

WCCP Autumn 2026 Residential Weekend

16th- 18th October at Wellington School

EVENT DESCRIPTION

The October weekend has colloquially been known as the “Beginners’ Weekend”; however, this year there is no ‘absolute beginners’ provision, and below is musical guidance from each tutor with an example of the minimum expected standard for each group. There will be opportunity for you to change tutor groups once you are at the weekend if you wish.

POST-BEGINNERS: have only been playing a very short time and have some idea of the layout of the instrument.

IMPROVERS: have been playing for some months, can understand the layout of the fingerboard including F#, C# and Bb and may read music a little.

INTERMEDIATE PLAYERS: can play with some fluency at a modest tempo and may read music.

There is no requirement to be able to read music – many players don’t – though you may be provided with music by your tutors.

Main teaching sessions:

English post-beginners will be run by Adrian Waters. *‘At the start of the course, I would expect my post-beginners to be able to find the starting notes and to play the [following 6-note piece](#) slowly and steadily, without pauses to find buttons.’*

Anglo post-beginners will be led by Mike Long. *‘The entry standard is being able to play a simple melody on the right hand of the concertina - for example [Twinkle, Twinkle Little Star](#) - in the key of C.*

Anglo Improvers will be led by Andrew Collins. *‘Workshops will be based on the Anglo Concertina in C/G, so please bring one of those. We’ll start with straightforward English folk tunes in the keys of G & Em (for example *Three Around Three* or *The Rochdale Coconut Dance*). We’ll play melodies with the right hand, (so we will be using those high notes on the right-hand G row) and playing accompaniment on the left hand. We begin with tunes that are straightforward to play in this way, and progress to some which are less so, exploring the challenges as we go. If time permits, we will look at tunes in D. Some sheet music and recordings will be available in advance.*

English Ensemble is once again led by Sally Barrett. *‘Over the weekend we’ll be working on three or four pieces, each in two or three parts. I encourage everyone to have a go at each part to get the flavour of how the lines fit together and support each other. Tunes may be in any of the keys of G, C, D, A or F, and may reach up to top D as in bar 10 of the tune in the link. We will [NOT be using this tune](#) as it is one from last year and included just as a guide to the approximate level of the English Ensemble Workshops. We may go on an adventure down below the stave too. We’ll be looking at ways to use the bellows and buttons for expression and generally bring the music out of the dots. Music will be given out at the time. Hopefully we’ll have a*

bit of fun together too, and my mantra for the weekend will, as always, be.... Don't Panic!

All Duet systems will be led by Paul McCann and Pam Bishop. *'Participants should at least be able to play the G-major Basic arrangement of [Ten Green Bottles](#) with confidence and make a fair crack at the rest of the page.'*

Band for all systems led by Paul Barrett. For those confident in playing their instrument.

Our song accompaniment course this year will be led by Keith Kendrick who sings and accompanies himself on both English and Anglo Concertinas. Keith will be supported by Sylvia Needham who plays duet concertina.

Options sessions – Rounds will be led by Adrian Waters again this year.

Chris Reid will do 2 stand alone sessions, Hornpipes around England and Cotswold Morris Tunes.

Martin Henshaw will lead Slow Tunes.

Details of all sessions will be sent to you nearer the weekend for you to choose which ones, if any, you wish to join.

Steve Dickinson will be providing the concertina repair facility.

However, at the time of booking opening, we are not expecting Barleycorn Concertinas to be able to attend this year, sadly.

All these opportunities are in addition to and outside the main system teaching, so you won't be missing anything.

A limited number of club instruments are available to borrow for all systems. Anglo tuition is on C/G instruments. The relaxed evening playing sessions remain on the programme, with a tutor showcase (open to the public) on Saturday evening.

If you have any questions about any aspect of the course, please drop the team an email: Tess at chrisandtessreid@gmail.com or Alex at wccpalex@gmail.com