

# REEL TIMES

The Newsletter of  
**Melksham Country Dancers**

Issue No.19 - July 2014

<http://melkshamcountrydancers.com/li.com/>



## ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 14 April 2014.

The big news from this year's AGM was the report from our Chairman, Geoff Elwell, that he can, at last, step down as Chair after about 38 years with the Club. Barry Reeves confirmed he is happy to take up the post. Thank you Barry.

Geoff will continue as Club Secretary and President! (See Latest News on Page 7). We also welcomed a new committee member, Trevor Lutkin.

At the first Monday night meeting after the AGM a presentation was made to Geoff as a 'thank you' for all the wonderful things he has done for and with the Club.

Another loss to the committee was the resignation of Stan Vice but he has agreed to continue to Call for us on a regular basis.

An Annual Membership fee of £2.00 is to be introduced from September 2014 but the Monday night dance entrance fee will stay at £1.50 although non-members will be asked to pay £2.00.

This is a very abbreviated précis of the AGM minutes so please read the full report for all the news.

Read about Meg and Geoff's visit to The Caledonian Canal, Tobermory, and their trip on the Monarch of the Glen on Page 4.



Tobermory

### Index:

- Page 2 - dances of the month
- Page 3 - the funnies
- Page 4 - Meg and Geoff
- Page 5 - A to Z of dancing terms
- Page 5 - caption competition
- Page 6 - A Saga to warm your 'earts
- Page 7 - Latest News
- Page 8 - Events Diary



**Editor:** Jill Hitch  
**Assistant Editors:** Geoff Elwell & Colin Hill

## **DANCES OF THE MONTH 2014**

We continue with the **DANCE of the MONTH** theme to help you conquer some more challenges.

### **September**

**ENTANGLED in BRAMBLES.** A FIVE COUPLE Longways dance from the SIDMOUTH COLLECTION by AUDREY. It uses not only reels but diagonal working, stars and circles. Quite a challenge but should be OK done slowly.

### **October**

**THE TEA KETTLE.** A SQUARE dance by RON BUCHANAN using changes of direction and a different type of grand chain.

### **November**

**BUY ONE GET ONE FREE (BOGOF).** This needs FOUR COUPLES arranged as two sets of three couples at right angles. Written by BRIAN CLARK (one of our visiting callers) with reels stars and flutter wheels.

### **December**

**SHREWSBURY LASSES.** A THREE COUPLE Longways dance from the APTED COLLECTION. A late 18<sup>th</sup> century dance (1765) adapted to today's needs with a series of circles, casts and honours.

### **January**

**HEATHER TOWERS.** Written by JOHN LAGDEN in 1995 for a friend's 70<sup>th</sup> Birthday and from the book Here, There and Everywhere. It is a LONGWAYS dance and has a series of turns and a draw pousette.

### **February**

**UPON A SUMMERS DAY.** A slow THREE COUPLE Longways set in Playford Style from 1650 with mainly casting and arches.

### **March**

**MURIELS MEASURE.** A LONGWAYS proper dance by COLIN HUME written for his friends at Dartington Hall Devon in 1995. Simple but with  $\frac{3}{4}$  and  $1\frac{1}{4}$  turns.

### **April**

**BRAES of DORNOCH.** A THREE COUPLE longways dance revised by CHARLES BOLTON from the 17<sup>th</sup> Century. A slow dance with casts, turns and circular heys. An exercise in timing.

## Jokes

### NEW DANCER

When I first came to dancing  
I didn't know the steps  
I struggled with the language  
And sometimes had to guess.

A 'Hay' they said or reel of three  
Well just weave in or out  
Not the sort that cows eat then  
or a cotton reel, I doubt.

A Doe si Doe, whatever's that  
The words don't give a clue  
That is unless you studied French  
When you were young, at school.

And then there was a ladies chain  
But not one for the men  
A gypsy and a basket  
Whoops, we're making hay again.

There followed half a right and left  
And then a Brimstock Hay  
Then two's became improper  
What would my mother say!

Now after lots of practice  
I'd like to say I shine  
But sadly my poor feet and brain can't  
keep up all the time.

What keeps me coming dancing  
The cheerful company  
The fun and laughs and lovely folk  
Who meet every Monday!  
(Oh, and the tea and biscuit).

Janet Akerman.

A strip of tarmac goes into a bar and orders a pint. After serving him, the barman asks if he wants to join his friend in the corner. He looks around and sees sitting in the corner a strip of green tarmac. The strip of tarmac shakes his head violently: "I'm not going near him, he's a cycle path!"

\* \* \* \* \*

A blind man goes to visit an Irish optician with his guide dog. Both the blind man and the dog are facing the eye-test chart on the wall. The optician takes the guide dog away and replaces it with another guide dog, and asks, "Is that better or worse?"

\* \* \* \* \*

Grandfather swore by adding a spoonful of gunpowder with his tea every morning. He said it was a very old remedy to help him live longer, and it worked: he lived to the ripe old of ninety-seven. He left a widow, two children, fourteen grandchildren and a fifty-foot crater where the crematorium used to be.

\* \* \* \* \*

We took dad to Australia for his eightieth birthday. We were in this really nice restaurant in Sydney when suddenly he shouted out: "I hate aborigines!" We said: "Dad, you can't say that here." But he just wouldn't shut up. Again he shouted: "I hate aborigines!" "Dad, you just can't say that in a restaurant. And in any case, it's pronounced aubergines."

Janet's entry to the September 2013 caption competition was judged the funniest by your committee.



"Percy had taken drastic measures to stick to his post Christmas diet". Well done Janet—we had some great entries!

## THE CALEDONIAN CANAL

Having always wanted to see “Nessy” in Loch Ness, we decided a cruise down the Caledonian Canal from Inverness might give us that experience. Unfortunately he did NOT appear – shame – but the two day trip down the canal before emerging to visit the Isles of Mull, Skye, Eigg and Iona was very invigorating. Our “boat” (for 50 passengers) – “the Lord of the Glens” – was extremely comfortable and well appointed with excellent food and had about six inches either side to avoid the sides of the locks. The two highlights were (1) the many locks up and down ending at the Neptune’s Staircase (8 locks down to Fort William). But we hasten to add not a patch on Devizes and (2) sailing down the secluded Loch Oich – a completely tree lined narrow patch of water that cannot be seen from any road. There were of course trips off the vessel which included the Culloden Battlefield, The Jacobite Steam Train, the Glenfinnan Viaduct and the “Hollow Mountain” underground Power Station at Cruachan. Around the Islands our enjoyment was somewhat curtailed by the presence of a storm which caused us to stay moored in Oban for three nights. But we did manage visits to the picturesque village at Tobermory. The Clan MacLean Duart Castle – both on Mull - and the village of Inverie with the most remote pub in the UK, being over 25 miles from the nearest road. Needless to say 80% of the passengers walked along in the dark for a memorable visit. There could be much more to say but not here. Ask Meg or Geoff if you want to know more. An experience well worth having.



**The Lord  
Glens**

**of the**

## The A to Z of Dance Terms

### Balance

One single step moving either forward or backward. The caller will tell you to balance forward, balance back, or balance forward and back which would require two single steps.

### Back to Back

Two dancers face each other, move forward a double passing right shoulders and then fall back a double passing left shoulders. To make this work, each dancer must move to the right after passing the other. Also known as a *do-si-do*.



A picture for you to caption please!

### Your Committee:

**Chairman:** Barry Reeves

**Secretary:** Geoff Elwell

**Treasurer:** Colin Hill

**Committee Members:**

Brenda Hodges, Christine Clark, Meg Elwell, Jill Hitch, Trevor Lutkin

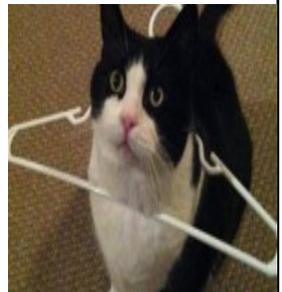
**Publicity:** Geoff Elwell: 01225 703650

**CDoD Secretary:** Christine Gale

### Caption Competition

You may remember this little pussy from the last edition? Several entries were received and the winner will be decided by majority vote at the next committee meeting.

1. Well it beats hanging around!
2. Sorry I'm late, I got a bit hung up!
3. Sleep in the wardrobe, I've never even been in the wardrobe!
4. Actually no, I don't think I look stupid!
5. But isn't this is what all the cool cats are wearing these days!?
6. Well, I had to do something after I lost my whiskers!
7. Don't hang me out to dry!



## Volk (or Possibly) Shed Prancing

Another short saga in the Brunilda (**Brun**) and Agar (**Ag**) the Orrible Series. A tale from many many MANY moons ago when Brun and Ag were younger, a lot younger. Only spelling and punctuation have been hurt during the production of this Saga. Any apparent connection to persons alive or otherwise is purely coincidental.

### Part 1

One dark night Brun and Ag were unsuccessfully trying to sleep. Readers will recognise the feelings of irritation and unreasonableness normally experienced at such a time.

**“Here Ag, this cave’s cold and these fir branches don’t half tickle; Ouch - Who left the cones on this one. Time we got one of those new pallyarse things.”** *“Praps we shood av a look at anuvver cliff Brun.”* **“Praps.”** There was a long silence punctuated by the occasional rustling of pine needles and the odd yelp when a sharp one was encountered.

After a short while. **“Its no use Ag, can’t sleep. ”** *“Me neever, whats a pallyarse? “Ag!! Your useless!!”* *“I’m NOT, can do lots of fings, I can track.”* **“Track !!! Tracking requires stealth and observation, last time you tried it you tripped over a footprint and fell in a huge pile of Uck. I had to stay upwind of you for a whole moon. Everything that COULD leave the cave, DID.”** *“Yer, but I WAS tracking”* **“Ag !! A Mamoff leaves footprints a hand deep, knocks over trees and smells like an old Celt strap that’s been worn for 12 moons too long. And it leaves piles of Uck behind it, as we all know. A 36 moon old Agarsson (if there was one) could find it. What were you going to do with it anyhow, hack away at its kneecaps while it beat you to deff with a spare tree trunk.”** *“Yer jus jellus.”* Another short silence. *Agarsson? Watcher mean - if there was one?”* **“Well – you no”** sighed Brun wistfully, **“Oh-never mind”**. There was another very long silence full of puzzled and conflicting thoughts.

**There was this very fierce Tribe called the Hun I think, and they moved great loads on something called a way gone, which was pulled by cattle. “Wot! A kind of Volks a way gone?”** Another pause. **Don’t know how it worked though, pigs were mentioned as well because I remember they said summat about 4 sprung pork tek nick.”**



**“Yer asleep NOW I’m**

**yet” “Not not !!!!”**

**Yet another silence lit only by flashes of irritation until – “Here, I was down at the washing stones and got talking to this girl about prancing.”**

*“Watcher mean, jumping about an chanting an doing other odd things like dem Druids. Got funny ideas dat lot; dey don’t like girls much, kills em on a full moon dey sez, bit of a waste. Not sure about der white pointy ats neiver”* **“No, this is called Volk Prancing; Druid’s aren’t really like that – are they? – Who sez?”** *“Bloke down ‘The Rest’.* **“O, him!!!”** *Wats a Volk?* **“Not sure, I remember tales of a low mud, far to the sun-up of our old Tribes beginning.**

*Cud be like der prancing wot dem Celts do, at one of dare Kylies I’ve erd bout, where dey wear dresses, an jump up and down on der swords til dem’s blu in the face, an squeeze the lights out of some poor squealing pig.”* **“Don’t think so, anyway them’s not dresses, them’s Kelts with a Kay. Should be careful, they gets a bit excited at that kind of remark. Shout on about Kel Tic kisses an Jimmies an Stitches or sommat:”** *“Dem’s def nitely Celts”.* **“I don’t think its that Ghoulish thing either, where they wear bells and feathers an jump about bashing each other with sticks, while some bloke makes a hell of a noise with a squashi box. Called Maurice or something“.** *“Oo is? Some bloke down ‘The Rest’ ”* **“Don’t know”** *“Dem’s GAULS anyway, mind you, dey do get fru a fair bit of falling over water.”*

To be continued ..... !!!!!!!!!!!!!

OOOOOOOOOOO

## **LATEST NEWS**

### **Club President**

It was with great pleasure the Committee announced that Geoff Elwell has accepted the role of Club President and his nomination was duly confirmed at the EGM held on Monday, 23 June 2014’?

### **Welfare Officer**

Brenda Hodges has taken up the role of Welfare Officer. The role is to try and stay in touch with members who are unwell, not able to attend or would welcome contact with us. Please let Brenda know if you are aware of someone in this position.

### **New Website**

You may have noticed the new address for our website just under the newsletter heading. We now have a new fantastic site - looks incredibly modern and is very informative. If any of our members have never been introduced to the internet and would like to, please let Jill Hitch know and she will be happy to make arrangements for you to visit.

<http://melkshamcountrydancers.comli.com/>

New website address—go see for yourselves.....

# EVENTS DIARY 2014/15

## TEA DANCES

6 September  
4 October  
1 November

Stan Vice  
Malcolm Mace  
Colin Moore (**Charity Dance for Wiltshire Air Ambulance**)  
Richard Woodward  
Barry and Geoff  
Brian Lyons  
Ian Ludbrook

6 December  
3 January  
7 February  
7 March

## VISITING CALLERS

15 September  
13 October  
1 December  
12 January  
9 February

Jean Crook  
Peter Bolton  
Ian Ludbrook  
Brian Clark  
Ivan Aitken

## CHILDRENS DAY OF DANCE

Wednesday 18 March 2015

## ANNUAL DANCE

Saturday 18 October, Holt Village Hall,  
7.00 - 10.30pm. Music by PTARMIGAN.  
Callers: Geoff, Barry and Stan

## CHARITY DANCES

1 November, **Wiltshire Air Ambulance**

## No Meeting

Whole of August and 29 December

## Request Nights

22 September, 8 December, 23 February

## Committee Meeting

18 November at 7.30pm

## AGM EVENING

13 April 2015

**TEA ROTA: Tea makers needed for September please!!**

