

# Chiltern Folk Association

[www.chilternfolk.org.uk](http://www.chilternfolk.org.uk)



## Newsletter FEBRUARY 2018

### CFA Newsletter – Spring 2018

Welcome to the Spring edition of the Chiltern Folk Association newsletter. As you will see, we have made some changes. We want readers, whether long-established dancers, or people coming to it for the first time, to feel part of the organisation, so alongside the usual listing of clubs and diary dates, we have included some articles which give a flavour of what folk dancing is about, and what is happening in the area. We would encourage you to share your own stories of what you are doing; you never know, they might provide the inspiration others are looking for to inject fresh ideas into their own group. We are planning to bring out the next edition in July so if you have any special events planned for the Autumn, please let us know about them by the end of June.

We are also looking to revamp our website as developments in technology make it easier to include more visual material. Several clubs have reported a fall in attendance as older members retire, so we need to find ways of communicating our enthusiasm for our hobby to others. The website provides an immediate means of posting items of interest, so if your club has something they would like to tell others about, (preferably accompanied by photographs), please send copy to Joyce, [webmaster@chilternfolk.org.uk](mailto:webmaster@chilternfolk.org.uk) or to me, [chairman@chilternfolk.org.uk](mailto:chairman@chilternfolk.org.uk)

During the Autumn, I had the opportunity to visit a number of the clubs in the Association. So far I have been to Datchet, Watford and Oaken Leaves Sunday group. I'd like to thank them all for making me so welcome. As the weather improves, I hope to get an opportunity to visit the remaining clubs and also to take in some morris performances. Our local sides are now putting together their summer programmes, a few of which are listed in the Dance Diary. It has been interesting to see the similarities and differences between the various groups as understanding these are important for the development of CFA. I have enjoyed catching up with some old friends, meeting new people and learning new dances. I look forward to more of the same.

*Hazel*

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# Chiltern Folk Association Family Dances

## *English Social Dancing for Everyone*

I have just watched the film 'Early Man' and in it Goona, the female football coach, reassures her team of anxious Stone Age Men that they always look out for each other and work together as a community and this is what will help them to succeed. That is what English Community dancing is all about, working together to complete a dance sequence. English dancing has been enjoyed for generations and with generations doing it together as it is sociable and accessible and fun. And for this read the '*Chilterns Folk Association Family Dance.*'


### **The Basics**

English social dancing is done in sets a little like a team and everyone has a partner. During the course of an afternoon of dancing you could dance with a variety of different partners and everyone learns from each other. The sets can be for 3, 4 or even 5 couples at a time and usually the top couple performs some of the action for the 32 bars of music and then go to the bottom of the set allowing a new couple to have the fun. Some movements are done by everyone together in the set like right hand turn and left-hand turn, 'do si do' and, the fun bit here, gallop down the middle of the set, with your partner as far as your legs will take you and getting back in time, fitting it to the music. You can see why it is suitable for all ages!

The sets can also be couples facing couples around the room, squares and large circles so there is a huge variety of both shape and rhythm. In English dancing we do not emphasise the footwork very much so dance walking can be used for most dances but if you have lots of energy to expend you can be more vigorous and use jig steps and double steps but that will come as you hear the music.

### **The Family Dance**

So, who is there to help you? First, we have live music so that always helps to create a relaxed and lively atmosphere and gives a lift to the dancing. Then there will be a caller or sometimes 2 who will have planned the programme. They show how each dance is performed by walking the figures through and demonstrating where necessary. There will also be many dancers there who will be only too pleased to assist those with little or no experience of English social dancing. The caller will keep giving the instructions as the dance progresses until they can see that everyone is confident enough to be able to dance to the music. A favourite quotation from Ursula Vaughan Williams is 'Dancing is music made visible.'



CENTRAL FOLK ASSOCIATION  
AMERSHAM BRANCH

# FAMILY DANCE

SUNDAY, 18<sup>th</sup> FEBRUARY 2018  
2.30-5.30PM

AMERSHAM COMMON VILLAGE HALL,  
WHITE LION ROAD, AMERSHAM HP7 9JD

**TED MORSE**  
WITH  
**LIZA & GRAHAME O'CONNOR**

£5  
ACCOMPANIED CHILDREN VERY WELCOME -  
UNDER 16 FREE  
Please bring some food to share

Information: 01494 773189/01628 486845  
[www.chilfemfolk.org.uk](http://www.chilfemfolk.org.uk)

Do you remember dancing 'strip the willow' at school? This features in some dances and can always be included as it's a fun figure. You might have done or seen some square-dancing too. These are always fun as the figures are either performed by one couple at a time or 2 together, so either way you have an opportunity to watch a time or two so you feel confident about dancing yourself. However, half the fun of a family dance like this is actually getting it wrong and laughing about it.

I always say its only a dance and there will be another coming up.....So come with your friends, family, sons or daughters, grandchildren or just bring yourself and try it we hope you will like it too.

PS: In case I haven't managed to entice you so far; there is a tea break half way through with a delicious spread of tea time 'specials' brought by those attending the event, including CAKES.

*Val McFarlane; Caller*

## Celebrating St George's Day

North Bucks women's morris team, Old Mother Redcaps, will be taking part in the St. George's Day celebrations hosted by Rose and Castle Morris based across the county border in Stoke Bruerne. Rose and Castle Morris have been dancing in the Northampton/ North Bucks area for 40 years, this year. From the very beginning, they have celebrated St. George's Day by dancing, initially on their own, but for some 30 years with other local sides invited to join them. More recently (for at least the last 20 years) they have danced at the Boat Inn, Stoke Bruerne on April 23rd. Some years there have been as many as 12-14 other Sides joining them for the evening. Although this number has dwindled over the years, 7-8 Sides still regularly dance for St. George at the Boat.

This Year, the dancing will start at 7:30pm and go on until the light fades or the weather drives everyone indoors. After the dancing has finished, there will be music and song in the Pub (and perhaps some Step Dancing) until late. If you are in the area, you will be very welcome to come and watch.

Chiltern Folk Association

EFDSS Affiliated

# ST GEORGE'S DAY CELEBRATIONS

**SATURDAY, 21ST APRIL 2018**

Drake Hall, Amersham Community Centre  
Chiltern Avenue HP6 5AH

**AFTERNOON WORKSHOPS - 2pm-6pm**

(break at 4pm-4.30pm - tea and coffee will be available)

2.30-4.00 Dances with Rhythm Changes Val & Ian McFarlane

4.30-6pm Long Sword John Symmonds

(Displays of the workshops will be given during the dance)

**EVENING DANCE - 7.00pm-10.30pm**  
**EMMA WOODROW with MOMENTUM**

Please bring a plate of food to share

Workshops £6 adults, £3 children, 8-16yrs (must be accompanied)

Evening dance: £10. Joint ticket £15

**Workshops must be booked!**

Please book early to ensure a place on your chosen workshop

Please either ring 01628 486845 or e-mail [chairman@chilternfolk.org.uk](mailto:chairman@chilternfolk.org.uk)

## DANCE DIARY

REMEMBER TO SEND DETAILS OF YOUR EVENTS TO:

chairman@chilternfolk.org.uk or Joyce Wiles, newsletter@chilternfolk.org.uk.

PFS : Bring Plate of Food to Share

- 18 Feb Family Dance, 2.30-5.30pm PFS 01628 486845  
Amersham Common Village Hall, White Lion Road, HP7 9JD  
Ted Morse with Liza & Grahame O'Connor
- 21 Apr St Georges Day Celebrations and workshops PFS 01628 486845  
See opposite
- 23 Apr Rose and Castle Morris St Georges Day Celebrations, 7.30pm onwards  
The Boat Inn, Stoke Bruerne, NN12 7SB
- 29 Apr Marlow Spring Dance, 3.00-6.30pm PFS 01494 531716  
Flackwell Heath Community Centre, Straight Bit, HP10 9LS  
Mark Elvins with Ali Ellacott & Thomas Bending
- 19/20 May Phoenix Morris at Rickmansworth Canal Festival  
<http://www.rwt.org.uk/festival/visiting-the-festival>
- 2 Jun Barn Dance, 8.00-11.15pm PFS 07786 485501  
Sands Village Hall, High Wycombe, HP12 4JF or 01494 534691  
Terry Phipps with Quarry Turners
- 20 Jun AGM and Summer Dance, 7.30-10.00pm 07799 017730  
Barn Hall, Amersham Community Centre, HP6 5AH
- 29 Jun-1 Jul Whitchurch Morris 70th anniversary celebrations around the Vale  
of Aylesbury and the Chilterns  
<http://www.whitchurchmorris.org.uk/events>
- 1 Jul Val & Ian's Dance Party, 4.15-8.00pm PFS 01494 672782  
The Beaconsfield School, Wattleton Road, HP9 1SJ  
Musicians: 3D Chris and Julie Dewhurst plus Nick

### Chesham Folk Club

- 19 Feb Mandy Woods & Harry Brzezinski  
19 Mar Urban Folk Quartet

- 22 Feb Gerry Colvin Band  
29 Mar Fleetwood Cave  
26 Apr Robb Johnson  
31 May Sunjay  
9 Jun Ceilidh at Ickenham Village Hall



### Maidenhead Folk Club

- 15 Feb Mike Wilson & Damien Barber  
1 Mar Peter Webster & Ross Fergusson  
15 Mar Sara Grey & Kieron Means  
22 Mar Gemma Khawaja  
5 Apr Two Coats Colder  
19 Apr Scarecrow  
24 May Mark Ashworth  
7 Jun Na-Mara

# NEWS and REPORTS

## New Year Dance – Saturday 6th January, 2018

The Chiltern Folk Association welcomed approximately 70 dancers to this event – Caller Ted Morse with music by Kelly's Eye. The majority of dances were new to many of us and some quite unusual, but with Ted's customary expertise and good-humoured directions this proved to be a very enjoyable and memorable evening. Thank you to everyone who attended helping to make it a sociable occasion as well, especially those who'd travelled quite a distance.

*Phyllis Chapman*

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## Around the Clubs - Oaken Leaves



Oaken Leaves is a small friendly group who meet once a month in the Guide Hut in Ruislip, usually on the second Sunday from 2.00pm till 6.00pm. The first hour is devoted to musicians so that new tunes can be tried and played slowly at first; also tunes with different rhythms are explored. At 3.00pm the dancers arrive to join the musicians and those musicians who want to, will stay in the band to play for the dances.

The club members take turns at leading the dancers, teaching them new dances as well as new steps, when needed. The dances are mainly from the 17th and 18th Century but more recent dances are not excluded neither are earlier dances from the 16th Century, so that a good variety of styles is achieved. A short tea break is taken about 4.15pm.

There is room for a few more dancers (partners not needed) and also musicians, as you can see from the photos.





Phone contact number for more info. or follow links at [www.chilternfolk.org.uk](http://www.chilternfolk.org.uk)

## MUSIC, SONG AND STORY

**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

**Twyford Folk Music Workshop**  
0118 934 0300  
1st Wednesdays, 8pm  
Phone for details and programme

**Uxbridge Folk Club** 01895 464154  
Thursdays, 8pm onwards  
Royal Naval Association Club  
388a Long Lane, Hillingdon, UB10 9PG

## MORRIS

**Old Mother Redcaps** (women)  
Mondays 8.00pm. Greek Church Hall,  
Stony Stratford.  
[oldmotherredcaps@yahoo.com](mailto:oldmotherredcaps@yahoo.com)

**Phoenix** (mixed) [phoenixmor@aol.com](mailto:phoenixmor@aol.com)

**Whitchurch** (men)  
Tuesdays. Wilstone Village Hall  
[info@whitchurchmorris.org.uk](mailto:info@whitchurchmorris.org.uk)

We don't have a crystal ball!

If you change your contact details  
let us know.

## 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

**Maidenhead FDC** 01628 485657  
1st 3rd 5th Fridays, 8.00pm.  
Furze Platt Memorial Hall,  
SL6 7NG

**Marlow FDC** 01494 531716  
2nd & 4th Fridays, 8.00pm.  
Liston Hall, SL7 1DD

**Oaken Leaves (Ruislip)**  
Thursday, 8.15pm, 020 8422 4096  
Methodist Church, HA4 7BZ

**Oaken Leaves II**  
2nd Sundays, 3pm, 01895 232196  
Guide Hut, Bury St

**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

# Chiltern Folk Association

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Newsletter:	Joyce Wiles	01628 529298	<a href="mailto:newsletter@chilternfolk.org.uk">newsletter@chilternfolk.org.uk</a>

## STOP PRESS:

Friday 4th May - Internationally-acclaimed American musicians and singers, Windborne, will be giving an afternoon vocal workshop followed by an evening concert as part of the West Wycombe Festival. Further information on the website, [www.chilternfolk.org.uk/news](http://www.chilternfolk.org.uk/news). Please do not miss them!



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 ([chairman@chilternfolk.org.uk](mailto:chairman@chilternfolk.org.uk))

