Hi Folks,

Happy New Year to you All!!

I hope you enjoyed some fine gifts this Christmas – I did, I got the new Cecil Sharp biography by David Sutcliffe: Cecil Sharp and the Quest for Folk Song and Dance.

And here it is!! All ready for me to read during breaks in practice.

I look forward in the coming months to regaling folks with lots of facts as I work my way through it. I anticipate plenty of party invites as word gets round.

This time of year is always fun in the Morris world. After three months of Autumn practice, we get the opportunity to showcase our talents in our local inns and events, with a chance to promote ourselves to a usually inebriated enthusiastic audience.

Thank you so much for the fun photographs sent in. I received many this month, which is great. Please keep them coming in, it makes it easier and, surprisingly, faster to produce a newsletter and get it out as I have less work to do to fill the pages. See individual side updates.

This month’s newsletter is the biggest so far. And I am aware that some sides have held events that aren’t included in here. Unless I am given permission, I won’t take photos and stories from social media, I prefer that photographs are sent to me direct, with details of any copyright, so as not to offend photographers by not citing appropriate credit.

During January, some of you will be involved in the Plough Sunday and Twelfth Night festivals. If so, please forward photos and fun stories for inclusion in this newsletter. The Morris Ring website have a comprehensive list of these events nationally, please see following link: Traditional Morris Events: January | The Morris Ring

Join January: Wath Morris and Harthill Morris are on a recruitment campaign this month – please see their side updates for details. I am always interested in recruitment campaign ideas to share across the region, and in particular I would like to report on successful recruitment, so please let me know of any new members you get, and how you recruited them.
Still on the subject of recruitment, The Morris Federation recently ran a webinar: The “Using Digital for Recruitment and Marketing” workshop. The workshop was open to all Morris organisations and they have made available a report on the workshop and a video recording via their website. You may wish to bring this to the attention of any members of your sides that are actively involved with promoting your side’s activities with a view of recruitment or increased audience. For further details please go to the following link: The “Using Digital for Recruitment and Marketing” workshop – The Morris Federation.

2024 is the 90th anniversary of The Morris Ring, and also the 50th anniversary of one of our regional sides, Lord Conyers Morris Men (and, coincidentally, the 500th anniversary of the death of the very first Lord Conyers – William Conyers of Yorkshire, 21 December 1468 – 14 April 1524). We await news of any anniversary celebrations being planned. And I think this is the appropriate time to regale you with my first fact about Cecil Sharp: 2024 is the 100th anniversary of his death - 23rd June 1924.

Please can I remind you of the Morris Ring ARM on Saturday, 2nd March. Last year we had two sides represented from our area, it would be nice to have greater representation. It is a fun weekend and could be a nice thank you from your side’s members to your hardworking officers supporting you throughout the year by sending them to represent your side. Details in Morris Ring News below.

On a final note, many of you will now be putting together your 2024 performance schedule, if you have any dates already planned, please forward to me for inclusion in this newsletter. I am sure that I am not alone on checking side performances when planning short breaks away, having them in one place (such as this) saves a lot of time searching through websites and Facebook pages.

Best wishes for 2024!!

Kindest regards,

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

ARM: The 2024 Morris Ring ARM on 2\textsuperscript{nd} 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

We will be electing a new Squire at the ARM, and we have two very good candidates standing who are known to most of the Morris world, Emma Melville and Clayton Francis. Peter Austin, our happy Morris Ring Bagman will be sending out an email out in the New Year with details of their offer.

The Morris Dancer, The Morris Ring’s journal for research on all aspects of Morris dancing and related subject subjects, is now edited by Dr Matt Simons. The last edition was published in November 2020 but this year Dr Simons is planning two special editions to commemorate both the 100\textsuperscript{th} anniversary of Cecil Sharpe’s death, and also the 100\textsuperscript{th} anniversary of the inaugural tour by the Travelling Morrice (AKA Cambridge Morris Men). Dr Simons welcomes offers of papers on any aspect of Cecil Sharp’s work or the Travelling Morrice. Further details via: The Morris Dancer | The Morris Ring

Morris Ring Events:

20\textsuperscript{th} January, Jigs Instructional
2\textsuperscript{nd} March, Morris Ring 2024 Annual Representatives Meeting
13\textsuperscript{th} April, JMO in Newark
31\textsuperscript{st} May to 2\textsuperscript{nd} June, Thaxted Weekend of Dance
27\textsuperscript{th} April, Cambridge Morris Men, Centenary Spring Day of Dance
23\textsuperscript{rd} – 25\textsuperscript{th} August, Saddleworth Rushcart
28\textsuperscript{th} September, Peterborough Morris Day of Dance

Morris Ring website: The Morris Ring |

The Morris Ring on Facebook: https://www.facebook.com/TheMorrisRing
Green Oak Morris Men

Green Oak performed at the Christmas fair in Barnby Dun. Can you spot the a** in the below photo? 😊 (Ed’s note – their words not mine!!)

Doncaster Mummers performed at four pubs over the festive season. They raised £269 (and counting!) for Firefly Cancer Awareness and Support.
Green Oak danced their first Boxing Day dance-out in over 40 years! They intend to make this a continuing annual tradition in Doncaster.

Thank you, Green Oak, for sending on your logo. What a great, colourful logo it is too. Full credit to Mick Morley.

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

Handsworth Traditional Sword Dancers

I know that Handsworth have been busy this Christmas - the Boxing Day dance out 2023 included a great poor horse performance - see YouTube link here: https://youtu.be/j7vhy6_w-L0?si=TJFDjZWa6XmU_dqj

Rather than steal their photos from Facebook, I will direct you to their Facebook link: (2) handsworth traditional sword dancers - search results | Facebook

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

Harthill Morris danced their 48th consecutive Boxing Day celebrations in the village of Harthill with their usual schedule of 11am at the Blue Bell, 12noon at the Beehive, followed by carols inside the Beehive.

This year there was great public enthusiasm with many volunteers for the final Bonnie Green Garters audience participation dance at both venues.

The Blue Bell:

“*You went wrong.*”

“You went wrong.”

“*At least I was in tune!!!*”

“*At least I was in tune!!!*”
All smiles at The Beehive:
Following on from their last successful recruitment event last October, Harthill Morris having another “Meet the Morris” event on Saturday, 27th January with the following promotion:

"Harthill Morris are running a taster session for anyone who wants to try Morris Dancing on Saturday 27th January, between 10:00 and 13:00 at Harthill Village Hall. We are a friendly and relaxed group, welcoming both women and men as dancers and musicians. We will share a little of the background to Morris Dancing, you’ll get an introduction to some of the basics of dancing, and by the end of the morning you should be able to take part in a simple dance. So, if you’re thinking about taking up an activity that’s sociable, fun and help keeps you fit, this is an ideal opportunity.

For those who can't make it on Saturday 27th, our normal Thursday practices are open to anyone who wants to try Morris Dancing, either as a dancer or a musician. They start at 19:45, at Harthill Village Hall."

Thursday night practices in the Harthill Village Hall, Winney Hill, Harthill, Sheffield S26 7YL. 7.45pm-9.30pm.
Lord Conyers Morris Men

For the last thirty years Lord Conyers Morris Men has celebrated their Wassail event on the nearest Saturday to the Winter solstice – this time being Saturday, 23rd December.

This year Lord Conyers were at the Duke of Leeds pub in the village of Wales and the tradition starts with a Morris dancing performance in the beer garden:

This was a return for Lord Conyers to perform the Wassail at the Duke of Leeds, this being their new practice venue.

Following on from the performance, it was back inside for a warm, refreshments and a good old carolling session with the locals.
The Lord Conyers Morris Men Players followed up the carolling with a performance of the Derby Tup:

As the afternoon approached sunset, Lord Conyers, along with the select chosen of locals (i.e. the ones that turned up), attended at the Trysting Tree in a wood near Todwick, a couple of miles away. At the beginning of the twentieth century at Todwick in South Yorkshire, an ancient oak known as the “Trysting Tree” blew down in a gale. This “venerable oak” was connected to the legend of Robin Hood and is mentioned in Sir Walter Scott’s classic novel “Ivanhoe” as “great trysting tree in the Hart-hill Walk”. A replacement Oak was planted 50 years ago.

Lord Conyers Morris Men perform the haunting horn dance there every Wassail sunset and May Day sunrise.

There is an excellent video of the this December’s horn dance performance on YouTube, with appreciative thanks to Matt Kerry for the high quality filming: https://youtu.be/ErumpNqvzgE?si=-VPtc4eXLRX11bXh
New Year Festive Performances:

Sunday, 7th January, Plough Sunday, Southwell, Nottinghamshire. At the Final Whistle from 12:30pm.

Wednesday night practices at the Duke of Leeds, 16 Church St, Wales, Sheffield S26 5LQ. 7.30pm-9.30pm.

Currently planned performances/attendances for 2024 (please note - all to be confirmed unless stated):

Sunday, 7th January, Plough Sunday at the Final Whistle, Southwell, NG25 0ET from 12:30pm. **Confirmed**

Saturday, 27th January, members attending at the Ripley Ale Feast.

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

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

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

Saturday, 24th August, Saddleworth Rushcart.

Friday, 6th – Sunday, 8th September 2024, Bromyard Folk Festival.
As is their usual custom over the last 43 years, Wakefield Morris Dancers performed outside The Kings Arms on Heath Common, Wakefield, on Boxing Day and were greeted by the customary large crowd of friends, family and supporters. They were very thankful to have a dry day in the midst of all this dreadful wet weather and for once, it wasn't freezing cold!

Wakefield Morris are looking for one or two other Morris teams to join them 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 in Wakefield is a very popular event with the general public and large crowds gather to appreciate the entertainment. If you would like to join them, please email wakefieldmorris@googlemail.com

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

Wath Morris Christmas activities all went as planned - Christmas Mumming, Dodworth Fire Festival, Wath Fire Festival, Christmas Ceilidh and the highlight - Boxing Day.

Massive crowds on a beautiful Boxing Day in Wentworth and then back to Wath Rugby Club for games and frolics - picture below shows a contestant in the bucket singing competition!! Photos credit: Tim Binns.
In January Wath Morris are Wassailing at Billingley on the 6th and then having their annual feast on the evening of the 6th.

From 9th January every Tuesday is "Join January" where they invite everyone to come and have a go at the Morris dance in an effort to encourage a few new members.

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>Name</th>
<th>Contact</th>
<th>Email</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Barnsley Longsword</strong></td>
<td>Andy Cox</td>
<td><a href="mailto:acox3630@gmail.com">acox3630@gmail.com</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Faceook: Barnsley Longsword</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Claro Longsword Morris Men</strong></td>
<td>Barry Slaymaker</td>
<td><a href="mailto:barry_slaymaker@yahoo.co.uk">barry_slaymaker@yahoo.co.uk</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Faceook: <a href="http://www.facebook.com/groups/1926895320929282/">www.facebook.com/groups/1926895320929282/</a></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Green Oak Morris</strong></td>
<td>Ady Horan</td>
<td><a href="mailto:greenoakdoncaster@gmail.com">greenoakdoncaster@gmail.com</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Faceook: Green Oak Morris Men</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Great Yorkshire Morris</strong></td>
<td>Bob Carter</td>
<td><a href="mailto:bjcarter@ntlworld.com">bjcarter@ntlworld.com</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Weblink: Green Oak Morris Men, Doncaster - Home (weebly.com)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Grimsby Morris Men</strong></td>
<td>Nick Booth</td>
<td><a href="mailto:bagman@grimsbymorris.org.uk">bagman@grimsbymorris.org.uk</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Faceook: Grimsby Morris</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Handsworth Traditional Sword Dancers</strong></td>
<td>James Merryclough</td>
<td><a href="mailto:handsworthsword@yahoo.co.uk">handsworthsword@yahoo.co.uk</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Faceook: Handsworth Traditional Sword Dancers</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Harthill Morris</strong></td>
<td>Lesley Ellam</td>
<td><a href="mailto:harthill.bagman@gmail.com">harthill.bagman@gmail.com</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Faceook: Harthill Morris</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Lord Conyers MM</strong></td>
<td>Peter Yendley</td>
<td><a href="mailto:lordconyers@gmail.com">lordconyers@gmail.com</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Faceook: Lord Conyers Morris Men</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Spen Valley Longsword</strong></td>
<td>Dave Webster</td>
<td><a href="mailto:parkin4man@outlook.com">parkin4man@outlook.com</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Faceook: Spen Valley Longsword</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Wakefield Morris</strong></td>
<td>Hazel Parker</td>
<td><a href="mailto:wakefieldmorris@googlemail.com">wakefieldmorris@googlemail.com</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Faceook: Wakefield Morris</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Wath Morris</strong></td>
<td>Tim Binns</td>
<td><a href="mailto:wathmorris@aol.com">wathmorris@aol.com</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Faceook: Wath Morris New (wath-morris.co.uk)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>White Rose Morris</strong></td>
<td>Dan Baker</td>
<td><a href="mailto:bagman@whiterosemorrismen.org.uk">bagman@whiterosemorrismen.org.uk</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Faceook: White Rose Morris (nicksites.net)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

daznugent@sky.com

January 2024 Morris Ring North Area Newsletter