

Join us at 7:30 pm on February 28 on Zoom

ANNUAL LECTURE 2025



Reconstructing 17th Century Maypole Dance:
Dance, Experience, Culture

Bryony May Kummer-Seddon,
Associate Lecturer, University of Lincoln

Bryony May Kummer-Seddon is a lecturer, artist, and theatre practitioner, undertaking a PhD in Performing Arts at the University of Lincoln. She has taught theatre design internationally and has presented at the Prague Quadrennial. Formerly Head of the Technical Theatre Department at Edna Manley College (Jamaica), she helped arrange the 2017 Rex Nettleford International Conference. In 2019 her project won an Ivor Guest Research Grant from the Society for Dance Research. See: <https://www.bryonmaykummer-seddon.com/>

Bryony's lecture will explore the reconstruction of historic maypole dancing, and its associated traditions, with a focus on seventeenth century England. It will define maypole dances and discuss how a lack of research in this area has affected modern ideas of the dance. Reconstruction and its paraphernalia, will be woven into an image of maypole dances in the 1600s. Locating maypole traditions within 17th

century culture, Bryony May will explore how dancers may have experienced these practices, and what kind of relationship they may have had with maypole traditions. Finally, she will look at the differences between modern and 17th century maypole dances, some of maypole dancing's more general history, and highlight its many forms and contexts in England and beyond.

*After Bryony's lecture, Mike Ruff will tell us something about how he and others, such as Anne Hinchliffe, use Maypoles to introduce traditional dance to a diverse range of groups. Mike bought his first Maypole in 1997, soon began working with teachers and eventually co-wrote *The Maypole Manual* with Jenny Read, now in its 2nd edition. See the website at*

<https://the-maypole-manual.co.uk/>

How to Connect

The Annual Lecture 2025 will be on Zoom. The Lecture is free to attend but requires registration with Eventbrite. The direct link is on the EDC website and on our social media. See <https://www.earlydancecircle.co.uk/events/#Lecture>. You can also use this shortcut <https://tinyurl.com/48dhtzuw> or scan the QR code to find the event.



There are two options to register. One includes a voluntary donation, and the other does not. Donations are greatly appreciated.

The Zoom link will be available after registration on the Eventbrite page and sent to the supplied email address. If you have problems with Eventbrite, don't hesitate to contact Sharon at secretary@earlydancecircle.co.uk