



The Prancing Pony

The Official Newsletter of White Horse Morris

Issue #20

<http://www.whitehorsemorris.org.uk/home/4594741622>

6 August 2020

Prancing Pony to take a break as White Horse Morris dance



outdoors again

The thirst for Morris Dancing knows no bounds as 18 of us turned up at Fonthill Park Cricket Club on Tuesday 4th August 2020 for an open-air practice. It was a magnificent setting as we danced in front of the pavilion with a backdrop of the pitch and surrounding trees on a glorious evening. A little bit of oil was needed to get the dancing machine working but by the end things were beginning to run more smoothly. It all worked so well that we are going to do it again next week – same time, same place! Thanks to the Cricket Club for allowing us to use this space safely.

One passer-by Paul Wilkins kindly

send this video-clip. <https://photos.app.goo.gl/nqR51BPYAx7or8aL7>

Liz Pike has been busy organising her daughter Alice's wedding in Lock down

We were fortunate that restrictions lifted for weddings 3 weeks before our booked date. We decided to go ahead as church was booked and reception planned in an outside venue. There followed a frantic amount of reorganisation, luckily most of the original suppliers were happy to reorganise for a much scaled down wedding and many were so delighted to have a wedding they added in extras at no cost. Our biggest headache



was

toilets, as most event toilets were not operating as there are no outdoor events this year. We only secured one the Thursday before the wedding but it was brand new and very swish.

Wedding rings were rushed though; they usually take six weeks. A special licence had to be applied for as no banns could be read in church. Wedding invitation only went out 10 days before the wedding after much debate on which 25 to invite (the 30 include the couple, priest and photographer etc.). Unfortunately none of my son-in-law's family were able to make it as they live in Trinidad and America. So we will probably have another event for them next year in the Caribbean. Luckily Alice had chosen to wear my wedding dress which amazingly fitted her perfectly so there were no worries of the dress being tied up in unopened shop. A lovely little tailor in Devizes rushed through suits for the boys.

The big day arrived and we were blessed with sunshine after a grey, damp week. No hairdressers or makeup artists were allowed in private houses and no appointments were available, so preparations were very relaxed, the bride not rising till 9.30. The bride's party walked the short distance to the church, our route lined with well-wishers, and what a surprise to find the churchyard full of villagers and friends including most of Peter's old band and the Ash's and Levers despite both

shielding. The Church wardens left all the doors open so everybody could also be part of the ceremony.

The ceremony went well, Richard giving away the bride, and the service was very moving. My niece's husband, a five river man, played a tune that Peter wrote on Peter's melodeon; I think Peter was definitely there in spirit.



The reception was a tepee set up in a clearing in a friend's wood; it looked magical the trees hung with silver balls and fairy lights. A very enjoyable evening followed including a Caribbean Steel band. Unfortunately the country dance band had to be stood down as social dancing was a no-no. The favours were of course Covid-related handmade masks and a small bottle of hand sanitizer.

Not the wedding planned but a very successful day. Liz



A couple of things from FB concerning the person formerly known as "Birdie".

He is now Reuben "the ichthyologist" Chappell. I'm sure you can work out the sequence of events. However, Steve Lightfoot a WHM member (note – there are no ex-members) who lives in TRUMPTON suggested that Reuben's wasn't a real fish!



Biblical references to fish, loaves and wine were made.



The people behind PP – the untold story of five months of underground journalism

The Squire speaks: In line with official White Horse policy, The Tisbury Finale ends our season. As there wasn't a finale we have decided to end the season anyway, unless, as with government policy, we decide not to. We took on producing a newsletter/journal at the beginning of the lockdown without knowing where it would take us and this has been part of the fun for your intrepid team of investigative journalists. Thanks go to all members who have contributed (and I think this is just about everyone) or had stuff pinched from Facebook. The

range has been enormous and we even managed to get a link to the beginnings of White Horse in 1951 through Mari Booker, daughter of Ioan Jenkins and over to New Zealand with Richard Baker. As things gradually ease we will see where we go next and perhaps the pony will prance again but in the meantime, let's remember that we celebrate 70 years of White Horse next year.

Mark adds: Five months ago, Prancing Pony began as an idea hatched between the Squire and Bagman to find a way to keep the White Horse Morris community in touch with each other and in good spirits over the lockdown period. *Their* role in its production and evolution has been to cajole members past and present to write about their thoughts, memories or ramblings. *My* role as compositor has been to edit the spelling and punctuation, collate the articles so they fit on the page, deal with the pictures, and provide links and fillers.



George Orwell wrote: "Journalism is printing what someone else does not want printed: everything else is public relations." But that has no relevance here. Over the 20 editions we have explored the history of HobNob, the life cycle of the deathwatch beetle, the Black Death, Morris dancing in art, comets and shared many memories of White Horse in yesteryear. Readers have shared their lockdown activities including recipes, walking and gardening, and we have included a wide variety of quizzes and puzzles. We've also had the chance to share the music tracks from our weekly castaways. There have also been genuine news items – not just reports on where WHM have not been dancing but genuine video clips of side members dancing on St George's Day and May Day. After this 20th edition the editorial team have decided to take a break and go underground, so this will be the last PP for a while.

U.K. Number ones on this day

- 1970 - "The Wonder of You" Elvis Presley
- 1995 - "Never Forget" Take That

Born on this day

- 1809 Alfred Tennyson Poet
- 1881 Alexander Fleming Biologist
- 1917 Robert Mitchum Actor
- 1928 Andy Warhol Pop Artist
- 1946 Allan Holdsworth Jazz Fusion and Progressive Rock Guitarist

Another OUTDOOR PRACTICE
 Tuesday 11 August 7.00 – 8.30pm
 At Fonthill Park Cricket Club SP36EZ
<https://www.fonthillparkcricketclub.co.uk/directions>
 Do not wear kit. Do bring a stick and hankies.
 The bar will be open!