Hi Folks,

Well, I must say I expected this month’s newsletter to be the smallest one so far – January and February must be the quietest time of the year for Morris activity.

But we have Morris exhibitions, recruitment events, ale feasts, truces, Plough Sunday celebrations, as well as lists of Morris side programmes for 2024 coming through – and some of it is just rhubarb.

A busy time after all – and all covered below in this newsletter.

Harthill Morris have forwarded me an electronic copy of their 2024 dance out flyer which I have simply copied and pasted into the newsletter. If your side produces similar, please send to me at daznugent@sky.com and I will include it. It makes producing this newsletter very easy – it is just a quick copy and paste. (Remember to send me new versions as they change throughout the year.)

Thank you again for your contributions, and please, another request to the other sides that rarely get a mention to send me photos, stories, or even links to social media coverage of your events if you don’t mind me taking material from them for the newsletter. I know it is a cliché, but this is your newsletter to circulate news about your sides’ activities.

I would like to bring your attention a lovely heartwarming story that was in the national media about a brilliant Morris lady. Please take the time to follow the link and read the article, it will bring a tear to your with pride over the joy that one human can bring to others:  

Spring is just around the corner - I can almost smell it in the air. And it is now in the next calendar month, so one last big effort to get through the next few weeks.

Stay warm and take care.

Kindest regards,

**Darren Nugent,**  
Morris Ring North Area Rep,  
daznugent@sky.com
Morris Ring News

ARM: The 2024 Morris Ring ARM on 2nd March 2024. I will be going. Please attend. It is a fun event - I would love to have some company from other sides in our region. Details at: Morris Ring 2024 Annual Representatives Meeting | The Morris Ring

Morris Ring Events:

20th January, Jigs Instructional
2nd March, Morris Ring 2024 Annual Representatives Meeting
13th April, JMO in Newark
27th April, Cambridge Morris Men Centenary Spring Day of Dance
10th May, Helmond Weekend 2024
31st May to 2nd June, Thaxted Weekend of Dance
10th August, Stratford-upon-Avon Day of Dance
23rd – 25th August, Saddleworth Rushcart
28th September, Peterborough Morris Day of Dance
11th – 13th October, The Illustrious Order of Fools & Beasts Unconvention - Birmingham

Morris Ring website: The Morris Ring |

The Morris Ring on Facebook: https://www.facebook.com/TheMorrisRing
Press release from Green Oak Morris:

Morris team celebrate 50 years with new exhibition

Doncaster’s Green Oak Morris have opened an exhibition at the Danum Gallery to mark their 50th anniversary.

The exhibition, called ‘Steps, Sticks and Swords: The Story of Doncaster’s Morris Men’, invites visitors to explore the fascinating history of Morris dancing and related English traditions.

Some of the items on display include a five foot dragon puppet, a Victorian top hat, a longsword used for Yorkshire sword dancing, and a ‘tatter jacket’ worn for wassailing.

The exhibition is suitable for all ages and includes an area for kids to dress-up as Morris dancers!

Neil McGregor from Heritage Doncaster told us, “Morris dancing has such a wonderful and peculiar history. You don’t see that when they’re waving their hankies about, but it’s there waiting to be discovered.

“Green Oak has so many stories to share about this hundreds-year-old tradition. We can’t wait for people to enjoy reading and hearing all about them”.
This free exhibition opened on Saturday 20 January and closes on Saturday 4 March. It will take place in the Community Gallery at Danum Gallery, Library and Museum, DN1 3BZ. For the Gallery’s opening times, visit dglam.org.uk/visit.

Green Oak will bring the exhibition to life by performing a selection of fun and interactive dances in the Gallery. This event is free and will be on Saturday 3 February, 1pm to 2pm. [Photographs credit - Gerald R Sables 2024.]

Green Oak practice on Wednesday nights at Doncaster Brewery Tap, DN1 3EL

**Handsworth Traditional Sword Dancers**

Wednesday night practices at Burton Street Foundation, 57 Burton St, Hillsborough, Sheffield, S6 2HH. 8pm-10pm

Handsworth Traditional Sword Dancers welcome anyone interested in having a go at their form of longsword, which is fast, energetic and dynamic.
Harthill Morris

Harthill Morris held another “Meet the Morris” event on Saturday, 27th January, with some curious promotions:

The event was a session of merriment and joy, with seven coming along expressing a keen interest. Let’s hope they return.

Harthill Morris practice on Thursday nights in the Harthill Village Hall, Winney Hill, Harthill, Sheffield S26 7YL. 7.45pm-9.30pm.
HARTHILL MORRIS
2024 Dance-out Programme

Some of the below dates & events are proposed and yet to be confirmed.

May
Saturday 18th May
Thursday 30th May, 8pm
St. Michael’s Church Fayre, Pleasley
Travellers Rest, High Moor

June
Sunday 9th June, 1pm
Thursday 13th June, 8pm
Thursday 20th June, 8pm
Thursday 27th June, 8pm
Hardwick Inn, Hardwick
The Gate Inn, Troway
Cross Daggers, Coal Aston
Bees Knees, Laneham

July
Thursday 4th July, 8pm
Monday 8th July, 7pm
Saturday 13th July, 12.30pm
Thursday 18th July, 8pm
Saturday 20th July
Thursday 25th July, 8pm
West End Hotel, Killamarsh
Harthill Well Dressing
Harthill Carnival
Duke of Leeds, Wales
Buxton Day of Dance
Jug & Glass, Nether Langwith

August
Thursday 1st August, 8pm
Thursday 8th August, 8pm
The Stag’s Head, Psalter Lane
The Beehive, Harthill

December
Thurs 26th (Boxing Day), 11am & 12pm
Blue Bell Inn & The Beehive, Harthill

Please check our website for up-to-date information & any changes to the above programme:
www.harthillmorris.org.uk
A pleasant meeting occurred at the **Ripley Ale Feast**, on the evening of Saturday, 27th January. Two sides from our region attended – Harthill Morris and Lord Conyers Morris Men.

These two Morris sides have co-existed in neighbouring villages since the mid-70s, and the rivalry has been, now how shall I put it?...... spirited!!! (And spirits may also have made their contribution over the decades...)

However, at the Ripley Ale Feast the attending members from the two rival sides were placed at the same table and, in the true spirit (that word again) of fellowship, an Entente Cordiale was reached.

Photo: Andrew and Jono make a friendly truce – though Andrew looks like he can’t wait for Jono to release his vice grip.

It will be interesting to see how long it lasts. Front row seats for round two are available at the Duke of Leeds, 16 Church St, Wales, Sheffield S26 5LQ, on Thursday, 18th July, from 7.30pm, where these two sides have agreed to reinforce the truce and perform together. I’ll try and get to that one – with camera in hand.

Ripley Ale Feast was a glorious Morris celebration, with visiting sides from far and wide. Plenty of food, lashings of ale, great music, great dancing, and a lot of laughs.

**Lord Conyers Morris Men**

On a very cold Sunday, 7th January, Lord Conyers Morris Men performed as part of the **Plough Sunday celebrations, Southwell**, Nottinghamshire at the kind invitation of Sullivan’s Sword. Numerous pubs were part of the festival, Lord Conyers performed all their dances at the Final Whistle.
I don’t know what he’d done, but here is Andrew Walker running away from his angry Dad, Simon.

Lord Conyers Morris Men
Plough Sunday
The Final Whistle, Southwell
7th January

The local Mafia provided security – though their attempts at being covert didn’t really work.
Planned performances for 2024:

Tuesday, 30th April, Horn Dance at the Trysting Tree, Kiveton Lane, Todwick, Sheffield.

Wednesday, 1st May, 5.30am, May Morning at the Trysting Tree, Kiveton Lane, Todwick, Sheffield.

Friday, 21st – Sunday, 23rd June 2024, Evesham National Morris Weekend

Saturday, 20th July, walking tour of Shardlow, 1pm-8pm

Friday, 9th – Sunday, 11th August 2024, Lord Conyers Morris Men annual weekend at Robin Hoods Bay.

Saturday, 24th August, Saddleworth Rushcart. TBC

Friday, 6th – Sunday, 8th September 2024, Bromyard Folk Festival.

Wednesday night practices at the Duke of Leeds, 16 Church St, Wales, Sheffield S26 5LQ. 7.30pm-9.30pm.
RHUBARB, RHUBARB, RHUBARB!! Wakefield Morris are looking forward to the Rhubarb Festival in Wakefield City Centre on Sunday, 18th February 2024 where they will put on a display of Morris Dancing starting at 11am. The day generally finishes around 3.30pm and usually comprises four dance spots with a lunch break.

The Rhubarb Festival is a very popular event with the general public and large crowds gather to appreciate the entertainment.

Wakefield Morris practice nights are on Mondays at The Kings Way Methodist Church Hall, Ossett, Wakefield, WF5 8ET.
Wath Morris

During the Wath Morris Boxing Day performance they passed leaflets amongst the crowd asking for new recruits to try out Morris in January. This was reinforced with a local social media campaign in early January. The result - they now have five new members learning to dance !!!

On 3rd February they have their Lupercalia event - Billingley Village touring around the houses from 11:00. The event will be attended by Deputy Mayor and Mayoress of Barnsley.

Events coming up:

3rd February 2024, Lupercalia day of dance, Billingley
8th – 10th March 2024, Whitby family weekend
3rd 0 5th May 2024, Wath Festival
15th June 2024, Ebor Day of Dance
29th June 2024, Pretty Villages tour
6th – 8th September, Bainbridge family weekend

Practice nights:
Every Tuesday (October -April), 8pm-10pm at Wath Rugby Club, Moor Road, Wath.

“New members and visitors ALWAYS welcome.”
### North Area Sides - contact and social media details

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sides</th>
<th>Contact Information</th>
<th>Website/Links</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Barnsley Longsword</strong></td>
<td>Andy Cox (<a href="mailto:acox3630@gmail.com">acox3630@gmail.com</a>)</td>
<td>Facebook: Barnsley Longsword</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Green Oak Morris</strong></td>
<td>Ady Horan (<a href="mailto:greenoakdoncaster@gmail.com">greenoakdoncaster@gmail.com</a>)</td>
<td>Weblink Green Oak Morris Men, Doncaster - Home [weebly.com]</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Great Yorkshire Morris</strong></td>
<td>Bob Carter (<a href="mailto:bjcarter@ntlworld.com">bjcarter@ntlworld.com</a>)</td>
<td>Weblink Great Yorkshire Morris [wordpress.com]</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Grimsby Morris Men</strong></td>
<td>Nick Booth (<a href="mailto:bagman@grimsbymorris.org.uk">bagman@grimsbymorris.org.uk</a>)</td>
<td>Weblink <a href="http://www.grimsbymorris.org.uk">www.grimsbymorris.org.uk</a></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Handsworth</strong></td>
<td>James Merryclough (<a href="mailto:handsworthsword@yahoo.co.uk">handsworthsword@yahoo.co.uk</a>)</td>
<td>Facebook: Handsworth Morris</td>
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<td><strong>Traditional Sword Dancers</strong></td>
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<td>Weblink Handsworth - Traditional Sword Dancers <a href="http://handsworthsworddancers.org.uk">handsworthsworddancers.org.uk</a></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Harthill Morris</strong></td>
<td>Lesley Ellam (<a href="mailto:harthill.bagman@gmail.com">harthill.bagman@gmail.com</a>)</td>
<td>Weblink Harthill Morris</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Lord Conyers MM</strong></td>
<td>Peter Yendley (<a href="mailto:lordconyers@gmail.com">lordconyers@gmail.com</a>)</td>
<td>Weblink <a href="http://lordconyers.org.uk">lordconyers.org.uk</a></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Spen Valley Longsword</strong></td>
<td>Dave Webster (<a href="mailto:parkin4man@outlook.com">parkin4man@outlook.com</a>)</td>
<td>Weblink Spen Valley Longsword</td>
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<td><strong>Wakefield Morris</strong></td>
<td>Hazel Parker (<a href="mailto:wakefieldmorris@googlemail.com">wakefieldmorris@googlemail.com</a>)</td>
<td>Weblink WAKEFIELD MORRIS DANCERS</td>
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<td><strong>Wath Morris</strong></td>
<td>Tim Binns (<a href="mailto:wathmorris@aol.com">wathmorris@aol.com</a>)</td>
<td>Weblink Wath Morris New <a href="http://wath-morris.co.uk">wath-morris.co.uk</a></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>White Rose Morris</strong></td>
<td>Dan Baker (<a href="mailto:bagman@whiterosemorrismen.org.uk">bagman@whiterosemorrismen.org.uk</a>)</td>
<td>Weblink White Rose Morris <a href="http://nicksites.net">nicksites.net</a></td>
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**Darren Nugent, Morris Ring North Area Rep.**

daznugent@sky.com
The Morris Ring
The founding National Association of Morris and Sword Dance Clubs