

# REEL TIMES

The Newsletter of  
**Melksham Country Dancers**

Issue No.22 July 2016

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



## IMPORTANT

Members are politely asked to arrive for club nights before 7.30 to help arrange the chairs around the room. The alternative would be to fetch your own chair. **THANK YOU**

## TEA ROTA

Tea makers needed for **FUTURE MONDAYS** please fill in the list that Meg holds. **THANK YOU**

## Our Website

<http://melkshamcountrydancers.comli.com>

contains full details of the club programme and other items and is well worth a visit. If any members have never been introduced to the internet and would like to, please let Geoff or Colin know. They will be happy to help you visit it.

**Newsletter Editor:** Geoff Elwell  
**Assistant Editor:** Colin Hill

## **SEE INSIDE FOR MEMBERS ESCAPADES**

**A SCHOOLBOY CONUNDRUM:** Choose ANY three digits between 0 & 9 to give a three digit number (A). Reverse the order of the digits in (A) = (B). Subtract the smaller of the two [(A) or (B)] from the larger (C). Reverse the order of (C) to make (D). Then add (D) to (C). Is your answer always the same? If so why?

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**YOU DON'T STOP  
DANCING  
BECAUSE YOU GROW OLD**

**YOU GROW OLD  
BECAUSE YOU STOP  
DANCING**

**CAN YOU FIND  
THE FOUR "BOUNCY" MEN  
SOMEWHERE  
IN THIS  
NEWSLETTER?**

## ANNUAL DANCE REPORT

The topic of Annual Dances usually makes for lively discussion at Committee. The dances invariably result in a net financial loss to the Club and involves an awful lot of work for our Secretary. We also find that attendance from our own members is not as great as we would like. Why then do we hold them?

As Melksham Country Dancers is recognised within the folk world as being a very active and progressive Club, we feel that it is almost a requirement on our part to offer Annual Dances, if you like as a service or even duty. The Club gains a great deal of kudos from these dances, it raises our profile and presents us in a very positive light. We feel we are providing a service to our Members and to our guests that attend, some of whom travel some distance to join us. In this way, any overspends are regarded as planned legitimate use of our funds and not as unexpected financial losses.

Of course, the main reason we hold Annual Dances is because they are GREAT FUN!

We will NOT be hosting an Annual Dance in 2016 due to problems with booking venues, callers and musicians but there will be one held **9 October 2017** at **Southwick Village Hall** with **IVAN AITKEN and Chris & Julie Dewhurst (2D)** - please come along if you can, we would love to see you there. More reminders nearer the time.

## CHILDRENS DAY OF DANCE

Another highly successful day was held for the children of Melksham and surrounding area in March of this year. Unfortunately this was the last Day of Dance we shall be hosting as it is becoming increasingly difficult to organise, due in the most part to the time demands placed on schools by the government. Those children that attended over the years were provided with the opportunity to experience English Country Dancing, an important part of their heritage. The quality of dancing displayed often reflected the amount of time the schools spent in practicing the dances before the event but the children got a great deal from the days and had a great time. We hope they will remember their time with us and perhaps join us at our Club, or even some other Club, sometime in the future - this may even reflect the story of many of our Members with us today?

The event has been run for the last 40 years, with Stan Vice calling on each and every occasion - a remarkable achievement and one the Club was pleased to recognise with the presentation of a suitably engraved plaque to him. Others involved in the organising and running of the event were also recognised including Geoff Elwell (event organiser for a number of years), Christine Gale (for her work as event secretary) and Brian Lyons (Music).

## FOLK DANCE ETIQUETTE

A little folk dance etiquette enhances everyone's enjoyment.

1. Be Happy! Smile, give-the impression you are delighted to be dancing with everyone you meet, especially newcomers.
2. Take care of others, especially in crowded situations. Take care not to hurt anyone by
  - Backing into other dancers
  - Holding hands or arms too firmly or too long
  - Sticking your elbows out
  - Swinging too vigorously - assess and respect each partners preferences.
  - Do give or take weight in a star or turn appropriately.
3. Partners and Sets - Regularly invite a different partner to dance, especially newcomers. This helps to build the social atmosphere.  
Try to dance with different groups of people but remember to always join a set at the bottom, not the top (as in queues).
4. Help people gently - if they look lost, use brief words or discrete pointing to gently guide them in the right direction rather than grabbing, pulling or pushing.
5. Pay attention
  - To the caller as he/she explains each movement of the dance.
  - To your partner who you're dancing with.
  - To the set you're dancing with.
  - To the music you're dancing to.
  - In the walk through and dance, try to keep in time with the caller and music. Dancing ahead can spoil the flow and confuse newcomers.
6. Thank people fellow dancers for a good dance, swing etc. the caller, the band, organisers, etc.

## JOKES

1. So I told my girlfriend I had a job in a bowling alley. She said "Tenpin?" I said, "No, it's a permanent job."
2. A dyslexic man walks into a bra.
3. People are funny. The following are things actually said and recorded in court:
  - a) ATTORNEY: What is your date of birth?  
WITNESS: July 18th.  
ATTORNEY: What year?  
WITNESS: Every year.
  - b) ATTORNEY: Doctor, how many of your autopsies have you performed on dead people?  
WITNESS: All of them. The live ones put up too much of a fight.
  - c) ATTORNEY: Can you describe the individual?  
WITNESS: He was about medium height and had a beard  
ATTORNEY: Was this a male or a female?  
WITNESS: Unless the Circus was in town I'm going with male.

## Our Submarine Experience

Colin and I had always wanted to visit the West Indies so this year we decided we would have our holiday in Barbados.

When we arrived, the weather was really warm, it turned out that this Caribbean island was in the middle of a heat wave!!



We hired a car for some of the time we were there and explored the island's beauty, history, heritage and culture.

One of the activities on offer was a dive in a submarine. I must say I was a little apprehensive as I can feel a little claustrophobic at times. There was a pleasant 15 minute trip out to the submarine by boat. When we got to the submarine, it was nowhere to be seen!! Can't imagine where it was! After a short time, we saw something blue/white beneath the waves and then it broke surface, coming up a few metres from us. The boat that took us out moored alongside the submarine on one side and the surface support vessel was on the other. These two boats were bobbing about significantly in comparison to the submarine which was very stable.

The group already on the submarine exited before we boarded. Access was through a hatch to an almost vertical ladder. Once inside we sat on padded benches running the length of the vessel with large portholes in front of us.

We dived to about 90 feet and travelled along the sea bed looking at the fish, coral and we also saw a turtle. The views were amazing but the colours were slightly disappointing in that they were not as vivid as we had imagined. We then moved to where the sea was deeper and went down as far as 146 feet.

There we had a good view of a ship wreck before returning to the surface.

The time in the submarine was about 50 minutes. The experience was extremely comfortable with the inside being air conditioned and surface pressure being maintained. Also any sea swell disappeared as soon as we were underwater.

On return to land, we were presented with certificates confirming the depth we had gone down to before being taken back to our hotel. The whole experience was fantastic and we would recommend it to anyone lucky enough to be able to do so.

We found the Barbadian people to be so friendly; just walking down the street they would acknowledge you with a smile and a nod or verbal greeting. At quieter times, they would also greet us from across the street.

The holiday was fantastic, the hotel and staff were first rate, the sun lovely (although a bit challenging for Colin) and, to keep him happy, the rum was delicious (or so he told me!!!). Heather Hill



Le Pont d'Avignon



Our Ship

### Trip on the River Rhone

On 4th June we flew out to Lyon to join the ship A-Rosa Luna for a cruise down the river Rhone. We had been warned the previous day that due to heavy rain over the past couple of weeks in France that some river levels were too high for us to be able to do the itinerary as advertised so we set off not quite knowing where we would be going!

We sailed south from Lyon in the evening and arrived at Viviers the following morning. After lunch we set out with a street map to explore this quiet little town which has the smallest cathedral in France. On returning to the ship we refreshed ourselves with tea and very yummy cakes. (We did this every afternoon of course!). We set sail during dinner and early next morning arrived in Arles, a city made famous by Van Gogh. We then arrived in Avignon where we had a BBQ on deck in the evening. The next morning we explored the town. We didn't dance "sur le pont d'Avignon" but we did walk along it and we climbed up to Rocher des Domes for a wonderful panoramic view over the Rhone valley.

We returned to Lyon, a very relaxing 24 hour cruise. Lyon has a very old centre which is a UNESCO world heritage site and we saw some lovely old buildings. We were still not able to travel north as the water levels were still too high for us to get under some of the bridges so after spending the night there we sailed south again this time to Vienne where we moored until it was time to return to Lyon for the final night on board.

We had a wonderful holiday, the ship was lovely with a very friendly crew. The weather was hot and sunny, we met some lovely people and we ate far too much as the food on board was fantastic! Linda & Barry

### CLUB TRIPS Generally

At the time of going to print, those of us signed up for the Melksham Country Dancers trip this year are looking forward to another great outing organised by Geoff. We will be visiting the Motor Museum at Beaulieu before moving on to Bucklers Hard. If previous trips provide any guide, we are in for a terrific day. The Committee note that the attendance on these outings are not as well supported by our own Members as we would like. This is a great pity as they really are fantastic and well worth the money.

### DANCE TERMS Part 4

The A to Z of Dance Terms continued - taken from the club "Dance Terms" leaflet. If you do NOT have one or have lost yours ask Geoff for another copy. In this edition we cover "L to P"

**Left Hand/Right Hand Star (or hands across)** - Usually danced by two couples giving left/right hand to the diagonally opposite person to form a cross and dancing around to finish back in place (travelling in an anti-clockwise/clockwise direction).

**Lead** - Take nearest hand with partner and move as instructed.

**Left/Right Hand Turn** - Give left/right hand to (either your partner or whoever instructed in the command) and walk a complete turn back to place (anticlockwise/clockwise).

**Allemande Left or Allemande Right** – Another form of left or right hand turn usually with your neighbour or corner (in a square)

**Pousette** – Give two hands to partner and with one pushing (as instructed) forward 4 steps moving slightly to the side and reverse back into other couples place. Repeat by continuing movement back home, if whole pousette called.

**Draw Pousette** – As a normal pousette, but as a couple with two hands joined move around a half circle to change places with the other couple and arrive on the opposite side of the set.

**Promenade** - With lady on man's right hold right hands and left hands and move forward or in the direction instructed.

### DANCES OF THE MONTH

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

**September. ENTANGLED IN BRAMBLES.** A chance to revisit this **FIVE COUPLE LONGWAYS** set from the Sidmouth Collection by Audrey Laver with reels and moving stars. Last tried in Sept 2014

**October. MEVAGISSEY CAR PARK.** Written by Gary Roodman when there was spare time in Cornwall. **A FOUR COUPLE** set in Beckett formation with unusual changes throughout.

**November. TRIP TO GLARAMARA.** **A FIVE COUPLE** set by Barry Gant from his Step & Honour book in Playford style with various heys.

**December. THE LACEMAKER.** **A THREE COUPLE** set by Jan Vermeer with unusual chain movements

### DANCES OF THE MONTH (continued)

**January. FLY BOAT - A THREE COUPLE** set in Playford style with a modern interpretation by Tom Cook with casts and stars.

**February. BRIEF ENCOUNTER** by Marj Hendy. **A FIVE COUPLE** set with plenty of crossing and an unusual star formation.

**March. MY MOTHER'S GEESE. A TRIPLE MINOR LONGWAYS** set by Pat Shaw from the book *New Wine in Old Bottles* with casts, stars and circles.

### Retirement Plan – Food for thought!!

NO NURSING HOME FOR me!!!

I'll be checking into a Holiday Inn! With the average cost for a nursing home care costing £188.00 per day, there is a better way when we get old and too feeble. I've already checked on reservations at the Holiday Inn. For a combined long term stay discount and senior discount, it's £59.23 per night. Breakfast is included, and some have happy hours in the afternoon. That leaves £128.77 a day for lunch and dinner in any restaurant we want, or room service, laundry, gratuities and special TV movies. Plus, they provide a spa, swimming pool, a workout room, a lounge and washer-dryer, etc. Most have free toothpaste and razors, and all have free shampoo and soap. £5 worth of tips a day you'll have the entire staff scrambling to help you. They treat you like a customer, not a patient. There's a bus stop out front, and seniors ride free. For a change of scenery, take the airport shuttle bus and eat at one of the nice restaurants there. While you're at the airport, fly somewhere. Otherwise, the cash keeps building up. It takes months to get into decent nursing homes. Holiday Inn will take your reservation today. And you're not stuck in one place forever -- you can move from Inn to Inn, or even from city to city. Want to see Scotland ? They have Holiday Inn there too. TV broken? Light bulbs need changing? Need a mattress replaced? No problem.. They fix everything, and apologize for the inconvenience. The Inn has a night security person and daily room service. The maid checks to see if you are ok. If not, they'll call an ambulance . . . Or the undertaker. If you fall and break a hip, NHS will pay for the hip, and Holiday Inn will upgrade you to a suite for the rest of your life. And no worries about visits from family. They will always be glad to find you, and probably check in for a few days mini-vacation. The grandkids can use the pool. What more could I ask for? So, when I reach that golden age, I'll face it with a grin.

# EVENTS DIARY SEASON 2016/17

## Tea Dances

10 September	Stan Vice
1 October	Malcolm Mace
5 November	Colin Moore
<b>(Charity Dance for Air Ambulance)</b>	
3 December	Brian Lyons
<b>2017</b>	
7 January	Jean Crook
4 February	Barry Reeves
4 March	Ian Ludbrook
1 April	Robert Wright
15 April	Geoff Elwell
<b>(Easter Dance for Dorothy House)</b>	
6 May	Barry Gant
3 June	Peter Bolton

## Visiting Callers

19 September	Pam Shears
31 October	Peter Bolton
12 December	Ian Ludbrook
<b>2017</b>	
7 January	Jean Crook
20 March	Jean & Dick Shilton
8 May	Robert Wright

## Request Nights

12 September, 28 November, **2017** 23 January, 3 April, 19 June

## Next Committee Meeting

**27 September**

No Meeting 26 December, **2017**  
2 January, 17 April, 1 May, 29 May

## Next AGM Evening

**2017** 10 April

## Your Committee:

<b>Chairman:</b> Barry Reeves	<b>Committee Members:</b> Trevor Lutkin, Meg Elwell, Christine Clark, Edna Day-Phillips
<b>Secretary:</b> Geoff Elwell	
<b>Treasurer:</b> Colin Hill	<b>Publicity:</b> Geoff Elwell: 01225 703650

## Welfare Officer

Heather Hill contacts those that we know have not been well or for some reason have not attended the Monday nights. Please let Heather know if you know of anyone who needs a contact and maybe the Club could help. She reports back to the committee but the information is not made public.

**Caption Competition RESULT.** There were 13 entries from 9 members.

BY A MAJORITY DECISION THE COMMITTEE DECIDED THAT THE BEST CAPTION WAS:~

"THIS SHOULD CHARM THE BIRDS FROM THE TREES".

AND THE WINNING ENTRY WAS SUBMITTED BY **PAT BUTLER**. WELL DONE PAT AND THANK YOU ALL THOSE WHO ENTERED. There is NO competition in this issue.

