

‘Chelmsford Assembly’ performed by Seven Straw Braid

Jill Palmer-Swift: ‘The next dance gives our musicians much pleasure and delight, because it’s an absolute pig of a tune! Two tunes, two dances. One of them we particularly like to do here because it’s called ‘Chelmsford Assembly’ – you must say this, they said, you must say this. Chelmsford Assembly, and the other one is called Romford Assembly. They were both from the seventeenth century, and they were written by people who used to go round staying at stately homes and various houses of the rich, and just to please the hosts they called the dance after the place they just visited. So, Chelmsford Assembly and Romford Assembly.

[Music begins]

Recorded by Jim Etheridge at Chelmsford Folk Club, 20 April 1986. Read more about the recording on Essex Archives Online: [SA 30/6/736/1](#)