

# Mike Ruff Christmas News 2025



Wishing you all a wonderful Christmas and a Peaceful New Year.

Plenty has been going on although it is hard to believe there have actually been fewer gigs, probably about half. I have had more time to do other fun things, like visiting friends and I even have some pictures to show you.

I've been dancing and playing . Baroque dance in Bury St Edmunds, a Tap Dancing class performance in Radlett and Morris dancing in St Albans, Westminster, Ripley and a Cotswold tour.



Saddleworth Rushcart leaving Delph where my brother lives. The chap on top is a real person and the cart, pulled by dozens if Morris Dancers, travels at quite a speed.



Three Maypole events in North Wales, London and Cambridge and added some notes to the Early Dance Circle Annual Lecture about Maypoles in History. Now gradually getting others to take over a lot.

I have been smartening up my flat with some overdue repairs and replacements as well as some lovely artworks that give me great pleasure – and it's nice to impress my visitors.

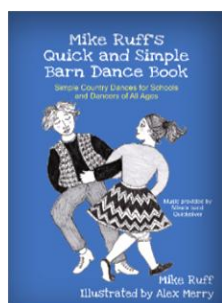


Two trips to Manchester for Manchester Grammar School – Founders Day in March and an Old Boys dinner in November, where we sat under Concorde's wings having first, very briefly, sat inside the plane. Other trips to the Wirral, Yorkshire and Oxford and meeting with friends locally and in London as well as concerts and theatre trips.

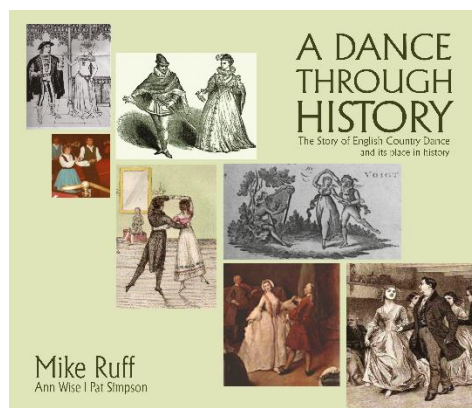
We had a lovely quiet celebration of what would have been Dad's 100<sup>th</sup> birthday at a Czech restaurant. Other family celebrations have taken place or are planned for next year. My nephews are all well established in Brussels, Cologne and Toronto with their respective partners while my niece has just moved with her partner to Dorset.



My talks on the Music Hall continue to be popular and led to a reunion gig for Allcock and Brown. Stevenage Museum invited me to join their Jane Austen celebrations by giving a talk and dance workshop. Quicksilver had a few bookings some of which were quite like old times with lots of happy dancing people and a big loud sound to remind me how it used to be most weeks – wouldn't want to do that too often but there is at least one good one lined up for next year



Meanwhile in the background I have been working on my books. The Barn Dance Book has had a revamp and came out in May while the big History of Country Dance has suffered many delays and despite our best efforts is not quite ready for Christmas – but it is getting close. Out soon and well worth the wait.



*In theory there will be more information on my website and occasionally on Facebook but I am always happy to chat and answer questions. Have a great year everyone!*

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