

News from 2018

Christmas Greetings to you.

A good year overall and trying to stay cool and take things as they come, hopefully with a little less stress. I am still getting bookings to keep me out of mischief and surprisingly I am apparently becoming “an authority” on some areas – I think it is just called getting old, myself.



Countryside Day at The Farmland Museum – Ann Wise

Calling and Dance Teaching –English Country Dance teaching for EFDSS is going well on Thursday nights and next term they have given me a Trainee to instruct. Plenty of calling and helping develop other teaching ventures. Notably a “Dance for Alzheimers” project which will be featured in an article in People Dancing. Watch out for a brief appearance on Back In Time for School. I am also now attending many conferences on dance and related matters and looking at ideas with more museums and music schools.

Media Star – As well as filming for TV I was also mentioned in an article in The Observer about May customs, had tracks played on Exile FM and did an interview for Cambridge105. Eagle eyed viewers of Anglia TV might have spotted me at Houghton Regis on Remembrance Day. The Morris! Hey! DVD pack got a brilliant review in English Dance and Song



Allcock and Brown –We started the year with a sell-out gig at Evenley Village Hall and followed up with a St Georges Day event at Harlow Rugby Club with my friends Verona and Drew adding some great comedy, Heston British Legion was another huge success and we rounded the year off helping re-launch the Cambridge Museum of Technology (pic Helen Llewellyn). No major outdoor events this year so plans afoot to spread the word and get out more in 2019

Solo Gigs – The theme this year was the return of theme events; Scottish for Burns and St Andrew, French, Italian, Irish, Bier Keller and Pirates, Votes for All and World War One and everything from Brownies to Funerals, Care Homes and Restaurants and my regular Countryside and Halloween events at the Farmland Museum

Talks - These are becoming more popular all the time particularly when I include some songs. I had four in three weeks in October including the launch of a brand new talk, **Dance in Literature** and I re-worked ones about Jane Austen and Georgians and Christmas Customs. There are a few more ideas in the pipeline linking with Allcock and Brown and I have just agreed a new one on looking at the impact of technology on folk dance and music for the Cambridge Museum of Technology in May

Band Gigs – As varied as ever if slightly fewer than in the past:- Amberley Castle, the British Academy, Curborough Sprint Circuit, Paradise Wildlife Park, Hellions Bumpstead Village Hall and took our music to the Edinburgh Fringe (We were booked to play on a Saga cruise which went there!). Finishing off the band's year at the Art Workers Guild Christmas Party



Something fishy on board Saga Sapphire



The Maypole at Countryfile Live with a 360 camera – Robert Wittington

the mAy team – were invited to return to Countryfile Live, Swiss Garden, Butser Ancient Farm and new events including Spring Live at the South of England Showground. We'll be back yet again at most of them in 2019 with the addition of Countryfile Live North at Castle Howard. The picture was taken at Countryfile Live

Maypole – Still getting me out and around the country. Training sessions in Guildford, Derby, Manchester, Houghton Regis, Cambridge, Peterborough and at the Farmland Museum. The Maypole Manual is still selling well and one Maypole Hire resulted in a Maypole Dance with Newfoundland Dogs

Books, CDs etc – No new products this year but quite a bit of reorganisation. Now linking with more distributors and sometimes going out with a full stall. A copy of the Farmland Museum CD is now in the Royal Collection. It was presented to Princess Anne when she visited the Farmland Museum (I was also introduced to her – see below)



*More on all these stories on my
web site
www.mikeruffmusic.co.uk*



I had a short holiday in Italy to help my sister celebrate a big birthday. Two days in the Eugene Mountains and two in Vicenza. There were also weekend trips to Bournemouth and Manchester, as well as trips to see Mum in Tunbridge Wells



Happy Christmas to you all

I might event get better at social media, I can't get any worse!



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