



Newsletter

November 2011

Welcome to issue 3 of the Rose and Castle Newsletter. In this issue we'll reflect on the dancing we have done since our last issue – that is, since 14 July. The side's AGM took place on 6 October: what was on the agenda????? And.. and.. and... We bring you all the right facts, but not necessarily in the right order (*Who said that?! - Ed.*)...

So, since 14 July, the calendar looked like this:

Wed 31 Aug.	The George, Kilsby
Sun 4 Sept.	Adderbury Club Day
Wed 7 Sept	Nag's Head, Gt Linford
Sat 8 Oct	Blackheath Morris Day of Dance
Mon 31 Oct	Clifton Reynes Samhain Biker Bash
Sat 12 Nov	Northampton Tour: Salute to our Squires [SOS Tour]

Upcoming:

Sat 26 Nov	Stony Lights (early afternoon)
Sun 27 Nov	Morris Workshop (a.m.) at Stony
T B C	Christmas Wassail

And of course -

1 Jan 2012 12 noon: The Boat, Stoke Bruerne.

Blackheath - 8 October

A quick run to Embankment on the Underground meant that a glorious 'Gorton' was possible on the side of the Thames. The tourists were very pleased to see such an array of the UK's finest men in flowery hats. If only R&C Morris charged a pound for every photograph, subs could be a thing of the past!

Dancing finished, the side caught the nearby Thames Clipper, a great way to get to our final destination Greenwich and the Old Brewery.



Photo: Steve Brady

Because of traffic delays, our host side, Blackheath were happy for R&C to start the proceedings.

We danced six-up to start, but very soon we numbered eight. The three other sides present were Blackheath, St. Albans and Dacre Ladies.

Unfortunately, proceedings were cut short at the Old Brewery, as permission had not been obtained to dance there from the duty manager. So it was off to the next venue, the Richard 1st.

Much dancing and merriment was had at the venue and the side did another set of high quality North West Morris dances and musical sets, each routine being met with great applause from the other teams and gathered members of the public. The Duke of Lancaster Garland Dance seemed to be particularly well appreciated.



Photo: Steve Brady

Final venue was the Ashburnham Arms, the time spent here went equally well and we finished with the much in demand Garland dance, leaving the crowd begging for more (well, sort of).

Returned from London that evening, somewhat drained but happy to have been a part of what was a grand day out for R&C Morris. In Lanky parlance it could be said - 'eee by gum, it wur reet gradely!'

Graham Barker

The Nag's Head, Gt Linford – 7 September

A great dance out, with hearty music-making in the bar afterwards.



Photo: Steve Brady

And – is this a new recruit to the band?! Well, maybe....



12 November – Northampton SOS Tour

This Tour was a Salute to our Squires (aka SOS) Tour. Ian, our outgoing Squire was hors de combat on St George, so this was a repeat of our St George 2011 tour – for him, and for Steve (“Biggy”), our new Squire...



Photo:
Michael
Warren

It began in murky weather outside The Eastgate, top of Abington Street, Northampton. We processed down to “Ashton”, passing the Army collecting for Poppy Day, while the R&C band was playing “British Grenadiers”. The audience by The Last statue was multiple rows deep, and very appreciative - even though the surface was a tad smooth, so we couldn't dance with full elan (so I - a band member - am told!).

On to the Wig and Pen for refreshment and rest, from where we processed past a wedding party at the Guildhall and on to the All Saints piazza. Again, an appreciative crowd assembled for our three dances. We processed off from there even down Bridge street (*pars*), feeling like Kings of the Road, with Eamon authoritatively holding up the traffic.

Then Steve B, our Bagman Emeritus, got hold of the bass drum and went off on one down Bridge street, setting off alarms left, right and centre. The day was clearly warming up.



Photo:
Michael
Warren

Lunch at the King Billy was a splendid affair, with gluten-free, 100% beef burgers, much beer and laughter....More chips anyone? Matt's hand shot up and he won the day. Afterwards, Steve (Biggy), to tumultuous applause, thanked CD for organising this splendid occasion, and proposed that it become a fixture in the calendar (Shhh... later, Steve suggested that AGM 2012 consider lunch being on the Bag).

But before lunch, Woody and Ian W. with some of the side in the background contriving to get in shot (!), recorded a piece for a BBC “mass observation”- type project. Who knows, we may make the silver screen yet.

Finally, on to the Malt Shovel for some more fine ale, dancing and music-making. English, Irish and Scottish traditions were in the repertoire.

And so, dear reader, home for me, your reporter, and an early night. It had been a fine, fine, day.

Hallowe'en

Rose and Castle were out in force at Hallowe'en, dancing for our friends in Cernunnos Motorcycle Club at their Samhain bash at the Robin Hood, Clifton Reynes, near Olney. Landlord Reg made the Side welcome as ever, and his excellent locally-brewed ale washed down the bikers' chilli nicely after the dancing was done. This is a regular event for Rose and Castle, and one we and our hosts always enjoy.



Photo:
Steve
Brady

The Annual General Meeting

The side's AGM took place on 6 October at Stoke Bruerne Village Hall. Penetrating reports on the past year were presented by and on behalf of (because our esteemed Squire was still in Australia!) the respective office-bearers, followed by animated discussion.

A palpable sense of renewal hovered seductively over the proceedings from that point. Office-bearers were elected; heartfelt thanks were expressed to outgoing Squire Ian Welborn, and Bagman Steve Brady, each having served a monumental five year stint. Well done, chaps! Mark Holmes was thanked for his work as Foreman and Mark gallantly offered to build on his first year with a second stint – thank you, Mark!

Steve Bignell was elected Squire (Wassail, Steve!), as was Bagman Andrew Castley, upon which sympathetic murmurs of something like “poisoned chalice” [*what this? - Ed.*] rippled round the room. Ominous or jocular – which? Probably both! Anyway, the business concluded, we repaired to The Boat for a well-earned pint on the Bag, and some great singing and playing. All in all, an excellent evening.

Interested?

If you are interested in joining R&C as a dancer, musician, or helper, contact

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