

**The Morris Ring
North Area
Newsletter**

August 2024

Hi Folks,



Well, we've had a bit of sun. Haven't we? I'm sure we had a couple of days recently. Though it still feels as though it's been raining non-stop for 12 months.

But this is what it is like in the UK, and it has never stopped us before, so I presume you are all enjoying an active Summer performance season. We've got some fun reports this month – including the latest bout between Harthill Morris vs Lord Conyers.

I'll keep this section brief because I want to get the newsletter out this afternoon – it's already a few days late.

Thank you to all that have sent in contributions and, as usual another plea to the other sides to also 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

Save the date: 1st March 2025, The Morris Ring Annual Representatives Meeting. We had a good attendance from our area this year - the best one in years. Let's try and get more of our sides attending. Save the date and stand by until more information is available. But, please start making plans to reward for your officers by subsidising their attendance at The Morris Ring ARM.

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
- 1st March 2025, The Morris Ring Annual Representatives Meeting
- 26th April 2025, JMO Day of Dance 2025 hosted by Adlington Morris Men - Stockport

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

Green Oak Morris Men



We joined-up with Rattlejag Morris and Maltby Sword Dancers on a Wednesday night to dance and drink in Misson pubs. All groups had a great time, and they hope to meet up with each other at future dance outs and practice nights.

One of our performers Jamie represented Green Oak at the first Get Doncaster Moving networking event. There were 65 people from physical activity organisations across Doncaster. It was a great opportunity to make connections and find ways to support Morris dancing in Doncaster.

Whilst our 'takeaways' were Doncaster specific, we highly recommend taking part in any similar events in your area.



Above – Rattlejag Morris



Above left – Maltby Sword.



Above right – Green Oak Morris.

Below - Get Doncaster Moving



Grimsby Morris



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

Handsworth Traditional Sword Dancers



Handsworth Sword were at the Warwick Folk Festival over the last weekend of July with some fine displays of their craft.

A couple of their performances made YouTube.

Check out:

[Handsworth Sword at the Rose and Crown spot, Warwick Folk Festival - YouTube](#)

[Handsworth Sword at Warwick Folk Festival - YouTube](#)

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



The Summer has been a busy season for Harthill Morris delivering their traditional mix of Cotswold Morris followed by an evening of music and song in local inns every Thursday.

July started with a successful night at the West End pub, Killamarsh. From 8pm there was their performance of the Morris outside in the car park. And afterwards the musicians played and everyone else sang whilst enjoying the massive buffet generously provided by the Landlord. A great evening.



[Harthill Morris musicians playing an Irish jig at great speed.]

8th-16th July was Harthill carnival week and this year the village celebrates the 50th anniversary of Harthill Carnival. The village was overflowing with bunting and flowers and Harthill Morris gave a full week of entertainment centred in their village.



Monday, 8th July, they performed as part of the annual celebration of the Harthill Summer Well-Dressing Festival, which kick-starts the carnival week.



From 7pm Harthill Morris and Harthill Voices gave for an hour of dancing and song in celebration of the unveiling of this Summer's well-dressing artwork which this year celebrated the 50 years of the carnival – and if you look closely, you will see that it features a couple of figures from Harthill Morris.



[The Squire briefing the side's most recent recruits prior to the performance.]

The evening continued afterwards at the Blue Bell in Harthill where a certain Morris Ring Area Rep tried (unsuccessfully) to recruit the local vicar into the Morris.



Harthill Morris visited Harthill Junior School on the Thursday afternoon, and then on carnival day itself (13th July), Harthill Morris joined the procession through the village from 12noon – though a passing T-Rex stole the show.



Another highlight of Harthill Morris' busy July was a weekend at the Morris Festival in Buxton on Saturday, 20th.



Lord Conyers Morris Men



Lord Conyers Morris Men have had a busy month in July. Of particular note was their performance at the Hare and Hounds in Dore at 8pm on 10th July – clashing with the England football semi-final. They didn't expect any audience, but a commitment is a commitment and so, with high hopes, they turned up to their gig which had been advertised as part of the Dore Festival to be greeted by an eager audience – and free drinks from behind the bar!!

Previous newsletters have referenced the local rivalry between Harthill Morris and Lord Conyers Morris Men. It was first covered in the February newsletter when they attempted a truce at the Ripley Ale Feast. Well, the ongoing truce was tested on the evening of

Thursday 18th July at the Duke of Leeds in Wales when the two sides came together to perform. It is still too early in their renewed relationship for group photo, but I did manage to photograph further efforts in their quest for the Fellowship of the Morris Ring.

If you look carefully, you can see Simon from Lord Conyers and Jono from Harthill Morris carefully prepare for a rare handshake, and with that successfully achieved, a genuine attempt by both to smile. Well done, Lads.



Having got through that ordeal, Lord Conyers Morris Men were in Shardlow a couple of days later for their annual Morris Fest. This was a full day of processing and dancing to, and at, six of the village pubs. That's right – six – and there are more, all with good quality ale.

At one of the pubs the side were at a loss as to what to do. They had mis-placed their leadership. This was rare. Were they hidden away in deep conversation about an issue the rest of the side were unaware of? Apparently not. They were found nearby partaking in extracurricular activities.



Here we have, from left to right, the Squire (Barry), the Treasurer (Darren), and the Secretary (Peter), leading the Lord Conyers Bacca Pipes dancer (Simon) astray.

In August Lord Conyers will be performing in Robin Hoods Bay over the weekend of Friday, 9th – Sunday, 11th August 2024, at their annual Morris Fest weekend. The annual tradition of the Lord Conyers Morris weekend at Robin Hoods Bay started back in 1979. The year before the side had attended the Whitby Folk Festival, and on a day off went over to Robin Hoods Bay for impromptu performances and were so well received that they were asked to “come back next year”.

And they have done ever since!!

Friday, 6th – Sunday, 8th September 2024, Lord Conyers Morris Men are performing at the Bromyard Folk Festival.



Wakefield Morris



Seems like we've had a quieter month in July when we took part in the final Cleckheaton Folk Festival on 7th July, and danced out with Five Rivers on 18th July at the Thornley Arms in Dodworth. Otherwise, we've been practising in preparation for our trip to Sidmouth this weekends (2nd – 4th August). We are all very excited and kick off with the Late Night Extra ceilidh spot on the Friday evening.

We had a very successful day out busking in Whitby last year whilst the Folk Festival was on and plan to do the same again on Wednesday, 21st August. We haven't yet decided on the programme for the day but would probably start around 11-ish and finish about 4-ish. If any team would like to join us, we'd love to have you - just contact us on wakefieldmorris@google.com.



For the latest news on events, see link: [WAKEFIELD MORRIS DANCERS DIARY 2024](#)

Wath Morris



July started with us dancing at Hooton Pagnell Fete, a regular yearly event where both Wath Morris and the Morris Minors turned out good teams and delighted the crowd at the fete. Our next event should have been our regular Tuesday dance-out on 9th July. All was planned for a show at the Plough, West Melton but in the euphoria of England football team getting past the qualifying stage of Euro 24, the landlord contacted us to say that Morris would perhaps not sit well with the football “crowds” expected at the pub on that night. One of our team, Phil, works at Swinton Lock and saved the day by organising a canal boat trip from Swinton to Mexborough for the team. Unfortunately, the heavens opened and the trip was a wet one for those steering but, for passengers, a very enjoyable sing and play down in the “hold”.

The following Tuesday looked as though it was going to be another washout but, at the last minute, the skies cleared and a large team entertained a large audience at the Harlington Inn.

As we headed towards the “summer holidays” the team have always struggled to turn out (too many on the beach!) and our last dance-out of the spring/summer on Tuesday 23rd July was a case in point. Some last-minute change of plans left us with a very basic team who still put on a good show at The Ring O’ Bells and at the Woodman, Swinton. We finished the night off in fine Wath style with a great music and singing session. And so it's time to roll up our trousers and tie a knotted handkerchief on our heads as we head off to the beach for the summer. Wath Morris return on the weekend of 6th-8th September when we re-assemble at Bainbridge for our annual Wensleydale Weekend.

Friday, 6th September

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

Saturday, 7th September

09.30 Leave Bainbridge (Village Green)

10:00 Aysgarth

11:15 Dancing & Mumming at The Village Pub, Redmire

12:30 Dancing at The Wheatsheaf, Carperby

14:30 Dancing & Mumming at Wensleydale Creamery

15:45 Hawes Town Centre

17:00 Arrive back in Bainbridge

20.00–23.00 Bainbridge Village Hall (Temperance Hall), Bainbridge - informal music and songs with villagers and invited guests.

Sunday, 8th September

10.30 Dancing & Mumming at Sycamore Hall, Bainbridge

11.45 Dancing & mumming at The Fox, West Witton

13:00 Dancing & mumming at The Fox & Hounds, West Burton

The Wath Morris AGM is on 17th September at 20:00 at Wath Rugby Club. All present and past members are welcome although only current members are eligible to vote. Tuesday 24th September 20:00-22:00, Wath Rugby Club and every Tuesday until December, practice night. Any new members, visiting dancers or interested parties are welcome to attend and join in and learn mostly Welsh / English Border dances, mummings plays and sword dances up until the mid-winter season.

North Area Sides - contact and social media details

Barnsley Longsword Andy Cox acox3630@gmail.com
Facebook: Barnsley Longsword

Green Oak Morris Ady Horan greenoakdoncaster@gmail.com
Weblink [Green Oak Morris Men, Doncaster - Home \(weebly.com\)](http://GreenOakMorrisMen.Doncaster-Home.weebly.com)
Facebook: Green Oak Morris Men
X: https://x.com/GreenOakMorris?t=EfCaMc_pgSRdVBtwrNManQ&s=09
TikTok: <https://www.tiktok.com/@greenoakmorris>

Great Yorkshire Morris Bob Carter bjcarter@ntlworld.com
Weblink [Great Yorkshire Morris \(wordpress.com\)](http://GreatYorkshireMorris.wordpress.com)
Facebook: Great Yorkshire Morris

Grimsby Morris Men Nick Booth bagman@grimsbymorris.org.uk
Weblink www.grimsbymorris.org.uk
Facebook: Grimsby Morris

Handsworth Traditional Sword Dancers James Merryclough handsworthsword@yahoo.co.uk
Weblink [Handsworth – Traditional Sword Dancers \(handsworthsworddancers.org.uk\)](http://Handsworth-TraditionalSwordDancers.handsworthsworddancers.org.uk)
Facebook: Handsworth Traditional Sword Dancers

Harthill Morris Lesley Ellam harthill.bagman@gmail.com
Weblink [Harthill Morris](http://HarthillMorris)
Facebook: Harthill Morris

Lord Conyers MM Peter Yendley lordconyers@gmail.com
Weblink lordconyers.org.uk
Facebook: Lord Conyers Morris Men

Spen Valley Longsword Dave Webster parkin4man@outlook.com

Wakefield Morris Hazel Parker wakefieldmorris@googlemail.com
Weblink [WAKEFIELD MORRIS DANCERS](http://WAKEFIELDMORRISDANCERS)
Facebook: Wakefield Morris

Wath Morris Tim Binns wathmorris@aol.com
Weblink [Wath Morris New \(wath-morris.co.uk\)](http://WathMorrisNew.wath-morris.co.uk)
Facebook: Wath Morris

White Rose Morris Dan Baker bagman@whiterosemorrismen.org.uk
Weblink [White Rose Morris \(nicksites.net\)](http://WhiteRoseMorris.nicksites.net)
Facebook: White Rose Morris

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



The Morris Ring

The founding National Association of Morris and Sword Dance Clubs