



Magazine of the Hertfordshire Folk Association

PUDDINGSTONE

**St Albans Morris Dancing at the
"Remembering Graham" Celebration**



**April
2018**

April - July



Issue 71 40p

Where sold





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

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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



Hi there,

It is often difficult to get hold of enough copy for the Spring issue, but this time I have had so much in the shape of reminiscences and tributes for Graham Lyndon-Jones, that I have decided to put most of it in a new page on the HFA web site

There is a link in the

“Remembering GLJ” article.

I am aware that I still haven't managed to include much about local song and session meeting, so please let me know about your favourites. I would also like to include some copy about May Day festivities (I usually receive some about Herts Early Dance May Revels) but would welcome more. For more information about HFA see 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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CHILTERN FOLK ASSOCIATION

(Affiliated to EFDSS)

ST GEORGE'S DAY CELEBRATIONS

SATURDAY, 21ST APRIL 2018
**AMERSHAM COMMUNITY
CENTRE HP6 5HA**

AFTERNOON WORKSHOPS

2.30 - 4.00 Dances with Rhythm Changes

4.30 - 6.00 Long Sword

(break at 4pm - 4.30pm - tea and coffee will be available)

EVENING DANCE 7.00PM - 10.30 PM
EMMA WOODROW with MOMENTUM
Please bring a small plate of food to share

Workshops £6 Adults, £3 Children
Children must be accompanied

Evening Dance £10 Joint Ticket £15
(please note: no children at evening dance)

Contact 01494 773189 / 01628 486845
chilternfolk.org.uk



Inchmore Folk Dance Club



Trinity Church Hall

Church Street/Gentleman's Row
Enfield EN2 6AN
Resident Musicians
The Forest Band

Callers for 2018

April	12 Anne Dunn
May	12 Dave Kerridge
June	9 Mike Courthold
July	14 Patricia Donnithorne
August	11 Peter Leedham

7.30 - 10.30

Info: : Gillian:0208 360 6226,
Joyce:020 8886 2696,
John:0208 926 7293



*Evenings of live
traditional music and
dance every month.*

Monthly events alternating
between ceilidhs and
concerts.

Find us on Facebook for details of
each event or contact
01920 877 588 / 870 558.

Tickets from www.ticketsource.co.uk or on the door
Adults: £8 (£6 in advance); Children: £5 (£3.50 in advance)
Advanced family ticket (2+2): £15

Refreshments available, bring your own alcohol.

Doors: Ceilidh: 6.30pm for 7pm. Concerts: 7pm for 7.30pm

2018 Spring Programme

15 March: Ceilidh with Take the Biscuit ceilidh
15 April: Jimmy Aldridge and Sid Goldsmith in concert
20 May: Rattle on the Stovepipe in concert
17 June: Dave Gibb in concert
22 July: Ceilidh with Mrs Savage's Whim

Hertfordshire Early Dance

May Revels

Saturday 19th May 2018
St Stephen's Church Hall,
Watling St,
St Albans AL1 2PX

For tickets or more information
and about our Sunday
meetings contact: 01442
862545 or
info@hertsearlydance.org.uk



Hertfordshire Playford Day

17th November 2018

Introduction

John Playford, a London publisher, published books of country dances, starting in 1651 and continuing for over 50 years, such was their popularity. They were largely sold to the emerging middle-class, and now represent a treasury of English dancing enjoyed by all levels of society from the court downwards. Then with changing fashions, Playford's books were largely forgotten about.

In the early 20th Century, Cecil Sharp discovered a copy of the First Edition, and produced and popularised edited copies of these, and his interpretations of the dances are now well-known and largely regarded as the definitive versions.



However, since that time, other descriptions of the dances have come to light, and they have also been interpreted in the light of recent research into the history of dancing. This has enabled us to see the dances in a new light, as energetic, enjoyable, yet sophisticated choreographies. These fresh interpretations of country dances have been appreciated in workshops and conferences across recent years, organised by The Historical Dance Society.

The Playford Day

Thanks to a gift to the HFA, we're going to have a day to introduce

non-experts to the delights of Playford dancing, and to give experts some of the latest thoughts about Playford's dances. To this end, we have engaged two different, expert tutors – Anne Day and Andrew Swaine. Anne Daye is an inspiring and knowledgeable teacher of historical dance, and a leading expert of dancing in Playford's London. With extensive experience of leading dancers of all levels of ability in workshops on the country dances, she will teach skills of stepping and figuring alongside information on the social setting of the time. Anne is Director of Education and Research for the Historical Dance Society; her publications include instruction books and contributions to academic publications. Her doctoral thesis was on the Jacobean masque.



Andrew Swaine is a lifelong folk dancer, caller and musician. He's nationally known for calling Playford, contra and ceilidh. His goal is to rediscover what originally made these dances fun, by an unpretentious approach backed up with extensive research. In 2016 he ran a cumulative 23¾ hours of workshops on Playford era dances at Sidmouth folk festival, featuring a large number of new reconstructions, and last year ran a week of workshops on Playford dances and interpretation in California. He co-runs the Sheffield "Playford in the Pub" music and dance sessions in Sheffield with his wife Daisy Black, developing new ways to dance Playford, which this year led an evening of "zesty Playford" at the Inter-Varsity Folk Dance Festival. He also plays and choreographs with Gog Magog Molly and Boggart's Breakfast. The exact timetable for the day is currently still under development, but you will take part in workshops where you will learn how both these experts have re-interpreted some of the Playford dances. We intend that it should be entertaining, instructive, and fun. Please put the date in your diary!

Roger Swaine

REGENCY DANCE WORKSHOP

Run by Essex Folk Association in association with
Chelmsford Folk Dancers on Sunday, 29th April.

Led by Chris Saunders.

At Widford Village Hall, 58 Widford Road, Chelmsford, CM2 8SY.
2.15 for 2.30 pm to 5.00 pm.

EFA Members £2.50 Non-Members £3

Numbers will be limited, so advance booking is necessary.
For further information, contact Chris Saunders on 01277 840473
(e-mail: saunderscr@btinternet.com).

EASTBOURNE INTERNATIONAL FOLKDANCE FESTIVAL

4 - 7 May 2018

YOUNG PERSON'S SEASON TICKET 18 - 25 years inclusive: £50

WEEKEND TICKET: £108

ALL DAY TICKETS (9.30AM - 10.30PM) £40

WORKSHOP TICKETS (9.30AM - 5PM) £25

EVENING ONLY TICKETS (7.15 - 10.30PM) £15

01823 401271 www.eiff.org.uk

For more information: <http://www.eiff.org.uk/programme.html>

KIMPTON FOLK FESTIVAL

7th July 2018, 12 - 23.30

Concerts in the Memorial Hall and Village Church.

Free music on the Village Green.

Children's games, story telling etc.

More information: www.kimptonfolk.uk

Sidmouth FolkWeek 3-10 August 2018

Ear to the past, eye on the future

"There are festivals...and there's Sidmouth. Still uniquely glorious and gloriously unique after all these years." - music writer Colin Irwin

Sidmouth FolkWeek 2018 (3-10 August) has announced that the last few great-value Super Early Bird tickets, with unlimited access to festival events from first thing in the morning until last thing at night, are on sale. Ticket prices will increase once these are sold out.

Tickets are now on sale for a pre-festival afternoon show with Merseybeat poet Roger McGough & LiTTLe MACHiNe for Thursday 2nd August – with a show of vintage, classic and surprising poems set to music – adding to the pre-Festival shows with Fairport Convention and The Ukulele Orchestra of Great Britain.

More names now on the bill are Saltfishforty, Martin Carthy, Alden, Patterson & Dashwood, India Electric Co. and new show The Life and Songs of Edward Capern - The Postman Poet with Nick Wyke & Becki Driscoll and Liz Shakespeare.

With over 150 names already confirmed, the most up-to-date complete line-up can always be seen at <http://sidmouthfolkweek.co.uk/whats-on/>

The long-running festival offers something for everyone, with concerts, ceilidhs, workshops, youth and family events, talks, processions and displays, storytelling, and surprises around every corner.

Please keep checking the website for updates and latest line-up additions for the 2018 festival. www.sidmouthfolkweek.co.uk

Staplers celebrate 60 years of dancing.

To celebrate this, Staplers have some special events planned for 2018 including a Sunday afternoon Tea Dance on 15 April from 3.00-6.00 pm at St Ipolytts Parish Hall, near Hitchin. Kevin Prigmore will call dances from the past 60 years to music from Kelly's Eye. Staplers' memorabilia from the past 60 years will be on display and a cream tea will be served. Tickets are £8. Please book in advance. Tel: 01462 624144 or 01462 895567

Gill Goodman

Remembering Graham Lyndon-Jones

Graham Lyndon-Jones' funeral was held on 27th November 2017 in the Lady Chapel, St Albans Abbey. As this was a quiet religious family service, though well attended, a few of his friends decided to organise a "Folk" event, and on March 10th more than seventy of Graham's folk and music friends met at East Hyde Community Centre to celebrate his life through Music, Dance, Song and Reminiscences.



Bedford Gallery
Quire singing a
West Gallery piece
accompanied by
Ken Baddley
playing the bass
horn.

Photo taken at
"Remembering
Graham" by Marilyn
Richardson.

(There have been so many tributes and memories about Graham sent to Puddingstone, that rather than taking up the entire issue, I have decided to put them onto Herts Folk Association's website, so to read them please go to: <http://www.hertsfolkassn.org.uk/GLJ.pdf> where you will see "Remembering Graham" in the form of a pdf document.)

To read Graham's own reminiscences see issues 59, 60, 61 and 62 of Puddingstone.

Graham was a man with a vast array of interests and hobbies, and he pursued these with energy and creativity which brought him many friends and acquaintances.

He was born and bred in Sussex, a county to which he often returned to play his Early Music instruments. He completed his National Service in The Royal Navy [engineer in the Fleet Air Arm] in Plymouth, from which he retained a fund of highly amusing stories. After leaving the Navy, he learned to play the recorder and got interested in the Early Music revival. He spent many holidays in Huddersfield with John Cousen, one of the first renaissance instrument-makers of the Early Music revival. In the early 1970s he gave up his day job as a technical librarian to become a full-time instrument-maker.



Graham playing one of his reproduction instruments, copy of a photo presented to him by Bedford Gallery Quire when he was made a life member.

He belonged to The Elizabethans, to two morris sides, to English Miscellany, and to Bedford Gallery Quire. These groups gave him the opportunity to dance, and to play an enormous range of instruments, from crumhorn to hurdy-gurdy, from pipe and tabor to flutes and serpent, from bass horn to bassoon.

Tony Barratt, Janet Simpson and GLJ made a wonderful sound as Gymel – a superb blend of voices and instruments. Performing at The Goat with Graham one never knew what exactly would happen – some of his instruments were a little less than reliable. The audience loved it!

He came to the first evening classes in historical dance that ran in London, in the early seventies. A small performing group, Graham, with Barbara Stanley and Robin de Smet, got together to play for the Dolmetsch Historical Dance Society, including a dance concert for Swansea Ballet Club in 1976.

Playing for dancing became the focus of his music, and his collection of weird and ancient instruments were a feature of whatever dance he was playing for.

When HFA ran a series of workshops on Tudor & Stuart dances, Graham was there to play. This series led to the formation of Herts Early Dance, of which Graham was a founder member. The group greatly benefitted from his experience and knowledge. His serpent and curtals augmented the band with a rich bass sound.

A summary taken from contributions by friends.



HERTFORDSHIRE FOLK ASSOCIATION COMMITTEE

Elected Members and Officers as from November 2016

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

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 14	Winchmore FDC Trinity Church Hall, Church St., Enfield. EN2 6AN 0208 926 7293 Anne Dunn with the Forest Band	7.30pm
Apr 15	Stanstead Abbots C S , Concert: Jimmy Aldridge & Sid Goldsmith see advert pg 4	
Apr 15	Staplers F.D.C St. Ippolyts Parish Hall, Hitchin. SG4 7RB Ring in advance 01462 624144 / 895567 Tea Dance Kevin Prigmore with Kelly's Eye	3pm to 6pm
Apr 21	Chiltern Folk Association , Amersham Community Centre, Chiltern Ave. 01494 773189 / 01628 486845 HP6 5AH Afternoon workshop 2.30 - 6pm, Evening Dance Emma Woodrow with Momentum See advert pg 4	7pm to 10.30pm
Apr 21	Friday Folk Samuel Ryder Academy, St Albans www.fridayfolk.org.uk 01727 856508 Charlotte Rich with Caperbility	7.30pm
Apr 28	St. Andrews Trinity Church Hall, Church St., Enfield. EN2 6AN 0208 366 3982 Bob Barrett with the Forest Band	7.30pm
May 12	Winchmore. FDC Dave Kerridge with the Forest Band	7.30pm
May 19	St Albans Abbey FDC , Homewood Rd. UR Church Hall, Sandpit Lane, St. Albans. AL1 4BH 01727 834977 Judith Inman with the Forest Band	7.30pm
May 19	Herts Early Dance May Revels see advert pg 4	2 - 6pm
May 20	Stanstead Abbots C S , Concert: Rattle on the Stovepipe see advert pg 4	

DIARY DATES cont.

May 20	Abbots Langley Winter Acoustic Concert. Abbots Langley Community Centre, Gallows Hill Ln. A.L, Rodney Miller's Stringrays Concert 3 – 5.15pm, WD5 0AP Contra Dance with Mark Elvins 6.30 –10.30pm 019232 64536 See advert pg 4	
May 26	St Andrews. Club Callers with Spring Greens	7.30pm
June 9	Winchmore. FDC Mike Courthold with the Forest Band	7.30pm
June 16 &17	St Albans Folk Festival (main events on Saturday June 16th)	see pg 19
June 17	Stanstead Abbots C.S. Concert, Dave Gibb	see pg 4
June 23	St Andrews. Dave Kerridge with the Forest Band	7.30pm
July 4-8	New Forest Folk Festival , Hampshire.	see pg 23
July 14	Winchmore. FDC Patricia Donnithorne with the Forest Band	7.30pm
July 15	Folk by the Oak , Hatfield House	see advert back page
July 22	Stanstead Abbots C.S. Ceilidh, Mrs Savages Whim see pg4	
July 28	St Andrews. Mary Bryan with the Forest Band	7.30pm
Aug 11	Winchmore. FDC Peter Leedham with the Forest Band	7.30pm
Aug 25	St Andrews. Steve Russell with the Footnotes	7.30pm
Sept 8	Winchmore. FDC John Wood with the Forest Band	7.30pm
Sept 22	St Andrews. Val &Ian McFarlane with the Forest Band	7.30pm
Oct 6	Staplers , Ron Coxall with 3 D	7.30pm
Oct 13	Winchmore. FDC Judith Inman with the Forest Band (AGM)	7.30pm
Oct 27	St Andrews. Suzanne Harper with the Footnotes (AGM)	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.

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 - St Albans - 01727 856508, www.fridayfolk.org.uk

Harrow FDC -

Mr Roy Martin, 57 Waverley Road, Harrow, HA2 9RG. 020 8868 7526
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 - meet most term-time Fridays 8.15 - 10.15 pm
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
www.hertsearlydance.org.uk

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
01452 454210 website: rainmakers.org.uk.

Roundabouts (Stevenage) Country Dance Club -

Jenny Newton. Tel. no. 01438 - 714539
or e-mail janewton39@gmail.com

HFA Affiliated Clubs & Groups (continued)

St Albans Abbey FDC - 60 Woodland Drive, St Albans, AL4 0ET

St Andrew's FDC -

Mrs A Dunn, 3 Conway Gardens, Enfield, EN2 9AD 020 8366 3982

St Albans Morris -

A. Torrington. 44 Foxcroft, St Albans. AL1 5SP

01727 833028 or bagman@stalbanismorrismen.org.uk

We practice on Monday evenings October to April.

Men and women welcome as dancers or musicians.

Standon Morris -

John Grey, Musley House, 9 Homefield Rd, Ware SG12 7NG

Staplers FDC - (New Secretary Denise Devonald) 01462 624144

Mondays 8.00 - 10.00 p.m. St. Johns 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 33014

Woodside Morris Men - 39, Holland Gdns, Garston, Watford.

Nick Wilson: bagman@woodsidemorrismen.com
or www.woodsidemorrismen.com

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).

Membership Renewal

Hertfordshire Folk Association

Membership Application Form 2018



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

To have Puddingstone delivered to your door, please add £2.40 to your annual fee.

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

(Inc. Postcode) _____
Tel: _____
E-mail address: _____

I/we would like to apply for individual* / Household* / Group* membership

(*please delete as applicable)

I/we would like each edition of Puddingstone posted to us (£2.40 for the year)
(please tick box)

☐

And enclose a cheque payable to the Hertfordshire Folk Association

Please return the completed form to:

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

Alternatively pay by standing order: Hertfordshire Folk Association.

Sort code: 60 18 11 Account: 45217718

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 £4

Summer 2018

6 Apr Mike Bennett and FF Band
13 Apr David & Rebecca Capron and Spring Greens
20 Apr Suzanne Farmer

21 Apr Saturday Special at S Ryder Charlotte Rich and Caperbility

27 Apr Dave Parsons
4 May Ivan Aitken and FF Band
11 May Club Callers
18 May Bob Lilley
25 May Closed
1 Jun Brenda Godrich and FF Band
8 Jun Patricia Donnithorne
15 Jun Beginners' night - Bob Barrett
22 Jun Ian Edlin and Spring Greens
29 Jun Cajun with Madeleine and Tim
6 Jul Colin Hume and FF Band
13 Jul Louise Siddons (USA)
20 Jul Bob Barrett
27 Jul Garden Dance with Spring Greens (phone for details)

Abbots Langley Winter Acoustic Concerts

<http://www.oldtimetim.com/alwac.htm>

Afternoon/Evening of Sunday 20th May 2018

Rodney Miller's Stringrays

Rodney Miller is the foremost exponent of New England style fiddling, a uniquely American blend of French Canadian and Celtic influences. The trio which is 'Stringrays' is completed by the brilliant addition of Max Newman on guitar and Stuart Kenney on upright bass and 5 string clawhammer banjo.

In Concert - 15:00 to 17:15 - £12.00*

Followed by

Contra Dance with Mark Elvins calling

18:30 to 22:30 - £10:00

Combined ticket - £15:00

Abbots Langley Community Centre

Gallows Hill Lane, Abbots Langley, Herts, WD5 0AP

*** Ticket includes tea or coffee & cake in the interval**

advance reservation recommended

Enquiries to ALConcerts@gmail.com

Or call Tim and Lesley Brooks on 01923 264536

Tony Wilson returns to the folk scene

With over 2,000 storytelling performances in this country and the world since 1999, Geordie folk musician, singer and songwriter Tony Wilson has returned to the folk scene. Prompted initially by his annual Winter storytelling collaborations with violinist and singer Tom McConville, Tony has spent 2017 re-honing his solo singing and playing skills via floorspots at over 150 open mic nights, buskers' sessions and folk clubs.

He says, "After a 25-year break from performing professionally in folk clubs I needed to make sure that I could get my playing, singing and presenting back up to a standard that I was happy with. I have also rediscovered a lot of my own songs that I had never sung in public. Now they are an integral part of my repertoire."

Inspired by the Spinners and the Dubliners, Tony started playing tenor and five-string banjo at the school folk club in the late 60s and progressed to be a member of the John Doonan ceilidh band. He played alongside Irish musicians at the Regent in Leeds, folk bands such as Iona and Adderstone, and solo floorspots throughout Britain and Europe. He turned professional in 1977 and along the way acquired a guitar and mandola and researched a repertoire that covered many unusual aspects of folk music.

"For me, all aspects of human life and situations are contained in folk music and song. It is a rich and varied source of emotions and ideas that have some of the most extraordinary melodies that can startle, comfort and amuse.

"Having a family and staying at home was a much better prospect than sleeping in the van so in 1989 I decided that I would stop the playing and become a teacher." In fact, there has never been a time when Tony has not played or sung.

"Nearly twenty years of performing every day as a storyteller has given me stage and presenting skills that I never had before. I have a wealth of material to draw on from the past forty years, and it is a joy to return to the folk music scene."

Tony Wilson

To see YouTube clips of Tony at Bridge Folk Club go to:

TONY WILSON @ BRIDGE FOLK CLUB

<https://youtu.be/-1SfV6HizjU>

https://youtu.be/H_ge-hSxDPk

St.Albans Folk Festival

15-17 June, 2018

Plans are now well developed for St Albans Folk Festival which will run from June 15 to 17 2018 and bring dancing and music to the City centre and nearby venues.

The main events will take place on Saturday June 16. During the day there will be displays of dancing in the City Centre, free performances in local pubs and other venues and workshops in the Maltings Arts Theatre. In the evening, there will be a festival concert in the Maltings Arts Theatre, featuring nationally known guest performers, The Dovetail Trio and Granny's Attic.

The Day of Dance (16th) will start with a display by all groups outside the Alban Arena, after which the dancers will spread out over City Centre locations and the West Front of the Abbey.



Spånga Folkdansgille, a group from Sweden will be coming to take part. Invitations have gone out to morris dance groups over a wide area. A good response is expected as St Albans is a popular place to dance. Last year the morris dancers were joined by local Irish and Indian groups and the organisers would be glad to hear of any other local dance groups who are interested in taking part.

Singers and musicians from a wide area will be coming to the City to join local singers in giving free showcase performances in The Farmer's Boy, The White Hart Tap, The White Lion, The Hare and Hounds, The Garibaldi and Waterstone's Bookshop and there will be informal singing in the Courtyard Café.

Tickets are now on sale for the festival concert at 7.45pm at the Maltings Arts Theatre, an exciting double bill in which the acclaimed

Dovetail Trio is joined by Granny's Attic, a newer trio with a rising reputation. It will open with a short display of Swedish dances by Spånga Folkdansgille. The Dovetail Trio, made up of Jamie Roberts, Rosie Hood and Matt Quinn, have made a considerable reputation for their fresh approach to English traditional folk songs.



They will share the bill with **Granny's Attic**, a young trio of exceptional musicians, Cohen Braithwaite-Kilcoyne, George Sansome and Lewis Wood, who are making waves with their interpretation of English, Irish and Scottish traditional music as well as their own compositions. The concert will also include sets from Julian Mount, winner of the 2017 Watford Folk Club song writing competition and New Roots finalist, to be selected in April.



Some of the performers will be running workshops, including a singing workshop led by the Dovetail Trio and a ukulele workshop led by the Ver Players at the Maltings Arts Theatre and a Swedish dance workshop led by Spånga Folkdansgille at the White Hart Tap.

The festival will start on Friday evening, June 15, with an open evening hosted by Friday Folk social dance group and continue on Sunday June 17 with informal music-making at the Robin Hood in Victoria Street. Events specifically for children and young people are also being planned.

Nearer the time, a detailed programme will be available online at www.stalbansfolkatthefestival.org.uk Tickets for the festival concert, price £14, £13 students and £10 for under 18s are available on the door or in advance, by booking online at <http://www.maltingsartstheatre.co.uk/event/folk-the-dovetail-trio-grannys-attic/>, by phone on 0333 666 3366 or in person at St Albans Central Library.

Alison Macfarlane

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<http://www.dovetailtrio.com/> <http://www.grannysattic.org.uk/bio/>

Spånga Folkdansgille

In 2016 English Miscellany was invited to visit Spånga Folkdansgille to help celebrate their 60th Anniversary. This year they are spending the St Albans Folk Festival weekend with us. They are a group from Spånga a suburb in NW Stockholm, which performs a variety of traditional Swedish folk dance, song and music, in traditional costume from various parts of Sweden.

During EM's visit they gave a show with stories from different parts of Sweden with music, song, acting and dancing and will do something very similar at the festival concert in the Maltings Arts Theatre,



Part of a “play” depicting reindeer herding from the very north of Sweden.

In recent years the group has visited Budapest, Bornholm, Salzburg, Växjö, Östersund, Italy, Prague, Canada and the United States.

Accordion Workshop, 11/3/18

Tutor – Becky Price

Becky started the workshop by putting us through a series of exercises, to make sure that our muscles and joints were nicely loosened up. Then she went on to explain that 3/2 hornpipes (which were probably unique to England) were very popular in the 17th & 18th century.



After that, however, they were largely forgotten as people turned to waltzes, polkas and so on, though they are still played in Northumberland, and as some Playford tunes.

We looked at tunes such as “Rusty Gulley” and the Playford tune “The Hole in the wall” (written by Henry Purcell), seeing what we could do in terms of rhythm, chords and variations etc. Finally we looked at where to place stresses and how to provide the required articulation.

We’ve already pencilled Becky in for next year’s workshop...

Roger Swaine



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