

Lis Talbott Memorial Workshop 12th October, The Dance Centre, Llandrindod Wells.

For a special tribute to our Friend and colleague Lis, who died last year, I've enlisted the help of Alison Kinder and her new ensemble, Apollo's Revels. They have a website, but I can tell you that while Ali and Lynda Sayce play lute and viols, experienced historical dancers Anne Deller and Kath Waters dance in costume.

Unfortunately, my grand plan of a workshop and concert fell apart when we learned that Brecon Baroque is happening on the last weekend in October. This is a splendid festival, with twelve events, largely featuring the wonderful violinist Rachel Podger, but with a dancing day on the Saturday. So many of us love this event that we could not dream of clashing with it! Which left October 12th as our only possibility, but without Lynda Sayce the lutenist, who will be in Lille. So what we plan is a day where instrumentalists learn a whole range of dances, including Playford, Baroque and Morris. The day will be carefully structured so that everyone gets to play and to watch the dancers, and dance themselves if they wish. And those who only wish to dance are invited to join us for the afternoon. You'll get a fully trained band, two professional dancers to guide you round the floor, dances from the easier end of the spectrum and a little demonstration of the harder ones from Kath and Anne...and it's half the price of the full day...what's not to like? This is where my worlds collide – the ceilidh band meets its renaissance roots. Lovely!

Full details and your application form will be in the June Newsletter, but meanwhile do have a look at the Apollo's Revels website. And here's an offer you may never see again in these pages; any box players (accordion, concertina, melodeon) may bring them for the Playford dances, although you'll need something more 'refined' for the Baroque!

Fran Johnstone