

STAPLERS

NEWSLETTER

www.staplers.org.uk

September 2015

Notes from the Chairman

Once again we have managed four very enjoyable 'garden evenings' in our 'summer break'. Thank you everyone who has hosted an evening and allowed us to 'keep dancing'.

We return to St John's in September with a varied Autumn programme including an Anglo-Scottish evening

on St Andrews Day and a mix of club and guest callers. The committee continue to try and come up with ideas to enhance the life of the club and at the AGM in October all club members have a chance to contribute to this so we look forward to seeing you there.

Ann Gibson

Notice of AGM

The AGM this year is on
Monday 5th October 2015
...so come along, have your say and support your hard-working committee.

MONDAY NIGHT CALLERS

| | | | |
|--------------|---|-------------|--|
| 7 September | Denise Devonald | 9 November | Frances Oates |
| 14 September | Paul Garner | 16 November | Nick Plum |
| 21 September | Cedric Morgan | 23 November | Barry Goodman |
| 28 September | Joan Rutt <i>with Staplers Musicians</i> | 30 November | Anglo Scottish Evening with Hilary Andrews & Roger Nicholls |
| 5 October | AGM @ 8.30pm. Dancing from 8.00pm and after AGM with Bernard Higgs | 7 December | Jill Bransby |
| 12 October | Adrian Besant | 14 December | Lorraine Morgan & Ann Gibson |
| 19 October | Colin Hume <i>with Spring Greens</i> | 21 December | Christmas Party – Where anything could happen! <i>Bring a plate of food or drink to share</i> |
| 26 October | Ann Gibson & Lorraine Morgan | | |
| 2 November | Barbara Gilder & Kim Brosan | | |

FORTHCOMING EVENTS

Committee

Chairman: Ann Gibson

Secretary: Ces Mills

Treasurer: David Millman

Editor: Cedric Morgan

Committee Members:

Kim Brosan;
Denise Devonald;
Lorraine Morgan

ANNIVERSARY DANCE

3rd October 2015 • 7.30 – 11.00
Ron Coxall • with **Stradivarious**

WORKSHOP: DANCES FROM THE NAPOLEONIC ERA

25th October 2015 • 2.00 – 5.00
Frances Richardson • with **Kelly's Eye**

CHRISTMAS DANCE

5th December 2015 • 7.30 – 11.00
Kathryn & David Wright • with **Folkus Pocus**

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

EVENTS

Club Night - Lorraine's Significant Birthday Celebration • 11th May 2015



EVENTS

Hitchin Busker's Day • 25th July 2015



The club performed an extensive programme of popular display dances during the busy Buskers Day in Hitchin to a large and appreciative audience.

The recent spell of wet weather relented and for the second year running the dancers enjoyed a warm sunny day for dancing at the two locations.

For those who were hungry, lunch followed at The Sun Hotel after which no one was fit for dancing.

Ron McDowell



EVENTS

Barbeque, Pub Evening • 22nd June 2015

The weather did not smile upon the Staplers' Annual Barbeque this year. Having been a reasonably pleasant day to that point, the clouds gathered and the heavens opened just before the proceedings were due to start. So, sadly, the idea of dancing on the grass at the back of The Chequers Public House in Stotfold had to be abandoned.



Undaunted, the caller (Joan) and musicians (Chris and Derek) simply set up under the canopy at the back of the pub instead and away we went. At least, unlike at the recent Dancing Demonstration in Hitchin, Derek did not need someone holding an umbrella over him and his

accordion while he played! Granted, the limited space led to a degree of creativity with the orientation of the sets, such as diagonal long-ways, but the dancers seemed to manage admirably well. In any case, keeping our dancing 'tight' was probably good practice for us, as formations can become rather 'flabby' when more space is available! Under Joan's direction, and the musician's backing, there were many smiling faces as we skipped and bounded our way across the flags in spite of the rain.

Once we'd used up most of the available daylight, we all retired into the pub for the barbeque meal and a good, old-fashioned natter. The food provided was good, even catering well for vegetarians — and very welcome after the evening's dancing. As we ate, the conversation around the tables meandered through dancing, yoga, music, food and many diverse topics. Finally, appetites satisfied and waving good friends farewell, we dispersed to our respective homes after spending a very enjoyable evening together.

**Lynn & Nick
Bedford**



EVENTS

Garden Evening at Ced & Lorraine's • 3rd August 2015

I was really looking forward to hosting our first garden evening for a few years. I worked hard at getting the garden reasonably up to scratch and even watered the plants this year!

On the day the weather was doing strange things and I spent a lot of time gazing up at the sky. One moment it



Some people go to enormous lengths to avoid 'Stripping the Willow'



Well, we are a 'social dance club' after all !

looked promising, the next the sky was dark and grey! By about 6pm a strong wind had whipped up! Not a hoped-for start, especially after Ced's hard work at scrubbing the oil off the drive!

In the event by 7 o'clock the grey clouds had dissipated and the sun came out. More and more people arrived, eventually around thirty, including a few local friends who came to see what we get up to in our spare time. One dancer was invited to park on our neighbours drive and was surprised by a dog leaping into the passenger seat ready for the off.

Our caller Ced chose lots of interesting and fun dances suitable for a driveway, including Whitby Town (the one where you play trains) and Strip the Willow.

Afterwards everyone congregated on the patio for tea and cakes, etc and chatted until it was dark. Thank you all for making it a most enjoyable evening.

Lorraine Morgan



EVENTS

Garden Evening at Ced & Lorraine's • 3rd August 2015



The Shetland Reel in Whitby Town gives an opportunity to 'play trains'



EVENTS

**Display at Bethany Lunch Club, Hitchin
28th April 2015**

We have danced quite a few times at the Bethany Lunch Club which is run by the folks at the Catholic Church in Hitchin.

They are always very appreciative of our efforts and some of the more able are usually keen to join in for the last dance.



EVENTS

Garden Evening at Kim's • 10th August 2015



Garden Evening Quadrille *(with apologies to Lewis Carroll)*

"Will you walk a little faster?"; I heard the first man say
The second lady's close behind me, the Staplers are on their way
See how eagerly the dancers, with their partners all advance!
They are waiting for the rain to stop – will they come and join the dance?
Will it, won't it, will it, won't it, will it rain so we can't dance?
Will we, won't we, will we, won't we, won't we be able to dance?

"You can really have no notion how delightful it will be
If the rain holds off and it stays warm enough until its time for tea!"
The lawn is mown, the weeding done, we've got the garden lights
The cake is made, the kettle on, the sun's still shining bright
But no – is that a black cloud, oh dear, the temperature is falling
Will they remember the early start? – and anyway, who's calling?
Will it, won't it, will it, won't it, will it rain so we can't dance?
Will we, won't we, will we, won't we, won't we be able to dance?

"What matters it how few we are?" my kindly friend replied
We have enough for two good sets – you take the lady's side
The Coomber music sounds just great – we'll set and turn and advance
We have our cardies and repellent, we don't leave things to chance
So don't you worry, they're the Staplers club – of course they'll come to dance
Will you, won't you, will you, won't you – yes, we'll join the dance!

Kim Brosan



A natter and cake at the end



Rain, what rain would that be then?

EVENTS

Garden Evening at Jill & Peter's • 17th August 2015

The series of summer garden dances continued on 17th August – the fourth rain-free Monday on the trot – how lucky!

This one was hosted by Jill and Peter in their garden at Gosmore Road and Jill chose to call a very interesting programme for us. Included were some less familiar and (for some perhaps) more taxing dances. But, as she explained, they were among her favourites and were well worth revisiting.

Appropriately enough she included *Round Pond* which was danced around their ornate garden water feature without mishap!

From *Polka Dot* and *The Indian Queen* via *Elverton Grove* to *Well Hall* this was a most enjoyable evening ending with the whole company (including two visitors from Australia's Sunshine Coast) treading a *Halfe Hannikin*.

Many thanks to Jill and Peter for hosting us and for the warm hospitality at the end of the evening.

John Edwards

EVENTS

Fine Companion's Garden Evening at Joan & Chris Rutt's • 31st July 2015



Fine Companions Dance Club in Bedford have their summer club evenings in members' garden as we do at Staplers.

Joan and Chris Rutt, who are members of both clubs invite us to their garden evening as it is closer than some of the others.

It is a 'Come all Ye' so various callers gave us a good selection of dances and a good time was had by all. [As far as we know – Ced the Ed]



Have they all gone home now?