

The North Wood Morris Men

This year North Wood Morris celebrate 47 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 £16,100 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:

Squire: **Stephen Collingwood** Mobile: 07914 398807
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Bagman/Treasurer: **David Williams** Mobile: 07749 730126
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www.northwoodmorris.co.uk

NORTH WOOD MORRIS MEN TOUR PROGRAMME 2022



CROYDON'S OWN MORRIS DANCERS

Celebrate 47 years
1975 – 2022



For latest information visit our website:
www.northwoodmorris.co.uk

Tour Programme 2022

Sunday 1 May	5.45am	Crown Hill , North End, Croydon, Surrey
	6.45am	Fairfield Halls , Forecourt, Park Lane, Croydon, Surrey
Monday 2 May		Private Booking
Saturday 7 May	1.45pm	May Queen Crowning , Warlingham Green, Warlingham, Surrey

Saturday 14 May		North Wood Day of Dance with Guest Sides
	10.30am	City Hall , near Tower Bridge, London SE1 2AA
	11.30am	Hays Galleria , London Bridge, London SE1 2AA
	12.20pm	London Bridge City Pier , London Bridge, London SE1 2AA
	2.15pm	Old Thameside Inn , Pickford Wharf, London SE1 9DG
	3.00pm	The Anchor Bankside , 34 Park Street, London SE1 9EF
	4.00pm	The Founders Arms , 52 Hopton Street, Bankside, London SE1 9JH

Sunday 5 June Private Booking

Sunday 19 June Private Booking

Saturday 30 July Private Booking

Tuesday 16 August **Croydon Night of Dance**
7.30pm Lower Addiscombe area of Croydon, Surrey
11.00pm See website for details: www.northwoodmorris.co.uk

		North Wood Weekend of Dance with Guest sides Calais & Boulogne-sur-Mer, France
Saturday	10.00am	Dancing at the Market , Marche au Place D'Armes 62100 Calais
3 September	12.15pm	Dancing in front of the le Grand Theatre, Calais
	1.30pm	St Joseph Village , 2450 - 1er Banc "Le Marais" 62340 Guines
	5.00pm	Cite Europe , 1001 boulevard du Kent 62902 Coquelles Cedex, Calais
Sunday	11.15am	Boulogne-sur-Mer , Dancing around the Old Town
4 September	2.00pm	

Saturday 1 October **Guests of Weald of Kent Morris Men**
11.00am Cranbrook Apple Fayre, Cranbrook High Street, Cranbrook, Kent TN17 9DT

Saturday 10 December **Christmas Festive Day of Dance**
11.00am Dancing spots around the South Bank, London Bridge area
4.00pm See website for details: www.northwoodmorris.co.uk

Thursday 26 December **Boxing Day Tour**
12.45pm **The Harrow Inn**, 309 Farleigh Road, Warlingham, Surrey CR6 9EL

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

Please look at our website www.northwoodmorris.co.uk for our latest programme of dates for dance venues.

North Wood Morris needs you...

- Experienced musicians welcome
- Convinced you can't dance?
- Lots of fun and keeps you 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 Headlington 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 and Durham 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!