



# Greensleeves Morris Men



## NEWSLETTER: Issue 1, 1st January 2014

Season's greetings to you all at this festive time of the year. This is a new step for us, our first newsletter and hopefully the first of many! Having restructured our Facebook page last year and then set up our Twitter account, we decided to produce a newsletter to let you know what we are doing. We have finished our outings for 2013, so let's recap the main events:

### May Day – Wimbledon Common

May, June and July is traditionally a busy time in the Morris calendar, usually starting at dawn on the first of May. Believe it or not, the picture on the right was taken after we had danced at dawn! Shortly after this we headed as normal to the Squash Club in Wimbledon for our customary sing-song and cooked breakfast in the company of the Mayor of Merton.



### Greensleeves visit the 'Big Smoke'

May continued to be busy for us with a short trip to Central London to dance with Westminster Morris Men on their annual day of dance, made more special this year with it being their 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary of founding. We enjoyed dancing in Trafalgar Square several times, to appreciative audiences. The trip will be widely remembered for lifting the virgin bride by The Duke of York column, Waterloo Place, below right. We returned to London in June to do a tour along the

Southbank, commencing at the London Eye and ending by St. Saviour's Dock.

### Local Friday Tours

However, you don't have to go to Central London to see us, most Fridays in the Spring and Summer, you can find us performing at a pub near you in the Wimbledon or south west London area. We spent some lovely evenings down by the river at Richmond and Wandsworth. We also made the odd excursion towards Dulwich and Harrow.



### A duo of milestones

Two of our members celebrated milestone birthdays this year, and to mark the occasion, both Alan Jeffries and John Box danced the 'Over the Hill' jig. For the special occasion, both John and Alan also organised separate birthday tours, one in Hazlemere (Buckinghamshire) and one in Hastings. The Hazlemere tour was well remembered for the number of 'Red Lion' pubs in the area! Despite this, the tour was so successful that there is talk of a 2014 Buckinghamshire Red Lion tour. We set a record during the Hastings' tour for the longest rest and relaxation (R&R) time in The Stag pub of four hours, before making our merry way home!



### Weekends with our Friends

We normally manage to arrange two or three weekends away a year with our friends, this year was no exception. At the end of May we went to Peasmarch in Kent/East Sussex and in June we packed our bags and headed north to Sutton Bonington in Leicestershire. We rounded our summer season off with our traditional weekend in Chipperfield, where we host between three and six teams from around the country for a weekend of fun. This year was extra special as we were joined by a group of Morris men all the way from Utrecht in Holland.



### A trip up North

A hardy bunch of seven Morris men gathered early one September Saturday in Euston Station to travel up to Warrington, in Cheshire, to join Thelwall Morris Men for their day of dance. The day was fantastic and was capped by a rather intriguing 10 man Lichfield Hey performed by Thelwall MM! Although accommodation was on offer, we had another commitment the following afternoon, and the willingness to travel up and back in one day took a number of other men by surprise!



### Another Show in London

November may be remembered for being damp and dreary but we try to brighten it up with dancing around the Lord Mayor's Show, including a trip to the Globe Theatre, the "Wobbly Bridge" and St. Peter's Steps, culminating with tunes and familiar songs in The Black Friar pub. The day was nicely rounded off with the Lord Mayor's firework display over the Thames.



## Greensleeves World Famous Mummers Play

Boxing Day was as usual a special day for Greensleeves as we celebrated the passing of Christmas Day with two shows in Wimbledon Village. We also performed our traditional Mummers Play, this year with an exciting Health & Safety twist! Hopefully you were one of the 200 + audience for the family fun!



## 2014

Our 88<sup>th</sup> year since founding promises some new and exciting tours as well as some old firm favourites. Next year we are looking at dancing in Wimbledon at least once a month throughout the Summer. We are also planning a couple of new weekends away; these include Hartley Morris Men's Ale, June 6-8<sup>th</sup>, and a trip to see our friends, Utrecht MM, at a date to be confirmed, likely to be September/October time. As well as this we will also continue the weekends with our friends with trips to Peasmarsh in May and to Chipperfield in July. See our website and Facebook page for updates on when we will be coming to a venue near you!

## Music Sessions

We also run monthly music sessions. Aspiring or experienced musicians and singers are welcome at these friendly and informal sessions, which feature ensemble and solo instrumentals and singing, or you can simply come along and listen. They are held at the Hand in Hand, Wimbledon Common, London SW19 4RQ at 8.00 pm, normally on the fourth Sunday of the month. For the 2014 dates, please see our website: <http://www.greensleevesmorris.org.uk/>



As well as our music sessions we tend to have a number of non-Morris related activities. As a group we undertake a number of walks a year with bird, butterfly, plant and pub/beer enthusiasts. We also have an annual walk in the London area just after Christmas Day. This year we embarked on the next stage of our Docklands exploration with an in-depth historical look at the Isle of Dogs.

### Ever thought of doing Morris dancing?

Come along and see what it's like [we are all very nice people!]. We have open evenings on the first two Fridays in the New Year (Jan 3<sup>rd</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> 2014) where you will be very welcome to come along. You don't need any experience; we will show you everything you need to know. We practice from 8pm at: South Wimbledon Community Centre, 78 Victory Road, London, SW19 1HN. Afterwards, we retire to the local pub, The Sultan, for recuperation and some informal socialising.

So if you want to work off some of those Christmas excesses come and join us for some fun!

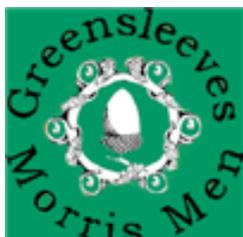
For enquiries about joining or our availability for booking, please contact our Bagman (Secretary) [David Cooling](mailto:David.Cooling@bt.com) on 07500 993993

For more details about our music sessions, contact Tim Edwards at: [DulcieEdwa@aol.com](mailto:DulcieEdwa@aol.com) or

020 8540 1689

For details about who we are, what we do and why we do it, and also for an up-to-date programme of when we're out dancing, visit our website: <http://www.greensleevesmorris.org.uk/>

Hope to see you soon!



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