

Chiltern Folk Association

www.chilternfolk.org.uk

Newsletter



CFA Newsletter – Spring 2019

There has been a lot of folk activity going on across the Chilterns since the last newsletter was put to bed. I was away over Christmas so missed some of the fun but I did get to meet a lot of people at the Family Dance at the end of October, including a number of younger dancers and one family from Chorleywood who had seen some of our publicity and decided to give it a try. It wasn't just local people who came to that event – some had come from as far away as Cambridge. It would be lovely to see a similar mix at the next one on February 24th so please spread the word to anyone who might be interested. I'm sure it will be another fun afternoon and no previous experience is necessary.

Janet Boothman has told me that Marlow had an excellent New Year's Eve dance with fifty dancers attending from a very wide area. The caller was Ivan Aitken with Toucan Play, and at least four well known callers were spotted among the dancers. Dancing was interspersed with entertainment spots by various club members, with two quizzes for people to work at when not dancing. Chris & Patsy (Toucan Play) provided a challenging musical quiz based on The Twelve Days of Christmas. One to put in the diary for next year.

Some of our local morris sides were dancing out over the Christmas period including Woodside and Datchet on Boxing Day and Aldbury on New Year's Day but unfortunately I did not get the opportunity to see them. Maybe next year....

This newsletter includes some more reports on recent events, together with a profile of Datchet Folk Dance club. The dance diary and directory will tell you where and when you can take part in, or just watch dancing/listen to music over the next few months. Keep an eye on the website as more events may be added as we hear of them. If you wonder how Chiltern Folk Association relates to you and your local club, you might be interested in the article on p.4.

Hazel

News and Reports

Hello Stony Redcaps - Pam Arthur sent this update:-



We said goodbye to Old Mother Redcaps in Autumn 2018 and welcomed Stony Redcaps at Stony Lights on December 1st. The weather was mild compared to past years when we have braved wind, rain and snow. Our dance group has a new name, new dancers and great plans for 2019. For those who don't know us, we are a group of ladies who perform dances from the Isle of Man together with garland dances. The name has changed but you will still recognise us by our signature red and white dresses and bright red shoes. We meet on Monday evenings 8pm – 10pm at the Swinfen Harris Hall, London Road, Stony Stratford MK11 1JA. If you would like to find out more about us, join the fun at one of our practices. Whether you would like to dance or you are a musician who would like to play for us, we'd love to meet you. More information about the group and all our events can be found on our website: www.stonyredcaps.dance or email us at nenewq@stonyredcaps.dance



28 Feb	Storm the Palace
28 Mar	The Iona Fyfe Trio
25 Apr	Julie Felix
30 May	Becky Mills & Ruth Angell
20 Jun	Threaded/Michelle Lewis

Farewell Maidenhead – Patsy Smith reports...

Maidenhead Folk Dance Club celebrated their last meeting in style with a Christmas party at Furze Platt Memorial Hall where the group have met for many years. Our caller for the evening was Ivan Aitken who took us through a great programme of dances in his usual entertaining way, with music provided by Chris and Patsy Smith.

Our visitors included callers who have worked with the group over the years, as well as former members of the club. It was interesting to browse the display of old registers going back to the 1970s and recognise many familiar names as well as marvel at the weekly subscription rate!



Our chairman Denis Leavy spoke of the sadness we all felt at the closing of the club but thanked everyone for making the last meeting such an enjoyable and memorable event with a chance to catch up with old friends.

Treasurer Des Foote echoed these words and thanked Denis and the committee for all their hard work. Judith Inman read a message from Julie Dewhurst (nee Nevell) the daughter of one of the founder members of the club. She recalled happy memories of dancing in the early days and sent her good wishes to everyone.

Chequers Folk Club

20 Mar Fraser & Toots
15 May Tania Opland & Mike Freeman
17 Jul Papa Truck (bluegrass)

Maidenhead Folk Club

21 Mar Judy Cook
28 Mar Song Competition
9 May Odette Michell

What is Chiltern Folk Association?



The organisation now known as Chiltern Folk Association started life as the Bucks district of the EFDSS (English Folk Dance and Song Society), part of the regional network established by the Society to nurture the practice of traditional dance and song throughout the country. When the Society terminated its links with the districts in 1974, many of them, Bucks included, established themselves as

independent organisations affiliated to EFDSS. One of the stated objectives of Bucks District was 'to initiate and support, and to encourage the initiation and support by others, of folk activity in the area of the District'. In 2009, it was felt that the name should be changed as not all the constituent clubs were located within the county boundary, so Chiltern Folk Association was born. The new constitution defined Chiltern as 'the large area north west of London defined by a long line of hills, stretching from Hitchin to the north and to Goring-on-Thames in South Oxfordshire.' Initially the 'electorate body' was limited to members of the EFDSS living in, or taking part in folk activity, in the area but now that is seen as extending to members of local clubs and teams, whether or not they are also EFDSS subscribers. It was agreed that there would be no charge for membership as CFA anticipated covering its costs by profit from the events which it put on, although donations were (and are) welcomed. Provision was made for up to 10 club representatives and three elected individuals to be part of the committee along with the officers. This structure is still in place albeit with a number of vacancies. Some social dance clubs joined the Association following this extension of its catchment area, but at present, there is relatively little input from other folk activity such as Morris and Song. If the Association is to be truly representative of English traditional music locally, this surely needs to be addressed. The committee would welcome new members who would be able to bring a new perspective.

CFA currently puts on 2-3 formal dances each year with a caller and live band, attended mainly by committed dancers drawn from a wide area, together with two family dances where no previous experience is expected. Most clubs hold their own weekly sessions based on a similar format (caller and live or recorded music) where newcomers can be supported by established members. The Association publishes a newsletter three times a

year which now is now sent by e-mail to nearly 100 individuals in the Chilterns and beyond. together with a similar number of paper copies distributed to clubs and libraries. It and the website rely on contributions from those active on the ground to keep them up-to-date and of interest so please tell us what is happening in your area.

If you would like to get more involved with Chiltern Folk Association as a club or an individual, please please get in touch with me, chair@chilterfolkassociation.org.uk or with any other member of the committee. We really would like to hear from you.

**Map created by Low Carbon Chilterns Co-operative,
<http://www.lowcarbonchilterns.org/lccc/pages/lcc.php>*

Club Profile - Datchet

70 YEARS OF DANCING

Dancing in Datchet started as a W.I. Group in 1948 when there are records of them buying 78rpm records from Cecil Sharp House. They danced in the village school hall until their own hall was built in 1955. Then in the 1980s the group became independent as Datchet Folk Dance Club. Since then our membership, like all clubs, has fluctuated considerably both in numbers and average age. Our peak numbers were in the early 1980s and probably most other clubs can identify with this time.

During most of this period, we owed a great deal to our sole caller Harold Waite for keeping the club going, and for starting our First Wednesday sessions for more experienced dancers.

We are now trying shared evenings with other groups as a means of getting our name and what we do more widely known. These are free evenings plus refreshments for anyone who likes to come along. To date our programme has included the Intofolk Musicians Group, the Slough Scottish Dancers and the Datchet Border Morris Men. Everyone found these evenings very enjoyable and they will now be an annual fixture in our diary. We have also made a return visit to the Slough Scottish Dancers at their meeting place. More of these evenings are scheduled for Spring 2019 (see diary dates). Come and join us at Datchet W.I.Hall, By the Green, SL3 9EN.

I think as a club we feel more optimistic but not complacent about the future.

John Symmonds

DIARY DATES

PFS : Bring Plate of Food to Share

24 Feb	Spring Family Dance, 2.30-5.30pm PFS Amersham Common Village Hall, 24 White Lion Road, Amersham, HP7 9JD Ted Morse with Toucan Play	01628 486845
2 Mar	Fifield Dance Troupe at Datchet FDC, 8-10pm	01344 646391
10 Mar	Abbots Langley Winter Acoustic Concert, 3-5.15pm JIB - Jim Mageean with Ingrid and Barrie Temple	01923 264536
23 Mar	IntoFolk Musicians Group at Datchet FDC, 8-10pm	01344 646391
7 Apr	Marlow Spring Dance, 3-6.30pm PFS Flackwell Heath Community Centre, Straight Bit Flackwell Heath, HP10 9BN Frances Richardson with Shane & Julia Day	01494 445829
20 Apr	Slough Scottish Dancers at Datchet, 8-10pm	01344 646391
27 Apr	St. George's Day Event, 2.30 - 10.30pm Steventon Village Hall Workshop and St. George's Day Dance	01865 863074
4 May	Barn Dance, 8-11.15pm PFS Sands Village Hall, Lane End Road, HP12 4JF Terry Phipps with Quarry Turners	01494 534691 07786 485501
6 May	Whitchurch Morris May Day Celebrations, 6.30am onwards Coombe Hill, nr. Wendover Full programme at www.whitchurchmorris.org.uk	
21 Sep	Playford Ball, 7-10.30pm PFS Drake Hall, Amersham Community Centre, HP6 5AH Andrew Swaine with Forest Band	01628 486845

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 (men)

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>

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

MUSIC, 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

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

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

Chesham Folk Club

18 Mar Reg Meouss
8 Apr Liz Simcock
20 May Rachel Newton

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

Oaken Leaves (Sunday)

2nd Sundays, 3pm, 0208 866 7915
Guide Hut, Manor Farm, Bury St, Ruislip
HA4 7QL

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

SEND DETAILS OF YOUR EVENTS TO:
chair@chilternfolk.org.uk or
newsletter@chilternfolk.org.uk.

Chiltern Folk Association

www.chilternfolk.org.uk

Chair:	Hazel Miller	07799 017730	chair@chilternfolk.org.uk
Secretary:	Joyce Stace	01494 727512	secretary@chilternfolk.org.uk
Treasurer:	Denis Leavey	01628 485657	treasurer@chilternfolk.org.uk
Publicity:	Position vacant:	offers welcome (see below)	
Newsletter:	Joyce Wiles	01628 529298	newsletter@chilternfolk.org.uk

PUBLICITY OFFICER STILL NEEDED

Can you spare a few hours/month to help CFA raise the profile of folk music in the Chilterns area? We are looking for an enthusiastic person with some knowledge of the folk dance and song circuit in Buckinghamshire and beyond, to bring a fresh approach to publicising Chiltern Folk Association's activities. This could also involve advising local clubs as they look to attract new members. If you would like to discuss this further, please contact Hazel (chair@chilternfolk.org.uk) or Joyce (secretary@chilternfolk.org.uk)



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)

