

Hinton Hill Farm, Woodford Halse, Daventry, NN11 3QX

Southam Gathering 2015

Enclosed are details for the Southam Gathering 2015. We hope that you will enjoy the programme that we have put together for your week-end. **The Grange Hall will open at 5pm** on Friday for collection of tickets. Emergency contact at the weekend is 07535 142182. This is not monitored at other times.

As ever we do hope you will take a full part in the festival and sheets will be available at the Grange on Friday for you to sign up as volunteers for making tea, stewarding a session etc. It is by taking part in these activities that allows us to continue running – it really does work out about one each so if one person shirks someone else does two (or three!) Stewards, please turn up in good time, as nobody can enter the halls until you are in place.

It is imperative that badges are WORN and VISIBLE at all times. If you don't see someone's name badge please challenge them so that we can keep premises secure at all times and allow everyone to learn names. Please do not bring alcohol into any of the premises. It is prohibited by our conditions of hire. Also please do not make any recordings (sound or video.) It has caused embarrassment in the past.

As last year, there will be three dancing venues at the Grange, Graham Adams Centre, and Southam Primary School. There is decent parking at the Grange and on the School playground, but limited parking at Graham Adams Centre. All venues have dances on Friday night. We have given instructions to stewards regarding hall capacities. Please accept the steward's decision as final and try elsewhere if your first choice is full.

Sandwiches have been ordered in advance and you will receive tokens to collect them when you arrive. Everyone has brown bread unless otherwise stipulated. Please keep your tokens safe and remember to bring the relevant ones on the day.

Just a brief note on dance etiquette if we may.....

We are all experienced dancers who I am sure do not need reminding of the basics but we would ask you please to give special thought to the following points for the increased enjoyment of all dancers.

- Do please respect "House Full" notices. Venue limits are set for everyone's benefit. Please do not embarrass the stewards by trying to negotiate your way into a full event.
- Please stop talking when the caller starts their teaching (whether you are on the floor, or sitting out) – there are always people at the bottom of the room who are struggling to hear (and you may well miss vital instructions yourself!)
- Even if you are not someone who normally changes partner, please consider doing so occasionally, especially if you see that someone has been sat out who may have wanted to get into the last dance if only....
- Please feel free to make up longways sets as soon as you are ready to dance. We shall be asking callers to adopt, where possible, the technique of taking hands 6, 8 etc. from the top to make up 3 couple or 4 couple sets. We feel this is a lot fairer way of making up these types of sets. If that does not leave you with those friends you always dance with – well sorry but why not dance with some different people for a change?

Thank you all for volunteering, it really is important to keep the event running. We look forward to seeing you on the dance floor and do give us feedback afterwards.

Denise, Jenny, Ruth, David, Norman, Peter

Southam 2015 Programme Notes

FRIDAY 8:00pm - 10:45pm

And we're off.... – Grange Hall – Lynne Render + Double Dichotomy

Lynne will get us off to a cheerful start with a light-hearted mix of dances suitable for an opening Friday evening

Best from the North Americans – Primary School – Gene Murrow + Weston CDB

A ball programme comprising some of the best dances, old and new, by well-known and emerging choreographers from the States and Canada, including Gary Roodman, Fried Herman, Brooke Friendly and Chris Sackett, Orly Krasner, Loretta Holz, Victor Skrowonski, Kalia Kliban, Sharon Green, Rich Jackson, Steve Sargent, Elizabeth Goossen, and others...

Mostly English – Graham Adams Centre – Rosemary Hunt + Keeping Thyme

A mix of dances from both sides of the Atlantic reflecting our journeys to Southam and enabling us to Meet & Greet friends old & new.

SATURDAY 9:30am - 11:00am

Celebrating Community – Grange Hall – Gene Murrow + Double Dichotomy

Many English country dances from the 17th century to the present have been composed to celebrate someone in the dance or larger community. As the honorees were most often accomplished dancers themselves, the tribute pieces are sophisticated and often challenging. We'll enjoy some of the best of these, and celebrate the people they honor.

Changing Tunes – Primary School - Hilary Herbert + Weston CDB

Cecil Sharp changed the tune to some of the dances he collected. So did others after him. Does this change the dance? What do you think?

Modern ECD from Home and Abroad – Graham Adams Centre - Robert Moir + Kendal Green

Selections from the plethora of interesting dances in the genre.

SATURDAY 11:30am - 1:00pm

Scottish Haunts – Grange Hall - Val & Ian + Double Dichotomy

English-friendly Scottish dances

All of a Flutter – Primary School - Lynne Render + Weston CDB

A selection of contras and squares which use variations on a flutter-wheel figure.

Dances that Change Time – Graham Adams Centre – Trevor Monson + Kendal Green

A selection of dances that the time signature, or length of phrases, change during the dance. Time to forget the standard 32 bar reels!

SATURDAY 2:15pm - 3:30pm

Wallace & Green – Grange Hall – Trevor Monson + Keeping Thyme

No - not "Wallace & Gromit"! A selection of modern dances by two very different choreographers. Colin from the UK and Sharon from the US.

Earlier Music – Primary School – Gene Murrow + Masquerade

The core of our English country dance repertoire is set to the ballads, airs, and theatre music of the 17th and 18th centuries. Several later choreographers looked further back to music of the late Middle Ages and Renaissance to create dances that reflect the modal harmonies, angular melodies, often hypnotic aspect of this earlier music.

Excursions with Thomas Cook – Graham Adams Centre – Hilary Herbert + Denise & Norman

Revisiting some of the many dances written by Tom Cook

SATURDAY 4:00pm - 5:15pm

Join us for a Herbal Cuppa – Grange Hall – Rosemary Hunt + Keeping Thyme

We will explore Keeping body & feet in Thyme with the music as we dance..

Allegro ma non troppo – Primary School – Ian Jones + Masquerade

A suite of English dances from various sources old and new: lively but not uncomfortably so!

SATURDAY 8:00pm - 10:45pm

A Retreads Ball – Grange Hall – Hilary Herbert + Keeping Thyme

An evening of dances interpreted by Charles Bolton

A New York Ball – Primary School – Gene Murrow + Masquerade

As the latest installment of a series I've presented at various dance weekends and festivals in England over the past few years, this is a ball program based on a typical evening dance party in New York City. Country Dance*New York (CD*NY) is a large, very active club that is attracting many young dancers to our weekly evenings that feature Playford-style and traditional English dances. Come find out what we're up to.

Mainly English – Graham Adams Centre – Trevor Monson + Kendal Green

No theme, just a selection of dances that I think (hope!) our Southam dancers will appreciate and enjoy.

SUNDAY 9:30am - 11:00am

What's New Pussy Cat – Grange Hall - Rosemary Hunt + Weston CDB

A selection of dances written for celebrations in the South including some of mine.

Another Look at Another Look - Primary School - Robert Moir + Keeping Thyme

Another Look at Pat Shaw's Another Look at Playford - an accessible and rich source giving entry to many attractive dances from the 'Playford' repertoire.

Fair and Square - Graham Adams Centre - Lynne Render + Double Dichotomy

A selection of interesting squares and maybe the odd contra with something square in it.

SUNDAY 11:30am - 1:00pm

Worthwhile Challenges - Grange Hall - Gene Murrow + Weston CDB

Just a few dances that take time to learn and master, but which are great fun to do once you've got them. These are the kinds of dances one can never do at one's regular weekly or monthly dance, but are enjoyable in an extended workshop setting.

Adagio grazioso - Primary School - Ian Jones + Keeping Thyme

More English dances but this time elegant, graceful and mostly triple time.

Out at the Ends – or not? - Graham Adams Centre - Hilary Herbert + Double Dichotomy

At the ends of longways dances you may be neutral but might still be needed for part of the action. Or you may never be neutral at all!

SUNDAY 2:15pm - 3:30pm

Double or Quits - Grange Hall - Robert Moir + Masquerade

Comparisons of dances which have themes, tunes or figures in common.

Almost Shaw - Primary School - Hilary Herbert + Kendal Green

Dances written by others to some of Pat Shaw's tunes.

Pat Shaw Quartet - Graham Adams Centre - Trevor Monson + Denise & Norman

A chance to dance all four movements of Pat's Dance Suite in one workshop. As he said in his introduction - "They are dances for connoisseurs rather than for Saturday night rompers, but I hope that does not mean the only pleasure in them is intellectual". Sounds ideal for Southam then?

SUNDAY 4:00pm - 5:15pm

Island Hopping with Hilary - Grange Hall - Hilary Herbert + Masquerade

Explore some of the islands around the coast of Britain in dance form.

Trickster Robin Goodfellow & Friends - Primary School - Gene Murrow + Kendal Green

The signature figure in Playford's "Mad Robin" of 1687 has been adopted and adapted by modern choreographers of both English and contra dances (where the figure has evolved into "sliding doors"). We'll do the eponymous dance in Playford's original version and its progeny, including a few contras.

SUNDAY 8:00pm - 10:45pm

Consequences - Grange Hall - Robert Moir + Masquerade

Once upon a time....

More of a Mix - Primary School - Trevor Monson + Double Dichotomy

Again, no theme - just enjoy yourselves after 2 days of workshops!

An American Evening - Graham Adams Centre - Lynne Render + Weston CDB

An evening of squares and contras for all

MONDAY 9:30am - 11:00am

Trev's Favourites (at the moment) - Grange Hall - Trevor Monson + Masquerade

A mixture of dances that don't fit into the previous workshops. I'll have to wait to see what my favourites are at the time.

Contras with a Twist - Primary School - Lynne Render + Double Dichotomy

Contras with slightly unusual moves, formations or rhythms.

Scottish Personalities - Graham Adams Centre - Val & Ian + Kendal Green

More English-friendly Scottish dances

SUNDAY 11:30am - 1:00pm

Gardeners' World - Grange Hall - Hilary Herbert + Masquerade

Plants, flowers, trees, named in dances – and maybe even a maggot or two!

The music of Jonathan and David - Primary School - Gene Murrow + Double Dichotomy

What Henry Purcell was to the dance devisors of the 17th and 18th century, Jonathan Jensen and David Wiesler are to the American choreographers of today. Both have written beautiful, extraordinary tunes that have inspired numerous dances, including Gary Roodman's "Honeysuckle Cottage" (by Jensen) and "Mary K" (by Wiesler). That they both live in the Washington, D.C. area is a mystery.

Allegro agitato - Graham Adams Centre - Ian Jones + Kendal Green

Further English dances, some to get steamed up about!

SUNDAY 2:15pm - 4:15pm (3:45 in school)

A Final Farewell Flourish! - Grange Hall - Ian Jones + Weston CDB

Just that.

All Good Things Come to an End - Primary School - Hilary Herbert + Keeping Thyme

A selection of dances to finish the weekend.