



The Prancing Pony

The Official Newsletter of White Horse Morris

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Prancing Pony faces severe malnourishment for the first time

This week White Horse should have been performing at The Crown in Alvediston – a difficult place to find at the best of times, but again we were not able to. This weekend we should have been entertaining the crowds in Devizes on the Day of Dance, but won't be. It is sobering to think that this year could be the first in White Horse's seventy year history when we will not dance out in the summer. One can only hope that the Government will have relaxed the arbitrary 2m rule in time for Boxing Day at Stourhead. However in this week's *Prancing Pony* you can read about White Horse back in 1951.

On this Day

1184 BC Trojan War. Troy was sacked and burned

1770 Captain James Cook discovered The Great Barrier Reef

1926 Australian opera singer Dame Nellie Melba gave her final performance in this country at the Garrison Theatre, Tidworth, before retiring

1959 The hovercraft undertook its maiden voyage off Cowes, IoW.

1963 American President John F. Kennedy declared "segregation is morally wrong and it is time to act".

2009 The World Health Organisation stated that H1N1 Swine 'flu was a global pandemic; the first such incident in over forty years



Castaway Mark

Music Tracks:

Introduction and Allegro for Strings – Elgar,

The Maid and the Palmer –

Brass Monkey

Ninth Symphony – Beethoven

Slow Gin Set – Bellowhead

La Tapinie / Reel des Voyageurs – La Bottine

Souriante,

Fifth Symphony –

Shostakovitch

Book: *Bushcraft* – Ray Mears

Food: Roast pork

Morris Tune I would miss most – Upton Upon Severn Stick Dance

Luxury item: melodeon



From the Archive

15 June 1951 – A report on the Wiltshire Festival of Dancing, held in the grounds of Wilton House, 9 June 1951.



THE hands of the clock, it seemed, were turned back 60 years in the spacious grounds of Wilton House on Saturday afternoon as men and women in traditional dance dress circled, jigged and tapped their way through a four-hour programme of traditional English dances, celebrating a county folk dance festival.

The only reminders that the occasion was but a revival of a commonplace sight on the village green in the 19th century were the 1951 fashions of the large crowd who came to watch, for the picturesque costumes of the dancers were as near to traditional as possible. There were the men in their hand-worked waistcoats of many colours, white flannels and be-ribboned hats; the women in their dazzling flaired skirts and contrasting hem-line binding; the sprightly fiddlers, the string orchestra and, of course, the prancing hobby horse and fool. The latter, with pig's bladder and stick, kept the crowd amused with his tumbling and efforts at impersonation. Bursts of sunshine accentuated the charm and grace of the many solo and team dances and, no doubt, persuaded many spectators to leave their ringside seats and join in the general dancing periods. In the centre of the lawn arena stood a maypole festooned with multi-coloured ribbons and at its top, overlooking the festivities, hung a floral garland.

Castaway Rowan

Music tracks: -

Wolf Totem, The Hu
16 Tonnes - Tennessee
Ernie Ford

Call of the Badger -
Acrustic Badger Band

Hump de Bump - Red Hot
Chilli Peppers

Sus N'er De Reggae - The Massilia Sound System

Life is for Everyman - Brushy One String



Book - *Desert Island Survival Book*

Food - couscous

Morris Dance - Bean Setting

Luxury - 2 goats

Peperoni Recipe from our Italian correspondent

Try this. It's a Neapolitan favourite. Here peperoni means peppers. The peperoni sausage is an American



invention and by definition not to be trusted!

Peperoni For 6 people

6 mixed colour peppers

1 tbsp salted capers – rinsed and drained

2 tbsp black olives (stones removed)

2 tbsp olive oil

1 clove garlic

Black pepper

Method

- Rinse and drain capers thoroughly to remove salt.
- Stone olives.
- Remove stem, core and seeds from peppers and cut into pieces (about 3cm square).
- Crush garlic.
- Use a large frying pan with a lid. Heat the oil and add the garlic and cook until only just coloured.
- Add peppers and stir-fry for 5 minutes. Add olives and capers.
- Reduce heat, cover and cook gently until peppers are soft (approx. 40 minutes).
- Season with black pepper.
- Serve at room temperature or cold as a side dish or with fresh crusty bread.

First Dance-out suggestion from Reuben

Here's a suggestion, sorry but I can't do much more than suggest!

When we feel, as a side that it's ok to go out and dance again we have to make a choice where to go. Could you tremendous compilers of the Prancing Pony devise a poll of which venue to go to as our first dance out?

We may need some practice, but I think it would be a great thing to just go and do it, in a place of our democratic choosing.

I am finally beating the death watch beetles.

[Eds: Please feel free to continue the debate in response to Reuben's suggestion.]

Breaking News

In these bleak times and in response to Mike's appeal for something to go into this week's prancing Pony, some fantastic news from Emily Farewell!

She writes: "I'm pregnant. Will that do it? Our last ever frozen embryo was successful and baby has passed all the screening tests. He/she is currently practising galleys in utero (see picture). Due November."

Best wishes from all the side to Emily.



Please send items for the next *Prancing Pony* to Mike Perry by Monday 15 June. The horse needs feeding!