

Interview – Eammon Andrews

Summary

MW introduces. MW asks how EA got into folk music. EA says he got into it through joining Golden Star Morris in Norwich 20-25 years ago. Before that he had attended folk events, thought dancing looked fun. Learned Cotswold dancing, found friends there. Started going to music and singing sessions in Norwich, did not take part at first. EA told he couldn't sing when at Junior School in Fressingfield. Traditional music passed him by throughout high school. Was into the pop music of the day (1970s). Listened on Top of the Pops and radio. Liked rock, prog rock and punk. Went to college in London, attended some gigs. Came home in holidays and went to the pub, Fressingfield Swan, with friends. Subsequently discovered that traditional singing had gone on there in days gone by, replaced by jukebox (which EA enjoyed). Liked the pub, pool, darts and music. EA lost touch with pop music in 1980s, seemed more manufactured. Listened to lots of radio particularly John Peel and Andy Kershaw. Got interested in music from around the world. Realised some of this went on at Cambridge Folk Festival, attended and listened to music from around the world. Went to some more local, smaller events, small folk festivals, at Felixstowe, Snape, Reedham. Discovered people playing music locally, enjoyed the Yetties from Dorset. Kathryn Tickell from Northumberland. Decided to find out more about local music. Golden Star Morris was a way in. Started to sing in Norwich at slow music session with Golden Star Morris. The Rose, The Nelson in Nelson Street, Norwich. Looking Back, EA says there were many good singers and musicians in Norwich at the time and still are. MW asks what EA enjoys about folk music in particular. EA says it is the social and traditional aspects. Every session is different, you often see the same people. Can go to Harbour Inn, Southwold, Blaxhall Ship, Horham Old School session, see musicians who come for social music and dancing, no two nights are alike, mostly free events. No longer dances with Golden Star, now dances with Old Glory, good social after dance out. The same with Old School Rapper. Combination of singing, music dancing and company is very nice to be a part of. MW asks if songs which have been collected locally interest EA. EA says yes, has come to appreciate more as time has gone on. Reiterates that singing had gone on in his local pub in Fressingfield but he didn't realise by the time he was going. Says he is grateful to song collectors, especially in East Anglia. John Howson (Veteran), Neil Lanham, Keith Summers, Alan Lomax, Peter Kennedy, Ginette Dunn (Fellowship of Song), Mike Yates, Ewan McColl, Charles Parker, Bill Leader, Peter Bellamy, Reg Hall. Is very glad that people made the recordings because he was too late to see them firsthand. MW thanks, EA thanks. EA says EATMT has done a good job of putting on local traditional music events, contributing to musical life of East Anglia. Mentions FolkEast, says it has become a major events in East Anglia and promotes local music and dance alongside national and international performers.