

The Hertfordshire Playford Day

Saturday 17th November 2018

Beaumont School, St Albans

What is the Hertfordshire Folk Association, and what does it do?

The object of the Association is to:

- Support and/or initiate all forms of folk activity in Hertfordshire.
- Encourage the initiation of such activities by others.
- To act as a liaison point for all forms of folk activity in Hertfordshire.

It publishes a magazine called "Puddingstone" three times a year, runs workshops, and provides financial support to other folk activities in the county. It also maintains "Diary Dates", which is a list of dances that are being run by the affiliated clubs (and others).

Membership costs £2 per year for an individual, £3 per year for a household, and £10 per year for a group or club.

For further information about the Hertfordshire Folk Association, you can E-mail: info@hertsfolkassn.org.uk, or look at our website:-

<http://www.hertsfolkassn.org.uk>

The committee needs extra members if we are to run other events like this - please volunteer!

Version dated 12/7/18.

For queries email Roger Swaine – roger.swaine1@btinternet.com

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 of Playford's books, 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.

Thanks to a gift to the HFA, we're going to have a day to introduce dancers and musicians 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 three different, expert tutors – Anne Daye, Andrew Swaine & John Dipper.

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.

Andrew Swaine is a lifelong folk dancer, caller and musician. 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. His goal is to rediscover what originally made these dances fun, by an unpretentious approach backed up with extensive research.

John Dipper (violin, concertina) is an internationally renowned musician, composer and teacher, with a deep knowledge of Playford music, and he will be leading a parallel workshop for musicians, working with them on the same dances as Anne & Andrew. The musicians will then play for the evening dance that culminates the day.

Plan of the Day

	Main Hall	Studio
From 9:30	Reception & registration	
10.00 to 13.00	Dancers - workshop with Anne Daye	Musicians - workshop with John Dipper
13:00 to 14:00	lunch	
14:00 to 17:00	Dancers - Workshop with Andrew Swaine	Musicians - workshop with John Dipper
17:00 to 18:00	buffet supper	
18:00 to 21:00	Dancing to the musicians!	

Children are welcome, but **must** be accompanied by a responsible (paying) adult.

We'll provide tea, coffee, sugar, milk, & hot water, but please bring your **own lunch**. We'll provide a simple buffet supper to eat at tea-time. (Vegetarian option available, but please let us know about other special dietary requirements). Please also bring your own tea/coffee mug so that we don't have to throw away too many plastic cups.

Musicians will need to be able to play at dancing speed, and also need to be able to read music – the notation will be sent out in advance (by email) so you can practice beforehand. You will be playing for the evening dance! Most acoustic instruments should be OK, but note that if your instrument only plays in a couple of keys, you may not be able to play all the tunes. Please also note that the school does **not** allow any food or drink inside the studio (where the musicians will be practicing) except water in a closable bottle – so you may want to bring a water-bottle!

No smoking is allowed on the site.

There is ample parking at the school. Maps will be sent out with the tickets – probably in September when the current building works at the school have been completed.

Application Form

(1 per person - Please copy if necessary)

First or preferred name:.....

Surname:.....

Email address:.....

Postal Address.....

.....

.....

Telephone number(s).....

Dancer or musician? (please circle your choice)

If musician, what instrument?.....

If child, name of responsible adult.....

Special diet details.....

Costs: adult dancer - £20 Child dancer £10

adult musician - £10 Child musician £5

(If you want to attend the evening dance only, just turn up and pay £5 at the door, but you won't get fed. Space permitting...)

Please send the completed form, with cheque (payable to "Hertfordshire Folk Association") and a stamped self-addressed envelope to:-

Roger Swaine (HPD)
29, Turmore Dale
Welwyn Garden City
AL8 6HT

Applications to arrive by Saturday 3rd November, please!