

# STAPLERS

## NEWSLETTER

[www.staplers.org.uk](http://www.staplers.org.uk)

November 2011

### Notes from the Chairman

At our AGM, at the end of September, the existing committee were elected *en bloc*, to serve for a further year. Several matters were raised in *Any Other Business* which are being followed up by the committee.

Since then we have successfully held our **Anniversary Dance** and a **Sunday Afternoon Workshop**, led by Colin Hume, on *'Dances with a Step'*. We are very fortunate to have a professional caller and dance leader such as Colin living locally. We shall see him again in December when he leads another special Playford Monday evening with music provided once more by *Spring Greens*.

**Seasonal Surprises** are promised at our Christmas party on 19 December with entertainment master-minded by Ced and Lorraine. As last year, we have booked

the hall for an earlier 7.45pm start for this to get everything fitted in as well as time for chat!

2012 brings another Saturday evening dance in February, another Sunday afternoon workshop in March - *'American with Style'*, some new guest callers and hopefully a club meal – so plenty to keep the winter blues at bay.

Hopefully I shall see you on Mondays and/or at our **Christmas Dance** – December 3<sup>rd</sup> but if not, my very best wishes to you for Christmas and 2012.

**Ann Gibson**

A tiny space left for me to wish you all Seasons Greeting and a Prosperous New Year.

**Ced the ED**

#### Committee

*Chairman:* Ann Gibson  
*Secretary:* Ces Mills  
*Treasurer:* David Millman  
*Editor:* Cedric Morgan

#### Committee Members:

Kim Brosan;  
Leslie Elliott;  
Denise Devonald;  
Hazel Glass;  
Lorraine Morgan

# EVENTS

## Workshop: *Dances with a Step* • 6<sup>th</sup> November 2011

In this lively workshop, Colin Hume chose eight dances that required us to dance particular steps, rather than just 'plodding about', and gave us a brief history of the 'Dancing English' who had once been renowned for their varied stepping.



The first dance, called *Fan in the Doorway* was an American longways dance that we were asked to 'walk with a purpose'. With Roger Nicholls playing driving music and Colin calling, we were able to push forward with great intent, hopefully in the right direction – anyway it felt good.

The next dance, *Country Courtship* introduced the skip-change step (one, two three) and Colin told us to push off from the back foot. His demonstrations of what we shouldn't do were wonderful and worthy of an Oscar for coarse acting. He said the Americans couldn't do this dance because they were not used to driving the skip-change step. Our set couldn't do it because some of us got lost – sorry Colin but there were a lot of new dancers at the workshop. It was good that there was an excellent

turnout with so many people wanting to learn about stepping.

*Lady Pentweazle's Maggot* introduced us to the Schottische step (one, two, three hop) which in most European dances, comes in patterns of two Schottische steps and 4 step hops.

After the tea break – thank you Bridget (she was also chief story-reader for Erica) – we danced one of Colin's dances called *Elizabeth*. This enabled us to walk in triple time: long, medium, medium (not a waltz). This was a lovely dance and very nicely played by Roger. Then the rant step followed (hop,hop,change - 'potato crisps') and we did *Double Lead Through*, an easy



traditional dance that we used to do frequently when I joined the Stappers in 1976.

A two-couple dance *Cast Away Waltz* got us sidling, gypsyng, casting and generally getting dizzy to a waltz step (long,short,short). Colin's demo of what not to do was very memorable – a sort of lurch without a weight change!

A four-couple Scottish dance *Corstorphine Fair* was danced to a skip-change step and the second time through we had to dance this in the Scottish way without a call, Colin urged Roger to 'tak it awa Jimmy'. – which

*Jimmy* did with great drive and we managed to get through the dance well.

The final dance *The Fast Packet* was by local dancer/caller, Bob Lilley. We step-hopped to this hornpipe but were able to rest our feet in the best bit of the dance – clap, clap, right, clap, clap, left etc.

It was a well structured and well taught workshop – thank you Colin and thank you to the Stappers for organising this. Let's hope we see a resurgence of stepping in our district to enhance our dance experience.

**Jill Bransby**

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## Other Events of note since the last Newsletter



*Anniversary Dance in October with Barrie Bullimore & Deo Volente – and the all-important raffle*



*Garden Evenings were a success again this year. This one features the host, Derek (with Jean of course) sporting suitable shorts*

# MONDAY NIGHT CALLERS

Nov 21	Terry Elvins	Jan 30	Nick Plum
Nov 28	Adrian Besant	Feb 6	Ann Gibson
Dec 5	<b>Playford Evening</b> - Colin Hume with <i>Spring Greens</i>	Feb 13	Graham Foster
Dec 12	Bridget McRury	Feb 20	Jill Bransby
Dec 19	<b>'Seasonal Surprises'</b> - mc'd by Ced & Lorraine Morgan. <i>Please bring a plate of food or some drink to share.</i>	Feb 27	Joan Rutt
Dec 26	<i>No club meeting</i>	Mar 5	Steve Russell
Jan 2	Ced Morgan	Mar 12	Wendy Harrup with <i>Derek Boothby</i>
Jan 9	Bob Lilley	Mar 19	Bernard Higgs
Jan 16	Lorraine Morgan	Mar 26	Paul Garner
Jan 23	Colin Hume with <i>Spring Greens</i>	April 2	'Lucky Dip'
		April 9	<b>Easter Monday</b> - <i>no club meeting</i>

# FUTURE EVENTS

**Christmas Dance • 3<sup>rd</sup> December, 7.30 - 11.00**  
Andrew Swaine with Momentum

**Spring Dance • 4<sup>th</sup> February, 7.30 - 11.00**  
Colin Hume with Mollie Koenigsberger & Vic Smith

**Workshop: *American with Style* • 4<sup>th</sup> March, 2- 5, £7**  
Colin Hume with Mollie Koenigsberger & Alison Ellacott

•• *All at: St Ippolyts Parish Hall, Hitchin SG4 7RA* ••