



SOLENT WAVES



Newsletter of the Folk Association of South Hants

No. 429

December 2020

FASH Chat

As in our last, on-line, issue of 'Solent Waves', this Chat is by members of the committee. We felt that especially as this is our last edition for this year, an actual issue, rather than the historical copies I have been sending out by e-mail, would be appropriate.

Who would have thought, twelve months ago, that we would be facing a bleak winter with no folk dance and only a very limited (and uncertain) program, under difficult conditions, from our folk clubs and arts centres. The folk clubs with sufficient space to allow distancing between visitors are hoping to stage concerts, and with a prayer that this will actually happen, I include a Folk Club Diary in this issue of 'Solent Waves'. Much will depend, it seems, on how quickly our ridiculous status of "Tier 2" at this stage of the Covid-19 pandemic is reduced to a more realistic "Tier 1". Do note, however, that where concerts are running, seats must be reserved in advance – contact details are always provided – and you will also get a better idea of whether the event will actually take place.

The situation is sufficiently uncertain that the organisers of Chippenham Folk Festival have decided that it will not be possible to run a festival in 2021 that will meet people's expectations, and are refunding monies from tickets carried over from the cancelled festival this year. They hope to run some sort of folk event but are not yet clear what that might amount to. How much later in the year we need

to look before festivals can take place, with sufficient attendees, is still not apparent. We can only keep fingers crossed.

Also a year ago, we warned that the EFDSS public liability cover provided by membership of the Society might be insufficient for your needs. Things were very hastily revised, so that callers and bands who are paid for participation in folk events are covered, provided these payments are not their major source of income.

It seems that EFDSS does have these occasional hiccups, one of them being in 1999, in which year a reorganisation led to us becoming FASH, *affiliated* to the EFDSS, rather than the South Hampshire Branch of EFDSS. Ten years before that there was another upheaval; I have reached 1989 in my archiving of previous issues of this journal, and in June that year, there was a bumper issue of 'Solent Waves', sixteen pages no less, perhaps the largest one ever. It included copies of letters from the vice chairman of the national executive committee to our area chairman, and angry responses from the SW editors and our chairman, after the vice chairman complained about their/our publishing letters earlier in the year from area members who were more than a little upset by decisions made by the EFDSS national executive committee. Also copied in was a letter from the South West area chairman, a response to a press release issued by the NEC in the April.

For the July issue, the editors wrote that it

CONTACTABAND

For your barn dance bands and callers
UNA BOULTON 023 9263 2770
Email: contactaband@aol.com
www.contactaband.org.uk

*The articles, club lists and
six months event diaries can
be found on the web at
www.fash.org.uk*



was a relief to be back to local news, although they did mention the national situation, but then in September's came reports of an extraordinary general meeting called by a group of concerned EFDSS members in July, which over 300 members attended, together with half that number of apologies for not being able to make it. The NEC refused to attend, claiming it was "illegal" (how could it be; this is a society of and for members?), but eventually, after a few more months there were major changes in the executive. I do not have details of the final outcome and what changed and what did not, but perhaps some of you remember the whole episode. I knew nothing about the joys of folk music and dance at that time, and have often wished since that my parents had been involved in folk activities. Music yes, but folk, alas, no.

I shall end my section of this 'Chat' by wishing you all a Christmas as enjoyable as possible, given the restrictions which will only partly be lifted over the actual festive days. As our month logo at the top of the front page I include the snowman which graced so many of our past Christmas issues.

Dave Sutton – Editor

In Praise of Technology!

Who knew that singing and dancing would become two of the most dangerous hobbies we could choose to be involved in? Still, this year has brought out a most impressive 'can do' spirit in very many people and a willingness to try new technology that may have surprised even us! So many ingenious ways have been found to play and sing together and (in the words of Claudia and Tess from 'Strictly') "keeeep dancing!"

West Gallery Singing

Most members of The Madding Crowd have been 'rehearsing' together via Zoom on Sunday evenings (previously our normal rehearsal time) since the beginning of May. It is of course not really rehearsing, as we are all singing and playing to an audience of none in our own homes, and Mike Bailey, who normally keeps us firmly on the right track, can't hear any of our mistakes! Still, it does mean that we all get to sing some of our huge and still growing repertoire of West Gallery music and to see each other and even have a bit of a chat. Mike has recordings of many of our concerts and workshops going back as far as 1993 and they are now proving extremely useful. He has been

working very hard selecting recordings to play for us to sing along to. Every week he sends out a play list, a pdf of the music for those who don't have a copy and even a midi file that we can play to remind us of the tune. Thus armed with the music, we gather at 7.45pm in our various homes and 'join in' with our fellow quire members all arranged in little squares on the screen, all singing and playing along with great enthusiasm, but unable to hear each other! Because of the different time delays on people's computers, we can't actually sing or play out loud together. The only time we unmute is to chat or to sing Happy Birthday, which is great fun as the resultant cacophony has to be heard to be believed! The Madding Crowd website (www.maddingcrowd.org) has a screenshot of 26 of us on Zoom in July. Since then, several members of other West Gallery Quires around the country have joined us until now we often have nearly 40 people. We are singing Christmas carols and anthems during December and there is also a weekly Sheffield Village Carols Sing on Zoom on Saturday evenings. If you would like to join any of these Christmas sessions, please contact Mike Bailey (mike@maddingcrowd.org.uk).

The other fun thing that has kept us singing and playing has been the making of virtual recordings. Mike Bailey has sent out 'click tracks' of some of our best loved pieces – the music with a click beat to help keep the timing tight. We listen on earphones and sing along with our part (Soprano, Alto, Tenor or Bass) or play our instrument's part into a phone or computer (which is very much more difficult than you might think!) and send the resultant recording to Mike. He then, with his customary technical wizardry, puts them together to produce what I think is a brilliant result with four part harmony and band. Phil Price from the London Gallery Quire is now doing the same thing with participants from as many West Gallery Quires as he can persuade to join, including ours, and posting the results on YouTube. The Madding Crowd website (www.maddingcrowd.org) has links to some of our Virtual Quire recordings. It also has a link to a recording we made in response to the Covid-19 pandemic with words written by Christina Pritchard. The music is an arrangement by Mike Bailey of the Hampshire tune for 'Our Captain cried All Hands'.

Social Dancing

We were very lucky on the 18th October to have Victoria and Dave Yeomans run a Virtual Dance for us, which was really good fun. Many of our FASH supporters attended as well as people from around the country who know and love Victoria's calling. She and Dave are very experienced now at running Zoom dances and made it look easy. Several callers including Victoria have been working hard and consulting each other behind the scenes about the best way to adapt our folk dances to work in a small space with just one or two people. They find that two hours seems to be the optimum time for dancing on Zoom and their dances are now extremely popular. It is remarkable how much a part of things you feel when you can see yourself dancing along with the people in all the other little squares! My husband Ken was initially very sceptical about the whole idea, but has now become a convert – just as well as this unfortunate state of affairs looks like going on well into 2021!

We are delighted that Victoria will be calling another dance for us, with Dave providing the music, on the afternoon of 10th January - the date of her sadly cancelled workshop. We are also very pleased to announce that Madeleine Smith will be calling a dance for FASH on the afternoon of 7th February, the date of another cancelled workshop. Ken and I 'went to' a dance called by her two weeks ago, which was great fun and very enjoyable with several screens full of little dancing people! It would be lovely if lots of you were able to support these brilliant callers and give our two 2021 Zoom dances a try – you might well be pleasantly surprised!

Daphne Goddard Coates – Secretary

Well, we're counting down to Christmas and the end of a horrible year with the hope that next

year will show some improvement. We have had to cancel workshops and hold our AGM on Zoom but we have also held a virtual dance, hosted by Victoria & Dave Yeomans, which was much enjoyed and very well attended, and tried to keep in touch with you with archived issues of Solent Waves and occasional FASH Chats.

The News page of our website has details of any folk activities that we have been made aware of or that Dave has been able to find by trawling through other websites. There are lots of virtual dances happening, including our local FolkActive dances for over 50s on the second Wednesday of each month. We will send details by email to our supporters and on the FASH website.

I have taken part in folk club singaround sessions, which are great fun and certainly in the case of the Fo'c'sle in Southampton, include singers and musicians from the USA and other countries. You can find contact details for clubs on our website.

I've joined the Quarantunes group on Facebook where I get to watch and listen to a wide range of singers and musicians from around the world. There are lots of other groups on Facebook and YouTube is a good place to find stuff too.

We all miss the personal contact and social aspects of dancing, playing and singing together but we do have the technology to keep in touch, phones, computers etc., and to experience a little bit of the activities we so much enjoy. So we will keep in touch with you and we hope that you will keep in touch with us too! Let us know what you are doing and if there is anything we can do for you – you can phone or email any of the committee. Our contact details are on the website.

Stay safe and have a good Christmas and New Year.

Lin Rayner – Treasurer



Next FASH Event:

Sunday 10th January

Dance with Victoria Yeomans to music

from Dave Yeomans

An on-line 'Zoom' dance brought to you by the wonders of technology

EVENTS AT FOLK CLUBS and ART CENTRES

ANVIL ARTS

Churchill Way, Basingstoke, RG21 7QR. (The Haymarket is at RG21 7NW) 01256 844244
www.anvilarts.org.uk

| | | |
|-----|----|---|
| Mar | 11 | "Broadside Ballads" at The Haymarket |
| | 20 | Ukulele Orchestra of Great Britain at The Anvil |

BOURNEMOUTH FOLK CLUB

The Shelley Theatre, Beechwood Avenue, BH5 1LX.
www.bournemouthfolkclub.com

| | | |
|-----|----|--|
| Jan | 29 | Megson – provisionally cancelled |
| Feb | 27 | Martin Simpson – provisionally cancelled |
| Mar | 27 | India Electric Co. |

CELTIC FOLK

Ferndown Village Hall. Church Road. BH22 9ET
 01202 083740/623740 <https://celticfolk.net/>

| | | |
|-----|----|---|
| Dec | 23 | Michael McGoldrick, John McCusker and John Doyle. On-line concert - see their website for details |
|-----|----|---|

FOCSLE MUSIC

The Guide Dog, Bevois Valley, Southampton, SO14 6SF www.focsle.org/

| | | |
|--|--|---|
| | | Zoom meetings on Wednesdays – see their website for details |
|--|--|---|

FOREST FOLK

8pm North Boarhunt Social Club, Trampers Lane, N. Boarhunt. 01329 833625 www.forestfolk.co.uk

| | | |
|-----|----|--|
| | | See the website for 'virtual singaround' details, also their Facebook page |
| Dec | 21 | The Young'uns – to be rescheduled |
| Jan | 18 | Steve Knightley |
| Feb | 15 | Michael McGoldrick, John McCusker & John Doyle |

GRAYSHOTT FOLK CLUB

Grayshott Village Hall, Grayshott, GU26 6TZ.
 01428 607096 www.grayshottfolkclub.co.uk/

| | | |
|-----|----|--|
| Dec | 18 | "Christmas Special" with Becky Mills + Rebecca Jayne |
| Jan | 30 | John Blek + Antoine & Owena |

HAMBLEDON FOLK CLUB

8.30-11 Next to The Vine, Hambledon
 02392 632719 www.hambledonfolkclub.com

| | | |
|-----|--|-------------------------|
| Feb | | Vicki Swan & Jonny Dyer |
| Mar | | The Wilderness Yet |

HANGER FARM ARTS CENTRE

Aikman Lane, West Totton, Southampton, SO40 8FT 02380 667683 www.hangerfarm.co.uk/

| | | |
|-----|----|-----------------|
| Mar | 21 | Knight & Spiers |
|-----|----|-----------------|

THE LIGHTS

West Street, Andover 01264 368368
www.thelights.org.uk

| | | |
|-----|----|--------------|
| Mar | 12 | Roving Crows |
|-----|----|--------------|

THE PHOENIX Theatre and Arts Centre

Station Road, Bordon, Hampshire, GU35 0LR
 01420 472664 www.phoenixarts.co.uk

| | | |
|-----|----|---------------|
| Feb | 12 | Sarah McQuaid |
|-----|----|---------------|

THE SPRING ARTS CENTRE

56 East Street, Havant 02392 472700
www.thespring.co.uk

| | | |
|-----|----|--|
| Dec | 17 | Green Matthews: Midwinter Revels (two concerts, 2.30 and 7.30) |
|-----|----|--|

| | | |
|-----|---|--|
| Mar | 6 | Music Bites – Crossing the Line (free lunchtime concert) |
|-----|---|--|

WESSEX ACOUSTIC

The Royal British Legion, Blandford Forum
 01202 732239 www.wessex-acoustic.co.uk

| | | |
|-----|----|--|
| Dec | 11 | Máire Ní Chathasaigh and Chris Newman + Anne-Louise Richards (at Shaftsbury Arts Centre) |
|-----|----|--|

| | | |
|-----|---|------------------|
| Jan | 8 | Marion Fleetwood |
|-----|---|------------------|

| | | |
|--|----|-------------|
| | 22 | Reg Meuross |
|--|----|-------------|

| | | |
|-----|---|---------------------------------|
| Feb | 5 | Sally Ironmonger & Brian Carter |
|-----|---|---------------------------------|

| | | |
|--|----|--|
| | 19 | Virginia & John Kettle (at Blandford Cornmarket) |
|--|----|--|

| | | |
|--|----|-------|
| | 26 | Crows |
|--|----|-------|

| | | |
|-----|----|------------|
| Mar | 19 | Jon Loomes |
|-----|----|------------|

| | | |
|--|----|---------------------|
| | 26 | Hicks and Goulbourn |
|--|----|---------------------|

WHITCHURCH FOLK CLUB

Whitchurch Parish Hall, 28 London Rd, RG28 7LQ, or Gill Nethercott Centre, Winchester St, Whitchurch, RG28 7HP. <https://billetto.co.uk/users/1961681>

| | | |
|-----|----|---------------|
| Mar | 13 | Faustus (WPH) |
|-----|----|---------------|

As explained in this month's 'Chat', whether many of these concerts will go ahead depends on how the government reviews the 'Tier' status of our area and whether the Covid-19 restrictions within the Tiers change. With the first review due on the 16th, concerts in December are particularly uncertain. We shall try to keep the diary up-to-date on the *FASH website* as things change.

Wessex Acoustic have e-mailed people on their contact list to assure them that the concert on the 11th will go ahead and will comply with all restrictions. Grayshott Folk Club are still hopeful their 'Christmas Special' will take place and there is nothing on The Spring's website to indicate that Their 'Midwinter Revels' will not run as planned.

Social dance has of course been badly hit by the limit on numbers of people who can gather indoors and the need for ‘distancing’ to reduce the spread of Covid-19. We are hearing more and more about on-line or Zoom dancing (will ‘Zoom dance’ be a term to be added to the English language?) and Folk Active, as Lin Rayner mentions earlier, have been leading the way locally since June. If you would like to join them, go to their web page www.folkactive.org.uk/wellbeing/folkactive-dances/. Now another Zoom dance club has started (restarted?) in our area. Nigel Close writes:

“**as many as will**, the dance meeting for the best of English Country Dance, past and present is back! We will re-start online on Thursday 7th January 2021 from 7.15pm (for 7.30pm start), and then on the first Thursday of every month.

Contact Nigel on nigelclose9@gmail.com to obtain the Zoom codes. The session is free, all the dances are taught and you can come as a couple or a singleton (you might want a soft-toy ‘partner’ if you are solo).

You’ll need a computer with camera, microphone and an internet connection; a space to dance; suitable footwear for your surface and a willingness to people your set with a few imagined ‘ghost’ dancers.

Is it as good as dancing in a set with others? Sadly, no, of course it isn’t. Is it better than not dancing at all? Emphatically yes: it’s fun, it keeps body and mind active and it’s sociable. Why not give us a try?”

Morris dance has also been virtually non-existent since the middle of March. It is not possible to dance with a 2 metre separation and the restriction on numbers (not allowed at all at present) does not permit a set of 6 or 8 and a musician to assemble inside. Loath to stop completely, King John’s Morris Men have been meeting every Monday since the March lock-down via Zoom. John Miller writes:

“KJM have been having Zoom “Group Hugs” every Monday night since the original Lockdown began in March. As we approached Christmas we realised how much we were going to miss the Mumming and Carol Singing that we have been doing for over 40 years. We had, earlier in the year, seen a Lego version of a May Morning Morris dance that had been produced brilliantly by a side in Gloucestershire and considered trying to

do a Lego Mummers Play as a way of keeping our tradition going, but realised that with the Festive Season rapidly approaching, there probably wasn’t going to be enough time. We decided, therefore, to produce a Zoom carol and a Virtual Mummers Play to unleash on the World this Christmas. As we normally collect for a local charity over the Christmas period we realised that we could still do this with these videos, so that they don’t lose out thanks to Covid.

We filmed our carol and Mumming contributions on our phones at home, and then sent them to Guy Heathcote (Carol) and Dick Gurney (Mummers Play) for them to work miracles and stitch the bits together into something watchable. They have both, in our opinion, come up trumps!”

The Announcement reads:

“King John’s Morris Men – Christmas Collections 2020

For well in excess of 40 years, King John’s Morris Men of Southampton have danced, sung Carols and performed their Traditional Mummers Play over the Christmas period. Whilst doing this, we have collected for local charities. These collections have been well supported, and because of this, we have been able to donate a total of around £40,000 over the years. Every penny that we collect over Christmas goes to our chosen charity. This year – thanks to Covid19 – we are unable to perform as normal, which of course means that this year’s charity – Society of St James, Hampshire’s Leading Homelessness Charity (<https://ssj.org.uk/>) – will lose out.

We have, however, put together a Zoom Carol, and a Zoom Mummers Play as a way of keeping the tradition going during this strange year! We would like to collect, as is also traditional, for our charity.

If, after watching the videos, you feel that you can help maintain the Spirit of Christmas and make a donation – no matter how small – then please follow the “Just Giving” link. www.justgiving.com/fundraising/KJM-Mummers Again, every single penny goes to the Charity

Thank you very much for taking the time to read this and watch the videos.

We wish you all a Very Merry Christmas and a Much Better New Year!!

Oh, and if you feel like getting fit again after Covid and you want to support this country’s traditions, King John’s Morris Men are always on the look-out for new members. See

<http://kingjohnsmorris.org/>

Both the Mummers Play and the Christmas Carol can be found on KJM's website <http://kingjohnsmorris.org/mumming/default.html> together with a link to "Just Giving".

There is more from KJM, which John did not mention to me, but was announced a little while ago by John Connell.

He wrote:

"All of us at King John's hope that you are keeping well and coping with the life we have all had to endure this year. We didn't realise that our music night in February was going to be the last chance to get together and sing.

It has been an aim of the side for quite some while now to put together a CD of the stuff we do on one of our typical music nights. Last year a lot of us made our way over to a recording studio on the Isle of Wight and spent the day recording a good number of our songs and music in a way as close to typical session conditions as we could.

As a result we have for your delight and delectation 'Pigsticking' by King John's Morris Men with 21 song and music tracks.

If you would like a copy we would ask you to pay £6 per copy (including postage and packing) to King John's Morris Men HSBC Bank Sort Code 40 42 22 account number 91125001 with the reference 'Your name CD', please. Once you have done this just send me an email (johnconnell100@gmail.com) with your name and address and I will get the CD off to you by return using 2nd class postage.

If you're missing a good old sing or looking for

a stocking filler for Christmas look no further!

Hopefully we will be able to get back together sometime in the New Year but in the meantime have a great Christmas and a happier, more sociable New Year."

If you are not completely 'Zoomed out', there is more: you may have danced to their music, you may have laughed until it hurt at what they can do to well-known tunes – introduced with the phrase "Just when you thought that 2020 couldn't get any worse...." Paul and Paul – Belshazzar's Feast – announce their live streamed concert via Zoom 'Silent Night'. Start time is 7.30 and the date is 21st December. It is a ticketed event and if you would like more details or to listen, go to www.wegotickets.com/event/509233

A few days later, on Christmas day at 3.00 (yes, they know) there is a second concert, again via Zoom, 'Belshazzar's Feast and the Sound of Music'. This concert is for charity, and 100% of ticket monies will be donated to the NSPCC Childline service. For more details and tickets go to www.wegotickets.com/event/509234.

For best results on both these events connect your computer to your stereo system, and if your wireless network connection is the least bit slow, consider using a cabled connection to your router.

I do look forward to the time when producing a paper issue of 'Solent Waves' is again sensible; in the meantime, as everyone is presently writing, "Stay safe!"

Editor

Folk Association of South Hants

As well as promoting and supporting folk activities and events in Hampshire, we hold workshops on Sundays at Soberton and Twyford Halls, from 10.30 to 3.30, see www.fash.org.uk for details.

FOLK ASSOCIATION OF SOUTH HANTS (FASH) CONTACTS

| | |
|--------------------------|--|
| CHAIRMAN | Ian Kirby, 5, West Drive, Bishopstoke, Eastleigh, Hants, SO50 6FN 02380 615372 chair@fash.org.uk |
| SECRETARY | Daphne Coates, 23 St. Paul's Road, Chichester, West Sussex, PO19 3BH 01243 531497 info@fash.org.uk |
| TREASURER | Lin Rayner, 16, Stourvale Gardens, Chandlers Ford, Eastleigh, Hants, SO53 3NE 02380 252112 treasurer@fash.org.uk |
| 'SOLENT WAVES' EDITOR | Dave Sutton, 31, Beaufort Avenue, Fareham, Hants, PO16 7PE 01329 220247 editor@fash.org.uk |
| MEMBERSHIP SECRETARY | Jacqui Longhurst, 18 Northfield Road, Bitterne Park, Southampton, SO18 2PT 02380 585348 membership@fash.org.uk |

Solent Waves cannot guarantee the accuracy of Diary or other entries, but we hope there are few errors. Solent Waves can be sent by email in pdf format each month; just email the editor if you wish to be added to the mailing list.