

Towersey Horseshoes



Programme

2024

Continuing the Morris Tradition

in

Towersey

For more information about us visit-

www.towerseyhorseshoes.co.uk

or follow us on facebook.

From the Squire

English Morris Dancing is known to have existed by the mid fifteenth century prior to the Wars of the Roses when it was recorded that a group of performers was paid seven shillings by the Goldsmith's Company in London. Since then, the tradition has continued to evolve – with a few hiccups along the way like the English Civil War, the industrial revolution, and the First World War, during which it was kept alive by the women at home.

Now in the 21st century there are over 780 groups of dancers (known as sides) across the United Kingdom, around 150 in the United State a respectable but unknown number in New Zealand, Australia and, indeed, many other countries including The Netherlands, France, Sweden, and Finland. A recent census of sides concluded that there are more than 13,000 active Morris dancers and musicians in the UK. Many of us enjoy the pastime so much that we are members of more than one side and continue to dance for many years.

When the first national Morris dance organisation, the Morris Ring, was founded in 1934, women were excluded from membership. However, with the rise of the Morris Federation and Open Morris, both founded in the 1970s, our tradition rapidly became far more inclusive and now represents an even gender split across the population. Quite recently, the Ring has fallen into line with the Federation and Open Morris and admitted women on an equal footing.

Do we dance and play instruments just to maintain the dances of the past? Some of us may have started that way, but in my experience, the most exciting and vibrant sides with the most skilled and watchable of performers are open to innovation and the growth of a living tradition. This is our ambition for Towersey Horseshoes, treasuring the tradition as received in the 20th century and taking its development forward in the 21st.

We perform Morris because we love it, and we hope that you will too. We in Towersey Horseshoes all know that participation beats watching any day and will welcome anyone wanting to find out for themselves how exhilarating a pastime Morris can be.

Do speak to any of the side if you would like to know more.

Hilary Conboy

Squire, Towersey Horseshoes.



Spot the Squire!



Tucked away down an unmade track in the village of Downley, the Le De Spencers pub enjoys a location of real beauty. It is perched right on the edge of National Trust land, making it a prime spot for ramblers, cyclists, and Morris dancers.

*The Le De Spencers Arms, Downley Common,
High Wycombe, Buckinghamshire, HP13 5YQ.*

Tel: 01494 535317. Email: ledespcersarms@outlook.com



May Morning 2023 in Towersey



THE
**Hampden
Arms** Bar & Restaurant

Real ales
Extensive Wine List

—•—
Good Food

A la carte, blackboard specials, snacks,
and Sunday roasts.

—•—
Beautiful rural setting

Large secure beer garden, car park
and on circular pub walk route.

—•—
Great Hampden, Buckinghamshire HP16 9RQ

t: 01494 488255

e: louise.lucas@outlook.com

www.thehampdenarms.co.uk

Pub open 7 days a week.

Food served every day for lunch and dinner.
(Except Tuesdays)



St George's Day, Aylesbury April 2023



The Bell is a delightful, traditional, country pub and restaurant situated between Thame and Aylesbury.

Our warm, friendly, traditional pub offers you a great home-cooked pub menu using locally sourced fresh produce. We pride ourselves on maintaining consistently well kept Fuller's ales, which we accompany with a well chosen wine list.



01844 208077 | www.thebellchearsley.co.uk

The Green, Church Lane, Chearsley, Buckinghamshire HP18 0DJ



At The Bell, May 2023



Oakley Road, Chinnor, OX39 4HX
Tel: 01844 350390



At Towersey Manor House Fete, June 2023.

Paul and Jenn welcome you to The Kings Head.



The Kings Head is a friendly and welcoming village pub hidden away in the heart of Haddenham. We serve home cooked lunches and dinners including, This is a proper pub that welcomes drinkers and diners alike There is a large beer garden and car park. The Kings Head is a great base for walkers and cyclists, dogs and children are welcome.

Find us at 52 High St, Haddenham, Bucks, HP17 8ET.

Visit www.kingsheadhaddenham.co.uk Or call 01844 292903

Facebook: @kingsheadhaddenham, Instagram: @kingshead_haddenham



At the Kings Head June 2023

TOWERSEY HORSESHOES

APRIL

Wed 3 rd	14:00	Talk & Demonstration Princes Risborough WI.	
Sun 21 st	14:30	St Georges Day, Aylesbury Market Sq	

MAY

Wed 1 st	05.20	Towersey crossroads dancing the sun-up	OX9 3QY
	06.30	Breakfast in The Three Horseshoes (Please order in advance – 01844 212322)	
Sat 4 th	10:00 14:30	Haddenham Maypole Longwick Fete	
Sun 5 th	10.30 14.30	Towersey May festival Watlington May Festival	
Thurs 9 th	20.00	Red Lion, B'well cum Sotwell As guests of Old Speckled Hen	OX10 0RT
Wed 15 th	20,00	The Bell, Chearsley with guests.	HP18 0DJ
Sun 19 th	14:30	Cuttlebrook Hall, care home, Thame	
Thurs 22 nd	20.00	The Plough, Long Wittenham as guests of Cry Havoc	OX14 5AX
Wed 29 th	20.00	The Plough, Cadsden	HP27 0NB
<u>JUNE</u>			
Sat 1 st	pm	Sydenham Fayre	
Wed 5 th	20.00	The Full Moon, Lt.Kingshill	HP16 0EE
Tue 11 th	20.00	Seven Stars, Dinton As guests of Owlswick	HP17 8UL
Wed 19 th	19.45 20.30	The Whistler, Haddenham The Kings Head, Haddenham	HP17 8DS HP17 8ET
Sun 23 rd	14.30	Towersey Fete, Manor House	OX9 3QY
Wed 26 th	20.00	Hampden Arms, Gt.Hampden	HP16 0RQ

PROGRAMME 2024

JULY

Wed 3 rd	19.45 20.30	Gardeners Arms, Jericho Rose & Crown, Oxford With guests	OX2 6JE OX2 6LX
Wed 10 th	20.00	Leathern Bottell, Lewknor with guests	OX49 5TW
Wed 17 th	19.45 20.30	Red Lion, Chinnor Wheatsheaf, Chinnor with guests	OX39 3DL OX39 4HX
Wed 24 th	20.00	Eight Bells, Long Crendon	HP18 9AL
Wed 31 st	20.00	The Old Fisherman, Shabbington With guests	HP18 9HJ

AUGUST

Wed 7 th	20.00	Le De Spensers Arms, Downley	HP13 5YQ
Wed 14 th	20.00	Three Horseshoes, Towersey with guests	OX9 3QY

SEPTEMBER

Sat 31 st / Sun 1 st Sep		Wallingford Bunkfest, day of dance	OX10 0DX
--	--	------------------------------------	----------

OCTOBER

Sat. 12 th	14,00	Apple Weekend, Waterperry	OX33 1JZ
-----------------------	-------	---------------------------	----------

DECEMBER

Thurs 26 th	12.00	The Three Horseshoes, Towersey Dancing and the Mummings Play	OX 9 3QY
------------------------	-------	---	----------

JANUARY 2025

Mon 1 st	13.00	Guests of Taepas Tump (venue to be determined)	
---------------------	-------	--	--

Please note

This programme and, also the version that appears on our website, www.towerseyhorseshoes.co.uk has been carefully prepared, however, Towersey Horseshoes cannot accept any liability for cancellations, alterations, or inaccuracies in either version.

To book us for your event next year please contact us via the website

Please book early as our programme fills quite rapidly.

The Plough at Cadsden

Set in a beautiful location at the foot of the Chiltern Hills on the Ridgeway Path.

The Plough offers superb food, great ales, and en-suite accommodation in a traditional Old English Country Pub.



Find us in Cadsden Lane near Princes Risborough, Bucks.

Set your sat-nav to HP27 0NB.

Call:- 01844 343302 or visit www.plough-at-cadsden.co.uk

Being a new Morris dancer!

So, the truth is, I always fancied being a Morris dancer, going back many years ago, when I once watched a female side perform. They danced with enthusiasm, wore delightful outfits with decorative hats, and, being a musician, I was really taken with all the joyful tunes.

It took me a long time, however, to finally get round to joining a "side" as it's known. But I plucked up courage and went for it after seeing the Towersey Horseshoes dance at my local pub in the summer of 2022.

I joined rehearsals that autumn and quickly realised that there is a lot more to Morris than just waving some hankies and sticks around. I confess I am very much still getting the hang of the dances and the stepping which, I am reliably informed can take years to master! But I'm having a great time and really would encourage anyone to come along. It is such good fun, really friendly people, and it is great exercise.

What could be better than spending summer afternoons and evenings dancing outside pubs, at village fetes and festivals, and, and of course enjoying all the social activities as well. Best of all keeping this wonderful English tradition alive. Come and join us!

Alison Swain



Boxing Day 2023, on home ground.

The Green Man



Ladies beware

In our midst there lurks a creature, the likes of which is seldom seen in public, beware The Green Man of Towersey Horseshoes. A former Squire would announce The Presence with a warning that The Green Man would bring Fecundity, Felicity and Fertility.

Do you dare to put your hand in his pocket?

The Green Man am I and masters have I none,
For whilst there be trees upon this land,
The woods shall be my home,
To the seasons kings I will bow my head,
As they shall bow to me,
For my faces are as many,
As the leaves upon a tree.



The only 100% vegetarian menu in Oxford

At The Gardeners Arms

39, Plantation Rd, Oxford OX2 6JE. Tel: 01865 559814



Outside the Gardeners Arms, June 2023.



The Rose and Crown

14 North Parade Avenue, Oxford, OX2 6LX.

Food served, Noon to 2:30 and 6pm to 9pm

To book, call: 01865510551



With Oxford City at the Rose and Crown, June 2023.

Les and Julie welcome you to



De Olde Leatheren Bottel

and offer daily an
Extensive Range of Hot and Cold Food

There is a Large Car Park and an Attractive Beer Garden
Brakspears Real Ales

Lewknor, Nr Watlington, Oxon, OX49 5TW
Tel 01844 351482 or visit www.theleatherbottle.co.uk
Exit the M40 at Junction 6 onto the B4009



At the **BOTTLE**, July 2023

Our nominated Charities for 2024

The Society for Mucopolysaccharide Diseases



We have supported the MPS Society since the early 1990s when we enrolled Matthew Hardy as an honorary member. Matthew had Hunters Syndrome, a form of MPS disease, and sadly died shortly after his 13th birthday. Many sufferers of MPS do not live into their teens, and it is rare for someone with MPS to survive beyond.

At present, there is no known cure for MPS disease. We continue to support the Society so that it can continue its work in supporting sufferers and their families and providing funding into research looking for a cure and suitable treatments for the condition.

For information contact: The Society for MPS diseases, Registered Charity No.287034.
MPS House, Repton Place, White Lion Rd. Amersham, Bucks. HP7 9LP.

Call 01494 3899901 or visit www.mpssociety.co.uk

The Multiple Sclerosis Trust



Multiple Sclerosis, a progressive disease of the nervous system, is caused by the Degeneration of the myelin sheath that acts as insulation to the nerves in the body.

This degeneration can be likened to the insulation coating of domestic wiring, which if damaged would cause a short circuit and a blown fuse.

As the myelin deteriorates, signals from the brain tend to go astray and various functions of the body can be affected, such as walking or hand and eye coordination.

As with MPS there is no cure for MS.

The aim of the Trust is to provide information and support to those affected, their families and health care professionals, to train specialist nurses and to support research into the disease.

For information contact: The MS Trust, Registered Charity No.1088353.
MST, Spirella Building, Bridge Rd, Letchworth Garden City, Herts. SG6 4ET.

Call 01462 476700 or visit www.mstrust.org

Over the years, thanks to the generosity of our audiences, we have been able to donate in excess of £27,000 to these two, and various other extremely good causes.

The Three Horseshoes



The home of Towersey Horseshoes

(Ask anybody!)

Helen and the team welcome you.

Traditional Pub food including Sunday Roasts

Huge beer garden with children's playground

Quiz nights

Friendly atmosphere

Event room available for hire

We are in a lovely village location:

Chinnor Rd. Towersey, Nr Thame, Oxon. OX9 3QY.

To book your table-

Tel: 01844 212322

or visit:

www.threehorsehoestowersey.co.uk