

**The Morris Ring  
North Area  
Newsletter**

**February 2025**



Morris Ring North Area Facebook page: [Facebook](#)

**Hi Folks,**

This is a much shorter newsletter following on from last month's bumper edition – as you would probably expect for a February Morris newsletter.

I, and many others, had a great night at the Ripley Ale Feast in Ashover on 25<sup>th</sup> January. There were four casks of ale (including a delicious stout), a very tasty and generous feast (I had the chilli – it was lovely, really beefy and spicy), lots of music and dancing, with lots of laughing. And in the morning we were spoilt even further with the heartiest of hearty breakfasts.

It was clear that a tremendous amount of hard work and serious planning had gone into creating such a successful weekend. Thank you, Ripley.

And there were representatives from Harthill Morris and Lord Conyers Morris Men at the Ripley Ale Feast, up to their old tricks of pretending to get along – I have photos to prove it (see later).

[Right: Neil Fretwell and David Gelipter from Harthill Morris join in the dancing.]



Thank you for sending in your annual reports for The Morris Ring ARM Newsletter that will be out shortly and will be the last by our hardworking outgoing Bagman, Peter Austin.

On behalf of the Morris Ring North Area, I wish to express our thanks and gratitude for your service, Peter.

You will probably be finalising your 2025 Summer performance season. Please let me know your plans for inclusion in the newsletter.

Harthill Morris have forwarded me an electronic copy of their 2025 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](mailto: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.)

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](mailto:daznugent@sky.com)



# The Morris Ring

The founding National Association of Morris and Sword Dance Clubs

## Morris Ring News

Morris Ring Events:

- 1<sup>st</sup> March 2025, The Morris Ring Annual Representatives Meeting
- 9<sup>th</sup> March 2025, Westminster Morris Dancers Jig Workshop – **fully booked**
- 26<sup>th</sup> April 2025, JMO Day of Dance 2025 hosted by Adlington Morris Men – Stockport
- 17<sup>th</sup> May, Westminster Morris Dancers Day of Dance
- 30<sup>th</sup> May 2025, Thaxted Morris Weekend
- 19<sup>th</sup> July 2025, Anker Morris Men Ring Meeting - Nuneaton
- 22<sup>nd</sup> August, Saddleworth Rushcart Weekend
- 13<sup>th</sup> September, Celebrating 100 years of Morris dancing in Ripley

Please see the excellent Morris Ring website for further details.

Morris Ring website: [The Morris Ring |](http://TheMorrisRing.com)

The Morris Ring on Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/TheMorrisRing>



## North Area Side News / Upcoming Performances

### **Barnsley Longsword**



Last month I reported that we generally don't get news from Barnsley Longsword, but that they are still active because on their Facebook page they announced that they were going to be dancing at The Spencer Arms, Cawthorne on Sunday, 29th December 2024, at 1pm.

I commented that it would be great to get some photos to include in this newsletter.

Well, my wish was granted. Tim Binns from Wath Morris replied with: "Here are pictures from the annual dance out at the Spencer's Arms, Cawthorne (29<sup>th</sup> December). A great show and good seasonal sing in Cawthorne Club afterwards."

And here they are, the legendary Barnsley Longsword:



As these are Barnsley Longsword's first pictures in our newsletter, I thought I would be generous and provide plenty of newsletter space to this amazing looking side.



Thinking about it, I think I have seen them at Thaxted on numerous occasions – the white and lack caps look very familiar. I will keep an eye out this coming Thaxted and get photos and maybe an interview for the newsletter.

A big hearty thank you to Tim Binns at Wath Morris for supplying these wonderful photographs.

### Harthill Morris



It looks almost genuine, doesn't it? Andrew Carr (LCMM) and Neil Fretwell (HM) clearly letting bygones be bygones. Though below you can see Neil glances suspiciously over at Andrew literally seconds after when he thought I had put my camera phone away.



# HARTHILL MORRIS 2025 Dance-out Programme



## April

Sat. 12th Doncaster Day of Dance

## May

Sat. 3rd Wath Festival

Thu. 15th 8:00pm Travellers Rest, High Moor  
Thu. 22nd 8:00pm Sheaf View, Heeley  
Fri. 30th - Sun. 1st Thaxted Morris Weekend

## June

Sun. 8th 1:00pm Hardwick Inn, Hardwick Park  
Thu. 12th 8:00pm The Gate Inn, Troway  
Thu. 19th 8:00pm Cross Daggers, Coal Aston  
Thu. 26th 8:00pm West End Hotel, Killamarsh

## July

Thu. 3rd 8:00pm The Alma, Mosborough  
Mon. 7th 7:00pm Harthill Well Dressing, Doctor Lane  
8:00pm The Blue Bell Inn, Harthill  
Sat. 12th 12:00pm Harthill Carnival  
Sat. 19th Buxton Day of Dance  
Thu. 24th 8:00pm Duke of Leeds, Wales *w/ Lord Conyers Morris*  
Thu. 31st 8:00pm Jug & Glass, Nether Langwith

## August

Thu. 7th 8:00pm The Stag's Head, Psalter Lane, Sheffield  
Thu. 14th 8:00pm The Royal Oak, Ulley  
Thu. 28th 8:00pm The Beehive, Harthill

## September

Sat. 6th Lincoln BIG Morris Festival

## December

Fri. 26th 11:00am The Blue Bell Inn, Harthill  
12:00pm The Beehive, Harthill



## Get in touch!

We're always happy to hear from you, whether you want to join us, book us for your event or share any photos or videos you may have taken of us when performing.

The best way to get in touch with us in the first instance is by emailing our Bagman on the email address below:

[harthill.bagman@gmail.com](mailto:harthill.bagman@gmail.com)



[harthillmorris.org.uk](http://harthillmorris.org.uk)



Please keep an eye on our website for any additional dates or changes to our dance-out programme!



Harthill Morris has been a proud member of The Morris Ring, the founding National Association of Morris and Sword Dance Clubs, since 1981.

## Lord Conyers Morris Men



On Sunday, 12<sup>th</sup> January, Lord Conyers Morris Men were performed at the annual Plough Sunday Festival in Southwell.

It was a cold day, but the vigorous performances kept them warm.

Look at them fly!!



## Wakefield Morris



January started off in the grip of snow and ice but it didn't stop most of us getting to our first practice on the 6<sup>th</sup> January - suitable footwear was very helpful and leading to suggestions that we now devise a Welly Dance.

Alongside our normal Monday evening practices, we had our third Sunday afternoon practice which was well attended by both regular and guest members and was followed by a brief social at The Bier Huis in Ossett.



We are now looking forward to our first dance out in 2025 which will be on Sunday 23<sup>rd</sup> February in Wakefield City Centre as part of the annual Rhubarb Festival when we will be joined by Cutlers Gate from Sheffield and hopefully a Cotswold Morris side. The programme will be as follows:

1100-1145 New WX Building  
1200-1245 Little Westgate  
1345-1430 New WX Building  
1445-1530 Little Westgate

## **North Area Sides - contact and social media details**

**Barnsley Longsword**    Andy Cox    [acox3630@gmail.com](mailto:acox3630@gmail.com)  
Facebook: Barnsley Longsword

**Green Oak Morris**    Peter Heigham    [peter.heigham@gmail.com](mailto:peter.heigham@gmail.com)  
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**Great Yorkshire Morris** Bob Carter    [bjcarter@ntlworld.com](mailto:bjcarter@ntlworld.com)  
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**Traditional Sword Dancers**  
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**Wakefield Morris**    Hazel Parker    [wakefieldmorris@googlemail.com](mailto:wakefieldmorris@googlemail.com)  
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**Darren Nugent, Morris Ring North Area Rep.**  
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