

Chiltern Folk Association

www.chilternfolk.org.uk

Newsletter



CFA Newsletter – Summer 2019

At the time of writing, shortly before the Association's AGM, everything seems rather quiet, but with the festival season now underway, no doubt many of you have plans for the summer, while our local morris teams will have exchanged the winter practice hall for dancing outside, providing an opportunity to introduce more people to English folk music. It has always seemed to me that folk traditions thrive when a culture feels under pressure and people need to find a way of expressing their identity. Amidst all the uncertainty surrounding Brexit, maybe one good thing to come out of it will be a higher profile for traditional arts as people seek to redefine 'Englishness' whatever they perceive it to be. St George's Day now has a higher profile across the country than it did even ten years ago with parades in town centres and historical re-enactments at various heritage sites. I am afraid my celebrating St. George this year was limited to dancing at the Amersham club in the evening, (we managed a near-record attendance that day although I don't think the two facts were directly linked!) but I have noted a few dates for my diary over the coming months – St. Michael's Folk Evening in St. Albans in July; Greensleeves Morris annual visit to Chipperfield a few days later and Towersey Festival over the August Bank Holiday weekend, and of course, our own Playford Ball on September 21st.

At our last CFA committee meeting, we talked about ways of making the organisation more relevant to club dancers, thereby fulfilling our constitutional objective of 'initiating and supporting, and encouraging the initiation and support by others of folk activity'. Some ideas were put forward but as yet they are just ideas. We would love to hear from those of you reading this whether there is anything you feel the Association, with its wider geographical reach, and therefore ability to call on additional resources, should be organising, which would enhance your own enjoyment of folk music. For example, would you be interested in a music workshop bringing together people from all over the area to learn from each other? Or a day of dancing with an opportunity to try out new styles? Is there

something we can do to help you at a local level? Among my recent correspondence has been a message from Reading Balfolk, inviting people in the Chilterns to join in some of their activities. Balfolk was new to me so I did some research. Apparently, a bal is the European equivalent of a ceilidh with a mixture of all sorts of modern and traditional dances to the folk music of continental Europe, reflecting some of the multi-cultural elements which go to make up today's 'Englishness'. As well as planned sessions, during the summer there may also be outdoors impromptu 'clandestine' events which sound intriguing. Contact information is included in the directory.

Our next newsletter will appear in the Autumn. We would love to include news from clubs and individuals. If there are any particular topics you would like to read about, again get in touch and we will try and commission something.

Hazel

News and Reports

News from Around the Clubs

It is encouraging to hear from Marlow FDC that three new members have joined them since the group advertised in *Local Directory*, which is delivered free to homes in the area.

The Amersham Club has also welcomed a number of new dancers over the last few months, who all seem to be enjoying the club evenings.

Sadly, the crowded social dance programme means that larger events organised within the Chiltern Association area can clash with similar dances in adjoining counties. Since they rely on support from beyond their immediate membership, and club dancers appear to be disinclined to travel beyond the familiarity of their regular evenings, the results can be disheartening for the organisers.

Maidenhead Folk Club

27 Jun Sue Graves
18 Jul Lynne Heraud & Pat Turner
5 Sep Jeff Warner
19 Sep John Conolly
3 Oct Steve Suffer & Pat Lamanna
14 Nov Richard Grainger

SEND DETAILS OF YOUR EVENTS
TO:

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



Local Morris side, Phoenix, based in Rickmansworth, were delighted to be awarded the Kathleen and Alan Deans Cup for the best individual entry in the annual Ricky Week Carnival parade in May. Michael Stimpson, their squire, comments "I think this is the first time we have taken part in any event and been honoured in this way." They danced outside Watersmeet, the local arts venue, prior to joining the procession through the town. The cup was presented to the Rickmansworth Society in 1981 and is presented each year to the entry on the day, by the Committee of the Rickmansworth Society. The side had a busy week, dancing around the town again on both days of the Canal Festival which rounds off Ricky Week.

Obituaries

Denis Leavey



The Association was saddened to learn of the unexpected death of our long-serving Treasurer, Denis Leavey in March. Janet Boothman from the Marlow Club recalls his involvement with the local folk scene and beyond.

'Denis who passed away in March 2019 was a long and faithful supporter of the folk scene in Buckinghamshire. He lived in Marlow with his wife Janet, daughter Sarah and son John. They were

enthusiastic members of folk camps and attended many festivals, as a family. Denis worked for the BBC as a technical engineer, and upon

retirement, he worked as a driver for the Red Cross, and also in their office. He was part of the committee of the Liston Hall in Marlow and also a great supporter of the Marlow Community Association, serving in various offices over the years. Denis was chairman of the Maidenhead F.D. Club in recent years and spoke meaningfully at their very sad closing down at the end of last year. He also served as treasurer for the Chiltern Folk Association for over 10 years. He loved to play his guitar and attended all the Local Music Days. He had great and fond memories of his many dancing friends.

Another of Denis' interests was steam railway engines, and he would make long excursions to see "Flying Scotsman" or "Tornado" in action.

Denis' funeral was in Amersham on Wednesday 10th April, with his wake in Marlow.'

Sue Needham



Susan Needham (1st Jan 1948 - 2nd April 2019) -
Eulogy edited by Neville Gardner

She was born on New Year's Day 1948. Sue was the daughter of Ronald and Irene Needham, their second child, - with elder brother Norman and younger brother Robert. Sue attended nearby Blue Bell Hill primary school in Nottingham. When she was 10 the family moved to a new house in Hucknall, where Sue had her own room which was her place of study and enjoyment. In

1960 Sue passed her 11 plus and was awarded a place at Sutton-in-Ashfield Grammar school. Sue worked hard at school and at the age of 16 passed 8 GCE's – enough to do 'A' Levels. However circumstances didn't permit her to stay on, so she got her first job working for the General Post Office as a counter clerk.

Sue was a very quiet, but also very determined lady and she decided to change her career to qualify as a Radiographer. To do this she saved carefully and left the family home in Hucknall to study in Lincoln where she got the bug for English Country Dancing. Once qualified she decided to move south and got a job at the prestigious Royal National Orthopaedic Hospital in Stanmore. She moved into a flat in the Carpenders Park area and later to a bungalow. Once established she set out to find local dance clubs, and at one of them she met Denis and Olive Searls. Sue became like a daughter to them. She spent many happy years dancing at clubs and learning about the art of 'calling'. In her 'spare' time she undertook a part time Open University

degree course over a 7 year period – she passed with flying colours! Sue was always keen to keep fit and enjoyed cycling and famously did several long bike ride including Blackpool to Manchester, and Landsend to John O’Groats!

Sue had also progressed at work in the NHS and was a manager before she retired after some serious health problems, at the age of 55. This was one of her best life decisions as it enabled her to do more of the things she always liked doing – exercise, dancing, and Bible studies. She was also able to assist greatly when first Denis, then her great friend Rosemary Kemp and finally Olive became ill and eventually passed away. When Denis passed way Sue ‘graduated’ as a ‘caller’ and was off calling three or four times a week for many dance clubs all over North London and the surrounding Home Counties .

Sue’s great faith and studying the Bible was a huge support to her in her life and it enhanced all aspects of how she lived. She was the missionary secretary for the Baptist/Anglican Church in Carpenders Park. Sue was always careful with money but she supported charities, including the Barnabas Fund which supported persecuted Christians all round the world , the Mission Aviation Fellowship, and Caring for Life, a Leeds-based charity which supported people with any form of disability. In 2015 Sue move to a new home in Hemel Hempstead and she was very pleased and happy with her new environment and joined the local United Reformed Church, Adayfield Free Church.

During the last few years of her life she did have some irritating illnesses – nothing though that we would have thought of as life limiting. So when she did pass away suddenly we were all deeply shocked. However, she died peacefully sitting in her favourite chair. We shall all miss her, but I’m sure she is now where, with her faith, she always wanted to be – and still dancing the night away!

The Service of Thanksgiving for Sue’s life took place at the end of April. It provided an opportunity for her friends and family to come together to remember her life. The Information in the tribute above was supplied by Norman and Robert Needham and Sally Crowther, based on what was said at that Service



27 Jun	Threaded/Michelle Lewis
11 Jul	Phil Beer
26 Sep	Oka Vanga/Naomi Bedford & Paul Simmonds
31 Oct	Plumhall
28 Nov	Young Waters

DIARY DATES

PFS : Bring Plate of Food to Share

30 Jun	Summer Dance, 2.30-5.45pm Informal Scottish Country Dancing suitable for experienced English folk dancers Gerrards Cross Memorial Centre, SL9 7AD Band: Quicksilver	07880 842370
21 Sep	Playford Ball, 7-10.30pm PFS Drake Hall, Amersham Community Centre, HP6 5AH Andrew Swaine with Forest Band	07799 017730
13 Oct	Abbots Langley Winter Acoustic Concert, 3-5.15pm <i>The Road to Peterloo: Ballads and Broadsides</i> Pete Coe, Laura Smyth and Brian Peters	01923 264536
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

2020 dates to save

4 Jan	New Year Dance	07799 017730
29 Mar	Marlow's 60th Birthday Dance	01494 531716

Chesham Folk Club

1 Jul Na-Mara

Chequers Folk Club

17 Jul Papa Truck (bluegrass)

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

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

MUSIC

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/>

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

Balfolk, Reading
[https://readingbalfolk.wixsite.com/readi
ngbalfolk](https://readingbalfolk.wixsite.com/readi
ngbalfolk)

Chiltern Folk Association

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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)

