

West Midlands Area

Rep Newsletter

2nd July 2024

Dear Friends,

Firstly, huge apologies for not finishing the June newsletter. As mentioned, as one of the organisers of the Vale of Evesham National Morris Weekend, the last month or so have been incredibly busy, great to see a good number of you all there, look out for 2025 invites soon!

That said, I did manage to get out to Cecil Sharp House to attend a conference of a project called 'Dancing Dialogues'. The aim of the project being to link up dance groups in all their forms across the West Midlands and South of England. If you haven't already done so, please register your group on the website www.dancing-dialogues.net to get networking with other local dance groups and get in touch with West Midlands project lead - Rosa Cisneros who is really supportive on: ab4928@coventry.ac.uk or 07789040269 if you have any thoughts on ways of promoting morris dancing or dancing in general.

Looking ahead to a great July seeing a number of you out in the wild and the final preparations for next month's Ring Meeting celebrating 90 years of the Morris Ring and conveniently Shakespeare Morris' 65th year too!

Best Wishes,

Matthew Turvey - West Midlands Area Rep, Morris Ring

News from West Midland Sides

Coventry Morris Men:



- Carrying on from the last edition where we were literally the poster boys for the Earlsdon Festival at the beginning of May, CMM had a full day's dancing there with 6 shows. Over May we've had our normal Tuesday evenings, another visit to Berkswell Windmill and, on the Bank Holiday Monday, our traditional "Whit Tour" with 6 shows across the day which included our regular solo clog dancer. We have had enthusiastic audiences at almost all of them including, on the Whit Tour, two villages where we have danced on this tour since 1951.
- June saw us dancing at a number of joint events including at Market Harborough with Braybrooke Morris, an evening at Baxterley with Anker and others and the Vale of Evesham weekend. Then there are the usual run of small community events and our Tuesday evenings. No rest yet!

Faithful City Morris Men:

- The Summer has arrived (finally) and we were able to support The Talbot at Knightwick in their Midsummer Solstice event. Still no news of a potential buyer for the hotel.
- Good to have Glyn Vigurs visiting. A nice Bampton jig from him at our evening out with Soft Option Appalachian Dancers.
- Very nice to be invited to the Traditional Ilmington 50th Celebration, a fun visit dancing at select spots around the village and the sun shone all day too.
(Photos Left - FCMM Glyn Vigurs (visiting) on good form with Princess Royal (Bampton) jig & Bill Smith playing. Right - The Traditional Ilmington Dancers 50th Celebration, with grateful thanks to them from FCMM for all the organisation involved.)



Jockey Morris:

- We are just about recovered from May, after ensuring that the sun will continue to rise, dancing at an Artisan Fair and at Sandwell Valley, performing at the WIVO Festival in Wilrijk, Antwerp and joining Bedcote Morris for a pub night, so we go on to June/July!
- Jockey were back at the Stourbridge Day of Dance on 8th June. We missed last year (the first time we've not been there).
- We headed over to our annual visit to the Rose at Baxterley on 19th June, meeting up with Anker Morris, Ansley Morris, Chinwerde and others... Always a cracking night.
- On 22nd June we had a celebration of our 75 years with a Memorabilia Day at Weoley Hill Village Hall, Birmingham B29 4AR. Rooting through our archives and putting them on display, along with some videos.
- We have other potential danceouts too. Keep an eye on our Facebook page!



Shakespeare Morris:

- Thank you to Beorma, Tattered Court, Flowers of Ilmington, Wychwayz, Black Adder and Ragged Oak for joining us at various danceouts throughout May and June – we've had a blast and it's what the morris is all about!
- Thank you to all involved in the Vale of Evesham National Morris Weekend, another fabulous weekend and great to see so many local sides there too.
- We look ahead to our Day of Dance next month and are looking forward to showing Stratford off at its best – 14 teams are fully booked, the morris will well and truly be in town!

Shrewsbury Morris:



- Shrewsbury Morris have already had some good dance outs in and around their home town during the spring, including a turnout of twenty-four of us dancing at the Shropshire County Show, where the sun shone and a good time had by all.
- Shrewsbury Morris enjoyed their time at the Ossett Beercart Festival and it was good to dance with some different teams. It was straight back from Yorkshire to dance at a National Trust Volunteer's party. A rather bizarre event as it seemed that our role was to entertain the very long and very patient food queue.
- We are now gearing up for our regular Beat & Bells event in The Square in Shrewsbury. A continuous day of dancing shared between our guests and ourselves which means there will be some very tired feet at the end of the day.

Silurian Border Morris Men:

- We have continued with our dance out practices and the guys are enjoying dancing outside even if it's between the raindrops. If it rains, we just adjourn early to the bar. Life's hard.
- Our venues recently have included: The Barn in Ledbury, which included a singing and musical session. The Anchor Inn, Eckington.

Stafford Morris:

From the ill-fated June newsletter!:

- As would be expected, the May Day Bank Holiday weekend was a busy one for Stafford. We attended a Beltane on the Saturday and a National Trust event on the Sunday at Moseley Old Hall, a regular booking for us. On the Monday we supported our mates at Uttoxeter Heart of Oak Morris at two dance outs, one at a brewery (what could possibly go wrong....) and one at a village fete. All were splendid events, well attended by dancers and well received by audiences.
- The rest of May has been spent practicing ready for the show season to kick off in earnest. June sees us start our pub dance outs in the evenings, plus we've got a few village fetes and carnivals to dance out. A busy month ahead, and as usual, we would not be able to put on such great shows without the support of Uttoxeter Heart of Oak Morris.
- Our partnership with Titanic Brewery is still in the early stages, but we're hoping that this is going to blossom into a mutually beneficial collaboration.



July's newsletter:

- Quite a few events planned for June but unfortunately, we had to cancel two due to a lack of numbers. Even joining events with our great mates from Uttoxeter Heart of Oak, we still struggle at times for numbers. Stafford have a problem with music, as we only have one musician. This means that if he is not available then we rely on Uttoxeter musicians, which they are happy to do, but it would be good if we could attract more musicians. If anyone in West Mids knows of anyone, please do put them in touch with us.
- On a more positive note, events we have done have been cracking. Stafford have had quite an influx of new dancers over the past 12 months and it has been a pleasure seeing them grow in confidence and skills in dancing out. As well as a few paid events in June, we have been doing some pub dance outs in collaboration with Uttoxeter. These are always well attended and great fun. As ever, we have the uncanny knack of clearing the pub when we start dancing, but hey, who needs an audience anyway!
- July is also looking busy for us, with our major event of the year at Newport Show. Historically this is a great event, and our Squire Emeritus generally sniffs out the stand with free Pimms, so always a bonus.



Morris and Folk Events this month:

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
<p>1st Silurian Border Morris Men: <i>Poet's Day</i> Ledbury</p> <p>Shakespeare Morris: 8pm College Arms, Lower Quinton</p> <p>England's Glory Morris: 8pm Green Dragon, Cockleford</p> <p>Folk At The Club <i>Singers Night</i> Churchdown Club, Church Road, Churchdown, Gloucester GL3 2ER (1st & 3rd Mondays)</p>	<p>2nd Coventry Morris Men: 8pm Saracen's Head, 9pm Brickmakers Arms, Balsall Common</p> <p>Folk Session with Old Meg & Belle D'Vain Morris Dancing 7:30pm Red Lion, Evesham WR11 4RW (1st Tuesdays)</p> <p>Traditional Singers Club 8.30 -11pm Little Vic, Queen Victoria, Gloucester St, Stroud GL5 1QG (1st and 3rd Tuesdays)</p> <p>Stopwatch Sessions 8pm Somerville Arms Leamington Spa (1st Tuesdays)</p> <p>Winchcombe Folk Club 8pm The Working Men's Club, Abbey Terrace, Winchcombe GL54 5LW (1st Tuesdays)</p> <p>Music Session 8pm The Fountain, Gloucester GL1 2NW (1st Tuesdays)</p>	<p>3rd Roots at the Rooms with Keith Eardley & Bob Powell 8pm The Ale Rooms 7 Smalley Place Kenilworth CV8 1QG (1st Wednesdays)</p> <p>Folk at the Lion 2-4pm Red Lion Hotel Atherstone (1st Wednesdays)</p> <p>Forest of Dean Morris: 8pm Fountain Parkend</p> <p>Music Session with Tony Gibbons 8pm Royal Oak, Bredon GL20 7LW (Every 4 weeks)</p>	<p>4th Gloucestershire Morris with Happenstance: 7:45pm Apple Tree, Woodmancote</p> <p>Folk Session 8pm Clarendon Arms Kenilworth (1st Thursdays)</p> <p>Minchinhampton Folk Club 7:45pm Cotswold Club 11 High St Minchinhampton GL6 9BN (£2) (Weekly)</p> <p>Roving Folk (Singaround/ Music Session - no guests) 7:30pm Much Marcle Village Hall HR8 2LY (1st Thursdays)</p> <p>Harbury Folk Club 8pm Harbury Village Club (1st Thursdays)</p>	<p>5th</p>	<p>6th Shrewsbury Morris with Raise the Dust Appalachian and Identity Dance: 10-4pm Beat & Bells The Square, Shrewsbury</p> <p>Styx of Stroud: Highnam Court Family Day</p> <p>CV Folk Freshers Workshops - Lauren South 11am Albany Theatre Coventry CV5 6JQ (£5)</p> <p>Cara Dillon 7:30pm The Roses Theatre, Sun St Tewkesbury GL19 5NX</p> <p>Highnam Afternoon Dance with callers Pat Hicks & Geoff Elwell 2-5pm Gambier Parry Room, Newent Rd, Highnam GL2 8DG (£3)</p> <p>Cheltenham Ceilidh Club 7:30pm St Luke's Hall GL53 7HP (£5)</p>	<p>7th Music Session 2pm Beauchamp Arms Dymock GL18 2AQ (1st Sundays)</p> <p>The Craven Céilí 3-6pm The Craven Club, 3-5 Craven St Coventry CV5 8DS (1st Sundays)</p> <p>Forest Folk Club 7:30pm Orepool Inn Chepstow Rd Sling Coleford GL16 8LH (£8/£2)</p>

<p>8th Shakespeare Morris <i>with Plum Jerkum and Nancy Butterfly:</i> 8pm Aston Cantlow Club B95 6HZ</p> <p>Cirencester Slow Session 7:30-9:30pm (2nd & 4th Mondays, except August)</p>	<p>9th Coventry Morris Men: 8pm Rainbow Inn, Allesley CV5 9GT 9pm The Cottage, Earlsdon CV5 6ET</p> <p>Music Session 8pm The Red Lion North Road, Huntley, Gloucester GL19 3DU (2nd Tuesdays)</p> <p>Folk & Shanty Session 7:30-10:30pm Stroud Brewery Kingfisher Business Park Stroud GL5 2BY (2nd Tuesdays)</p>	<p>10th Folk/Acoustic Evening 8pm Carpenter's Arms, Miserden GL6 7JA (Weekly)</p> <p>Traditional Song Session (No instruments) 8pm Twelve Bells, 12 Lewis Lane, Cirencester, GL7 1EA (2nd Wednesdays)</p>	<p>11th Fleece Ceilidh Club 7:30pm Fleece Inn, Bretforton WR11 7JE (2nd Thursdays) (£10)</p> <p>Jon Doran and the Northern Assembly <i>Folk Club</i> 8pm Stratford Play House CV37 6LU</p> <p>May Hill Village Dance Group 10-12noon Village Hall, All Saints Rd, May Hill, Longhope GL17 0NL (2nd & 4th Thursdays)</p> <p>Folk Club 8pm White Horse, High Street, Mitcheldean GL17 0AT (2nd Thursdays)</p> <p>Performers Night with Andi Wolf Leamington Folk Club 7pm Temperance Café 33 Bath Street, Leamington Spa CV31 3AF (2nd Thursdays)</p>	<p>12th Riverfolk 7:30pm Trout Inn, St John's Bridge, Faringdon Rd, Lechlade GL7 3HA (2nd and last Fridays)</p> <p>Warwick Court Leet Beer, Cider and Music Festival 4-10pm Warwick Racecourse</p>	<p>13th Warwick Court Leet Beer, Cider and Music Festival 12-10pm Warwick Racecourse</p> <p>Ryan Sloan 3-5pm Old Post Office, Warwick</p>	<p>14th Shrewsbury Morris: Team walk & social on the Stiperstones</p> <p>Hairy Folkers Session 2-5pm Old Windmill, Spon Street, Coventry CV1 3BA (Weekly)</p> <p>Folk Session 8pm Fleece Inn, Bretforton WR11 7JE (2nd Sundays)</p> <p>Adam Cooney, Bob Wilkinson, Squire-Gillespie, Nowhere Club, Willow and Tool Band + Karen Killeen Jones of KC Jones 7:30pm Albany Theatre Coventry CV5 6JQ</p> <p>Barny's at The Little Vic 7:30-10:30pm Gloucester St Stroud GL5 1QG (£5/£6) (2nd Sundays)</p>
<p>15th White Hart Morris Men <i>with Shakespeare Morris et al.:</i> 7:30pm Fleece Inn, Bretforton WR11 7JE Cheltenham Folk Dance Club 7:30-9:30pm Holy Trinity School, Sherborne St, Cheltenham GL52 2JP (In term time)</p>	<p>16th Coventry Morris Men: 8pm Red Lion, Corley</p> <p>Folk at Frampton 8pm Frampton Village Hall, The Green Frampton-on-Severn GL2 7DY (Weekly)</p>	<p>17th Kenilworth Acoustic Sessions 1-3pm Kenilworth Centre (Weekly)</p> <p>Celtic Folk Music Session 8pm Fleece Inn The Cross Bretforton WR11 7JE (3rd Wednesdays)</p>	<p>18th Gloucester Folk Choir 7pm Folk of Gloucester, Westgate Street, Gloucester GL1 2PG (Weekly during term time) (£7)</p>	<p>19th</p>	<p>20th Shrewsbury Morris: <i>Severn Valley Railway Day of Dance</i> Gloucester County Folk Dance Club <i>led by Brian Stanton & Laura Hodges.</i> 2-5pm St George's Church Hall, Court Road, Brockworth, GL3 4ET (Usually 3rd Saturdays)</p>	<p>21st Shrewsbury Morris: <i>Flaxmill Creates Festival</i> Shrewsbury</p> <p>Benji Kirkpatrick & Patakas 7pm Temperance, Leamington Spa Folk in the Lounge - Music & Song 8pm Denbigh Arms CV23 0QX</p>

<p>Fox Acoustic Sessions 8pm Fox Inn The Square Attleborough Nuneaton CV11 4JY <i>(Weekly)</i></p>	<p>Gloucester Scottish Dance Society 7:30pm St Oswald's Retirement Village, Gavel Way, Gloucester GL1 2UF <i>(Weekly)</i></p> <p>Warwickshire Acapella Singers Circle (On Zoom) 7:45-11pm <i>(Monthly on 16th)</i></p> <p>Gloucester Songwriting Circle Ed Shed, The Folk of Gloucester <i>(3rd Tuesdays)</i></p>		<p>English Session <i>(Instruments only, no songs)</i> The Plough, Mill Street, Prestbury GL52 3BG <i>(Weekly)</i></p> <p>Folk Session 8pm Fleece Inn, Bretforton WR11 7JE <i>(Weekly)</i></p> <p>Trad Session 7:30pm The Oak Coventry Rd Bagington CV8 3AU <i>(3rd Thursdays)</i></p>			
<p>22nd 'CovTrad' Traditional Music Session 8pm Humber Hotel, 1 Humber Rd, Coventry CV3 1BA <i>(Weekly)</i></p>	<p>23rd Coventry Morris Men: 8pm Rose & Crown, Wolston 9pm Half Moon Wolston</p>	<p>24th Folk music session 10.30 – 12.30 Upstairs @ Stroud Brewery, Phoenix Works, London Road, Thrupp, Stroud GL5 2BU <i>(Weekly)</i></p>	<p>25th Warwick Folk Festival Starts</p> <p>Odds Bodkins English Music & Song Session with Morris Oxford 8pm Snitterfield Arms, Bearley Rd CV37 0JH <i>(4th Thursdays)</i></p> <p>Music Session 9pm Old Fourpenny Shop, Crompton St, Warwick CV34 6HJ <i>(Weekly)</i></p>	<p>26th Shakespeare Morris with Jockey Morris: 8pm The Old Post Office, Warwick The Eagle, Warwick</p> <p>CVFolk Concert: Afternoon Main Site Warwick Folk Festival</p>	<p>27th</p>	<p>28th Warwick Folk Festival Ends</p>
<p>29th</p>	<p>30th</p>	<p>31st Hereburgh Morris with Shakespeare Morris et al.: 8pm Snitterfield Arms CV37 0JH</p> <p>Ceilidh with Danger! Ceilidh Band 7:30pm Kenilworth Sports & Social Club Montague House Upper Rosemary Hill Kenilworth CV8 2PA (£10/£7.50)</p>				

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