



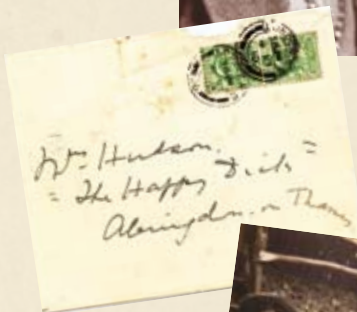
THE MARY NEAL DAY

Saturday 7 February 2009

2-11pm

CECIL SHARP HOUSE, LONDON

Chronology of Mary Neal's life and story



- 1860: Born Clara Sophia 5 June
- 1888: West London Mission as 'Sister Mary'
- 1891: Meets Emmeline Pethick
- 1895: Espérance Club set up
- 1900: Green Lady Hostel, Littlehampton
- 1905: Visits Cecil Sharp for songs and dances for Espérance party
- 1906: Teaching girls in Somerset, Devon, Derbyshire, Monmouth, Norfolk, Surrey and London. Mary takes WSPU minutes
- 1907: Set To Music dedicated to 'C#'.
Morris Book dedicated to Espérance Club.
Punch Cartoon 'Merrie England Once More'
- 1908: Suffragette Rally Hyde Park, 300,000
- 1909: Differences voiced. Sharp 'accuracy' v Neal 'zest'; 'Blizzard' of letters follows
- 1910: Travels to US with Florrie Warren
- 1911: The Espérance Morris Book.
Blanche Payling to Thaxted.
English Folk Dance Society started by Sharp
- 1912: Proposes national debate at Stratford Festival.
WSPU ejects Pethick Lawrences. Mary leaves too.
Shakespeare's England at Earl's Court
- 1914: Outbreak of WWI. Espérance Club closes
- 1914-18: Pensions Office, Isle of Dogs
- 1918: Sussex 'Interlude'. Adopts two boys
- 1924: Cecil Sharp dies
- 1925: St Flora's Road, Littlehampton. Becomes JP
- 1928: Women vote on same terms as men
- 1930: Donates to Cecil Sharp House Fund
- 1937: Awarded CBE. Writes Autobiography
- 1938: Visits Stow with Abingdon Morris
- 1940: Lives with Pethick Lawrences, Surrey
- 1942: Works for Gallup Survey
- 1944: Dies in sleep 22 June



Introduction

Welcome to Cecil Sharp House and the first public celebration of the life and work of Mary Neal CBE. The occasion marks a special day for us at the English Folk Dance and Song Society: the historic and symbolic start of a reconciliation between the stories of the Folk Revival's main collaborators, Mary Neal and Cecil Sharp.

The donation of Neal's Archive to the Vaughan Williams Memorial Library allows us to see these stories side by side for the first time; to celebrate their combined achievements and understand the pioneering contributions made by women and children to the inheritance of English folk song and dance. It's a wonderful day of events which we trust you'll enjoy.

Katy Spicer, *Chief Executive EFDSS*

Mary Neal was a social reformer, a folk revivalist, a suffragette, a journalist, a magistrate, an adoptive mother and clearly something of a party girl. The Neal family are glad to place her papers where they can be found by people who care about the things she cared about herself: celebrations of singing and dancing up and down the land.

She believed in the power of people to connect through song and dance, of social exchange and the bursts of creative energy that provide life with its moments of inspiration and re-invention.

The Mary Neal Project delights in opening an old box to create something new: an encounter between an exceptional range of contemporary arts and English folk practitioners to mark the handing of her papers into the public domain and safe-keeping of the Vaughan Williams Memorial Library.

The action recognises the need to honour not only Mary's truth – her life story and a dedication to children and social justice – but the lives also of other young women who played a significant part in the English Folk Song and Dance Revival.

Open four nights a week for nearly 20 years for the sewing girls of Somerstown, the Espérance Club held classes in singing, dancing, acting, literature, journalism, workers' rights, folk lore, art and 'topics of the day'. Some of this activity is re-created today. The Club's own public performances were clearly transformative: for the girls themselves, Mary, their audiences, Cecil Sharp and for English folk history. How did that happen? It can be hard to track change from which much else flows, when it first takes place in the imagination.

When singing and dancing, Mary would tell Club members to imagine they "are their great-great grandfathers and great-great grandmothers dancing on the village green, and that there is no audience, but that they are only to enjoy themselves in the best possible way". So, wherever your ancestors hail from, we invite you to imagine the same. Choose your activity and join in!

Lucy Neal



Programme for the day

PART 1: DAY

2.00 **Welcome to the day**

Shirley Collins MBE, President, EFDSS

Mary Neal CBE 1860-1944 Her life and work

Michael Neal, Lucy Neal, Rhett Krause, Lal Hitchcock, Fleur Hitchcock, Andrew Dickson, Baroness Helena Kennedy QC and Mary Jo Searle.

"Daily life was more interesting when she was present"

3.00 **Our dance**

Children from Edith Neville Primary School, Somerstown and Bentley C of E Primary School, Hampshire

3.30 **Handover of the Mary Neal Papers to the Vaughan Williams Memorial Library**

Janet Foster, Lucy Neal, Malcolm Taylor and Keri Myers

For As Many As Will Celebratory Lemon Drizzle Cake

baked by Mary Holdsworth

4.15-6.30 **"We made singing, dancing and acting our chief occupations"**

Afternoon activities take place concurrently in Kennedy (the main hall upstairs), and in rooms downstairs:

Trefusis (downstairs):

4.15-5.15 **Children's ceilidh**

Nonny Tabbush, Paul Tabbush, Colin Cotter and caller Carolyn Robson

5.15-6.15 **Dance workshop (open to all)**

Abingdon Morris and New Esperance Morris

Storror (downstairs):

4.15-5.45 **Open creative workshop exploring rhythm and music with song and dance steps, old and new**

Laurel Swift, Freddie Opoku-Addaie, Benji Kirkpatrick, Miranda Rutter, Chris Rook and Azzurra Ardovini. Come and watch!

The Bridge Theatre Studio (downstairs):

5.15-6.15 **Singing workshop**

Sam Lee





Throughout the afternoon:

Outside in the garden: bread baking in brick oven

Master Baker, Lee Parvin

Kennedy (the main hall): A stitch in time – sewing and making workshop

Tabitha Neal

Kennedy (the main hall):

Mary Neal's story resonates today. How are English traditions inherited and how do they connect to practices of singing and dancing?

Join five conversations being held between people who have a great deal to say on the matter! All will be recorded so you don't have to miss anything.

4.15-5.00

- **Ron Smedley and Jonathan Burrows:** Ron Smedley, who, along with Bob Parker was a visiting teacher at the Royal Ballet School 1969-1989, talks with choreographer Jonathan Burrows about the legacy and influence of Morris teaching within the school and beyond. Facilitator: Katy Spicer, Chief Executive, EFDSS
- **The roles of creativity in tradition and tradition in creativity**
Leading performer of the English concertina and founder of Folkworks, Alistair Anderson talks here with Sam Lee, singer and folk animateur about the room for personal interpretation within the structure of folk traditions of song and dance. Facilitator: Shirley Collins, MBE

5.00-5.45

- **Mary Neal – pioneer of participatory arts practice**

Working within an intercultural frame, what inspiration do today's practitioners take from the Espérance Club experiment? Sean O'Hagan and Phil Calloway, Heads of Edith Neville and Bentley Primary Schools talk with Fabio Santos, Director, Project Phakama and Rachel Elliott, Director of Education, EFDSS. Facilitator: Anna Ledgard, Producer and Arts Education Consultant

- **What's so magic about an archive?**

Malcolm Taylor, Director of the Vaughan Williams Memorial Library and Doc Rowe, documentor extraordinaire and serial-archivist explain what interests them about the photos, books, old letters and papers that bring historic events to life. Facilitator: Dr Heike Roms, Lecturer in Performance Studies

5.50-6.30 Storrow (downstairs)

- **The US Trip:** In 1910, Mary Neal and Espérance Teacher, Florrie Warren, sailed to the US on a lecture demonstration tour. Her daughter Vida Olinick Brown, dancer and ballet mistress at New York City Ballet under George Balanchine, and Rhett Krause, long-term US morris and rapper dancer talk about the impact on their own lives of the visit 100 years on. Facilitator: Robin Deacon, Artist and Writer.

6.30 Supper available in café

Please note that food and drink are available in the café and bar all day

PART II: EVENING (Kennedy)

7.30-9.15 CONCERT – a programme of traditional songs and dances, and some new inventions.

New Esperance Morris

Laurel Swift, Benji Kirkpatrick, Miranda Rutter,

Freddie Opoku-Addaie, Chris Rook and Azzurra Ardevini

Alistair Anderson

Abingdon Morris

Jim Moray

Please note: this running order could change!

9.15 until late

CEILIDH

The Glowworms, Laurel Swift, Colin Cotter,

Jon Brenner and caller, Cat Kelly

End of evening: launch of www.maryneal.org

with Katherine Green



"The dancers are now supposed to be somewhat weary after the day's revels. There is in this dance a suggestion of pleasant fatigue and a home going through the lanes and meadows to the cottage, to supper and to bed".





Thanks

Many people have contributed to today's celebrations. Thanks to all those cited in the programme and especially to Laurel Swift and Freddie Opoku-Addaie for leading the dance.

And to:

New Esperance Morris:

Mary Jo Searle, Susan Rose, Fiona Anderson, Hazel Lapierre, Nancy Potts, Diane Moody, Hilda Dedic, Julia Hickman, Cressida Carr, Miryam Boston and Ryoko Ouyama

Abingdon Morris:

Roger Cox, Dave Spiers, Stuart Jackson, Duncan Brown, Neil McKay, Steve Mclean, Keith Hardiman, Tony Legge, Steve Cox, Pete Hogan, Leslie Argyle, Ewart Hemmings, Dave Beaver and Dave Levy

Bentley C of E Primary School. Class 6:

George Barfoot, Yasmin Bedwell-Garcia, Ellis Bennett, Joanna Caddick, Luca Carlisle, Daisy Clarke, Alicia Cooper, Callum Creaser, Sophie Croft, Darcy Dawson-Siggs, Charlotte Desmond, Charlotte Faulkner, Alastair Fox, Oliver Gowans, Gabriel Hawks, Cicely Hayes, James Hearn, Aran Hendren, Ella Kennett, James Kenyon, Scarlet Mayes, Lauren Menzies, Adam Murphy, Charlotte Nutt, Bille Price, Toby Remington, Henry Robertson, Eleanor Rodger, Lucy Siers, Alexander Toft, Matilda White and Cyrus Wong.

Teachers: Chris Smallwood and Jan Elliott.

Head: Phil Calloway.

Edith Neville Primary School. Classes 4, 5

and 6: Noor Sharaf, Khowla Yusuf, Shazia Begum, Suman Khatun, Kolsuma Begum, Tanzania Begum, Hanifa Begum, Abid Ahmed, Giovanni Pilla, Raisa Ahmed, Fahmida Begum, Brian King and Shazia Begum.

Teachers: Shahinaz Yousef and Amy Crowther.

Head: Sean O Hagan.

For The Mary Neal Project

Director: Lucy Neal OBE

Programme Manager: Ruth Holdsworth

Learning Manager: Ally Walsh

Production Manager: Andrew Siddall

Archivist: Janet Foster

Photography: Simon Maggs and

Meritxell Bonas

Maker and stitcher: Tabitha Neal

Stage Manager: Alan James

Master Baker: Lee Parvin

Lemon cake: Mary Holdsworth

Visual artist: Sally McKay

Website design by Katherine Green

and Richard Lonsdale at Red Leader

Souvenir Programme by

Susan Rentoul Design

Bill Warder – Unicorn Sound

With help from: Julia Rowntree,

Nita Needham, Emily Pethick, Chris

Thompson, Hilary Jennings, Emily Robbins,

John Holdsworth, Tim Miles, Gub Neal,

Tom Neal, Harriet Thrody and Rosemary Lee

For the University of Winchester,

Faculty of Arts:

Professor June Boyce Tillman,

Professor Anthony Dean and Dr Inga Bryden

For Project Phakama

Alpha Thiam, Abdoul Diallo, Moussa Keita,

Jake Boston, Noelle Mapianda, Regis Gnaly,

Placide Lushima, Milad Paladzadeh,

Fabio Santos and Ines Tércio

For EFDSS

President: Shirley Collins MBE

Chief Executive: Katy Spicer

Education Director: Rachel Elliott

Library Director: Malcolm Taylor OBE

Archivist: Keri Myers

London Links Officer: Sam Lee

EFDSS, all Staff and Volunteer Team

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WINCHESTER



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Photo courtesy of Vida, Cicely and Dorothy, daughters of Florrie Warren