

Welcome!

This year is the 18th EATMT free reed workshop day in Suffolk. The event has an enviable reputation for providing inspiration, entertainment & sociability, backed up by superb organisation, with an outstandingly friendly and encouraging atmosphere. We have a wide range of subjects taught by brilliant teachers, who will give you heaps of ideas for your own playing. Do come along for the day and/or the evening concert!

Location and facilities

The event is held in the village of **Mendlesham**, five miles from Stowmarket, which has a mainline rail station, taxi service and bus links to the village. We use the Community Centre and Primary School and the United Reform Church, just a minute's walk away. Mendlesham has many historic buildings and is known for its unique armoury, housed in the church. The village has a fish and chip shop and a general store with cash facilities. If you wish to stay in the area, see our website or contact the Mid Suffolk Tourist Information Centre.

Music Market

There will be a chance to browse specialist stalls at the **Music Market**, which is open until 4.30. If you're not attending workshops but would like to look at the stalls, you are welcome from 10.45 onwards. Stalls already confirmed include: **Wesson Accordions**: melodeon builders; **Veteran**: CDs, DVDs and books; **Black Diamond Accordions**: melodeon and piano accordion sales; **Hobgoblin**: folk music specialists with loads of instruments; **Mike Acott Concertinas** and **Pete Grassby**: instrument sales, restoration and repairs; **Hedingham Fair**: t-shirts, cards, books, gifts.

Food

Refreshments are provided during the day, and lunch may be booked in advance (see booking form). There will be a real ale bar open over lunchtime and during the evening concert. Details about early evening meals for workshop attendees who are staying on for the concert will be sent to you well before the event.

The East Anglian Traditional Music Trust aims to increase awareness of, and excellence in, the traditional folk arts in the eastern counties.

Further information from:

EATMT, The Old Stables, Museum of East Anglian Life,
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Stowmarket
Town Council



Melodeons and more

Saturday 25th March 2017
Mendlesham, Suffolk

Melodeon & concertina workshops

Squeezebox Special evening concert

Music Market - sales, repairs, CDs

Absolute beginners classes

Brilliant & inspiring tutors

Great sessions, food and beer!

Saul Rose **Nick Cooke**

Sandra Kerr (concertina)

Jeannie Harris **Rees Wesson**

Katie Howson **Steve Dumbleton**

Ron Ross **Andrew Collins**

East Anglian Traditional Music Trust

General workshop information

Levels Please look for the appropriate number next to each class.

Level 1 - Absolute beginners: you've probably never tried the instrument in question before and teaching will literally start with "which way is up". For these classes *only*, instruments are provided (you can bring your own, but it needs to be a C melodeon / C&G anglo concertina).

Level 2 - Inexperienced: you can play a few tunes but not very confidently. At this level, you can book into either (a) workshops 1 & 8 for the whole day or (b) your choice from workshops 2/ 3/ 6 in the morning and 9 / 10 in the afternoon.

Level 3 - Intermediate: you've been playing a while, have a reasonable grasp of basic techniques and are ready for some new ideas and challenges .

Level 4 - You're quite an experienced player, wishing to explore some of the trickier aspects of the music and get some new ideas and inspiration.

Teaching styles Workshops vary in style, but all classes are largely taught by ear. Written music is provided by some tutors and we send out recordings and notes in advance (none needed for classes 7 or 14).

Instruments Most workshops are instrument-specific, but Classes 6, 9 & 13 are open to players of concertinas, melodeons or any other instrument. These workshops do not focus on specific instrumental techniques.

Workshop details

Morning

1. (Level 2) 'Building on the Basics, Part 1': Steve Dumpleton (D/G melodeon) (bookable only with class 8)

A whole day workshop for inexperienced players, including a tune or two from East Anglia. Working at a steady pace to consolidate and build upon basic techniques and explore the potential of the instrument.

2. (Level 2/3) 'Phrase You!': Nick Cooke (D/G melodeon)

A look at phrasing and accenting music to help dancers - using some lovely English tunes from the Cotswold morris traditions.

3. (Level 2/3) 'Beautiful Tunes': Saul Rose (D/G melodeon) (not bookable with class 12)

Saul shares some tips in this slow and steady class looking at some simply gorgeous tunes!

4. (Level 3/4) 'Not Accidentally on Purpose': Rees Wesson (D/G melodeon)

Crazy tunes without accidentals. Arpeggios, modulations and the odd jazz chord.

5. (Level 3/4) 'Take a Simple Tune': Jeannie Harris (D one-row or D/G melodeon)

Using straightforward tunes to explore embellishment, rhythms and harmonies, using one-row techniques.

6. (Level 2/3/4) 'Playing with Feeling': Sandra Kerr (any system concertina)

Exploring how to put some expression into your music - not just rushing through the notes!

7. (Level 1) Absolute Beginners Melodeon: Ron Ross (C melodeon - provided)

Which way is up? What does this button do? How does it work? Is this the instrument I want to play? Now is your chance to find out! You can book this together with Class 14 or an Absolute Beginners' Observers pass which lets you visit any afternoon class without actually taking part.

Afternoon

8. (Level 2) 'Building on the Basics, Part 2': Steve Dumpleton (D/G melodeon) (bookable only with class 1)

A continuation of class 1.

9. (Level 2/3) 'Roll Back the Carpet': Katie Howson (D/G melodeon)

How to make tunes danceable, using some great tunes suitable for ceilidh dancing.

10. (Level 2/3) 'One Row Bounce': Rees Wesson (D one-row or D/G melodeon)

One-row techniques and some good ole' East Anglian tunes.

11. (Level 3/4) 'It's Not All About that Bass!': Nick Cooke (D/G melodeon)

You have chords on both ends of your instrument! Exploring chords on the melody keyboard.

12. (Level 3/4) 'Odd Keys': Saul Rose (D/G melodeon) (not bookable with class 3)

Playing in odd keys: looking at scales and melodies away from the 'home' key.

13. (Level 3/4) 'Early Scottish Ragtime': Sandra Kerr (any concertina / D/G melodeon)

Looking at syncopation in some wonderful traditional tunes.

14. (Level 1) Absolute Beginners Melodeon: Andrew Collins (C/G anglo-concertina - provided)

See class 7 above. You can book this together with Class 7 or an Absolute Beginners' Observers pass which lets you visit any morning class without actually taking part.

Tutors & concert guests

Saul Rose (3. 'Beautiful Tunes' & 12. 'Odd Keys')

In 1991 Saul won the BBC Radio 2 Young Tradition Award and from there started a long musical association with Eliza Carthy, still working together in the Wayward Band. He also plays with dance bands Whapweasel and Random, has worked with Jim Moray, Ruth Notman, is currently in a duo with Jamie Delarre and was in the west end production of 'War Horse'.

Nick Cooke (2. 'Phrase You' & 11. 'It's Not All About That Bass')

Nick is a stunning melodeon player, learning as a child and playing for local ceilidhs in Somerset by the age of 13. These days, as well as continuing to play for dancing, Nick has become the melodeon accompanist of choice for many big names including Kate Rusby, Jim Moray and Jackie Oates and currently plays in Mawkin. A first visit to Melodeons and More for Nick, we're sure you'll enjoy his classes and concert performance.

Sandra Kerr (6. 'Playing with Feeling' & 13. 'Early Scottish Ragtime')

Sandra is a fine English concertina player and one of the principal tutors for the Folk and Traditional Music degree course at the University of Newcastle. She wrote the music for Bagpuss and was the voice of the rag doll! Earlier this year she was awarded the Gold Badge from the English Folk Dance and Song Society.

Rees Wesson (4. 'Not Accidentally on Purpose' & 10. 'One Row Bounce')

Rees is a melodeon maestro, maker, trader and teacher. After cutting his teeth on the South Wales folk scene, he joined reggae-folk pioneers, Edward II. In 1989 he formed Zydeco band Joe Le Taxi and 2017 heralds a new band, The Maygram. Rees' versatility and zany humour have made him one of our most popular tutors.

Jeannie Harris (5. 'Take a Simple Tune')

Jeannie specialises in the one-row melodeon and brings a very distinctive style to the instrument. She and Katie Howson have had a long musical partnership. In the 1990s they formed a duo, exploring the idea of two one-rows together and they continue their partnership with the festival ceilidh band PolkaWorks.

Katie Howson (9. 'Roll Back the Carpet')

Katie is director of the Melodeons and More days and of the East Anglian Traditional Music Trust. She led the Old Hat Concert Party, Old Hat Dance Band and Katie's Quartet and currently plays with PolkaWorks and The Valiant Dance Band and moonlights in the Michael Sheehy Band playing music from southwest Ireland.

Steve Dumpleton (1. & 8. 'Building on the Basics')

Steve is one of our most regular and popular tutors with a very clear style of teaching and a wide-ranging musical knowledge. He worked on transcriptions for our book of East Anglian music 'Before the Night Was Out' a few years ago and has a great local style, despite living in Sheffield!

Ron Ross (7. 'Absolute Beginners Melodeon')

Ron is a melodeon and concertina player with a lifetime's experience of playing for dancing around Suffolk and Norfolk where he has taught and led various groups. Ron has tutored at Melodeons and More before and is also tutor for the East Anglian Traditional Music Trust's beginners' evening classes in Stowmarket.

Andrew Collins (14. 'Absolute Beginners Anglo-Concertina')

Andrew is from south Norfolk. He started playing at a beginners' class run by EATMT and can still remember what it was like to be a beginner! He teaches for SqueezeEast and West Country Concertina Players.

Timetable

The day runs from 9.45 to 5.30. Workshops run 10.30-12.15 and 2.15-4.00, with an informal workshop showcase from 4.30-5.30. Over the lunch break you can go to a session, ceilidh, talk or demonstration, browse the stalls or go for a stroll: a mini-festival in a lunchtime! The evening concert runs 8pm -11pm.

Squeezebox Special - Evening Concert

This year's Squeezebox Special concert features **Saul Rose, Nick Cooke, Sandra Kerr** and a one-off performance from **The Four Stops (Rees Wesson, Katie Howson, Jeannie Harris & Steve Dumpleton)**.

A lovely relaxing and inspiring end to a day if you've been concentrating in the workshops, or an enjoyable evening out if you're not a player yourself. Doors open at 7.30pm for an 8pm kick-off. There's a real ale bar and a CD stall. Tickets can be bought in combination with a day workshop for the best rates, but are also available separately. Why not bring some friends along to enjoy some superb traditional music?