

MERSEY AND DEESIDE NEWS



AUTUMN 2019

www.madfolk.org.uk

CLUBS AFFILIATED TO E.F.D.S.S. AND MAD FOLK

AINSDALE FDC:

Mrs Kathleen Etchells, 01704 579893.

Meetings every Monday 8-10pm at St John's Church Hall, 629 Liverpool Road, Ainsdale, Southport, PR8 3NG.

BEBINGTON FDC:

Mrs Mary Smith. 0151 652 4479. jps62@tiscali.co.uk

Meetings every 1st, 3rd & 5th Tuesdays, at Victoria Hall, Bebington, CH63 8AB. 8-10.15pm restarting 3rd September 2019

FAZAKERLEY F. D.C:

Gerry Jones, 0151 259 3442 or gerry.jones@talktalk.net.

Meetings every Monday morning 10.15-12.15 except for Bank Holidays and August at The Community Centre, Formosa Drive, Liverpool, L10 7LQ.

Tel: 0151 523 1073.

HESWALL & WEST KIRBY FDC:

Norma McLellan, 0151 342 5420 Or Bob Lightfoot 0151 356 0138.

Meetings 8pm alt Fridays at Irby Methodist Church Hall, Mill Hill Road, Irby, Wirral, CH61 4UB.

LITTLE LONGBOROUGH DANCE CLUB:

Clare and Frank Park 01744 24613.

Meets twice a month on a Wednesday at Rainford Village Hall, WA11 8 HB near St Helens. 7.30-10pm

LIVERPOOL CONTRA FDC:

Mrs Maria Warrington, 0151 427 1907.

Meetings every Tuesday 8pm at The Scout Hut, Gorsedale Road, off Dovedale Road (between Rose Lane and Queen's Drive), L18 5EP.

NESTON FDC

Mrs Chris Durkin, 0151 353 1748.

Club nights and Playford Style evenings are held on alternate Wednesdays from 8-10pm. They meet at Parkgate and Neston United Reformed Church Hall, CH64 6UZ except for the second Wednesday of each month, when we meet at Thornton Hough W.I. Hall.

SOUTHPORT FDC:

Mrs Eleanor Mehew, 01704 567251. eleanormehew@gmail.com

Meetings every Thursday 8-10pm at St Peter's Church Hall, St Peter's Road, Birkdale, Southport, PR8 4BY.

STOCKTON HEATH FDC:

Keith Williams, 01928 713180.

Meetings on Mondays at 8pm, at St. Thomas's School, Parkgate Road, Stockton Heath, WA4 2AP.

OFFICERS OF MADFOLK

CHAIRMAN

Mrs Mary C. Smith

0151 652 4479, E-mail address: - jps62@tiscali.co.uk

SECRETARY & Editor of MADfolk

Mr Chris Warrington

0151 427 1907, E-mail address: - maria_chris@talktalk.net

TREASURER

Cathy Bryan

07736 180017, E-mail address: - cathybryan29@gmail.com

Lists of Bands

Alberio	Steve Hodgkiss	01625 613679
Caught on the Hop	Bernie Forkin	07733106833
Change of Key	Frank Park	01744 24613
Cracknels	Brian Jenkins	0151 336 4818
Flaxmere Ceilidh Band	Val Catterall	01606 888551
Gallimaufry	Pete Rimmer	01704 567852
	www.southportstringensemble.co.uk	
Jasper's Leap	Sue Jones	01244 342693
Liverpool Country Dance Band	Gerry Jones	0151 259 3442
Shave The Donkey	Andy Wooles	07887 955133
Three Point Turn Ceilidh Band	Mick Draper	01244 381826
Two Left Feet	Richard Wilde	0151 648 7764
	w.w.w.thebardanceband.com	
White Knuckle Ride	Steve Burgess	01704 620860

List of Callers

Alan Barber	0151 342 3615	band
Annette Jones	0151 531 9825	CDs
Bernie Culkin	07821 106052	band/CDs
Bernie Forkin	07733106833	band/CDs
Gerry Jones	0151 259 3442	CDs/band
Judith Veevers	01772 434882	band/CDs
Maureen Waddington	01829 751667	band/CDs
Michael Baraclough	07396 329232	band/recorded music

This is not a 'recommended' list nor does it imply that those listed will be available for your event.

Heswall and West Kirby 70th Anniversary

It was over 20 years ago when I walked into Alexander Hall to be greeted with smiling faces from Sarina Stapledon and Josie Harnden. It was my first Heswall and West Kirby Friday group night. They knew me from Bebington group, where I had been a member since 1972 and being District treasurer for many years. Little did I know that I would become treasurer for Heswall some years later, in 2009.

Having inherited the account records going back to 1980, I can tell you that my predecessors were Jean Stapledon till 1987 and John Gill till 2008. The auditors, over that time, were John Andrew, to 1986, Ernest McLellan till 2002 and currently Malcolm Taylor.

I have also found some old AGM agendas. These show, in 1980, Mrs A Stapledon ('Granny' Stapledon!) as President, Bert Eccles (he of pipe fame) as Chairman, Mrs E L Smith as Secretary, Mrs V Jennings as Membership Secretary and John Stapledon as P.R.O. (public relations officer, I think). The committee at that time was Miss L Kendrick, Mr W J Marchant (known as Dick), Mrs Joan Marchant (Dick's wife), Mr H C Nicholson and Mrs M Connolly. The following year Mr N Jennings joined the committee in place of Dick.

One day, I just had to ask Dick why he was called that, when his names were William John. Apparently, on his Royal Naval ship, there were too many 'Johns'. So, the warrant officer lined the 'Johns' up and called them 'Tom, Dick and Harry'. Guess who was number two?

My informants tell me that the group first met in 1949, at Calday Grange Grammar school. It was then called 'West Kirby Group'. It changed to its current name when it moved to Alexander Hall in Heswall.

The first caller was Doris Altorfer. She later married and became Doris Morgan. The next caller was Bert Eccles.

When I started, Ted and Dick called alternate Fridays. I believe Bert had not long retired from calling. After Ted's death, Dick took three 'trainee' callers under his wing, Edna Kershaw, Marjorie Hunt and Dorothy Williams. Edna decided that calling was not for her but the other two continued, in the manner of Ted and Dick, calling on alternate Fridays. Things were going well. Dick was able to take a back seat, but within a very short time of each other we lost Dorothy then Marjorie. Dick resumed calling, until he persuaded Les and Annette Jones, to come all the way from Maghull, and call for us. They called alternate dances and

were a great double act. However, tragedy struck again, and we lost Les to Cancer. So, Annette is Heswall's sole caller at the moment. But we do have two more 'trainees', Joan Howgate and yours truly!

Early members, if not founder members, included, John and Sarina Stapledon, Jack and Helena (Lena) Herrity, Doreen and Vic Brown, John and Wynne Andrew, Joy and Bert Beenham, Ernest and Norma McLellan, Norah Kirby and Kathleen Leech . The latter was the pianist for the Group and a very close friend of Doris. I remember Kathleen. She lived very close to me in Birkenhead. She had a little dog, which she took everywhere with her, including dance nights! Agnes Stapledon (Granny) was, almost certainly, a founder member of the group.

Jack Herrity was chairman of Heswall group, back in the day, and also a founder member of West Kirby Band with John Stapledon. He was also the father of our current secretary Norma.

Ted Harnden wrote several folk dances, some especially for Heswall & West Kirby, notably 'Golden HaWK' for the group's 50th anniversary. Some of these dances had music by John Stapledon. (Perhaps we will have one or more of Ted's dances on 8th November?) Ted's wife Josie was also a very accomplished clog dancer. I remember seeing her perform at Bebington Group's folk camp one year.

Neston group made a trip to Reutlingen, Germany in the 1980's (one of many?) to take part in a dance festival. Some members of Heswall went with them. Look out for photographs of this and other things at the dance on 8th November.

As I said earlier, the group used to meet in Alexander Hall in Heswall. However, because of local government reorganisation this hall was marked for demolition. There is now a housing on the site. Heswall group, thanks mainly to Marjorie, moved to Irby Methodist Church Hall in 2012. This is now our current venue.

Talking of halls, I should mention Westbourne Road Hall in West Kirby. This was where the group held many Christmas and Valentine's Day dances over the years. The callers included, Roy Smith, Robert Moir, Pat Wilkinson, John Lowe, Roy McCullough, Trevor Monson, Nicolas Broadbridge, Ron Coxall, and Penny Lunn, as well as our own Ted and Dick. The bands included The West Kirby, Houghton, Amaryllis, The Cracknels, Dave Yeomans & Caroline Bunting, Saraband, Denis Smith & Sue Stapledon, Cat's Whiskers and Meg, Jane, Bill & Ali. Unfortunately, because of falling attendance these dances were discontinued after 2010.

There were also the ‘al fresco’ barbecue dances held in the lovely large gardens of ‘Granny’ Stapledon and later Ruth Dann, both in Caldy. Ted and Dick usually called with recorded music. These dances also ended in 2012 because of Ruth’s poor health.

Although not actually dancing, one activity connected to the group is the HaWK summer walk. This is led by John Gill. When it started I do not know, but the good news is that it is still going strong.

If anyone can provide any more information about the group’s early days please contact me. It can be included in the 80th anniversary write up!

In the meantime, ‘Happy Birthday’ to us, and do come to our special group night, at Irby Methodist Church Hall, on Friday 8th November at 7:30pm and help us celebrate.

Bob Lightfoot

PS
Should we now call ourselves ‘Heswall and West Kirby and Irby Folk Dance Group?’

MAD Folk Annual General Meeting,

Tuesday 14th November 2019, at 8pm

At St Peter’s Church Hall, St Peter’s Road, Birkdale, Southport, PR8 4BY.

In accordance with the constitution, this notice will be deemed sufficient notice. The business of the meeting will include receiving and accepting reports from the officers; electing officers/committee for the following year; fixing the membership fee for the following year; and discussing any matters of folk interest.

Nominations and motions should be received by the secretary, Mr. Chris Warrington by 10th November, 2019

The meeting will be followed by dancing to live music.

Little Longborough Dance Club



Xmas Dance



Saturday 28th December 2019
7:30 pm – 11:00 pm

St. Julie's Hall, Howards Lane, St. Helens
WA10 5HJ



MC: Rhodri Davies &
♪ Change of Key ♪



Tickets £9

Contact C & F Park 01744 24613

<http://littlelongboroughdanceclub.org.uk/>

Please bring a dish for a shared supper

DIARY DATES

Note: All Diary Dates are on MAD Folk and Set & Turn Single Websites

- Sept 7th Little Longborough End of Summer Dance, at St. Julie's Hall, St. Helens, WA10 5HJ. MC Bernie Culkin with Change of Key. Bring a dish to share. Tel: Clare or Frank on 01744 24613
- Oct 5th Adlington (Cheshire), Evening Dance at Poynton Community Centre, 107 Park Lane, SK12 1RB. MC Bernie Culkin with Knotted Chord. Tel: Reg on 01625 875309.
- Oct 12th Bangor Playford Ball, at Llanfairfechan Old Town Hall, North Wales. MC Brian Stanton with Jack's Maggot. Tel: Nicki on 01248 600956/07960 371620.
- Oct 12th Ormskirk FDC. Dance at St. Teresa's, 23 College Road, Upholland, WN8 0PY. MC Norman Bearon with Folkus Pocus. Tel: Denise on 01695 422971.
- Oct 13th (Sun) Folk North West. 2.30-5.30pm at Samlesbury Memorial Hall, Cuerdale Lane, Samlesbury, Preston, PR5 0UY. MC Andrew Shaw with Denise and Norman Bearon. Tel Bill on 01253 858994 or www.folknorthwestdance.co.uk
- Oct 19th Leyland Folk Dance Club, Country Dance at Leyland Methodist Church Hall, Turpin Green Lane, Leyland, PR25 3HA. MC Keith McDermott with Dampiers Round. Tel. Val on 01772 422065.
- Oct 20th (Sun) Band Workshop 10.30-12.30 at Rainford Village Hall, Church Road, Rainford, WA11 8HB. Tel Mary on 0151 652 4479.
- Oct 26th Lancashire Folk. Autumn Dance at St. Ambrose Church Hall, Moss Lane, Leyland, PR25 4XA. MC Rhodri Davies with Alberio.
- Nov 2nd Hawk Green FDC. Half Day of Dance at St. Peter's Parish Centre, Hazel Grove, SK7 4EA. Workshops 3.30-5.30pm and evening dance 7.30-11pm. MC Andrew Swaine with Portland Drive. Tel: Neil 0161 494 1582.
- Nov 8th (Fri) Heswall and West Kirby 70th Anniversary Dance at Irby Methodist Church Hall, CH61 4UF. MC Clare Park with the Rainford Band. Tel: Norma 0151 342 5420 or Bob 0151 356 0138.

- Nov 9th Ormskirk FDC. Dance at St. Teresa's, 23 College Road, Upholland. WN8 0PY. MC Bernie Culkin with Denise & Norman. Tel: Denise 01695 422971.
- Nov 10th (Sun) Folk North West. 2.30-5.30pm at Samlesbury Memorial Hall, Cuerdale Lane Samlesbury, Preston, PR5 0UY. MC Ian Jones with Kendal Green. www.folknorthwestdance.co.uk or Tel: Bill on 01253 858994.
- Nov 14th (Thur) MAD Folk AGM. 8pm start at St. Peter's Church Hall, St. Peter's Road, Southport, PR8 4BY. Dancing to live music after the meeting.
- Nov 17th (Sun) Band Workshop 10.30-12.30 at Rainford Village Hall, Church Road, Rainford, WA11 8HB. Tel Mary on 0151 652 4479.
- Nov 30th Adlington (Cheshire), Evening Dance at Poynton Community Centre, 107 Park Lane, SK12 1RB. MC Rhodri Davies with The Falcons. Tel: Reg on 01625 875309.
- Dec 8th (Sun) Folk North West. 2.30-5.30pm at Samlesbury Memorial Hall, Cuerdale Lane, Samlesbury, Preston, PR5 0UY. MC Hilary |Herbert with CDs. Includes pre-Christmas Jacob's Join Refreshments. Tel Bill on 01253 858994 or www.folknorthwestdance.co.uk
- Dec 14th Ormskirk FDC. Dance at St. Teresa's, Upholland, WN8 0PY. MC Hilary Herbert with Pendragon. Tel: Denise on 01695 422971.
- Dec 15th (Sun) Band Workshop 10.30-12.30 at Rainford Village Hall, Church Road, Rainford, WA11 8HB. Tel Mary on 0151 652 4479.
- Dec 28th Little Longborough Christmas Dance at St. Julie's Hall, St. Helens, WA10 5HJ. MC Rhodri Davies with Change of Key. Bring a dish to share. Tel: Clare or Frank on 01744 24613. Or email frankpark58k@gmail.com

2020

- Jan 1st (Wed) Folk North West New Year's Day Start up. 2.30-5.30pm at Samlesbury Memorial Hall, Cuerdale Lane Samlesbury, Preston, PR5 0UY. Volunteers with CDs. Tel Bill on 01253 858994 or www.folknorthwestdance.co.uk

- Jan 12th (Sun) Folk North West. 2.30-5.30pm at Samlesbury Memorial Hall, Cuerdale Lane Samlesbury, Preston, PR5 0UY. MC Norman Bearon with Denise and Naomi. Tel Bill on 01253 858994 or www.folknorthwestdance.co.uk
- Jan 18th Ormskirk FDC. 70th Anniversary Dance at Ormskirk Civic Hall, Southport Road, L39 1LN. With Ian Jones & Victoria Yeomans, Kendal Green and Deo Volente. Tel: Denise on 01695 422971.
- Jan 19th (Sun) Band Workshop 10.30-12.30 at Rainford Village Hall, Church Road, Rainford, WA11 8HB. Tel Mary on 0151 652 4479.
- Jan 23rd to Feb 6th Winter Folk Dancing in the Sun at Grande Hotel, Albufeira, Portugal. Visit www.enjoytravel.co.uk for details.
- Feb 1st Adlington (Cheshire) Evening Dance, at Poynton Community Centre, SK12 1RB. MC Francis Richardson with High Jinks Emily, Janet and Kate. Tel: Reg on 01625 875309.
- Feb 1st Leyland Folk Dance Club. Country Dance at St. Ambrose Church Hall, Moss Lane, Leyland, PR25 4XA. MC Hilary Herbert with 2D. Tel Val on 01772 422065.
- Feb 9th (Sun) Folk North West. 2.30-5.30pm at Samlesbury Memorial Hall, Cuerdale Lane, Samlesbury, Preston, PR5 0UY. MC Trevor Monson with Denise and Norman. Tel Bill on 01253 858994 or www.folknorthwestdance.co.uk
- Feb 16th (Sun) Band Workshop 10.30-12.30 at Rainford Village Hall, Church Road, Rainford, WA11 8HB. Tel Mary on 0151 652 4479.
- Feb 29th Liverpool Contra Spring Dance at St. Anthony of Padua Church Hall, Queen's Drive, Mossley Hill, L18. MC Rhodri Davies with Knotted Chord. Tel: Maria on 0151 427 1907.
- Mar 7th Hawk Green FDC Spring Dance at St. Peter's Parish Centre, Hazel Grove, SK7 4EA. MC Victoria Yeomans with Alberio. Contact Neil on 0161 494 1582.
- Mar 8th (Sun) Folk North West. 2.30-5.30pm at Samlesbury Memorial Hall, Cuerdale Lane Samlesbury, Preston, PR5 0UY. MC Hilary Herbert with Kendal Green. www.folknorthwestdance.co.uk or Tel Bill 01253 858994.

- Mar 15th (Sun) Band Workshop 10.30-12.30 at Rainford Village Hall, Church Road, Rainford, WA11 8HB. Tel Mary on 0151 652 4479.
- Mar 28th Adlington (Cheshire). Macclesfield Ball with Brian Stanton.
- Apr 19th (Sun) Band Workshop 10.30-12.30 at Rainford Village Hall, Church Road, Rainford, WA11 8HB. Tel Mary on 0151 652 4479.
- Apr 19th (Sun) Folk North West. 2.30-5.30pm at Samlesbury Memorial Hall, Cuerdale Lane, Samlesbury, Preston, PR5 0UY. Volunteers with CDs. Includes A G M. www.folknorthwestdance.co.uk. Tel: Bill on 01253 858994
- May 17th (Sun). Band Workshop at Rainford Village Hall. Details as above.
- June 21st (Sun). Band Workshop at Rainford Village Hall. Details as above.

Future Dates

- Oct 3rd Adlington (Cheshire). 65th Celebration Dance at Poynton Community Centre. MC Andrew Shaw with Denise and Norman.
- Oct 11th (Sun) Folk North West
- Nov 7th Hawk Green FDC Autumn Dance at St. Peter's Parish Centre, Hazel Grove, SK7 4EA. MC Rhodri Davies with English Contra Band. Tel: Neil 0161 494 1582.
- Nov 8th (Sun) Folk North West
- Dec 5th Adlington (Cheshire) MC Neil Stuart with Julia and Shane.
- Dec 13th (Sun) Folk North West.

CHALLENGING TIMES.

Autumn is a time when lots of us are looking for activities to take us through the long winter months. How can we connect with and encourage new people to come along to our group nights? Some would say a 64,000 dollar question.

I would imagine that all groups have their own publicity materials which include details of times and dates of meetings, how to get to the venue, contact details and perhaps a brief description of what the group has to offer.

But **how** do we connect with potential new members?

I think personal recommendation is much underestimated. We could encourage our friends, family, neighbours, members of other groups we attend and organisations we belong to, to come along and try country dancing. Also we could ask all our group members to ‘spread the word’ and to bring a friend to a group meeting.

Having an attractive up to date web site is certainly good and also the dreaded social media is a very effective way to spread information to a wider audience. Maybe a Facebook page would be helpful or any of the other methods available.

We may also consider canvassing other activity groups such as bowls clubs, slimming clubs, women’s groups, line dancing clubs, walking groups, choirs and generally organisations with a physically active membership. There are probably many more as well.

The other conundrum is how to convert visitors into permanent members. How do we give them an experience which keeps them attending?

This could perhaps be a topic for discussion at a committee meeting or even during the interval at a group meeting. People’s expectations are changing and we must recognise that what we have done in the past may not suit a new generation.

Maybe we should clear our minds and imagine we were attending the group for the first time. What would our initial impressions be? Will what we see and experience encourage us to continue attending? If we have doubts what can we do to make our groups more appealing to potential new members?

More questions than answers I am afraid but also some food for thought.

Chris Warrington.



ADLINGTON
Folk Dance Club. CHESHIRE
DANCE DATES 2019 - 2020

Dances at Poynton Community Centre, SK12 1RB 7.30pm
Sat 5th October: Bernie Culkin & Knotted Chord. £10 on the door
Sat 30th November: Rhodri Davies with The Falconers. £10
Sat 1st February 2020: Frances Richardson, with High Jinks
Emily, Janet & Kate.

Future dates
Sat 28th March 2020: Macclesfield Ball with Brian Stanton
Sat 3rd October 2020: 65th Celebration dance at Poynton Community Centre.
Andrew Shaw with Denise & Norman
Sat 5th December 2020: Neil Stuart with Julia & Shane

Phone:- Reg (Publicity) 01625-875309 or 01625-876572 (Secretary)
Email via web Please Check on web-site www.adlingtonfolk.co.uk

Liverpool Contra Club

Spring Dance

On Saturday 29th February 2020
7.30pm to 10.45pm

At St. Anthony of Padua Church Hall
Queen's Drive, Mossley Hill, L18 8AY

Rhodri Davies with Knotted Chord

Interval entertainment by Mockbeggar Morris

Good hall and parking please bring some finger food

If approaching from end of M62/ Childwall/Allerton Rd. Go under Railway Bridge and look for concealed entrance on left, immediately before block of flats and traffic lights.

Ring Maria Warrington on 0151 427 1907.



17th Bangor Playford Ball

At Old Town Hall, Llanfairfechan
In Glorious North Wales

On Saturday, October 12th 2019

Brian Stanton with Jack's Maggot

Please bring your own alcohol and buffet

Contact: Nicki on 07960371620 or dr_nicki_h@hotmail.com

HAWK GREEN FOLK DANCE CLUB

Autumn Dance

Saturday 2nd November, 2019
Andrew Swaine with Portland Drive

Spring Dance

Saturday 7th March 2020
Victoria Yeomans with Alberio

Autumn Dance

Saturday 7th November, 2020
Rhodri Davies with English Contra Band

All dances at
St. Peter's Parish Centre, Hazel Grove, SK7 4EA

Tickets and information from Neil on 0161 494 1582
neil.hawkley@sky.com www.hawkgreen.org

NEWSROUND AUTUMN 2019

Shock Horror!! The male dominated Morris Ring have voted to include women dancers amongst their number. Wow. About time too! It has been a long time coming.

On Saturday May 18th Southport Swords Dance Team hosted a day of dance which took place at venues throughout Liverpool city centre. Twelve teams of Cotswold Morris, North West Morris, Sword and Clog dancers made a colourful splash across the city. Both male and female dance teams took part. They included our own Mersey Morris, Mockbeggar Ladies Morris and Natty Jack Sword from Southport. Natty Jack was formed by Children of the Southport Swords to help them celebrate their 50th year.

I have added an obituary for Susan Stapledon to our www.madfolk.org.uk web site. I have sent a copy to EFDSS and hope it will be included in a future issue of their EDS magazine.

Sue featured on most of the West Kirby Band CDs as well as on CDs as a solo artist and with other performers. To view a catalogue and check availability contact Richard at richard@stapledon.co.uk

If you have a look at the Societies www.vwml.org section and go to topics / study guides and sources you will find an interesting Introductory “Bibliography of Traditional English Social Folk Dance which was compiled by Chloe Middleton-Metcalf. A very interesting read. Also lots of other resources available in the Library and general sections. Also it is worth looking up Jenny Beer who has a web site full of useful material including a database of dances.

We are looking forward to the Heswall and West Kirby Group’s 70th Anniversary Dance on November 7th which features music by the Rainford Band. The band meet monthly on Sunday mornings at Rainford Village Hall (see diary dates) and will always welcome newcomers. Music is provided if needed.

Congratulations also to the Ormskirk and Adlington (Cheshire) groups who are both celebrating anniversaries next year.

Our MAD Folk AGM, which is hosted by the Southport club on Thursday 14th November, includes a short meeting followed by dancing to live music. I think it will be a bit special this year and I encourage all who are able to attend.

Winter Folk Dancing in the Sun, which takes place in Portugal from January 23rd to February 6th next year, promises up to two weeks of music, English folk dancing, tutorials and workshops. Also including a week of the increasingly popular Contra Dancing. Visit www.enjoytravel.co.uk for details. A great way to escape the English winter.

Two dances to look out for. Little Longborough on Saturday 28th December and Liverpool Contra on the 29th February next year. See adverts for details.

It is sad that now only two of our local groups are hosting public dances. This is a great shame but we hope this situation is only temporary.

Happy Dancing

Chris Warrington.

LEYLAND FOLK DANCE CLUB COUNTRY DANCES

Saturday, October 19th 2019

At Leyland Methodist Church Hall, Turpin Green Lane, PR25 3HA

MC Keith M^cDermott with Dampiers Round

Saturday, February 1st 2020

At St. Ambrose Church Hall, Moss Lane, Leyland, PR25 4XA

MC: Hilary Herbert with 2D

Tickets and enquiries from Val on 01772 422065.



Hawk GREEN COUNTRY Dance Club

*Half Day of Dance
Saturday November 2nd
with
Andrew Swaine and
Portland Drive*

Tea and Biscuits: 3.00 - 3.30pm
workshops: 3.30 - 5.30pm (£5)
Bring and share Meal: 5.30 - 7.30pm
Evening Dance: 7.30 - 11pm (£10)
Combined ticket: £13

*At St Peter's Parish Centre
Green Lane Hazel Grove SK7 4EA*

Tickets/information from Neil, 0161 494 1582, e-mail:
neil.hawkley@sky.com

DANCES 2019

Saturday October 12th

Norman Bearon with Folkus Pocus

Saturday November 9th

Bernie Culkin with Denise & Norman

Saturday December 14th

Hilary Herbert with Pendragon

DANCES 2020

70th Anniversary Dance and Workshop (2:30pm)

Saturday January 18th, 2020

*Ian Jones & Victoria Yeomans, Kendal Green & Deo Volente
Ormskirk Civic Hall, Southport Road, L39 1LN*

Also note...

Saturday October 10th, 2020

Saturday November 14th, 2020

Saturday December 12th, 2020

Evening Dances start at 7.30pm

*All dances at St Teresa's, 23 College Road, UpHolland, WN8 0PY
unless listed otherwise*

Supper and draw included in ticket as usual.

Please book tickets in advance with ticket sec. Denise Bearon

Tel. 01695 422971 or e-mail ormskirkfdc@gmail.com

Keep Dancing

We look forward to your continuing support

THREE LIVES REMEMBERED

Earlier this year we said goodbye to three ladies, each of whom in their own way made a huge contribution to Mersey and Deeside Folk.

Norah Johnson, widow of Fred who received an MBE for his work on behalf of the Northern Lights Children's Charity and mother of Alan, along with Graham and Dorothy Jones, was one of the founder members of Neston Folk Dance Group. Norah loved dancing and was an active member of the group until her health began to fail in later life. Norah and Fred were a constant help and support to Dorothy Jones. Norah was often to be found busily working behind the scenes out of sight in the kitchen; who can forget the lovely refreshments Norah and Fred produced for the Neston public dances.

Norah was one of the unsung heroes who helped to make the Neston Group so successful as well as being a lovely, kind and caring person.

In a similar way Sarina Stapledon along with her husband John and daughter in law Jean was one of the driving forces behind the Heswall and West Kirby group, and was always available to help and support the group's activities which included their many successful public dances.

At her funeral service Sarina's eldest son, Tom, described her early life in Sicily which became increasingly difficult during the Second World War. Towards the end of the war Sarina met an English serviceman, John Stapledon, who was to become her future husband.

The couple eventually set up home in Heswall where Sarina helped and supported John in his business life and was the administrator who helped to make the West Kirby Band successful both locally and nationally. Although she lived her early life in Southern Italy, Sarina embraced English life and its culture and became a leading member of the local community.

Her legacy lives on through the lives of her children and grandchildren and the many friends whose lives have been made richer through knowing Sarina.

Little did we realise when Susan Stapledon, accompanied by her brother Richard, played a set of tunes at her mother's funeral that we were witnessing her last public performance. It was such a shock, when still a relatively young woman, we lost Susan in March this year.



Susan will always be remembered for her music. She was a brilliant multi-instrumentalist who became a member of her father's West Kirby Band at an early age and went on to form partnerships with many other musical groups and performers. She taught music for a number of years and ran successful music groups including an Irish music class in Liverpool.

Susan composed music and produced several CDs of her own. My favourite is 'The Fiddler Round the Fairy Tree' which features traditional Irish music from Liverpool. Susan also featured on the many CDs produced by the West Kirby Band and also on many other CDs in collaboration with her many musical friends.

Susan was modest and a little shy but she had a great sense of humour and loved to dance in her earlier years. She never pushed herself to the front even though, in my opinion, she was the best all round musician we have had on Mersey and Deeside.

My abiding memory of Susan is of her sitting at her keyboard with the lovely smile she had, making sure the West Kirby Band gave yet another memorable performance.

They say things often come in threes and we have been blessed to have known three such lovely ladies.

Chris Warrington
May 2019.

VICTOR BROWN

A folk dancer and musician of longstanding in the Merseyside area, Vic passed away on 1st March 2019 at the age of 90.

He started dancing with the West Kirby folk dance group, later to become the Heswall and West Kirby Group, back in the days when they met at Calday Grammar School, under the leadership of Doris Altorfer and Pat Hyde. His future wife Doreen had also become involved in dancing through a guides' dancing session, also run by Pat Hyde. Eventually, when their paths crossed, the rest as they say, is history and yet another life long relationship was formed through the magic of folk dance!

Vic and Doreen continued to be keen and loyal members of the Heswall/West Kirby Group and also the Deeside Couples group that was run by Norah Kirby. Vic had a distinctive and excellent style of dancing that was instantly recognisable and admired on the dance floor.

Through the dance group, Vic became a founder member of West Kirby Band, led by John Stapledon. He played harmonica in the earlier days of the band, then, due to breathing issues, he took over on percussion from Jack Herrity until he 'hung up his sticks' some years later.

Vic leaves behind his widow Doreen, their three sons Michael, Peter and John, together with 7 grandchildren and 9 great grandchildren.

Richard Stapledon

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COME COUNTRY DANCING



Heswall and West Kirby Folk Dance Group
celebrate their 70th anniversary with
an extra special group night, dancing to the
Rainford Band, with caller Clare Park.

Friday 8th November 2019
7:30pm till 11:00pm
at Irby Methodist Church Hall.
(Postcode - CH61 4UF)
NB There is a car park behind the hall.

Everyone is invited.

Please bring a small plate of 'finger' food to share.
Tea, coffee & soft drinks will be provided.
There will also be a large birthday cake!

£4, pay on the door.

For more information ring,
Norma on 0151 342 5420 or Bob on 0151 356 0138