

THE 42nd ANNUAL EDC EARLY DANCE FESTIVAL

24 – 26 October 2025
Bury St Edmunds Guildhall
Guildhall Street, IP33 1PR



THE PROGRAMME

FRIDAY	18:00	Reception opens
	18:30	Welcome
	19:30 – 21:00	Dr Matthew Spring will speak about “Music and Dance in the context of 15 th century Tournament Culture,” with a focus on the Smithfield Tournament of 1467. Drinks & a light supper included.
SATURDAY	9:00	Festival Reception opens for rehearsals
	13:00 – 17:00	Festival Performances
	18:00 – 19:15	Dinner
	19:45 – 22:15	Dancing with caller Colin Hume & band Red Jelly
SUNDAY	11:00 – 12:30	A special walking tour of Bury St Edmunds’ medieval streets

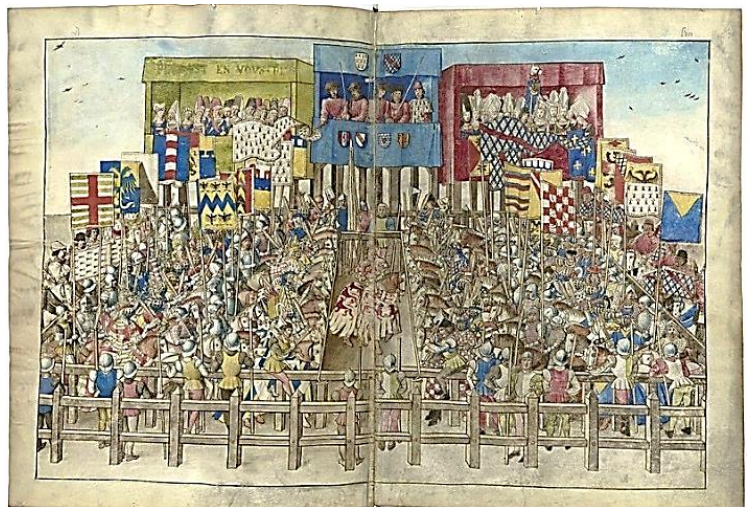
THE 42nd ANNUAL EDC EARLY DANCE FESTIVAL

This is our first visit to Bury St Edmunds and we are very lucky to be celebrating in the historic Guildhall, a medieval Grade 1 listed building, with walled gardens and fine architectural evidence of its long history. Bury St Edmunds is an ancient market town, containing both St Edmundsbury Cathedral and the ancient Abbey, once a major site of pilgrimage. It is also the home of the Greene King Brewery. You can find out more at <https://burystedmundsguildhall.org.uk/our-history/>.

Bury is popular with tourists and has many places to eat and to stay. There is some parking near the Guildhall; <https://burystedmundsguildhall.org.uk/visit/> offers a list of car parks. For those able to extend their stay or relax on Saturday morning, more information about Bury, and the picturesque area surrounding it, will appear in the May Circular.

FRIDAY NIGHT: Matthew Spring is a distinguished academic, now a Visiting Research Fellow at Bath Spa University, who performs with a number of Early Music ensembles and has appeared on over 50 recordings. He teaches regularly at the Chalemie Summer School.

Matthew's talk will be accompanied by a small band of musicians. He will explore the Smithfield Tournament of 1467 within its broader context (illustrated here with a French example).



Turnierbuch des René von Anjou, Paris

Look forward to trumpets and more!

SATURDAY: The morning is busy with private rehearsals by performing groups. Tea and coffee will be available throughout the Festival, but lunch will not be provided on site. Please bring a packed lunch or visit one of the many cafes nearby.

THE FESTIVAL PERFORMANCES will run from 13:00 – 17:00, with the usual sessions of dancing for all. We hope to see plenty of groups sharing the dances they have enjoyed working on together.

THE EVENING ENTERTAINMENT starts with a two-course dinner at 18:00. There is no bar; instead, you may bring your own drinks. For the evening's dancing, we are welcoming back the much-esteemed caller Colin Hume, with the local band Red Jelly. We can look forward to a wide range of traditional dances. Tea, coffee and water will be available all evening (please try to bring your own cups). Our theme this year is Medieval Frolics & Finery! Wear party gear if possible.

SUNDAY: Our weekend ends with a 90-minute guided walking tour of medieval Bury St Edmunds, covering its ancient streets, some of its important buildings and some major events in its 900-year lifetime.

SALES: A limited number of small tables for sales will be available. Please pay when booking, at £10 a table.

BOOKING FORM

- ❖ Places are limited to 80 this year, so please book for the Festival as early as possible. Advance booking is required for the Saturday buffet dinner and reservations for it must be received by **Monday 6 October 2025**.

TO BOOK YOUR PLACE AT THE FESTIVAL, everyone attending and/or performing should send this form, with payment, to: **Michele Odell**, 11 Alton Gardens, Beckenham, Kent BR3 1ND.

Tel. 07515 514 184 Email: bookings@earlydancecircle.co.uk

A booking confirmation will be sent by email.

Make cheques payable to “The Early Dance Circle.” To pay by BACS, email your Booking Form to bookings@earlydancecircle.co.uk and instructions will be provided.

PLEASE PRINT CLEARLY:

NAME

ADDRESS

POST CODE

TEL.

EMAIL

GROUP BOOKINGS

Name of Group:

Please list individual names on a separate sheet, stating clearly whether they are members or non-members.

DO YOU / YOUR GROUP INTEND TO PERFORM? YES / NO

If YES, you will be sent a Registration Form. Please return your completed form as early as you can. We want to welcome as many groups as possible.

Personal Data: The Early Dance Circle (EDC) will not share your data and will use it only to communicate with you about our activities and events in the early dance world.

Filming and Photography: Please be aware that there will be filming and photography at this event. By attending, you accept that photographs and recordings taken by the EDC and its agents may be used in EDC publications, publicity, the EDC website and on line.

HEARING AIDS: Would anyone needing hearing support, please notify Michele well in advance.

The EDC Early Dance Festival

24 – 26 October 2025

Please tick boxes for each person. The Saturday supper must be ordered by Mon. 6/10/25: no refunds are possible after that date. Tea and coffee will be available throughout the Festival, but please bring your own drinking vessel if possible. We would like to stop using single-use plastics (we still have a small supply to use up). Anyone with complex dietary needs should contact Michele Odell at bookings@earlydancecircle.co.uk.

MEMBERS & DANCE MUSICIANS		£10.00	£13.00	£26.00	£10.00	£10.00	£10.00	DIETARY NEEDS: Insert below V for veg. VE for vegan. GF for gluten free. Please note any allergies.	Cost Per Person
NON-MEMBERS		£12.00	£17:00 Students £8	£26.00	£15.00	£10.00	£10.00		
NAME	EDC member Y / N	Drinks, light supper & Lecture	The Festival	Saturday Buffet Supper	Saturday Dance	Sales Table	Guided Tour of Bury St Edmunds' medieval grid		
TOTAL COST									