

WROUGHTON RANT

Wroughton Folk Dance Club's Newsletter



July 2017

Number 118



Chairman's Chat

I'm really cheesed off with colds this year! I've gone 3-4 years without one and managed 3 already this year – all debilitating. As a consequence I had to duck out of my session of calling last month as calling whilst coughing just doesn't work. I am grateful that Clive kindly stepped in and gave you an entertaining evening. Hopefully all will be ok when I do his stint in July instead.

Dan entertained us to a rowdy evening on his call bringing in live music in the form of Otter's Pocket. It was good fun. We must congratulate Dan as he was invited to call at Chippenham Folk Festival for a few part sessions. A real honour. I understand it all went down very well so perhaps we have a star in our midst!

I'm very much aware in our weekly dances that as soon as we say it's the 'Dance of the Month' that a general groan goes round. Being relatively new to the club I ask myself 'What is the purpose' of having the dance of the month. I've always assumed it to be a dance to challenge us and stretch us just that bit more than our usual dancing. If not perhaps someone could correct me on that. It could also be a challenge for the callers. The May dance of the month, although not a particularly difficult dance, seemed to have caused a lot of problems both to dancers and callers. A difficult dance may well take 15 minutes to walk through first and second weeks but

beyond that one would assume that enough people would be able to pick it up and push others around. This wasn't happening with the May DOM. Has anyone any suggestions that your committee can consider about future DOMs.

We were upset to hear of Simon's nasty accident and hope he'll be on the way to recovery soon.

The end of term is nearly upon us and we do hope that as many of you as possible will join in the summer home sessions. It is a social time as well as enjoyable for dancing outside weather permitting.

Glenys

Dan's Dancing Diary, Chippenham Folk Festival 2017

It is festival season once again! Marked by the wonderful Chippenham folk festival which, this year, I attended as an artist!

The festival itself was incredible as always: camping and being outdoors in the sun (and rain), seeing many festival friends and making new ones, singing at the pub until two in the morning, the hours and hours and hours of social dancing of all types, and plenty of others things, make it my favourite event of the year.

Mike Courthold, the social dance director of the festival, got in touch and wanted to invite me to do some guest calling spots, alongside the main callers Mark Elvins and Rhodri Davies. I had the pleasure of calling around fifteen dances across one workshop, themed around dances with heys, and two contra dances.

So I left work on Friday at around six, took the train with my all my luggage and made a beeline for the artists ticket office. I threw together my tent and then went straight to one of the welcome dances. Upon finding some of my good friends there was much rejoicing, hugging and asking of the next dance. We did a few dances in each of the three welcome events then moved onto the late night ceilidh, then to the pub; a typical day at any dance festival.

On Saturday I was up quite early and went to the first workshop of the day -on waltzing- in the town hall and then stayed for the next workshop - A Handful of Heys. During this I called a few dances, one contra which had a hey on the side with three neighbours and a hey

for four across the set and one English which had a Morris hey. In the afternoon I had lunch and caught half of Lynne Render's "What the Hex" workshop - 'square' dances with six couples in a circle! Then hurried off to the afternoon contra where I called a few dances. I was complimented on remaining calm and at-ease when I was fixing the bottom of one line which couldn't quite hear, the rest of the walkthroughs and dances, which included Ted Morse's The King's Rook, went smoothly. Then of course, dinner, evening contra, pub and tent.

Sunday was more of a struggle to wake up, understandably. I could feel also my voice was starting to ache after two days of chattering to friends, nagging people to move in sync. and bellowing away to late night shanties. Still, I went over to the second of two waltz workshops, stopping for much needed coffee on the way, and caught the last half. I did an American dance workshop, had pancakes for lunch and then attended the callers workshop where I was low on the list of volunteers to call. A compliment in a way, I was seen as more experienced and competent than many there so I danced and gave advice, and learned a few things myself.

Then on to the evening contra. Myself, Jake Wood and Rhodri all called dances; I did around four which people seemed to enjoy and together we did a medley and something which hasn't been attempted before: a medley square! Jake's job was to call the beginning of a break and mess it up as best he could, Rhodri tried to fix it - get everyone back to their partners and squares - ready for the figure called by me. I managed to throw in plenty of patter calls too.

On Monday, sadly, I had to go back to Swindon to work but as soon as it had finished I rushed over to catch the interval and last half of the finale dance; Rhodri and Mark doing a mixed evening dressed as Tweedledee and Tweedledum, just squeezing in because it was obviously house full.

My Chippenham adventure this year was a good one. The biggest calling event I've done thus far, the mandatory drinking with good friends and having that happy, glowing feeling which accompanies every festival and social gathering. Thank you Chippenham, see you next year!

Dan

Trip to Botswana

Most people go to exotic places to visit people and places. We set out for Botswana to spend 10 days doing radio. Stamp collectors do their best to collect rare samples from different countries. Radio Amateurs spend much of their time trying to contact people from as many countries as possible. The rarer the better. There are very few amateurs in Botswana so we were going out to set up a station for other amateurs to contact.

There were 10 of us and as we were travelling in a group we pooled our luggage so that heavy equipment could be shared out between us. Going via Turkey and Johannesburg it took us 30 hours to get to the Reserve on which we were staying so we were quite tired on arrival. We had a contact in South Africa who has a business setting up expeditions like ours so he had brought trailers with towers and most of the radios.

By the next day more aerials had been built and wires snaked around the lounge of the reserve station serving 5 separate radio stations. The combinations made it possible to contact people all over the world at various times when the conditions were right, either by speech, Morse code or RTTY (a computer based system). We had hoped to make 40,000 contacts but in the end we made 46,000. A great achievement for which we received acknowledgement from the amateur world.

There being 5 stations and 10 of us, we did have time off to explore the reserve and learn more about how a game reserve is run and how the animals are looked after even though they are wild. We went to visit a reserve preserving rhino and were delighted that on their 50,000 hectare station we managed to see in the wild 4 out of their 8 animals including one which was 16 days old.

All in all a very different but enjoyable experience.

Glenys and Tony

Notes on the Dances of the Month by Pat

Heswall & West Kirby Jubilee *(September)*

This dance was composed by Pat Shaw in November 1974 for the Heswall and West Kirby Club in the Wirral. It is a four couple longways set with two couples side by side facing two couples. The second and fourth times through the dance, the set is across the hall, the third time is up and down the hall, like the first time. It is a change-partner dance with swings, ladies' chains and a star promenade.

Golden Green *(October)*

A rest from Pat Shaw this month for a dance composed by Phillippe Callens for the golden wedding anniversary of Sharon and David Green. Sharon has lived and called ECD in the New York area for many years and called at Chippenham Folk Festival in 2007, then at the Churchdown weekend in 2008.

The dance is a square set in waltz time and you can see it on YouTube if you Google dance golden green. Choose the version from a dance holiday at Langstone Cliff Hotel, Devon, and you may find some familiar faces including Carol Hewson and Rosemary Hunt.

Errol on the Green *(November)*

Back to Pat Shaw for this 3-couple dance composed in 1972 while he was working in Edinburgh at the School of Scottish Studies. The title of the dance is the name of a Scottish tune to which Pat added the B music.

The dance starts with a Morris hey with an extra change to put the first couple in the middle, followed by heys across the set. This is followed by them turning contra corners before leading to bottom place.

Summer Events 2017

- 2nd August** Garden Dance at Brian Cassidy's, 8 Lytchett Way, Nythe, Swindon, SN3 3PN – this particular dance being held in memory of Margy. **Note** all the food will be provided by Brian. There will be a collection for Prospect Hospice.
- 1 6th August** Garden Dance at Julia & Francis's, Westmead Farm House, Elcombe, Wroughton, Swindon, SN4 9QL
- 30th August** Garden Dance at Jonathan and Janette's, Harcombe, The Hill, Little Somerford, Chippenham, SN15 5BQ .

All dances commence at 7pm, there will be no charge but please bring a plate of food to share, also your garden chairs. If you're not sure where you're going/where to park, etc. please contact Clive nearer the time and he will send you directions.

We look forward to seeing as many of you as possible at these events.

The Club reopens for normal dancing at the School on **6th September** with Pat calling.

Dance Diary July to October 2017

July 2017

- 8 St Andrew's Assembly ECD Club, Dance**, 2.30pm at Cumnor Village Hall, Leys Road, Cumnor, OX2 9QF. Barbara Kinsman with Merry Andrews. Contact: Ken & Ruth on 01235 831409.
- 8 Pat Shaw Day of Dance**, 3.00pm to 6pm workshops, 7.15pm evening dance at Emersons Green Village Hall, Emerson Way, Emersons Green, Bristol, BS16 7AP. Robert Moir and Alan Davies with The Weston Country Dance Band. Contact: Hazel Moir on 01594 510276.
- 19 North Oxford FDC, 40th Birthday Dance**, 7.30pm, Yarnton Village Hall, The Paddocks, Yarnton, Kidlington, OX5 1TE. Sue Horsham with Stradivarius. Contact: Ann on 01865 552715.

August 2017

4 Sidmouth Folk Week, to 11th. Information:
www.sidmouthfolkweek.co.uk

11 Broadstairs Folk Week, to 18th. Information:
www.broadstairsfolkweek.org.uk

September 2017

2 St Andrew's Assembly ECD Club, Dance, 2.30pm at Cumnor Village Hall, Leys Road, Cumnor, OX2 9QF. Christine & Norman Haynes with Merry Andrews. Contact: Ken & Ruth Howard on 01235 831409.

9 Highnam Dance, 2.00pm at Gambier Parry Room, Newent Road, Highnam, Gloucester, GL2 8DG. Robert & Hazel Moir, Bernie Culkin, Pat Hicks, Clive Harman and Brian Stanton. Cake and Refreshments included in £3 entry fee. Contact: Bernie Culkin on 07821 106052 or bculkin@hotmail.co.uk.

9 Melksham Country Dancers, Tea Dance, 3.00pm at The Riverside Club, Bath Road, Melksham, SN12 6LP. Malcom Mace. Contact: Geoff Elwell on 01225 703650. Bring & share tea.

16 3rd Friday Club, Dance, 7.30pm at Cumnor Village Hall, Leys Road, Cumnor, OX2 9QF. Barbara Kinsman with 3rd Friday Band. Contact: John on 01865 766587.

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30 Wroughton FDC, Fall Special Dance, 7.30pm, Royal Wootton Bassett Memorial Hall, SN4 8EN. Bruce Hamilton with Deo Volente. Contact Clive & Wendy Harman on 01793 725825.

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October 2017

8 Melksham Country Dancers, Annual Dance, 2.30pm at Southwick Village Hall, Frome Road, Southwick, Trowbridge, BA14 9QN. Ivan Aitken with 2D (Chris and Julie Dewhurst). Contact: Geoff Elwell on 01225 703650. Bring & share tea.

8 St Andrew's Assembly ECD Club, Dance, 2.30pm at Cumnor Village Hall, Leys Road, Cumnor, OX2 9QF. Barbara Kinsman with Merry Andrews. Contact: Ken & Ruth on 01235 831409.

- 14 Highnam FDC**, 2.00pm at Gambier Parry Room, Newent Road, Highnam, Gloucester, GL2 8DG. Robert & Hazel Moir, Bernie Culkin, Pat Hicks, Clive Harman and Brian Stanton. Cake and Refreshments included in £3 entry fee. Contact: Bernie Culkin on 07821 106052 or bculkin@hotmail.co.uk.
- 14 St Andrew's Assembly ECD Club, Dance**, 2.30pm at Cumnor Village Hall, Leys Road, Cumnor, OX2 9QF. Keith Orchard with Merry Andrews. Contact: Ken & Ruth Howard on 01235 831409.
- 14 Bath Ceilidh**, 7.30pm, St Gregory's Catholic College, Combe Hay Lane, Bath, BA2 8PA. Polly Dare with Monty's Maggot. Contact: Richard & Jo on 01225 311634.
- 21 Westbury FDC, Dance**. 7.30pm to 10.30pm at Westbury Leigh Community Hall, Westbury Leigh, Westbury, BA13 3SQ. Jean Crook with recorded music. Contact: Anne Polden on 01225 776766.
- 22 Oxfordshire Folk Association, Playford Ball**, 2.00pm at Steventon Village Hall, The Green, Steventon, Oxon OX13 6RR. David & Kathryn Wright with 3D (Chris, Julie & Nick Dewhurst). Contact Ken Howard 01235 831409.
- 28 Weston Super Mare FDC, Dance**, 8.00pm to 11.00pm at Shipham Village Hall, Winscombe, BS25 1SG. Ray Goodswen with The Weston Country Dance Band. Contact: 01934 514226.

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- 29 Wroughton FDC, Autumn Dance**, 2.00pm, Royal Wootton Bassett Memorial Hall, SN4 8EN. Barrie Bullimore with Mollie & Ali. Contact Clive & Wendy Harman on 01793 725825.

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**Contributions for the October 2017 edition of Wroughton Rant should be with Rob Dawson by Monday 11 September 2017 or earlier.
email: robdawson08@gmail.com**

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