

Greensleeves Morris Men

NEWSLETTER: Issue 2, April 2014



With Easter now behind us, the summer is just around the corner, it's the time of year where we start to polish our bells and shoes and prepare our baldrics ready for the upcoming dancing out season. Our programme of dancing tours for this summer is fixed with some new exciting tours as well as many old favourites. While we were still in winter practice mode, we managed to slip in a couple of public performances and even a wedding! At the start of March we danced in the twilight outside the Hand in Hand before we had our annual winter feast. A fortnight later we were dancing out in the Piazza in Wimbledon town centre supporting the Marie Curie cancer care trust with their annual fundraising Daffodil Day (top right). Following a short rest, we then appeared as the guard of honour at a wedding in the afternoon.

THE WINTER FEAST by Roy Fenton (Winter Feast - head chef)

Feast is to meal as mansion is to house: i.e. grander, bigger. And more pretentious. The origins of the Greensleeves' Winter Feast lie far, far back: as far as the last century, in fact. Each autumn, the club was wont to meet well to the north of London for a weekend. The aims were to practice, drink beer and hold the equivalent of an AGM. The Saturday evening meal was part of the proceedings and began to have a slightly ritualistic quality about it: it was also the only time Greensleeves were alone, with neither guests nor spouses present.

In time the club got bored, not with practising and drinking but with going away for the weekend to do them. However, some still liked the idea of a feast in the off-season, especially for imbuing the club's spirit into newer recruits (some might call this male bonding). And lo! It came to pass; the Winter Feast was instituted, held at a member's house in the darkest winter months. But the club needed more of a reason to come together, and an afternoon of practise was grafted on. And, to fill the hours between practising and feasting, a visit to a pub was added. And whilst there why not do a show? All it needs now is for someone to suggest that we make a weekend of it, say somewhere well to the north of London.....

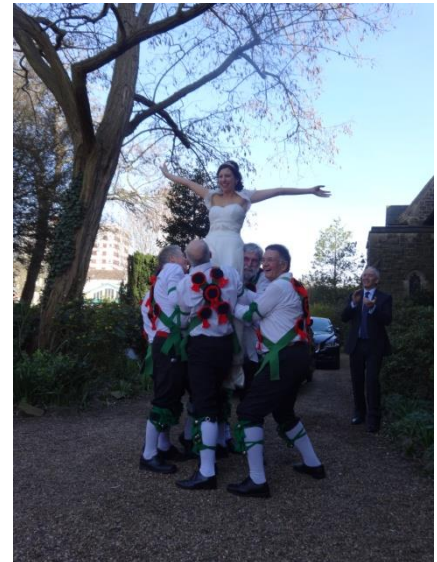
Daffodil Day – Wimbledon Piazza



Daffodil day is an event we look forward to. Every March we perform in the Piazza in Wimbledon and collect for the Marie Curie cancer trust. The weather on Daffodil day in recent years has usually been average at best, with the last couple being wet. This year we were blessed with fine weather and warmth, with a corresponding increase in audience numbers. Our Squire was away on the day, so a stand-in Squire was required, and it was the Bagman who was chosen to lead the men out into the centre of Wimbledon.

Numbers were tight but two good shows entertained the public and the Marie Curie collectors.

After a short break for lunch we hot footed it to South Wimbledon where we provided the guard of honour at the wedding for one of our men's daughter. Years of watching her dad dance meant that the bride just knew we were going to dance Brighton Camp and hoist her aloft!



Where to find us in this summer

The Bagman and his band of tour organisers have been busy and our 88th year since founding promises some new and exciting tours as well as some old firm favourites. This year we are looking at dancing in Wimbledon at least once a month throughout the summer. As well as our well established weekends away, Peasmarsh in May and Chipperfield in July, we have a couple of new weekends away this year. In June we will head to Wrotham in Kent for a weekend with Hartley Morris Men, followed by a trip to the Netherlands in September to meet up with our friends in Utrecht Morris.

Our next few events are shown below. Do come along and support us. It's always good to dance to an appreciative audience. Who knows, if you support us like Betty and Joan have done for a number of years, you too may get a much sought after Greensleeves fleece all of your own.

Wed 30 th Apr	<i>The Hand-in-Hand, Wimbledon Common, SW18 4RQ</i>	19:30
Thur 1 st May	Sunrise Show at the Windmill, Wimbledon Common, SW19 5NT	05:30
Fri 2 nd May	<i>Rose and Crown</i> , The Polygon, Clapham Old Town, SW4 <i>Nightingale</i> , Nightingale Lane, SW12	20:00 21:00
Sat 3 rd May	<i>Windmill Tearooms</i> , Wimbledon Common, SW19 Wimbledon Station Forecourt Morden Hall Park Town & Country Show National Trust Tea Rooms, Morden Hall Garden Centre	11:00 12:00 & 12:30 13:30 & 14:30 15:30
Sat 10 th May	Joint Morris Organisation Day of Dance in Cambridge. Please see http://www.themorrisring.org/event/joint-morris-organisation-day-dance-cambridge for details	

For the full details of where to see us this summer, see our website <http://www.greensleevesmorris.org.uk/>, or pick up a leaflet from one of our shows.

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. The upcoming Sunday sessions have been pencilled in for Sun 27th April, 18th May, 29th June, 27th July and Sun 31th August 2014. Keep up to date with any changes to the scheduling of our music sessions by looking at our website: http://www.greensleevesmorris.org.uk/html/music_sessions.html



As well as our music sessions we tend to have a number of other social events. Our regular post-Christmas walk led us to Docklands where we explored the shipbuilding past of the Isle of Dogs. The SS Great Eastern (left) was built in Millwall in the late 1850s. We already have plans for the next stage of the Ridgeway path later in the season.

For enquiries about joining or our availability for booking, please contact our Bagman (Secretary)
[David Cooling](mailto:David.Cooling@07500993993) on 07500 993993

For more details about our music sessions, contact Tim Edwards on 020 8540 1689 or at:
dulcieedwa@aol.com

For details about who we are, what we do and why we do it, visit our website:
<http://www.greensleevesmorris.org.uk/>

See you soon!



STOP PRESS!

Greensleeves barn dance 4th October – keep the date free.

More next time



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