

Magazine of the Hertfordshire Folk Association

PUDDINGSTONE



Chiltern West Gallery Quire...see pgs 5 & 6.
(Photo by Ced Morgan)

**August
2019
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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 necessarily representative of the HFA or the editor. The editor reserves the right to edit received items as appropriate.

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and groups.

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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**

Harrow Folk Dance Club:

As a consequence of the loss of our regular Saturday Dance venue, it has not been possible to arrange our usual Playford Ball in November this year. However, as it will be the Club's 50th Anniversary in early 2020 we are planning an '**Anniversary Playford Ball**' on **Saturday 21st March 2020**.

Full details will be circulated in due course - but please save the date.

Roy Martin

WANTED: CD reviewers

Puddingstone often receives CDs 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 16) 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.

Editorial



Hi there,
I would like to start by saying thank you for all your contributions.

After a lengthy discussion the HFA committee has decided to try, as a year-long experiment, to make Puddingstone free to both members and non-members. The proportion of the income from sales is quite low compared to that from adverts, and we felt that a wider distribution of free copies would benefit the advertisers and make the magazine available to a wider readership.

At the same time we hope to expand the scope of the contents, which will not only mean more hours of pursuing copy for me, but hopefully a wider base of contributions from our readership.

We would particularly like to have more articles, photos etc covering song clubs and sessions, as well as more information about local festivals and one off events. For more information about HFA go to:

www.hertsfolkassn.org.uk

Adrian Burrows



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.

2019 Autumn events

15 September: Ceilidh with Take the Biscuit Band

20 October: The Askew Sisters in concert

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



Inchmore Folk Dance Club



Trinity Church Hall

Church Street/Gentleman's Row
Enfield EN2 6AN

Resident Musicians

The Forest Band

Callers for 2019/20

August 10 David Ashworth

September 14 Andrea Stodell

October 12 Nigel Close + AGM

November 9 Phyllis Chapman

December 14 Peter Leedham

January 1 (New Year's Festivity)

Gillian West

January 11 Andrea Stodell

February 8 Steve Russell

7.30 – 10.30

Info: : Gillian:0208 360 6226,

East Anglian Traditional Music Trust

www.eatmt.org.uk



Join **Richard Blake** for a lunchtime talk on
Dulcimers on **Friday 26th July at 12.30pm**

Saturday 31st August

Traditional Music at the Mo

Have a go at Traditional Music making at 11am
with SqueezEast Concertinas, Vintage Squeeze
& Richard Blake

Performance from **Hushwing** at 2pm



Come and Say Hello!

16th-19th August

We'll be in the Instrumental Area

East Anglian Traditional Music Trust

Mel's Monthly Melodeon Club



CHILTERN FOLK ASSOCIATION

(Affiliated to EFDSS)

PLAYFORD BALL

Saturday 21 September 7 pm to 10.30pm

Amersham Community Centre HP6 5AH

ANDREW SWAINE

with the FOREST BAND

Please bring a plate of food to share

Contact 01494 727512 or 01494 773189

AUTUMN FAMILY DANCE

Sunday 27 October 2.30pm - 5.30pm

Amersham Common Hall HP7 9JD

IAN & VAL MCFARLANE

with TOUCAN PLAY

£5 Accompanied children 5 to 16 free

Please bring a small plate of food to share

Contact 01494 727512 or 01494 773189

CHESHAM AUTUMN DANCE

Saturday evening 5 October

Guide HQ Chesham HP5 1HX

HOWARD BALLARD with TOUCAN PLAY

Please bring a plate of food to share

£10 Contact 01494 783890 or 01494 86322

Singing and dancing go together like apple pie and custard

As members of the Chiltern West Gallery Quire looked back over the last 25 years and more, we realised the truth of that saying!

Many of our members have danced Morris, Sword and Country in their younger days, and some of us are still doing so-enthusiastically though maybe more gently than before!

CWQG sing the West Gallery music written by local musicians and set to the “new” psalm translations available for church use in the early 18C. Many of the tunes are written in 6/8 and 2/4; rhythms more often heard in the local “hops” or the marching tunes used by local Militia groups formed by the gentry from 1720 onwards to keep the peace.

This music was tuneful and lively, often with surprising harmonies and rhythms, which village composers didn’t know were “not allowed” in learned circles.

As we delved more deeply into the social history of our somewhat idiosyncratic tunes, we revived the dance and military traditions of their roots.

Wherever we perform – and space allows- we muster volunteers and our band leads the dance with tunes from 1720-1850. Some are very local; we often dance to “Comical Fellow” found in a book of dance tunes in an old cupboard drawer in Stevenage. Others, more elegant in nature, were penned for the ladies of Cassiobury Park in Hertfordshire. The music master, young Matthew Cooke not only wowed the ladies of the household, but took care to engage the interest of his employer, entitling one of his tunes “The Charms of Watford”. He later rose to fame in the family’s London household!

Another gift came from an elderly lady in Stotfold, who realised that she owned several music manuscript books full of dance tunes belonging to her grandfather. Gems such as, “Get a girl against a wall and kiss her all to pieces” often gets an airing as part of our performance.

We welcome all- comers to sing, play or dance with us. We meet on the second Saturday of every month at the URC church in Welwyn Garden City 2-5pm; music is available in advance and we always have tea and home-made cake!

In particular we would like to welcome you to our Hertfordshire Carol Workshop to be held on Sunday Nov 17th in Letchworth 2-4.30pm. West Gallery carols were written to be sung outdoors on a cold Christmas Eve after midnight. They are full of joyful melodies, inviting people to give money, food or drink to the carollers.

This year we are also performing at the Barton Christmas Tree Festival on Fri 29th Nov. at 8pm. We will be telling the Thomas Hardy stories and poems of "Christmas at Herrenston" and the Tranter's party with singing, dancing and mumming.

All details and tickets available from our website: www.cwgg.co.uk

Jenny Ellis

HFA Spring Sing 16th March 2019

As has been usual for the past few year this event was held in the back room of the Crown Inn, Buntingford, Herts. We began with a small group of regular supporters and, after a brief period spent catching up on personal news and events since last year, we started on the first round of songs. Since there wasn't any pressure to cram in as many songs as possible, there was quite a lot of discussion on the origin of the songs, where the songs had been learned or first been heard. After a couple of rounds we had a break for people to refill their glasses or coffee cups. We then restarted on wide variety of contributions ranging from old Music Hall numbers and other humorous songs via a selection of poems both serious and comic. We were also treated to several self-penned songs on a variety of subjects often given a humorous slant.

Halfway through the afternoon we were joined by two more performers who had learned about the event via the HFA website. They were both regular attendees at other sessions in the district. They were able to contribute quite a few songs both traditional and modern. Due to the fact that several of the participants had other commitments later that same day, we finished somewhat earlier than in many times past. However, we still managed to sing or recite between 40-50 items during the course of the event. All participants indicated that they had had a thoroughly enjoyable afternoon and were looking forward to a similar style event to be run by HFA in 2020.

Hertfordshire Folk Association

Membership Renewal 2019 and Permission to hold personal information under the GDPR (25.5.2018)

GDPR statement.: For full information see our website:

(www.hertsfolkassn.org.uk)

The GDPR requires the HFA to have means for people to see the personal data we hold on them and to request changes or deletion. To do this please contact *The Membership Secretary (Adrian Burrows)*, by letter or by e-mail and we will respond as required within one month of receipt of the request.

If you do not wish us to hold this information you can still be a member and receive information via our website (www.hertsfolkassn.org.uk) or by our sending your copy of Puddingstone to the Club or Group of your choice.

In order to comply and for us to continue to hold your personal information as explained we must receive your express permission. Please return by post or e-mail to:

HFA Membership Secretary, 1 Leyland Avenue, St Albans, AL1 2BD
or adrian.r.burrows@btopenworld.com

I am happy for you to hold the information below for e-mail and postal communication. And 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 p&p for the year) (please tick box) ☐

Signed.....

Name..... Date.....

Name/s:

Address

Inc. Postcode

Tel:

E-mail address

Club/group (if applicable):.....

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.

No information regarding members will be shared with any other organisation without permission.

Enclose a cheque payable to the Hertfordshire Folk Association
Alternatively pay by standing order: Hertfordshire Folk Association

Sort code: 60 18 11

Account: 45217718

Twenty Fifth ANNUAL REPORT

For the period ended 31st August 2019

This report commemorates the silver anniversary of Hertfordshire Folk Association, during which time we have successfully promoted, supported and contributed to very many folk events within the county of Hertfordshire. This issue of Puddingstone includes notification of our AGM the full details of which are listed in the Folk Dance Diary section. We hope you will be able to attend and look forward to seeing you there.

During the last twelve months we have continued our support of regular events and, as planned, the Spring Sing was enjoyed at the usual venue in Buntingford with many thanks to John Grey . Unfortunately, due to unexpected circumstances, our regular accordion workshop was cancelled but all plans are going ahead for it to be held this coming Spring and booking details will be advertised In Puddingstone.

In November, following a request from a long-term member of our Association, we arranged a Playford Day, with separate morning and afternoon workshops for musicians and dancers followed by a buffet tea. The evening programme brought everybody together to participate in the music and dances they had learned throughout the day. Our thanks go to Roger Swaine for all the arrangements and work involved with such an undertaking and there is no doubt it was all a great success - so much so that a subsequent survey revealed excellent comments and many requests for another such occasion so, watch this space. If you would also 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 the county of Hertfordshire and we are considering future recipients. If you would like to submit proposals for consideration, please contact one of our committee members.

We are very grateful to Adrian for his continued editorship of Puddingstone, and yet again he has ensured that this year's editions have provided interesting articles and information.

We also extend our thanks to him for keeping our individual and club membership details up-dated; please help by ensuring subscriptions and relevant address changes etc., are notified as promptly as possible.

This particular issue of Puddingstone lists, as usual, all our affiliated Clubs /Groups and Hertfordshire Folk Association welcomes a representative to our Committee meetings. This is your opportunity to participate with ideas and comments so do think about contributing. Meetings occur about four times annually and the Minutes of each last meeting note our future dates so please let us know if any of your members are able to join us.

Our web site continues to provide 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 Treasurer Roger Swaine, and our Secretary Terry Elvins. Libby Byne-Grey continues as Minutes Secretary and Adrian continues the enormous task of committing past Puddingstone editions and many other relevant records of our Hertfordshire archives to computerised storage, for which we are extremely grateful.

You, the members of Hertfordshire Folk Association are our strength. Thank you for your continuing support, and, on your behalf, we look forward to furthering our activities during the coming year.

**Hilary Vare
Chairman**



HERTFORDSHIRE FOLK ASSOCIATION

(Affiliated to the English Folk Dance & Song Society)

NOTICE OF THE TWENTY FIFTH ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

To be held at:

1, Leyland Ave, St Albans, Herts AL1 2BD

on

Tuesday 19th November 2019 at
7.45pm

AGENDA

- 1 To receive apologies for absence
- 2 Minutes of Annual General Meeting held on
13th November 2018
- 3 To approve Report and Accounts for 2018 / 2019
- 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 2018

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 2019

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 11

Aug 10	Winchmore FDC. St Pauls Community Centre, Church St. Enfield EN2 6AR 0208 360 6226 David Ashworth with the Forest Band	7.30pm
Aug 17	- 23 Whitby Folk Week www.whitbyfolk.co.uk	
Aug 24	St Andrews FDC. St Pauls Community Centre, Church St. Enfield EN2 6AR 0208 366 3982 Ivan Aitken with recorded music	7.30pm
Aug 31	East Anglian Traditional Music Trust, Music at the MO see advert pg.4	
Sep 14	Winchmore FDC. Trinity Church Hall, Church St Enfield. EN2 6AN 0208 360 6226 / 886 2696 Andrea Stodell with the Forest Band	7.30pm
Sep 15	Stanstead Abbot Ceilidh Society, Kate and the Biscuit Band see advert pg.4	7.00pm
Sep 21	Chiltern Folk Association, Amersham Community Centre HP6 5AH Andrew Swaine with the Forest Band	7.00pm
Sep 28	St. Andrews. Trinity Church Hall, Church St. Enfield. EN2 6AN 0208 366 3982 Mary Bryan with the Forest Band	7.30pm
Oct 5	Staplers FDC. St. Ippolyts Parish Hall, Hitchin. Jeannie Byron Williams with Albired SG4 7RB.	7.30pm
Oct 5	Chesham FDC, Guide HQ, Chesham HP5 1HX Howard Ballard with Toucan Play see advert pg 4	
Oct 12	Winchmore FDC Nigel Close with the Forest Band + AGM	7.00pm
Oct 19	Friday Folk Mark Elvins with Double Dichotomy Venue TGA 01727 856509	7.30pm

2019 - 2020 DIARY DATES cont.

Oct 19	East Anglian Traditional Music Trust Concertina & Melodeon Workshop see advert pg	
Oct 20	Stanstead Abbot Ceilidh Society, The Askew Sisters see advert pg 4	7.30pm
Oct 26	St Andrews Val and Ian McFarlane with TBA + AGM	7.00pm
Oct 27	Chiltern Folk Association, Family Dance, Amersham Common Hall HP7 9JD Val and Ian McFarlane with Toucan Play see advert pg 4	2.30pm
Nov 9	Winchmore Phyllis Chapman with the Forest Band	7.30pm
Nov 17	Hertfordshire Carol Workshop, Letchworth, www.cwgq.co.uk	2.00pm
Nov 23	St Andrews, Suzanne Harper with the Forest Band	7.30pm
Nov 29	Barton Christmas Tree Festival www.cwgq.co.uk	8.00pm
Dec 7	Staplers Mark Elvins with Mollie and Ali	7.30pm
Dec 12	St Albans Abbey FDC, 90th Anniversary, UR Church, Homewood Rd, Sandpit Ln, St Albans AL1 4BH Suzanne Harper with Spring Greens 01727 834977	7.30pm
Dec 14	Winchmore, Peter Leedham with the Forest Band	7.30pm
Dec 28	St. Andrews, Anne Dunn and Anthony Oram with Harewood	7.30pm
	2020	
Jan 1	Winchmore New Year Festivities, Gillian West with the Forest Band	7.30pm
Jan 5	Herts Early Dance 12th Night Celebrations For more info see hertsearlydance.org.uk	
Jan 11	Winchmore Andrea Stodell 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.

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 - sallywoodward1@yahoo.com 01707 377987

Harrow FDC -
Mr Roy Martin: 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 Mrs Samme: tel: 01442 259578 or e-mail:
susan.samme92@gmail.com meet most term-time Fridays 8.15 - 10.15 pm

Hertford CDC - Jenny Newton:
tel. 01992 581599 or e-mail janewton39@gmail.com

Herts Early Dance - Malcolm Gibbs, tel: 01923 224152 or:
www.hertsearlydance.org.uk

Phoenix Morris - Michael Stimpson, 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 (Stevenage) Country Dance Club -
Jenny Newton. tel. 01992 581599 or e-mail janewton39@gmail.com"
www.roundabouts.org.uk

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

St Andrew's FDC - Mrs A Dunn, 020 8366 3982

HFA Affiliated Clubs & Groups (continued)

St Albans Morris - 01727 833028 or bagman@stalbansmorris.org.uk
We practise on Monday evenings October to April.
Men and women welcome as dancers or musicians.

Standon Morris - Libbybyne-grey@outlook.com Tel: 01920 460553

Staplers CDG - Denise Devonald 01462 624144 or www.staplers.org.uk
Mondays 8.00 - 10.00 p.m. St. John's Community Centre,
Hitchin SG4 9JP.

Watford FDC - Eileen 01923 233371 or Fran 01923 672341
Mondays (except August and Bank Holidays)
8 - 10pm Christ Church Hall, St Albans Road, Watford WD24 5BD

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 - 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 16).



A competition for young musicians

Review of New Roots, 7th April 2019

'It's the best concert of the year,' says Barry Goodman, introducing the New Roots finalists every April at the Trestle Arts Base, St. Albans,

and for the twenty years of the competition's life that has remained true. It's one of the biggest, too: the music begins with the first act at 11:00 a.m. and finishes at about 3:00 p.m. with an hour for lunch. This year, there were twelve acts in total (two classes: under 18s and 18-24 year-olds).

To take part, young people from all over the country send in up to fifteen minutes of recordings in all styles of traditional and contemporary folk, roots or world music. There isn't a winner: the four judges listen carefully to the music sent in, looking for quality of performance and material rather than polished recordings, and invite the best dozen or so to perform at the final concert. They perform a similar amount of music on the day. Then the judges retire to prepare comments, encouragement and suggestions to help each one develop their performance. Those who aren't chosen to perform on the day will still get helpful comments.

While the judges are out of the way, the performers take over the stage for an impromptu session of shared tunes and songs. The audience of friends, folk club organisers and families join in with this too and there's a heady atmosphere. Throughout the day the young musicians have been listening to one another as well as performing, and they have plenty of opportunity to meet, talk, begin friendships and make new connections. It's inspiring for everyone who goes along in any capacity, and rewarding for the musicians. The organisers know it must be daunting for the participants, but do their best to put the players at their ease.

The rewards are the opportunity for all finalists to perform at a selection of folk clubs and folk music festivals throughout the country: this year, eight festivals and eleven clubs. These are valuable opportunities for the young musicians to perform to audiences outside their home territory. Any new performer will know just how difficult bookings like this are to come by. New Roots has been a launch pad for many of today's established performers.

As always, the range and quality of performances this year were breathtaking. We had lively Scottish fiddle music from Arthur Coates, seasoned with Quebecois foot percussion; delicate vocal harmonies from Burdock; Finn Collinson, who gave his recorder the voice and style of traditional whistle player; Iona Lane, who took command of the stage with the high tragedy of a traditional ballad; Madeleine Morris, offering traditional songs and a compelling one of her own which combined social comment and personal passion; Megan Wisdom, enhancing two of her traditional-style songs with a charming harmonium accompaniment; Missing Richard, whose intelligent, subtle accordion danced round the fiddle's honest simplicity; Heather Ferrier, with technical and musical fireworks on the accordion; Molly Pipe, with a vocal acrobatic display in both humorous and moving songs; Nancy Potts, singing with the fiddle and playing with a solid groove; Rachel and Fiona Todd, combining fiddle and melodeon with gentle sensitivity and grace; and Sarah Stock, delivering a traditional song and one of her own with well-judged and inventive guitar accompaniment.

This year's judges were the musicians John Dipper and Anna Tabbush, Chippenham Festival organiser, sound engineer and musician Andy Stafford, and Valmai Goodyear of Lewes Saturday Folk Club in Sussex. Barry Goodman MCs the concert and helps the judges marshal their thoughts with his trusty laptop.

New Roots is the creation of Alison Macfarlane, who nurtures it with thorough, good-humoured, patient efficiency and her profound commitment to inspiring and enthusing young performers to carry on the flame of folk music.

Valmai Goodyear

Participants in performing order:

15th April 2019

Under 18

Arthur Coates

18-24

Burdock, Finn Collinson, Iona Lane, Madeleine Morris, Megan Wisdom, Missing Richard, Heather Ferrier, Molly Pipe, Nancy Potts, Rachel and Fiona Todd, and Sarah Stock.

*The final of New Roots 2020 will be on Sunday April 26 2020
For enquiries, email Alison.Macfarlane@lineone.net or ring 01727*

Jack Pudding - an interpretation by Jan Guyatt

I recently looked at dances from first edition Playford for a session at which a group of historical dancers were exploring various dances from a variety of C16th and C17th sources. I had been dancing Step Stately (a version from Sharpe) with English Miscellany to the tune of Jack Pudding. Not surprisingly, Jack Pudding, the dance caught my attention. Why did Sharpe not use this notation? Over the years this dance, seems to have generated quite a bit of discussion as to how it might best be danced. I decided to take a closer look for myself, and, as luck would have it, this dance is one of a few dances that also appears in other sources.

Colin Hulme has an extensive article on his website that proved interesting. However, it was the final note that set me up for generating my version of the dance! Thanks to Ann Hinchcliffe's comments on Colin's website, my attention was drawn to the Lovelace manuscript (thought to have been in existence before 1649), and also to references to this dance in MS Sloane 3858. Colin adds that, in 2017, he danced Andrew Swaine's version, based on Lovelace.... but does not say what it was. Andrew's excellent website offers, amongst other things, his transcription of the Sloane manuscript and his version of Jack Pudding. John Sweeney has also written a version of the dance on his website. Carol Marsh's eloquent article on the Lovelace manuscript offers her transcription and a comparison with Playford. (My sources are listed at the end.)

Below is my interpretation based on a comparison of Playford, Sloane and chiefly Lovelace. It is different from all the other versions that I have seen. It seemed to work well when we developed it and ironed out a few hitches. The main difference is that I have kept closely to the Lovelace triangular formation. I hope you give it a try and enjoy dancing it.

References:

1. Colin Hulme's website: <https://colinhume.com/instr.htm#JackPudding>
2. John Sweeney's website offering a transcription of *Lovelace*: <http://contrafusion.co.uk/lovelace.htm#JackPudding>
3. Facsimile of the Lovelace m.s. on the SCA website: http://www.wiglaf.org/~aaronm/scadance/MSEng1356/tn/MSEng1356_page40.jpg.html
4. Andrew Swaine's website offering a transcription of *Sloane manuscript* as well as a facsimile of the original: <https://andrewswaine.uk/articles/sloane-transcript>
5. Carol G. Marsh "The Lovelace Manuscript – A Preliminary Study" : fagisis.zeddele.de/morgenroete-pdfs/Marsh_.pdf
6. Playford's English Dancing Master 1651 – A Facsimile Reprint with an Introduction. Bibliography and Notes by Margaret Dean-Smith F.S.A. , Schott & Co Ltd. London 1957.

Jack Pudding

Formation: 3 couples in a shallow triangle of dancers all facing up (initially) with the 3rd couple behind and between the 1st (left) and 2nd (right).

↑ 1M1W 2M2W
3M3W

Music: As per Playford, 1651.

A1 All up a double and back

A2 Repeat [or, as per Playford, 3's go up and up, then lead down and down]

B1 3's separate and go up outside the other two couples (who may raise their joined hands). 3M goes under the arch made by 1M&W and 3W goes under the arch made by 2M&W. They return to place having made a heart-shape. 1M and 2M courtesy turn their ladies - putting them on their right so these two couples face each other ready for ... *

B2 1s and 2s circle left and right, whilst 3s make a 2-hand turn left and right in place. All finish facing into the centre of a circle of 6 - men with partners on their right.

A1&2 Siding R&L with partners

B1 Men fall back and come forward to make a circle holding hands and raise arms to make arches. Then each W goes anticlockwise around her own partner and all go back to place.

B2 As B1 but with Women making the circle of arches and the men going clockwise around their partners.

A1&2 Arming R&L with partners

B1 3M leads 3W between the 1s and 2s (up the middle) and then to the left (wheeling her around 'above' him) and they go between the 1M & 1W (3M in the lead) and then circle clockwise once round, leaving 3s to move in the position where 1s started the dance.

B2 1M leads 1W on and under the arch made by 2s. These 4 circle clockwise once round and the 1s finish in 2s original position whilst the 2s lead on to finish in 3s original position.

Couples should be on the proper side and facing up ready to restart the dance.

The whole dance can now be repeated twice from progressed places.

* An alternative in Fig1: The second time all fall back the top two couples can face each other (men with partners on right) then the 3s separate and go up the outside to the top and back down the middle of the set (ie 'between them'.)

Jan Guyatt

Visit of Les Mélusines to English Miscellany 5-8th July

It was sheer chance that a member mentioned that Knebworth was twinned with Chatelaillon-Plage and that the twin town had a folk dance group. Some investigations were done and the group contacted. So began our newest chance to make friends in the folk dance world.

Les Mélusines arrived on the Friday evening, tired and weary because both flights and trains had been delayed. After some food and a glass of something sustaining they were whisked off by their hosts for a well-deserved sleep.

Early on Saturday morning we all met in Harpenden Town Centre where we took turns to dance. In addition to a melodeon the group also featured bagpipes and a hurdy-gurdy, a bit different to the average folk dance group. Of course the session finished by everyone being invited to join the French in a circle dance. Both groups then rushed off to the Kimpton Folk Festival where we settled in with Pimms and beer to watch the other entertainments before taking the stage (well, the grass) ourselves. EM did Cotswold Morris, North West Morris and English Country dance before the French showed their stuff which was enthusiastically received. After a lunch kindly provided by the Festival organisers Les Mélusines ran a workshop in the village school. Probably as a result of their reception in the morning, the workshop was well attended and was pronounced 'brilliant'.

The day ended with a dinner and social dancing at Redbourn Village Hall. Gifts were exchanged, EM presenting Les Mélusines with a carved Green Man and in return receiving many French goodies including a bottle of cognac from their region.

Sunday was a first for EM when we attended the Medieval Festival at Royston. Instead of EM's usual costumes we were all dressed in medieval dress kindly lent to us by Herts Early Dance group who were also at the Festival to demonstrate early dance. In addition to our usual mix of dance styles EM also performed a Mummers Play of Robin Hood's Marriage. This gathered a very large audience and some children joined in to help pull the bad tooth from Friar Tuck's ass. Once again the French performed with gusto and enjoyment despite one member losing the sole of his clog mid dance.

Having changed into more normal clothes both groups headed off to Knebworth. After a tour of the gardens at Knebworth House, we were entertained at a reception at the Village Hall by the Twin Town organisers. Once again there was communal singing and dancing. The evening ended with Les Mélusines singing a riotous song wishing EM immortality which was accompanied by much swaying and stamping of feet.

It was a sad group that met on Monday morning to say goodbye to our new friends with hopes that there would be a return visit next year.

Eileen Heylin



Music for Herts Early Dance is provided by The Presence, here playing at Royston Pageant



Herts Early Dance and The Presence lead members of HED, English Miscellany, Les Mélusines and the public.



Herts Early Dance performing Pinagay



A Medieval "Picnic"



Les Mélusines dancing at Kimpton



Medieval Miscellany



Les Mélusines musicians



E M Cotswold at Kimpton



Les Mélusines performing a French stick dance

Dancing out in the Summer Sunshine: Herts Early Dance at Royston Pageant

Herts Early Dance second trip out this summer (after Ashwell at Home 2019) was to the inaugural Royston Historical Pageant on July 7th, celebrating medieval life in 1470 when Edward IV stopped in the town overnight on his way to the Battle of Losecote Field, during the Wars of the Roses.

The day was begun with a procession from the town's historic Roysia stone (of which many tales and legends abound) by all the participants in the pageant: dancers and their musicians, archers and bowmen, jousting groups, jugglers and stilt walkers, bands of re-enactors from Les Corcheurs and of course the Town's Mayor.

It came alight with the dancing by Herts Early Dance of the Long Dance or Farandole, one of our earliest known circle dances with simple but interesting figures in which they were soon joined by members of the public, French dancers and those of another local group, English Miscellany.

I should mention perhaps that English Miscellany were also at the pageant with their French dance group guests from near La Rochelle called Les Mélusines.

I mention this because several Herts Early Dance members also dance with English Miscellany and when they invited their French friends to visit England, this was the chosen weekend. To avoid yet more costume changes and as this was after all a medieval pageant – all were dressed in medieval costume, except Les Mélusines who naturally sported their local dress.

By this point Les Mélusines musicians (whose instruments included hurdy-gurdy and bagpipes) and those of English Miscellany had joined in playing with HED's The Presence, seemingly without a break in performance and quite without a rehearsal.

Herts Early Dance's programme continued with our 15th century programme of dances: lots of early circle dances (branles), some Almain (from Germany) and dances variously from the Italian dancing masters, the English Gresley manuscript, from the Inns of Court and from the Brussels manuscript. Performances were punctuated by our traditional end of season picnic - in the style of 1470, of course.

A warm and sunny summer day, the event swarming with large numbers of families, all ages represented, enjoying and showing interest in all they saw and heard, and undoubtedly having a very good day out.

To the people of Royston, WELL DONE for joining in with such gusto!

Helen Stamp

Hitchin Folk Club

Programme 2019

Admission £12 members, £14 non members, check web site for ticket availability
Doors open 7.30pm. Concert starts 8.15pm.

September

- 8th Sam Carter plus Odette Michell
- 15th Martin Simpson
- 22nd Melrose Quartet with support sets
from Nancy Kerr & James Fagan
- 29th Sam Kelly & Jamie Francis

October

- 6th Christine Collister & Michael Fix
- 13th Chris While & Julie Matthews
- 20th Clive Gregson
- 27th Edgelarks

November

- 3rd Wild Willy Barrett's Roaring Touring
- 10th Gigspanner
- 17th Daoiri Farrell
- 24th Martyn Joseph and Jess
& Richard Arrowsmith

(Tickets members £14, non-members £16)

December

- 1st John Tams & Barry Coope
- 8th Megson
- 15th St. Agnes Fountain

(Tickets: members £16, non-members £18.
Available to members only until Sept 8th.)

- 2nd Albion Christmas

(Tickets members £16, non-members £18)

For more info. Contact :

Tel: 01462 812391 or e-mail: goodmusic@hitchinfoikclub.co.uk

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www.fridayfolk.org.uk – 01727 856508
Standard Friday admission £4

Autumn 2019

- 6 Sep Paul Garner and Spring Greens
- 13 Sep Adrian Burrows and FF Band
- 20 Sep Anna Park
- 27 Sep Club callers and AGM
- 4 Oct Ivan Aitken
- 11 Oct Bob Lilley

40th Anniversary Celebrations

- 18 Oct Fri: Mike Bennett and FF Band
- 19 Oct Sat: Mark Elvins and Double
Dichotomy. Venue TBA.

- 25 Oct Denise Devonald
- 1 Nov Brenda Godrich, Spring Greens
- 8 Nov Frances Oates
- 15 Nov Bob Barrett
- 22 Nov Suzanne Farmer and FF Band
- 29 Nov David and Rebecca Capron
- 6 Dec Colin Hume and FF Band
- 13 Dec Party Night with Wendy Harrup,
Mollie and Ali
- 20 Dec Carol Singing around St Albans

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Melodeon players at

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