

Chiltern Folk Association

www.chilternfolk.org.uk

Newsletter



CFA Newsletter – Autumn 2019

Summer Outings

In the last editorial, I made reference to a number of events I had in mind to attend over the summer but in practice, things turned out differently. I did get to St. Michael's Folk Evening in St. Albans in July, something I had been intending to do for several years. The weather was good and it was heartening to see such large crowds taking in all that was on offer. Our own Phoenix Morris was among the sides performing.

I took further advantage of the long summer evenings to visit Towersey FDC for the first time, where I was made most welcome at their end-of-year party and enjoyed dancing to live music. Invitations to a birthday dance held in Dunsden Green, near Reading, at the beginning of the summer (on what happened to be my own birthday) and to a 40th wedding celebration in Upper Basildon during August Bank Holiday weekend gave me the opportunity to catch up with old acquaintances, making me realise that I know more people involved with folk music than I had previously realised.

Changes since the AGM

The post of Treasurer was not filled at the AGM last June but following the meeting, Des Foote, who was Treasurer of Maidenhead FDC before it closed at the end of last year, expressed a cautious interest and after attending the last committee meeting, agreed to take on this responsibility. He has therefore been co-opted on to the committee for the remainder of the year, and will hopefully stand for election as Treasurer next year. Des introduces himself on p.4.

Also on the AGM agenda was 'Amendments to the Constitution'. A number of things have changed since the Association was first set up 15 years ago but the rules by which it operates had not. One of the main areas of discussion was 'affiliation', membership' of the organisation. It was agreed that affiliation should be open to all groups involved in folk activity within the Chiltern area, formalised through the payment of an annual fee, agreed each year at the AGM. Such fees are used to cover running costs. Affiliated

clubs are entitled to send representatives to committee meetings, bringing their views to the table and sharing ideas and experience with others. They will also be given hard copies of newsletters to circulate among their members.

In response to an identified, need, a new category of individual membership was established aimed at those who are not regular attendees of a club in the district, but who would nevertheless like to support CFA. Such members will receive hard copies of the newsletter if wished and have the right to vote at General Meetings.

I am delighted to report that since the AGM, not only have the majority of the clubs which had made up the committee in the past, formally affiliated, but they have been joined by four new ones – Village Voices Towersey, 2nd Wednesday Folk music group (see article on p.5) and Phoenix and Whitchurch Morris sides. If anyone else is interested in affiliating to the Association, either as a group or an individual, please get in touch with one of the Officers to obtain more information about how to go about it.

Hazel

Music-making:- A Fresh Perspective from Greg Bealing, local member of the National Youth Folk Ensemble



The stereotype of the elderly bearded folkie may be firmly entrenched, but did you know that there are lots of us young folk musicians in England too? Some of us are lucky enough to be in the National Youth Folk Ensemble.

I'm Greg, I'm 17 and live in Chesham. I've been lucky enough to be a member of NYFE over the past year, and am just about to embark on my second year.

My own story is that I started violin lessons through the county music service at primary school in Chesham, and my teacher soon realised I loved playing Scottish folk tunes and kept giving me more to play! Time passed

and I did grade exams in violin and piano, but I still also loved folk. So, I began having extra folk fiddle lessons with Elspeth Hannen in Amersham, who quickly spotted that I might also enjoy playing recorder, and I learned that too. I participated in the Scots Fiddle Festival and Shetland Fiddle Frenzy, and absorbed as much as I could from local folk sessions as well as performing with Elspeth's Curiosity Consort and other local groups and orchestras. I now play at diploma standard on recorder and am just about to

do my grade 8 exams on piano and violin... yet still my first love is folk! I have Elspeth to thank for that, and for so much more.

For me, the National Youth Folk Ensemble has been amazing. It's shown me that, as a young folk musician, I am definitely not alone! It's a project run by the English Folk Dance and Song Society and supported by Arts Council England, which brings together a group of around 20 musicians aged 14-18 for a year-long programme, following auditions all around the country, from Cornwall to Tyneside. It's been running for three years and it's competitive - the first year I auditioned on fiddle but didn't get in, the second year I auditioned on recorder and didn't get in, then last year I auditioned on recorder again and it was third time lucky! I'm so glad I kept trying.

Each year we have four separate week-long residential courses in different parts of England. Our tutors are outstanding musicians - last year Sam Sweeney was our artistic director, and this year it's Sam Partridge. Tutors last year included Rob Harbron, Miranda Rutter, Archie Churchill-Moss, Andy Cutting and a number of others. We work really creatively (and really hard!), arranging our own versions of folk tunes old and new, and last year we performed in all sorts of settings. We were live-streamed to schools from a concert we played in Yorkshire; did a big London concert at Cecil Sharp House, and went on a summer tour playing at Wickham and Sidmouth Folk Festivals. We learn so much, and it's impossible to describe the special feeling of playing together.

Here in the Chilterns, the youth folk scene isn't as developed as in other parts of the country. Lots of NYFE members tend to come from the North of England, where the folk tradition is stronger. Over time though, the outreach programmes that NYFE helps to promote to encourage more youth folk music all over the country can only strengthen its future - here and throughout England.

In the meantime, you can find out more about NYFE on the EFDSS website, <https://www.efdss.org/efdss-education/national-youth-folk-ensemble> and for a local taste of young musicians come and hear the Curiosity Consort at our next concert!

Calling all local musicians – Chiltern Folk Association Inaugural Music Day

Would you like an opportunity to get together with others for a day of learning and practising tunes culminating in providing the band for an Association dance? If so watch this space. The provisional date for this event is Saturday 25th April 2020 in Amersham. Further details to follow.

News and Reports

Marlow FDC continues to combine a programme of social events with its weekly dance sessions. This summer's activities included three garden parties, a walk round Stanley Spencer's Cookham, a meal, and an outing to Kingston Bagpuize House. Coming up later in the year on Friday 1st November is a Beetle Drive in the Garden Room at Liston Hall. Numbers are limited to 36, but there may be a few spare places. Contact Sue Mayne 01628 485275 if you would like to go.

Although Janet did not mention it in her report, we understand that she was invited to do an interview for local radio station, Wycombe Sound in August, which went so well that she has been asked back in the New Year to talk about the club's 60th birthday celebrations. The anniversary will be marked by a special dance on March 29th. Further details will be published nearer the time.

The **Playford Ball** on September 21st with caller Andrew Swaine and the Forest Band drew dancers from outside the Chiltern Area, with many coming in costume. We would have liked to have seen more participants from local clubs enjoying the evening. Whether there are reasons for this, and how we might encourage them to attend in future will be one of the items on the agenda for the next committee meeting.

Welcome

To Des Foote, co-opted on to the committee in September

Dear Members

The sudden death of Denis was a shock and sadness to us all. I had known Denis since I started folk dancing about 15 years ago and worked with him on the committee of Maidenhead folk dance. We are all very grateful to the rest of the members of the CFA committee for picking up the treasurer function between them whilst seeking someone to take over the role. I am willing to become the treasurer and it only seems right that you know a little bit about me as you are entrusting me with your finances.

Although I am not an accountant, I do have the following relevant experience. When I worked for the Electricity Board as an engineer the final 10 years of my employment was spent in designing tariffs to charge customers, which needed to reflect as fairly as possible the costs of supplying them. This involved using engineering knowledge with the accountants' cost information to budget the year ahead, and monitoring actual outcomes. From this I gained a knowledge of profit and loss accounts and balance sheets.

I became a Parish clergyman at 50 and faced the constant need to oversee the Parish finances and ensure that we did not spend money we did not have.

In retirement I was treasurer of Maidenhead Folk dance club for 5 years, producing an annual budget and annual accounts which enabled us to set our fees, paying callers and bands. We remained financially healthy until we were forced to close through lack of support at the end of last year.

Currently I attend folk dance groups at Marlow and Chinnor. I am also the current Chair of the Home Counties area of the Caravan and Camping Clubs folk song and dance section.

I look forward to working with you all in promoting our wonderful folk-dance traditions.

Des Foote

To Second Wednesday Folk

A monthly day time folk session/workshop which started in Chinnor in April 2017 has recently affiliated to CFA.

When? 2nd Wednesday in the month

Time? 2 - 4pm

Place? Chinnor Methodist Church, behind 62 Station Road OX39 4PZ

Cost? £4 per session, including refreshments.



Playing what? Following discussion with those who were interested, Paul Hardy's tune book was chosen as a starting point because it can be displayed on the screen in the church or can be used on tablets or i-pads
<http://www.pghardy.net/concertina/tunebooks>.

A list of tunes to be played is circulated monthly and there is time to choose tunes on the day. Members also try to learn one tune a month by heart and try to play one "by ear" as you would in a pub session.

Everyone is welcome – whatever level they play at. The group consists of people who enjoy and want to find out more about folk music, and improve their playing. Some people come to listen rather than play. Some come regularly and others occasionally.

Contact Liz Thorpe 01844 351565, rodandlizthorpe@gmail.com for more information.

Directory

COUNTRY (SOCIAL) DANCE

Amersham FDC 01494 727512

Tuesdays, 8pm.

The Barn Hall, Chiltern Ave,
HP6 5AH

Chesham FDC 01494 785191

Fridays, 8.15-10.15pm.

Guide Hut, Lowndes Park,
HP5 1HX

Chinnor FDC 01844 352468

Thursdays, 8.00pm

Church Hall (behind village centre),
Chinnor, OX39 4DH

Datchet FDC 01344 646391

Fridays, 8.00pm.

1st Weds (experienced dancers)
WI Hall, SL3 9EH

Marlow FDC 01494 531716

2nd & 4th Fridays, 8.00pm.

Liston Hall, SL7 1DD

Oaken Leaves (Ruislip)

Thursday, 8.15pm, 0208 422 4096

Methodist Church, HA4 7BZ

Towersey 01494 481459

Mondays, 7.30-9.00pm.

Towersey Village Hall, OX9 3QG

Watford FDC 01923 233371

Mondays, 8.00-10.00pm,

Christ Church Hall, Watford,
WD24 5BD

MORRIS

Phoenix (mixed)

Wednesday 8.30pm. Scout Hall,

Rickmansworth

phoenixmor@aol.com

Stony Redcaps (women)

Mondays 8.00pm. Greek Church Hall,

Stony Stratford.

newenq@stonyredcaps.dance

Tappalachian (Appalachian clogging)

Wednesdays 8.15pm, 07566 331147

New Moon (mixed)

Tuesdays, Town Hall, Ivinghoe

<http://newmorris.co.uk>

Whitchurch

Tuesdays. Wilstone Village Hall

info@whitchurchmorris.org.uk

Aldbury Morris (men)

Thursdays, 8pm, Aldbury Memorial Hall,

The Green, Aldbury, Tring, HP23 5RR

<http://www.aldburymorris.co.uk>

Balfolk, Reading 07405 387345

1st (poss. 2nd) Sundays 12.20-4.30pm

Watlington House, Reading RG1 4RJ

Next dates: 6 Oct, 10 Nov, 1 Dec

<https://readingbalfolk.wixsite.com/readingbalfolk>

Chiltern Folk Association

Chair:	Hazel Miller	07799 017730	chair@chilternfolk.org.uk
Secretary/	Joyce Stace	01494 727512	secretary@chilternfolk.org.uk
Publicity:			
Treasurer:	Des Foote		treasurer@chilternfolk.org.uk
Newsletter:	Joyce Wiles	01628 529298	newsletter@chilternfolk.org.uk

SONG AND STORY

Abbots Langley Winter Acoustic

Concerts 01923 264536

Sundays 3pm (Oct, Nov, Feb, Mar)

Abbots Langley Community Centre,
Gallow Hill Lane, WD5 0AP

Chesham Folk Club 01494 785593

Mondays, 8.15pm

White Hill Centre, Chesham, HP5 1AG

Herga at the Castle 01923 264536

Mondays, 8pm, The Castle, 30 West
Street, Harrow HA1 3EF

Maidenhead Folk Club 01628 624460

Thursdays, 8.30pm

New Inn, Farm Road, Mhead, SL6 5HX

Marlow Bottom Acoustic Club

Wednesdays, 8.15pm 01628 483458

See <http://marlow-acoustic.uk/> for
locations

Uxbridge Folk Club 01895 464154

Thursdays, 8pm onwards

Royal Naval Association Club

388a Long Lane, Hillingdon, UB10 9PG

Village Voices Towersey 01844 352468

Wednesday, 7.30pm, Towersey Village
Hall 3rd Wednesday Bledlow Village Hall

www.villagevoicestowersey.com

Chesham Folk Club

14 Oct Martyn Wyndham & Iris Bishop

4 Nov Ninebarrow

2 Dec Harbottle & Jonas



31 Oct Plumhall

28 Nov Young Waters

MUSIC

2nd Wednesday Folk 01844 351565

2nd Wednesday each month 2.00pm,
Chinnor Methodist Church

Chequers Folk Club 01494 866439

3rd Wednesdays, 8pm

The Barn @ Cherry Tree Farm,
Missenden The Road, Great Kingshill,
HP15 6ED

www.wicktrimmers.co.uk/chequers-folk

Oaken Leaves Music Workshop

2nd Sundays, 2-3pm, 0208 866 7915

Guide Hut, Manor Farm, Bury St, Ruislip
HA4 7QL

Twyford Folk Music Workshop

0118 934 0300

1st Wednesdays, 8pm

<http://twyfordmusic.uk/>

Maidenhead Folk Club

14 Nov Richard Grainger

30 Jan Renunion Lane

13 Feb Moonrakers

This newsletter is available in print
form at local libraries, and through
your club.

If you would like to receive your own
copy by e-mail, please contact Hazel
(chair@chilternfolk.org.uk)

Chequers Folk Club

17 Jul Papa Truck (bluegrass)

Phone contact number for more info. or follow links at www.chilternfolk.org.uk

DIARY DATES

PFS : Bring Plate of Food to Share

- | | | |
|--------|--|-------------------------------|
| 13 Oct | Abbots Langley Winter Acoustic Concert, 3-5.15pm
<i>The Road to Peterloo: Ballads and Broad-sides</i>
Pete Coe, Laura Smyth and Brian Peters | 01923 264536 |
| 19 Oct | Barn Dance, 8-11.15pm PFS
Sands Village Hall, Lane End Road, Sands, HP12 4JF
Terry Phipps with The Quarry Turners | 07786 485501/
01494 534691 |
| 26 Oct | Day of Dance with Whitchurch Morris
Amersham, Wendover, Aylesbury, and Whitchurch
see www.whitchurchmorris.org.uk | |
| 27 Oct | Family Dance, 2.30-5.30pm PFS
Amersham Common Village Hall, 24 White Lion Road,
Amersham, HP7 9JD
Val & Ian McFarlane with Toucan Play | 07799 017730 |
| 17 Nov | Abbots Langley Winter Acoustic Concert, 3-5.15pm
The Tannahill Weavers | 01923 264536 |
| 29 Nov | Tring Christmas Festival, 7pm with Whitchurch Morris | |
| 17 Dec | Christmas Celebration, 8pm with Whitchurch Morris
The White Swan, Whitchurch; includes dancing and carol singing | |

2020

- | | | |
|--------|--|--------------|
| 4 Jan | New Year Dance, 7.30 – 10.30pm PFS
Drake Hall, Amersham Community Centre, HP6 5AH
Val and Ian McFarlane with Pete and Sue Hall | 07799 017730 |
| 23 Feb | Family Dance, 2.30-5.30pm PFS
Amersham Common Village Hall, 24 White Lion Road,
Amersham, HP7 9JD
Ted Morse | 07799 017730 |
| 29 Mar | Marlow's 60th Birthday Dance, 3-6.30pm PFS
Flackwell Heath Community Centre, HP10 9LS
Ivan Aitken with Jovial Crew | 01494 531716 |

SEND DETAILS OF YOUR EVENTS TO:

chair@chilternfolk.org.uk or newsletter@chilternfolk.org.uk.

Chiltern Folk Association