

Maureen Knight interviews Madeleine Smith on 10 September 2015

Content: Madeleine is a dancer, musician and caller who has a long history with Halsway.

Madeleine talked about:

learning to dance at Night School in Lancashire & summer school on Wirral before she came to Halsway

Pat Shaw holiday weeks at Halsway in the early 70s, playing Pat Shaw's recently written dance "Round Pond" a canon, on whistles with Pat, Chris Carpenter (Forest Band) and Peter Boyce, learning Bacca Pipe Morris

moving south in the early 80s, and being booked as caller for holiday week which included Prince Charles wedding (29 July 1981) which they watched on TV. Musician was Heather Bexon and in evening dances with appropriate titles like "Virgin's Frolic"

influence of Halsway folk camps on sons' musical development

brought Vic and Ed to Folk camp at Halsway in 80s/90s, stayed in huge room (11) over the bar daily Morris/ rapper sword/long sword/playing/singing

fearless kids used library to look up songs to sing in the evening

benefits of whole week immersed in folk activity with encouraging leaders like Dave Brown and Pete Hendy (TT63)

learned "change ringing" on handbells with Pete.

Vic is now a serious folk musician and bell ringer, Tower captain at Warwick University and started Rapper (Sword) club there (Ceilidh club previously started by Wright's daughter, not Caroline of Focus Pocus)

Vic Smith plays accordion and keyboard with Mollie Koenigsberger in Double Dichotomy at major folk festivals

Ed Smith, music degree with dissertation about Folk music (Paul Sartin mentioned)

Madeleine had 60th birthday (March 2006) at Halsway with Ali Messer/Ellicote and sons as band... Madeleine decided dances and programme which included Running Set.

Favourites: stepping dances like Dorset 4-hand, Running Set; anything by Pat Shaw because of the flowing tunes; Playford eg Mr Beveridge's Maggot

uncertain if GUSTO (scheme for training folk dancers, caller and musicians) ever at Halsway, but at Halsway everyone develops by having a go, playing with other people, picking up how folk music should be played.

Tai Chi under the trees

Community choir from Oxford came to Halsway around 5 years ago for singing and dancing including Maypole

learned Folk Harp with Moira Gutteridge at Halsway musician courses

Halsway is a "wonderful, wonderful place" and its like "coming home"