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Issue 49

Spring 2011
January - April
HERTFORDSHIRE FOLK ASSOCIATION
Key contacts (see further details on middle pages)

Chairman: Miss Hilary Vare
31 Firs Lane, London, N21 2HT
Tel: 0208 360 6846

Membership secretary: Nic Nicolson
6 Blackthorn Close, St Albans, AL4 9RP
Tel: 01727 854183

Hon Treasurer: Mr Roger Swaine
29 Turmore Dale, Welwyn Garden City, AL8 6HT
Tel: 01707 324413

Correspondence & diary dates to: Mr Terry Elvins
32 Templewood, Welwyn Garden City, AL8 7HX
Tel: 01707 320299

COPY DATE
for Summer Issue (May - Aug 2011)
1st April

LOCUM PUDDINGSTONE EDITOR
Brenda Brookes
ditor@hertsfolkassn.org.uk

Please continue to send correspondence to:
Mr Adrian Burrows, 1 Leyland Ave,
St.Albans, Herts. AL1 2BD

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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 may be accepted on receipt.

If you would like an advert/article/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)

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For up to date information on all our activities please visit our web site at: www.hertsfolkassn.org.uk
Editorial

Well, this is my first, and very probably my last, issue of Puddingstone as locum editor. As some of you may already be aware your newly appointed editor, Adrian Burrows, has been rather unwell recently, necessitating a short spell in hospital. However, by the time this issue is published Adrian should have had his surgery and is hopefully convalescing at home and regaining his strength. I am sure you will all join me in wishing him a speedy recovery and in welcoming him back to the editorial office in the near future!

I know that Adrian is very keen to involve more young people in folk activities and in contributing to the magazine, so please don’t miss the excellent article by a 16 year old member of Young Miscellany reporting on their trip to Germany (p.18), - or the comments on their first overseas folk dancing experience by some other members of the group!

Continuing in a similar vein - if you are involved with local schools or in contact with primary school teachers please make them aware of the HFA teacher’s folk dance workshop on Saturday February 5th (p.11). Folk dance has links with many other subjects in the curriculum, as the article by Tradamis (p.17) points out, but most of all it is terrific exercise and great fun. It would be really wonderful to have even more children taking part in the summer festival at Hatfield House on July 2nd this year. See the HFA website for full details.

It just remains for me to say that I hope you get as much enjoyment from reading this issue of Puddingstone as I have had in compiling it.

Brenda Brookes

Reminder: If you or your club/group have not already renewed your membership of the HFA - (or joined!!), now is the ideal time to do so - the application form is on page 11. If you are already a member please pass on the application form to a friend or print off a few copies from the website - www.hertsfolkassn.org.uk to distribute at your next meeting or event - thanks for your support!

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What's in a name?

Have you ever wondered how this magazine got its name?

Puddingstone, as you may know, is a naturally-formed pebble conglomerate, a bit like cement, which occurs in Hertfordshire. It takes its name from the resemblance of the flints to plums in a pudding. It is often found in river beds and with Hertford being home to four rivers it is not surprising that the county town has more than its fair share. It has a place in local folklore and superstition and it was believed to have strange powers including being effective against witchcraft; growing in fields and breeding!

Some stones, known as Hagstones, or witch stones, were used to ward off evil and a parish record in Aldenham of 1662 shows that a suspected witch was buried with a piece on top of her coffin to prevent her escaping after death! Other stones, known as Breeding stones were believed to have given birth to pebbles while others, known as Growing stones, seemed to appear in fields from nowhere and farmers suspected that they grew in the ground!

When I edited this magazine over 25 years ago I had just moved to Hertford and found pieces of the stone in the car park in St Andrew Street embedded in the wall of Weir Cottage. There is also a large piece in the grounds of Hertford Castle and the recently refurbished Hertford Museum features it around the doorways leading from the Jacobean-style Knot Garden. There is also a piece in the garden itself.

Other pieces in public places in East Herts include Brent Pelham; Furneux Pelham; Much Hadham; Little Hadham; Standon and Ware Museum.

But how did the magazine get its name? Well, the first editor of Puddingstone, who lived in St Albans, had a piece of it in his back garden! So keep your eyes open for these strange and interesting stones.

Pauline Rhodes

With thanks to Hertford Museum and East Herts Geology Club
Spring Sing 2011

Saturday 19th March
12 noon - 7pm

All welcome at the

BROXBOURNE SPORTS CLUB
Mill Lane Close, Broxbourne,
Hertfordshire, EN10 7BA
(food available from the bar)

ADMISSION £5

for further information please:
call John Grey 01920 460553
e-mail springsing@folkmusic.org.uk
or see our website www.hertsfolkassn.org.uk
Festivals, folk and food

For many years now, the title encapsulates all that has kept me busy and has been a focus of my activities. I have learnt a lot about some of the lesser known church festivals and the folk customs that at one time were commonly associated with them. I soon found that specific food dishes were also associated with the festivals which I have always enjoyed making. I am no expert; I aim to share with the reader a little of what I now know. You may have local additions to add and voice in letters to the editor.  

Jenny Lane

February 2nd is known as Candlemas Day, the feast of the Purification of the Virgin Mary. The church also remembers Christ being presented in the temple, when Simeon said that ‘Christ would be a light to lighten the world’. Up to the reformation, candles were blessed in church and carried in procession to be placed in the windows of both the church and people’s homes. February 2nd was chosen initially as it coincided with the ancient Celtic feast of Imbolc at the start of the lambing season. Fires and lights were placed in the fields, watched over by the Celtic goddess of youth and fertility; Bride. In later years Bride was renamed St Brigid, the Virgin Mary of the Celts, a popular patron saint in the North and Scotland.

*If Candlemas day be fair and bright,  
winter will take another flight.*

*If Candlemas day be cloud and rain,  
Winter is gone and will not come again.* (trad)

Customs linked with this festival include St Brigit’s eve supper of tea and Boxty. Set in a newly spring cleaned room, with the best crockery being used, a straw St Brigit, either a corn dolly or a simple sheaf of straw draped in a shawl, would be entertained to tea. The main dish of the meal was Boxty, an Irish potato cake.
Boxty Recipe

50 g (2oz) of fat - bacon fat or cooking oil,
225g (8oz) plain flour and ½ teaspoon bicarbonate of soda
225g (8oz) boiled mashed potato
50g (2oz) grated mature cheddar cheese
50ml (2 fl oz) buttermilk
1 tablespoon chopped parsley, salt and pepper

Melt the fat and stir in the flour and soda. Remove from the heat and add the potato and cheese and mix well. Then add the buttermilk, parsley and seasonings and stir to make soft dough. Roll out on a floured board to 1cm /1/2” thick and cut into 7.5 cm / 3” rounds. Cook on a griddle or greased baking sheet for 15 minutes. Serve split open with plenty of butter.

There are many rhymes about Boxty, which may provide the link between the dish and the origins with the goddess of fertility and youth. Does anyone know more on this?

Boxty on the griddle, Boxty on the pan, If you don’t eat Boxty, You’ll never get a man.

Note from the editor: Jenny’s article got me interested and I did a bit of my own research. The date of February 2nd places the Candlemas celebration forty days after Christmas and continues the religious cycle that leads up to Easter Sunday. Additionally, it is also the mid-point between the Winter Solstice and the Spring Equinox, which is the basis for various ancient European celebrations that commemorate the annual beginnings of the agricultural season.

London Barndance

Saturday 8th January 8 p.m.
  Rhodri Davies
  Notorious (USA)
Saturday 12th February 8 p.m.
  Adam Hughes
  Corporate Fiddle
Saturday 12th March 8 p.m.
  John Meechan
  Vertical Expression
Saturday 9th April 8 p.m.
  Lynne Render
  Kelly’s Eye

Tickets: £10 (EFDSS £9, LBC & concs £8)
www.barndance.org

All dances are held at
Cecil Sharp House
2 Regents Park Road
London NW1 7AY

Further details from
Andrew and Jane:
01628 633962
home@barndance.org
The Leigh Folk Festival is reckoned to be the largest free folk festival in the country. This compilation CD features some of the acts that appeared at last year’s event, and we are told that the mix on the album reflects that of the festival itself - traditional and alternative folk plus a bit of “world” music and experimental sounds. But all of it is what you might call “proper” folk (in contrast to some of the fare served up by certain “folk” festivals, which maybe get a bit too carried away with Big Bill Broonzy’s famous line: “I guess all songs is folk songs. I never heard no horse sing ’em”).

The title of the CD is intended to reflect some of the dark themes that emerge from the collection. The emphasis is on traditional songs, with a decent smattering of recently-penned numbers; a couple are a capella and several involve voice plus guitar and little if anything else. But actually there is a rich variety of styles here, which works very well. For example, there are three overseas offerings, which we felt was just about right to add a bit of extra interest without too much risk of alienating those who prefer their folk home-grown.

Unsurprisingly, different people in our household had different personal favourites—Spring Strathspey by The Owl Service; The Cutty Wren by Corncrow; Sawbones by The Afterrabbit; The Bonnie Banks of the Airdrie by Alisdair Roberts with Pekko Käppi & Chorus (Käppi plays the jouhikko, a Finnish bowed lyre), whereas for each of us there were two or three tracks we didn’t greatly care for. But we all agreed that overall this was a very decent album indeed. All the tracks have been donated by the artists in support of the festival, some of them quite big names - including Megson and Jackie Oates, to name just two in addition to those already mentioned. The majority of the tracks are unreleased exclusive recordings.

The CD costs a mere £5, or £6.50 including P&P from:- www.leighfolkfestival.com/shop.html (where you can also get hold of the equivalent 2009 and 2008 compilations).

All the profits go to support the running of the event, which is entirely organised by volunteers.

Review by the Lyne family:
(Godfrey, Karon, Naomi and Nathan)
Forthcoming Festivals

Brighten up the cold, dark days of winter by planning an escape to one of the many festivals that are being held at this time of the year. If you visit a festival for the first time, as a performer or a punter, or have a favourite event that you just can’t miss, we would like to hear from you! Write a short article to tell us all about it - if you take the children along why not get them to give their views too?

**Whittlesea Straw Bear** (14-16th January) Nearly 40 different sides performing during the day on Saturday - including some Hertfordshire teams! (You know who you are so let’s have a write-up!). [www.strawbear.org.uk](http://www.strawbear.org.uk)

**Cheltenham Folk Festival** (11-13th February) An impressive line-up of performers with something for everyone, including the last festival appearance by the Yetties, before their retirement. [www.cheltenhamfolkfestival.co.uk](http://www.cheltenhamfolkfestival.co.uk)

**Intervarsity Folk Dance Festival** (25-27th February) This, the 60th year of the festival, will be based in Bristol. Aimed mainly at students, but all welcome if you feel you can keep up! Some excellent ceilidh bands are appearing and extensive Morris tours on Saturday. [www.ivfdf2011.org](http://www.ivfdf2011.org)

**Bournemouth Folk Festival** (12th March) This new one day festival arose from the local folk club, so it deserves your support. [www.bournemouthfolkfestival.co.uk](http://www.bournemouthfolkfestival.co.uk)

**Barnsley Acoustic Roots Festival** (1-3rd April) Some big names on the bill as well as promotion of young local folk talent. [www.barnsleyacoustic.co.uk](http://www.barnsleyacoustic.co.uk)
Way of the Morris

This is a new documentary film by actor Tim Plester. He grew up in Adderbury, Oxfordshire and his father was a founder member of the Adderbury Village Morris Men. The film explores the significance of the Morris not only as a ritual dance form but also as an essential part of village and community life. It also charts Tim’s personal relationship with the Morris - he spent most of his life trying to avoid it, but is gradually drawn in until he finally steps in to his father’s shoes. In common with many similar sides, few members of the Adderbury Village Morris Men returned home from the First World War and it was not until 1975 that the side was revived. This is a powerful and perceptive story that is also a personal journey. If you want to see the film you will have to wait a little while. It will be shown at International film festivals in spring and will have a limited distribution later in 2011. For further details see: www.wayofthemorris.com

Winchmore Folk Dance Club

St. Paul’s Centre
102 Church St. Enfield  EN2 6AR
Entrance from car park at rear
The Forest Band
Membership £7.00 + £4.00 per Dance Guests £6.00 per Dance

Callers for 2011
Jan 1 Anglo Scottish Arnold Stem
and Andrew Kellet
Jan 8 Cyril Jones
Feb 12 Mary Bryan

New Venue from March 2011
Trinity Church, Church St. EN2 6AN
Mar 12 Dick & Maggie Hosking
Apr 9 Sheila Sturgess
7.30 – 10.30
Info: John Wood 020 8926 7293

Special celebration!

Winchmore Folk Dance Club are pleased to announce that the dance on the 8th January is for the 94th birthday of their president Cyril Jones, who will be calling with the Forest Band.

Cyril has generously offered to pay for the evening dance for anyone attending, who pays £7 to become an Annual Club member for the first time, instead of £6 as a visitor for one dance only.

Please bring a plate of food to share.

We wish everyone a great evening!
**HERTFORDSHIRE FOLK ASSOCIATION COMMITTEE**
Elected Members & Officers as from November 2010

Chairman: **Miss Hilary Vare**  hilaryvare@yahoo.com  Tel: 02083 606846
Hon Treasurer: **Mr Roger Swaine**  roger.swaine1@btinternet.com  Tel: 01707 324413
Correspondence & diary dates: **Mr Terry Elvins**  mail@ptelvins.plus.com  Tel: 01707 320299
Membership secretary: **Mr Nic Nicolson**  nic.jackie@btinternet.com  Tel: 01727 854183
Puddingstone Ed. **Mr Adrian Burrows**  editor@hertsfolkassn.org.uk  Tel:01727 866086
Elected Member: **Mrs Libby Byne-Grey**  l.byne-grey@herts.ac.uk  Tel: 01920 460553
Elected Member **Mr John Grey**  l.byne-grey@herts.ac.uk  Tel. 01920 460553
Elected Member **Vacancy**
Co-opted Member **Brenda Brookes**  editor@hertsfolkassn.org.uk  Tel. 01582 629732

**Representative of Affiliated Clubs:** Norman Dobbing (English Miscellany)

**Open invitation** - there is a vacancy on the committee at present - if anyone would like to take a more active role in shaping folk activities in Hertfordshire please contact any of the members listed above. Don’t forget that 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.

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**Hertfordshire Folk Association**

**SUMMER FOLK DANCE FESTIVAL**

Hatfield House Hertfordshire

This year’s Children’s Summer Folk Dance Festival takes place on:

**Saturday 2nd July 2011**

Teacher’s Folk Dance Workshop on **Saturday 5th February** at Green Lanes School Hatfield. Teachers new to folk dance are especially welcome. For full details and application form see: www.hertsfolkassn.org.uk
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Details</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Jan 1</td>
<td>Winchmore, St Paul's Centre, 102 Church St, Enfield, EN2 6AR.</td>
<td>Andrew Kellett &amp; Arnold Stem with The Forest Band - 0208 926 7293 7.30pm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jan 8</td>
<td>London Barndance, Cecil Sharp House, 2 Regents Park Rd, London, NW1 7AY.</td>
<td>Rhodri Davies with Notorious - 01628 633962 <a href="http://www.barndance.org">www.barndance.org</a> 8.00pm</td>
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<tr>
<td>Jan 8</td>
<td>Winchmore</td>
<td>Cyril Jones with The Forest Band - 0208 926 7293 7.30pm</td>
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<tr>
<td>Jan 22</td>
<td>St Andrews, Trinity Church Hall, Church Street, Enfield, EN2 6AN.</td>
<td>Val &amp; Ian McFarlane with Toucan Play - 0208 366 3982 7.30pm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jan 23</td>
<td>Staplers, Running Set Workshop, St Ippolyts Parish Hall, Waterdell Lane, St Ippolyts, Nr Hitchin, SG4 7RB.</td>
<td>Hugh Stewart &amp; Musicians – 01582 881966 2.00pm to 5.00pm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Feb 5</td>
<td>English Miscellany Barn Dance, Harpenden Public Halls, AL5 1TE.</td>
<td>Andrew Swaine with Climax Ceilidh Band – 01582 764084 8.00pm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Feb 5</td>
<td>Staplers, St Ippolyts Parish Hall, Waterdell Lane, St Ippolyts, Nr Hitchin, SG4 7RB.</td>
<td>Lynne Render with The Ivel Valley Band - 01582 881966 <a href="http://www.staplers.org.uk">www.staplers.org.uk</a> 7.30pm</td>
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<tr>
<td>Feb 12</td>
<td>London Barndance, Adam Hughes with Corporate Fiddle</td>
<td>8.00pm</td>
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<tr>
<td>Feb 12</td>
<td>Winchmore</td>
<td>Mary Bryan with The Forest Band – 0208 9267293 7.30pm</td>
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<tr>
<td>Feb 26</td>
<td>St Andrews, Cyril Jones &amp; Anne Dunn with The Forest Band</td>
<td>7.30pm</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mar 5</td>
<td>Welwyn Garden City, Welwyn Civic Centre, Prospect Place, Welwyn, AL6 9ER.</td>
<td>Geoff Cubitt with The Forest Band - 01707 320299 <a href="mailto:mail@ptelvins.plus.com">mail@ptelvins.plus.com</a> 7.30pm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mar 12</td>
<td>London Barndance, John Meechan with Vertical Expression</td>
<td>8.00pm</td>
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<tr>
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<td>Winchmore, NEW VENUE, Trinity Church Hall, Church Street, Enfield, EN2 6AN.</td>
<td>Dick &amp; Maggie Hosking with The Forest Band - 0208 926 7293 7.30pm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mar 19</td>
<td>Harrow, 41st Anniversary Dance, Shaftesbury High School, Headstone Lane, Harrow Weald, HA3 6NP.</td>
<td>Rosemary Hunt with Orion’s Ring – 0208 868 7526 7.30pm</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Hertfordshire Folk Association
Membership Application Form

Annual fees:
(Annual membership includes three issues of Puddingstone)
Individual £2
Household £3
Group/Club £10

To have Puddingstone delivered to your door, please add £1 to your annual fees

Club/group (if applicable):

Name/s:

Address (inc. postcode):

Tel:

Email 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 (£1 for the year)  

(please tick box)

and enclose a cheque payable to the Hertfordshire Folk Association

Please return completed form to:
HFA Membership Secretary, 6 Blackthorn Close, St Albans, AL4 9RP
HFA Affiliated Clubs & Groups

Please notify any further corrections or updates to Nic Nicolson, Membership Secretary by emailing nic.jackie@btinternet.com or phoning 01727 854183.

Croxley Green FDC - J.W. Rowe, 109 Winton Drive, Croxley Green, WD3 3QS
Danse Herts - Ashleigh Milner 10 Swinburne Ave, Hitchin, SG5 2RG
English Miscellany - Mr R Swaine, 29 Turmore Dale, Welwyn Garden City, AL8 6HT
Fleetville FDG - Mrs B Howlett, 39 Westfields, St. Albans AL3 4LR
Friday Folk - Mrs Gill Tibbs, 35 Gloucester Road, Enfield, EN2 0HA
Harrow FDC - Mr Roy Martin, 57 Waverley Road, Rayners Lane, Harrow, HA2 9RG
Hemel Hempstead FDC - Mrs Samme, 18 Crawley Drive, Hemel Hempstead, HP2 6BX
Hertford CDG - Mrs J Newton, 15 Station Road, Digsowell, Welwyn, AL6 0DU
North London Folk - Vivien Mallindale, 40 Summerlee Ave, London, N2 9QP
Offley Morris - Dr P. Burton, 1 The Lodge, Holwell Bury, Hitchin, SG5 3RZ
Rainmakers International FDC - Mark Balaam, 133 Arlesey Road, Ickleford, SG5 3TH
Roundabouters CDC - Mrs S Welch, 510 Archer Road, Stevenage, SG1 5QL
St Albans Abbey FDC - Mrs B Houghton, 90 Borough Way, Potters Bar, EN6 8HD
St Albans Morris Men - Mr B Bending, 4 Abbey View Road, St Albans, AL3 4QL
St Andrew's Folk Dancers - Mrs A Dunn, 3 Conway Gardens, Enfield, EN2 9AD
Staplers CDC - Miss C A Mills, 73 Hexton Road, Barton-le-Clay, MK45 4JZ
Tappalachian - Angela Williams, 47 Vivian Gardens, Watford, WD19 4PG

The 31 Club Broxbourne U3A - Colin & Liz Elve, 97 Silverfield, Broxbourne EN10 6PA
Watford FDC - Eileen Fudge, 30 Beechpark Way, Watford WD17 3TY
Welwyn Garden City FDC - Mr T Elvins, 32 Templewood, Welwyn Garden City, AL8 7HX
Winchmore FDC - Carol Rensch, 41 Lincoln Crescent, Enfield, EN1 1JZ
Woodside Morris Men - Tim Rabjohn, 3 Walton Street, St. Albans, AL1 4DQ
Young Miscellany - Lynda Swaine, 29 Turmore Dale, Welwyn Garden City, AL8 6HT

Affiliated clubs and groups are welcome to send a representative to HFA committee meetings - please ask for details!
From 7:45 to 10:00 pm at the Methodist Church Hall, Marlborough Road, St Albans, AL1 3XG. www.fridayfolk.org.uk – 01727 856508 Standard Friday admission £3

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.

Spring 2011

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<td>7 Jan</td>
<td>Paul Garner</td>
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<td>14 Jan</td>
<td>Colin Hume &amp; Friday Folk Band</td>
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<td>21 Jan</td>
<td>Barry Goodman</td>
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<td>28 Jan</td>
<td>North West Morris with English Miscellany</td>
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<td>4 Feb</td>
<td>Mark Elvins &amp; Friday Folk Band</td>
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<td>11 Feb</td>
<td>Bill Thorne</td>
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<td>18 Feb</td>
<td>Dance around Europe with Mike Ruff</td>
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<td>25 Feb</td>
<td>Suzanne Farmer &amp; The Turnabouts</td>
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<td>4 Mar</td>
<td>Mike Bennett &amp; Spring Greens</td>
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<td>11 Mar</td>
<td>Brenda Godrich &amp; Friday Folk Band</td>
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<td>18 Mar</td>
<td>Bob Barrett</td>
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<td>25 Mar</td>
<td>Bob Lilley</td>
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<td>1 Apr</td>
<td>Club Callers</td>
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<td>8 Apr</td>
<td>Wendy Harrup &amp; Friday Folk Band</td>
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<td>15 Apr</td>
<td>Sue Magee</td>
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<td>Easter Break</td>
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<td>29 Apr</td>
<td>Summer term begins</td>
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CD Review

O’er lang at the fair - Rob Say

A collection of 16 tracks of tunes from the North East of England, played on English Concertina and Northumbrian Small-Pipes. There are about 30 tunes in all with almost half being traditional and the rest by various named composers who write in the traditional style. Some of the tunes are accompanied by Will Chamberlain on piano and a few of the pipe tunes are duets with Andy May, another champion piper, like Rob himself.

Rob originally came from Norfolk but moved to the North East when he was ten and it was there he started to learn the concertina, and then the pipes. Since then he has not looked back and, as this CD shows, he continues to play great tunes on both instruments. The tunes range from slow airs, via marches, to jigs and hornpipes, with the odd schottische, waltz and polka thrown in for good measure. This varied mix means that there is plenty to entertain the general listener as well as the concertina or small-pipes specialist. My only regret is that I didn’t get to hear him live at this year’s Traditional Music Day at Stowmarket – he had sadly forgotten to pack his instruments!!

Available from: Veteran, (VT 157 CD) P.O. Box 193, Stowmarket, Suffolk IP14 3WZ

See: www.veteran.co.uk

John Grey
There’s a lot of traditional music and dance about – but only if you know where to find it, or indeed know that you might want to find it. How can we introduce people to the great traditions of these islands, and get them participating rather than just sitting in front of the TV?

It’s almost ten years ago now that a group of folk dance and music practitioners banded together to form TRADAMIS, to take traditions into schools and show children what fun can be had from dance and song. The acronym stands for ‘Traditional Dance and Music in Schools’, and that’s what has been delivered over these years, giving children (and their teachers) a great time and some physical exercise as well as teaching them coordination and teamwork, and showing them some of the glorious heritage neglected (or completely misrepresented) by the majority of modern entertainment media.

In recent years, the group’s activities have expanded to cover many different periods of history from medieval to 20th century (it is history, you know!), and we
put together a varied and dynamic package of workshops inspired by the Trafalgar Bicentenary celebrations. We provide workshops for museums and other heritage venues, enriching the visitors’ experiences with a vivid taste of past times, and festivals have benefited from the practitioners’ workshops and concerts, reaching out beyond the festival grounds to draw in schools, youth groups and care homes.

The personnel of Tradamis has also expanded, giving more variety in repertoire and a greater geographical spread. The team’s director, no doubt known to many Puddingstone readers, is Hertfordshire resident Mike Ruff, and currently there are another 10 members of the team with a wide range of expertise and experience. Training Days allow practitioners to share skills, and an accreditation scheme is being introduced for those who want to work professionally in this field.

We have been working recently in Puddingstone’s area, including Broxbourne, Watford, St Albans and Dunstable, but also as far afield as Somerset, Cheshire and Morpeth in Northumberland. Highlights of 2010 have included running workshops connected with the Mexico Exhibition at the British Museum and working at the Geffrye Museum in East London, and many of you will have seen us at Chippenham Folk Festival.

TRADAMIS is bringing fun and colour to an increasing number and variety of participants, and is also getting the message over, that traditional dance and song are enjoyable, intriguing and available. If you want to know more please take a look at the website: www.tradamis.org.

Can you squeeze, blow or fiddle?

If you are an experienced folk musician looking for new outlets for your talents or if you want to use your musical skills in a completely different way please get in touch with English Miscellany Folk Dance Group. We would especially welcome someone to play for our Cotswold Morris side, but you can also accompany one or all of our other sections - country dance, North-West Morris or clog - it is up to you. The group performs locally and internationally. For more information please chat to Liz - 01483 755278 or Roger - 01707 324413 or visit: www.englishmiscellany.com
In August 2010 YM were on their way to Salzkotten, Germany to take part in their Children’s International Folk Dance Festival. YM represented England. There were dancers from Poland, Georgia, Scotland, and of course Germany. After the long journey, during which we sang, slept and ate, we finally arrived and were met by our host families and were then whisked away to their homes. The next morning we awoke to rain. All the groups met at the hall to take part in a variety of workshops. We had a choice of activity; cooking, painting scenery, singing, playing instruments, making table decorations, and dancing. This was all in preparation for the mass performance on the following evening, on stage in front of the mayor and people of Salzkotten and surrounding towns.

As well as taking part ourselves, we had the opportunity to watch the wide variety of dances performed by the other countries. This was pretty amazing, especially Georgia! The costumes worn by the different countries were very varied, the beautiful colours and amazing embroidery all added to the vibrancy of the festival.
The following day we had a free morning to do some exploring of the town or the towns nearby. In the afternoon we processed around Salzkotten, and then we did our dance displays around the beautiful old town, and by the river. Unfortunately the massed dance display was cancelled due to torrential rain, but we’d had a great day.

In the evenings they had arranged discos for us, and a banquet. Although most of us don’t speak German, apart from a few basic words, or Polish, or Georgian, we all made lots of friends, and we are keeping in touch.

Thank you to Lynda and all her team, and our very grateful thanks to everyone who gave donations to enable us to go - especially The Hertfordshire Folk Association, and a very generous benefactor. Without these donations, our trip would not have been possible.

A very big thank you as well, to Terry, our great coach driver.

Naomi Eaton - Age 16. (YM dancer & musician).

Comments from some of the other YM children.

I LOVED GERMANY! Germany was fantastic. I learnt a lot too. It’s very interesting going to some ones house when you don’t know them, and just all the fun you have dancing. Thea Sainsbury – dancer, age 10

I liked it all. I met lots of Scottish people. I loved the farewell party. Ann Stevens xx – dancer, age 7

I think it was a really nice experience. I enjoyed watching how the other groups danced. Claire Johnson – dancer, age 9

I loved watching new dances; speaking to people who are from different countries; hearing different kinds of music; making new friends. Glenn Bull – dancer, age 12

Germany was the best. I saw groups that I have never seen before. It was just fun. Natasha Chamberlain – dancer, age 11

Sharing a flat with good old Terry the bus driver was a good laugh! The hosts food was interesting – bananas, pineapple, tomato, cheese, and ham on toast. And finally my very best experience – CHIPS AND SAUSAGE IN CURRY KETCHUP!! Ben Walas – melodion player, age 17
Piano-accordion workshop
Sunday 10th April 2011

To be held at The Backhouse Room, 116, Handside Lane, Welwyn Garden City, AL8 6SZ.

Doors open 10am, workshop starts at 10:30, and ends at 4:30pm.

Tea, coffee & biscuits will be provided during the day.
Unfortunately there are no eating facilities nearby, so please bring a packed lunch.

Cost: £25

Tutor – Chris Walker
Chris Walker has been playing the accordion for over fifty years, and has been running a local Scottish Dance band (the Silver Cross band) for more than half of that time. He also organised the St Albans Fiddlers’ Rally for over twenty-five years. He consequently has a great knowledge of all aspects of Scottish traditional music (reels, jigs, strathspeys, schottisches, airs etc.) and of how to best interpret them on the accordion. Since the accordion is one of the mainstays of Scottish music, there are many great tunes written or adapted for the instrument, so we should have an inspiring day, and leave with a new appreciation of the music and number of terrific tunes!

Booking is essential: Please telephone Roger Swaine on 01707 324413 or email roger.swaine1@btinternet.com to reserve a place.
In the Autumn of 2001, the HFA invited Anne Daye, one of the country’s leading experts in the field of historical dance, to run a series of workshops on dances from the Tudor and Stuart period. The workshops were a great success, and when the series ended some of us decided that we would like to continue to enjoy these dances on a regular basis. Our first thought was to try to get the dance group several of us already belonged to, English Miscellany, involved. We proposed establishing another section to this already diverse display group, but for various reasons this came to nothing. So, the only option left for us to was to go it alone. To cut a long story short, an inaugural meeting was held in September 2002, and with the help of grants from the HFA and from Grove Hill Community Association, along with advice from Anne Daye, Herts Early Dance was born.

The club focuses mainly on the mid 15th to mid 17th centuries, although we have been known to make brief excursions into Baroque and Regency dance (and also medieval dance, although in fact very little is known about that). We have benefitted from the knowledge a number of tutors who have done their own research and interpretation of the dances, often working from the original sources. These sources include dance manuals from 15th and 16th century Italy by Domenico, Ambrosio, Caroso and Negri; the Brussels manuscript (c1497); Arbeau's Orchesographie (1589); the Inns of Court manuscripts from around 1600; and the first edition of Playford (1651). Although some of these sources are Italian or French, there is good reason to believe that these dances, or similar ones, were performed in England, perhaps brought here by travelling dancing masters. One interesting connection here is that the dances in the Gresley manuscript, possibly the earliest English source (around 1500), seem to have many similarities to those in the 15th century Italian sources.
We have always insisted that our main objective is enjoyment of the dances, rather than giving performances. In spite of this, we seem to have been drawn in to public performances several times, sometimes at appropriate historical venues, such as Queen Elizabeth’s Hunting Lodge in Epping Forest.

One of the features of the club is that we always dance to live music, provided by our fine band of musicians The Presence. They play all manner of instruments including fiddles, recorders, lute, and curtals. Incidentally, the name of the band is a rather cheeky reference to the fact that many of the dances start with instructions to "honour the presence", meaning the highest-ranking person in the room.

The highlight of HED’s year is our May Revels which gives us the opportunity to dress up in period costume for dancing, and to invite our friends from other historical dance groups to join us. Our revels always include a Tudor feast followed by a banquet (in those days, a banquet meant a selection of sweetmeats, candied fruit, nuts and so on, served after the feast), as well as a variety of entertainments. In past years, our entertainments have included puppet shows (one was a re-enactment of The Spanish Armada!), a performance of a bawdy Elizabethan playlet, and singing and dance displays.

Our regular Sunday sessions for the first half of 2011 will start on January 9th at St. Stephens Church Hall St. Albans.

If you would like to come along to one of these sessions to find out more about the dances and music of 15th-17th century Europe, you will be very welcome. Your first session is free! For more details, please phone Jan or Derek on 01442 862545, or visit our website: www.hertsearlydance.btinternet.co.uk. Our May Revels will be on Saturday 14th May, also at St Stephens (please enquire early about tickets as they tend to sell out fast).

There are several local clubs that regularly contribute articles, reviews, news, and letters to the magazine, but more and varied submissions from all you folk enthusiasts out there would help to keep activities in our area in the spotlight. If there is a special event planned by your club or group, let us know - tell us about your recent triumphs or tribulations - we want to hear from you!
HARROW FOLK DANCE CLUB
(Charity Registration No. 801346; Affiliated to EFDSS,
Hertfordshire Folk Association, North London Folk and SIFD)

41st. ANNIVERSARY DANCE
SATURDAY 19th MARCH 2011
ROSEMARY HUNT
with music by
ORION’S RING
at SHAFTESBURY HIGH SCHOOL,
HEADSTONE LANE, HARROW WEALD, HA3 6NP.
(Near Headstone Lane National Rail Station)
First dance 19.30 (promptly) - until 22.45 hrs.
Tickets (on the door) £7.00 including refreshments.

Forthcoming attractions:
39th. Playford Ball - Sat. 19th. November 2011
(David & Kathryn Wright with Folkus Pocus.)
42nd. Anniversary Dance - Sat. 17th. March 2012
(Ron Coxall with Orange & Blue.)

The Harrow Folk Dance Club meets most Mondays (except in August),
7.30 - 9.55pm at Belmont School Hall (entrance at the back of the school)
Hibbert Road, off Locket Road, Harrow Weald, HA3 7JT.

For further information contact:
Roy Martin - 020 8868 7526
Barn Dance
at Harpenden Public Halls

5th February 2011 8.00 – 11.30

www.englishmiscellany.com

CLIMAX Ceilidh Band

will be playing, with calling by

Andrew Swaine

Tickets £9.50 under 16’s £6.00
From: Jenny 01582 764084
or Brenda 01582 629732