



Twyford Folk Music Workshop Information sheet

2018 version 11

1. The aim of Twyford Folk Music Workshops is to give players interested in folk/country dance/traditional music an opportunity to practise and improve their playing from sheet music. They are neither music lessons nor rehearsals: the work in workshop comes from group members preparing beforehand, then listening humbly to the other musicians in the group as we all try to perform the tune in its full spriteliness and beauty.
2. We meet at **Loddon Hall**, Twyford, RG10 9JA, normally on the first Wednesday of the month, from 8.00 pm **prompt** to 10.00 pm. There is plenty of parking at the front of the hall.

We normally use the **Twyford Room** - turn left from the entrance lobby. Occasionally it's the **Ruscombe Room** - turn right from the entrance lobby.

Exceptions:

- No meeting in August (holidays)
 - Occasionally we meet on the 2nd Wednesday if there is a booking conflict at the Hall. I notify any changes as soon as I learn about them from the Hall.
3. The cost for the evening is **£4.00¹**, including half-time tea or coffee. No subscription is required - you only pay when you turn up.
 4. The music for each meeting is available from the Members' area of our website - access details given in the programme email. Please do not pass on the access details elsewhere - this is for copyright control reasons.

We also use the 200-page **Paul Hardy Session tunebook**, available from pghardy.net/concertina/tunebooks. I have Paul's permission to take material from his book for our use. You can download the book for free. There is a link which takes you to the Lulu print-on-demand site where you can order a spiral-bound printed copy for £11.00¹ including postage.

You don't *need* the Hardy book, because scores are always posted to our website, but as a source of 600 tunes many members find it attractive. (Its use within workshops is declining because there are now 6 annual editions in circulation and sometimes chords or melodies are incompatible between editions, so we regard the web scores as definitive.)

There are not many power points in the rooms we use, so if you view music on a tablet make sure it is charged before the workshop.

5. Workshop format:

I issue the programme a few days in advance by e-mail. This e-mail includes the access details for the Members' area where we host the music.

First Half Intro - Either Orange in Bloom or South Winds

4-5 tunes or sets covered in earlier workshops

1 or 2 new or new-ish tunes

Second half 3-4 tunes at dance speed (about MM 114)

Sight-reading - choice from the group

Outro: One of Blackthorn Stick / College Hornpipe / Ryan's Polka

In the first half the pace is slow and anyone can ask for the speed to be taken down. In the second half we try to take tunes at dance speed and some tunes will be technically demanding. This format has evolved because we have a very varied skill/experience level, ranging from very little to grade 8 and beyond.

Sight-reading is a chance for members to nominate a tune for the group to play, either from Hardy or by submitting a score in advance. Tunes should be within the range middle C ↔ B above the treble stave. It is helpful, but not essential, if suitable chords are included. I will check that the tune is within the range of instruments in the group; tunes in unusual keys or modes may fail this check. The person who nominates the tune starts the tune, normally with a 4 or 8 bar intro.

I make sure on the night that we cover all of the circulated programme. This is to make sure that any practice time put in is rewarded.

6. We play from the music in front of us (the dots) so that we are all playing the same version. This makes it much easier to get a good sound and avoid discords.
7. We do not criticise wrong notes and we do not allow snippy remarks about anyone's playing.
8. Some tunes will be started with a "long intro". This is an opportunity for those who wish to play a short solo. I organise this as part of the programme planning. If you want to try this then talk to me.

Finally: it is my deliberate policy to run a well-organised (some might say formal) evening where the less experienced can gain confidence and no-one is competing to be the *best* or *fastest* or *widest repertoire* player. There are sessions nearby that are less formal and less structured. If my event does not suit then I can direct you to these other sessions.

I suggest you come along when you are free and see if the event suits you. Please phone or email to let me know you are coming, so I know numbers to expect (as it affects which room I book at the hall).

Best Regards,

Colin McEwen

¹as of April 2018 - subject to change