



The Prancing Pony

The Official Newsletter of White Horse Morris

Issue #08

14th May 2020



No dancing in Berwick St. John

...but the best we could do was to bring you a picture of their interesting war memorial. After so much excitement last week and the deluge of White Horse material on YouTube, this week's Prancing Pony is a thinner affair, but we do have two desert island castaways. Read on.



From our Shaftesbury Correspondent

Swifts

Early purple orchid in Duncliffe Woods a week ago. Quite a few out. Also saw them in Garston Wood alongside Solomon seal, no photos though, phone playing up. Just bought a new lens for my camera so trying to get back into using that for better quality.

Not been out butterfly foraging yet, too busy working! I seem to have plenty on now, the builders merchants are open(ish) again. I feel a bit cheated by the lockdown as I've not really had time to enjoy it like some. I think Shirley has told you of my ambition to learn to play the trombone. That'll have to wait now.

Did you hear about the bloke who was going to climb Monte Blanc but couldn't so he climbed the equivalent height gain on his stairs at home? Now that is really good use of unexpected free time.

So, after seeing House Martens flying over Shaftesbury yesterday, they turned up at the house I'm working at today and had a bit of a scuffle over who got last year's nests. There's a Facebook page Salisbury Plain watch, where people post some good photos of wildlife on the plain. And other stuff but there are some good photos there.

Don't go sane!

Reuben

More from Mari Booker

Hi Mike,

I am still very much in touch with John Dipper. I go and hear him play if he's down in Sussex and he comes to stay with us, sometimes bringing friends. I was so delighted that he mentions my dad's name on his CD covers. My dad would be so delighted to know that his fiddle is being played. Dad made many instruments on courses in West Dean. I still have his trapezoidal fiddle and his Welsh harp - we were convinced he had taken this with him when he died! The balalaika and mandolin he made are now with a singer songwriter, Dave Nachmanoff in California. He

has them in his recording studio and musicians can play them.

I have some photographs of me in Harry Ross's garden in 1952 (see p2). Some have Peter Ross and David Bush (Bill Bush's son) in them. There's also one of Bill Bush and my mam. Colour films were difficult to get in 1952, especially slide films. We had a visit from the American folk singer, Jean Ritchie, who gave him this film. Dad organised a trip to Marshfield. <https://folkways.si.edu/field-trip-england/celtic-world/music/album/smithsonian>



Regards, Mari

Castaway Heather's desert island desserts

Music:

- Jamiroquai - Corner of the Earth
- Poncho Sanchez - Besame Mama
- Lenny Kravitz - What goes around comes around
- Muse - Super Massive Black Hole
- Led Zeppelin - Ramble On
- Groove Armada - At the River



Book: *Wilding* by Isobel Tree or a book about the plants and animals on the island.

Luxury item: my pillow
Food: tomatoes (big juicy ones, little cherry ones, fried, grilled, soup and sauces - so many things you can do with them!)

Morris Dance: -

Worcestershire Monkey (will we ever do it again I wonder?)

Dearest Dickie

My partner is a keen Morris dancer but recently he has started to speak to me using only Morris related words and phrases. I want to support him especially as he can't dance out due to the lockdown but his behaviour is driving me crazy. Can you help?
Disgruntled, Tisbury

Dearest Dickie replies

Hey up Reader
This time....No. Hope this helps
Best wishes
Dickie

Find your Valentine Lonely Hearts Ad

Old Tom of Oxford (81) slim, tall, bearded seeks Maid of the Mill, slim, tall, no beard to enjoy the finer things in life. Must have an interest in Morris dancing or be willing to convert. GSOH (good set of hankies) and a kind nature essential. Genuine replies only as have been led a right merry dance in the past.

Hob Nob is cast away on a different desert island

Why me? The young Squire said if we didn't have any new material for this week's Prancing Pony – 'cos the buggers can't write, and would prefer to leave it to a bloody horse! – would I like to share some personal / equine thoughts about the whole White Horse Morris experience?



Well, to start with, most of the year I live on a shelf in a shed or someone's garage, as little Mari Booker (left) has already mentioned. I am nearly 70, and just recovering from some

cosmetic surgery at the hands of young Pete Hewitt, so am writing this on the hoof. I believe you modern people call it a makeover? Not for me the exuberant gyrating and twirling of the Padstow Obby Osses, I have always preferred to be much more stately and sedate. Nevertheless it has always been a great joy to be paraded out in the open air several times a year. I have had some lovely handlers over the years, most recently Ali and Liz. My job has been to interact with the crowd, to distract them from having to watch that god-awful dancing they do; and chiefly to frighten small children!



Music

- ✓ *Champion the Wonder Horse* – Frankie Laine
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jtj1l8SWV-A>
- ✓ *White Horses*- Jackie Lee
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jtCNbERKvMs>
- ✓ *Crazy Horses* – The Osmonds
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=iXcj8dFod1E>
- ✓ *A Piece of Crap* - Neil Young and Crazy Horse
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Ovum-GjYWKQ>
- ✓ *Dominick the Donkey* – Lou Monte
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Ca5wXojemRM>
- ✓ *A Horse with No Name* – America
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=oEHBTjIYeJc>
- ✓ *Wild Horses* – The Rolling Stones
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZNaqBBjrIZw>
- ✓ *Ride a White Horse* – Goldfrapp
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=LvYfvVBdNPU>

Bonus Track:

- ✓ *Right to Remain Violent* – Grove Street Families
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rFJqr0_DqOk

Luxury Item: A leather nosebag

Books: *Black Beauty* – Anna Sewell, *Animal Farm* – George Orwell

Food: Grass, and I'm talking serious GRAASS, man
Favourite Morris? Any Hey, obviously. *Jockey to the Fair*, and *Bampton Sidesaddle*

Wedding at Pentridge Summer 2019

Last summer we danced at a lovely wedding reception in Pentridge, in quintessentially English garden party style; and we all got a free pair of turquoise sunglasses. The assembled guests joined in a mass *Not for Joe* with great gusto, and at the very moment when the bride was lifted aloft,



a bi-plane flew overhead trailing a good luck banner. More pictures can be seen on the website gallery page:

<http://www.whitehorsemorris.org.uk/gallery/4594741624>

An important message from the Government

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2WT59lu4tCU>

And a slightly clearer one from Holyrood

<https://twitter.com/JaneyGodley/status/1259511252629454852>

Please send items for the next *Prancing Pony* to Mike Perry by Monday 18 May. Share with us your thoughts, pictures, interesting things you have done, what you like / dislike about Morris, or anything....