



The Prancing Pony

The Official Newsletter of White Horse Morris

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“Summer is icumen in”- (May Day tomorrow!)

It has been the custom for White Horse Morris to herald the coming of Spring and Summer, and for many decades we have performed at the Ansty Maypole celebrations on May Day. These time-



honoured traditions used to be very important in the seasonal round as the fertility of the ground was blessed. Let's hope that the pollinators continue to do their stuff and the harvest will be plentiful this year, despite the absence of Morris influence.



Sadly, the people of Padstow have had to cancel the 2020 May Day festivities. 'Obby 'Oss Day is the biggest in Padstow's calendar. It's not unusual to see 30,000 people crammed into this little town on the day when Padstonians from all over the world return to their roots. The origins of the Obby Oss are numerous. Some say the celebration has its roots in pagan times, others that it's a rain maker, a fertility symbol, a deterrent to a possible landing by the French some centuries ago or perhaps a welcome to the summer.

What happens? Locals spend the night decorating the streets with flags, flowers and greenery complete with a maypole and the following morning two "osses", one red and one blue emerge from their stables. The “osses” proceed, swirling and dancing through Padstow's streets taunted by a Teazer, who leads the dance with theatrical movements. The accompanying retinue are dressed all in white with their costumes decorated with ribbons and sprays of cowslips and bluebells. As the procession moves around the town, dancers perform a traditional gyrating dance to the sound of musicians and drummers. Then come the followers, young and old who join the procession every year singing the traditional May Song. It's a great event. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=d6VSxh1qRhU>

However White Horsepersons *were* seen out last week! Judy sent greetings from Dartmoor. You can watch John Wippell and his Ladies of Pleasure, performed live on his ranch in the Woodford Valley <https://youtu.be/8LYDmoFWvEY>. Squire Perry also brought traffic to a standstill in the village of Bishopstrow <https://photos.app.goo.gl/yEX6SvkjKrvCNzS47> as he “entertained” other villagers in recognising all Key Workers on St George's Day.



From Julie

Lone Morrisman Phil Preen pays tribute to *The Goodies* in memory of Tim Brooke-Taylor who died recently.

<https://youtu.be/A14197gku60>

Former White Horser Rosie Butler-Hall sings

https://www.facebook.com/RosieBH/videos/10158545133085312/UzpfSTUzNzczNTMxMTozMDYwNjExMjk0OTk0MTQ6MTA6MDoxNTg4MzE2Mzk5OjUzODIwOQDQ0NjAzNjgwMDMwMTY/?epa=SEARCH_BOX

... And plays

<https://m.facebook.com/groups/692051374869573?view=permalink&id=715021395905904>

On This Day (30th April)

- Today International Jazz Day
- 711 The Moorish conquest of Iberia
- 1789 George Washington is inaugurated as the first president of the United States of America
- 1904 The ice cream cone makes its debut
- 1938 The first televised F.A. Cup Final between Huddersfield Town and Preston North End
- 1989 The World Wide Web is first launched by Tim Berners-Lee

Births, Marriages and Bar Mitzvahs

“Girlie” (no name as yet) was born to Dr Amanda Perry and Dr Alexis Perry on Saturday 25th April 2020. She weighed 3.08kg at birth and Mandy was home on the same day. All is going well.

Hob Nob – the story continues

[Last week we received this unexpected gem from Mari Booker].

A couple of nights ago, I had a dream about being in a museum dedicated to Morris dancing. In my dream I said to the curator that when I was a child, we had a hobby horse in our garage. The curator said that was ridiculous, no-one had a hobby horse in their garage. I shouted at him, “I did!”.



Yesterday, I tried to find a photograph of the White Horse hobby horse from the early 1950s, which was indeed in our

garage. Can you imagine how delighted I was to find a black and white photograph on your website of my dad, Ioan Jenkins, playing his fiddle? It would have been his birthday today. The photograph is the one outside the Trowbridge Co-op. Do you know the date or who took it?

I think my dad was the first musician for WH. I remember many of the dancers - Len White, Harry Ross and Bill Bush, who all lived in Westbury, plus Jack Sleeman from Warminster. I couldn't find any photographs of the early hobby horse on your website, which was made of black cloth. We used to transport it on our roof rack. I wish I could find some photographs of it from the early 1950s.

I do hope everyone in White Horse is well and safe during these challenging times. Regards,
Mari (née Jenkins)

Castaway Bob Hill shares his desert island choices

My 6 six music tracks:

- 1) *Fantasia on a theme by Thomas Tallis*, Vaughan Williams;
- 2) *Welcome to the Club*, Joe Walsh;
- 3) *Cello Concerto*, Edward Elgar;
- 4) *Misty Moisty Morning*, Steeleye Span;
- 5) *Banks of Green Willow*, George Butterworth;
- 6) *Big Yellow Taxi*, Joni Mitchell.



Book of choice : “*Untravelled England*”, James John Hissey. An exploration of the country in the very early days of the motor car when it was an extreme rarity and not the problem we now experience it as - when we are allowed to go out in one.

Luxury item: a comfortable bed.

One essential food item: a varied mixture of real ales (which are a balanced food when you have one glass

in each hand).

Morris dance or tune I would miss the most: a toss-up between *Trunkles* and *Nutting Girl*.

Use the clues to find Dances, Traditions and figures Part II (continued from last week)

11. What toxophilites like to do with their missiles.
12. Eight dancers who can count and move transform a chief hill dye into an elegant figure.
13. A 22 mile perambulation of the boundaries by smartly dressed equestrians, dating back to 1553.
14. William came from an Oxfordshire market town.
15. Once described as “The thinking man’s crumpet”?
16. For one jot rescrumbled becomes a dance for everyone except Joseph.
17. One right quandary reformed where Sharp met Kimber in 1899.
18. Adhesive dance from the village in no unproven setup.
19. Its tune unusually juxtaposes a hornpipe and a jig. Reorganised it becomes Benign Taste – as long as you like pulses.
20. Search amid mole filth to find this female flour grinder.

Answers to Cryptic “Dances, Traditions and figures” from last week

- (1) Valentines (2) Jockey to the Fair (3) Trunkles (4) Princess Royal (5) Wayze goose (6) Skirmish (7) Old Tom of Oxford (8) Adderbury Hey (9) Cuckoo’s Nest (10) Saturday Night

Answers to Map Quiz from last week

- (d) 7667, (e) Bennetts Road

Answers to True or False from last week-

1. True 2. True 3. True 4. False (The Madness of King George was written by Alan Bennett)
5. True 6. True 7. False (The character George Smiley was created by John le Carré) 8. False



Caption Competition from Last week

No one to dance with?

Problem solved!! Grow your own Morris Dancer!!

Just add water and place in a sunny position, and in no time at all you will have a dance companion!!

Order now from AS Dance Supplies, via Prancing Pony. (FAO Nic Jones who wins as much fruit cider as she can drink from The Bell at Wylve on May Day 2020).

Stop Press..... Breaking News!

Takeaway/ meal and drink delivery / Heat at Home service starts this weekend at The Bell at Wylve.

Please send items for the next Prancing Pony to Mike “Grandpa” Perry by Monday 4th May.