Hi Folks,

Welcome to our second Morris Ring North Area Newsletter. Thank you for the very positive comments I received following the launch of the North Area Newsletter last month. I have updated/corrected the errors in the contacts list.

Moving forward I would like to include more pictures of sides or individual members, so if you have any fun pictures from recent events, please send them in with a paragraph to provide context.

The 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

Most of our sides will now be coming to the end of the Summer performance season, and with September comes the Autumn and a return to the practice sessions and, for many, the annual AGM.

This is the ideal time to recruit members with the full practice season ahead for them to learn the skills and build confidence. But historically, recruitment has often proved difficult. However, there appears to be a change in the Morris wind with a number of high-profile positive media articles about the Morris. The latest one I have seen was in Time Out magazine last month, emphasising how Morris has suddenly become “cool” – see the link: https://www.timeout.com/uk/dance/morris-dancing-is-going-through-a-cool-period And that “cool” word came up again mid-August as Lord Conyers performed at Robin Hoods Bay to appreciative audiences when one young lady commented “that looks so cool!” So maybe now is the time to make that extra effort (again) to recruit. I have posted a small section on our regional recruitment initiatives just to get your thoughts moving in that direction.

This newsletter will always be a work-in-progress, and I always receive feedback as a gift so please send me any ideas and suggestions to make it more relevant and useful to you.

If you want to be sure your side’s activities are included, please email me with details at daznugent@sky.com.

Kindest regards,

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

9th September, Belper JMO Regional Day of Dance
16th September, Norwich JMO Regional Day of Dance
23rd September, Chester JMO Regional Day of Dance
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

Bagman’s Newsletter: Bagmans Newsletter No 131 July 2023 | The Morris Ring

Recruitment

I know all types of recruitment initiatives have been tried, often with disappointing results, but it is still worth pushing to keep the tradition alive until the next popular revival which may be imminent. During this section I wish to share some ideas and thoughts proffered by members in our area.

Green Oak Morris are planning a “Give Morris Dancing a go!” event, with the following communication:

Green Oak Morris Men invite everyone to their give-it-a-go night in September.

This free session is on Wednesday 27 September from 8pm to 9pm at Doncaster Brewery Tap, in the city centre.

Those who take part will get a free pint or drink of their choice – it’s thirsty work!

Learn how to dance with big sticks to the tunes of traditional English folk songs. No experience needed, no need to book - everyone is welcome.

Morris dancing is great exercise and a fun sociable activity. It also keeps a centuries-old English tradition alive.

To find out more or get in touch, email greenoakdoncaster@gmail.com or contact 07710 229915.

I have received the following from a Morris colleague, Les Ellis, who made contact to comment “on an unusual success that we have had with Alford Morris in recruiting new dancers. We have been engaging with the Steam Punk fraternity and dancing at their functions and venues. It seems that they are kindred spirits to the Morris world, we have five new dancing members this year, age range 18 and upwards, all slotted into the dancing pretty quickly and three of them did their first public performance last weekend. Just a thought for your newsletter.” Thanks for that, Les.

Harthill Morris are planning a “Meet the Morris” day in Harthill Village Hall on Saturday, 28 October, 10am-4pm in which villagers and the wider community will be invited to see how Harthill Morris practice, with music, conversation, laughs and refreshments all on offer, and a Harthill Morris exhibition going back almost 50 years. This is being
promoted more as a social experience – but with the clear aim of encouraging some to have a go.

And Wakefield Morris are promoting two "Come and Join Us" evenings on Monday 18th and 25th September from 7.30 - 9.00 pm at The Kings Way Methodist Church Hall, Ossett, Wakefield, WF5 8ET, which is their normal practice venue.

Obituary
Please see the following sad news from Lord Conyers Morris Men:

Graham Moor, 12 July 1943 – 19 July 2023
It is with great sadness that we announce the death of our long-time musician, Graham Moor. He was one of the twelve original members of Lord Conyers Morris Men who first met together in the function room of The Lord Conyers Arms in Wales, South Yorkshire in 1974. He served us for years, first on the accordion as our only musician, and then as our membership grew, as the leader of our increasing band of musicians.

He was an ever present at dance outs whenever his working shifts permitted, being a coal face worker at Kiveton Park Colliery. He subsequently reinvented himself as a melodeonist and continued to play for us until failing health led to his retirement from this role after Bromyard Festival last September.

Other roles within the side included playing St George in Lord Conyers Mummers’ Play (there was never any doubt as to who was the play’s hero!) and providing a link with the past in our local version of T’Owd Tup, having taken part in this as a youth. His larger than life personality and good company will be greatly missed, not only by side members, but from all those in the wider Morris and general folk music community.

Graham’s funeral took place on Thursday, 10th August, at Wales Church, with Lord Conyers providing a guard of honour.
North Area Side News / Upcoming Performances

Green Oak Morris Men
Saturday, 14th October, Sword Dance Union Tournament, Sheffield.
Also, see Recruitment above.

Grimsby Morris
Saturday, 2nd September, 10:30am start, Lincoln Big Morris
Saturday, 30th September, Lincolnshire Day – in search of John Barleycorn, details TBC

Handsworth Traditional Sword Dancers
Saturday, 14th October, Sword Dance Union Tournament, Sheffield
SDU Competition 2023 – Handsworth [handsworthsworddancers.org.uk]

Harthill Morris
Saturday, 2nd September, 10:30am start, Lincoln Big Morris
Sunday, 1st October, Botanical Gardens, Sheffield in the afternoon
Sunday, 3rd December, Kelham Island Victorian Christmas Market, Sheffield
Thursday night practices commence on 7th September, @7.45pm, at Harthill Village Hall,
with the AGM on Thursday, 21st September. Also, see Recruitment above.

Lord Conyers Morris Men
Fri-Sun, 8th-10th September, Bromyard Folk Festival
Saturday, 14th October, Sword Dance Union Tournament, Sheffield
Wednesday night practices commence on 13th September, @7.30pm, at Wales Jubilee
Sports and Social Club, School Rd, Wales, Sheffield S26 5QG

Wakefield Morris
Practice nights are on Mondays at The Kings Way Methodist Church Hall, Ossett,
Wakefield, WF5 8ET (see Recruitment above).

Wath Morris
Wath are on tour in Wensleydale this month as follows:
Friday, 8th September
  8pm - Bainbridge Village Hall (Temperance Hall) - Informal music and songs
Saturday, 9th September, 10am Dancing at Aysgarth National Park Visitor Centre
  11.30am - Dancing in Leyburn Market Place
  12.30pm - Dancing at The Black Bull, Middleham followed by lunch and singing
  2.30pm - Dancing at The Fox, West Witton
  3.30pm - Dancing at the Fox and Hounds, West Burton
  8pm–11pm - Bainbridge Village Hall (Temperance Hall), Bainbridge - Informal music
  and songs (open invitation)
Sunday, 10th September
  10.30am - Dancing at Sycamore Hall, Bainbridge
  11.30am - Dancing at Hawes Countryside Museum.
  12.30pm - Dancing at The Board Inn, Hawes
  1.30pm - Dancing at Wensleydale Creamery (Hawes)

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

Tuesday 19th September AGM 8:00, Wath Rugby Club. Members and past members welcome.
North Area Sides - contact and social media details

**Barnsley Longsword**  
Andy Cox  
andrewecox@tiscali.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 Traditional Sword Dancers**  
James Merryclough  
handsworthsword@yahoo.co.uk  
Weblink Handsworth – Traditional Sword Dancers (handsworthsworddancers.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

**Spen Valley Longsword**  
Dave Webster  
parkin4man@outlook.com  
Weblink Spen Valley Longsword

**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  
Weblink White Rose Morris (nicksites.net)  
Facebook: White Rose Morris

daznugent@sky.com