

Southam Gathering 2009 Programme Notes

FRIDAY

8pm – 11pm

Opening Dance – Grange Hall – Madeleine + Keeping Thyme

Andrew's Welcome – School – Andrew + Deo Volente

Meet and Greet – Graham Adams Centre – Alan + Bristol Players

A programme of dances which contain elements of meeting and greeting i.e. built in change of partner, multiple progression or interaction with other members of the set.

SATURDAY

9.30am – 11am

Annus Mirabilis – Grange Hall – Andrew + Bristol Players

Dances from the year 1718

A Nightingale Sang... - School – Hilary + Elvie & Denis

Dances connected with nightingales and other melodious birds

Community Dance Manuals Revisited– Graham Adams Centre - Rhodri + Maggie & Hilary

The CDMs used to be the staple of English social dance, but many of the dances have gone out of fashion. A chance to revisit some old favourites and some less well known contributions, and a chance to remind ourselves how to dance them well.

11.30am – 1pm

Fascinating Rhythms – Grange Hall - Madeleine + Bristol Players

American for All – School - Colin + Elvie & Denis

Different people enjoy different aspects of American Dance. Colin will try to cater for all tastes: some energetic, some tricky, some traditional.

With the Help of My Friends – Graham Adams Centre – Alan + Maggie & Hilary

This workshop will study some of the dances written by Alan to tunes written by his friends. They will be chosen from his book "Under The Greenwood Tree which has been published and from "Blue & Yellow Spaghetti" and "Three Stone Circles" which are in preparation. Recordings for the dancers are already available on the accompanying CDs.

2.15pm – 3.30pm

The Music Will tell You – Grange Hall – Colin + Deo Volente

Sometimes it will - if you let it - sometimes it definitely won't. Colin and Deo Volente explore the possibilities.

Triple Triples – School – Hilary + Aidan & Rod

Triple minor dances that are also triple progression or triple time, or possibly all three

Let's Dance Manx – Graham Adams Centre – Maggie + Keeping Thyme

The Steps of Mann (ladies welcome!), including Manx reel, Manx waltz and running step amongst others.

Contrary to popular belief, two dancing legs will suffice. However, three could be useful as we fit the Steps of Mann to the Dances of Mann.

4.00pm – 5.15pm

Frolics for Four – Grange Hall – Madeleine + Deo Volente

Exploring two couple dances

Dances by Pat Shaw – School – Alan + Aidan & Rod

New recordings of Pat Shaw's dances are now available from the Assembly Players. This session will give dancers a chance to experience some of these. As well as duple and triple minors, set dances for 2, 3, 4, 5, or 6 couples will be chosen to involve as many dancers present as possible.

Unchaste Kisses and Wanton Compliments – Graham Adams Centre – Rhodri + Keeping Thyme

An view of the improper side of some Playford dances through the lens of their historical context.

8pm – 11pm

An Evening with Andrew – Grange Hall – Andrew + Bristol Players

Need one say more?

Colin's Choice – School – Colin + Elvie & Denis

A mixed evening of Colin's choice

The Feminine Touch – Graham Adams Centre – Hilary + Maggie & Hilary

One friendly female caller and two fantastic female musicians - what more could you want?

SUNDAY

9.30am – 11am

Colin's Compositions – Grange Hall – Colin + Aidan & Rod

Dances written by Colin (and probably some of the tunes too)

Stay Awake at the Ends! - School – Rhodri + Elvie & Denis

Longways sets with unusual end conditions

Hilary's Humours – Graham Adams Centre - Hilary + Deo Volente

Dances written by Hilary (and possibly some of the tunes too)

11.30am – 1pm

Bolton Wanderings – Grange Hall - Andrew + Aidan & Rod

New dances to old tunes by Charles Bolton (to mark his first year off)

How Green is Your Dancing – School - Madeleine + Elvie & Denis

How to recycle and be energy efficient. Madeleine presents a varied selection of dances focussing on harnessing your energy and recycling your physical and mental skills for optimum performance.

Progression & Procession – Graham Adams Centre – Alan + Deo Volente

Each dance in this workshop will contain changes of orientation either within the set or within the room. Although the dances might have straightforward sequences, the difficulty comes in dealing with subsequent rounds.

2.15pm – 3.30pm

Lesser-Known dance Writers – Grange Hall – Hilary + Maggie & Hilary

Dances by people who may be well-known in their own areas but perhaps not nationally

Dances in Canon (Pat Shaw) – School – Madeleine + Keeping Thyme

Concentration and co-operation.

Choreographic Genealogy – Graham Adams Centre – Rhodri + Bristol Players

A sample of dance formations and moves and how they have changed over the years.

4.00pm – 5.15pm

Interesting Squares & Contras – Grange Hall – Colin + Maggie & Hilary

Mainly Manx – School – Maggie + Keeping Thyme

Plus a chance to meet the fashionable Morgiana in Wales!

Building upon previous workshop (Let's Dance Manx) and sample dances from the Annual Cambrian Trifles for 1812.

Farnicle Huggie – Graham Adams Centre – Andrew + Bristol Players

An in-depth look at the title dance from Andrew's new collection of dance reconstructions

8pm – 11pm

A Modern Playford Ball – Grange Hall – Hilary + Aidan & Rod

An evening of modern dances in Playford style

An American Evening – School – Rhodri + Elvie & Denis

Connoisseur's Dance – Graham Adams Centre – Alan + Deo Volente

The idea of this dance is to use the smaller venue for a limited number of dancers who like a real challenge. The programme will include dances that would not usually be offered at an evening dance. It will appeal to dancers who know their figures so they can learn a sequence with minimal instruction and perform the dance with the music (rather than the caller) telling them what to do.

MONDAY

9.30am – 11am

Baroque 09 – Grange Hall – Andrew + Aidan & Rod

Dances to celebrate the anniversaries of Purcell and Handel

New Versions of Old Classics - School – Colin + Elvie & Denis

Should we stick with Sharp's interpretations even when they're obviously wrong? Colin thinks not!

Dances from Celtic Regions – Graham Adams Centre - Maggie + Maggie & Hilary

As time allows, we will dip in to dances from Cornwall, Wales, Isle of Man, Scotland. One can sometimes recognise similarities in the music and dances from the Celtic regions and England but it should be remembered that popular folk and national cultures have quite often walked hand-in-hand and drawn on one another for inspiration.

11.30am – 1pm

Large Sets – Grange Hall - Hilary + Aidan & Rod

Dances you may not have sufficient people or space for in your clubs

Contras from the Pacific North West – School - Rhodri + Elvie & Denis

A selection of dances from the North Western United States

Not 32 bars – Graham Adams Centre – Alan + Maggie & Hilary

This workshop will study some dances where the tune is not the expected 32 bars. Some will be more and some less sometimes with surprising implications for the dancers. These will not be as challenging as some of the dances in Alan's other workshops. Nevertheless they will be interesting enough for a workshop where the emphasis can be on fitting the figures to the music.

2.15pm – 4.15pm

Tea Dance – Grange Hall – Colin + Aidan & Rod

Playford-style, English, Traditional, American, perhaps even Scottish, but nothing too mind-bending.

See You Next Year – School – Rhodri + Keeping Thyme

A mixed selection of dances to send you on your way.