



DESPATCHES

Issue No.24

WEAR YOUR POPPY WITH PRIDE!

October 2006

Welcome to the Autumn “round up” to get you back to the past, today! A busy Summer has seen events throughout Europe and some old favourites returning with a new lease of life. The Twinwoods airfield Glenn Miller Festival featured the new Fashion Show ‘Decades of our Time’ taking a journey in clothing and dance styles from 1919 through to 1939. New dance events and smaller afternoon social dances are appearing.

Our update opens this month with a resumé of some of our top events – if your event is missing, it is because we haven’t heard from you and we have limited space! We aim to keep ‘up to date’ but we do have a broad spectrum to follow!

A subject very close to our heart is the emerging interest in dance music from the 1920s and 30s. For so long we have seen ‘wartime’ dances feature only faster American music which allows you to jive and jitterbug. We are so pleased to see the spectrum of musical interest increasing to add a more authentic flavour with the foxtrot, quickstep, shag and balboa returning to the dance floor. The great dancebands of the 30s were so popular in the early war years we are delighted to hear DJs explore a rich source of recorded material. If you want to hear more, come to :

The TIGER RAG CLUB – described by Matt Nunn (the Master of Ceremonies) as ‘the hottest nightspot this side of 1935’ – he really means it too! Matt takes a beautiful period building in the centre of the charming village of Eye and ‘builds the set’ literally! From the bar, to lighting, stage design and wall space – right down to the cabaret style table decorations, you will see examples of the art deco era assembled in great period detail. Our old chum ‘Swingshift’ will be spinning the wax cylinders on the **8th October** – why not come up for the weekend and return on Sunday afternoon (9th) for the tea dance where you can experience a lighter afternoon over the Assam and Earl Grey with “OK for Sound” providing the sounds. Drop in to <http://www.tiger-rag.co.uk/> for photographs and the latest news. *You can also sample the delicious vintage clothing on sale by the lovely Ange.*

Hoc and Mark celebrate TEN years of teaching Lindy Hop throughout Bedfordshire with **The SPIRELLA BALL** on the **2nd December** – those of you in the know, will have admired the qualities of vintage ladies corsets previously– *I say!* The venue is stunning – built between 1912 and 1920, ‘Castle Corset’ has been lovingly restored. The magnificent ballroom promises a stylish evening of dance music from the 1920s through to the 1950s with top DJs including Swingshift. **The fantastic HEP CHEPS are providing the live music and tickets are only £12 in advance!** Letchworth Garden City is just off Junction 9 of the A1. You can also congratulate the lovely couple on their recent marriage which took place in Sheringham on the Poppy Line Steam Railway – hurrah! Pick up the ‘phone now and call 01767 680013 to make sure you don’t miss out. Tickets are LIMITED as the beautiful restored art deco ballroom has restrictions on numbers – don’t be disappointed!



The SPIRELLA Ballroom is playing host to Hoc & Mark’s Anniversary Ball

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THE INTERNATIONAL CLUB has a stylish new venue - Mr. Fletcher's regular monthly musical meander brings you hot jazz, 1930s dance bands and swing music interwoven with vintage recordings from all over the world. Make contact with Andrew directly at the1930sclub@aol.com for the latest dates - the venue is the "Anna G", a converted 1930s French barge moored on Albert Embankment. Superb!

The season of mellow fruitfulness to chase off the modern frightfulness! Autumn calls . . . go to it!

Why not drop in to the comprehensive online listing at www.40s.events.ukonline.co.uk - you will find a range of events and activities here to interest you – it is up to date and worth keeping on the 'favourites' bar!

OCTOBER (*Step lively for these events . . . !*)

QUORN JUMP JIVE at the Quorn Village Hall, Leicester Rd, Quorn. Nr Loughborough. Leicestershire on Saturday 7th October 2006, 8pm till late. Tickets in advance £3.50. Contact Lin-D-Hop 01455 843292.

OPERATION AJAX is the Lincolnsfield Tribute World War 2 Weekend on the 7th & 8th October 2006. This show is at the old headquarters of the USAAF 8th Fighter Command, Bushey Hall, Bushey Hall Drive, Bushey, Herts, WD23 2ES. There will be living history displays, vehicles and stalls at the show. On the Saturday Night there will be a Buffet Dinner Dance where living history, vehicle owners and stall holders pay £15 per ticket and public £20 per ticket for the dance. Contact during office hours for general enquires, advance tickets and dance tickets call 01923 233841 (10% off pre-booked tickets) or email fmclennan@lincolnsfields.co.uk

The annual 'Railway at War' weekend on the North Yorkshire Moors Railway returns on October 13, 14 & 15th. This is a long-standing event commemorating the role played by Britain's railways during WW2. Lots to see and do - ENSA shows, dance tents with lessons and exhibitions of wartime memorabilia and events. LeVisham in "occupied France" can be visited on Saturday & Sunday. Wartime food is available. The Yanks take over Pickering Station with a camp and field hospital. Wreath laying services are held on Sunday at the main stations. Evening trains will run from Grosmont to Pickering for those attending dances and dinners on Friday & Saturday. Re-enactors can get discounted tickets for travel and Groups who can offer scenarios are always welcome. For details contact: geoffreyapearson@mac.com. There are a number of dances throughout the weekend and you may wish to review best options with the seasoned campaigners on the ground! Anyway, the dances currently include:

1940s DANCE at the Recreation Club on Friday October 13th 2006. Tickets from Alan or Jane on 01751 472057

SWING DANCE at Lady Lumley School, Friday October 13th 2006 'STICKY WICKET BIG BAND' + G.I. Jive + Moggies Music Memories. The Saturday night see the Jive Aces and G.I. Jive with Moggies Music Memories at the same venue. Bring your own booze, pay on the door £10. For all the background and details ring Moggie on 01246 230576.

NYMR SWING DANCE - Saturday October 14th 2006 at The Northern Events Arena on the edge of Pickering. Dancing to The Memphis Belle Swing Orchestra and G.I Jive Licensed Bar and snacks available. Special train will run from Grosmont and Goathland to the dance, returning at 11.45 pm. Tickets and full details at this late stage from the railway 01751 472508 – this dance has supper and there may be tickets on sale on the door – pick up the 'phone now!

1940s DANCE at the Recreation Club, Saturday October 14th 2006, dancing to DJ Peter J Baker, 7.30-late! *This year the theme is Occupied Paris!* Tickets are £8, please include a SAE and please make cheques payable to Kate O'Mara. **No tickets will be available for sale on the door.** Send cheques to: Kate O'Mara, Pegasus House, 71 Keldgate, Beverley, HU17 8HU. Tickets in advance contact Kate (after 1pm please!) on 07986 883384

NOVEMBER

The noble and gallant Lord and Lady Bayley bring you their 1940s DANCE at the Sevenoaks Playhouse, Sevenoaks, Kent. 7-30 to 11-30 on the 11th November 2006. This popular dance brings you music of the 1940s in an Art Deco venue. Music from Terry Elliott's 'Sentimental Journey', dress Code: 1940s Allied uniform, 1940s Civilian, or black tie. Tickets in ADVANCE ONLY at £7. Details from Lord Bayley or his faithful Butler, Winthrop, on 01732 452505

The popular and lively STAGEDOOR CANTEEN returns on the 18th November to Pratts Bottom Village Hall – call Terry on 0207 515 8981 or Miss Debbie on 0208 460 2830 for tickets and more details. It will be a great night!

DECEMBER

1940s dance on the 9th December at the Guildhall in Thetford – location for the 'Dad's Army' television series – in aid of the East Anglian Children's Hospice – try and get along to support this one and tickets are only £4.00 – great opportunity to shout "Don't tell him Pike" and "you stupid boy" for the whole evening – call Cathy for details on 01842 760311

Khaki Pete with the off-white feet . . . we go . . . we come back. Copyright be dashed – print it – share it – do it!

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