

WROUGHTON RANT

Wroughton Folk Dance Club's Newsletter



January 2017

Number 116



Chairman's Chat

Just after the last committee meeting, I had a reply from the bursar at the Junior School about use of their school hall. She said the governors were “in the process of looking at the current lettings and contracts”. She also pointed out that they didn't have a caretaker on site to open and lock up the building and car park. In view of these disadvantages, I hope that members have settled back into the Infant School.

Our Autumn Dance with caller Rhodri Davies and musicians Fiona Barrow and Paul Hutchinson was most enjoyable. I sent an email to Rhodri the following day to thank him and say I hoped he had a good journey home. In his reply, he said the journey was miserable because of roadworks, but it had been an “enjoyable gig”. My thanks to all members who helped with the organisation of the dance in any way and to people who donated raffle prizes which helped the finances.

The next highlight was Ivan Aitken's evening which included several squares, one of which had a tea-cup stroll - another move to add to our repertoire. He used several tunes from a new CD called Razzmatazz by 3D (Chris and Julie Dewhurst with son, Nick) which they describe as “Country Dance Music with a Swing”. Watch out for our club's callers using tracks from it.

Eight of us went to the Bristol Playford Ball in costume, including Roma who managed two or three dances. She has completed her gruelling treatments and intends to be dancing with us again before too long. The others at the ball were Jean B and Alan R, Janette and Jonathan, Rob and me. Sorry, no photo.

We have welcomed some new people including Lesley, now a member, who even found us at the Junior School having travelled from her home north of Cirencester. Jean D came from Wootton Bassett as a result of encouragement from Shirley and me on our holiday in Scotland. I have known Jean as a rambler as well as a dancer. The next time she came, she brought June who was impressed by the welcome and help she received. I hope that they, too, will become members.

I wish everyone a merry Christmas and happy new year.

Pat

Dan's Dancing Diary

Now that the festival season is over, the regular monthly evening dances are coming back to life; the Bath and Stroud ceilidhs and Coventry Zesty Playford to name a few. Because I hadn't seen a dancing friend of mine since Sidmouth I decided to go and visit and we both went to the Bath ceilidh a few weeks ago.

I wasn't aware of who was calling or playing that night, these events are usually pretty good no matter who is booked but I was very excited to hear the band was Tickled Pink. So after a steak dinner, a catch up and a drink, Robin, a new recruit and I drove down to Bath and arrived during the sound check. So the band was there but no sign of a caller...

We were told that Nick Walden, who was scheduled to call for the evening, drove to the wrong gig! Apparently he had another booking the next day in a town beginning with B and got the dates mixed up. So yours truly boldly stepped up to the mark and offered to - just kidding! The drummer from Tickled Pink stepped in as substitute caller.

And a fine caller he was, even with this spontaneous reassignment, Tim Walker did a variety of great ceilidh dances including some

classics. One in particular stood out as my favourite; a fun and slightly silly dance I hope to bring to the club on one of my evenings. Old friends were met, new friends were made and a good time was had all round!

Because my personal timetable has changed drastically, I wasn't able to go to Coventry for the Zesty Playford on the third of December. Having applied for a new job (which a hundred plus applicants had already applied for), getting an interview the next day, being promptly offered the job and immediately taking it, I haven't been able to attend as many Wednesday evenings as I would have liked. However, I was free on Friday to go to Bristol and attend a fairly new-to-the-block dance: the Bristol Contra, organised by Lisa Heywood. Lisa was calling the evening and also ran a short workshop before the dance to teach potential beginners the basics to contra. It was well attended, this time around there were enough people for two longways sets which was acknowledged with a raucous cheer! It is a great dance but does need more people!

The star dance of the show was at the beginning of the second half. It was a longways and a great little contra, written by Lisa, but the shining wowness of it was that she sang the contra! But not just singing-calling to any old tune, she had put her own lyrics/calls to a very modern song by Beyoncé!

I was excited about it... a clever fusion of classic contra, and modern music adapted to fit a folk dance. And Matt Norman played the spoons of all things!

I took away some flyers with the dates of the Spring Bristol Contra and managed to give away a flyer for our club to a Canadian couple living in Bristol. I stayed at Lisa's house that night and the next morning over breakfast we had a geeky conversation about calling and squares and dancing.

I stayed for a short while afterwards; in a pub where Rag Morris were doing the first dance of their crawl that day and then took a train home. Another weekend of having a great time because of dancing!

All in all, a great summer break, catching up with folkie friends and getting a lot of calling practice.

Dan

My Dancing CV

My folk dance CV starts at Nottingham University in the 80's. They had an active folk dance society, so I was able to participate in social dancing but also learnt clog, north west Morris and rapper. Cotswold Morris was strictly for men in those days.

After university I moved to Reading, home of the Reading Traditional and Step Dance Group who were active in collecting and teaching clog and social dances which involved stepping. I danced with them until we moved to Cirencester in 2003. The Cloggies organised an annual day of workshops which enabled people to learn steps from people who had collected them or even performed themselves in the Music Halls. I was able to teach at some of the festivals and have also taught at the Lancashire Wallopers and City Clickers festivals.

At the Reading Cloggies I met Ben, now my husband, who was one of our musicians. Ben took me along to Ellington Morris and introduced me to Folk Camps which are a great way to immerse yourself in folk music and dance for a week or two in the summer. It soon feels as if you are part of a big folk family. Folk Camps attract people of all ages which I find particularly appealing as there are not many activities where one meets children, teenagers and octogenarians all enjoying the same things. It's not unusual to find three generations of one family on camp. A few years ago we discovered German folk camp, run on similar lines to the British version but held in a lovely old Schloss in Bavaria where the weather is more reliably warm and sunny than England! We received a warm welcome.

When we moved we formed a new clog side called "Sabotage". New members are welcome.

Since I retired, I've joined you at Wroughton and a new mixed gender Morris side, as yet nameless, which is a project of the Gloucestershire Morris men who want to promulgate the traditional dances from Gloucestershire.

That's my dancing biography in a nutshell!

Lesley

Pat Shaw (Patrick Shuldham-Shaw)

Pat Shaw died in 1977, at the age of only 59, and during 2017 there will be lots of events all over the country celebrating his enormous contribution to English Country Dance in particular. He wrote lots of dances for special people, places and occasions, starting at the age of 13, and we shall be featuring some of them in our programme throughout the year.

He spent most of his childhood in London and started folk dancing at the age of six encouraged by his mother who was honorary secretary of the Cecil Sharp Memorial Fund which raised money to build Cecil Sharp House in Camden Town, the HQ of the English Folk Dance and Song Society, which opened in 1930.

He studied music at Cambridge and became a keen student of dance, song and music, performing Morris, Sword and country dance as well as folk songs, playing various instruments, making arrangements as well as composing choral and folk music. On leaving Cambridge, he worked for the EFDSS as Midland Area Organiser until he joined the National Fire Service in 1942. In 1946 he took up singing professionally, specialising in folk songs of all nations in their original languages, sometimes accompanying himself on the guitar. In the fifties, he could be heard on the BBC West of England programme "Country Dancing" both as a caller and singer.

Pat

Notes on the Dances of the Month by Pat

Randolph Farewell (*January*)

One of the many dances by Fried de Metz Herman, an American woman choreographer; this is a 3-couple circle in waltz time which you can see being danced beautifully if you Google Dance Randolph Farewell and select:

[YouTube.com/watch?v=aswysUDwBn4](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=aswysUDwBn4)

There is another YouTube of dancers in costume but the moves are not so easy to see and sound quality is poor.

Randolph is a place in New Hampshire, USA.

A Trip to Orpington *(February)*

This dance was composed in 1959 by Pat Shaw for the Orpington Folk Dance Club. It is a reel in a three-couple progressive longways set with the second couple improper. The moves are half figures of eight, stars, heys for three and changes of rights and left.

Mr Ganiford's Maggot *(March)*

Another Pat Shaw dance, this time in triple minor formation. William Ganiford was a violinist with the EFDSS and this dance, a jig, is one of a quartet of dances composed for the Society's musicians. Careful timing is crucial for the success of this dance as there are several "whilsts". Pat Shaw's notes say "this dance should be lively and gay, though always in control".

As is normal in triple minor dance, the first couple stay as first couple down the set while the twos and threes alternate. It is single progression so dancers reaching the top have the opportunity of watching for two turns of the dance.

Dance Diary September to November 2016

January 2017

- 7 Melksham Country Dancers, Tea Dance**, 3.00pm at The Riverside Club, Bath Road, Melksham, SN12 6LP. Jean Crook. Contact: Geoff Elwell on 01225 703650.
- 14 St Andrew's Assembly ECD Club, Dance**, 2.30pm at Cumnor Village Hall, Leys Road, Cumnor, OX2 9QF. Diana Triplow with Merry Andrew. Contact: Ken & Ruth on 01235 831409.
- 15 Frenchay FDC, Tea Dance**, 2.30pm to 6.00pm at Hanham Community Centre, 118-124 High Street, Hanham, Bristol, BS15 3EJ. Barrie Bullimore with WCDB. Contact: www.frenchayfdc.co.uk
- 21 Bath Ceilidh**, 7.30pm, St Gregory's Catholic College, Combe Hay Lane, Bath, BA2 8PA. Baz Parkes with Ironmasters. Contact: Richard & Jo on 01225 311634.

February 2017

- 4 Bristol Contra**, doors open 7.15pm, St Alban's Church Hall, Bayswater Avenue, Redland, Bristol, BS6 7NU. Rhi Davies with WCDB. Info: lisaheywood.net/contra
- 4 Highnam Dance**, 2.00pm at Highnam Community Centre, Newent Road, Highnam, Gloucester, GL2 8DG. Robert Moir, Bernie Culkin and Hazel Moir. Cake and Refreshments included in £3 entry fee. Contact: Bernie Culkin on 07821 106052.
- 4 Melksham Country Dancers, Tea Dance**, 3.00pm at The Riverside Club, Bath Road, Melksham, SN12 6LP. Barry Reeves. Contact: Geoff Elwell on 01225 703650.
- 5 Stonesfield FDC, Dance**, 3.30pm at Stonesfield Village Hall, Field Close, Stonesfield, Oxon, OX29 8EF. Lyn Render. Contact: Peter B on 01235 831409.
- 11 Westbury FDC, Valentine's Dance**. 7.30pm to 10.30pm at Westbury Leigh Community Hall, Westbury Leigh, Westbury, BA13 3SQ. Ian Ludbrook with recorded music. Contact: Anne Polden on 01608 810184
- 11 St Andrew's Assembly ECD Club, Dance**, 2.30pm at Cumnor Village Hall, Leys Road, Cumnor, OX2 9QF. Ken Sheffield with Merry Andrew. Contact: Ken & Ruth Howard on 01235 831409.
- 18 Barn Dance**, 8.00pm, Steventon Village Hall, The Green, Steventon, Oxon OX13 6RR. Ted Morse with Ted's Band. Contact Linda & David on 01235 831482.
- 19 Wantage FDC, Dance**, 2.00pm at Steventon Village Hall, The Green, Steventon, Oxon OX13 6RR. Sue Horsham with Pete & Sue Hall. Contact: Linda & David on 01235 831482.

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- 26 Wroughton FDC, Spring Dance**, 2.00pm, Royal Wootton Bassett Memorial Hall, SN4 8EN. Ray Goodswen with Dampier's Round. Contact: Clive & Wendy Harman on 01793 725825.

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March 2017

- 4 Highnam Dance**, 2.00pm at Highnam Community Centre, Newent Road, Highnam, Gloucester, GL2 8DG. Pat Hicks, Hazel Moir and Brian Stanton. Cake and Refreshments included in £3 entry fee. Contact: Bernie Culkin on 07821 106052.
- 4 Melksham Country Dancers, Tea Dance**, 3.00pm at The Riverside Club, Bath Road, Melksham, SN12 6LP. Ian Ludbrook. Contact: Geoff Elwell on 01225 703650.
- 4 Bristol Contra**, doors open 7.15pm, St Alban's Church Hall, Bayswater Avenue, Redland, Bristol, BS6 7NU . Jethro Anderson with Matt Norman. Info: lisaheywood.net/contra
- 10 Frenchay FDC, Torquay Dance Weekend** (to 12). Geoff Cubitt with WCDB. Contact: www.frenchayfdc.co.uk
- 11 St Andrew's Assembly ECD Club, Dance**, 2.30pm at Cumnor Village Hall, Leys Road, Cumnor, OX2 9QF. Alan Davies with Merry Andrew. Contact: Ken & Ruth Howard on 01235 831409.
- 18 Cheltenham Playford Ball**, 8.00pm, Pittville Pump Room, Cheltenham, GL2 3JE. Carol Hewson with Boldwood. Contact: Pam Thornton cheltenhamassembly@gmail.com.
- 25 Oxfordshire Folk Association, Music Day**, 9.30am at Stonesfield Village Hall, Field Close, Stonesfield, Oxon, OX29 8EF. Details to follow. Contact: Peter & Sheila on 01865 372344.
- 25 Bath Ceilidh**, 7.30pm, St Gregory's Catholic College, Combe Hay Lane, Bath, BA2 8PA. Sue Coe with Phoenix Dance Band. Contact: Richard & Jo on 01225 311634.

**Contributions for the April 2017 edition of
Wroughton Rant should be with Rob Dawson by
Monday 6 March 2017 or earlier.
email: robdawson08@gmail.com**

Club website: [www.http://wroughtonfdc.btck.co.uk/](http://wroughtonfdc.btck.co.uk/)