

DATCHET BORDER MORRIS

NEWS MAIL: Issue 17, October 2016

Another dance-out season has passed and Christmas is approaching far too quickly. But, never mind, we have had some fun in the sun and as you will see later, also in the rain.

May 1st at Runnymede

This was one of the most beautiful mornings to be up on Runnymede meadow by the side of the Thames at 5.30am. The weather was just perfect, and as it was a Sunday, nobody was in a rush. After the dancing, a walk through the bluebells in Cooper Hill Woods was a must. The good news is that in 2017, May 1st will be on the bank holiday – so here's hoping for some more fine weather!



Other things in May

The following week we danced at the Great Barn in Harmondsworth with Northfields Morris from Ealing. This was our first ever get-together as Northfields was only formed in September 2014. They danced very competently for such a new side and we very much enjoyed our afternoon. Hopefully we will meet with them again soon.

At the end of May we embarked on a Friday night tour of Shepperton and visited Thames Court Hotel. Much to our amazement the reception that we received from a party of young ladies that evening resembled something from the 1970's when the Bay City Rollers turned up for a gig. We were mobbed! The unexpected nature of this reception was most welcome (albeit in a slightly scary way) and some of our members have been left with a permanent grin on their face ever since!



June & July

The Windsor Morris Day of Dance kept us busy for one day in June. Along with Brighton Morris as well, we toured various spots in and around Windsor. Once again we were lucky with the weather. An impromptu street rendition of the shanty 'South Australia' at the last spot, The Two Brewers, was a great way to finish a very pleasant day.

On July 7th we returned once again to Portsmouth for the Victory Morris day of Dance – this year unaffected by The America's Cup. A ferry trip to Gosport was included in the tour this year which gave us an opportunity of dancing onboard, after which our young fiddler played the College Hornpipe (also known as The Sailor's Hornpipe) as the ferry approached the dock. With the whole boat clapping or bashing the steel of the boat with anything to hand (like Morris sticks), the whole atmosphere topped anything experienced at the Albert Hall for the Last Night of the Proms! Unfortunately neither a photo nor video of this moment has yet been traced.... yet!! We also were able to dance inside The Historic Dockyards! Oh we do like to be beside the seaside!



August



The band gathers

Having had such a good time last year, we took up the invitation to attend the Saddleworth Rushcart again in August. Knowing the ropes this time (literally) in many ways made it more enjoyable as we knew what was coming – for example, the band stopping under the bridge to magnify the sound! It was also great to meet last year's new friends again! Please look at our [Facebook](#) page to see some video footage of the event, including the bridge bit (the video starring the Earlsdon Morris dogs).



Nearly ready to go



Us doing our bit on Sunday – still damp!



Saddleworth Morris perform their Stang Dance

The real fun part came on the last stretch back to Uppermill on the Saturday afternoon when the rain that had been threatening all day, finally did its thing – big time! Needless to say it certainly showed the men from the boys as many rushcarters just vanished from the proceedings, leaving barely enough to pull the cart and play some tunes. Proudly Datchet stood firm in defiance of the weather and made the home run alongside those that were left. It might sound odd but it really was good fun! Needless to say the price was paid the next day when the kit was still sodden, including a top hat that still had a pool of water round the brim. Thanks again to Saddleworth Morris for our invite. Hope to see you again soon.

Forthcoming dates – as far as we know!

Thurs 1st Dec	Burnham Christmas Fayre SL1 7JZ	6.30 pm
Sat 3rd Dec	Christmas on The Green – Datchet SL3 9EH	tbc
Mon 19th Dec	The Bell Inn – Shepperton (including mummers play & longsword) TW17 8BT	8.00pm
Mon 26th Dec	Datchet Green Boxing Day performance (including mummers play & longsword)	10.45am

Please see our [Facebook](#) page or our [website](#) to check for any updates!

Other news



Here we are presenting a cheque for £560 to Berkshire Autistic Society.

Treasure recently came our way when we received some old slides taken by a chap who used to watch Datchet in 1978/9. They have caused a lot of interest – so very exciting! If any readers come across some more, please let us know!



Recruiting now!

If you know anybody that could be interested in coming along to a practice, then please put them in touch with us. As well as the Border, we also practice Longsword, Rapper Sword and Mummings – and then there's the music and occasional singing!

We meet on Mondays between 8.00–10.00pm at the Datchet WI Hall on Datchet Green.

Reminder: we are a male-only dance side with male/female musicians (all instruments welcome). Children aged between 12-18 years are also welcome as above, as long as they are accompanied by an adult. There is no charge to come along to try.

IntoFolk – at the Datchet WI Hall

Our very own monthly music sessions, hosted by the Datchet Band under the name IntoFolk, have been a lot of fun over the last few months and certainly it has been wonderful to see so many new faces. We had a special evening in April when we celebrated St George's Day with a party atmosphere and entertainment from a certain group of morris men (who shall remain nameless!!)

In May we looked at the farming tradition, rich in tunes and songs, and in June we enjoyed an Old Favourites night looking back at some of the tunes we have learned together this year as well as well-loved regular numbers. A summer break covered July and August, before our September meet and the chance to warm up again with a theme of Place Names.

If you haven't come to IntoFolk before, you are very welcome to give us a try! Bring along your instrument – we have a wide variety amongst our members and it is a good opportunity to share information and tips for playing. We play at a steady pace and suit all levels of abilities. Even without an instrument, you are invited to join the percussion and sing along (song sheets provided!)

Our next meeting on Saturday 22nd October 5-7pm in the WI Hall, Datchet Green, is a special nautical night so lots of hearty singers will be required for belting out shanties and such like. For more information, please click on www.intofolk.org.uk.

Dates and themes for the next sessions are:

Sat 22 nd Oct	 Datchet W I Hall SL3 9EH 5.00 – 7.00pm (£3 per participant)	'All At Sea'
Sat 19 th Nov		American Night
Sat 17 th Dec		Carols & Wassails
Sat 21 st Jan		TBA

Photos:

Please continue to send in any photos – even if not used in a News Mail, they are always welcome in our scrapbook.

See you soon!

DATCHET BORDER MORRIS



www.datchetmorris.org.uk



Find us on
Facebook