

Chiltern Folk Association

www.chilternfolk.org.uk

Newsletter



CFA Newsletter – Summer 2108

Up to now, this newsletter has been published twice a year but we are experimenting with a third edition to enable us to feature more of the Association's forthcoming events and share news about what happens in our area. This time we have a look forward to our next event, the Playford Ball in September. There is also an article on Phoenix Morris, based in Rickmansworth, and a report on the recent EFSS conference, *Steps for Success*

GDPR, new data protection legislation which came into force in May is currently a hot topic. EFSS members may have seen the piece about it in the latest edition of *EDS*. Its provisions apply to all organisations including small local clubs such as ours. For anyone who has managed to avoid letters and emails from companies or groups with whom they have had contact in the past, the intention of the new Act is to give individuals greater control over their personal data. While much has been written about the requirements of GDPR, much of it is common sense. People must give explicit agreement to the retention of any personal data, whether kept in paper or electronic format. Since legitimate interest is a valid reason for processing personal information, this will normally cover the administration of club membership, but permission could be required for anything beyond this. CFA has advised those on its mailing list that it will not pass on their details to anyone else, and that they should notify us if they no longer wish to receive communications from the organisation. Club secretaries may wish to do something similar for their own groups, including asking members whether they are happy for all/some of their details to be shared with others in the club. If you would like to know more about GDPR and how it may affect you, EFSS recommends looking at the advice provided by Voluntary Arts (www.voluntaryarts.org/gdpr-data-protection).

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On a lighter note, since March I have joined dancers at Chesham and Marlow clubs and attended a moving evening at Chesham Folk Club, featuring the story of Walter Harvey Hallam, who volunteered for military service in 1915 and on July 1st 1916 was ordered 'over the top' during the Battle of the Somme. In complete contrast, I managed to catch up with Whitchurch Morris part way through their May Day tour. (Coombe Hill at 6.30am was too much for a night owl like me!) then the first Sunday in June found me in Thaxted, where I was very impressed by the way the community joined in the final day of the annual Morris Weekend.

Hazel

STEPS FOR SUCCESS CONFERENCE AT CECIL SHARP HOUSE – March 10th

If you have already read about this in *EDS*, then you can skip the rest of this article! Steps for Success was advertised as a conference on the practice of English social folk dance, asking the questions – 'what helps English social folk dance to thrive?' and 'what are the barriers to success and how can they be overcome?' I felt that this might offer ideas of relevance to Chiltern Folk Association, so registered to attend along with over 80 others from across the country.

Chloe Middleton-Metcalf gave a presentation of particular interest to those of us in Buckinghamshire, sharing some of the findings of her research to date for her PhD thesis - Social Dance in Bucks 1945-2018. In the six months prior to the conference, Chloe had attended 15 social dances in Bucks. Most of these were one-off community events or charity fundraisers, but they included CFA's autumn Family Dance. At these 234 people responded to her questionnaire designed to get a better



understanding of who was involved and what motivated them. Over 70% of respondents gave their ages as between 35 and 74, so clearly younger people are engaging with this form of dance. More than half, when asked to describe their attitude to dancing said they enjoyed it, and either danced regularly, or would like to do more. A further 7% regretted that they are no longer able to dance much. 81 people cited their reason for attending as 'interest in/enjoy English folk dancing' and 34 as



'exercise'. This research would seem to indicate that a lot more people take part in various types of social folk dance than belong to folk dance clubs, or currently attend CFA events with live bands and callers. This leads to the question of what is stopping these people becoming more involved in our activities – insufficient knowledge of what is available? Lack of time? The impression that they will not fit in, which could be for one or more reasons. The challenge for those of us anxious to grow our clubs is how to overcome these issues. Do we need to

rethink our advertising? – what can we offer which might interest potential new members? Initially, this may not be the same as appeals to us. E.g would promoting the benefits to both physical and mental health interest someone visiting their doctor? Do we ensure that anyone coming for the first time knows that they do not need any prior knowledge? Or that if they enjoy barn dances, or are fans of film and tv adaptations of regency novels and would like to emulate the dance sequences shown in them, their local folk dance club might be the place for them? When someone new does come through the doors, do we make them welcome and ensure that more experienced dancers offer to guide them through the steps, to enable them to make the most of their time with us?

Another of the talks was given by Peter Barnard, a Lincolnshire musician and caller, and chair of an organisation called AVID (Awaken Village Interest in Dance). AVID arranges 'pop-up dances' moving to a different venue each month. Live music is on offer with the callers and musicians offering their services for free. More recently, the group has launched another initiative, Dance 4 Health, aimed at the over 40s. Each programme consists of 9 weekly dances, usually held in the afternoon. Dances are chosen which are within the capacity of the participants and once again the musicians and callers do not charge, thereby keeping the costs down. While the Chiltern area may not be as rural as North Lincolnshire, would there be any takers to try out something new in our area? The committee would love to hear your thoughts on this, so please get in touch.

Pictures from the EFDSS 'Steps for Success' page at <https://www.efdss.org/efdss-education/professional-development/steps-for-success>

PHOENIX MORRIS



Phoenix Morris is based in Rickmansworth. We started off as a male Side in 1952. The Side moved to Rickmansworth in 1983 and we have now been dancing as a mixed Side since 1987.

Mixed Morris was very much frowned upon back then and it would have been so easy to admit defeat, as we were not accepted by many single sex-Sides or Festivals. We persevered and danced on until eventually mixed Morris Sides increased in numbers and now there are more mixed Sides than single-sex Sides within the World of Morris.

2017 was a very interesting year for Phoenix and we thought we would share a few of our highlights. We have danced at quite a few festivals, had some fun invites by other Sides, performed a couple of Ceilidh Spots and did some filming for the Britain's Got Talent 2018 show (not auditioning we can assure you)! Whether our filming will be shown we don't know, but it was an interesting day and our dancing was very well received.

The most exciting moment for us last year was when we were on the Rose and Castle & Queens Oak wonderful weekend of dance being able to dance our Adderbury Dance, *The Bell*, outside the Bell Public House at Adderbury in Oxfordshire.

So far in 2018 we have performed at two Festivals (Oxford and Rochester) and at Croxley Wassail, an Ale with Sandon Morris and a Ceilidh run by Rickmansworth Waterways Trust, as well as a wedding of one of our Side members. We also danced at the Rickmansworth Carnival run by the Rickmansworth Society and both days of the Rickmansworth Waterways Trust Festival .

We are hosting a Day of Dance as part of the Ricky Folk Festival on the 14th of July with five other local Sides – a day of Folk Singing and Dance - an event not to be missed.

Phoenix Morris is Fun and we will always welcome new Dancers or Musicians of all ages. So if you live in the area we would be pleased to see you -please come along and have a go or ring 01923 770425 any afternoon for further details.

Check out our web site (phoenixmorriscancers.wordpress.com) to see what fun we have.

Sue Stimpson

Chiltern Folk Association Playford Ball

Colin Hume is one of our most well known callers. He has regular bookings at dance events and festivals in the UK and often visits the USA. He is one of the most versatile Dance leaders I know and can teach and call with clarity, American contras and squares; traditional English, Scottish and of course Playford historical style, and dances created in the 20th and 21st Centuries. Colin himself falls into the category of 21st century composers. When Ian and I ran our No Walk Through Balls, with modern dances only on the programme, Colin was invited to lead the first one and the entire very varied programme consisted of his own 'Dances with a Difference' this at our request. Now Colin only publishes dances on his

website. He is a perfect Playford Ball caller as he knows the dances from dancing them himself and also from the many he has researched and interpreted from C17th and C18th century publications.

Colin frequently works with Shane and Julia and they have all known each other for enough years to be able to be relaxed and enjoy one another's company when playing and calling. Colin has been known to join the musicians when the dance is in flow and calling not required. He is competent on keyboard, and with percussion.

Shane and Julia are also in great demand for dance events, Shane plays accordion and Julia is expert on fiddle and as a key board player. They are very thorough in their preparations and have some beautiful arrangements for the Playford tunes, some of them from their parent band, 'Wild Thyme'. Their music gives lift and perfect phrasing for the dances to be performed with ease and elegance. Enjoy the Chilterns Playford Ball!

Val McFarlane

Affiliated to EFDS

PLAYFORD BALL

Saturday 22nd September 2018
7.00-10.30 pm
Amersham Community Centre, Drake Hall,
Chiltern Avenue, Amersham HP6 5AH

COLIN HUME

WITH

JULIA & SHANE

DRESS TO IMPRESS
£10 Plate of food to share please

Information: 01494 773189
www.chilternfolk.org.uk

DIARY DATES

PFS : Bring Plate of Food to Share

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| 14 July | Rickmansworth Folk Festival, 11.00am - 4.00pm.
Morris Dancing and Folk Events (no charge)
High Street, Conservative Club, Batchworth Lock and The Feathers
Detailed flyers at threerivers.gov.uk/notice/rickmansworth-folk-festival | |
| 22 Sep | Playford Ball, 7-10.30pm PFS
Drake Hall, Amersham Community Centre, HP6 5AH
Colin Hume with Julia & Shane Day | 01628 486845 |
| 7 Oct | Chesham Autumn Dance, 3-6.30pm PFS
The Guide HQ, Bury Lane, Chesham, HP5 1HX
Ivan Aitken with JIP | 01494 783890
01494 786322 |
| 14 Oct | Abbots Langley Winter Acoustic Concert, 3-5.15pm
The Collectors - performing new arrangements of songs and airs mostly collected in Dorset. | 01923 264536 |
| 21 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 | 01628 486845 |
| 18 Nov | Abbots Langley Winter Acoustic Concert, 3-5.15pm
James Fagan and Greg Russell - a special pairing of two talented and personable performers. | 01923 264536 |

2019

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| 5 Jan | New Year Dance, 7-10.30pm PFS
Drake Hall, Amersham Community Centre, HP6 5AH
Howard Ballard with Kelly's Eye | 01628 486845 |
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| 27Sep | Cathryn Craig & Brian Willoughby |
| 6 Oct | SPECIAL EVENT: Dave Nachmanoff |
| 25Oct | Granny's Attic |
| 29 Nov | Whiskey Moonface |

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

Chesham Folk Club

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| 23 Jul | John Kirkpatrick |
| 17 Sep | Dan McKinnon |

Maidenhead Folk Club

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| 19 Jul | Ian Bruce |
| 9 Aug | Wolfnote |
| 30 Aug | Tom Lewis |
| 4 Oct | Derek Gifford |
| 22 Nov | Rosewood |
| 6 Dec | Bearwood |

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

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

CLOG AND STEP

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

Phoenix (mixed) phoenixmor@aol.com

Tappalachian (Appalachian clogging)
Wednesdays 8.15pm, 07566 331147

Whitchurch (men)
Tuesdays. Wilstone Village Hall
info@whitchurchmorris.org.uk

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, 0208 422 4096
Methodist Church, HA4 7BZ

Oaken Leaves (Sunday)
2nd Sundays, 3pm, 0208 856 7915
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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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

Can you help CFA with publicity?

Ann Symmonds has now stepped down from her role of publicity officer. At the recent AGM, the Association recorded its thanks to her for her contribution over many years, and presented her with some flowers as a token of our appreciation. Ann not only designed the posters for Association events. She also took responsibility for circulating them to clubs and magazines in order to reach as many people as possible.

Joyce Stace has already indicated that she is willing to tackle the artwork, but we would be delighted to hear from anyone else who could assist with distribution of publicity material and maybe also come up with other ways of raising the profile of Chiltern Folk Association. If you feel you can help in any way, please get in touch with Hazel Miller, chair@chilternfolk.org.uk or Joyce Stace, 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)

