

**BAND Alveston History Soc . Wednesday 27<sup>th</sup> May 7.30- 8.50 DRAFT (LN + HJ 4.5.26) Timings subject to Alveston HS committee meeting etc ( 60- 80 mins!) FINAL 20/5 Cues in bold. Band calls in RED**

**Bringing in the May: a celebration of Springtime** - with 1850s west country music, words and mischief with Brigstowe Village Band (Musical Leader: Alison Rowley)

**Intro: Singers: Sumer is a coming in**

**2: In which we talk of Alveston and Stone, village bands and village musicians**

Liz (link) Ladies and gentlemen We are 'providers of music for all classes on all festive occasions ' **Band Hurray!**

**Band: Rogues March: x4 Intro. Perc . Butchers of Bristol: x4 Intro: Bass. Saltash: x4 Intro: Fiddles**

Link (Liz) Last time we were here you showed an interest in some of the instruments we play . As Liz calls out names of instruments **going round the seated band circle - band hold up instruments**

**Heather , Lyn ;Liz :Mixed consort: , Awake with love, + Now is the month of Maying**

(Link) : **Chris Mapp:** Today we celebrate ... (Link ) Liz: The Ann family Link (Lyn) Another musician in the area .... **told you about last time. Link ( Colin ) We are going to play 2/3 tunes from George Till's manuscript book**

**Band: Scotch Polka x3 Intro: Fiddles minimum pause Brighton Camp x4 Intro: Perc.**

**3: The Coming of Spring, skylarks and May warnings**

**Reading :Colin:** It is now May. ...**want no price in the market.**

Link (Liz): Skylarks were familiar .... the toad took the lark's beautiful **jewel like eyes and was left with a dull croak!**

**Band: Rising of the Larks x 4 Intro Fiddles**

**Singers and audience: Larks they sang melodious**

Link ( Heather ) Whilst there is a natural eagerness to hail May as a summer month...

Alastair dances up the aisle from the back , at his attempt to remove **his trousers Gill stops him**

**Band: Shocked anticipatory oh. No ! ..** (Gill will encourage this band response !).....

Alastair: To be fit in May; drink clarified whey (pause)

Gill and Alastair (agreeing w): Youth and Age; both need sage ( **band nods to each other in agreement** )

**4. May mischief and love divination**

Briggy rushes in (Liz) ..... Briggy tells me that there is another problem with May – it is the arrival of fairies, shape shifting magical creatures. **Band : Oooh** Briggy (again whispers in Liz's ear)

Liz: Briggy says there are good fairies and bad fairies. .... but other sorts of fairies might play a prank on you (Briggy perks up with concern).

They might ... curdle the milk (**Band and audience.) No!** or make you park on double yellow lines (**Band and audience: No!**) ...or steal your baby and replace it with a fairy baby, a changeling (**Band and audience: more of a shocked grumble here**)

Liz: I have heard that there might be fairies around here.. in the band .... or even the audience. Sometimes fairies might **torment** Briggy .Briggy have a look ... Briggy (slowly)scans the band for fairies. **Pauline , Pat , Angela will have fairies on sticks which appear as Briggy passes them .** Briggy dashes over to Angela's side of band, whilst Pauline leans out and waves her fairy. (I am assuming they are on different sides of the band). **Chris C shouts 'behind you'** Pauline puts down fairy whilst Briggy turns round and dashes towards her side of the band. Angela leans out and waves her fairy. **Chris C shouts 'behind you'** Briggy stares in confusion at Chris C while all 3 fairies are waved. **Chris C shouts 'behind you'**

Briggy at first refuses, but then reluctantly turns round, by which time the fairies have disappeared.

Liz 'Stop, stop .. you are wearing yourself out .. trying to chase there slippery creatures .'

Here follows further argy bargy followed by Briggy dancing

Pauline Pat G, Angela continue to wave them in time to the music

**Band: Fairy Prince x4** Intro: Bass Slight pause

Heather : May Day Eve (April 30<sup>th</sup>) was a mischief night, ...and steal milk from cows. **(Band Ooh)**

Link (Heather ) continues :...But as May day dawned, .....the natural world could exist in harmony.

**Reading** Alastair : The Rev. Francis Kilvert,..... the young witches are welcome.”

Lyn: May Day celebrations .....firing guns and blowing horns.

Heather: In May love is in the air. In the 1850's, love divination I.... a special time for moon gazing.

Gill nods to Heather, puts on the wedding head dress and assumes maidenly visage...Chris. N (walks to front with moon) shows it to the audience and to Gill

Gill – theatrically ..... All hail to the moon! .....**who my husband must be**...Heather: trade of a future husband.

Gill: I went with a girl friend to the churchyard ....**the hemp seed charm again for fear of offending the spirits...**

**BAND : (scary oooh)**

**5: 'Music for all classes on all festive occasions ' Celebrations, singing, drinking, dancing**

Link (Liz ) Any celebration in the 1850's would have meant .... **men and women could have fraternise relatively unchaperoned – enjoy this hornpipe**

**Band: Trumpet Hornpipe x3** Intro: Boxes

**Singers and audience:** Tailors Breeches

Link (Heather): At the end of May ... wear new clothes **otherwise you might attract the unwelcome attention of disparaging birdlife.** **(Band UGH)**

Liz (Link) Dancing might also have been part of a procession. This is being assembled in front of you now **(dancers assemble Liz explains as below).**

Liz: In Alveston there were Friendly Society's .....**and finally to one of the local farms for cider.**  
**.... and process to the Helston Furry Dance.**

**Band and dancers: Helston Furry Dance x 3** Intro. Boxes (dancers: Meg, Gill, Alistair, Chris N, Lyn, Heather, Sally

Link (Liz) We end with a celebration final song – again a chance to join in

**Band and singers: Let Union Be**

Bow, pause for applause we hope

Briggy appears and whispers in Liz's ear.

**Liz: Briggy asks me to tell you all to remember fairies are especially interested in those in the human world going on journeys. Watch out for fairies as you travel home**

