

Letters and Announcements

SUBMITTING ADS AND ARTICLES

Articles, letters, poems and photographs about contra and traditional square dance, English country dance, morris and sword dance, dance tunes, folksongs, and the dance and music community are welcome. Newly-composed dances and tunes also are welcome, as are new looks at historical dances and tunes. Please contact the Editor for guidelines or send submissions to news@cdss.org (maximum size for most articles: 1,500 words, 750 words for essays and event reviews). We may edit for length and clarity.

Go to <http://www.cdss100.org/events> to see UPCOMING EVENTS. To include an event, send date, name of event, town/state, sponsoring group, website or phone/email to events@cdss.org.

PERSONAL ADS (75 words maximum) are free for CDSS members and \$5 for nonmembers.

DISPLAY AD SIZES & RATES

full page, 7-1/8" wide x 9-1/4" high, \$440
half page horizontal, 7-1/8" wide x 4-3/8" high, \$250
half page vertical, 3-3/8" wide x 9-1/4" high, \$250
quarter page, 3-3/8" wide x 4-3/8" high, \$175

CDSS members may take a 50% discount from these rates. Anyone placing the same size ad in three consecutive issues may take a 10% discount. Please include a note saying which issue(s) your ad is for.

SENDING ADS

Ads must be black and white or grayscale. Please send electronically to news@cdss.org (PDF, JPG or TIF, with 300-600 dpi, fonts and images embedded), with check or Visa/Mastercard info sent same day.

DEADLINES

Spring—February 1st (issue mailed early March)
Summer—May 1st (issue mailed early June)
Fall—August 1st (issue mailed early September)
Winter—November 1st (issue mailed early December)

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SUPPORT

CDSS is a 501(c)3 organization; dues and donations are tax deductible. For the many ways you can support us and the community at large, visit <http://www.cdss.org/join-renew#ways-to-give>. Your help is much appreciated.

PLANNED GIVING

Does your will include the Country Dance and Song Society? If not, please consider ensuring that the programs, publications and services that matter to you continue in the future with a bequest. It's practical and tax deductible. For information, go to <http://www.cdss.org/join-renew#planned-giving>.

Rethink Your Accessories

I recently returned from a lovely dance weekend. It was perfect in every respect, with one exception: I was attacked and injured by a bracelet. It happened like this. I was dancing the first night in a contra line when a fellow dancer wearing a bracelet ran her hand up the outside of my forearm, inflicting a five-inch, Z-shaped cut, tearing the skin and pulling it away from the flesh. It bled profusely. I was taken to a clinic where the cut was cleansed, treated with iodine and antibiotic ointment, taped together and bandaged. I did not dance much the rest of the weekend, fearing grabs or hits on the wound. The moral of this story is this: DANCERS: PLEASE, PLEASE, PLEASE remove your wrist jewelry, watches and bulky rings before attending a dance. It is no fun for dancers to fear that they may receive injuries such as mine.

Lois F. White, Danville, VT

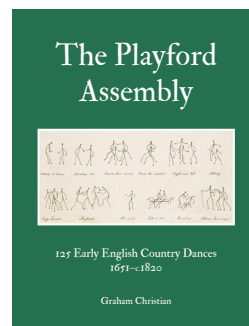
The Playford Assembly: Botkin Folklife Lecture

Early in 2016, our colleague Graham Christian will talk about his book, *The Playford Assembly*, at the Library of Congress. (The book will be published by CDSS at the end of this year.) We're very proud that Graham and our book will be part of this distinguished series of lectures, which honors Benjamin A. Botkin, a pioneering folklorist who headed the LOC's Archive of American Folksong from 1942-1945.

The Playford Assembly is a collection of English country dances that have their origins in the seventeenth through early nineteenth century and is a successor volume to *The Playford Ball* (1990, CDSS). Like that collection, the new book reflects the pioneering work of Cecil Sharp and the generations of dance leaders and interpreters who have worked in his tradition since the 1910s. In the twenty-five years since *The Playford Ball* was published, interest in older dances has blossomed, resulting in a steady stream of new interpretations, rediscoveries, lucky finds, and revivals, and this is the basis for the new collection.

The lecture will be enhanced and illustrated by dancers. We'll announce the date as soon as we know it so you can mark your calendars and join us that day.

Pat MacPherson, CDSS Education Dept. Director



Are You a Bilingual Caller?

CDSS is developing a list of bilingual callers (Spanish/English and French/English). Let us know if you call contras, squares or English country dance, teach morris and sword dances, or lead songs in these languages. Send replies to Rima Dael, CDSS Executive Director, [rima@cdss.org](mailto:rима@cdss.org).

Thanks, Local Heroes!

The Local Heroes Map is up, <http://tinyurl.com/gtdxsxf>. We think that an appropriate way to celebrate the holidays in CDSS-land is to herald our Local Heroes! These are people who quietly *make things happen* for everyone else—who put out the song books, sweep the floor, create a potluck, and accomplish a million other tasks which make dancing, singing, and music-making so easy for the rest of us. See the community THANK YOUs to Local Heroes all over the continent at <http://www.cdss100.org/community100/local-heroes>. Be inspired to recognize someone in your own community; share a story about your own local hero at <http://www.cdss100.org/community100/submit-a-local-hero!>

Wanted: Share Your Stories in Our New “Hive Mind” Column

Every group is eager for fresh ideas for particular challenges. What approaches and experiments have you tried? What has worked well...or not-so-well? Any surprises? What did you learn? Our collective Hive Mind includes many inventive and thoughtful people—let's share the best insights. Please keep it short (200 word limit); visit <http://www.cdss.org/hive>. Our first topic is “Attracting New Participants.” We know there are lots of creative minds working on this challenge and hope to see lots of stories. Thanks for sharing.

Scott Higgs, CDSS Hive Mind Coordinator

CDSS Online Member Directory is Back...

...and a rare print copy will come out early in 2016. By now, the CDSS membership department has reached out to you via email or mail asking for your listing preferences in the online and print member directory. If you didn't hear from us or if you haven't replied yet, it's not too late! You can go online at fill out the form at <http://store.cdss.org/member-directory-home> and log in, or call Christine at 413-203-5467 x 104. Tell your friends to make sure their memberships are current too!

Outreach Grant Deadlines

Application deadlines for 2016 are February 1, June 1 and October 1. Questions about grants? Contact Linda Henry, outreach@cdss.org, 413-203-5467 x 105. A list of recent CDSS outreach grants is posted at <http://www.cdss.org/support-services/outreach/our-funds-at-work>. For more information about funding, visit <http://www.cdss.org/support-services/outreach/outreach-funds>.

Amazon Smile

Did you know that CDSS can receive donations from amazon.com? Go to www.smile.amazon.com, where you'll be prompted to select a charitable organization. (Be sure to select Country Dance and Song Society in *Easthampton, Massachusetts*.) For eligible purchases, the Amazon Smile Foundation will donate 0.5% of the purchase price to CDSS. Thanks!

Congratulations to...

...Mary Devlin who has retired from her day job and is also stepping down as a *CDSS News* dance editor. Thanks for your work, Mary!

Worldwide Morris Bell Shortage Threatened!

So, this may be more of interest to the morris sides, but we have been in the midst of a morris bell shortage. It started over a year ago when the manufacturer of our bells could not fulfill our order. The company was then bought out and nobody there seemed to want to make our bells. They had other sizes, and other colors, but not what we needed. There were repeated emails and phone calls but to no avail. In the meantime, our supply of bells ran dangerously low, then dried up altogether. Things were looking grim.



This past fall, a member of a morris side mentioned that they had been able to find similar bells from Native American dancers. This lead was pursued, and it led to a wholesaler in Texas (who did not want to tell us where he got them, but we are clever), and to a manufacturer in Germany.

About this time, we also sent an email to our usual supplier's parent company appealing to their pride in English cultural heritage, and reminding them that as the only English manufacturer of morris bells, the future of morris dancing, and indeed English cultural heritage throughout the world, was depending on them. If it had been late winter, we would have reminded them that if there was no morris dancing on May Day, spring would not be coming, but we don't have that kind of leverage in the fall.

In any case, I am writing this in November, and by the time the newsletter comes out we will hopefully be rolling in bells, and this crisis will have been averted. I don't know how it is going to happen, but I wanted to let you know we are doing all we can to alleviate this serious crisis.

Jeff Martell, CDSS Store Manager