

STAPLERS

NEWSLETTER

www.staplers.org.uk

September 2014

Notes from the Chairman

By the time you read this our 'summer break' will be nearly over and we shall be thinking of returning to St John's for our autumn dancing. Before that though many thanks to all those who have hosted the garden evenings and allowed us to "keep dancing".

At Staplers' committee meetings the committee don't only plan and arrange dances and other events; we

also consider the well-being of the club such as how to ensure a welcoming, supportive atmosphere and how to develop the skill of members in dancing and if they wish, calling. I shall be speaking more about this at the AGM.

I believe Club AGMs are not just legal necessities but an opportunity for all members to hear about and con-

tribute towards policy decisions and I hope you will be able to attend to share in this discussion.

Ann Gibson

Notice of AGM

The AGM this year is on
Monday 6th October 2014
...so come along, have your say and support your hard-working committee.

MONDAY NIGHT CALLERS

1 September	Lorraine Morgan	10 November	Denise Devonald
8 September	Nick Plum	17 November	Playford Evening with Colin Hume and <i>Spring Greens</i>
15 September	Cedric Morgan	24 November	Bob Lilley
22 September	Joan Rutt	1 December	Birthday Celebration for David Millman with Bernard Higgs
29 September	Wendy Harrup and <i>Staplers musicians</i>	8 December	Adrian Besant
6 October	AGM @ 8.30pm. Dancing from 8.00pm and after AGM with Bridget McRury	15 December	Ann Gibson
13 October	Paul Garner	22 December	Christmas Party – Anything could happen – again! – and probably will <i>Bring a plate of food or drink to share</i>
20 October	Barry Goodman		
27 October	Jill Bransby with <i>Cloudburst</i>		
3 November	John Green		

Committee

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

Committee Members:

Kim Brosan;
Denise Devonald;
Lorraine Morgan

As part of our series on Dance Etiquette I put before you the following. It first (as far as I know) appeared in 1780. – Ced the Ed

Etiquette for the Perfection of Dance and Securement

On requesting a lady to perform with you upon the dance floor, bow gently in front of her and do not jerk your head. Offer your hand, palm uppermost, as she must place her hand on yours to agree.

Gently close the thumb over her hand to assist her to join you. Do not grip it tightly as she may yet refuse.

Upon the floor, guide her to the place in the set, she may already know but needs the guidance.

Do not grip the hand as in a death grapple – no more than allows you to support each other as the hands need to be available for the first move of the dance.

EVENTS

Baldock Day of Dance • 17th May 2014



Once again, Staplers danced at the *Baldock Day of Dance*. This is organised by **Baldock Midnight Morris** so most of the other participants were 'Morris related'. Having said that, we were well received with a fair crowd watching each of our 'spots'.



EVENTS

Margaret Rollason's 80th Birthday Dance • 17th May 2014



The band was assembled from Margaret's favourite musicians



Margaret Rollason is 80 (can you believe?) and a dance was organised in the British Schools monitorial classroom. Club callers did some 'old favourites', Staplers displayed a dance we had practiced called *A Measure for Margaret* and Offley Morris plus two dancers from other sides danced a small tribute too.



The 'scratch' Morris side performed well considering there was no time to practice



The cake



EVENTS

Dance Display, Hitchin: British Schools Day • 21st June 2014



Another successful display in The Market Square, Hitchin to support the British Schools fund-raising day. Our thanks go to Roger Nicholls who played for us this year.

EVENTS

Display at the Bethany Club • 8th July 2014



Our display for the Bethany lunch club was well received by the participants

FORTHCOMING EVENTS

ANNIVERSARY DANCE

4th October 2014 • 7.30 – 11.00

Barrie Bullimore
with **Ivel Valley Band**

CHRISTMAS DANCE

6th December 2014 • 7.30 – 11.00

Colin Hume
with **Keeping Thyme**

***Staplers are also promoting the following event
on behalf of Chris Turner:***

1st November 2014 • 7.30 – 11.00

Frances Oates
with **Turnabouts**

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

ETIQUETTE of the BALLROOM

*and Guide to all
the New and Fashionable Dances*

Containing a simple and correct description of the
Steps and Figures of Quadrilles, Valses, Polkas,
Galoppes, Mazourkas, Country Dances etc.

*With hints and instructions respecting the toilette,
dress, management and deportment of Ladies and
Gentlemen in public and private Social Dances.*

By

Mrs Nicholas Henderson - teacher of dancing
19 Newman Street, Oxford Street.

New Edition price 1s

*This book was advertised in the **Illustrated London News**,
volume 11, 1860 and thankfully is now out of print. - Ced the Ed*

EVENTS

BBQ Pub Evening at *The Fox, Pirton* • 21th July 2014

The *Fox at Pirton* was once again the venue for the club's barbecue evening. It was certainly a good evening to choose, as the weather was perfect, pleasantly hot, sunny and dry.

About 30 dancers turned out for a lovely programme of mostly Playford-style dances in the pub garden. The hanging baskets were beautiful, worthy of Chelsea! It is always a treat to have a



There were sets all over the place



live band and Derek, Rachel and Chris provided the wonderful music. Jill Bransby called many old favourites that have such memorable tunes. For me a highlight was the opportunity to dance *Dorset Four Hand Reel*, a nostalgic moment as it is a dance that sadly seems to have gone out of fashion. Needless to say we formed our sets in the car park in order to rant safely and enthusiastically!

It was also good to have the opportunity to socialize and we welcomed non-dancing friends and partners. The Fox did us proud with tasty sausages and meaty burgers with accompaniments, my first barbecue of the Summer! Many thanks to all who arranged this – a splendid occasion.

Gill Goodman



Part way through Dorset 4-hand Reel



All good things come to an end

EVENTS

Buskers' Day, Market Square, Hitchin • 26th July 2014



The club performed a programme of 12 dances at **The Buskers' Day** in Hitchin. The shows were well supported and there was a fair amount of audience participation at both spots – The Cloisters and The Market Square.

The weather was sunny, if a little hot so a few dancers quickly changed to enjoy a beer and some food in The Sun Hotel.

EVENTS

Dancing in Paradise - Island Garden Evening • 28th July 2014

A perfect evening weather-wise ensured that the thirty dance aficionados, (plus one cat) who crossed the bridge successfully and were not *In The Swim*, could enjoy the expert calling of Ced & Lorraine, with their appropriately named selection of 14 dances. No mosquitoes made an appearance; we successfully clapped them away with the *Comical Fellow*, but there were plenty of *Maggots: Jack's*, *Mr Isaac's*, *Draper's* and *Huntingdon's*.

We weren't in *Draper's Garden*, did not see if the *Lavender's Blue*, and became a little confused as to which was the head of the set until Ced told us that 'up' was in the direction of Wales and to proceed 'down' towards Norway! It might have been the other way round – I was distracted by hearing *I care not for these ladies*, but this was belied by the fact that the gentlemen followed ladies' beckoning fingers in *Lord Byron's Round*. (No chance of the island becoming a *Childgrove* in a few months' time though!) I did not see any *Polka Dots*, but there several *Blackberry Traces*! (This is getting worse! [Quite agree - Ced the Ed])

20.59pm and setting of the *Sun Assembly* on the patio for light refreshments.

We appreciated that you made the journey to Bedford, and hearty thanks to everyone for all your help — it was fun!

Anne Dickens
– together with
the views of
other 'Bedford
dancers'



Some folks had a very casual approach as did the cat

By way of an explanation for those who weren't there, Anne and Alan Dickens live by the side of the river in Bedford in an area that was once called 'Paradise' – see right. The garden evening was held on the adjacent island jointly owned by the various residents. There is a youtube video of the dancing to look at: (<http://youtu.be/aOIMrSzE6a0>) Lovely spot

— Ced the Ed



EVENTS

Garden Evenings • 4th August & 18th August 2014

Delicious cakes ... and fun garden evenings

Bridget called a lovely evening with lots of favourites for Jean and Derek's garden evening. We had just finished dancing and were on our way indoors to sample Jean's expertly-made sponge cake when it started to rain, so good timing.

For Kim's garden evening the sky looked a bit dark as we approached her house and there were a few random spots of rain which cleared again. We managed to get eight dances in, called in turn by Joan and Jill, before rain stopped play and we went inside to sample the delicious carrot cake which appeared, complete with candle, to accompany the singing of 'Happy Birthday to Joan!'

Lorraine Morgan



The cake 2

EVENTS

Garden Evening • 11th August 2014

It was a shame that the weather was a little cold and windy to enjoy Chris and Joan's garden on the third of our summer garden evenings. On the other hand, the change of venue meant that we were able to take advantage of the lovely old parquet floor in the Langford Methodist Chapel and didn't have to dance on grass. What's more, we were able to dance for well over two hours and have a lovely long break with a luxurious selection of scones, cheesy biscuits and at least three kinds of cake courtesy of Joan and Helen.

Signs in the playgroup area of the hall encouraged us to "find out what inspires your child" and certainly Staplers members seemed to be inspired to dance well and enthusiastically to dances called by no less than 7 different callers.

We did struggle somewhat with Steve's 'pothooks', but then impressed Ann with completing *Square Line Special* very well to a different – and nicely jazzy tune

We managed Denise's *White Wheat* dance with it's tricky "right hand star on the side and active person end up in the middle" satisfactorily on the second attempt.

Lorraine took pity on us and called the easy and lively *Rock the Line* and Denise introduced us to a lovely new contra called *Melissa's Magical Mystery Motions*!

Ced got us doing a Morris-inspired dance called *70 Years a-Dancing* with lots of heys accompanied by a recording of our very own Derek on the accordion. He then ended the dance with the whole room in one long line facing the "presence". I hope he enjoyed it! [I was bowled over – nearly — Ced the Ed]

Kim Brosan



A line dance in Baldock!

Staplers at a 'Chippenham' breakfast — just shows you camping is possible. [I'm not totally convinced by this photo tho'— Ced the Ed]

