Hi Folks,

Welcome to the November 2023 Morris Ring North Area Newsletter, and after last month’s bumper edition (12 pages!!) we are back to a more slimline one that reflects the expected Morris activity as we move into November.

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. The more the merrier.

And thank you for the very positive comments following the October North Area Newsletter. 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.

The main feature of this month are pictures from the SDU competition held in Sheffield. Congratulations to Lord Conyers Morris Men for the “sword dancing as a second language” category. Well done Handsworth Sword Dancers for putting on a fun event. I really enjoyed myself and partied well into the evening with a great music session in Croft House. Great ale too.

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

Again, please check your contact details at the end of the newsletter, I have made more corrections this month. I’ll get them right eventually.

Kindest regards,

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

The Morris Ring Advisory Council met via Zoom on 22nd October. One of the agenda items was to discuss ideas to commemorate the 90th anniversary of the Morris Ring next year. A number of ideas were put forward, though nothing to get too excited about and this was reflected back in the meeting. There is nothing planned at the moment.

So, the Morris Ring Area Reps have been asked to canvass its members for any ideas. Do you have any? If so, please let me know at daznugent@sky.com.

There was also a discussion on the Trust Registration Service that will probably affect most of our sides. If you haven’t yet read it, then I advise you to read pages 10-15 of the current Morris Ring Bagman’s newsletter that has just been circulated. Please following link: bagmans-newsletter-no-132-october-2023.pdf [themorrisring.org]

There are also booking details of the 2024 Morris Ring ARM on 2nd March. I will be going. It is a fun event - I would love to have some company from other sides in our region.

Morris Ring 2024 Annual Representatives Meeting | The Morris Ring

Morris Ring Events:

23rd December, The Original Welsh Border Morris Men Christmas 2023 Tour
2nd March, Morris Ring 2024 Annual Representatives Meeting
27th April, Cambridge Morris Men, Centenary Spring Day of Dance
28th September, Peterborough Morris Day of Dance

Sword Dancing Union (SDU) Longsword Competition 2023

On Saturday, 14th October, the SDU Longsword Competition was held in our region, specifically the Sheffield city-centre.

Superbly organised and hosted by the Handsworth Traditional Sword Dancers the event was great fun with dancing spots at the Winter Gardens, outside the Town Hall and Orchard Square. The two competition rounds were held at Channing Hall and then at Croft House on Garden Street.

Competition winners in the traditional category were Sallyport, for writing their own dance were Southport, and for those more used to other traditions of dancing were Lord Conyers Morris Men.
Instead of writing a full report I am going to cheat and direct you to the Handsworth Sword Dancers Facebook page that has loads of photos, videos and updates: www.facebook.com/handsworthsword

Yorkshire Post also provided positive coverage of the event: Sharing Yorkshire’s little-known tradition of longsword dancing as competitors come to Sheffield [yorkshirepost.co.uk]

Congratulations Handsworth for a putting on a very successful, well organised and fun entertaining day and evening.

From Handsworth Sword Dancers Facebook

**North Area Side News / Upcoming Performances**

**Green Oak Morris Men**

Green Oak Morris Men have been at it again making the most of a sunny Saturday with a leisurely litter pick in kit!

2 bags of rubbish collected ✅
6 business cards / promotional beermats handed out ✅
One sassy comment from an under-12 footballer: "why are you wearing that? You wouldn’t catch me wearing that"
All in a day’s work 😊
Upcoming festive performances:

Wednesday 6 December, St George and the Dragon mummer's play. 8.30pm, Jemmy Hirst at the Rose & Crown, 26 Riverside, Rawcliffe, Goole, DN14 8RN

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**

Well done, Handsworth. Have a rest. You deserve it. See SDU coverage above.

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

**Harthill Morris**

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, S26 7YL. 7.45pm-9.30pm.
Lord Conyers Morris Men

Lord Conyers Morris Men were proud winners of the “Second Language” category at the SDU competition.

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 the Duke of Leeds, 16 Church St, Wales, Sheffield S26 5LQ. 7.30pm-9.30pm.

Wakefield Morris

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

I saw Wath Morris at the SDU event and was very impressed with their polished sword dancing performance. Great music too.

Videos and of Wath Morris at the SDU event can their YouTube page: https://youtu.be/CB4Bi4rqhus

Also, more photos at their Facebook Page: https://www.facebook.com/wathmorris
Wath Morris events programme up to the Christmas Festive Season:

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

**Claro Longsword**  Barry Slaymaker  barry_slaymaker@yahoo.co.uk  
Facebook: www.facebook.com/groups/1926895320929282/

**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  
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Facebook: Grimsby Morris

**Handsworth Traditional Sword Dancers**  James Merryclough  handworthsword@yahoo.co.uk  
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**Harthill Morris**  Lesley Ellam  harthill.bagman@gmail.com  
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**Lord Conyers MM**  Peter Yendley  lordconyers@gmail.com  
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**Spen Valley Longsword**  Dave Webster  parkin4man@outlook.com  
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