Hi Folks,

Welcome to the October 2023 Morris Ring North Area Newsletter, and what a Bumper edition we have.

Thank you so much for your contributions, it is so easy to put together a newsletter by cutting and pasting your submissions so please continue sending any fun pictures from recent events with a paragraph to provide context.

And thank you again for the very positive comments following the September North Area Newsletter. I received some really useful feedback and suggestions regarding layout that I really appreciated and have taken on board. This newsletter will always be a work-in-progress, and I always accept feedback as a gift so please send me any ideas and suggestions to make it more relevant and useful to you.

A significant and fun event coming to our region this month is the Sword Dance Union Longsword Competition that Handsworth Sword Dancers are hosting in Sheffield. I am really looking forward to this weekend and have included some details in the newsletter to whet your appetite.

The recruitment section of the last newsletter received positive comments with some sides sharing more of their own initiative, so I have continued this section in this month’s edition with these ideas.

Details of the festive season performances are beginning to come through to me, I have included these for those sides that I details of. If your side’s Christmas festivities aren’t included, please let me know what they are via daznugent@sky.com.

These newsletters are uploaded onto the Morris Ring website and are accessible via the Publications tab on the front page and will most likely be available for decades to come so will be an appropriate method to record some of your side’s memorable moments for posterity. See link: Area and Sides Newsletters | The Morris Ring

I wish you a Merry October.

Kindest regards,

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

The Morris Ring Advisory Council is meeting via Zoom on 22nd October. The Advisory Council is made up the three officers, officers elect and all past officers of the Morris Ring (for a maximum of six years following the conclusion of their term of office), together with the elected members representing the nine regional areas. The duty of the Council is to advise and assist the Squire and the other elected officers to further the objects of the Morris Ring.

I will be joining as your representative so if you have anything you wish me to raise, inform or discuss with them then please email me at daznugent@sky.com.

Card Readers: The Morris Ring are still offering the rebate for sides to purchase a card reader, up to £100 may be claimed per side. Email the bagman (bagman@themorrisring) for details. SumUp currently have a sale on so machines may be obtained at a reduced price (SumUp: Explore our card readers and payment solutions).

A Sumup machine can be used in conjunction with a QR code so that donations can be made without the machine being anywhere nearby. The Morris Ring Squire and Bagman noted they were in use by Saddleworth Morris Men and were also in every pew at Uppermill church. If you give all your dancers a printed card with this code on it, they can all do their bit without machine or hat present.

Basically, the way it works is that a prospective donor with a smartphone scans the QR code and is then directed to a part of the SumUp web site where a donation can be made directly (obviously the person has to have a mobile signal on their phone). If the smartphone owner has Apple or Google Pay enabled, they can make a payment quickly and easily, as a rapid alternative to inputting credit card details. Saddleworth MM report a great deal of success at the Rushcart just gone by.

Morris Ring Events:

7th October, Bath JMO Regional Day of Dance
7th October, Newcastle JMO Regional Day of Dance
21st October, London JMO 20th Anniversary Day of Dance

Recruitment

Wakefield Morris have initiated a monthly Sunday practice as an alternative to their weekly Monday night sessions to attract dancers/musicians who cannot make Monday evenings. Please see the below promotion:

EXPERIENCED DANCERS/MUSICIANS - do you want to dance with Wakefield Morris but don't think it's possible due to time and location? - Well READ THIS!!
Over the last year we have been trialling our "Sunday practices package" - and it works. We now have members who can't make our usual Monday evening practice and they've been out with us during the summer having just attended our Sunday practices.

If you are experienced enough to pick up dances/tunes quickly and can be free roughly one Sunday afternoon per month, then this could be your time to join us and be dancing/playing with us around the country next summer.
We practice in Ossett (near Wakefield) WF5 8ET which is 5 mins off J40 of the M1 and 10 mins from the M62! It’s easy to get to. We practice from 2 - 4pm on Sunday afternoon (see dates below) then go for some refreshments after.

Most importantly, in order to ensure you dance/play confidently and well - we will give you a refresher/meet-up before any dance-out you are attending so the dances/tunes are fresh in your mind, and you are good to go!

These are the dates of our upcoming Sundays:-
  Sunday 8th October
  Sunday 26th November
  Sunday 4th February

If you have any queries or would like to talk to a member of the team, please contact wakefieldmorris@googlemail.com

Jamie and Ady from Green Oak Morris Men spent a fun Saturday morning litter picking in kit and chatting to people in Sandall Park - something a bit different to raise awareness about their side and hopefully encourage some new men to join! Humorous questions from members of the public included "did you lose a bet?", "are you Mr Tumble?" and "are you King of the Castle?" 😆

And, finally, Harthill Morris have released details of their “Meet the Morris” event on 28th October with the following promotion:

"Harthill Morris are running a taster session for anyone who wants to try Morris Dancing on Saturday 28th October, 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 28th, our normal Thursday practices in October 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."
If any other sides have any different recruitment initiatives or are aware of any ideas from sides further afield, please send details to me to share with the other sides in our region.

**Sword Dancing Union (SDU) Longsword Competition 2023**

On Saturday, 14th October, the SDU Longsword Competition is being held in our region – Sheffield city-centre.

Handsworth Traditional Sword Dancers are hosting the event and have planned a full weekend to entertain the visiting sides. This is going to be a really fun event.

Final details of all venues are yet to be circulated on their website (at the time of writing), but the main competition on the Saturday is at Croft House, 9 Garden St, Sheffield City Centre, Sheffield S1 4BJ

There will be a number of awards:

- Best Traditional Dance
- Best Own / Non-Traditional Dance
- Longsword as a Second Language (for teams whose primary dance is not sword dancing)
- Best Overall Performance
- Best Music
- Audience Reaction

**Itinerary**

**Friday 13 October**
6pm onwards: Welcome drinks and opportunity for song and music session hosted by Handsworth Sword Dancers in a city-centre venue with good beer and pizzas.

**Saturday 14 October**
10am: registration
10:30 – 4pm: dance tour of high-profile city-centre spots. Competing teams will be rotated through two competitive spots to be judged during the day.
5pm: Award ceremony
7pm onwards: folk party, bar, sessions etc

**Sunday 15 October**
12pm: informal dancing at a local pub, farewells

Please see the website for up-to-date information:
[SDU Competition 2023 – Handsworth (handsworthsworddancers.org.uk)](handsworthsworddancers.org.uk)
North Area Side News / Upcoming Performances

Green Oak Morris Men

Green Oak Morris Men recently danced out at the Armthorpe Village Show, and also visited Hatfield Cubs for an instructional:

Christmas Festive Performances:
Wednesday, 13 December, St George and the Dragon mummer's play. 7pm, Cross Keys Inn, Wroot, DN9 2BT, and the at 8pm, Angel Inn, Misson, DN10 6EB

Wednesday, 20 December, St George and the Dragon mummer's play and Christmas social. 8pm, Doncaster Brewery Tap, DN1 3EL

Wednesday night practices at Doncaster Brewery Tap, DN1 3EL

Handsworth Traditional Sword Dancers

The side is busy, busy, busy at the moment getting ready with preparations for Saturday, 14th October, the Sword Dance Union Tournament, Sheffield (see earlier feature)

SDU Competition 2023 – Handsworth (handsworthsworddancers.org.uk)

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

Reservoir Dogs? No, it’s Harthill Morris and it looks like they really mean business in this photograph as Squire Nick Pal leads his side out.

Despite their serious, no-nonsense appearance, Harthill Morris brought a lot of fun and jollity to the very successful and popular Lincoln Big Morris in early September.

Christmas Festive Performances:

Sunday, 3rd December, Kelham Island Victorian Christmas Market, Sheffield
Boxing Day, Monday, 26th December, 11am, The Blue Bell Inn, 4 Woodall Lane, Harthill, Sheffield S26 7YQ
Boxing Day, Monday, 26th December, 12noon, The Beehive, 16 Union Street, Harthill, Sheffield S26 7YH

Thursday night practices at Harthill Village Hall, Winney Hill, Harthill, Sheffield, Sheffield, S26 7YL. 7.45pm-9.30pm.

Lord Conyers Morris Men

It has been a busy time for Lord Conyers Morris Men with many weekend events taking up their time.

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 were asked to “come back next year”.

And they have done ever since!!
What an amazing picture of Lord Conyers Morris Men at their annual Morris weekend at Robin Hoods Bay.

This annual event includes two full days of dancing, with music and song on the Saturday evening at the Grosvenor.

The height of the summer holidays ensures Lord Conyers of large appreciative audiences - and because of the unique layout of the bay, there is nowhere for the public to escape. 😊

On your marks, get set....... Lord Conyers about to start at Saddleworth Rushcart.

And a masterful Bacca Pipes from Simon Walker of Lord Conyers, duetting with Liz Yendley from Silkstone Greens at the Bromyard Folk Festival weekend in early September.
Upcoming performances:

Saturday, 14th October, Sword Dance Union Tournament, Sheffield

Christmas Festive Performances:

Saturday, 23rd December, 1pm, Christmas Wassail at Wales Sports and Social Club, School Rd, Wales, Sheffield S26 5QG

Saturday, 23rd December, 4pm, Horn Dance, Trysting Tree, Kiveton Lane, Todwick, Sheffield S26 1JJ

Wednesday night practices at Wales Jubilee Sports and Social Club, School Rd, Wales, Sheffield S26 5QG. 7.30pm-9.30pm.

Wakefield Morris

Wakefield Morris spent a day busking during the Whitby Folk Week in August, with good weather and appreciative audiences.

Look at them fly!!!

And I saw them performing at the Bromyard Folk Festival in September, they were very impressive with a well-disciplined set that received a huge positive response from the appreciative audiences.

(I won’t mention the bonus ABBA performance, but that went down a storm as well).
The weather was superb at Bromyard – and on the Saturday though the heat got a bit too much for dancing, but Wakefield Morris insist that the show must go on, no matter what!!

Christmas Festive Performances:
Boxing Day Wakefield Morris will be at the Kings Arms, Heath Common, WF1 5SE, at 12:30pm.

Practice nights are on Mondays at The Kings Way Methodist Church Hall, Ossett, Wakefield, WF5 8ET.

**Wath Morris**

Wath Morris enjoyed a heavy schedule in early September with their successful Wensleydale Weekend.
Wath Morris events programme up to the Christmas Festive Season:

Sunday, 1st October - Monk Bretton Priory "picnic", 1pm and 2pm

Saturday, 14th October - Sword Dance Union Tournament, Sheffield

Friday, 8th December - Mumming tour, Wath

Tuesday, 12th December - Dodworth Fire Festival

Sunday, 17th December - Wath Fire Festival:
   6.30pm Parish Church
   8.15pm Wath Rugby Club for songs and dance

Tuesday, 26th December - Boxing Day Tour, Wentworth Village & one other venue (TBA)

Friday, 29th December - Ceilidh at Burlington Club, Wath. Advance tickets available and on the door

Saturday, 6th January - Wassail event followed by annual Feast

Practice nights:
Every Tuesday (October -April) (excluding 12, 19, 24 December) 8pm-10pm at Wath Rugby Club, Moor Road, Wath. “New members and visitors ALWAYS welcome.”
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)
Facebook: Green Oak Morris Men
Instagram: https://www.instagram.com/green_oak_morris_men/

**Great Yorkshire Morris**  Bob Carter  bjcarter@ntlworld.com
Weblink Great Yorkshire Morris (wordpress.com)
Facebook: Great Yorkshire Morris

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

**Handsworth**  James Merryclough  handsworthsword@yahoo.co.uk
**Traditional Sword Dancers**
Weblink Handsworth – Traditional Sword Dancers (handsworthworddancers.org.uk)
Facebook: Handsworth Traditional Sword Dancers

**Harthill Morris**  Lesley Ellam  harthill.bagman@gmail.com
Weblink Harthill Morris
Facebook: Harthill Morris

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

**Spenn Valley Longsword**  Dave Webster  parkin4man@outlook.com

**Wakefield Morris**  Hazel Parker  wakefieldmorris@googlemail.com
Weblink WAKEFIELD MORRIS DANCERS
Facebook: Wakefield Morris

**Wath Morris**  Tim Binns  wathmorris@aol.com
Weblink Wath Morris New (wath-morris.co.uk)
Facebook: Wath Morris

**White Rose Morris**  Dan Baker  bagman@whiterosemorrismen.org.uk
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