



PUDDINGSTONE



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40p

Where sold

Issue 58 Winter 2013 -14
December - March





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COPY DATE
for Summer Issue
(April 2014 -July
2014)
1st March

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Printed by **Triographics Printers** of
Knebworth. For more info contact
01438 811905 or alantrio@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.

Puddingstone welcomes articles, news,
pictures, letters and music, as well as
Advertising, and will review CDs on receipt
(space permitting). All material should be
sent to the editor - preferably by email.

Preferred digital format for artwork:- .JPG
or .PDF. Preferred text format:- Word or
plain text. Other file types will be
considered on receipt.

If you would like an advert/article/piece of
music etc. published in Puddingstone but
do not have the facilities to electronically
produce it, please contact me, as I may be
able to do this for you.
(subject to available time)

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.hertsfolkassn.org.uk



Hertfordshire Folk Association
(affiliated to the English Folk Dance and Song Society)
<http://www.hertsfolkassn.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.

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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.

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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

Book Review

English Folk Tunes for Ukulele Colin Tribe 37 Traditional Pieces. Schott ED13569

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

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

Scottish Folk Tunes for Piano (Carson Turner) -
<http://www.schott-music.com/news/archive/show,9505.html>

New Fiddle Tunes (Cooper) -
<http://www.schott-music.com/news/archive/show,9485.html>

The Fiddler Series (Huws Jones) -
<http://www.schott-music.com/news/archive/show,9499.html>

Folk Roots (Davies) - <http://www.schott-music.com/news/archive/show,9491.html>

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**



**Inchmore Folk
Dance Club**



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

Swanage Folk Festival



Phoenix go for a paddle

Why Swanage Folk Festival? Well, we moved from Harpenden to Poole so it is our nearest festival BUT if you come down for it you will see many familiar Hertfordshire faces. It is quite small in terms of concert venues etc but there were SIXTY visiting sides so the range of dancing is amazing. Friday night there was a concert: Kimbers Men, ostensibly a shanty side but with a 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



Dorset Buttons dancing in the sea

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

PUDDINGSTONE

Middle pages pull-out



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
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Membership Secretary: **Mr Nic Nicholson** nic.jackie@btinternet.com
Tel: 01727 854183

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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

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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).

Diary Dates

2013-14

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.

Dec 7	Staplers Folk Dance Club , St Ippolyts Parish Hall, Hitchin SG4 7RB 01582 881966 www.staplers.org.uk Andrew Swaine with Momentum	7.30pm
Dec 7	Dunton Folk Concerts , St Mary Magdalene Church, Dunton, Biggleswade. 01767 316124 / 310424 www.duntonfolk.co.uk Victorian Christmas with Blast from the Past	8.00pm
Dec 12	St Albans Abbey Folk , UR Church Hall, Homewood Road, St Albans, AL1 4BH 01727 834977 Keith Wright with Spring Greens	7.30pm
Dec 14	Winchmore Folk Dance Club , Trinity Church Hall, Church Street, Enfield, EN2 6AN 0208 926 7293 Barrie Bullimore with The Forest Band	7.30pm
Dec 14	London Barndance , Cecil Sharp House, 2 Regents Park Road, London, NW1 7AY 01628 633962 Geoff Cubitt with Fat Harry	8.00pm
Dec 28	St Andrew's Folk Dancers , Trinity Church Hall, Church Street, Enfield, EN2 6AN 0208 366 3982 Club Callers with The Forest Band	7.30pm
Dec 31	Unicorn New Year's Eve Ceilidh , Pirton Village Hall, Pirton, SG5 3PS 01582 724261 / 07946 439095 Barry Goodman with The Watch	8.00pm
2014		
Jan 1	Winchmore, Anglo-Scottish Night , Andrew Kellet & Mary Bryan with The Forest Band	7.30pm
Jan 4	Chiltern Folk Association , Amersham Community Centre, HP6 5AH Phyllis Chapman, Ann & John Symmonds with The Forest Band – See Ad	4-7pm

DIARY DATES 2014 (continued)

Jan 4	Haddenham Ceilidh – See Ad	
Jan 11	Winchmore , Cyril Jones' Birthday Dance, Invited Callers with The Forest Band.	7.30pm
Jan 11	London Barndance , Lynne Render with Fiddle Chicks	8.00pm
Jan 25	St Andrew's , Barrie Bullimore with Toucan Play	7.30pm
Feb 1	Staplers , Geoff Cubitt with Mollie Koenigsberger & Vic Smith.	7.30pm
Feb 8	Winchmore , Carol Hewson with The Forest Band.	7.30pm
Feb 8	London Barndance , Adam Hughes with English Contra Dance Band.	8.00pm
Feb 22	St Andrew's , Chris Turner with The Forest Band.	7.30pm
Feb 23	Chiltern Folk Association, Spring Family Dance Ted Morse with Toucan Play – See Ad.	2.30-5.30pm
Mar 1	Welwyn Garden City Folk Dance Club , Welwyn Civic Centre, Prospect Place, Welwyn, AL6 9ER 01707 320299 Geoff Cubitt with The Forest Band.	7.30pm
Mar 8	Winchmore , Mary Bryan with The Forest Band.	7.30pm
Mar 8	London Barndance, Chalk Style , A dance to celebrate the life of Bernard Chalk. Mark Elvins with Fiddlegang.	8.00pm
Mar 15	Harrow Folk Dance Club , Shaftesbury High School, Headstone Lane, Harrow Weald, HA3 6NP 0208 868 7526 Barrie Bullimore with Mollie & Vic.	7.30pm
Mar 16	Staplers, American Square Dance Workshop Geoff Cubitt with Kelly's Eye.	2-5pm
Mar 22	St Andrew's , Rosemary Hunt with Orion's Ring.	7.30pm

DIARY DATES 2014 (continued)

Mar 22	Folk By The Oak – See Ad	
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

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

Roundabouts 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@stalbanismorriemen.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

Woodside Morris Men - 39 Holland Gardens, Garston, Watford.

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 Mummings.

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

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

The Mummings website, www.stalbansmummings.org.uk, will tell you lots more about them. If you are interested or would like more details, please email secretary@stalbanmummings.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.

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

Alternative 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

St Albans Festival

Folk at the Maltings, Maltings Arts Theatre, St Albans, 8pm on:

Friday January 3, New Year concert

Friday January 31 The Devine Family plus New Roots finalist Matt Tighe

Friday March 7 Pete Coe plus New Roots finalists, Broken Boat

New Roots

The call is out to young musicians under the age of 25 who sing or play traditionally based music to enter for New Roots 2014. Whether your style is traditional or contemporary folk, roots or world music, whether you perform traditional material or write your own, the organisers would like to hear from you. There are two categories, under 18 and 18-24. New Roots has been running since 2000 and the standard rises every year.

The list of judges for 2014 has now been finalised. Between them, Lynne

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

We've moved the date...



**Barn Dance and Afternoon Workshop
With**



NOW ON 18th October 2014

www.englishmiscellany.com

Call Helen on 020 8386 3778



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 modesty 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.

~ ~ ~ ~ ~ ~ ~

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)

~ ~ ~ ~ ~ ~ ~

***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.***

=====

***For further information contact:
Roy Martin – 020 8868 7526***



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ONE WEEK – EIGHT ARTISTS
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Thursday 20 March 2014
The Old Palace, Hatfield House
Hatfield, Herts, AL9 5NQ
Tickets £16*

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Cecil Sharp House, 2 Regents Park Road
London, NW1 7AY
Tickets £16*

www.folkbytheoak/tes • 01432 355 416

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* Booking fees applicable

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