

DATCHET BORDER MORRIS

NEWS MAIL: Issue 18, February 2017



It's all very exciting! Another year, another season lining up. We now have the skeleton of our 2017 list of events (see below). There are some interesting new fixtures as well as the traditional must-do's – so there is no excuse for you to miss us this year!

December 2016

In many ways our appearance at Burnham Christmas Carnival was almost an exact copy of 2015. The weather was once again unseasonably mild and dry and Father Christmas drove past in a van. The crowd was good and generous and stayed around in numbers until quite late.

A new event for us on the lead up to Christmas was 'Christmas on the Green' in Datchet. Although still a fledgling event in itself, it has some potential and we look forward to doing it again – perhaps with a few more lights (so we are not totally hidden in the dark!) and some cheaper mulled wine.

The Bell Inn in Shepperton was the location for the full Boxing Day rehearsal and the Datchet Morris Christmas Party, and although the turn-out was rather low for that venue, we still had a most enjoyable evening and a good carol session in the pub.

Boxing Day was up there amongst the best! The weather was spring-like and the mood was high. Making it all the more special was the fact we could enjoy it through the experiences of our three new recruits, who were performing a Boxing Day dance-out for the first time. The audience, as ever, was supportive and generous.



Thanks to the generosity of those who watched us over the whole festive season, we will be donating £460 to the Thames Valley Air Ambulance.

Wassail!

Datchet has been involved in two wassails in 2017, albeit very different ones. The first was a return to the small orchard at the back of The White Horse in Hedgerley. Fortunately lessons were learnt from last year and the short walk up hill was made a lot easier and safer, i.e. we put on walking boots before we started! Once at the top next to the bonfire, a selection of tunes, songs and toasts helped the hot dogs and cider go down. All was most merry. Do join us next year as the event is developing nicely.



Anyone for a hot dog?



Four please!

Our second wassail was slightly less traditional as it took place rather unusually indoors beneath a car park in Bracknell, hosted by the local folk rock band Spriggan Mist! A more urban approach to be sure, but we gave it our best and enjoyed a thoroughly good evening with some excellent music.

Forthcoming dates – as far as we know!

Sun 23rd Apr	St. George's Day – Harmondsworth village & the Great Barn UB7 0AQ	tbc
Mon 1st May	Runnymede meadows - The National Trust Magna Carta Tea Room car park TW20 0AE	5.30am Sun rise
Sat 6th May	West Drayton Jack-in-the-Green procession & fete UB7 7PJ	From 12.00pm
Tues 9th May	Waggon & Horses, Twyford with Taepas Tump NW Morris -	8.00pm
Sat 17th Jun	Runnymede meadows – Event by The National Trust TW20 0AE	2.00pm
Sat 24th Jun	Lewes – guests of Long Man Morris Men for their Midsummer Walking Tour (including Castle & brewery tour) BN7 1YS	From 10.00am
Sat 1st Jul	Datchet Fete, Churchmead School SL3 9JQ	From 12.00pm
Sat 8th Jul	Our Day of Dance with guest sides - Starting & ending in Datchet. Otherwise touring around Windsor	10.15 am ish – 5.00pm ish
Thur 13th Jul	With Hurst Morris (HUMP) – venue tbc	8.00pm
Sat 23rd & Sun 24th Sep	Southdowns Folk Festival in Bogner Regis	Awaiting spots from organisers

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

Membership

As we are now in the main practice period of the year, there's no better time to come and see what happens at a practice night. Our new members from last year are all now dancing out in and are actively adding to their repertoire at practice on a weekly basis.

If you could be interested, or know anybody that could be interested in coming along to a practice, please get in touch with us. As well as the Border, we also practice Longsword, Rapper Sword and Mummers – 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.

Please remember that 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 initial charge and our annual subscription is minimal!

If you would like to come to a practice and/or would like any further information about dancing with us, please phone Keith on 07816 862 871 or message us on Facebook. Alternatively come up and say hello at a dance out.

If you are keen to come along during the summer dance-out months, we will ensure that you do not have to wait until September for a practice but will slot one or two extra practices into the programme.

IntoFolk – at the Datchet W I Hall

A lively extended Christmas session complete with sausage rolls and mulled wine (to name but a few of the edible delights) brought IntoFolk 2016 to a close. The New Year began well with a large crowd of us gathering to celebrate the theme of alcohol and making merry. (We weren't really surprised at the turn-out given the theme!!) It was good fun and we covered a large variety of drinking-songs. February saw us follow the theme of 'Jobs & Trades', which covered selling cockles and mussels to window cleaning and lots more in-between.

Although we are not actually set-up to perform 'gigs', we have been invited to the Datchet Folk Dance Club 'Hot Cross Bun' night on 7th April to play some of our music so we are busy fitting in a bit of practice for our performance as well.

All are welcome to come along to our music sessions. Whatever instrument, whatever level, whatever age, we would like to see you! 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!). For more info please click on www.intofolk.org.uk.

Dates and themes for the next sessions are:

Sat 18 th Mar	 <p>Datchet W I Hall SL3 9EH 5.00 – 7.00pm (£3 per participant)</p>	'Marching Through March'
Sat 22 nd Apr		Towns & Villages
Sat 20 th May		'Sumer is acumen in'
Sat 17 th Jun		'Over To You'

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