

The Morris Ring North Area Newsletter

May 2025



Hi Folks,

“Now is the month of maying, when merry lads are playing” - this is the time when the Morris-world performance season really kicks into gear. Many of you will have been involved with the May celebrations as this edition comes out.

*hal-an-tow, jolly rumbelow
we were up long before the day-o
to welcome in the summertime
to welcome in the May-o
for summer is a-coming in
and winter's gone away-o*

There are many performance events around the May Day period – some on May Day Eve, on the May morning itself, the weekend following (3rd and 4th) and continuing onto May Day Bank Holiday Monday – please forward your stories and pictures for inclusion in next month’s newsletter.

On 8th May we have the 80th VE Day anniversary celebrations which some sides may be supporting – Harthill Morris will be active in their village with performances at the Beehive in their village followed by songs of the 1940s era with the Harthill Village Voices afterwards inside the pub.

But, of course, the performance season has already warmed up in April as can be seen with the reports of some of the earl events that our sides have been involved with inside this newsletter.

If you have prepared sufficiently then you should have your sets of sticks with plenty of spares ready to survive the coming months of banging, clashing and tapping. If you are prepping these at the last-minute then please take advantage of the advice on the Morris Federation website

Morris Sticks – sourcing and prepping tips: The Morris Federation have made available on their website some information on how to obtain sticks for your side, suitable for Cotswold or Border Morris.

These are very useful insights, especially if you have the responsibility for obtaining and preparing your side’s Morris sticks and you are not sure how to go about it. There are some tips from a couple of border-morris people who are woodland owners with experience of green woodworking.

Please check the Morris Federation webpage for further details.

Saturday, 5th April was the date of the Nottingham Tram Ale 2025 organised by the persistently energetic Lucy Shaw/Cumfrey Daws. A fun day of ale, chatter, ale, dance, ale, music, ale and song.



Lucy had researched and found six Morris-friendly public houses serving quality ale on the tram run: The Station Hotel at Hucknell, The Bowman Hotel at Hucknell, The Fox and Crown at Old Basford, The Lion at Basford, The Black Iris at Basford, and finishing off at the Vat & Fiddle in Nottingham.

In the picture to the left are five members of one side (Lord Conyers Morris Men) starting at the Station Hotel at Hucknell for the Tram Ale, yet they were all representing different sides. L-R we have: Darren Nugent - Harthill Morris; Andrew Carr - Lord Conyers; the legendary John Ledbury - Stone Monkey; Andrew Walker - Earlsdon Morris; and Jono Millward guesting with Blackheath Morris.

Kindest regards,

Darren Nugent,

Morris Ring North Area Rep

daznugent@sky.com





The Morris Ring

The founding National Association of Morris and Sword Dance Clubs

Morris Ring News

The Squire of the Ring's Massed Dances

- Vandals of Hammerwich (Lichfield) (In chorus, show both times)
- Lads a Bunchum (Adderbury)
- Laudnum Bunches (Headington)
- Valentine (Fieldtown)
- William and Nancy (Bledington)
- Young Collins (Oddington)
- Riggs of Doom (In the style of Bampton)

Morris Ring Zoom account: A reminder to all sides that we have a dedicated Morris Ring Zoom account for online video conferencing. If anyone would like to use this Zoom account to host an online event, then please get in touch. Please ensure that any such event is appropriate to the aims of the Morris Ring and is also conducted with these aims in mind.

The Morris Ring Archive: If you have any photographs, you can send them to Duncan Broomhead, the Morris Ring Photo Archivist (duncan.broomhead@btinternet.com). [But send them to me first, please, to include in this newsletter. 😊 daznugent@sky.com.]

Morris Ring Events:

17th May 2025, Westminster Morris Dancers Day of Dance

30th May – 1st June 2025, Thaxted Morris Weekend

19th July 2025, Anker Morris Men

16th August 2025, Stratford-upon-Avon Day of Dance Morris Ring Meeting

22nd – 24th August 2025, Saddleworth Rushcart Weekend

13th September 2025, Celebrating 100 years of Morris dancing in Ripley

24th – 26th October 2025, Illustrious Order of Fools and Beasts Annual Unconvention

Please see the Morris Ring website for further details.



North Area Side News / Upcoming Performances

Green Oak Morris Men



A hearty congratulations to Green Oak Morris for organising a joyous Day of Dance in Doncaster on Saturday 12th April.

It was a beautiful, hot, sunny day, much more like late Summer than early Spring. And with nine sides taking part there was great camaraderie along with a party atmosphere all day: Beverley Garland Dancers, Green Oak Morris, Minster Strays, Flag and Bone, Makara Morris, the legendary Green Ginger Garland Dancers, Ravens Morris, Rattlejag and Harthill Morris.





The highlight of April for Harthill Morris was the start of their performance season at the Doncaster Day of Dance.

This was a return to Doncaster after a few years absence but with the side now at full strength Harthill Morris were delighted to accept the invitation to attend. And they had immense fun. The side agreed that they would be returning in 2026 to kick-start their 50th Anniversary Tour.





HARTHILL MORRIS

2025 Dance-out Programme



April

~~Sat. 12th 10:30am Doncaster Day of Dance~~

May

Sat. 3rd 10:00am Wath Festival
 Mon. 5th 11:00am Day of Dance at The Rising Deer, Brampton
 Thu. 15th 8:00pm Travellers Rest, High Moor
 Thu. 22nd 8:00pm Sheaf View, Heeley
 w/ *Five Rivers Morris & Sheffield City Morris*
 Fri. 30th - Sun. 1st Thaxted Morris Weekend

June

Sun. 8th 1:00pm Hardwick Inn, Hardwick Park
 w/ *Cutlers Gate*
 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
 w/ *Yorkshire Chandelier & Wath Morris*
 Sat. 5th 4:00pm Harthill Well Dressing, Doctor Lane
 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
 w/ *Ripley Morris*

August

Thu. 7th 8:00pm The Stag's Head, Psalter Lane, Sheffield
 w/ *Lizzie Dripping*
 Thu. 14th 8:00pm The Rising Deer, Brampton
 w/ *Handsworth Traditional Sword Dancers*
 Thu. 28th 8:00pm The Beehive, Harthill

September

Sat. 6th Lincoln BIG Morris Festival



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



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



Lord Conyers Morris Men celebrated May Day Eve with a performance of Abbotts Bromley Horn

Dance. It was a beautiful clear evening with a new moon alongside a bright appearance by the planet Venus suspended over the dying sun as it disappeared over the horizon. As this was happening Lord Conyers Morris Men emerged through the wood fully hooded for their annual Walpurgis Night ritual at the Trysting Tree by the “Todwick to Kiveton to Harthill” road, Rotherham, at the site of the ancient venerable oak mentioned in Sir Walter Scott's classic novel “Ivanhoe” as the “great trysting tree in the Hart-hill Walk”.



Upcoming performances

7th May, 8pm, The Final Whistle, Southwell. NG25 0ET

13th May. 8pm, Kiveton Folk Club, Stone Close, Kiveton Park. S26 6SQ

21st May, 8pm, The Fat Cat, Sheffield. S3 8SA

28th May, 8pm, West End Hotel, Killamarsh, Sheffield. S21 1EU

Wakefield Morris



Wakefield have had one dance out this month on Saturday, 26th April, when we were invited by Cutlers Gate to join them and Five Rivers Morris on Kelham Island, Sheffield.

The Island was once a bustling industrial hub but in recent years, has undergone a dramatic transformation, evolving into a trendy district filled with in-demand flats, vibrant bars, and independent cafes, restaurants and art studios.

The weather was favourable and a good time was had by all.



Wakefield Morris are still flying!!



It took some of the team a little longer to travel home than planned - our youngest dancers became a little fed up whilst waiting for their train.

The team are looking forward to joining Five Rivers for their family weekend, based in Bamford, Derbyshire, on 9th to 11th May with the promise of dancing in Edale, Bamford and Hathersage. We meet up with Wayzgoose on Tuesday 20th May at 7.30 pm at the Hare and Hounds in Rothwell and will finish off the month with our very own Ossett Beercart Festival, celebrating its 10th anniversary.

Wath Morris



We are all practiced and ready to go for the season (well maybe). Below is our proposed programme for May starting with the ever-popular Wath Festival. We opened the first festival in 1973 and have done so ever since (virtually in covid). This year we are welcoming 4 teams to dance with us – maybe next year we can have a few extra local teams?

1 st May	7.30 - 8:00 pm	Beltane at Wentworth Woodhouse	Singing only
3 rd May	Wath Festival		Dancing & singing
	TOWN CENTRE	WATH TAP	OUTSIDE CHURCH
10:00	Hal an Toe (ALL TEAMS)		
10:05 – 10:25	Wath Morris & Wath Morris Minors		
10:35 – 10:45	Harthill Morris		
10:30 – 11:00	Green Ginger Garland		
	Wath Morris		
	Beverley Garland Dancers		
	Harthill Morris		
11:00 – 11:30	Wath Quoff – All Teams		
11:25 – 11:35	Green Ginger Garland		
11:45 – 12:00	All teams – Processional to Church		
12:30 – 12:45	Wath Morris		
	Harthill Morris		
	Ginger Garland		
	Beverley Garland		
12:40 – 12:50	Wath Morris Minors		
12:50 – 1:00	Wath Morris		
1:00 – 2:00	Lunch in Church House		

2:35 – 3:15	}	Massed Morris Displays
		Harthill Morris
		Green Ginger Garland
		Wath Morris
		Beverley Garland Dancers
		Wath Morris Minors
3:15		End of formal dancing

4 th May	10:00	Festival Church service (dancing) and then outside Church
5 th May	12:00	Hootons in the Green at Hooton Roberts Walled Nursery
13 th May	Tuesday	7:30 Danceout TBA See website www.wath-morris.co.uk
20 th May	Tuesday	7:30 Danceout TBA See website www.wath-morris.co.uk
30 th May – 1 st June		Thaxted Weekend
11 th June	Wednesday	7:30 Thundercliffe Grange with Lord Conyers
14 th June	Saturday	10:00 – 7:30 Pretty Villages Tour (West Barnsley)

Good luck to all our local teams for the coming season and looking forward to dancing with several of you over the summer.

[Ed. Note: Apologies to Wath Morris for not getting the newsletter out on 1st May to inform of the Wath Festival for 3rd May. Full report with pictures of the Wath Festival in next month's newsletter.]

