

## The North Wood Morris Men

This year North Wood Morris celebrate 39 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 £16,000 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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# NORTH WOOD MORRIS MEN

## 2014 TOUR PROGRAMME



## CROYDON'S OWN MORRIS DANCERS 1975 – 2014



For latest information visit our website:  
[www.northwoodmorris.co.uk](http://www.northwoodmorris.co.uk)

## Tour Programme 2014

Thursday 1 May	5.45am	<b>Crown Hill</b> , North End, Croydon, Surrey
	6.45am	<b>Queen's Gardens</b> , Fell Road, Croydon, Surrey
Saturday 3 May	1.45pm	<b>May Queen Crowning</b> , Warlingham Green, Warlingham, Surrey

Saturday 10 May		<b>North Wood Day of Dance with Guest Sides</b>
	9.30am	<b>The Oxted Inn and Morrisons</b> 4 Hoskins Walk, Oxted, Surrey RH8 9HR 43 East Hill, Oxted, Surrey RH8 9AE
	10.50am	<b>The Carpenters Arms</b> , 12 Tally Road, Limsfield Chart, Surrey RH8 0TG
	12.15pm	<b>The Barley Mow</b> , Tandridge Lane, Tandridge, Surrey RH8 9NJ
	1.20pm	<b>The Plough</b> , Church Road, St John's Redhill, Surrey RH1 6QE
	3.50pm	<b>The Station Pub</b> , The Avenue, South Nutfield, Surrey RH1 5RY
	5.45pm	<b>The Royal Standard</b> , 1 Sheldon Street, Croydon, Surrey CR0 1SS

		<b>An Evening with East Surrey Morris Men</b>
Thursday 15 May	7.30pm	<b>The Fox &amp; Hounds</b> , High Street, Carshalton, Surrey SM5 3BB
	8.30pm	<b>The Hope</b> , 48 West Street, Carshalton, Surrey SM5 2PR

		<b>Dorset Road Allotments Open Day</b>
Sunday 18 May	1.00pm	Dorset Road, Elmers End, Beckenham, Kent BR3 4EA

Thursday 12 June	7.45pm	<b>The Oval Tavern</b> , 131 Oval Road, East Croydon, Surrey CR0 6BR
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		<b>Southborough Lions Gala Day</b>
Sunday 15 June	1.00 - 4.00pm	Barnardos, Meadow School, London Road, Southborough, Kent TN4 0RJ

Thursday 26 June	7.45pm	<b>The Bree Louise</b> , 69 Cobourg Street, London NW1 2HH
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		<b>An Evening with Marlings Morris</b>
Monday 30 June	7.45pm	<b>The Plough</b> , Church Road, St. Johns Redhill, Surrey RH1 6QE

		<b>Mickleham Rectory Garden Village Fete</b>
Saturday 5 July	1.45 - 4.30pm	Mickleham Rectory Gardens, Old London Road, Mickleham, Surrey

		<b>Greenwich Morris Men Day of Dance</b>
Sunday 6 July	11.00am - 4.00pm	Dancing around the centre of Royal Greenwich (see website for details)

Thursday 10 July	7.45pm	<b>The Harrow Inn</b> , Farleigh Road, Warlingham, Surrey CR6 9EL
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Sunday 13 July	1.00pm - 3.00pm	<b>The Sportsman</b> , Mogador Road, Lower Kingswood, Surrey KT20 7ES <b>Fanny's Farm</b> , Markedge Lane, Gatton Bottom, Mersham, Surrey RH1 3AW
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Thursday 17 July	7.45pm	<b>The Fox</b> , Coulsdon Common, Old Coulsdon, Surrey CR3 5QS
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		<b>3HBF Evening</b>
Thursday 24 July	7.45pm	<b>The Carpenters Arms</b> , 12 Tally Road, Limsfield Chart, Surrey RH8 0TG



## Croydon Night of Dance

Tuesday 19 August	8.00pm - 9.30pm	<b>The Builders Arms</b> , 65 Leslie Park Road, Croydon, Surrey CR0 6TP <b>The Glamorgan</b> , 81 Cherry Orchard Road, Croydon, Surrey CR0 6BE
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Sunday 28 September	12.45pm - 1.45pm	<b>The Wheatsheaf</b> , Hever Road, Bough Beech, Edenbridge, Kent TN8 7NU <b>The Castle Inn</b> , Chiddingstone, Kent TN8 7AH
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## Christmas Festive Day of Dance with Dacre Morris

Saturday 13 December	11.00am - 4.00pm	South Bank, London Bridge area (see website for details)
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## Boxing Day Tour

Friday 26 December	12.45pm	<b>The Harrow Inn</b> , Farleigh Road, Warlingham, Surrey CR6 9EL
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*North Wood Morris reserve the right to cancel a performance due to tempest, fire, flood or any other unforeseen circumstances.*

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!

## 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.

