

The Prancing Pony

The Official Newsletter of White Horse Morris



26 March 2018

Prancing Pony takes its first steps

We are living in difficult times so we thought it would be good to keep in touch and also have a bit of fun. We would of course be delighted if you took part and contributed to the features, photos and videos.

To get the ball rolling we have a return of the **caption competition**.



Entries by 30 March. First Prize – 10 pints in The Bell, Wylve (must be before end of April 2020. See small print for full list of terms and conditions). **Email your caption to Helen, Mark or Mike**

Fitness Matters

Whilst we have time available because of social distancing, we need to think of how to keep fit for when we can dance out again. For example I have been on a static bike in the garage and exercising with a rucksack on as well. I know others are using “50 Shades of Grey” and “The Joy of Sex” as training manuals but whatever you do care must be taken not to over exert yourselves.

We could set up a virtual set through Skype and see if we can get to be perfect. We could also share YouTube footage and other videos of what we are up to (see above).

Let us know your top training tips.

Headlines in Brief

Sports	Nobody lost (not even Saints)
Cross word	Fuck!
Business	There isn't any
Holiday Trips	Lots of availability
Motoring	Watch out for petrol pumps

Songs

Find a song to wash your hands by and share it by email <https://washyourlyrics.com/>

British Grenadiers - Learn this Song – You know the tune

Some talk of Alexander, and some of Hercules

Of Hector and Lysander, and such great names as these.

But of all the world's brave heroes, there's none that can compare.

With a row, tow, tow, and a row, tow, tow, to the British Grenadiers.



Find the Words - Easy Puzzle

Find the missing words using the clues below, as in the example,

... BUT you can only use these letters **T, S, D, L, I, O**

Q.	Clue	Word					
Eg	Computers etc and gender neutral pronoun	I	T				
1	Passport or driving licence?						
2	French <i>second</i> person						
3	Narrow opening						
4	Don't know where it is						
5	Work						
6	When a ship leans						
7	For grain or missiles						
8	Revered or worshipped						
9	Used by Pointillist artists like Seurat						
10	Earth						
11	Instructed						
12	To put your coins in						
13	On jam jars						
14	Estate agent's sign						
15	Numerous						
16	Used by Van Gogh and Rembrandt – and others						
17	Alluvial form of Answer #10						
18	Superman's friend						
19	A state of matter						
20	Without emotion						

- Answers by email

Reasons to be cheerful

- The sun is shining
- EastEnders filming has been reduced
- Everyone is connecting with each other.
- Kind acts are springing up all over the world
- There have been no cases of the virus in Ambridge, Borsetshire.

On this day:

- 1881 Guccio Gucci was born
- 1944 Diana Ross was born
- 1985 Keira Knightley was born
- 2016 Germany 2 – England 3

What I enjoy about Morris – some hastily composed thoughts

The tunes. They are accessible, (mostly) memorable and hummable and have come down through history by people listening to them, humming them and learning to play them. The colour: when the sun is shining and a side is in full kit, hats decorated with flowers, white hankies going up and down, in time to the music and in unison, what a colourful spectacle?

Life: Associated with the natural cycles of spring, summer and winter, the Morris is essentially a celebration of life and is a cheery celebration of that which brings a smile to the faces of children and adults alike. History: Morris is rooted in the past, though there is plenty of scope for erudite disagreement about the details. Morris and Moresco? Moorish, Matachin? Costume and coloured faces for disguise? A tradition of a shared community, something which ordinary people did because that is what they did. It was traditional, and there is something quaintly reassuring about knowing that what we do today has its roots way back in time. It was also a bit subversive. Ashley Hutchings' "*Rattlebone and Ploughjack*" recordings of 1976 refer to stories about the ploughboys ploughing up the lawns of the greater and good if they didn't donate. English: A bit of traditional folk culture which is distinctly English but has much in common with the traditional folk cultures of many other countries, and so at the same time international. Being involved with Morris has led me to enjoy many great cultural experiences through folk festivals and traditional events. Seeing Saddleworth Morris and the Britannia Coconut Dancers, The Padstowe Mayday, The Helston Furry Dance, the Abbots Bromley Horn Dance and our own local Ansty Maypole all have been great privileges. Camaraderie: Morris is fun and "*good craic*" as the Irish say. This has been my universal experience. When I was out with the side I used to belong to in Suffolk - "The Morris Men of Little Egypt" – we would come back from an evening or weekend outing, and someone would always say, "Another shit day with the Morris", with heavy irony as we had all had a great time. Humour: We do this for our own amusement – no-one else finds it funny, but we still do it. Long may it continue. What are your thoughts?



Finally a word from our Prime Minister <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WOLG2nBQ-Ns>