Hi Folks,

We are now in the second half of 2024, and the Morris performance season is firing on all cylinders.

And in June I have been an active member of three Morris sides which ultimately resulted in eating up all my time leaving no capacity to produce this newsletter on time. So, apologies for it being a week late, and also for it being a little truncated – I had little time to scour the social media for Morris news in our region.

I reported in the last newsletter that I was to perform at Thaxted, playing for Colchester Morris. Well, I had a great time – it was a wonderful weekend and, despite worrying weather forecasts, the sun forced its way through and it was a bright warm weekend.

And it was only £1.50 a pint in the town beer festival if you went to the bar in Morris kit.

Colchester Morris were a pleasure to play for, and they never moaned as I played Yorkshire interpretations of their dances on my sturdy violin.

Though, as can be seen in the photograph to the right, I was open to further instruction and guidance on certain Essexian stylistic nuances.

In this newsletter there are reports/photos from the Osset Beercart Festival organised by Wakefield Morris, and the National Morris Weekend in Evesham, with local representation from Lord Conyers Morris Men.

As usual please send your photos, news, and events to daznugent@sky.com to include in this newsletter.

Kindest regards,

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

Adlington Morris Men have stepped forward to organise the Day of Dance for 2025 on behalf of the Morris Ring. The venue will be in Stockport, a council that was very keen to support the event. More details will follow but save the date – **26 April 2025** - and watch this space.

Morris Ring Events:
10th August, Stratford-upon-Avon Day of Dance
23rd – 25th August, Saddleworth Rushcart
14th September, Dartington Day of Dance
28th September, Peterborough Morris Day of Dance
11th – 13th October, The Illustrious Order of Fools & Beasts Unconvention – Birmingham
26th April 2025, JMO Day of Dance 2025 hosted by Adlington Morris Men - Stockport

Morris Ring website: [The Morris Ring](#) | The Morris Ring on Facebook: [https://www.facebook.com/TheMorrisRing](https://www.facebook.com/TheMorrisRing)

**North Area Side News / Upcoming Performances**

**Green Oak Morris Men**

Saturday 3 August (Yorkshire Day) - Sports Recreation Ground, Doncaster Road, Kirk Sandall, DN3 1HQ.

**Grimsby Morris**

See link for list of events: [Events | Grimsby Morris](#)

**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

A photograph of Harthill Morris was used in the Sheffield Star website to illustrate a piece titled: 9 lesser-known facts about Sheffield, from first King to mushy peas and highwayman’s hanging.

The first “fact” in the list is that Sheffield has more Morris Dancing sides than anywhere else in the country. For full details see following link: 9 lesser-known facts about Sheffield [thestar.co.uk] There are some interesting stories, such as the origin of the term “hat-trick”, it was in Sheffield the King Ecgbert became the first monarch of a united England, and the story of a highwayman’s body that was hung on display as a warning for 36 years.

Coming up in Harthill is carnival week in which this year the village celebrates the 50th anniversary of Harthill Carnival. The village will be overflowing with bunting and flowers and Harthill Morris have a full week centred in their village.

It starts off on Monday, 8th July, where they will perform as part of the annual celebration of the Harthill Summer Well-Dressing Festival, which kick-starts the village carnival week. From 7pm at the well at the bottom of Doctor Lane Harthill Morris will joining Harthill Voices and other village groups for an hour of dancing and song in celebration of the unveiling of this Summer’s well-dressing artwork. From 8pm, Harthill Morris will then perform at the Blue Bell pub in the village, followed by dancing inside until closing time.

Harthill Morris will be performing and teaching a dance to the children at Harthill Junior School on the Thursday afternoon, and then on carnival day itself (13th July), Harthill Morris will join the procession through the village from 12noon.

If you can recall in the February newsletter about the local rivalry between Harthill Morris and Lord Conyers Morris Men when they attempted a truce at the Ripley Ale Feast. Well the ongoing truce will be tested on the evening of Thursday 18th July at the Dike of Leeds in Wales when the two sides will come together to perform. Watch out for those sticks!!
For all Harthill Morris events see below flier.
Lord Conyers Morris Men

Lord Conyers enjoyed a full weekend at the Evesham National Morris Weekend, Friday, 21st June – Sunday, 23rd June.

Thursday, 18th July, 8pm, The Duke of Leeds, Wales, S26 5LQ. With Harthill Morris.

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

Wednesday, 31st July, 8pm, Crown & Cushion, Chapeltown, S35 1SS. With Lizzie Dripping

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

Friday, 6th – Sunday, 8th September 2024, Bromyard Folk Festival.
The weekend of 31st May to 2nd June saw us organising our 9th Ossett Beercart Festival. Such a lot of hard work goes into the weekend from the committee, the team, the Ossett community and the helping hands of many volunteers.

There were 35 beers, 8 ciders, craft beer, prosecco and gin available and the bar was dry by early evening on the Saturday. The sun came out late morning on the Saturday, which brought out the crowds and the drinkers.

We had 13 guest teams join us for the procession and dancing in the precinct on the Saturday, with 3 of them joining us for a Sunday morning dance out and picnic by the Cathedral in Wakefield.
It was a very enjoyable weekend, the proceeds of which will go to Wakefield Hospice.

There was some sadness over the weekend in that we commemorated our beloved Anne Osborne, who sadly passed away on 22nd April.

Anne had been a stalwart member of Wakefield Morris as a musician for nearly 20 years. She was Treasurer for the team for years, Treasurer for the Ossett Beercart from the start in 2014 as well as Kit Master.

Anne’s hat was carried on top of the festival barrel on the beercart during the procession.

"Our Anne's Porter" was specially brewed by the Fernandes Brewery for the beer festival.

Anne was a tower of strength with a merry wit and a keen sense of humour, but not one to suffer fools gladly. She will be sorely missed.
Our scheduled dance out on 10th June was cancelled due to Covid raising its ugly head once more and laying low several members of our guest team, Cutlers Gate. Slubbing Billys joined us on 24th June at The Blacksmith’s Arms in Kirkheaton where a good time was had by all.

July will see us taking part at the Cleckheaton Folk Festival on 7th July, and a dance out with Five Rivers on 18th July at the Thornley Arms in Dodworth. We will also be practicing in preparation for our trip to Sidmouth at the beginning of August - we are very excited!

For the latest news on events, see link: WAKEFIELD MORRIS DANCERS DIARY 2024

**Wath Morris**

Future events:

6th – 8th September, Bainbridge family weekend

A weekend of singing and dancing in Wensleydale based in Bainbridge.

Below is the programme on their website:

**FRIDAY**
8.00 onwards  Bainbridge Village Hall (Temperance Hall) - Informal music and songs

**SATURDAY 9th**

**09.30 (prompt)**  Leave Bainbridge (Village Green)
10.00  Dancing at Aysgarth National Park Visitor Centre.
11.30  Dancing in Leyburn Market Place
12.30  Dancing at The Black Bull, Middleham followed by lunch (sandwiches & chips) at 13.00 & singing afterwards
14.30  Dancing at The Fox, West Witton
15.30  Dancing at the Fox and Hounds, West Burton
16.30  ARRIVE BACK IN BAINBRIDGE
20.00 – 23.00  Bainbridge Village Hall (Temperance Hall), Bainbridg.
Informal music and songs – open invitation

**SUNDAY 10th**

10.30  Dancing at Sycamore Hall, Bainbridge
11.30  Dancing at Hawes Countryside Museum
12.30  Dancing at The Board Inn, Hawes
14.30  Dancing at Wensleydale Creamery (Hawes)
14.00  Weekend’s End.

**White Rose Morris**

Wednesday 3rd July: The Hideaway, Slaithwaite
Wednesday 10th July: The Hop, Leeds
Wednesday 17th July: Greystone Unity, Halifax
Wednesday 24th July: Sair Inn, Linthwaite
Wednesday 31st July: St George’s Square, Huddersfield
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<tr>
<th>North Area Sides - contact and social media details</th>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Barnsley Longsword</strong>  Andy Cox  <a href="mailto:acox3630@gmail.com">acox3630@gmail.com</a></td>
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<td>Facebook: Barnsley Longsword</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Green Oak Morris</strong>  Ady Horan  <a href="mailto:greenoakdoncaster@gmail.com">greenoakdoncaster@gmail.com</a></td>
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<td><strong>Great Yorkshire Morris</strong>  Bob Carter  <a href="mailto:bjcarter@ntlworld.com">bjcarter@ntlworld.com</a></td>
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<td>Weblink Great Yorkshire Morris (wordpress.com)</td>
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<td><strong>Grimsby Morris Men</strong>  Nick Booth  <a href="mailto:bagman@grimsbymorris.org.uk">bagman@grimsbymorris.org.uk</a></td>
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<td><strong>Handsworth</strong>  James Merryclough  <a href="mailto:handsworthsword@yahoo.co.uk">handsworthsword@yahoo.co.uk</a></td>
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<td><strong>Traditional Sword Dancers</strong></td>
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<td>Facebook: Handsworth Traditional Sword Dancers</td>
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<td><strong>Harthill Morris</strong>  Lesley Ellam  <a href="mailto:harthill.bagman@gmail.com">harthill.bagman@gmail.com</a></td>
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<td><strong>Lord Conyers MM</strong>  Peter Yendley  <a href="mailto:lordconyers@gmail.com">lordconyers@gmail.com</a></td>
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<td>Weblink lordconyers.org.uk</td>
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<td><strong>Spen Valley Longsword</strong>  Dave Webster  <a href="mailto:parkin4man@outlook.com">parkin4man@outlook.com</a></td>
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<td><strong>Wakefield Morris</strong>  Hazel Parker  <a href="mailto:wakefieldmorris@googlemail.com">wakefieldmorris@googlemail.com</a></td>
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<td><strong>Wath Morris</strong>  Tim Binns  <a href="mailto:wathmorris@aol.com">wathmorris@aol.com</a></td>
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<td><strong>White Rose Morris</strong>  Dan Baker  <a href="mailto:bagman@whiterosemorrismen.org.uk">bagman@whiterosemorrismen.org.uk</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