

# Mike Ruff Christmas News 2019

Season's Greetings to you all. 2019 has been a bit different with a more family and fun time but still plenty of work to keep me out of mischief. The mAy team continues to grow, Allcock and Brown are still going and Talks are becoming a more major aspect of my work. Meanwhile I am still doing Barn Dances, running classes, training teachers and teaching Brownies and performing at Care Homes.

***the mAy team get the glory*** – More gigs and more people involved. We had new shows at Castle Howard where we renewed our acquaintance with Anita Rani and Pudsey and Wisley where we were very close to the Duchess of Cambridge and Mary Berry. With 15 performance days were busier than ever and next year is already looking equally busy. For more see our new website <http://themayteam.co.uk/>

***Allcock and Brown*** had major events for Heston British Legion and the Bluebell Railway and recorded some songs for the next Back in Time series which should be out in the New Year. We now have new material specifically for VE Day and are already booked to perform at the Bluebell Railway and RHS Wisley. Keep track of us at [www.allcockandbrown.co.uk](http://www.allcockandbrown.co.uk)

***Talks*** – possibly the best year yet with some new topics as well; Songs and Dances of the Napoleonic Period, History and Literature of Country Dance with real Dancing. The superb Langham Hotel in Eastbourne gave me two night's accommodation as well as my fee. The next book which ties in with many of these talks is now taking shape and has become one of the major priorities for the new year.

Meanwhile I am still doing work with local Brownie groups, Care Homes, Museums and plenty of Barn Dances with Quicksilver, other bands and recorded music. I'm now in my third year of teaching classes at Cecil Sharp House where I have now trained up a possible successor.

My mother turned 90 this year and I have spent a lot more time with her in Tunbridge Wells particularly in the early part of the year before we were able to arrange for her to have a live-in carer. My brother got married again in May which involved a four day celebration near Wilmslow and I managed to fit in a school reunion the same weekend.

Dance classes are now a bigger part of my life as I pursue greater fitness and I am trying to get to the next level in Baroque dance as well as other non-folk dance styles. A long weekend break in Edinburgh was arranged to coincide with the Early Dance Circle Festival which was much more fun than I anticipated and I managed short breaks in Bournemouth and Ackworth for the Easter Gathering.

Lots more on all these stories on the website ..... soon