



# The Prancing Pony

The Official Newsletter of White Horse Morris

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## This week we should have been dancing in Dinton BUT.....



White Horse Squire Mike Perry and his cousins Miko, Mikael and Michelino (the small one at the back) process through the streets of Bishopstrow, scrupulously observing their 2m social distancing regulations throughout. Other White Horse personnel joined hundreds of other Morris dancers across the country to observe the spirit of May Day and welcome in the summer.



### John Wippell sings “Let us all unite in the merry morning of May”

Double click on the links below to see and hear John’s song and dance,

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=m1fuOgtIdd4&feature=youtu.be>

and Nic Jones’ rendition of

Bampton Sidestep partnered by a lawnmower and subversively performed with coloured handkerchiefs.

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2yxT1\\_a-C14&feature=youtu.be](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2yxT1_a-C14&feature=youtu.be)

Helen was also up early to welcome the sunrise. (Look at the time!)



Meanwhile Kate Brooks processed through Chilmark

accompanied by cameraman, sound technician and motivational trainer Rufus. Small crowds of villagers turned out to line the streets, to gasp with delight at the spectacle and wish her well. Kate was front page news on the Chilmark Village Voice May issue.



<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=eI0TfQFQ8Ms>



Reuben Chappell said, “A very unusual Mayday. As I couldn’t dance at the usual places, with the usual crew, I decided to ignore it. But I missed dancing at Dawn on Glastonbury Tor, and I missed dancing at Ansty Maypole. I *really* missed decorating my hat.”

### News from the Allotment

Sharon and Tony wrote to tell us: “We have been enjoying the extra time to get our allotment up together. Already in are



onions, garlic, beetroot, chard, carrots and parsnips. All the fruit is springing into life and the greenhouse is full to bursting. We are ready for the apocalypse. Still eating parsnips, purple

sprouting and chard from last year and picking rhubarb.”

Nic Jones said that not much was happening yet on her allotment

To bless the harvest and celebrate May Day, Sharon and Tony entertained their neighbours by performing *Not for Joe* standing in a hedge.



## Castaway Reuben's desert island desserts

### Music Tracks:

1. *Songs from the wood.* Jethro Tull
2. *Assault and Battery/The golden Void.* Hawkwind
3. *Who knows where the time goes.* Fairport Convention
4. *Rambling Man.* Laura Marling
5. *Same old rock.* Roy Harper



6. *Ailsa Craig.* Nick Mulvey.  
Bonus track  
*Floating Anarchy.* The Here and Now Band.

Book : *The Worst Journey in the World.* Apsley Cherry-Gerrard

Luxury : A 12x8 shed.

Food: Doner Kebab.

Morris dance/tune:- *Old Tom of Oxford.*

## Hob Nob



Following last week's issue, John Wippell shared the accompanying picture with Mari Booker and was delighted to receive this reply:

*Hi John, Thank you so much for the photo you shared. That's my dad, Ioan Jenkins, playing the fiddle and the lovely hobby oss, which lived for many years in our garage. I used to play with it.*

*I also remember being under the Padstow horse at The Golden Lion pub, and on May Day in 1965. Dad, a headteacher, took me out of school for the day to go to Padstow. He felt that was an important part of my education. So sad that celebrations can't take place this year.*

*Many thanks, Mari*

## Answers to Cryptic "Dances, Traditions and figures" from last week

- (11) Shooting (12) Lichfield Hey (13) Sheriff's Ride (14) Banbury Bill (15) Bakewell (16) Not For Joe (17) Headington Quarry (18) Upton Upon Severn Stick (19) Bean Setting (20) Maid of the Mill

**Please send items for the next *Prancing Pony* to Mike Perry by Monday 11 May. We need more articles, so please write!**

## On This Day (7<sup>th</sup> May)

- 1824 Première performance of Beethoven's Ninth Symphony  
1840 Peter Ilyich Tchaikovsky was born  
1915 RMS Lusitania sunk by German U-Boat U-20  
1945 General Jodl signs terms of unconditional Surrender, the day before VE Day  
2000 Vladimir Putin inaugurated as Russian President  
Dien Bien Phu Victory Day – a public holiday in Vietnam.

## Morris Kit Review

This week *The Long Stick - The Hazel AS3* (Supplier Mr. C. Eales, Donhead St. Something)



A hard-wearing stick to suit all levels from beginners to seasoned dancers. With a weight of 400g (14.1 oz in old money) this essential part of the Morris dancer's paraphernalia is easy to transport and fits well into any standard stick bag or adapted shopping trolley (Kate). An important

consideration given the vast amount of kit required at each dance out...bell pads, hankies, rag coat, hip flask, hat, pork pies, beer tankard.

With a good 'hand feel' this model is easy to use either when clashing or when imitating the heaving and hauling of a rope on the high seas bound for South Australia.

Incredibly durable, this stick stood up well during vigorous testing in The Upton upon Severn Stick Dance with no visible splintering or splitting. In Adderbury Shooting it could even bear a passing resemblance to a rifle if used correctly! (see Military Adviser Mike D for more details). When clashing it gave a lovely resonance, evocative of balmy summer evenings, Morris on the green, the sound of leather on willow, jumpers for goalposts, is there honey still for tea?.....but I digress.

Reviewer's summary : Tremendous \*\*\*

A definite 3 Star bit of kit.

Next week – Hankies,.Egyptian Cotton or Flannelette?

## Dearest Dickie's Problem Page

Dearest Dickie,

My partner and I have been arguing constantly. At the beginning of the lockdown I suggested to him that we would get through it better and have less arguments if he wasn't so pedantic. Can you help?

Distressed of Tisbury

Dearest Dickie replies

Dearest Reader,

It's actually "fewer arguments". Hope this helps. Best wishes, Dickie.