

## MAYPOLE DANCING LOCALLY 2017

We have had something around 20 occasions to take one or other of the Maypoles out this season and we know Jenny has the small pole out quite regularly at the pre school, so it is fair to think that a lot of people in and around the county have experienced this very traditional form of folk dance with several modern twists as well as with a variety of degrees of success. There were one or two enquiries that either we were unable to attend or were not followed up when details were discussed, and one or two potential leaders of sessions would be very welcome we feel.

One really pleasing moment was the session on May 1<sup>st</sup> in the Guildhall courtyard. This was really well supported and cheerful, though folk who only wanted to visit the building had a bit of a battle to get through. Further afield, at Hickstead in the shade of the horse jumping arena, 24 dancers aged from about 6 to at least 76 did a really creditable Shrewsbury Lassies - to a scratch band playing a tune they regarded as The tune for the original dance but I barely recognised. Fortunately there were a few dancers in the 24 who actually listened to me and kept things going. We certainly impressed the audience from the big national camping rally we had been persuaded to attend.

We do love live music to dance to and appreciate Peter Brine's contribution, and the backing of other musicians when Ian and I take the Maypole to Caravan and Camping Club events.

Ironically this has been the first year we have had very little interest from schools and we are grateful for the support of the District Committee in being able to offer workshops in this coming academic year to schools in the area-it will be interesting to see the response! We also have a workshop as part of an Active Arts Family Arts Day in October, which in fact will attract folk who regularly join our events anyway, but might just bring in a few new faces and give us contact with some of the schools who have maypole dancing every year led by one of their staff.

Patsy Paterson