

Welcome to Monkseaton Morrismen's Weekend of Dance 2010.

Over the weekend, there will be a chance to see a variety of traditional Morris and Sword dances from across the country, expertly performed at a selection of venues North and South of the Tyne. There will be a mass show on Saturday evening and Sunday lunch time, at the Ship Inn Monkseaton and at the Keelman at Newburn on Saturday lunch time.

Any of the dancers would be delighted to talk to you about their traditions and dances.

History of the Morris and Sword Dances

The origins of Morris dancing have been lost in history, but prevalent opinion is that Morris is based on pre-Christian fertility or luck bringing ceremonies.

The most common type of Morris dance performed is known as Cotswold with their characteristic white hankies and sticks. There are also two types of traditional English sword dancing. Teams using a short flexible, two-handed sword perform the fast, nimble Rapper dances of County Durham and Northumberland. The rigid swords of metal or wood are used to perform the Longsword dances, mainly found in Yorkshire, Teeside and Cleveland. The dance culminates in the making and displaying of the interwoven sword 'lock'.

Introduction to the teams

Monkseaton Morrismen



Founded in 1955, Monkseaton are best known for their spectacular Rapper sword dance. Monkseaton also perform Longsword and Cotswold dances.

Saddleworth



Saddleworth dances are noisy and complex. Dancers perform in Lancashire clogs, with

wooden soles and shod with iron. They are also famous for their spectacular hats, stacked high with fresh flowers.

Chester City



Dancing with hoops decorated with brightly coloured flowers and short sticks, Chester City dance traditional North West clog dances to a distinctive big drum beat.

Westminster



Established in 1953 in the City of Westminster carry on the English tradition of Morris dancing, dressed in striking yellow and black tabards.



Redcar Sword

Specialising in the Longsword, Redcar execute their craft with precision and

style, not to be missed in their bright red tunics.

Anker Morrismen



Formed in 1975 and based in Nuneaton in North Warwickshire, Anker perform

mainly Cotswold dances, wearing blue and silver crossed baldrics.

Performance Programme

Saturday 11th September

Tour 1 Saddleworth, Westminster & Monkseaton

10.15 am Kings Street, South Shields

11.00 am Stags Head, South Shields

11.45 am South Shields Town Hall

1.15 pm Keelman, Newburn

3.15 pm Cannon, Earsdon

Tour 2 Chester, Anker & Redcar

10.00am Northumberland St., Newcastle

10.45am Grey's Monument, Newcastle

11.15am Baccus, Highbridge, Newcastle

12.00pm Quayside Pub, Newcastle

1.15pm Keelman, Newburn

3.15pm Shiremoor House Farm

6.30pm Mass Show

The Ship Inn, Front Street Monkseaton

Sunday 12th September

11.30am Mass Show

The Ship Inn, Front Street Monkseaton

Monkseaton Morris and Folkdance Club welcome new members, including ladies for the traditional mixed folk dancing.

Practices are held at The 21st Whitley Bay Scout's Hut, beside Whitley Bay Ice Rink on Monday evenings from 8pm.

For more information on the team, please contact:

Andrew Morris 'Bagman' 0191 1912668

Bryan Jackson 'Squire' 01665 577298

Peter Brown 'Treasurer' 0191 2523022

Or visit our website

www.monkseatonmorrismen.co.uk

Many thanks are given to the following for supporting this event:-

- The Ship Inn Monkseaton
- The Black Horse Monkseaton
- Appletree Gardens First School
- ESR Electrical Components, Station Rd Cullercoats
- The ladies of Monkseaton Folkdance Club
- Nicholson Butchers, Whitley bay

Monkseaton
Morrismen and Folk Dance Club



Weekend of Dance 2010

10th - 12th September