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

PUDDINGSTONE EDITOR
Adrian Burrows
editor@hertsfolkassn.org.uk
Please send correspondence to:
Mr Adrian Burrows, 1 Leyland Ave,
St.Albans, Herts. AL1 2BD

ADVERTISING RATES

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Format</th>
<th>Size</th>
<th>Rate</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Full page</td>
<td>197mm x 130mm</td>
<td>£17</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>½ page</td>
<td>95mm x 130mm</td>
<td>£11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>¼ page</td>
<td>95mm x 64mm</td>
<td>£8.50</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

BACK COVER - £25
INSIDE BACK COVER - £20

Cheques and POs made payable to the Hertfordshire Folk Association

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 produce it electronically, please contact me, as I maybe able to do this for you. (subject to available time)

COPY DATES

1st April for Summer (May - Aug) Issue
PUBLISHED 1st MAY

1st Aug for Autumn (Sept - Dec) Issue
PUBLISHED 1st SEPTEMBER

1st Nov for Spring (Dec - March) Issue
PUBLISHED 1st DECEMBER

The views expressed in this magazine are not necessarily representative of those of the HFA or the editor.
The editor reserves the right to edit received items as appropriate.

Printed by Triographics Printers of Knebworth.
For more information, phone 01438 811905
or email alantriog@aol.com

Distribution with thanks to the
HFA committee, particularly
Roger Swaine, Nic Nicolson &
Terry Elvins.

For up to date information on all our activities please visit our web site at: www.hertsfolkassn.org.uk
We have decided to try out different dates for sending in copy and issuing the Puddingstone, to make publishing easier and to deliver the magazine to you at more convenient times in the year. From this Autumn this will be: 1st Nov for the Winter issue on 1st Dec. 1st March for Spring issue on 1st April & 1st July for Summer issue on 1st August.

I accidentally saw part of “Glee” on TV, and was appalled at this media re-working of what was originally a social activity, singing for enjoyment. I decided I would see if there is anyone in the St Albans area who fancies getting together from time to time to share their favourite songs over a drink, just for the fun of it. If so e-mail me or phone me on 01727 866086.

Adrian Burrows

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 15. 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!

Contents

Page 2 - Contact information & copy dates
Page 3 - Editorial
Page 5 & 6 Festivals, Folk & Food
Page 8 - Spring Sing
Page 9 - “Where are they now”
Page 10 - Young Miscellany @ DERTy
Page 11 - Stevenage Sword & the Straw Bear
Page 12 - Folk Rising
Page 18 - CD Review
Page 19 - Maypole Mystery
Page 20 - Live Music Bill Debate
Pages 21 - 22 - E M’s 35th Anniversary
Pages 24 - 26 Obituaries

Middle page pull-out section pages 13- 16
Page 13 - Committee information
Pages 14 & 15 - Diary Dates & Membership application form
Page 16 - HFA affiliated groups
LEIGH FOLK FESTIVAL

THE UK'S LARGEST FREE FOLK FESTIVAL

June 16-19 2011

In the Old Town, Library Gardens & other venues in Leigh-on-Sea

Martin Carthy, John Otway,
Emily Portman Trio, Cass Meurig & Nial Cain,
Steve Turner, Lucy Ward, Lucy & Jacob Farrell,
London Bulgarian Choir, Modeste, Klezmer Klub,
Pamela Wyn Shannon, Phillip Henry, Skinny Lister,
Zoox + many more to be confirmed

With an international array of dance sides, including morris, clog, rapper, Irish, Appalachian, cajun, salsa & belly dancing. Plus pub sessions, singarounds, music & dance workshops, procession, poetry, ceilidhs, mummers, open mic, multimedia, storytelling, film, kids' activities, and the beach!

for more details visit...

www.leighfolkfestival.com
www.myspace.com/thелеighfolkfestival

enquiries: 01702 715111 or tony@priority.ms
Festivals, folk and food

Whit Sunday, celebrated this year on 12th June, is the day when the church celebrates Pentecost the time when the Holy Spirit descended on the apostles. Whit Sunday is short for white Sunday the name reflecting the fact that along with Easter it was a time for baptism. Traditionally, white robes were worn by those being baptised. Whitsun is an old festival dating back to the third century, occurring at the same time as the Jewish festival of weeks. As a joyous occasion in church, the floral decorations used white hawthorn-May, and lilac blossoms. The nature of this festival allowed for a period of merrymaking, with many churches holding Whitsun Ales, where brewers made special strong ales, heavily malted and sold to raise money for the church.

Many folk customs originate from Whitsuntide and it is a popular time for spring fetes and fairs. As a Derbyshire lass, the Derbyshire custom of well dressing is foremost in my mind at this time. Holy wells and springs were common place in the past, and of course essential to the community they served. In ancient times they were consecrated to pagan deities, but were later rededicated to Christian saints and the Virgin Mary. The water from these wells was thought to be special at major festival times with magical and curative properties, and so the wells were garlanded with flowers and ribbons. The art of well dressing in Derbyshire is taken further with a 6 foot high picture being made using individual flower petals pressed into a clay board as a mosaic, usually depicting a biblical scene. Tissington and Wirksworth are two of the main villages where up to 9 wells are dressed but there are many others, extending through the summer period.

When yew is out then Beech comes in, and many flowers beside,
Both of a fresh and fragrant kin to honour Whitsuntide
Robert Herrick

To accompany the special Whitsun ale, traditional food at Whitsun was duckling with peas, cooked together in a pan after partially roasting the duckling first. Unusually lettuce and fresh herbs were added and at the end of cooking the peas and lettuce are pureed and made richer by blending with cream and egg yolks and further seasoned with nutmeg. Dessert was gooseberry tart or pudding, such as in this recipe.
225g (8oz) self raising flour
½ teaspoon salt
1 teaspoon baking powder
100g (4oz) brown sugar

150ml (¼ pint) cold water
100g (4oz) suet
675g (1 ½ lb) gooseberries

Make the suet crust pastry by mixing the suet, sifted flour, baking powder and salt together. Add enough water to make firm dough, and knead until smooth. Line a well greased pudding basin with 2/3rd of the pastry. Mix the gooseberries and sugar and place in the basin. Use the rest of the pastry to make a lid, sealing it to the base with water. Cover with a pleated double layer of greaseproof paper and steam for 3 hours. Alternatively you can use a pressure cooker, steaming for 15 minutes followed by pressure cooking for 50 minutes.

Jenny Lane
St. Neots Folk Club

The Priory Centre,
St. Neots, PE19 2BH
Every Tuesday 8.15pm
Email - stneotsfolkclub@aol.com
Telephone - 01234 376278
www.stneotsfolkclub.co.uk

May 3  James Fagan & Nancy Kerr  June 7  Phil Drane
May 10  Jeremy Taylor        June 14  Tom & Barbara Brown
May 17 Steve Ashley          June 21  Andy Clarke
May 24 Brian Peters          June 28  Round the Room
May 31  Round the Room

July 6  Dana & Susan Robinson
July 12 John Conolly
July 19 Martin Carthy
July 26  Round the Room
CLUB CLOSED FOR AUGUST.

10th  11th  12th June 2011
The Priory Centre, St Neots, Cambs.

SHOW OF HANDS IN CONCERT (SAT)
Support - Phillip Henry & Hannah Martin

HOSEPIPE BAND  Caller Fee Lock ~ Fay Hield Trio
Bram Taylor ~ Mary Humphreys & Anahata
More to be confirmed

www.stneotsfolkclub.co.uk

01234 376278

All weekend - music sessions, real ale bar, food,
Saturday dance displays & workshops and Open Stage
Spring Sing

Spring had certainly sprung in Broxbourne! It was a glorious afternoon, with sunlight streaming into the room. This must have put warmth in everyone’s heart, because the singing certainly matched the weather. We shared songs from England, Scotland, Ireland and even Cornwall with plenty of choruses to join in.

Anyone with Welsh songs to contribute would be welcome next year and then we can cover all the UK. It was a modest but select group, including audience who were enthusiastic chorus singers, and those with the skill to play an instrument and sing at the same time, something we both admire as we find this very difficult.

There was a variety of self penned, traditional and contemporary songs and poems, all delivered with panache. As in any folk gathering the songs covered a wide range of topics from drinking songs, songs of the sea, canal and river, love songs, navel gazing and comedy, (and no doubt other categories that went under the radar!)

Looking forward to next year.

ps the beer and food was good too

Peter Beer and Jenny Newburn

---

TRY SCOTTISH COUNTRY DANCING

Welwyn Garden City
Scottish Country Dance Club

Lemsford Hall, Brocket Road AL8 7TT
Wednesday 8pm to 10pm.

Enjoy lively jigs and reels and the elegance of strathspeys to recordings by top Scottish bands.

Social dancing, help given, re-caps, walk throughs and calls when needed. Bring flat comfortable soft shoes.

£2 week including tea/coffee and biscuits, plus a small annual sub., first visit is free

Call Marian on 01707 394845
or email welwyn.scdc@ntlworld.com

Sorry, no meetings in July and August
St Albans Festival, June 18 - July 3
Folk at the Festival weekend June 24 - 26

June 18 Festival launch event in Verulamium Park
Zulu, Katriona Gilmore and Jamie Roberts
Vicky Swan and Jonny Dyer

June 25 St Albans Old Town Folk Day 10am – 11pm
Fay Hield Trio
Jonny Kearney and Lucy Farrel
plus New Roots finalists and other singers and musicians.
Craft stalls, singarounds and sessions, bar

Day of Dance in St Albans City Centre
info@stalbansfolkmusic.org.uk  www.stalbansfolkmusic.org.uk
Enquiries 01727 852111/ 833028  Tickets 01727 864511

Where are they Now?

During February 2011 Half Term Week, former Puddingstone Editor, Libby Byne-Grey and her husband, John, were down in North Devon and noticed that the guest at Bideford Folk Club, on the Thursday of that week, was James Findlay from Dorset. In 2008 James was a finalist in the New Roots Competition in St Albans, which is organised by Alison Macfarlane and financially supported by the Herts Folk Association. Incidentally, two of this year’s judges are Hazel and Emily Askew, who just happen to be previous winners of this competition. James then went on to win the ‘BBC Young Folk Musician’ Award for 2010. He is now a professional singer and musician (fiddle, guitar and concertina) and he performed two excellent sets to a very appreciative, full house, at the Joiners Arms in Bideford. James has a CD issued by Fellside, (FE CD 238), which has received good reviews.

Libby & John

Photo Info
I have run into a problem a few times when putting a photo into an article. Most people send me digital colour pics which have to be converted into greyscale before publication. Sadly many good colour pics turn out not to have enough contrast in greyscale. If you convert your pics to greyscale, you can check that the contrast is OK before sending them to me.

Ed
“DERTy” SUCCESS FOR YOUNG MISCELLANY

Saturday 5th March saw Young Miscellany heading off for the Dancing England Rapper Tournament (Youth Section) – DERTy in Oxford. There was a lot of apprehension because this was the first Rapper competition they had ever taken part in and they had no idea what standard the other teams would set.

The junior and youth competition was to take place in the building housing the Bate Collection of musical instruments – very appropriate!

First of all there was an exhibition from all the dance teams taking part, 5 teams from the junior section, and 3 teams from the youth section. The standard was mixed in the junior section, but the youth section standard was extremely high! It was really good to have the chance to display our dance to an extremely appreciative audience before the actual competition took place.

After a very critical assessment of their capabilities, our dancers entered into the competition with plenty of enthusiasm and determination to give it their best shot. They pulled out all the stops and gave a cracking performance!! Although they had no expectation of getting anywhere because the standard was so high, when the results were announced they were delighted to be announced as the Runners Up to an excellent team that we all expected to

The results were:-

1st place - Heage Windmillers
Youth Rapper Squad

2nd place – Young Miscellany

3rd place – Maltby Fledglings.

We are all so proud of our dancers’ achievement at this their first competition. Very well done to you all!! We are sure that our success was also partly due to the fantastic musical ability of Ben Walas, our very accomplished box player, thank you Ben.

For the full results of the whole competition go to www.dert2011.co.uk/results.html

Lynda Swaine
Stevenage Sword at the Whittlesea Straw Bear Festival

Friends of Stevenage Sword will be pleased (and maybe surprised) to hear that the team is still active, dancing our versions of Newbiggin, Swalwell, Beadnell, Greatham longsword and the Buffens. After 38 years, the active regular team is currently down to a core of seven dancers/musicians and a couple of country cousins – with a total of 235 years experience between us. Unfortunately jobs that send people off to far-flung corners of the world (e.g. France, China, Malaysia and Lytham St. Annes), and having one dancer commuting from the Netherlands, makes it rare that we have a full team to dance out. Having said that 2010 saw us at the Whittlesea Straw Bear Festival, the Thaxted Ring Meeting and the St. Michaels Festival in St. Albans, as well as a couple of pub tours and hosting a workshop for interested novices. As with many other dance teams, we could always use a few additional members to bolster our ranks (check out our website at http://www.stevenagesword.org.uk/ or you can find us on YouTube and Facebook).

2011 has started in a similar way for us, with a pub tour around Hitchin, and our 32nd consecutive visit to the Whittlesea Straw Bear Festival, making us the only dance team to perform every year since the festival’s revival by folklore enthusiast (and Stevenage Sword founder member) Brian Kell and the Whittlesea Society in January 1980.

The straw bear festival is, within England, specific only to the north-west Cambridgeshire villages of Whittlesey (formerly Whittlesea) and Ramsey. The history of the motif is unclear, but it is probable that it was just a fun way to get rid of the leftover straw. Straw bears also feature in some carnivals in Germany, such as in Walldürn (near Frankfurt), whose carnival folk often come to the revived Cambridgeshire festivals. The continental bears are probably based on the English bears; the tradition could have been spread by Cambridgeshire crusaders passing through the region.

Despite the straw bear festivals of Whittlesea and Ramsey being traditionally held on – or just after – Plough Monday (a day of general celebration across the arable lands of northern and eastern England to celebrate the start of the ploughing season), the straw bear festivals have always been completely separate – indeed, in Whittlesea, the straw bear parade always made a point of avoiding competing with the Plough Monday celebrations, taking a different route around the village and/or doing it the following day.

The rise of mechanised farming in the industrial revolution undermined the Plough Monday celebrations, and the Great War saw the end of both Plough Monday and straw bear festivities in Whittlesea and Ramsey, as the traditions died with the fallen.

The revived festival in modern-day Whittlesey now lasts two days instead
of just one, being held on the weekend preceding Plough Monday. The Saturday sees the dancing straw bear being paraded around the streets while dance teams perform throughout the village; this is followed by ceilidhs in the evening. The Sunday sees a selection of dance teams’ show dances and the burning of the bear.

Thankfully, the weather was mild this year (in previous years it has been bitterly cold, sometimes with us having to perform in sleet and snow – I’m sure you can imagine how cold the longswords got!), which made it all the more enjoyable for everyone.

David Gillis.

FOLK RISING 10TH MARCH 2011

Folk Rising is held in the smaller Trefusis Room, downstairs at Cecil Sharp House. It is now in its third series, of which this was the second of the three sessions (the final one will be on Wednesday 13th April). The format is simple: four folk artists or groups get a chance to showcase their material in an intimate setting and it’s a brilliant way to try out new things. You might not like them all, but you are sure to like at least some of them. There is new and emerging talent here, along with more established faces in the folk world.

The bill for this evening was Jenny McCormick, Samuel Brookes, Cath & Phil Tyler and the Hut People. Jenny McCormick is a young singer from Manchester with a marvellous, arresting voice, who plays the guitar and is backed up by a violinist.

Next on was another young singer called Samuel Brookes. Samuel sang with his guitar and a drum accompaniment – another very good voice (think Seth Lakeman without the violin). Next up were Cath and Phil Tyler, the only names on the bill that we had heard of before, and sure enough we recognised Cath’s distinctive voice and one or two of their numbers. She seemed slightly nervous during the in-between chatty bits, but there was no trace of this during the songs.

Last up were the Hut People, a duo of extremes: one originally from the South East playing a large, eclectic range of percussion instruments and the other from the North and sticking to his accordion (except when accompanying himself with an amazing foot-stamping routine – you had to be there…).

Not all of us are big fans of “fusion” music (some would say it’s like chips and custard: each delightful, but not together), but this definitely worked in its own high-octane way for a great end to the evening. We thought it was very much the kind of act you could imagine playing at the Ely Folk Festival.

The evening was great entertainment and, at only £5 a person, pretty much unbeatable value for money. Well done EFDSS and Magpie’s Nest, and long may Folk Rising continue.

Godfrey, Karon, Naomi and Nathan Lyne

12
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

Affiliated Club Representatives: Norman Dobbing (English Miscellany)
Karen Lyne (Young 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.

Hertfordshire Folk Association

Hatfield House Hertfordshire

This year’s Children’s Summer Folk Dance Festival takes place on:
Saturday 2nd July 2011

Tickets in advance £3.50 Adults. £2.50 Children. Buying at the gate you have to
pay entrance to Hatfield House Grounds, an extra £2 per Adult and £1 per Child.
For further information including dances and song words see our website:
www.hertsfolkassn.org.uk
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Contact Information</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>May 7</td>
<td><strong>Friday Folk</strong>, Francis Bacon School, Drakes Dr, St Albans, AL1 5AR.</td>
<td>7.45pm Cis Hinkle with English Contra Dance Band – 01727 856508</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>May 14</td>
<td><strong>London Barndance</strong>, Cecil Sharp House, 2 Regents Park Rd, London, NW1 7AY.</td>
<td>Cis Hinkle with Skylark – 01628 633962 <a href="http://www.barndance.org">www.barndance.org</a></td>
<td>8.00pm</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>May 14</td>
<td><strong>Winchmore</strong>, Trinity Church Hall, Church Street, Enfield, EN2 6AN.</td>
<td>7.30pm Carol Hewson with The Forest Band – 0208 926 7293</td>
<td>7.30pm</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>May 14</td>
<td><strong>Welwyn Garden City Scottish Dance Club 50th Anniversary</strong></td>
<td>Woolmer Green Village Hall. David Hall Band Ticket only - Marian 01707 394845 <a href="mailto:welwyn.scdc@ntlworld.com">welwyn.scdc@ntlworld.com</a></td>
<td>7.30pm</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>May 21</td>
<td><strong>St Albans Abbey</strong>, Homewood Rd U R Church Hall, Sandpit Lane St Albans, AL1 4BH.</td>
<td>7.30pm Ivan Aitken with Orange &amp; Blue - 01727 834977</td>
<td>7.30pm</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>May 28</td>
<td><strong>St Andrews</strong>, Suzanne Harper with recorded music</td>
<td></td>
<td>7.30pm</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jun 11</td>
<td><strong>London Barndance</strong>, John Turner with Fat Harry</td>
<td></td>
<td>8.00pm</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jun 11</td>
<td><strong>Winchmore</strong>, Arnold Stem with The Forest Band</td>
<td></td>
<td>7.30pm</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jun 25</td>
<td><strong>St Andrews</strong>, Eileen Sinden with The Forest Band</td>
<td></td>
<td>7.30pm</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jul 9</td>
<td><strong>London Barndance</strong>, Geoff Cubitt with Weston Country Dance Band</td>
<td></td>
<td>8.00pm</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jul 9</td>
<td><strong>Winchmore</strong>, Rosemary Hunt with The Forest Band</td>
<td></td>
<td>7.30pm</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jul 23</td>
<td><strong>St Andrews</strong>, Brenda Godrich with Vic and Graham</td>
<td></td>
<td>7.30pm</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Aug 13</td>
<td><strong>Winchmore</strong>, Anne Dunn with recorded music</td>
<td></td>
<td>7.30pm</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Aug 27</td>
<td><strong>St Andrews</strong>, John Wood with recorded music</td>
<td></td>
<td>7.30pm</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sept 10</td>
<td><strong>London Barndance</strong>, Mark Elvins with Weston Country Dance Band</td>
<td></td>
<td>8.00pm</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sept 10</td>
<td><strong>Winchmore</strong>, Val &amp; Ian McFarlane with The Forest Band</td>
<td></td>
<td>7.30pm</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sept 24</td>
<td><strong>St Andrews</strong>, Michael Holdup (AGM) with recorded music</td>
<td></td>
<td>7.30pm</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Oct 1 **Staplers**, St Ippolyts Parish Hall, Waterdell Lane, St Ippolyts, Nr Hitchin, SG4 7RB. Barrie Bullimore with Deo Volente - 01582 881966 [www.staplers.org.uk](http://www.staplers.org.uk)

Oct 8 **London Barndance**, Andrew Swaine with Chesapeake

Oct 8 **Winchmore**, John Wood (AGM) with The Forest Band

Oct 22 **St Andrews**, Mary Bryan with Toucan Play

Nov 12 **Winchmore**, Brain Jones with The Forest Band

Nov 19 **London Barndance**, John Meechan with Fiddlegang

Nov 19 **Harrow**, Shaftesbury High School, Headstone Lane, Harrow Weald, HA3 6NP. Kathryn & David Wright with Folkus Pocus – 0208 868 7526

Nov 26 **Friday Folk**, Colin Hume with Fiddlegang

Nov 26 **St Andrews**, Arnold Stem with The Forest Band

Dec 3 **Staplers**, Andrew Swaine with Momentum

Dec 10 **London Barndance**, Rhodri Davies with Ian, Charlie, Gareth & Linda

Dec 10 **Winchmore**, Chris Turner with The Forest Band

---

**Hertfordshire Folk Association**

**Membership Application Form**

- **Annual fees:**
  - Individual £2
  - Household £3
  - Group/Club £10

  (Annual membership includes three issues of Puddingstone)

- **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)  □

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, 118 Crawley Drive, Hemel Hempstead, HP2 6BX
Hertford CDG  - Mrs J Newton, 15 Station Road, Diggswell, Welwyn, AL6 0DU
North London Folk  - Vivien Mallindale, 40 Summerlee Ave, London, N2 9QP
Offley Morris  - Dr P. Burton, 1 The Lodge, Bedford Rd, Hitchin, SG5 3RZ
Phoenix Morris  - PO Box 115, Rickmansworth, WD3 1WB.
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  - 60 Woodland Drive, St Albans, AL4 0ET
St Albans Morris Men  - 4 Abbey View Road, St Albans, AL3 4QL
St Andrew's FDC  - Mrs A Dunn, 3 Conway Gardens, Enfield, EN2 9AD
Staplers FDG  - 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
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!
Our nine UK shops stock all kinds of acoustic & folky musical instruments from Britain, Ireland and around the world! Our expert staff are always on hand to give you free, friendly advice.

New Canterbury branch now open!

BIRMINGHAM - 0121 772 7780
1 Gibb Street, B9 4AA

BRISTOL - 0117 929 0902
36 Park Street, BS1 5JG

CANTERBURY - 01227 769484
22 Lower Bridge Street, CT1 2LG

CRAWLEY - 01293 515858
17 Northgate Parade, RH10 8DT

LEEDS - 0113 245 3311
13 Eastgate, LS2 7LY

LONDON - 020 7323 9040
24 Rathbone Place, W1T 1JA

MANCHESTER - 0161 273 1000
123 Oxford Road, M1 7DU

MILTON KEYNES 01908 217217
St John’s St, N PORT P NELL, MK16 8HJ

WADEBRIDGE - 01208 812230
Polmoria Walk, PL27 7SF

...and of course our world famous Mail Order Service
0845 130 9500 | www.hobgoblin.com
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.

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

Saturday Special Dance - 7th May 2011

Cis Hinkle and the English Contra Dance Band
at Francis Bacon School, Drakes Drive, St Albans, AL1 5AR. From 7:45 pm, Tickets £8 (£7 in advance)

CD Review
The Fox and the Hare:
Folk songs, Music Hall Songs and Recitations:
Harry Green and Others : Veteran VT 135 CD.

Harry Green, of Tilty, near Great Dunmow, in Essex, was 93 when recorded by Fred Hamer in 1967. In spite of his great age Harry was clearly a good singer and a great pub entertainer. There are 17 tracks from Harry (previously available on a Veteran Tapes Cassette), which range from old ballads (The Merchant’s Daughter and The Highwayman) to Music Hall numbers (Oh! Joe, the Boat is Going Over). The CD also features 2 tracks from each of four other Essex singers: Ernest Austin. ‘Sugar’ Bailey, Stan Walters and Lorna Tarran, which were recorded in the 70s and 80s. The whole collection is varied, interesting and well balanced and although many of the songs are basically well known, they often have interesting variations of tune or words.

The booklet of notes, as always with Veteran, is full of biographical details of the singers and well researched notes on all the songs.

John Grey
STANDON MORRIS MEN
NO COMPROMISES, JUST GOOD DANCING!!
SUNDAY 1ST MAY 2011
5.25 A.M.
THE PUDDING STONE,
HIGH STREET, STANDON.
WITNESS THE CELEBRATION OF SUMMER
Looking for a more unusual summer evening social event?
On Thursday evenings throughout May, June and July witness a merry song, dance, colour, rhythm, merriment and mirth. You might even enjoy it, come along its free!!!
Standon Morris Men Publicity, Bob ffitch, 0777 246 3024
www.standonmorris.co.uk
Or join our facebook group

The Mysterious Case of the Missing Maypole
Several years ago, a member of the Summer Festival Committee was running a Maypole workshop. The leader of a children’s group spoke to the tutor after the event, and explained that her group would like to do maypole, but they didn’t have one to practice on. The tutor knew of a school that had one and suggested to this leader that she contact the school and ask to borrow it.

The leader did indeed ask to borrow the maypole and the school kindly agreed to allow her to do so. However, when she went to the school the only person present at the time was the caretaker, who showed her where the maypole was and allowed her to take it away.

Several months later, the school wanted to get the maypole back and then realised that they had no idea who had actually borrowed it. They asked the members of the Summer Festival comittee if we knew, but we didn’t either. We asked at a subsequent Summer Festival and also through various other organisations, but to no avail.
The Committee of the HFA felt somewhat responsible for this problem (as we had recommended the loan in the first place, so decided that the HFA should recompense the school concerned for the loss of the maypole. A cheque was raised, sent off to the school by the treasurer, and we all thought that the matter was closed.

Except that – we got a letter back from the school, saying it was very nice of us to send them a cheque, but they hadn’t lost their maypole. A quick check revealed that we’d sent the cheque to the wrong school. Another cheque was quickly raised and sent to the correct school. So now the matter really is closed.

Except that the maypole is still missing...

Roger Swaine
The following was forwarded to me as an extract from an e-mail from “FolkworksDurhamschool”  Subject: Culture Secretary hints at removing entertainment from Licensing Act.

“In a letter to Tessa Jowell MP dated 21 March, Culture Secretary Jeremy Hunt has hinted that entertainment could be removed from the Licensing Act altogether:

'As you may well have heard, Baroness Rawlings announced during the recent debate on the Live Music Bill that it is the Government’s intention to be supportive of the Bill. We will also be looking into whether we can go further than the Bill by deregulating entertainment from the Licensing Act 2003 and John Penrose [licensing minister] hopes to be in a position to say more in the coming weeks.'

The letter was sent in response to an enquiry from Annie Bright via her MP, Tessa Jowell. Ms Bright is a jazz singer, former Equity Council vice-president and currently an elected Equity Councillor. In 2002, when she herself was Culture Secretary, Ms Jowell launched the then Licensing Bill as 'a licensing regime for the 21st century'."

Sounds hopeful.

Ed.
English Miscellany 35th Anniversary Weekend
at Eyam Youth Hostel

There must have been something inevitable about the decision to celebrate our 35th anniversary weekend on 11th – 13th February in the best-known plague village in the country! Members past and present were certainly not plagued with any doubts about its suitability, an old folly seeming entirely appropriate to our needs and anywhere requiring an uphill hike to the accommodation from the car park is exactly what we ageing dancers require.

We always like to put on a good show and this weekend was no exception, our organising committee forbade our arrival until all the fun elements were in place. On Friday evening we arrived in the pouring rain to a youth hostel transformed. In reference to our location (at least I can think of no other connotation) we had a ‘ratty’ theme for the weekend which proved to be surprisingly imaginative. We rewrote the record books on the number of people who can fit into the main dining room (52) and had very snug meals all weekend.

After dinner Jenny & Peter organised an evening of quiz and games, which of course had to include ‘splat the rat’. This allowed anyone with energy left from the Friday night journey plenty of opportunity to let their hair down. We all had the chance to find our way round the site – up and down steps all the time and were asked to place photos of ourselves from 35 years ago on a display. On viewing the ‘Rogues Gallery’ the realisation, for some, that 35 years ago was almost half a lifetime came as a bit of a facer in itself!

Impromptu music and song helped to pass the rest of the evening with friends old and not-so-old.

Saturday was our main activity day and, as luck would have it, the best for weather. We went our separate ways to explore the delights of Derbyshire’s Peak District. Several people went walking, others shopped or visited attractions and one, who shall remain nameless, went orienteering but managed to catch up with some of the intrepid walkers at a pub in time for a lunchtime pint! The home-made cakes that had greeted our arrival, courtesy of EM members, just managed to last until Saturday afternoon to replenish hungry hikers and the like. After being revivified weekend revelers went to the ‘Activity Showcase’. This was an activity about which no information had been given in advance and which required a degree of creativity, or madness, whatever. We were given the challenge of designing a completely new kit for English Miscellany, to reflect more modern trends. I think some people’s creativity had dried up before they even tried and some fell to the lure of the bar instead, but many made it and had great fun.
The song group performed a new song about the history of EM and the Mummers performed a specially written play about all the characters who have ever appeared in our plays over the years. A cast of thousands, it almost threatened to outnumber the audience!

With such entertainments still ringing in our ears we retired to our 6-berth rooms to change for the ‘Rodents’ Ball’ (theme: ‘dress to impress your rodent friends’). The meal, like all those at the Youth Hostel, was excellent and the staff hardly turned a hair when serving the weird assortment of rats, rat-catchers and plague victims - the most authentic of which was our esteemed editor. (They were probably quietly thinking to themselves ‘not the old rat theme again!’)

Liz Dobbing and Helen Vernon who spent months planning the weekend, also to Peter and Jenny for the games evening and to Phil for making the archival films easier to view. The great competition of the weekend was for the best number 35 each person had to design to provide wall decorations. The prize for the most imaginative and impressive 35 went to Jenny, who managed to create hers to represent the main elements of EM’s history while appearing to be a Derbyshire well-dressing – marvellous! As we said our goodbyes to friends old and new we all agreed that it had been a worthy 35th anniversary celebration weekend and immense fun, and in spite of the rodent theme during dinner Peter recited, from memory, (a tremendous feat at his age!) The Pied Piper of Hamelin and Brenda gave a rendition of the ‘other Albert’ monologue. Norman’s ‘Leader’s Speech’ at the end included a more sombre note as we remembered absent friends but was followed by a magnificent lighting of the illuminated cheese board – yes cheese and sparklers do mix!

The rest of Saturday evening took on the style of a typical EM Christmas party, with entertainments from various sections of the club interspersed with dancing. These featured a song from Dawn & Dave, a Wii version of clog, a song about the morris bells and a geriatric North West morris dance – as they say, you had to be there! As the specially purchased beer supplies ran low, a few mellow revellers managed to cast half an eye over old video footage of past performances before retiring. The group photo had to be organised inside on Sunday morning due to rain but afterwards there was a Treasure Trail around the historical landmarks of Eyam. Before returning home there were lots of thank yous – most of all to – no-one had been ratty at all!

Kathy Harper
Acoustic Festival of Britain

Uttoxeter Racecourse  May 20-21-22

Hayseed Dixie  Cerys Matthews  Fairport Convention

Steve Harley  Hazel O'Connor  Mars

The Spinners  Hazel O'Connor  The Quireboys  Chris Helme

The Strawbs  Quill  RORY McLeod  Marillion

7 Little Sisters  Sheelanagig  Eric Faulkner  T-Rextasy

Shamus O'Blivion  Sumudu  OUTCAST Band  Rusty Shackle

Sicknote Steve  The Troubadours  Re-Entrants  Roosevelt

Ghost Trains  Swans In Elbow  Peace  Bandwagon

Steve Turner  Flight  Jane Artistes & Julie

Ricketts + Willshire  plus

Acoustic Guitar Festival

Clive Carroll  Johnny Dickinson  Rick Payne

Ian Parker  Jack Blackman  Steve Picken

Kent Rodney  AZIZ Roz Brice  Dave Warren

Duchaine Branigan  Nigel Beck  Guy Maile

Sion Russel Jones  Jemma Johnson  Big Fibbers  Noon In Paris

Feral Mouth  3 Pairs of Shoes  Ragin Jupiter  Sam Walter

Zydeco HotRods  Joel Owen  Dog Days of Summer  Radio Mary

Camping caravans  FLUSHING loos & HOT SHOWERS  Crafts  Workshops

Real Ale and Foods  4 stages... kids area  8 DANCE TROUPES

www.acousticfestival.co.uk
Wictor Bohdanowiez (Vic)

Who had been a member of the Lea Valley Mummers for about 20 years, passed away on 3rd January 2011. Vic often played ‘Beelzebub’ in the Boxing Day Mummers play, with this introduction, “In comes I, owd Beelzebub, over my shoulder I carry my club”. The ‘club’ in question always varied from year to year, so we never knew quite what to expect. What were we going to get? … a ‘Club’ Biscuit, an ‘Ace of Clubs’ playing card, a giant inflatable baseball bat or a ‘golf Club’ – to name but a few!

Vic also liked to attend ‘pub sessions’ where he would demonstrate how to play a variety of interesting instruments – his skills on the ‘Serpent’ was legendary and his performance had to be seen to be believed.

He and his wife, Anya, were also regular spectators, for many years, when Standon Morris ‘danced the sun up’, in response to the ‘Morris call’ played on the fiddle, processing down Standon High Street and circling the garlanded puddingstone, on 1st May, to ‘Welcome in the Summer’.

Vic’s ‘day job’ was as a physics teacher at Richard Hale School in Hertford, where he would have taught several of the younger members of the present Standon Morris. He was a popular and much respected member of staff, as well known for his serious side - extensive ‘physics’ expertise, as for his sense of wry humour, penchant for ‘jokes’ and his ability to respond to ‘life’s little difficulties and petty ironies’ with irreverent, apposite, witty and pithy comments.

John & Libby

PETER SHEA

It was with great sadness that I learnt of the death of a very good friend and very good folk dancer and caller at the beginning of November 2010. He was born on 27 April 1920 in West London. He met his wife Joy at a young co-operators youth club and married her in 1942. He did an emergency two year teacher training course after the War when they were trying to replace the teachers lost. He taught in London and studied for his psychology degree at evening classes. The family moved to Stevenage in 1962 when he got the headship of Longmeadow Junior School. He went on to be a lecturer at a teacher training college and then a senior lecturer and organiser of psychology evening classes for London University.

One of his biggest passions was looking after his wonderful garden and in particular growing prize winning chrysanthemums. He also enjoyed in his latter years relaxing with some of his dancing friends watching international cricket at Lords.

He was introduced to folk dancing soon after leaving school, but it was after he moved to Stevenage that it took over a large part of his life, with dancing, calling and playing the accordion. A couple of years ago he gave some of his Roundabouters friends a sheet of paper entitled “Tipping Points” In it he wrote how he got involved in the North Hertfordshire folk dancing scene.
“It sometimes happens that a minuscule incident will have massive consequences. We had moved from London in the early sixties for me to take over a school in Stevenage New Town” [Longmeadow Junior School]. “The parent who wished to chat with me about his two children was a gingery haired fellow, a Mr. Warder.” [The whole family were to join Roundabouters on its first night.] “It wasn’t long before I was calling him Bill and he had launched into his experiences as a Morris dancer. He mentioned that there was a folk dance group that met in Hitchin and it was called ‘The Staplers.’

It was the first time I had heard the name, it was a tipping point.”“Joy and I had enjoyed a minor scatter of folk dance experiences since school days and were looking for social contacts so a couple of weeks later we mounted our bikes and rode from Chells in Stevenage to a club room seemingly in the bowels of Hitchin town centre.”

It was there that they became hooked.

“There was a group of musicians, lively and chatting. There was a woman called Dorothy [Lester] who seemed to be in charge and the small hall was filled with noisy folk apparently enjoying themselves. The band launched into a dance and our Destiny approached. He was a biggish fellow called Brian” [Limbrick].

“Brian had modified the shape of our leisure life and its pleasures for years to come.”In the summer of 1970 he wrote “Joy, Brian and I were strolling across the car park from the Bancroft Hall. We were amiably discussing the overcrowding at the dance. We knew it not but Joy and I were poised at yet another tipping point. Brian said, 'You should start a branch in Stevenage.' At home we considered it. Joy would find a hall and by that time I had quite a few contacts with locals through calling. Yvonne [Limbrick], chairman of the Staplers, formed a committee to support the project.” The Stevenage Roundabouters was launched in September 1970 with Brian calling for the first three evenings.

That first night my mother, sister and I met Peter for the first time, albeit that his daughter Anita and I were in the same year at a local grammar school. Through Peter’s sterling efforts and stewardship as the chairman for the first three years, the club was to flourish with both adults and children alike thoroughly enjoying themselves. We hit the heights of around 70 for one of our early Christmas Parties. At the AGM in 1974 it was proposed that the club appoint an honorary president, an honour conferred on Peter, which he retained for the rest of his life.
This duty he took most fastidiously and seriously. He was to run several callers workshops, introducing myself and others to folk dance calling. He carefully guided us through the mechanics. I will always remember his kind words after I had called, on several occasions at the club, guiding me through errors but never discouraging me and eventually thanking me at an AGM “and Richard our Playford expert”.

Another aspect of his presidency was that at the club’s AGMs he would give a ‘President’s Address’ generally a personal review of the club’s year with amusing anecdotes and praise of the committee members. On several occasions he would say “Richard [I was treasurer on and off ever since] what can I say about him (sic), we can guarantee that the club’s books and money are in safe hands”. It was typical of the man, never a bad word to say about anyone. He would always say good things about us and it acted as great encouragement to all at the club he loved.

He celebrated his 90th birthday at a party at his home, with his son and daughter, for his local friends including, significantly some of his dancing friends from Roundabouters and with the dance band he had helped form, a few years previously. All Roundabouters were delighted that he was in good health and form for our 40th anniversary dance in September 2010 and four weeks later when most of the club were present for an anniversary meal.

His wife, Joy, died after a short illness in the autumn of 2003. He clearly missed her and at his funeral his son movingly stated that he had intended to spend part of Christmas 2010 at her graveside, where they have now been reunited. This was followed by a moving Quaker Meeting where there were a number a speakers reminiscing about their times with and experiences of Peter, from friends, ex-colleagues and ex-pupils from Longmeadow School including Bill Warder’s son. No one had a bad word to say about Peter, that was the quality of the man. I know my life, as well as many others, has been enriched by knowing him. He will be sorely missed and our AGMs will never be the same without him!

Richard Thom

**Grace Edith Baker**

It is with sadness that we report the death of Grace Edith Baker who for many years was a keen folk dancer and especially enjoyed our Childrens' Days of Dance at Hatfield.

In her memory, we gratefully acknowledge receipt of a generous bequest and send our condolences to her family and friends.
HARROW FOLK DANCE CLUB
(Charity Registration No. 801346; Affiliated to EFDSS, Hertfordshire Folk Association, North London Folk and SIFD)

39th. PLAYFORD BALL
SATURDAY 19th NOVEMBER 2011
KATHRYN & DAVID WRIGHT

with music by

FOLKUS POCUS

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:

42nd. Anniversary Dance - Sat. 17th. March 2012
(Ron Coxall with Orange & Blue.)
40th. Playford Ball - Sat. 17th Nov. 2012
(Ian & Val McFarlane with Toucan Play)

~ ~ ~ ~ ~ ~ ~

The Harrow Folk Dance Club meets most Mondays (except in August), 7.30 - 9.55pm at Belmont School Lower 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
FOLK BY THE OAK
Hatfield House, Herts, Sunday 24 July 2011

JSI PRODUCTIONS PRESENT

Seth Lakeman
Show of Hands

Adrian Edmondson
& the Bad Shepherds

Drever, McCusker, Womble with Heidi Talbot
Bella Hardy
Kathryn Roberts & Sean Lakeman
Tyde

A festival of folk’s finest acts gathered in beautiful leafy parkland for one uplifting summer day of music.

Bring a bottle and a picnic
Family friendly • Craft tent • Music stalls • Recycled gifts
Delicious food stalls • Real ale bar • Children’s activities • Storytelling

www.folkbytheoak.com
or call the Box Office on 01432 355 416