HERTFORDSHIRE FOLK ASSOCIATION
Key contacts (see further details on middle pages)

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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
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¼ page black & white  - £ 8.50

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 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

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.

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
Editorial

All at Puddingstone would like to extend seasonal greetings to our readers. I am aware that this edition is very St. Albans-centric, I’m sorry if this leaves all those further afield feeling left out, but the answer is in your hands. It is my policy when editing/compiling Puddingstone not to write too much of the copy myself, as I want the magazine to represent your views, interest and Folk news. Simply put: If people don’t send me copy I can not put it in! You don’t have to do the work yourself, look in the column to the right! People organising events and clubs can ask members to send in reports, photos or contact our roving reporters. Or you can send us the results of your “Folk research”, eg. newly discovered tunes, songs and venues you would like to share.

Adrian Burrows

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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Photo on cover L to R: Graham Lyndon-Jones, Mathew Dart and David Freeman playing big recorders.
Hertfordshire Folk Association
Spring Sing 2015
Saturday 21st March
12 noon – 6pm
At
THE CROWN
17 High Street, BUNTINGFORD
Hertfordshire, SG9 9AB

ADMISSION £5
(food available from the bar)
For further information
See www.hertsfolkassn.org.uk
Call John Grey 01920 460553
Or email Libbybyne-grey@outlook.com

Local Folk History, Legends, Myths & Monsters
In my editorial I said I don’t intend to do too much of the copy writing myself, but unless some one volunteers to take up this topic, I am going to start a series in the next issue based on the above title. I recently rediscovered an article about the St Albans Dragon, named Wormenhurt, which Tony Barratt sent in many years ago. This has roused my interest, and I will be opening the series with a rerun of this article in the next issue, together with which ever monster catches my eye.
Adrian Burrows

St Albans Folk at the Maltings
See www.stalbansfolkmusic.org.uk for details
Friday January 2, New Year concert 8pm with The Foxglove Trio, Kara and Kelly Oliver
Friday February 6 concert 8pm
Friday March 6 concert 8pm

New Roots finals,
Sunday April 12 Trestle Arts Base, St Albans See advert for details

St Albans Folk Festival June 27-28
Saturday June 27 Day of Dance in City Centre, Day of Music in the Old Town Hall followed by concert featuring Brass Monkey in their final year as a band. Tickets from St Albans Tourist Information Centre and www.allaboutstalbans.com
Sunday June 28 Day of Music in the White Swan, Dagnall Street.

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 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 12 2015
Trestle Arts Base, St Albans
www.new-roots.org.uk, info@stalbansfolkmusic.org.uk 01727 852111

If you are under 25 and play traditionally based music, this is for you.
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The long awaited new CD from Vin is now available. ‘Synthetic Hues’ is an album of classic Vin Garbutt songs plus some outstanding songs from other writers. The thirteen tracks include songs that I have no trouble recognising as his, even though I have not heard him live for many years. This CD also includes the famous Eric Bogle song ‘No Man’s Land’ - a highly appropriate addition. Vin is sensitively accompanied by musicians Stewart Hardy on fiddle, Becky Taylor, Dave O’Neill on mandolin and Kristen Peacock on piano.

The songs all drew me in to listening to the words and, as expected, evoked feelings ranging from anger to tenderness. However, there was one thing that I did not expect. I was surprised by the changes in Vin's voice. What I remember as having been a harsh edge that added so much to the nature of the gritty social comment and life observations in his songs is absent. Is that because this is a recording? I guess so.

It is such a shame that Vin has had to cancel his 'Southern' tour for health reasons. So sad since it gives us fewer opportunities to experience the full Vin experience. He is inspirational in the way he can move his listeners from laughter to squirming in an instant.

He draws you in to each song with familiarity but then hits you with the comment all with such a wonderful sense of humour.

Thanks Vin for this great selection of songs. Do hope you can come and perform them in clubs near here very soon.

Jan and Derek Guyatt
National Folk Arts Centre Winter / Spring education programme at Cecil Sharp House

Music, dance, singing and other folk traditions explored The English Folk Dance and Song Society (EFDSS) has launched its winter/spring season of activities at Cecil Sharp House in London including classes, courses and workshops based on traditional English folk arts for children, young people, adults and families.

A full list of classes and courses at Cecil Sharp House can be found at: http://www.cecilsharphouse.org/csh-whats-on

Dunton Folk Concerts
13th December - Gilmore and Roberts
For our final concert in 2014 we welcome Katriona and Jamie back to Dunton for their second appearance. Support by Saul Bailey
http://www.duntonfolk.co.uk/

Abbots Langley Winter Acoustic Concerts
Sunday afternoon concerts at Abbots Langley Community Centre, Gallows Hill Lane, Abbots Langley, Herts. WD5 0AP
For more info / tickets: Tim and Lesley Brooks: 01923 264536/01923 264536

CHILTERN FOLK ASSOCIATION
(Affiliated to EFDSS)

NEW YEAR DANCE
Saturday 3rd January 2015  4-7.30pm
Amersham Community Centre,
Drake Hall, Chiltern Avenue, HP6 5AH
MAGGIE FLETCHER, ALAN ARCHER,
& JOHN SYMONDS with
KELLY’S EYE
£10 plus free raffle ticket
Please bring a plate of food to share

FAMILY DANCE
Sunday 22nd February 2015, 2.30-5.30pm
Amersham Community Centre, Drake Hall,
Chiltern Avenue, HP6 5AH
TED MORSE with TOUCAN PLAY
£5  Accompanied Children under 16 FREE
Please bring a small plate of food to share

Further information 01628 486845  chilternfolk.org.uk

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
December 13 Barry Bullimore
Callers for 2015
January  1 A. Kellet & Mary Bryan
January 10 Cyril Jones’s B’day
invited callers
February 14 Sibby
March  14 Anne Dunn
April  11 Judith Inman
7.30 – 10.30
Info: John Wood 020 8926 7293
GYMEL CD

Gymel was a folk group trio formed in the 1970s, and consisted of Janet Simpson, Tony Barratt and Graham Lyndon-Jones. All three of them were good singers and musicians in their own rights, and magnificent as a trio. Gymel was greatly enhanced by the weird and wonderful instruments they played, many of which will be heard on this CD.

Graham, as you will have read in other issues of this journal, is an instrument maker and features on flutes, crumhorns and curtal. Tony plays a guitar-lute and other stringed instruments, and Janet features on the bowed-psaltery and recorder. (I may have missed some out!)

The CD is a wonderful collection of a wide variety of songs, all featuring the versatility of Gymel’s performances. Space limits the review of each track, but the CD features ancient songs, sad songs, happy songs, chorus songs, shanties, songs of love, war, the sea, the land, and many you will probably not hear elsewhere. The track, “Wood for Burning” would be useful for the Scouts!! The instrumental accompaniments are varied, clever and never detract from the words. It adds to the overall folky feeling with the audience participation and response after each song.

It is a CD that will make you feel like you are in a folk club!

Dave Skye

For more info, or to order a copy go to:
Graham Lyndon-Jones <lyndon.curtals@talk21.com>
Exciting news!

From a single tweet in February this year (see the thread https://twitter.com/arifgardner/statuses/438241973926117377) we have a committee and pledges from many organisations to bring the carnival back and bring joy and fun to St Albans District, celebrating all that is great about the district whilst supporting local economic sustainability.

We are proposing to have a procession starting at Bernards Heath, finishing in Verulamium Park / Westminster Lodge at the bottom of Holywell Hill – as did previous carnivals. If you would like to get involved, support us, have a float or find out more details please email ivor@stalbanscarnival.org or call on 07782 193093.

With everyone’s help and support we can make this happen and recreate the success that the carnival was in years gone by.

Ivor Kellok
Piano-accordion workshop

Sunday 8th March 2015
To be held at East Hyde Village Hall, Lower Harpenden Road,
East Hyde, LU2 9QS.

Please note new venue!
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 the Tango, with Bert Santilly.

The tango is probably the most famous of the many wonderful dance styles to come out of Latin American. An essential part of any tango orchestra is the bandoneon, which is closely related to the accordion. Consequently the accordion is a great instrument to use for playing the tango. If you’ve ever wanted to have a go at playing tango, then this workshop is for you!

Bert Santilly is a talented accordionist who has already led two workshops for us (on Jazz and Musette), and we’re delighted to welcome him back.

Booking is essential: Please telephone Roger Swaine on 01707 324413, or E-mail him on roger.swaine1@btinternet.com to reserve a place.
**HERTFORDSHIRE FOLK ASSOCIATION COMMITTEE**

Elected Members & Officers as from November 2014

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Position</th>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Email</th>
<th>Tel</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Chairman</td>
<td>Miss Hilary Vare</td>
<td><a href="mailto:hilaryvare@yahoo.com">hilaryvare@yahoo.com</a></td>
<td>0208 360 6846</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Treasurer</td>
<td>Mr Roger Swaine</td>
<td><a href="mailto:roger.swaine1@btinternet.com">roger.swaine1@btinternet.com</a></td>
<td>01707 324413</td>
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<tr>
<td>Correspondence</td>
<td>Mr Terry Elvins</td>
<td><a href="mailto:mail@ptelvins.plus.com">mail@ptelvins.plus.com</a></td>
<td>01707 320299</td>
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<tr>
<td>Secretory</td>
<td>Mr Nic Nicholson</td>
<td><a href="mailto:nic.jackie@btinternet.com">nic.jackie@btinternet.com</a></td>
<td>01727 854183</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cttee Member</td>
<td>Mrs Libby Byne-Grey</td>
<td><a href="mailto:Libbybyne-grey@outlook.com">Libbybyne-grey@outlook.com</a></td>
<td>01920 460553</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cttee Member</td>
<td>Mr John Grey</td>
<td><a href="mailto:Libbybyne-grey@outlook.com">Libbybyne-grey@outlook.com</a></td>
<td>01920 460553</td>
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<td>Vacancy (1)</td>
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<td>Vacancy (2)</td>
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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.

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
<th>Venue Details</th>
<th>Contact Information</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Dec 6</td>
<td><strong>Staplers Folk Dance Club</strong></td>
<td>St Ippolyts Parish Hall, Hitchin SG4 7RB</td>
<td>01582 881966.</td>
<td>7.30pm</td>
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<td></td>
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<td><a href="http://www.Staplers.org.uk">www.Staplers.org.uk</a>, Colin Hume with Keeping Thyme</td>
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<td>Dec 11</td>
<td><strong>St Albans Abbey Folk</strong></td>
<td>UR Church Hall, Homewood Road, St Albans, AL1 4BH</td>
<td>01727 834977</td>
<td>7.30pm</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Terry Summers with the Forest Band</td>
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<td>Dec 13</td>
<td><strong>Dunton Folk Concerts</strong></td>
<td>St Mary Magdalene Church, Dunton, Biggleswade</td>
<td>01767 316124/310424</td>
<td>8.00pm</td>
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<td><a href="http://www.duntonfolk.co.uk">www.duntonfolk.co.uk</a>. Gilmore and Roberts</td>
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<td>Dec 13</td>
<td><strong>Winchmore Folk Dance Club</strong></td>
<td>Trinity Church Hall, Church Street, Enfield, EN2 6AN</td>
<td>0208 926 7293</td>
<td>7.30pm</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Barrie Bullimore with the Forest Band</td>
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<td>Dec 27</td>
<td><strong>St Andrews Folk Dancers</strong></td>
<td>Trinity Church Hall, Church Street, Enfield</td>
<td>7.30pm</td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Anne Dunn with the Forest Band</td>
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**2015**

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<th>Date</th>
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<tr>
<td>Jan 1</td>
<td><strong>Winchmore, Anglo Scottish Dance</strong></td>
<td>Andrew Kellet and Mary Brian with the Forest Band</td>
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<td>7.30</td>
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<td>Jan 2</td>
<td><strong>Folk at the Maltings</strong></td>
<td>The Foxglove Trio, Kara and Kelly Oliver</td>
<td><a href="http://www.stalbansfolkmusic.org.uk">www.stalbansfolkmusic.org.uk</a></td>
<td>8.00pm</td>
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<td>Jan 3</td>
<td><strong>Chiltern Folk</strong></td>
<td>Amersham Community Centre, Chiltern Ave, HP6 5AH.</td>
<td>Maggie Fletcher, Alan Archer &amp; John Symmonds</td>
<td>4.00 / 7.30pm</td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>with Kelly’s Eye</td>
<td>01628 486845</td>
<td>(See Advert)</td>
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<td>Jan 10</td>
<td><strong>Winchmore</strong>, Cyril Jones “Birthday Dance”</td>
<td>Brian Jones with the Forest Band</td>
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<td>7.30pm</td>
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<td>Jan 24</td>
<td><strong>St Andrews</strong>, John Wood with Spring Greens</td>
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<td>7.30pm</td>
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<tr>
<td>Feb 6</td>
<td><strong>Folk at the Maltings Concert</strong></td>
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<td>Feb 7</td>
<td><strong>Staplers</strong>, Lynne Render with Kelly’s Eye</td>
<td>7.30pm</td>
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<td>Feb 10</td>
<td><strong>Winchmore</strong>, Sibby with the Forest Band</td>
<td>7.30pm</td>
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<td>Feb 21</td>
<td><strong>Charity Barn Dance</strong>, Westmill Community Centre, John Barker PI, Hitchin. SG5 2 PG</td>
<td>7.30pm</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Friday Folk Band and Callers, 01462 420417</td>
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<td>Feb 22</td>
<td><strong>Chiltern Folk Family Dance</strong>, Ted Morse with Toucan Play (see advert)</td>
<td>2.30 -</td>
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<td>5.30pm</td>
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<td>Feb 28</td>
<td><strong>St Andrews</strong>, Andrea Stodell with the Forest Band</td>
<td>7.30pm</td>
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<td>Mar 6</td>
<td><strong>Folk at the Maltings Concert</strong>, <a href="http://www.stalbansfolkmusic.org.uk">www.stalbansfolkmusic.org.uk</a></td>
<td>8.00pm</td>
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<td>Mar 6</td>
<td><strong>Friday Folk</strong>, Linda Leslie (USA) with Stick Shift. Church Hall, Marlborough Rd, AL1 3XG</td>
<td>7.45pm</td>
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<td>01727 856508</td>
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<td>Mar 7</td>
<td><strong>Welwyn Garden City Folk Dance Club</strong>, Welwyn Civic Centre, Prospect Place, Welwyn, AL6 9ER.</td>
<td>7.30pm</td>
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<td>Carol Hewson with the Weston Country Dance Band</td>
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<td>Mar 8</td>
<td><strong>HFA Accordion Workshop</strong>, 01707 324413 (See advert)</td>
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<td>Mar 14</td>
<td><strong>Winchmore</strong>, Anne Dunn with the Forest Band</td>
<td>7.30pm</td>
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<td>Mar 21</td>
<td><strong>Harrow Folk Dance Club</strong>, New Venue John Greer Hall, Eastcote UR Church, Bridle Rd, Eastcote. HA5 2SH</td>
<td>7.30 to</td>
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<td>0208 868 7526</td>
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<td></td>
<td>David Kerridge with the Forest Band (See Advert)</td>
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<td>Mar 21</td>
<td><strong>HFA Spring Sing</strong>, The Crown, 17 High Street, Buntingford SG9 9AB 01920 460553</td>
<td>12 noon</td>
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<td>to 6pm</td>
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<td>Mar 28</td>
<td><strong>St Andrews</strong>, Brenda Goodrich with Vic &amp; Graham</td>
<td>7.30pm</td>
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<td>Apr 11</td>
<td><strong>Winchmore</strong>, Judith Inman with the Forest Band</td>
<td>7.30pm</td>
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<td>Apr 12</td>
<td><strong>New Roots Finals</strong>, Trestle Arts Base St Albans. (See Advert)</td>
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<td>Apr 25</td>
<td><strong>St Andrews</strong>, Rosemary Hunt with Orions Ring</td>
<td>7.30pm</td>
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<tr>
<td>May 9</td>
<td><strong>Winchmore</strong>, John Wood with the Forest Band</td>
<td>7.30pm</td>
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<td>May 16</td>
<td><strong>St Albans Abbey FDC</strong>, Ron Coxall with the Forest Band</td>
<td>7.30pm</td>
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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.

Dunton Folk – Simon Bailes  01767 301 424 or www.duntonfolk.co.uk

English Miscellany - info@englishmiscellany.com or 01483 755278

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

Herts Early Dance - Malcolm Gibbs, 114 Ridge Lane, Watford WD17 4SY

North London Folk - Vivien Mallindale, 40 Summerlee Ave, London, N2 9QP

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

Watford FDC - Eileen Fudge, 30 Beechpark Way, Watford WD17 3TY

Welwyn Garden City FDC - Mr T Elvins, 01707 320299 mail@ptelvins.plus.com

Winchmore FDC - Joyce Leedham 0208 866 2696


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!
Membership Renewal

The HFA membership year matches the calendar year so the subs for 2015 are now due. The rates are unchanged 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.

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 2015

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<th>Annual fees:</th>
<th>Individual: £2</th>
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<td>Group/Club: £10</td>
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To have Puddingstone delivered to your door, please add £1.50 to your annual fee:

Club/group (if applicable): ____________________________________________
Name/s: ____________________________________________________________
Address ___________________________________________________________
(Inc. Postcode) ____________________________________________________
Tel: ________________________________________________________________
E-mail 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 the 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
More anecdotes from Graham Lyndon-Jones about his enterprising life in music.

Barbara Stanley and I made frequent visits to John Cousen in Huddersfield where we enjoyed playing and making under John’s direction. This included making big recorders, the biggest of which was finished at the London College of Furniture (now part of the Metropolitan University). Other big recorders were obtained from John, these large instruments make a wonderful noise [see photo on front cover].

I’ve often been asked, “Is that a sackbutt you’re playing?” I always had to say No, but this made me feel it might be useful to have one. So Barbara and I found an old trombone and took it to the Salvation Army factory in Camp Road [St Albans], which made brass instruments for their bands, and got them to convert it to a tenor sackbutt. Barbara as a horn player (amongst other things) became our sackbutt player. With the aid of her father’s Wolf Cub lathe in the garden shed she made a shawm, with a bit of help from me – but not a lot because I’d never made a shawm. That was about the time I bought this place with its big workshop.

This enabled Barbara and me to set up and advertise that we made early instruments and we started to create the workshop. Pickfords used a special crane called an Iron Fairy to deliver a lathe weighing over a ton, it was 2nd hand from a college. It cost more to have delivered than to buy. A bandsaw from Kent we managed to fit in my Sherpa van.

About this time I started going regularly to the St Albans Folk Club at the Goat, arriving late after singing in the choir for the evening service at St Paul’s, Hatfield Road [St Albans]. The club gave me a new folk song experience as I hadn’t done much since leaving Exeter Morris. I made lots of new friends including Tony Barratt. After the club we used to meet in the attic of Dave Goode’s house where the singing went on and on, with hot chocolates passed up through the hatch while we were experimenting with harmonies and instruments.

Tony liked the idea of close harmony or a flute to go with some of his songs. The more of this we did, the better it got. Tony and I started doing floor spots at the Goat. Sometimes the harmonies followed the melodies in an old English style called “gymel” (twin). We sang in folk clubs around the area and were sent for by more distant clubs. When Janet Simpson joined, Gymel became a trio. This allowed me to use more instruments from the
expanding collection including curtals, tenor and bass, and hurdy-gurdy, and both Tony and me on pipe and tabor with Janet shaking a set of morris bells.

I worked for 5 years (in IT) at Marconi Instruments in Longacre (St Albans), about the time that David Munrow brought out his first LP which had excited a lot of people about early music. The sleeve notes mentioned that the tabor pipes were made by Jim Jones and the other instruments by Graham Lyndon-Jones. This led to fanmail and serious enquiries from all over the place addressed to Jones Musical Instruments, St Albans, England. The local sorting office sent these to Marconi Instruments, which was as near as they could manage, so some came to me after all.

Henry VIII introduced curtals to England, in inventories they are “douceuses” along with his crumhorns, big recorders and viols. A curtail is a proto-bassoon, made in one piece or nearly so, of wood. It has a downbore and an upbore, straight down and straight up with a U-bend at the bottom; six fingers on the former, 2 keys and thumb-hole on the latter. Doubling the bore makes it shorter, hence its name: curt. The commonest size is the bass curtail, lowest note C.

While in Brussels with Gordon [Myland] and English Folk Packet, I stayed on and made photos and drawings of curtals at the Brussels Museum. Then straight to Huddersfield and bought a large lump of sycamore. I managed to drill 2 holes very close to each other along its length, getting wider, and reamed them out to a cone. I then scooped out the lower end to make a U-bend and plugged it with cork. I pushed a bassoon crook and reed into the top end and blew. Out came a juicy C. Just then David Munrow came round, he had a go and liked it so much, he took it outside across the road and blew C’s to his wife waiting in the car.

Barbara and I decided we would have to go and see all the museum curtals we could find. So in 1977 we did just that – in Italy, Germany, Austria. We built up a library of measurements and photos. We decided to make standard bass curtal, that was what the pictures, statues, descriptions and documents of the time were referring to.

Maggie put a book together on the curtail, the early bassoon. There’s a photo in it of our younger child blowing it, it’s the same size as she is.

Our measurements and photos were a great help as I had been appointed to the LCF (where I had started making a lute as a student). The head of department John Hanchet needed help with woodwinds so I found myself teaching full-time students and an evening class. John also got Barbara and myself into teaching at a summer school for adults in Austria, held in a
renaissance castle, Breiteneich. As well as the instrument-making group, everyone enjoyed singing, dancing and mixed ensembles of early instruments. My bedroom had a vaulted ceiling with a fresco of monkeys playing crumhorns amongst foliage. This inspired me to make a similar design for printing T-shirts, in 5 sizes, which we sold at the castle.

So I found myself teaching at LCF while making instruments here in St Albans, and occasionally I’d have some school teaching. Because you want some regular money as opposed to the lumpy money that craftswork people always get because you don’t know when you’re going to get paid. You finished an instrument, you liked it, you wrote off and told the customer, very few of them were British, it was time he paid the balance. That would come within a few days and then you’d have a lovely packing-up morning and hump it round to the post office and off it goes. Most of them got through undamaged but not always. American customs sometimes did the damage, looking for drugs. The Japanese seem to have run over one in a vehicle because you could see the tyre marks on the case, the case didn’t protect it at all, even a fibreglass case.

We had an Irishman at the College who wanted to take an interest in the contrabassoon in Dublin Museum. So I said, “Good project”. He said “I’ll be in there next month.” I said, “Have you learnt enough to take some stuff to measure it with?” “Oh yes, to be sure.” He did rather a good job, so we had a team including Maggie to start making contrabassoons. The modern contrabassoon has a peg which you plonk on the floor and it stands upright, the bell turns around and points downwards. The baroque contrabassoon has no peg but was played at an angle. It’s made like an ordinary bassoon but every measurement is doubled.

Handel had scored for it in “Music for the Royal Fireworks,” and Maggie attended a Prom in which a contrabassoon made by our team was played for this music. When they saw the contrabassoon standing propped up at 45° on the stage, the Prommers shouted out, “Is that thing loaded?”
Dec 2 Showcase night with: Causton Walker & Ranagri
Dec 9 Cathryn Craig & Brian Willoughby
Dec 16 The New Rope String Band - £12 & £10
Dec 23 Club Christmas Party
Jan 6 New Year Singaround
Jan 13 Phil Beer
Jan 20 Dave Ellis & Boo Howard
Jan 27 AGM + Round the Room
Feb 3 Gawkey
Feb 10 Tom McConville
Feb 17 Broom Bezzums
Feb 24 Martin Carthy £12 & £10
Mar 3 Round the Room Mar 10 John Renbourn & Wizz Jones £15 & £13
Mar 17 The Hut People Mar 24 Open Stage Mar 31 Round the Room

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.

Meeting Fridays from 7:45 to 10:00 pm at The Church Hall, Marlborough Road, St Albans, AL1 3XG.
www.fridayfolk.org.uk – 01727 856508
Standard Friday admission £3

2014 / 2015
5 Dec Brenda Godrich & FF Band
12 Dec Party Night to 11pm: Mike Bennett & Momentum
19 Dec Carol Singing around St Albans
9 Jan Bob Barrett and The Turnabouts
16 Jan Colin Hume and FF Band
23 Jan Club callers’ favourite dances
30 Jan Mike Bennett
6 Feb Eileen Sinden
13 Feb Friday Folk Band
20 Feb Bob Lilley
27 Feb Paul Garner

6 Mar Special to 11pm, Linda Leslie from USA and Stick Shift
13 Mar Suzanne Farmer and FF Band
20 Mar Tapalalachian
27 Mar Zesty Playford with Mark Elvins, Mollie and Vic
3 Apr Closed for Easter
10 Apr New term starts
HARROW FOLK DANCE CLUB
(Charity Registration No. 801346; Affiliated to EFDSS, Hertfordshire Folk Association, North London Folk)

45th ANNIVERSARY DANCE
SATURDAY 21st MARCH 2015

DAVID KERRIDGE

with music by:

‘THE FOREST BAND’

in the John Greer Hall, Eastcote UR Church,
Bridle Road, Eastcote, HA5 2SH
(at the junction with Rushdene Road)
Please NOTE our new venue!

Limited car parking on site – access only from Bridle Road.
Street parking in adjacent roads – please park responsibly
Bus route H13 (Ruislip to Northwood Hills) stops outside the Hall.

First dance 19.30 (promptly) – until 22.45 hrs.
Tickets (on the door) £8.00 including refreshments.

Forthcoming attractions:
43rd Playford Ball – 21st November 2015
(Chris Turner with ‘Mollie & Vic’)  
46th Anniversary Dance – 19th March 2016
(Caller and Band to be announced)

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.

Further information from Roy Martin – 020 8868 7526
THE ELIZABETHAN SESSION

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ONE WEEK – EIGHT ARTISTS
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