

The North Wood Morris

This year North Wood Morris celebrate 50 years as Croydon's foremost Morris team having been formed by members of the local Scout Movement. The dancers wear white shirts and trousers, green waistcoats, bellpads, decorated with green and yellow ribbon and yellow and green baldricks. The baldrick worn across the shirt, was derived from the harness once used for carrying a sword, ours bears the badge of an acorn, symbolic of the oak trees which were predominant in the North Wood. The designs on the back of the waistcoat reflects something of the wearer! Over this period we have built up an extensive repertoire of around 40 dances. These originate from several Cotswold villages, still with active teams, but have been developed and adapted to suit our particular style. It is a style which we practice proudly as members of the Morris Ring since 1984.

Although most of our dancing always has (and always will!) taken place around the pick of the country's pubs, there have been many more diverse venues. These include the Royal Albert Hall, London Zoo, Blue Peter, cruise liners, farms, mountain peaks, Wembley Arena, Earls Court, Millennium Dome, Japanese and British television, carnivals, fetes, fairs and weddings. We have been joined in our dances by Frank Bruno, Vicki Michelle, Peter Duncan, policewomen, passers-by and innocent bystanders.

Contrary to popular belief money collected on tours is not spent behind the bar. Whilst money is required for day to day running costs, we have contributed over £17,200 to local charities. Mayday Hospital, Eldon Phab Club and St. Christopher's Hospice have been particularly close to our hearts over the years.

We dance for enjoyment more than tradition. It puts a smile on our faces and gives us an excuse to share a beer with good friends, young and old. It's exercise that doesn't feel like it. Above all – it's fun!

We thank you for taking time to watch. If you have any questions please ask any member of the team. We hope that, after the performance, you take away pleasing memories and a broad smile!



We are looking for new members to dance or play music for us. We will train dancers and musicians from scratch if need be, all are welcome. If you would like to join as a dancer or musician or would like to go on our mailing list for current events then please contact either:

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www.northwoodmorris.co.uk

NORTH WOOD MORRIS

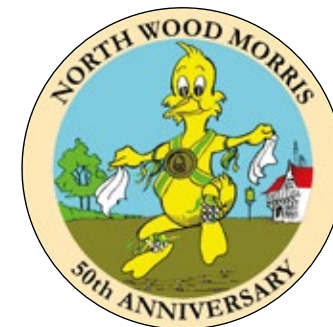
2025 TOUR PROGRAMME



NORTH WOOD MORRIS CELEBRATING THEIR 50TH BIRTHDAY DECEMBER 2024

CROYDON'S OWN MORRIS DANCERS

Celebrate 50 years
1975 – 2025



For latest information visit our website:

www.northwoodmorris.co.uk

Tour Programme 2025

Thursday 1 May	5.45am 6.30am 7.00am	Crown Hill , North End, Croydon, Surrey Queen's Gardens , Fell Road, Croydon, Surrey Fairfield Halls , Forecourt, Park Lane, Croydon, Surrey
Saturday 10 May	1.30pm – 2.30pm	May Queen Crowning , Warlingham Green, Warlingham, Surrey
Thursday 15 May	7.45pm	The Wattenden Arms , Old Lodge Lane, Kenley Surrey CR8 5EU
Sunday 18th May	12.45pm 1.45pm	The Bell , (aka "The Rat"), Withybed Corner, Walton on the Hill, Surrey KT20 7UJ The Sportsman , Mogador Road, Lower Kingswood, Surrey KT20 7ES
2 June until 25 August		Private Bookings with Greenwich Morris Men & North Wood Way Morris Old Palace Clog 40th Anniversary Day of Dance London Tour of Old Palaces See website for details: www.northwoodmorris.co.uk North Wood Morris 50th Anniversary Day of Dance See website for details: www.northwoodmorris.co.uk
Saturday 14th June	All Day	
Saturday 21st June	All Day	
Saturday 28 June	11.45am 4.00pm	Greenwich Morris Men Day of Dance Dancing around the centre of Royal Greenwich See website for details: www.northwoodmorris.co.uk
Tuesday 19 August	7.30pm 11.00pm	Croydon Night of Dance Lower Addiscombe area of Croydon, Surrey See website for details: www.northwoodmorris.co.uk
Saturday 29 August	10.00am 12.15pm 1.30pm 5.00pm	North Wood Weekend of Dance with Guests sides Calais & Boulogne-sur-Mer, France Dancing at the Market , Marche au Place D'Armes 62100 Calais Dancing in front of the le Grand Theatre, Calais St. Joseph Village , 2450 - 1er Banc "Le Marais" 62340 Guines Cite Europe , 1001 Boulevard du Kent 62902 Coquelles Cedex, Calais
Sunday 31 August	11.15am 1.00pm	Boulogne-sur-Mer , Dancing around the Old Town
Saturday 4 October	11.00am	Guests of Weald of Kent Morris Men Cranbrook Apple Fayre , Cranbrook High Street, Cranbrook, Kent TN17 9DT
Sunday 12 October	12.45pm 1.45pm	The Wheatsheaf , Hever Road, Bough Beech, Edenbridge, Kent TN8 7NU The Rock , Hoath Corner, Chiddingstone, Hoath, Kent TN8 7AD
Saturday 13 December	10.45am 4.00pm	Christmas Festive Day of Dance with Guest Sides Dancing spots around the South Bank, London Bridge area See website for details: www.northwoodmorris.co.uk
Friday 26 December	12.45pm	Boxing Day Tour The Harrow Inn , Farleigh Road, Warlingham, Surrey CR6 9EL

North Wood Morris reserve the right to cancel a performance due to tempest, fire, flood or any other unforeseen circumstances.

North Wood Morris & North Wood Way Morris needs you...

- Convinced you can't dance?
- Join our Croydon based mixed teams and keep fit

We are eager to welcome new members musicians & dancers, experienced or not – we will teach from scratch. Join our Croydon based team and keep the English tradition alive. Practices take place in Purley, Surrey on a Thursday evening. *Email: bagman@northwoodmorris.co.uk*

The Origins of Morris Dancing

The earliest authenticated references to Morris Dancing date back to 1448. The first is an inventory at Caistor Castle, Norfolk which mentions a tapestry (no longer in existence) depicting a "morysk Daunce". The second, more intriguing, reference is to a payment made to "the Morrysh dauners" for a performance on 19th May 1448. This payment was made by the Worshipful Company of Goldsmiths in London. It is possible that the morris was a well established pastime already by this stage. Certainly Shakespeare makes mention of it in several of his plays and one of his clowns, William Kemp, was a noted dancer.

The survival of morris dancing much beyond the end of the 19th century is due largely to the work of Cecil Sharp. He saw the Headington Quarry Morris Men perform on Boxing Day 1899 and resolved to research and collect the dances. His work proved invaluable in assisting later folk revivals. Each dancer you see before you plays his part in continuing this iconic English tradition.

Morris traditions come from various parts of the country but in particular the Cotswolds, Staffordshire and the Welsh border. From Lancashire comes North West Morris a processional form of Morris danced in clogs. Sword dancing comes from the Yorkshire and Tyneside area and Molly Dancing from East Anglia. Special traditions still exist such as the Abbots Bromley Horn Dance, the Helston Furry Dance, the Padstow 'Obby Oss' and the Bacup Coconut Dance.

Morris in Croydon

As early as the time of Henry VIII an account now in the Surrey County Records Office, shows that a group of Morris Dancers performed at the end of George Street at the May Day festivities. They also performed a Mumming play (a simple folk play in rhyme).

In 1509 there is a record of the Morris dancers making a collection of the grand sum of nine shillings and fourpence (47p). An early photograph from around 1910, in the Croydon Local Studies Department, shows the Shirley Village Boys Morris team. No more is known at present about them so we would welcome any information.



**The custom of giving the dancers money is as old as the dancing itself.
It ensures good luck to the donor, and of course the dancers!**