

News – May 2016

The Morris season traditionally begins on the First of May with dancing at sunrise, a public-spirited duty undertaken to ensure a good growing season and lovely weather all Summer. Deorfrith chooses to dance at Wilverley Plain, near Brockenhurst, which is blessed with an open, East-facing aspect, so that on those rare occasions when there isn't too much cloud, the sunrise can be readily seen. This year we were favoured with a beautiful clear morning, a little chilly



for the musicians' fingers, but giving a superb view of the sunrise. At 5.30 in the morning we didn't expect an audience, though we did surprise a few early dog-walkers. After dancing, we repaired to Deorfrith Lodge in Lyndhurst for our customary cooked breakfast.



Guides centre at Foxlease, Longdown Activity Farm, and the New Forest public house at Ashurst, where we finished with a late luncheon.

Because Mayday fell on a weekend this year, we spent the rest of the morning touring round some other venues with our neighbouring local side and good friends, The New Forest Meddlars. We danced at the Girl-



On the 2nd of May we were booked to dance at a private function for the delegates attending an International conference of marine cartographers. This event was notable for the prestigious venue, namely The Great Hall in Winchester. We performed a short display set, and then invited members of the audience to join us to learn a lively Border-style dance, The East Acton Stick dance, and they participated with great enthusiasm and good humour.



We were back in Winchester all day on 7th May for the MayFest, and joined several local sides displaying many different Morris traditional styles, in outdoor venues all through the city. Again it was a beautiful sunny day, so



there were plenty of people trying to do their shopping or enjoy the sights of the ancient capital of Wessex and finding themselves tangled up in Cotswold, Border, North West and Appalachian dances. There was no procession this year, but every side was invited to perform one dance in front of the Cathedral for the Lady Mayor.

Towards the end of the month, as the evenings grew lighter, we began our programme of evening dances, by dancing at Hamble Quay on 17th, and then joining our good friends King John's Morris at the Filly Inn at Brockenhurst on the 26th. We always look forward to an evening in company of King John's, because once it gets too dark to dance, they start singing, and the pub resounded to a variety of traditional songs and shanties with much joining-in of choruses.



We have a busy programme scheduled for June, so check our website for the fixtures list and come and see us. Most of our dance venues are open to the public, and there may even be the opportunity to join in!