

TRADITIONAL DANCE SIDES**Anker Morrismen**

(Mens' Cotswold) Wednesdays.
Joe Oldaker, 02476-372276.

Anstey Royale Chalfont

(Ladies' NW Clog) Tuesdays.
Barbara Feely, 0116-2358134

Bakanalia

(Mixed Border Morris) Mondays.
John Talbot, 01530 836780

Bare Bones

(Ladies' Border Morris) Wednesdays. Maggie Johnson,
01509-880866

Black Annis

(Womens' Cotswold) Thursday.
Lynn Goodall, 0116-2719728.

Charnwood Clog

(Mixed Step Dancing) Monday.
Islay Sayles, 01509-502064

Everards Original Anstey Morrismen

(Mens' Cotswold) Wednesday.
Robert Crosby, 0116-2606272.

Glenfield Folk

English Country Dance
Pauline Osband, 0116-2393534

Hinckley Bullockers

(Mens' Molly Dancing) Tuesday.
Tony Ashley, 01455-239690

Jerusalem Jammers

(Ladies' Garland/Step) Saturday.
Sue Crockett 01455 458107

Knighton Morris

(Mixed Cotswold/Border) Monday
Rhona Kingett, 0116-2780339

Leicester Morrismen

(Men's Cotswold/ Border) Wednesday. Charlie Corcoran,
0116-2675654.

Man Friday Morris

(Mens' Cotswold) Monday
Ian Hubbard. 0116-2209133

Packington Morrismen

(Mens' Cotswold) Wednesday.
Dave Johns 01530-270494

Penny Royal

(Ladies' Garland/ Step) Wednesday
Stephen Edkins, 01827-286001

Quorn Demonstration Team (Playford)

Rosemary Jarvis 0116-2302265

Rutland Morrismen

(Mens' Cotswold) Monday.
Mark Oxley, .01572-822334

Saltarello

(Mixed Elizabethan/ Renaissance) Thursday.
Chris Stokoe, 02476-38752

SOCIAL DANCE CLUBS**MONDAY****Glenfield Folk. 7.30pm.**

Memorial Hall, Stamford St., Glenfield.
Pauline & John Osband, 0116-2393534.

Loughborough Folk Dance Club

7.30pm. St Peters Social Centre, Storer Rd.
John Stewart, 01530-223957

TUESDAY**Crown Hills Folk Dance Group**

7.15pm (Term time only) Crown Hills Community College.
Roy Garrington 0116 2418313

WEDNESDAY**Quorn Folk Dance Club**

7.30pm, Quorn Village Hall
Pauline Kinch, 01509 413762

Burton Overy Dancers

8.00pm. Burton Overy Village Hall
Margaret Pollard, 0116-2592406

Charnwood Squares

8.00pm. Aylestone Parish Hall, Aylestone.
Mary Walker 0116 285 6851

THURSDAY**Burbage Folk Dance Club**

8.00pm (alternate weeks), Sketchley Hill Primary School,
Burbage.

Brian Sabin, 01455-239283

FRIDAY**Friday Folk**

8.00pm. St Matthews Centre, Malabar Rd, Leicester.
Richard Spendlove, 0116-2733873.

Rutland Folk Dance Club.

8.00pm. Town Hall, Uppingham.

Marion McArragher, 0116-2592350.

Stoney Stanton Folk Dance Club

8.00pm, (2nd & 4th Fridays), Manorfield School, Stoney
Stanton.

Jack & Rosemary Hives, 01530-24358

DAYTIME**Soar Valley U3A**

Sutton Bonnington VH

2nd and 4th Fridays 2.30 – 4.30

Bas Butler 01509 673137

Countesthorpe U3A 2nd and 4th Mondays

Patsy 0116 2776259 for details

St Anne's Church Hall 2nd Friday 2.30 to 4.30

Geoff Weston's International Dances.

Phone 01162858352



Leicestershire & Rutland
January 2007

Playford Ball.

Signs of Autumn outside and time to make preparations inside. Are all the frills in place? Do the tights need darning? - and that's just for the men!

Saturday 7th October was the date of our eagerly awaited Playford Ball in the fitting setting of Leicester Grammar School Hall. An early arrival gave us time to meet and greet friends and acquaintances. Standing in groups, discussing who had a new outfit, we felt like characters from a Jane Austen novel. Soon we were listening to the delightful music of The Falconers; and our caller Robert Moir, resplendent in period costume (including wig) stepped up to the stage. They led us through a very enjoyable programme of dances. Robert gave us just the right amount of support with his calling and also the chance to appreciate the lovely music of The Falconers. For a while we were able to forget the cares of the 21st century and live in a bygone age. We shared a delicious supper prepared by Burton Overy dancers. They might have deprived us of calorie laden gateaux, but the fresh fruit was very refreshing and healthy too. Our thanks go to all who contributed behind the scenes to yet another successful Playford Ball. We even won 1st prize in the raffle - 2 tickets for the Christmas Mix, another event not to be missed!

Thanks to Doug and Maggie Weston for this report. We also should thank Doug for joining the local committee and doing all the jobs that we are about to point his way!

Christmas Mix 2000 and Six

Over eighty of us gathered on Saturday 9 December for an enjoyable evening of dance and entertainment at Countesthorpe Village Hall. The programme kept moving at a rollicking pace under the expert direction of our MC, Roy Garrington and the excellent music from Kevin Downham.

As usual at this now regular annual feature, several well-known local callers had been invited to take us through no more than a couple of dances each. Roy began with two unusual mixers in Sicilian format and he was followed by a well-balanced mix of typical dances from John and Pauline Osband, Jean Forrester, Joy Duncan, Charles Bolton, Richard Spendlove and Doug Weston. Geoff Weston introduced us to two (easy?) dances from the International repertoire, which were really enjoyed by everyone.

The first pure entertainment was a new one for Christmas Mix - storytelling. Kath Chalk and her husband kept us spell-bound listening to their improbable tales. We look forward to another story-telling session at a future event.

Later we had Glenfield Folk dancing for us a mix of modern dances to superb old tunes called 'Borrowed Music'. As two of the dancers, we thoroughly enjoyed it and we hope that everyone else did too. Countesthorpe village hall turned out to be a great venue - the right size and excellent facilities. Mince pies were, as always, on the programme, but unfortunately, because there was a bar, we had to miss out the mulled wine this year. Thanks are due to all those who worked tirelessly in the kitchen, the local group committee and to all those others who contributed to the success of the evening.

Mary and Keith Oughton
Keith of course has just joined the local committee so it seemed right to get Mary and him to write up the report

Dancing on the Isle of Wight

Jo and Roger Mason chose to celebrate 'a certain birthday' in the Autumn at a Folk holiday on the Isle of Wight, one of two held each year at Whitecliffe Bay, and led by Hilary Vare with Vic and Pam Courtice, a goodly group of musicians and visiting callers. Judging from their reports they had a really good time, their favourite workshops being social dance sessions with Barbara and Bill Kinsman. Also on offer were workshops in music, handbells and song and Playford, longsword, rapper and all other forms of 'folk dance' it seems. Afternoons are kept free to visit the rest of the island if you have the energy -in October there was an interesting group visit to Brading Roman Villa. Evenings are spent at dances and ceilidhs where the workshops are able to 'showcase' what they have learnt in the week!

These weeks are frequently advertised in 'Set and Turn Single' so check out the magazine or try the website on www.setandturnsingle.org.uk Many happy returns Jo- to the Isle of Wight and of your birthday!

The District Committee are in touch with Joan Crump whom many of you in her area might know through Loughborough Town Hall and the Folk Festival there in the Autumn. That first festival was a great success with some performances sell outs, and clearly plans are well in hand for the next one.

Joan is a prime mover in the 'Raising the Roots' Initiative to introduce our fabulous tradition and the heritage it reflects to those children who aren't growing up surrounded by it. With the aid of a large grant they have set up a series of workshops and tuition visits into schools by such well known folk artists as Pete and Sue Coe, the Demon Barber Road Show and Boka Halat. The children involved were encouraged to perform in and

around the festival, and their parents were tempted to watch with free tickets. Plans are well in hand for the continuation of the project, including talk of a folk orchestra one day. We as a group and individually have offered to get involved one way or another and await a reply. For more about all this please look up www.loughboroughtownhall.co.uk. It might have been coincidence but I like to assume it was editorial awareness that the report in the EFDSS magazine of the Loughborough initiative was opposite one explaining the success of Ann and John Bacon bringing Morris Taster Days into their local schools -and we know from Chris Turner of his exploits taking Maypoles around London schools. There is no doubt that we committed folk dancers singers and musicians need to show the uninitiated what we enjoy or they will never know what they are missing and ultimately the traditions could die out -in many cases die out again of course. There is hope as we know from the mini revival locally of Maypole Dancing -also helped by grants though rather smaller than Loughborough's I should say as over some 10 years we have received a Maypole and sets of ribbons, and also bought the District Maypole. Did you know that Baz Butler's U3A Group are now regulars on residential U3A dance courses at Halsway Manor, while my group members are demanding a suitable type of mini Countesthorpe Day of Dance?

We have reported on our recent District Events earlier in the Newsletter -and now following requests can confirm that both the Playford Ball and Christmas Mix made acceptable profits and the district coffers are respectably full. Please let us help you with your publicity by contacting us with the details, and let us know if you aren't getting news from us with contact details of the 'proper person' to use as correspondent.

Looking ahead

It has been mentioned before but the next District Weekend of Dance will be from 5th to 7th October at Symonds' Yat, Herefordshire. Our caller for the weekend will be Ron Coxall, who will lead workshops on two mornings and dances for two evenings. Music will be provided by John and Sue Stapledon whom you will have heard regularly I'm sure. We confidently expect a really enjoyable if tiring weekend, hoping that the weather will be kinder to us than last time so we can make the most of the glorious countryside on our 'free' Saturday afternoon. Those who have been before will find a booking form enclosed - anyone else interested should ask at their Dance Club please or contact me on addresses below to send out a form.

You may possibly receive this in time for **Friday Folk's** New Year Dance on Saturday January 13th

Quorn have booked Ian Whitehead for Saturday January 27th with 'Triple Major' providing the music

Burton Overy Annual Dance is on Saturday March 3rd and is sure to be good, featuring Charles Bolton calling and Dave and Caroline's lovely music.

In all cases please contact the number listed on our back page for details and because all clubs need a fairly accurate picture of numbers attending.

Geoff Weston's International Folk Dancing group meets on the 2nd Friday of each month at St Anne's church hall, Letchworth Rd, Leicester, from 2.30-4.30 pm. While the emphasis is on interesting music and straightforward steps, they do sometimes work on dances that are a little more complicated than those you would normally do. So there is some exercise for the brain as well as the body. Having said that, all dances are walked through and danced several times, and we try to do a few dances well, rather

than cram in as many as we can. The group is open to all and further information can be had on 0166 2858352.

Centre Stage Rural Touring Dates

Many of you will want to know that the New Rope String Band are booked to be in Desford on Friday 9th February. Do be warned that tickets will sell like hot cakes so if you want to go you need to phone Pat Crane NOW on 01455 823537. Almost Folk surely is poet Ian McMillan who will be in Countesthorpe on April 20th with cartoonist Tony Husband. Tickets from us for that! Gordon Potts is on the list of performers coming in March but as we go to press with this Ian and I have no details of where he has been booked for - keep looking 'in a village near you'.

Phil Preen from Bang on the Wall has details of all the local Morris sides on his website <http://www.philpreen.co.uk/folk/morris/leic-smorris.htm>

Updated contact for music/song www.lfd.org.uk

Other useful sites include www.goleicestershire.com www.leicestershirefestivals.co.uk

We have been asked to confirm that the Greenshoots Ceilidh Orchestra contacts are Musical Director, Michael Gerard, on 0116-2109027, or Clive Johnson on 0116-2730341.

Patsy Paterson 01162776259
pat.count@virgin.net