

Dances and Choruses from the Fairy Queen Workshop Preview: 16th June 2012

This will be held at the Leisure Centre, Lady Hawkins School, Kington. The dance tutor will be Philippa Waite and the instrumentalists' and singers' tutor Andrew Wilson-Dixon. The Leisure Centre has a good wooden floor, plenty of room, good parking and is easy to find and conveniently near the centre of Kington.

Philippa Waite is well known as a performer and teacher of Baroque dance. She studied with Wendy Hilton and taught for her at the annual Baroque Music and Dance Workshops at Stanford University, USA. Philippa is currently guest teacher of Period Movement and Dance at the *Royal Welsh College of Music & Drama*, Cardiff, and the *Bristol Old Vic Theatre School*. She is Artistic Director of *Consort de Danse Baroque* and as such choreographs in the Baroque style for the company's productions; she also teaches, performs and gives lecture-demonstrations throughout the UK and abroad.

Andrew Wilson-Dickson is a musical polymath: as a composer he has had his music, from chamber music to operas, commissioned and broadcast by the BBC and supported by the Arts Council and other foundations. As a keyboard player (a pupil of John Lill and Nicolas Danby) he gives piano and organ recitals, plays chamber music with a number of groups and leads the Welsh Baroque Orchestra from the harpsichord. After 20 years teaching at the Royal Welsh College of Music and Drama he was recently awarded an honorary fellowship. A reduction in his teaching commitments now allows him to make music more – on paper and in concert. He also conducts the only choir in Wales specialising in early choral music.

Together, Philippa and Andrew will guide us through the intricacies of Baroque dance, using some of the incomparable dances from Purcell's *Fairy Queen*. These are some of Philippa's favourite dances, and studying them will complete our study of Purcell's masterpiece, following on from John Hancorn's workshop held this year at Stockenny. The dances will occasionally be interspersed with some of the lovely choruses we studied then, giving the dancers a chance to rest their feet and exercise their voices, or just listen to the music. Andrew will play the harpsichord, lead from it and guide the singers and instrumentalists.

Not all the details are in place yet, and the level of intricacy of the dances taught will depend on the experience of the participants, but a chaconne will certainly be included. It might also be possible for Philippa to demonstrate some duets while we sing and play.

This promises to be a lively, vibrant workshop in which instrumentalists, singers and dancers may all participate. The AGM will also be held, briefly as usual, during the lunch break. More details and entry forms will be included in the next newsletter.

Fran Johnstone