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- Membership Renewal

Issue 58 Winter 2013-14
December - March

40p Where sold
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 Printed by Triographics Printers of
Knebworth. For more info contact 01438 811905 or alantriog@aol.com

ADVERTISING RATES
Full page (A5) 197mm high x 130mm wide
½ page 95mm high x 130mm wide
¼ page 95mm high x 64mm wide

Back Cover (A5) in Colour - £45.00
Inside Back Cover (A5) in Colour - £40.00
Inside full page (A5) in Colour - £35.00
Back Cover (A5) black & white - £25.00
Inside Back Cover (A5) black & white - £20.00
Inside full Page (A5) black & white - £17.00
½ page black & white - £11.00
¼ page black & white - £ 8.50

Cheques and POs made payable to the Hertfordshire Folk Association

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

COPY DATES
1st March for Summer (April - July) Issue
PUBLISHED 1st APRIL
1st July for Autumn (Aug - Nov) Issue
PUBLISHED 1st AUGUST
1st Nov for Winter (Dec - March) Issue
PUBLISHED 1st DECEMBER

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

For the very latest information on all our activities please visit our web site at: www.hertsfolkassin.org.uk
Piano-accordion workshop
Sunday 6th April 2014
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.
Unfortunately there are no eating facilities nearby, so please bring a packed lunch.
Tea & coffee & biscuits will be provided during the day.
Cost: £40

Playing for Dancing with Chris Dewhurst.

Chris Dewhurst is probably the best accordion player for English Country dancing in the country. He was an enthusiastic player (and dancer) of English and Scottish dance from an early age, forming his first band (Four-Leaf Clover) when he was only 14. He was a church organist for many years, and also studied piano at the Birmingham Conservatoire as a mature student. He has made recordings since 1982, and has made a total of 11 albums so far. He is much in demand for both English and Scottish dancing.
For many years he has led a busy schedule as a band-leader, composer, and arranger as well as having a full-time job as a trainer with an international business consultancy, but about five years ago he retired so that he could spend more time on his music. When we heard about his retirement in 2011 we contacted Chris as we were told “He’ll have more time now”. We then found that the earliest time that he would be free was 2014! It’s been a long wait, but we’re delighted that he’s managed to fit us into his busy schedule. He’ll be looking at all aspects of playing, including the selection of suitable tunes, arrangements, etc.

Booking is essential as places are limited:
Please telephone Roger Swaine on 01707 324413, or E-mail him on roger.swaine1@btinternet.com to reserve a place.
Editorial

Once again I have more copy than I can fit in without adding extra pages. In this copy I have had the chance to produce more colour pages and I especially hope you like the seasonal front cover. There are some interesting reports with good photos and an excellent book review by Hamish Currie, founder and leading light of Berkhamsted Ukulele Random Strummers (BURP). As you may know the HFA children’s festival has recently had a difficult time and its future looked shaky, however, although we do not yet have a date, I understand there is a lot of interest from schools in keeping it going.

As well as a report from Herts Early Dance about their Masque workshop we also have St. Albans Mummers and English Miscellany looking for Mumming recruits.

I am asked to remind you that it is time again to renew your membership (the more support we have the more the committee can do to promote folk activities in Hertfordshire).

I would like to say “thank you” to people who have contributed articles and photos to this edition and finish by asking you to keep them coming.

WANTED: CD reviewers

Puddingstone often receives CD’s in the post to be reviewed. The editor does not often have time to do this and is always looking for reviewers.

If you would be interested in receiving a free CD and writing a review, please contact the editor using the details on page 2.

Do you have a story but no time to write it?

Why not contact the editor (details on page 2) and we will arrange for one of our reporters to contact you and write up your article. They will then send you a copy to approve and we will include it in our next edition.

Similarly, if you have any great photos from folk events, please send them in with the basic details of who/where etc. and we will include them.

Adrian Burrows

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English Miscellany visits the Czech Republic

After welcoming the Czech folk dance group, Dubrava, to Hertfordshire earlier this year, in August it was our turn to visit them, meeting up at the railway station outside the town of Valasske Klobouky in Moravia. It still had an old working bar and after refreshment we travelled to a local Nature Conservation and history project. A restored old wooden farm dwelling which included wooden shingles on the roof and even wooden gutters, was followed by an old loom for weaving carpets from old clothes. Hay was stored in the barn loft, and wildflower seeds dropped through slats in the floor to a catching cloth below, to use in reseeding old wildflower meadows.

As dusk was falling we went on to the town centre to view the former Executioner’s House, a memorial to plague victims, and a post for the public punishment of criminals. We spent the evening in a modern community room with a lovely dance floor, eating, drinking and sharing entertainments. We learned the first rule of Czech dining straight away. As soon as the meal was announced and the covers were removed from the buffet, English Miscellany queued in an orderly fashion to collect their food. Then first course was announced. Whatever the meal it always has to begin with soup! Amid a little embarrassment and scuttling the delicious soup was served. We all relaxed into the meal and afterwards the entertainments began. Our hosts did not have their musicians with them that evening as they are not officially part of the group but play for many groups and occasions in the area. So we were taught a Czech song, in Czech, in three parts instead - it was quite a challenge for us. In response we taught them Hal an Toe. We taught some of our dances and the evening went with a swing. After a long day most of us were exhausted by midnight.

The leader of the Czech group, Jana, appeared at our hostel on Saturday morning with mountains of breakfast. She and other members set out the breakfast and proceeded to watch us eat, and would not join us until we had almost finished. Jana, who was to prove an inexhaustible superwoman during our visit, ferried us hostellers around all weekend in an army issue minibus. Our first visit on Saturday was the Old Mill in Slopne village. Four of our group were staying there and had the daily 5 a.m. wake-up call of the mill juddering into action - everything shook while the mill was operating. We learned not only about the workings of the old mill, with all working parts crafted from wood, but also a potted history of its fortunes, or otherwise, during the Soviet era – not something that was often referred to during our visit. The mill was one of the few remaining making Czech waffle wafers - they were delicious! The miller’s wife came through from the house while we sang John Barleycorn to them as a thank you. The miller then took us on a visit to a modern co-operative farm he helps to manage - an example of the best of collectivisation continued after Communism. Lunch was held in the basement of a Soviet-style building on the square in Valasske Klobouky. The weather was heating up and we were grateful for the cool of the basement. This time we were not fooled by the array of buffet food and waited for our soup, as delicious as the previous one.

We had a couple of hours before our most prestigious performance of the whole weekend, on the large stage in the town square at the Music Festival for the White Carpathians (the local region). This is taken very seriously and groups perform all day although we did not see many of them. We were glad to have the chance of a last minute rehearsal to dust off our shows.
The musicians on stage at Nedasove

Morris at Nedasove

Host group on Harvest Festival Cart

North-West at Nedasove

Alan step clogging, Nedasove
The heat by now was fierce and it is the only time we have ever been offered water BEFORE a performance! After the performance we were offered slivovice! (Everyone it seems makes their own from plums and other soft fruit. We lost count of the number of home-brews we tasted, but we did not seem to feel unpleasant after-effects.) We were surprised by the size of the outdoor audience and our performance was well received. We had little time to watch any other performers because we were due at our next dance spot, in another village music festival.

We went on to Brumov village, a smaller affair where we danced in a cobbled square and were much closer to the audience than on the big stage. They received us very well and Alan even managed to dance clog on the cobbles. This was a long show, 45 minutes, and tested our reserves of strength, but we came through!

We ended the day in party atmosphere at Koliba House, a pub outside Valasske Klobouky. The evening wound on in a whirl of dancing, singing, drinking, eating. Our young hosts were almost inexhaustible. We old-uns stayed the pace as long as we could and collapsed exhausted into bed sometime in the early hours. Sunday morning’s visit was to an ecological village Centre Veronica Hostetin, set up to show how the natural environment, local resources and traditions can work together to stabilise the rural economy and cut unemployment. We saw the ‘passive house’ (using less energy), the reed-bed sewage treatment plant, biomass heating plant and orchards preserving old and regional fruit varieties. Lunch was provided (by Jana’s family) and it was pleasant eating it in the orchard on another VERY hot day.

Early afternoon and we were on the move again to Nedasove village for our first dancing of the day. It was a procession through the village, up the hill to the church for a blessing for the harvest. The procession was hard work in the heat but we made it and even performed an extra dance on the way, as requested by our hosts. After the church service (during which not all British heads leaning on the pew in front were in the act of supplication!), we went back to the village centre for our main performances of the day. It was a very small affair but with a keen crowd and they gave us a great reception. We managed to see some of the other performers, the most interesting was a group who contrived to turn their women dancers (wearing large white aprons) into sacks of flour to throw over the men’s shoulders during the dance! Our final event, together with our hosts, was at a hilltop resort where there was a lodgehouse/pub, holiday lodges and the kennels for huskie dogs. We were given a short demonstration of ‘Mushing’ by the dogs and their trainers. It all became very relaxed, tucked away on a high hillside as the light faded. We all sat around a bonfire and toasted giant sausages on the end of sticks, a local custom. Cue campfire songs all round, and woe betide anyone who dropped their sausage in the fire.

Back in the lodge the evening mellowed into the early hours, and songs and dances (mainly the Czechs by this time, we were pretty bushed) continued for some time. Sadly we had to ask to leave and the party broke up but we were left with some very enjoyable memories of Czech hospitality. We marvelled at Jana’s energy and commitment, it felt as if she alone was shouldering the responsibility and work for making our weekend so enjoyable and we sent her a large bouquet in thanks before we returned home. Looking back, we managed, with very depleted numbers, to stage some good shows and introduce our dance traditions to very appreciative audiences where dance and particularly music are very much part of daily life. In fact everyone gave their all for EM and it showed!

Kathy Sparrow
I had a lot of fun with this book and look forward to getting more enjoyment from it over the coming weeks and months.

As you’d expect the book is mostly made up of transcriptions of folk tunes in standard notation and tablature. They’re all very well-known and the arrangements easy to follow, even for a simple strummer like me, so it’s a great way to explore the world of finger-picking and melody on the uke. That is really its strength: the introduction to some techniques in a very accessible way.

The tunes are presented in a sensible order, gradually bringing in new fretboard tricks. The layout is clear and legible. The accompanying CD demonstrates all 37 of the tunes as written so if you're not sure how they're meant to sound the recording provides the answer.
With a pithy introduction and notes about the provenance of the tunes, it's a pretty comprehensive package.

Do I have any quibbles? Well, yes, but only minor. The recording on the CD is a little variable in quality. The vast majority are very good, but there are a couple where the sound isn’t so hot. And there’s no excuse for the one or two where the uke is not in tune. (“How can you tell? It’s a ukulele” I hear the Philistines mumble.) And some of the arrangements might be judged a bit pedestrian. But that would be to do a disservice to the book’s purpose of introducing melody and finger-pickin to humble strummers like yours truly.

Recommended.

Review by **HAMISH CURRIE**, founder and leading light of Berkhamsted Ukulele Random Strummers (BURP) [www.BURPmusic.com](http://www.BURPmusic.com)

For more information on recently released Schott-music publications go to:

**Scottish Folk Tunes for Piano (Carson Turner) -**

**New Fiddle Tunes (Cooper) -**

**The Fiddler Series (Huws Jones) -**

CHILTERN FOLK ASSOCIATION  
(Affiliated to EFDSS and chilternfolk.org.uk)  
NEW YEAR DANCE  
Saturday, 4th January 2014   4pm-7pm  
Amersham Community Centre, Drake Hall,  
Chiltern Avenue, Amersham   HP6 5AH  
Phyllis Chapman, Ann & John Symmonds  
with Forest Band  
£10 inc raffle ticket  
Please bring some food to share  

SPRING FAMILY DANCE  
Sunday, 23rd February 2014   2.30-5.30pm  
Amersham Community Centre, Drake Hall,  
Chiltern Avenue, Amersham   HP6 5AH  
Ted Morse with Toucan Play  
£5, children under 14 free  
Please bring a plate of food to share  
Contact for both dances: 01628 486845/01344 646391  

Look out for the St George’s Day Celebration workshops and dance on 26th April 2014  

Trinity Church Hall  
Church Street/Gentleman’s Row  
Enfield EN2 6AN  
Resident Musicians  
The Forest Band  
Membership £7 + £4.00 per Dance  
Guests £6.00 per Dance  

Caller for 2013  
December 14 Barry Bullimore  

Callers for 2014  
January    1 A. Kellet & Mary Bryan  
January 11 Cyril Jones’s B’day invited callers  
February 8 Carol Hewson  
March    8 Mary Bryan  
April   12 Val & Ian McFarlane  
7.30 – 10.30  
Info: John Wood 020 8926 7293  

St George’s Day Celebrations  
St George’s Day is coming around again, and with it The St George’s Day Celebrations on 26th April 2014, an event that is run alternately by the Oxfordshire Folk Association and the Chiltern Folk Association. This year it is at the Drake Hall, Amersham HP6 5AH. The dance, starting at 7.30pm has a great line-up on stage of Madeleine Smith calling and Maggie Fletcher and Ruth Rose, both very experienced musicians, who can be relied upon to provide some super music at danceable speeds. Dancers will be delighted to see that Madeleine is calling. Her programme is under wraps at the moment but you can rest assured that it will be popular and relevant to the occasion. Wear something red!!  

Previous participants at these celebrations will remember that it is not just a dance but also includes workshops during the afternoon, which give you a taster of some very English activities, such as clog dancing, maypole dancing, longsword dancing and international dancing. Yes, that’s right, international, a change from 2012, because as you probably know, we English cannot claim exclusive rights to this great personage because he was very busy slaying dragons and doing other good things all over the place.  

These workshops should be booked in advance as, if previous experience is anything to go by, they could well be oversubscribed. You can be a complete beginner to enter, the only requirement to the case of the clog session is for clogs (a few may be available for use), hard shoes or taps. The Workshoppers will be displaying their newfound skills to an audience before the evening dance. No pressure!  

For further information ring either 01628 486845 or 01344 646391
very varied programme. A beautiful song about The Penlee lifeboat tragedy stood out. Then it was Jez Lowe and The Bad Pennies, a superb singer, songwriter and entertainer. This was followed by Little Johnny England. I couldn't cope with the volume and had to leave.

Saturday passed in a pleasant blur as I dashed about playing the drum for Dorset Buttons all over the town finishing with a concert of music unearthed by Rollo Woods from the 18th and early 19th centuries under the title Never on a Sunday. My husband Dave was dancing with Bourne River Morris. The afternoon procession went on for ages winding along the seafront, lots of Border, Belly Dancers, local Stave dancers as well as the usual NW and Cotswold. Woodside, Pump House Clog and Phoenix from Watford were there and Whitethorn never miss. Looking around you may have bumped into Ian and Jenny Edlin who now fly the Friday Folk flag from the village of Shillingstone. We were glad to rest that evening at the concert in the comfortable theatre. It started with Chris Leslie then Vin Garbutt, Wendy Arrowsmith, and the new reincarnation of Morris On. (I was a little disappointed with that). Sunday started with our usual seat in the South Gallery of the church to sing West gallery music. The 3 Morris sides included Wicket Brood and even Martin Hallet was there from his home in Wales. There is something rather jarring about the whooping and violent sticking of Border in a church service!

We rushed about doing displays and helping with the West Gallery workshop. The town is humming all weekend with music and song of all kinds wafting out of every pub door and window. A few crazy sides (including Wicket Brood and Dorset Buttons) end the afternoon in the sea, I was drumming and singing the tune for Gorton while paddling!

In the evening there was a concert with Huw Williams. I wondered if it was the same guy who taught me clog at Bromyard many years ago and indeed it was though he is now better known as a songwriter. It was a lovely concert and a fitting end to the festival.

Dawn Skye
HERTFORDSHIRE FOLK ASSOCIATION COMMITTEE
Elected Members & Officers as from November 2013

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 Nicholson  nic.jackie@btinternet.com Tel: 01727 854183
Cttee Member: Barbara Burton  bajburton@yahoo.co.uk Tel: 01462 813620
Cttee Member: Mrs Libby Byne-Grey  Libbybyne-grey@outlook.com Tel: 01920 460553
Cttee Member: Ann Gibson  anngibson089@btinternet.com Tel: 01462 895567
Cttee Member: Barry Goodman  barry.goodman1@ntlworld.com Tel: 01462 456811
Cttee Member: Mr John Grey  Libbybyne-grey@outlook.com Tel: 01920 460553
Cttee Member: Karon Lyne  Karon.Lyne@btconnect.com Tel: 02088 869978
Cttee Member: Nicole Norman  Nicole@makeswoodwork.co.uk Tel: 01438 840656
Co-opted Member: Puddingstone Ed: Adrian Burrows  Tel:01727 866086 editor@hertsfolkassn.org.uk
Rep for Bursary Fund on HFA Cttee Brenda Brookes  Tel: 01582 629732 Cliff_bren.brookes@ntlworld.com
HFA Auditor John Newberry  Tel 01438 358198
Affiliated Club Representatives: Norman Dobbing (English Miscellany)

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.

Puddingstone would like to hear about regular folk events taking place in Hertfordshire. If you are involved in a regular ceilidh or song session, we would love to hear from you (please use contact details on page 2).
ANTI-CLASH SERVICE: Please notify Hertfordshire's Events Secretary, Terry Elvins, of your Forthcoming Fixtures. If you are planning an event please contact him to check that your event will not clash with another taking place. Email him at: mail@ptelvins.plus.com Other contact details available on page 2.

### Diary Dates 2013-14

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<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event Details</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Dec 7</td>
<td><strong>Staplers Folk Dance Club</strong>, St Ippolyts Parish Hall, Hitchin SG4 7RB  01582 881966  <a href="http://www.staplers.org.uk">www.staplers.org.uk</a> Andrew Swaine with Momentum</td>
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<td>Dec 7</td>
<td><strong>Dunton Folk Concerts</strong>, St Mary Magdalene Church, Dunton, Biggleswade. 01767 316124 / 310424  <a href="http://www.duntonfolk.co.uk">www.duntonfolk.co.uk</a> Victorian Christmas with Blast from the Past</td>
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<td>Dec 12</td>
<td><strong>St Albans Abbey Folk</strong>, UR Church Hall, Homewood Road, St Albans, AL1 4BH  01727 834977 Keith Wright with Spring Greens</td>
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<tr>
<td>Dec 14</td>
<td><strong>Winchmore Folk Dance Club</strong>, Trinity Church Hall, Church Street, Enfield, EN2 6AN  0208 926 7293 Barrie Bullimore with The Forest Band</td>
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<tr>
<td>Dec 14</td>
<td><strong>London Barndance</strong>, Cecil Sharp House, 2 Regents Park Road, London, NW1 7AY  01628 633962 Geoff Cubitt with Fat Harry</td>
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<td>Dec 28</td>
<td><strong>St Andrew's Folk Dancers</strong>, Trinity Church Hall, Church Street, Enfield, EN2 6AN  0208 366 3982 Club Callers with The Forest Band</td>
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<td>Dec 31</td>
<td><strong>Unicorn New Year's Eve Ceilidh</strong>, Pirton Village Hall, Pirton, SG5 3PS  01582 724261 / 07946 439095 Barry Goodman with The Watch</td>
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<td>2014</td>
<td><strong>Winchmore, Anglo-Scottish Night</strong>, Andrew Kellet &amp; Mary Bryan with The Forest Band</td>
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<td>Jan 4</td>
<td><strong>Chiltern Folk Association</strong>, Amersham Community Centre, HP6 5AH Phyllis Chapman, Ann &amp; John Symmonds with The Forest Band – See Ad</td>
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<td>Jan 4</td>
<td>Haddenham Ceilidh</td>
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<td>Chiltern Folk Association,</td>
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<td>Ted Morse with Toucan Play</td>
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<td>Mar 1</td>
<td>Welwyn Garden City Folk Dance</td>
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<td>Winchmore, Mary Bryan</td>
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<td>Harrow Folk Dance Club</td>
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<td>Mar 15</td>
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<td>Staplers, American Square Dance</td>
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<td>St Andrew’s, Rosemary Hunt</td>
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### DIARY DATES 2014 (continued)

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<th>Date</th>
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<tr>
<td>Mar 22</td>
<td><strong>Folk By The Oak</strong> – See Ad</td>
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| Mar 29 | **Staplers Memorial Dance for Brian Limbrick,**  
Hitchin British Schools,  
SG4 9TS  Ron Coxall with the Ivel Valley Band | 7.30pm|
| Apr 6  | **HFA Piano-Accordion Workshop,**  
Backhouse Room, 116 Handside Lane,  
Welwyn Garden City, AL8 6SZ  
Playing for Dancing with Chris Dewhurst – See Ad |       |
| Apr 6  | **Finals, New Roots Competition,**  
Trestle Arts Base, St Albans – See Ad                                                      |       |
| Apr 12 | **Winchmore,**  Val & Ian McFarlane with The Forest Band.  
7.30pm                                      |       |
| Apr 12 | **London Barndance,**  
Rhodri Davies with Vertical Expression.  
8.00pm                                      |       |
| Apr 26 | **St Andrew’s,**  Colin Hume with The Forest Band.  
7.30pm                                      |       |
| Apr 26 | **Chiltern Folk Association** – See Ad                                                     |       |
| May 10 | **Winchmore,**  Anne Dunn with The Forest Band.  
7.30pm                                      |       |
| May 10 | **London Barndance,**  Andrew Swaine with Fat Harry  
8.00pm                                      |       |
| May 17 | **St Albans Abbey FDC,**  
Barrie Bullimore with The Forest Band.  
7.30pm                                      |       |
| May 24 | **St Andrew’s,**  Carol Hewson with The Forest Band.  
7.30pm                                      |       |
| Jun 28 | **St Andrew’s,**  Arnold Stem with Spring Greens.  
7.30pm                                      |       |

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### HADDENHAM CEILIDHS

Ceilidhs • Concerts • Festival  HADDENHAM VILLAGE HALL near AYLESBURY  
First Saturday of the month October 2013 to June 2014

#### CEILIDHS IN THE MAIN HALL

Jan 4,  Feb 1,  Mar 1,  Apr 5,  May 3,  Jun 7.  **Dancing starts at 8pm**

#### ACOUSTIC CONCERTS IN THE WALTER ROSE ROOM

Oct 5,  Nov 2,  Dec 7,  **(See timings on separate Festival leaflet)**  
Jan 4,  Feb 1,  Mar 1,  Apr 5,  May 3,  Jun 7.  
**Acoustic concerts start at 8.45pm**

www.haddenhamceilidhs.co.uk
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 - 01923 234920
Danse Herts - Ashleigh Milner 10 Swinburne Ave, Hitchin, SG5 2RG
Dunton Folk – Simon Bailes 01767 301 424 or www.duntonfolk.co.uk
English Miscellany - info@englishmiscellany.com or 01483 755278
Fleetville FDG - Mrs B Howlett, 39 Westfields, St. Albans AL3 4LR
Friday Folk - 020 8366 1703 or gilltibbs@hotmail.com
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 - 01438 714539
North London Folk - Vivien Mallindale, 40 Summerlee Ave, London, N2 9QP
Offley Morris - 01462 624210 or bill@davis7.fsnet.co.uk
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 - 01727 863727 or bagman@stalbansmorrismen.org.uk
St Andrew's FDC - Mrs A Dunn, 3 Conway Gardens, Enfield, EN2 9AD
Standon Morris Men - John Grey, Musley House, 9 Homefield Rd, Ware SG12 7NG
Staplers FDG - 01582 881966 or www.staplers.org.uk
Tappalachian - 07957 614064 or miniange@postmaster.co.uk
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 - 01707 324413 or Lynda.swaine@btinternet.com

Affiliated clubs and groups are welcome to send a representative to HFA committee meetings - please ask for details!
Friday Folk

If you enjoy a lively barn dance, you'll find Friday Folk is a great way to meet like-minded people and have fun. Newcomers are always welcome. And there's no need to bring a partner.

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

2013
6 Dec Jane Pfaff and FF Band
13 Dec Christmas Special with Colin Hume and Spring Greens
20 Dec Carol Singing around St Albans

2014
3 Jan Bob Barrett
10 Jan Adrian Burrows
17 Jan Colin Hume and FF Band
24 Jan Bob Lilley
31 Jan Suzanne Farmer
7 Feb Mike Ruff and Spring Greens
14 Feb Brenda Godrich and FF Band
21 Feb Chris Turner
28 Feb Eileen Sinden
7 Mar Mark Elvins and FF Band
14 Mar Dave Parsons and Mike Ruff
21 Mar Club Callers
28 Mar Mike Bennett, Mollie and friends
4 Apr Bob Barrett and Spring Greens
11 Apr Ron Coxall and FF Band
18 Apr Closed for Easter

New Old Father Christmas needed

Have you ever considered being a Dragon or Father Christmas or perhaps the Queen of Egypt? If so we have just the thing for you - the St Albans Mummers.

St Albans Mummers are hard at work preparing for their annual Boxing Day extravaganza.

For nearly fifty years, the Mummers have taken their "Time-honoured Masque of St George and the Dragon" to the streets of St Albans on December 26th.

Generations of enthusiastic spectators have turned out to watch, jeer and cheer as St George vanquishes a rag-bag of rivals, only to see Father Christmas make the Doctor bring the losers back to life. Maybe next year St George will finally see them off. Maybe . . .

This year, there will be some changes. "Old Father Christmas" has been played by the same person for a very long time, but no more, so on Boxing Day, "New Old Father Christmas" will appear, regenerated like Dr Who.

The Mummers stress that they're not just recruiting for this year, but for the future. St Albans Mummers Play has become a city tradition, and they're determined to see it go on indefinitely.

The Mummers website, www.stalbansmummers.org.uk, will tell you lots more about them. If you are interested or would like more details, please email secretary@stalbansmummers.org.uk, or phone Trevor Adams 01707 883476.
Membership Renewal

The HFA membership year matches the calendar year so the subs for 2014 are now due. The rates have been maintained from 2013 and are individual £2.00; Household £3.00; Group/Club £10.00. To have Puddingstone mailed to you an additional charge of £1.50 is levied. Each Member and Club is entitled to a copy of Puddingstone.

There appears to be confusion about distribution of Puddingstone. If you do not pay for your individual copy to be posted to your home you are still entitled to a copy but this must be via the bulk despatch to your Associated Club. Let either your Club Secretary know you wish to choose this route or contact me direct nominating the Club of your choice.

Although still set at a very low rate HFA membership helps to maintain our reserve at a workable level. We have had two serious hits with the enforced cancellation of the 2012 Summer Festival and the low attendance at the 2013 festival – only 109 children and 120 adults in comparison with the 500 plus dancers and audience on previous years.

If you know of a past member who has not renewed please try and persuade them to rejoin.

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**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 £1.50 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 (£1.50 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

Alternatively pay by standing order: Hertfordshire Folk Association

Sort Code: 60 18 11  
Account: 45217718
If you are under 25 and play traditionally based music, this is for you.

There are two categories, under 18 and 18-24. The judges, Lynne Heraud, Andy Stafford, Carolyn Robson and Gavin Davenport will give helpful advice and award performance opportunities.

Closing date January 31

To enter, send a CD with up to 15 minutes of your music to: Alison Macfarlane, 40 Warwick Road, St Albans, Herts AL1 4DL.  

**Finals April 6 2014**,  
**Trestle Arts Base, St Albans**  
www.new-roots.org.uk, info@stalbansfolkmusic.org.uk 01727 852111

Robson and Gavin Davenport represent a wide spectrum of insights into the folk scene. Their task will be firstly to listen to the entries sent in and select the performers who will take part in the final on Sunday April 6 2014 in St Albans. On the day they will give constructive feedback to performers. There is no overall winner and the aim is to match the performers to the opportunities at folk festivals, clubs and other events which are offered to New Roots finalists. At folk clubs, opportunities include support slots, featured spots on singers' nights and full bookings.

Performers who want to enter are invited to complete the entry form on the New Roots web site and send it with a CD with up to 15 minutes of their music to Alison Macfarlane, 40 Warwick Road, St Albans, Herts AL1 4DL. The closing date is 31 January 2014. For further and more up to date information and an entry form see our web site www.new-roots.org.uk, which also has a form for organisers who wish to offer performance opportunities.

Further details:  
email info@stalbansfolkmusic.org.uk or ring 01727 852111.

Alison Macfarlane
ENGLISH MISCELLANY MUMMERS NEED YOU!

English Miscellany is always on the look out for people interested in displaying English Folk traditions. Country Dance is the core of our club, but we also display Cotswold and Northwest Morris, Sword, clog and have a group of singers and excellent musicians. If this sounds like your cup of tea, especially if you fancy dressing up in weird costume and performing Pace Egg, Mumming and Robin Hood Plays, don’t hesitate, get in touch and be recruited.

For more information please chat to:
Liz 01483 755278 or Roger 01707 324413
Hertfordshire Early Dance
The Memorable Masque of 1613,
A Masque Workshop by Anne Daye for Hertfordshire Early Dance

You know that if Anne Daye is leading your workshop, then you are in for a real treat. Her breadth and depth of knowledge from her many years of research enables her to deliver such a fund of information, but it is in the way she delivers it, so almost incidentally as you progress through the day, that it is almost imperceptible. You just have the dance 'overlaid' with what you have learnt in the course of that day, whether historical background or dancing etiquette or style or customs at court – on an infinite number of topics.

So it was that Herts Early Dance and friends got together on October 5th to enjoy a day working on one of three masques presented at the wedding of the Princess Elizabeth (later known as The Winter Queen), daughter of James I and his queen Anne of Denmark, to Frederick the Elector Palatine (and briefly Frederick V of Bohemia) on 15th of February, 1613.

We first looked at the masque in all its elements as performed by students taught by Anne, and the masque in context. This, the Memorable masque, was executed by the gentlemen of the Middle Temple and Lincoln's Inn and performed in the Great Hall of Whitehall Palace. Written by George Chapman, the designs were by Inigo Jones, or in his words on the masque’s title page:

"Invented and fashioned, with the ground and special structure of the whole work, by our kingdom's most artful and ingenious architect Inigo Jones. [It was] Supplied, applied, digested and written by George Chapman."

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/The_Memorable_Masque_of_the_Middle_Temple_and_Lincoln%27s_Inn

A modest man, Inigo Jones then? I didn’t appreciate (another thing Anne told us) that he was court carpenter until James I was in a position to elevate him to his team of court entertainments and productions. In 1613, the year of the wedding, he was Surveyor of the King's Works.

We then tried to recreate three elements of the masque, the entry to the hall by the torchbearers, based on choreography by Cesare Negri, an entry for masquers dressed as Virginian Princes, and an anti-masque of baboons. At this point Anne explained that the Virginian Princes were the representation of the native American as discovered in the New World but not known to the Stuart court and thus came from their imagination, and that the “baboons” were probably Barbary
macaque monkeys not dissimilar to the colony of monkeys found today on the Rock of Gibraltar. The designs for the Memorable Masque were so elaborate and materials used so costly that the whole would have required the entire GDP of a small nation to finance:

The "Princes of Virginia," were dressed in "cloth of silver embroidered with gold," with olive-colored masks, though they were also lavishly feathered and equipped with ornaments "imitating Indian work" — an attempt at an effect "altogether estrangeful and Indian-like."

Anne had brought along a selection of masks, some anonymous white faces of leather and some with apelike faces for us to wear. I believed it to be different to dance in a mask. You became I understood anonymous in some way. I also discovered how difficult it is to wear a mask and dance and breathe.

The torchbearers dance first. Some accounts would have it that the torches were lit at both ends - which makes one wonder how you might dance with them lit! Ours had incorporated an electric torch in the modern Health and Safety way, but were sufficiently realistic in size and weight to make you aware of what it was like to dance with them. I must admit, dance a chain with them and hand-swopping becomes more than tedious and less than gracious. Twelve dancers there were and we were a larger group, so another group sans torches aped the group in front and ‘choreographed’ a similar dance.

This group then formed the core for the Virginian Princes, set out in triangular formation to make their entry. Again, when you dance with Anne you think you are dancing as authentically as it is possible to do.

And then the dance of the baboons. Great fun here. Groups of marauding apes – funny how you soon lose your inhibitions, advancing and retreating and making gestures towards the other group which modestly will not allow me to explain or divulge...

The gentlemen of the Middle Temple and Lincoln's Inn were also telling a story, which Anne unravelled as the day and the dances progressed, that these sun-worshipping people had come to honour the royal couple and to accept Christianity. Jones’ set incorporated a golden mountain, a silver temple and a hollow tree. His stage effects included the rock moving forward and splitting open to release the anti-masquers. His story Jones had presented by figures from classical mythology, well known to his audience – if not to us.

The time had flown. We had had a taste of the Memorable Masque. Whether we did it credit or no, we had a wonderful day of dance and fun, with all put into context for us so that our imaginations too were fed and watered!

Helen Stamp

The club meets about every 3 weeks on Sunday (2.15 - 5.00) at St. Stephen’s Church Hall, Watling Street, St. Albans. AL1 2PX.

Our 12th Night Celebrations will be on Sunday 5th January 2.00 - 6.00
For more information go to: www.hertsearlydance.org.uk , phone 01442 862545 or e-mail : info@hertsearlydance.org.uk
Herts Folk Development Fund

Over the Christmas and New Year period there are lots of opportunities to participate in local folk activities – from seasonal concerts and ceilidhs to mummers plays and carolling.

The Hertfordshire Folk Development Fund has been established to ensure that expertise in the folk arts in our area is supported and has a secure future.

The fund aims to promote the development of skills in all aspects of folk activities and to provide opportunities for individuals or groups in the Hertfordshire district to gain new expertise or greater proficiency in a particular area.

If you or your club would like to support our activities by making a donation or apply for a grant to support your activities please contact Roger Barnes, the secretary to the fund, email: Barnesstab@aol.com

Unicorn New Year's Eve Ceilidh

8pm at Pirton Village Hall, the band is The Watch, with Barry Goodman. Tickets are limited to 120 places, and are available at the Unicorn Ceilidhs or from Alan on 07946 439 095. More details at www.unicornceilidhs.org.uk

There's the traditional Grand Champagne Raffle at the interval for 20p, & many other great prizes, including free entry to all the Unicorn Ceilidhs for the year - worth £90) and a superb 2-course Buffet is included in the ticket price. Real Ale, as usual. We give all the adults a tot of whisky at midnight to toast the New Year in, and Auld Lang Syne will no doubt be lustily sung. It's a great night with a wonderful atmosphere!

All this for only £25 per Adult or £10 per Child (under 16 on the night). It's pre-booked ticket only, so don't delay.

BOOK NOW - places limited to 120 ! phone Alan on 01582 724 261(h) or 07946 439 095 to discuss or email me alan.creamer@btinternet.com

Alan Creamer
Unicorn Ceilidhs Committee
HARROW FOLK DANCE CLUB  
(Charity Registration No. 801346; Affiliated to EFDSS,  
Hertfordshire Folk Association, North London Folk and SIFD)

44th ANNIVERSARY DANCE

SATURDAY 15th MARCH 2014

BARRIE BULLIMORE

~ ~ with music by: ~ ~ ~

‘MOLLIE & VIC’

at SHAFTESBURY HIGH SCHOOL
HEADSTONE LANE, HATCH END, HA3 6NP.
(near Headstone Lane London Overground Station)

First dance 19.30 (promptly) – until 22.45 hrs.

Tickets (on the door) £8.00 including refreshments.

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Forthcoming attractions:

42nd Playford Ball – 15th November 2014
(Ian & Val. McFarlane with Keeping Thyme)

45th Anniversary Dance – 21st. March 2015
(David Kerridge with The Forest Band)

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

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For further information contact:  
Roy Martin – 020 8868 7526
THE ELIZABETHAN SESSION

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HANNAH JAMES
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Thursday 20 March 2014
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Hatfield, Herts, AL9 5NQ
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Saturday 22 March 2014
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London, NW1 7AY
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