevenage. Mayim Mayim (Water, water) was a popular dance in the early period – and the launch of the group coincided with the breaking of the long drought of that hot summer, so “Rainmakers” was the obvious name. And of course when some of the same people started a band in 1977, that became Cloudburst.

The group meets every Friday (with some exceptions – call to check), currently in St Michael's Church Hall, Broadway, Letchworth, SG6 3PQ from 8 to 10 pm, with Jill teaching most evenings. The group has taken part in over 150 displays and demos, including a regular appearance at the Hitchin Gathering as long as that took place. The club also organises excellent day courses led by teachers from the Society for International Folk Dancing (SIFD) – most recently Balkan and Israeli with Fiona Haworth, in May. The club also takes part in joint events with other dance groups eg Danse Herts French Dance group, Staplers.

All told the club has danced well over 500 different dances from four continents: lines, circles, couple dances, sets of many formations; fast and slow; easy and complicated. There are dances in the repertoire from Armenia, Bulgaria, China, Germany, Greece, Hungary, India, Italy, Japan, New Zealand, Russia, Sweden, Ukraine and more.

The club is financially self-supporting and fees are modest (£3 per evening), an encouragement to the new members who are always welcome (you do not need to come with a partner, many dances are in lines or circles and we all mix up for the partner dances).

In 1989 a riot broke out when some drunken youths gatecrashed a Rainmakers dance in Hemel Hempstead. But most memorable was the near appearance of Rainmakers on the Barrymore show. Several days of rehearsal and instruction, and then a long day of filming ended on the cutting room floor.

Rainmakers is affiliated to SIFD and periodically leads one of their Sunday evening dances in London. Jill Bransby was Chairman of SIFD (1991-95) and Claire Steeley ran the Society's shop for many years. Martin Butler, one of the leaders of the SIFD band, came to international music through Cloudburst and Rainmakers.

If you are interested, just come along and join in, we would love to see you. There is more information from the contacts above, or www.rainmakers.org.uk

Alan Trangmar

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

Folk at the Maltings

Maltings Arts Theatre, The Maltings, St Albans AL1 3HL

No Folk at the Maltings concerts in August and September

Friday October 7, 8.00pm na-mara plus others tbc.

Friday November 4, 8.00pm The Devines launching their new CD plus New Roots 2016 finalist Jimmy Grayburn.

Tickets: £10, Student concessions £8. Under 16 £6

To book:

Online at: www.ticketsource.co.uk/ovo

By phone: 0333 666 3366 or pay on the door

The Maltings Arts Theatre is having problems with its web site, so it is best to go straight to the ticketsource web site if you want to book tiackets.

DUNTON CONCERTS

17th September - Bob Fox

15th October - Keith Donnelly

19th November - The Dovetail Trio

17th December - A Winter Union

... All performed in the evocative surroundings of St Mary Magdalene Church.

For more info e mail duntonfolk.co.uk or call Simon on 01767 310 424.

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 2016

- 2 Sep Barry Goodman
- 9 Sep Mike Bennett & Spring Greens
- 16 Sep Colin Hume & FF Band
- 23 Sep Club Callers and AGM
- 30 Sep Zesty Playford, John Sweeney
- 7 Oct Brenda Godrich & FF Band
- 14 Oct Bob Lilley

15 Oct Saturday Special Dance at Samuel Ryder Academy

- 21 Oct David and Rebecca Capron
- 28 Oct Dave Parsons
- 4 Nov Friday Folk Band
- 11 Nov Frances Oates, The Turnabouts
- 18 Nov Suzanne Farmer
- 25 Nov Anglo Scottish evening with Douglas and Stephen
- 2 Dec Friday Folk Band
- 9 Dec Christmas Special with Colin Hume and Jump the Vortex
- 16 Dec Carol singing around St Albans

National folk arts centre unveils its refurbished ‘facility for the future’

The nation’s leading folk arts centre has reopened its main venue following an extensive programme to restore the hall to its former glory.

Kennedy Hall at Cecil Sharp House in London has undergone a major overhaul to ensure it is fit for purpose for future generations to use for folk music, dance and other traditional arts.

The hall, which measures 252 sq metres, is the main dance and concert venue at the Grade II listed property that is run by the English Folk Dance and Song Society (EFDSS).

It has played host to some of the biggest names in folk and popular music over the years and is also a venue for dances, classes, conferences, exhibitions, meetings, and weddings.

The four-month programme of work included the restoration of the unique Ivon Hitchens mural that runs the length of one wall, a new fully sprung dance floor, restoring the wood panelling, and refurbishing, repairing and repainting the ceiling and windows.

Energy efficient lighting has been introduced along with a projection screen and a hearing induction loop.

Well-worn curtains dating back to the 1950s have been replaced with new ones that complement the original feel of the hall. The original furnishings, a Marion Dorn design, have been preserved and EFDSS is in talks with museums, archives and private collectors to take on the textile collection.

EFDSS Chief Executive and Artistic Director Katy Spicer said: “We are absolutely delighted that Kennedy Hall is fully refreshed and ready for use by folk music and dance enthusiasts again.

“The extensive programme of work was carefully planned to ensure a sympathetic restoration that was in keeping with the history of the hall and Cecil Sharp House but that created a facility that could meet the needs of users for generations to come. We are very grateful to all the funders and donors for their support.”

The project was funded by grants from Arts Council England (£197,125), The Foyle Foundation (£40,000), The Monument Trust (£25,000) and The Derek Hill Foundation (£3,000). Donations of £43,000 were raised from individuals, including many EFDSS members.

EFDSS will be continuing the fundraising campaign to purchase new chairs and sound equipment together with new floors for its smaller halls and meeting rooms.

Jo Cunningham (press@efdss.org)

English Miscellany trip to Sweden

This was to be my third trip abroad with English Miscellany. This time we were headed for Sweden over the May Bank Holiday weekend. Pure chance got us together with the Swedish Folk Dance Group Spånga Folkdansgille, who live in and around the town of Spånga, north-west of Stockholm. A card left in a B&B and spotted by an EM couple started it all, for Spånga hoped to get in touch with a folk group for an exchange visit. So it was that they came over to England last year and we knew then that the partnership was a real success. Like us they celebrated their 40th Anniversary in 2015 and so were much the same as us in several ways as well as age – enjoying not only dance but lingering, chatting over good food and a smidgeon or so of alcoholic beverage(s). We thoroughly enjoyed their company, dancing with them locally and at Towersey in the festival's 51st year. We made our various ways through different airports to the centre of Stockholm and negotiated our way together to the town of Spånga where we met our host families. They whisked us straight off to the nearby Spånga Kyrka, which originates from the late 12th century and contains some still colourful fresco paintings, the oldest (and in my opinion the best) of which are from the 14th and 15th century.

A later addition commemorating a nearby castle owner and benefactor and built in red brick (to the right of the picture) stands out in contrast to the earlier build – and is reflected in the interior decoration too, with flamboyant baroque not chiming with medieval simplicity. A lovely place to sing in though and our song group added the singing of John Ball (who has our guide told us, a connection with a nearby town) to the Latin carol Gaudete, before we left.

A Viking era granite stone sits outside the church. Carved in the oldest runic style and attributed to the runemaster called Gunnar is an inscription with an interior Christian cross design and another cross on its reverse side.

On then to the groups Folkets Hus (where they dance and practice) for dinner, much singing from both groups including the first performance of 'The Tango Dance' and a lot of social dancing. We had decided we'd learn one simple dance in our own countries to do together when out dancing. We tried it out – but was it the same dance? And was it at performance standard? Needed a bit more work on it perhaps...

I found I was drinking the non-alcoholic wine, but found the effect just as potent. I was having a very good time! A great start to our weekend, but bedtime when it came was very welcome.

On Saturday morning we were due to dance in Gamla Stan, the old Stockholm town centre, complete with cobbled streets and colourful squares

dating from the 16th and 17th century. I didn't know that Stockholm actually comprised fourteen islands as part of the archipelago on the Baltic Sea.

The bus we were told would arrive at 10.00 outside the Folkets Hus and leave by 10.05 for the city. At 10.30 there were a few mutterings, but no-one got excited and when it eventually arrived, we sallied forth. We had missed the christening of the latest addition to the Swedish Royal Family at the palace the previous afternoon our funny and very informative guide told us, as she took us off to a private back garden to avoid the logjam of tourist groups.

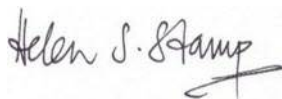
There was no escape for us in our costume from the hordes of camera and phone wielding tourists who insisted throughout our stay in town that we joined them for a happy snap. In the event we didn't dance in Gamla Stam main square in the rain, but when we moved after our guided tour of the area to Eggeby Farm and its Folk Festival. We spent our evening in the farm house there. More lovely food, loads more singing and a little display of clog from EM. The Tango dance had a reprise too...

The rain was banished for our next and last full day. We were treated to a tour of the 'New' City Hall (built between 1911 and 1923) with its 'Blue Room' which is not blue but is used for the banquet held after the annual Nobel Prize award ceremony, and its 'Golden Room' which most definitely is, created from over eighteen million mosaic tiles of gold leaf. The building made use of eight million dark red bricks of traditional construction. A splendid place in all senses of the word.

Dancing outside here on the shores of the sea we were virtually 'mobbed' by the international tourists. A sort of fame for fifteen minutes? After dancing in turn we were free to discover the city and with my host we chose to explore the Vasa Museum. Think Mary Rose but bigger, better preserved and beautifully presented. Like the Mary Rose the Vasa sank on its maiden voyage, in 1628, and is 93% preserved! A very definite must see!

Back to the Folkets Hus for dinner on our last evening. More good food and wine, more singing and dancing, and a show for us by our hosts Spånga Folkdansgille of some of their recent performance pieces, including a quite magical tableau to celebrate the Mid summer Day and 24 hour daylight. A lovely end to our introduction to Sweden.

Every time I go abroad with the group each visit seems even better than the last. There was talk of us getting together with Spånga Folkdansgille again in the future. Yes, please! Book me a flight...



Helen S. Stamp
Member of English Miscellany

YOUNG MISCELLANY'S VISIT TO "MAY IN A DAY" AT CECIL SHARP HOUSE

On Saturday 7th May 2016 14 children from Young Miscellany, and their parents and helpers, all boarded a coach in Harpenden which took them up to Cecil Sharp House for the English Folk Dance and Song Society's "May in a Day" celebration.

This was the first time that YM have ever been invited to dance at "The House", so it was a very special occasion for us all. The children were incredibly excited, and all of them knew they had to be on their best behaviour. They didn't let us down, and all danced the very best that they could. They displayed a selection of 10 dances ranging from Border, Cotswold and Northwest Morris, to Country Dancing, Step Clog, and The Devon Broom Dance. The Kennedy Hall had only just been re-vamped, so we must have been one of the first groups to dance on the new floor. It was a bit slippery for our clogs, but our helpers had wet rags on hand to wipe the wooden soles, and this worked well.

The whole afternoon was a great mixture of fun events for all to enjoy. Folk Dance Remixed, (a fusion of Folk, Street Dance, and Hip Hop), was a great success, and all the children thoroughly enjoyed their simple and very colourful Maypole tuition, and loved their modern take on the Broom Dance. It was also the hottest day of the year so far, so there were lots of activities for the children in the garden as well.

At 5.00pm I think we were all sad that it had come to an end. We gave our thanks to the organisers, and made our way back to the coach. I think this event will be remembered for a long time. Here are some of the childrens' comments:-

Lauren said "I really enjoyed watching Folk Dance Remixed doing a different version of a broom dance. It was really intricate and long!"

Henry, (our youngest member aged 6), said "I loved playing the Djembe in the band and watching the dances whilst on stage"

Clover said "It was great dancing in the workshops with Folk Dance Remixed. I also loved performing and spending time with my friends at the craft activities in the garden at Cecil Sharp House""Awesome, because there was space, and our own room".

Harry said "I loved it because there was so many things to do".

Bitty said "I loved the fact that we had an amazing audience, and I felt quite famous".

Aisling said "I enjoyed the hip hop dance group shows".

Ellie said "The atmosphere and venue made the day special and exciting".

Well done to everyone.

Lynda Swaine (Group Leader).

HARROW FOLK DANCE CLUB

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

44th PLAYFORD BALL

SAT. 26th NOVEMBER 2016

*(NOT 19th November as may have
been previously advertised)*

CAROL HEWSON

~ ~ with music by: ~ ~

‘MOMENTUM’

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

(at the junction with Rushdene Road)

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) £10.00 (includes refreshments)

Costume dress optional, but very welcome.

~ ~ ~ ~ ~ ~ ~

Forthcoming attractions:

47th Anniversary Dance – 18th March 2017

(Madeleine Smith with The Forest Band)

45th Playford Ball – 18th November 2017

(Ian & Val. McFarlane with Stradivarious)

~ ~ ~ ~ ~ ~ ~

The Harrow Folk Dance Club meets most Mondays (except

August and Bank Holidays) 7.45 – 9.45 pm at

Belmont School (lower 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

Young Miscellany at Cecil Sharp House



English Miscellany trip to Sweden



English Miscellany Singers performing in Spånga Kyrka



Left:
Gamla Stam,
old town

Right:
Viking Rune stone
near Spånga Kyrka
Church



EM and Spånga Folkdansgille performing outside Spånga 'New' City Hall