

MERSEY AND
DEESIDE NEWS



SPRING 2017
www.madfolk.org.uk

CLUBS AFFILIATED TO E.F.D.S.S. AND MAD FOLK

AINSDALE FDC:

Mrs Kathleen Etchells, 37 Moor Lane, Southport, PR8 3NY. 01704 579893. Meetings every Monday 8-10pm at St John's Church Hall, 629 Liverpool Road, Ainsdale, Southport, PR8 3NG.

BEBINGTON FDC:

Mrs Mary Smith, 62 Grosvenor Road, Birkenhead, CH43 1TL. 0151 652 4479. Meetings every 1st, 3rd & 5th Tuesdays, at Victoria Hall, Bebington, CH63 8PT. 8-10.15pm.

FAZAKERLEY F. Country Dance Club:

Gerry Jones, 11 Lingfield Grove, Broad Green, Liverpool, L14 3LG. 0151 259 3442 or gerry.jones@talktalk.net.

Meetings every Monday morning 10.15-12.15 except for Bank Holidays and August at The Community Centre, Formosa Drive, Liverpool, L10 7LQ.

Tel: 0151 523 1073.

HESWALL & WEST KIRBY FDC:

Norma McLellan, 0151 342 5420.

Meetings 8pm alt Fridays at Irby Methodist Church Hall, Mill Hill Road, Irby, Wirral, CH61 4UB.

LITTLE LONGBOROUGH DANCE CLUB:

Clare and Frank Park 01744 24613

Meets twice a month on a Wednesday at Rainford Village Hall, WA11 8 HB near St Helens. 7.30-10pm

LIVERPOOL CONTRA FDC:

Mrs Maria Warrington, 1 St. Annes Gardens, L17 6BP. 0151 427 1907. Meetings every Tuesday 8pm at The Scout Hut, Gorsedale Road, off Dovedale Road (between Rose Lane and Queen's Drive), L18 5EP.

NESTON FDC

Mrs Chris Durkin, The Homestead, Neston Road, Ness, Neston, CH64 4AZ.
0151 353 1748.

Club nights and **Playford Style evenings** are held on alternate Wednesdays from 8-10pm. They meet at Parkgate and Neston United Reformed Church Hall, CH64 6UZ except for the second Wednesday of each month, when we meet at Thornton Hough W.I. Hall.

SOUTHPORT FDC:

Mrs Eleanor Mehew, 8 Dunbar Road, Hillside, Southport, PR8 4RH.
01704 569107. Meetings every Thursday 8-10pm at St Peter's Church Hall,
St Peter's Road, Birkdale, Southport, PR8 4BY.

ST. HELENS FDC

Ian Arthur, 51 Walmesley Road, St Helens .WA10 5JR. 01744 734394.
Meetings every Wednesday, 8pm at UNISON Social Club, Bishop Road, St.
Helens, WA10 6SX.

STOCKTON HEATH FDC:

Keith Williams, 8 Cloverfield, Norton Cross, Runcorn, WA7 6SN.
01928 713180. Meetings on Mondays at 8pm, at St. Thomas's School,
Parkgate Road, Stockton Heath, WA4 2AP.

OFFICERS OF MAD FOLK

CHAIRMAN

Mrs Mary C. Smith
62 Grosvenor Road, Birkenhead, CH43 1TL. 0151 652 4479
E-mail address: - jps62@tiscali.co.uk

SECRETARY & Editor of MADfolk

Mr Chris Warrington
1 St. Anne's Gardens, Liverpool, L17 6BP. 0151 427 1907
E-mail address: - maria_chris@talktalk.net

TREASURER

Mr John P. Smith
62 Grosvenor Road, Birkenhead, CH43 1TL. 0151 652 4479
E-mail address: jps62@tiscali.co.uk

Lists of Bands

Alberio	Steve Hodgkiss	01625 613679
Caught on the Hop	Bernie Forkin	07908 835099
Change of Key	Frank Park	01744 24613
Cracknels	Brian Jenkins	0151 336 4818
Flaxmere Ceilidh Band	Val Catterall	01606 888551
Gallimaufry	Pete Rimmer	01704 567852
Jasper's Leap	Sue Jones	01244 342693
John Bull	Richard Stapledon	0151 342 5947
Mr Blundell's Arms Ceilidh Band	Phil Stoker	0151 281 4287
Liverpool Country Dance Band	Gerry Jones	0151 259 3442
Shave The Donkey	Andy Wooles	07887 955133
Three Point Turn Ceilidh Band	Mick Draper	01244 381826
Two Left Feet	Richard Wilde	0151 648 7764
	w.w.w.thebanddanceband.com	
White Knuckle Ride	Steve Burgess	01704 620860

List of Callers

Alan Barber	0151 342 3615	band
Bernie Forkin	07908 835099	band/CDs
Gerry Jones	0151 259 3442	CDs/band
John Smith	0151 652 4479	CDs/band
Judith Vevers	01772 434882	band/CDs
Annette Jones	0151 531 9825	CDs
Maureen Waddington	01829 751667	band/CDs

This is not a 'recommended' list nor does it imply that those listed will be available for your event.

Minutes of MAD Folk AGM

held on Dec. 6th, 2016 at Bebington

There were 36 members present, and 6 apologies for absence.

The chairman welcomed members and gave a brief explanation of the history and function of Mersey and Deeside Folk.

The minutes of 2015 AGM were accepted and there were no matters arising.

The treasurer presented his report which showed an excess expenditure of £116.69, but MAD Folk still held £1,499.90 from the Ball in 2008 at St. George's Hall. The report was proposed by Malcolm Davies and seconded by Sheila Davies.

Annual subscription for clubs remained at £10.

Election of officers; in the absence of any new nominations, the current officers were declared re-elected.

Chairman's Report;

Mary welcomed Little Longborough club that had recently joined MAD Folk.

Sadly we had to report the deaths of Alan Whitwell from Contra, Dorothy Jones who had been secretary of Neston club for 62 years, Neville Moulden from Bebington and Chris Rowland from Lancashire Folk Band Workshop.

Thanks to the other officers, Bob Lightfoot for auditing, Sheila for printing MAD News and David Haynes for the website.

There was no Other Business.

Mary Smith

DIARY DATES

Note: All Diary Dates are on MAD Folk and Set & Turn Single Websites

- Jan 8th (Sun) Folk North West, 2.30 pm at Samlesbury Memorial Hall, PR5 OUY. Andrew Shaw with Denise & Norman Bearon. Tel: Roy on 01772 716772.
- Jan 15th (Sun) Lancashire Band Workshop. 10.30-12.30 at Rainford Village Hall, Church Road, Rainford, WA11 8HB. Tel: Mary on 0151 652 4479.
- Jan 21st Ormskirk FDC, afternoon workshop at 2.30pm and 7.30pm evening dance. Ormskirk School, Wigan Road, Ormskirk, L39 2AT. MC Andrew Shaw with Keeping Thyme. Tel: Denise on 01695 422971.
- Jan 21st Manchester FDC, Playford Style Dance at Sunnybank Community Centre, Sunnybank Road, Near Whitefield, BL9 8IJ. Workshop 3-5pm, Evening Dance 6-9pm. MC: Keith McDermott. Tel: Ruth and Malcolm on 0161 681 2917
- Jan 28th St. Helens FDC, Country Dance at Rainford Village Hall, Church Road, Rainford, WA11 8HB. MC: Judith Veevers with Chris and Julie Dewhurst. Tel: Ian on 01744 734394.
- Feb 4th Adlington (Cheshire) FDC workshop 4pm 'Pat Shaw Dances' and evening dance 7.30pm at Poynton Community Centre, 107 Park Lane, SK12 1RB. MC: Ian Jones with Kendall Green. Bring and share a meal at 6pm. Tel: Reg on 01625 875309.
- Feb 4th Leyland FDC, Country Dance at St. Ambrose Church Hall, Leyland, PR25 4XA. MC: Hilary Herbert with Stradivarius. Tel: Val on 01772 422065
- Feb 12th (Sun) Folk North West, 2.30 pm at Samlesbury Memorial Hall, PR5 OUY. Hilary Herbert with Ian & Margaret Jones Tel: Roy on 01772 716772.
- Feb 18th Manchester FDC Playford Dance at Sunnybank Community Centre, Sunnybank Road, Near Whitefield, BL9 8IJ. Workshop 3-5pm, Evening Dance 6-9pm. MC: Mary Bradbury and Anne Parkinson. Tel: Ruth and Malcolm on 0161 681 2917.
- Feb 19th (Sun) Lancashire Band Workshop. 10.30-12.30 at Rainford Village Hall Church Road Rainford WA11 8HB. Contact Mary on 0151 652 4479.

- Mar 11th Liverpool Contra Spring Dance at St Antony of Padua Church Hall, L18. MC: Rhodri Davies with DNA (Denise, Norman & Antony). Tel: Maria on 0151 427 1907.
- Mar 12th Folk North West 2.30 pm at Samlesbury Memorial Hall, PR5 OUY. (Sun) Jan Dale with Denise & Norman Bearon. Tel: Roy on 01772 716772.
- Mar 18th Manchester FDC Playford Dance at Sunnybank Community Centre, Sunnybank Road, Near Whitefield, BL9 8IJ. Workshop 3-5pm, Evening Dance 6-9pm. MC: Penny Lunn. Tel: Ruth and Malcolm on 0161 681 2917.
- Mar 19th Lancashire Band Workshop. 10.30-12.30 at Rainford Village Hall, (Sun) Church Road, Rainford, WA11 8HB. Tel: Mary on 0151 652 4479.
- Mar 25th Adlington Cheshire FDC, Spring Ball at Macclesfield Town Hall. MC: Colin Hume with Saraband. Tickets to be ordered in advance include a buffet supper. Tel: Reg on 01625 875309.
- April 9th Folk North West 2.30 pm at Samlesbury Memorial Hall, PR5 OUY. (Sun) Volunteers with recorded music (inc AGM). Tel: Roy on 01772 716772.
- April 9th Lancashire Band Workshop. 10.30-12.30 at Rainford Village Hall (Sun) Church Road Rainford WA11 8HB. Contact Mary on 0151 652 4479
- May 21st Lancashire Band Workshop. 10.30-12.30 at Rainford Village Hall (Sun) Church Road Rainford WA11 8HB. Contact Mary on 0151 652 4479
- June 18th Lancashire Band Workshop. 10.30-12.30 at Rainford Village Hall (Sun) Church Road Rainford WA11 8HB. Contact Mary on 0151 652 4479
- June 23rd Ormskirk FDC: Summer Special with Strawberries. Haskayne Village Hall, L39 7JE. 7.30pm. Tel: Denise on 01695 422971.
- Oct 7th Adlington (Cheshire) FDC, Evening Dance at Poynton Community Centre, 107 Park Lane, SK12 1RB. MC: Lynne Render with Pendragon. 'American Style'. Tel: Reg on 01625 875309.
- Oct 14th Ormskirk FDC: Norman Bearon with Kendal Green. Tel: Denise on 01695 422971.
- Oct 21st Leyland Folk Dance Club Autumn Dance at Leyland Methodist Church Hall, Turpin Green Lane, PR25 3HA. MC: Judith Veevers with Focus Pocus. Tel: Val on 01772 422065.

- Nov 11th Ormskirk FDC: Dance at Rainford Village Hall, WA11 8HB at 7.30pm. Bernie Culkin with Denise and Norman. Tel: Denise on 01695 422971.
- Nov 25th Adlington Cheshire. Pat Shaw celebration dance at Poynton Community Centre, 107 Park Lane, SK12 1RB. MC Robert Moir with Deo Volente. Tel: Reg on 01625 875309.
- Dec 9th Ormskirk FDC: Victoria Yeomans with Knotted Chord. Tel: Denise on 01695 422971.

NEWSROUND SPRING 2017

It's a bit like the buses; none for a long time and then two come together. In November we attended a smashing dance at Ormskirk which featured Andrew Swaine and Focus Pocus. Unfortunately another smashing dance was taking place on the same evening and so numbers were lower than would have been expected. It is a pity when these things happen as both groups suffer.

Looking round at the people who attended Dorothy Jones's funeral made me realise what a debt of gratitude we owe to the immediate post war generation who re: started the groups in this area and to those who have continued in their footsteps. Times have changed and there are not so many dances taking place locally and so it is great to welcome the Little Longborough group to Mersey and Deeside. The group started in Mike's Barn just off the Rainford by-pass and now meets every two weeks on a Wednesday at the Rainford Village Hall. They have their own band, Change of Key and several excellent club callers. They also hold a dance in early September and another dance just after Christmas. Their web site has all the details and also they have an email address list for anyone who wants to receive information on upcoming events.

Looking forward to future events, St. Helens have a dance at Rainford Village Hall on 28th January with Judith Veevers and Chris and Julie Dewhurst. Liverpool Contra have a new venue for their public dances. They will hold their March 11th dance which features Rhodri Davies and DNA (Denise, Norman and Anthony Bearon) at St. Anthony of Padua Church Hall, Queen's Drive, Mossley Hill, L18, just past the railway bridge, and Adlington Cheshire are taking bookings for their March 25th Spring ball which will again take place at Macclesfield Town Hall and featuring Colin Hume and Saraband.

Lots of good things on at the newly opened Music Room which is part of the Liverpool Philharmonic Hall including the best of folk, roots, blues and world music. Also a wide selection of varied concerts are on in the main auditorium.

We were sorry to read in the Autumn EDS magazine that folk musician and presenter of Radio Merseyside's Folkscene programme Stan Ambrose had died in July 2016. Stan was a self-taught multi-instrumentalist who played the ukulele, guitar, penny whistle and in his later years the harp. To quote EDS Stan was a giant of the British folk scene and we won't be seeing his like again.

We are lucky to have dancing to help to keep us active during the long dark winter months and so if numbers at your group nights are often quite low why not invite a non-dancing friend along occasionally and who knows your group might have a new member.

Happy Dancing

Chris Warrington.

LIVERPOOL CONTRA CLUB

Spring Dance

On March 11th 2017, 7.30-10.45pm

At St. Anthony of Padua Church Hall,

Queen's Drive, Mossley Hill, L18 N.B. New Venue

RHODRI DAVIES with DNA

DENISE and NORMAN (SARABAND) plus ANTHONY BEARON

Good hall and parking please bring some finger food

DON'T FOLLOW SATNAV as this takes you to old entrance

If approaching from end of M62 / Childwall / Allerton Rd. go under railway bridge and look for concealed entrance on left, immediately before block of flats and traffic lights

Tel: Maria Warrington 0151 427 1907.

Dorothy Jones

Folk Dancers from all over the north-west of England and Wales, a large number of her own family, friends from Burton Village and members of the Church she and her family had attended completely filled St Nicholas Church, in Burton, for Dorothy's funeral, on Tuesday 13th September 2016. It was a sure sign of the high esteem and affection in which Dorothy was held.

Neston Folk Dance Club or Group was formed at a meeting on the 23rd April 1952 at which Dorothy Norman, as she was then, was appointed secretary, a post which she held for some 60 years, with great enthusiasm and dedication, until age and infirmity meant she felt it was time to give up. For a time, as well as raising a family, she designed and produced construction plans for private house extensions and also for the modification and refurbishment of hotels. As Club secretary, she loved to organise, from booking rooms for the weekly club nights, lunch and evening refreshments at the annual Day of Dance to Club garden parties and walks – I shall always remember her chocolate cakes!

When Dorothy “discovered” Halsway Manor in Somerset that was it – she set about organising weekends and holiday weeks there. Even when Neston Club no longer held events at Halsway, she continued to help Andrew Shaw with the organisation of his events there.

As part of the “twinning” between the German town of Reutlingen and Ellesmere Port and Neston, we were invited, as a Club, to dance with a German dance club at Reutlingen's Garden Festival and, of course, she was in her element, organising our side of it. When the German dancers visited Neston, it was right up Dorothy's street to arrange the accommodation for the guests, the dance venues and the visits to local attractions. She established a strong friendship with the German Dance Group leaders and maintained this for many years.

Dorothy gave more than sixty years of devoted service to the folk dance world as a whole and to Neston Club in particular, for which we are deeply grateful. In November 1992, whilst she was still very active, her contribution to EFDSS was recognised by the award of the Jubilee Medal for her work in Neston. It is Dorothy's legacy that we still have a strong Club.

Don Ashton



ADLINGTON

Folk Dance Club. CHESHIRE

2017 Sat 4th Feb. Ian Jones workshop 4pm 'Pat Shaw Dances' £4
Bring & share meal at 6:00pm for those who wish
Evening dance at 7.30pm £10 combined ticket £12
At Poynton community centre, 107 Park Lane, SK12 1RB
Sat 25th March. Spring Ball. Colin Hume – Saraband
Macclesfield Town Hall, SK10 1EA, Tkt. Req. £20
Sat. 7th October. Lynne Render & Pendragon, 'American style' £10
At Poynton Community Centre, 107 Park Lane, SK12 1RB
Sat. 25th November. Robert Moir with Deo Volente. 7:30pm £10
at Poynton Community centre, Pat Shaw celebration dance

Future dates 3/02/2018 24/03/2018 6/10/2018 24/11/2018

Phone:- Reg (Publicity) 01625-875309

Please Check on web-site

27/11/16

email via web

www.adlingtonfolk.co.uk

15th Bangor Playford Ball

At Llanfairfechan Old Town Hall
In Glorious North Wales

On October 14th 2017

Brian Stanton with Jack's Maggot

Bring your own buffet and alcohol

Contact: Nicki on 01248 600095/07960371620

or dr_nicki_h@hotmail.com

Tribute to Neville

Nev & Pat first took up country dancing about 30 years ago because according to Pat, they were watching too much TV. It was there that a couple of existing Mersey Morris Men tried to persuade Nev to join, because they were desperate for new men. He rose to the challenge!

Nev stuck with it in the early days, despite Jim Jones asking why he bothered because, in Jim's view, he was a rubbish dancer! We all realised we may not have gained the most nimble footed member of the team, but it soon became clear that the qualities we **had** gained were far more valuable to us. WE GAINED A FIRST CLASS CHARACTER.

Not satisfied with just learning how to get by on the dance floor, Nev became fascinated with 2 other aspects of the morris – the music and dressing-up-in-a-liver bird-costume! The latter was easily arranged because nobody else really wanted to do it, so from then on Nev WAS the Liver bird, adding props in the form of liver bird eggs, liver bird noises, liver bird webbed feet and stripy legs, liver bird motorised baby chicks! His one-man act could hold a large audience spellbound as he laid eggs, made labour pain noises, gave birth and finally taught his offspring how to dance the morris!

Nev's determination to learn a folk instrument was partly borne out of his realisation that this would keep him in the hobby for the long term. He always said that he wished he had come into folk as a young man rather than as a 50 something year old, but if he could play an instrument, he could still be involved after his dancing days were over. I remember him quizzing me about whether the melodeon would be a wise choice and when I explained that it was just like playing a mouth organ, his mind was made up and that's what he went for. In a very short time, he became extremely proficient on the instrument, becoming one of MMM's mainstays for many years.

A few years after Nev joined MMM, in 1991 a new ladies' morris team was formed through the instigation of some Mersey wives including Pat and my wife Jean. For these past 25 years, Nev has been a leading musician for Mockbeggar Morris as well as MMM. With his Mockbeggar contributions being restricted to the music, he still managed to find other ways to make his mark, for example by donning a heated jacket at their winter practice sessions which encouraged all the ladies to snuggle up to him to keep warm! Now that's better than any chat-up line!

Nev was determined to keep involved with the ladies' team as long as possible, even in later years when his ability to walk any distance had become

an issue. Not that long ago, he apparently dabbled with an alternative system to walking when he turned up with a motorised scooter – not a mobility scooter but an ordinary scooter! He was proudly showing it to a few of the girls outside on the pavement when, to their amazement, Nev’s traditional foot pumping action set the motor in action and whisked him away into the distance like a whirlwind. Totally exhausted, he reappeared some time later and made the decision that this perhaps wasn’t the answer to his problems!

We nearly lost Nev a few years ago – and I mean this in more ways than one.

Now Nev was never a heavy drinker in his time with MMM but he decided to make an exception to that rule during a morris trip to Holland. In the early hours of the morning after a heavy day of morrising and drinking, just before dawn, he decided to get up from his bed, presumably to visit the loo. The trouble was that he was in a top bunk; clad in just his underpants, he left the upstairs room via an exterior-wobbly-spiral-staircase, walked about 50 yards barefoot along a gravel path onto the small country road that had 3 foot deep dykes on either side. The three of us who were awoken and realised he hadn’t returned, went to search, clad in our pyjamas, going in each direction along the road until one of us received a pointing finger and bewildered facial expression from the milkman doing his early rounds! Just about in one piece, Nev was led safely back and the rest of the men were totally oblivious to the adventure until they later awoke!

I have tried to give you a flavour of this **FIRST CLASS CHARACTER** that both morris sides were privileged to welcome into their folds. This was a man who was loved, admired and respected by all age groups in the folk and morris world. It was he and Pat that took my 15 year old son and his friend to Glastonbury Festival. The 15 year olds would come back to their tents exhausted each night, only to find that Nev and Pat would still be out living it up.

At many a folk or morris weekend, Nev would be found outdoors surrounded by youngsters, all happily playing with his large collection of juggling equipment or watching in awe as he launched his water propelled plastic bottle rocket toward the clouds, then holding their breath as they watched to see which car or tent it would hit as it returned to earth!

Those of you who knew Nev through other connections will all recognise the qualities that everyone loved about him. All of us in his morris sides have been privileged and had our lives enriched by knowing Nev. He will be sorely missed by us all.

Richard Stapledon

Nev and Pat started dancing at the Bebington club, and became keen to learn all they could. They joined in our annual weekend camps in the Lake District in 1988, and quickly made their mark, I remember Nev teaching the children juggling, and standing on a chair to hang the bunting for the Saturday evening ceilidh. Later, when we had got rid of our camping van, he provided us with sleeping accommodation in the 'chateau' which he towed to Cartmel for us, and very comfortable it was. I'm told that the 'chateau' went with them to many festivals as well. Our sympathies go out to Pat, we have all lost a remarkable man.

Mary Smith

HAPPY and SAD

Funerals are usually sad occasions when we say goodbye to people we have known and loved; but they can also be happy joyous occasions especially when we gather to celebrate the lives of those who have both touched the lives of others and also lived their lives to the full.

Since the last issue of MAD News we have been to three funerals. Firstly, Dorothy Jones who was secretary of the Neston group for over 60 years. Dorothy had a traditional send off in a church in Burton followed by a chance to catch up with old friends at the Pollard Arms, Willaston.

A few weeks later we attended the funeral of Christine Rowland who for many years was secretary and leader of the Adlington Lancashire group. Chris also called at Saturday evening dances for a number of years. Latterly she formed a dance band with her husband Peter and then when sadly Peter died Chris joined the Poachers Band. Chris was also secretary and organiser of the Lancashire Folk Band Workshop until her health deteriorated, although she still continued to attend the monthly Sunday morning meetings until shortly before her death.

And thirdly we attended the funeral of Nev Moulden. Nev danced with the Mersey Morris Team for many years as well as playing melodeon in their band and also donned his Liver Bird outfit and entertained the on lookers when not dancing or playing. Nev was quite a character and his funeral was typically unconventional. His coffin was processed into the Crematorium by both the Mersey Morris and Mockbeggar Ladies who played a traditional processional tune. Afterwards we were entertained by the marvellous Mersey Morris men and the Mockbeggar Ladies team which included Nev's widow Pat who herself as an octogenarian is living proof that dancing does keep us active in mind and body.

I was particularly impressed by Mockbeggar who belied the notion that ladies morris is just the same as men's morris minus beards and beer bellies. They are a very well drilled team who do North West Clog Morris to a very high standard. They have lovely costumes and their music is great.

As are Mersey Morris, they are always happy to accept new recruits. They practice during the winter on Thursday evenings at the Church Hall of the Good Shepherd in Heswall and dance out at lots of different venues during the summer. Check outface book or their web site for details.
www.mockbeggarmorris.org

It seems strange to say that funerals can be fun but I can truly say that there were more tears of laughter than tears of sorrow at the celebrations of life we attended.

Chris Warrington



NORTHERN LIGHTS CHILDREN'S CHARITY

BARN DANCE

On Saturday 4th February
at Neston Civic Hall
7.30pm until late

Music: Shave The Donkey

With a guest spot from Mersey Morris

Cost £8 with Hot Pot Supper provided.

Contact Karen Jones for more info on 0151 336 2515
Or visit their web site: www.northernlightscharity.org.uk



2017

Saturday 21st January

Andrew Shaw with Keeping Thyme

Ormskirk School, Wigan Road, L39 2AT

2.30pm Afternoon Workshop £5.50

7.30pm Dance £9, Combined £13.50

Friday 23rd June

Summer Special with Strawberries

Haskayne Village Hall L39 7JE

Saturday October 14th

Norman Bearon with Kendal Green

Saturday November 11th

Bernie Culkin with Denise and Norman

Rainford Village Hall, WA11 8HB

Saturday December 9th

Victoria Yeomans with Knotted Chord

Dances include refreshments and start at 7.30pm

Please book tickets in advance with ticket sec. Denise Bearon

Tel. 01695 422971 or e-mail ormskirkfdc@gmail.com

THANK YOU FOR YOUR CONTINUING SUPPORT



LEYLAND FOLK DANCE CLUB COUNTRY DANCES

February 4th 2017

At St. Ambrose Church Hall, Leyland, PR25 4XA

MC Hilary Herbert with Stradivarious

AND

October 21st

At Leyland Methodist Church Hall, Turpin Green Lane,
PR25 3HA

MC: Judith Veevers with Folkus Pocus

Tickets and enquiries from Val on 01772 422065.

HAWK GREEN FOLK DANCE CLUB
Evening Dances

Saturday 4th March 2017; 7.30 - 11.00 pm

Rhodri Davies with Pendragon

&

Saturday 11th November 2017; 7.30 - 11.00 pm

Andrew Swaine with English Contra Dance Band

Both dances at

St. Peter's Parish Centre Hazel Grove SK7 4EA

Tickets and information from Neil on 0161 494 1582

neil.hawkley@sky.com

The West Kirby Band

- 'Not Quite' the whole story!

Back in around 1960, my father, John Stapledon, instigated the creation of the West Kirby Band, gathering around him various musical friends from the local folk dance world, of which he and my mother Sarena, had been active members for some time. As a nine year old, I remember those days well, as the infant band would usually gather at our house for their practices in the dining room while the rest of the family kept out of the way in the lounge.

With John on concertina, the original band members were Vic Brown on harmonicas, Graham Jones on fiddle, Bert Eccles on guitar, Jack Herrity on percussion and Val Phillips (later to become Val Ashton) on piano.

I would manage to venture briefly into those sessions, by helping my mother to carry through the cups of tea and homemade goodies at half time. I would be intrigued to observe as they approached the end of a tune set. The sound was definitely preferable to the crying of my baby sister Sue!

From those early days, the rest as they say, is history. Although changing its line up over many years, to include the likes of Pat Fahy (piano), Kevin Mitchelson, Kevin Downham and Tom Brown (all on accordion at various stages), Mick Roberts (drum) and various 'occasional' contributors including myself, it was the inclusion of my sister Sue into the band, as soon as she was old enough, that was the major factor in shaping the future, as she was able to contribute both keyboard and fiddle. John, Sue and one of the aforementioned accordionists formed the heart of the band for the rest of its life and they built up a wonderful reputation over the years as one of the country's leading folk dance bands, not only in the local area, but also nationally and internationally where they would play for general dances, Playford balls, weekends and full weeks of folk dance, working alongside many eminent callers.

Some 27 years after the band's beginnings, their first venture into the realms of recording took place in 1987 with the production of 'Not Quite Playford'. Together with its accompanying booklet of dances, this proved to be a great success. This was the catalyst for many further productions of recordings and books of dances over the forthcoming years, most of which have followed the same theme in their titles and presentations and have therefore come to be known affectionately as the 'Not Quite' series. There are ten in all. Other recordings, not in the series, include 'Cook's Tour' and 'From Two Barns'. The final CD to feature John's playing was for the first time, not instigated and produced by him, but by Sue who realised that time was running out.

The CD, 'Again Not Quite Playford', featured the playing of just John and Sue, and the accompanying book again contained dances created by several eminent dance composers. John passed away on 2nd March 2013.

However, the latest (final?) in the 'Not Quite' series, 'Not Quite The 2 Of Us', is a solo production by Sue, she being the only instrumentalist, but still managing to recreate that familiar West Kirby Band sound. All of the 27 tunes on this 20 track CD are entirely or partly composed by John who had folders full of tunes in various stages of completion, gathered together over many years. These were often created while he would be at work on his market garden, scribbling down a few bars of music as they came into his head. Sue then had the onerous task of sifting through this wealth of material, most of which had never been seen by anyone. Her choices included several complete tunes, but those that weren't, she completed herself. Each tune set was then presented to various dance composers who were invited to create dances to accompany the tunes. As a contributor of one dance myself, I am full of admiration of fellow contributors, some of whom had to contend with my father's tendency to create tunes of unusual or unfamiliar lengths and styles! Sue has rightly dedicated this project to our father by calling it 'Not Quite The 2 Of Us - A Tribute To John'. I know she is also indebted to Neil Stuart who has given his time and skills freely to produce the accompanying book of dances. We hope that dancers throughout the land will enjoy trying these new dances and listening to the Stapledon tunes.

Details of this and all other 'Not Quite' titles are available from me in the form of an information sheet that I can email to you on request. My email address is: richard@stapledon.co.uk

Richard Stapledon



ST. HELENS FDC
COUNTRY DANCE

Saturday 28th January, 2017
7.30-10.45pm

at Rainford Village Hall, Church Road, Rainford,
St. Helens, WA11 8HB

Judith Veevers with Chris and Julie Dewhurst

Hot Pot Supper with Vegetarian Option

Tickets from 01744 734394