



RATTLE UP My Boys

A quarterly publication for those with an interest in
sword dancing

Issue 4, Series 8, Winter 1999/2000

World Millennium Sword Spectacular

For the last few issues of *Rattle Up My Boys* I have enquired of Vince Rutland, Secretary of the Committee organising the Sword Spectacular, for more detailed information about the event. With limited success so far.

I realise that negotiations with official bodies take time but I regularly hear from people who want to plan next years programme of weekends - even where necessary to arrange accommodation. Vince sent the following handout for the last issue and is unable to expand on it yet:

*The World Millennium Sword Spectacular Festival will take place in Whitby, North Yorkshire, from 25th - 29th May 2000. All UK teams and individuals are invited to attend and be a part of this very friendly and well-organised festival.

Overseas groups which have provisionally accepted are:-

- In de Kring, Dunkirk, France
- Boerke Naas, St.Niklaas, Belgium
- Bacchu-Ber, Pont-de-Cervières, France
- Lange Wapper, Antwerp, Belgium
- Baden-Württemberg, Germany
- Bal do Sabre, Bagnasco, Italy
- *Gaiteros da Xistra, Vigo, Galicia, Spain
- *Kompanija Pupnat, Croatia
- *Volkstanzgruppe St. Martin im Sulmtal, Austria
- Markinako Zerutxu, Markina-Xemein, Basque Country, Spain
- *Kemen Dantza Taldea, Irun, Basque Country, Spain
- Podsable, Komna, Czech Republic
- Bobkovnici, Bystrice pod Lopenikem, Czech Republic
- Orion Swords, Boston, -Mass., USA
- *Velocirapper, Boston, Mass., USA
- Jack the Rapper, Norway
- *Danza de Espadas Redondela, Galicia, Spain

Around 50 UK teams attended the events in 1996 and 1998. UK teams who have already registered their interest include: Goathland Plough Stots, Handsworth, Coventry Mummers, Sallyport, Flamborough, Coventry Morris Men, Newcastle Kingsmen, Ryknild Rabble, Pengwyn, Thrale's, Stone Monkey, Black Adder, Carlisle, Hexham, Ryburn, Castleford, Seven Stars, Shorn the Sheep Rapper, Southport, High Spen and more.....

Teams who do not consider themselves as "mainly sword" are welcome. The weekend will include dance spots in and around Whitby, excellent camping facilities, Gala performances, social events, and the chance to get to know our overseas guests. A conference on Sword Dancing is also planned to give the Festival an academic side, and workshops will be included. TO REGISTER FOR OUR MAILING LIST, e-mail me NOW (rutlandsv@netscapeonline.co.uk) and I will send more details as soon as they're available. Reduced rates apply for early booking."

Vince Rutland, September 1999

* overseas teams who did not attend either of the two earlier events



A team who are expected at the forthcoming Sword Spectacular and who have not visited the UK before are the Croatian team Kompanija Pupnat from the island of Korcula. I've seen a video of them and they are well worth seeing!

MAKE A NOTE OF THE DATES
World Millennium Sword Spectacular
May 25th to 29th, 2000

Overseas teams new to the UK

The previous two Sword Spectacular events in 1996 and 1998 were successful in attracting overseas teams - the next event looks set to carry on the good work. In the capable hands of Renaat Van Craenenbroeck no less than 17 overseas teams have provisionally expressed interest in attending and the thing that delights me is that no less than 6 of these teams are new to our shores. I don't envy the organisers the problem of accommodating this number of teams, especially as many overseas teams have out of the ordinary requirements (security for very expensive costumes springs to mind from 1996) and they also involve large numbers of dancers.

I have either seen, or had a video preview, for all overseas teams except the American team "Velocirapper" and the Basque team Kemen Dantza Taldea. I understand from a leaflet they sent that Kemen Dantza Taldea are typical of the colourful and athletic Basque teams we have seen before. I am looking forward to seeing more of them.

Four of the European teams, Gaiteros da Xistra from Galicia, Spain; Danza de Espadas Redondela also from Galicia; Kompanija Pupnat from Korcula, Croatia and Volkstanzgruppe St. Martin im Sulmtal from Austria bring styles of dancing (and costumes) which will be new to most of us.

The Austrian team have obvious links - in the figures they perform and their movements - with the German teams who have been to the UK before. They do however have a distinctive appearance with their all black costumes.

The Spanish team from Redondela and the Croatian team are both distinctively different. The large Redondela team are linked together (usually in V shapes or columns) by swords with loops at handle and point - the loops slip over the hands and enable dancers to "hold" the swords and to create a powerful rhythm with castanets held in both hands. The Croatian team have a distinctive form of stepping, some unusual movements and costumes which to our eyes are unusual. I understand from a Croatian contact that the team are very excited at the prospect of visiting England - I for one am very excited by the prospect of seeing them - and also to meeting old friends again.

A Conference

In his handout Vince mentions a conference. Regular readers will remember that I commented on the lack of any academic aspect in my report on the 1998 event (*Rattle Up My Boys*, issue 4, series 7, Winter 1998/99). This time I was invited to put up or shut up and I spent some weeks preparing ideas and costings for a conference. Shortage of time and pressure of other work meant that I had to pull out but I am delighted to read that a conference will be held after all. Providing that details are available soon I am sure that the conference will tempt some people to attend who would not otherwise have attended.

The Kirkburton Jubilee

by Bob Schofield

The Millennium sees the Kirkburton Rapier Dancers' twenty fifth birthday.

In the late 60's and early 70's, Colne Royal Morris was a focus for a number of us from the Halifax and Huddersfield areas. It was the only team for miles around that was reviving local morris, rather than being one of the Dance-Everything-You-Can sides that flourished everywhere else. I don't know why we gravitated to Colne, but it just seemed right. Perhaps it stemmed from the song clubs in both towns where knowledge and performance of local material gave added bite to an evening. We'd all grown up with "Pratty Flowers",

the "Burn Royd Anthem" and "The Barley Mow" long before we knew of them as folk songs, and local pride was strong then as it is now.

Influenced by Julian Pilling, the leader of Colne Royal, Gary Stringfellow and I scoured park benches and tap rooms collecting whatever we could of the dance traditions of Yorkshire. Morris dances from Barkisland, Keighley, Sutton in Craven; social dances such as "Jack's the Lad", and the Marsden, Ripponden, Sowerby Bridge Rushbearings were all avidly noted. Waffan Fuffen bands were an early catch; later we formed one for a while.

But nothing much on Longsword dancing.

I attempted to play concertina when the Barnsley team started up in Jim Potter's outdoor shop, but the music was probably improved by my absence. I bought Sharp's book, looked at it, learned a bit, and onto the shelf it went.

Then, in November 1971, I got a phone call from Richard Castle of Kirkburton. He'd been talking to an old inhabitant who remembered seeing sword dancers at the end of the 19th century in the village, where they'd danced over and under their swords. I wrote down a note, looked in the local newspapers, found nothing other than a reference to St George and the Black Prince being out at Christmas, and filed it away as reference.

In 1973, the approaching New Year looked as though it was going to be a bit of a bore, so what could we do to liven it up? "Let's do a Mumming Play" some folk suggested. And we did, or at least tried to. About eight of us learned the lines of one from Penistone, I think, and set off in thick fog to present it. The only performance, in the Victoria Hall at Saltaire (one of our members, Alf Lemm, lived nearby) was an embarrassment, no-one wanted to watch. Another one for experience.

Round about September 1974, the thought of a boring New Year came round again. We ought to do something for both the evening and the following day, with a party in between. The idea of performing a sword dance in Kirkburton was born, the party would be at Richard Castle's in Highburton, and dancers would be sought from friends and the "folkier" members of the Vibram Mountaineering Club. Most of us had been mummers the year before, and we only needed a couple more. The team would be Richard Castle, Alan McLean, Barry Crick, Malcolm Smith, Derek Liversedge, and Myself, with music from Alf Lemm and "Raj" Clayton. Three had Kirkburton connections, and the others lived in Huddersfield or Bradford.

What should we dance? We knew a sword dance had been performed but we'd no idea what it had looked like, other than swords had been jumped over. So out came Sharp's book, and Kirkby Malzeard was dusted down, practised, put away, and our own version devised, bearing in mind the few weeks we had to learn it.

At this point, I'll repeat the Captain's Log written just after the event. It gives a flavour of the performance as we saw it at the time:

*"Practices were held during November and December 1974 in The Kirkburton Conservative W.M.C. Swords were made by Derek Liversedge and the costume was made by each of the members of the team, the design being black trousers and white shirts with ribbons attached at the shoulders and on front and back. The basic figures were:
March clockwise in ring and grasp neighbours sword*

1. Single under
2. Single over
3. Double under
4. Double over
5. Lock and off

A chorus figure where dancers moved into the middle and out twice was inserted between the last three figures."



Figure 1. Dancing in the Cricket Club, Single Unders.



Figure 3. The team outside the Smith's Arms: Raj Clayton, Barry Crick, Richard Castle, Bob Schofield, Alan McLean, Malcolm Smith, Derek Liversedge and Alf Lemm.

Performances

The first performance took place at 9 o'clock on New Year's Eve night at the Commercial Travellers Club at Longroyd Bridge. A fair display was given and the £3.94 collected was a good omen for things to come. We then moved back to Kirkburton and danced at the Cricket Club. Not much room but plenty of enthusiasm, a collection of nearly £6, free beer, and an invitation to dance at the annual festival of the club in September.

At Midnight the team, by now too well oiled, travelled down to the George and danced as the clock struck twelve. The performance was a bit wild and Derek was cut badly on the head by an unknown sword. Manfully he held on as blood poured down and soaked his shirt. Carried back to the party for tender care and a night's sleep, he reappeared to the relief of the anxious team the following



Figure 2. Team line up outside The Junction

morning, still with a sore head, but smiling and determined to carry on. His bloodstained shirt may be carried as a trophy in future years, thus obviating the need for further sacrifice! Blood in fact, seemed to be the norm for the tours, as several knuckles were skilfully removed during the making of the lock, and we may need less rigid swords in future.

New Year's Day dawned too brightly for the majority of individuals as the effects of the night's festivities at the party were felt. All were able to stagger down the

road, however, to the Smith's Arms to commence the lunch time tour. A small crowd, more cameras than people, saw the team perform its evolution's with rather less vigour than the night before ending with a miserable lock, which fell apart as the team led off. However the hair of the dog seemed to work, and the next stand, outside the Junction, saw a larger crowd and a much finer performance. By now a good rhythm was entering into the dance and it looked much more spectacular than the night before. The landlord, who had danced with The Goathland Plough Stots years before, turned out to be a jolly good chap and provided the team with a little cheer before going down to the Royal. On turning the corner at the Royal, we were befronted by a throng of people waiting for the team to appear. We went straight into the dance and gave the best performance of the weekend. Nothing went wrong, the dancers were in step, the music was good and the crowd showed its usual appreciation as the final figures were performed and the hat went round. As the team sank into their seats in the Royal for last drinks before closing time, self-congratulations abounded and a firm resolve was made to keep the tradition alive next year. Back at Highburton, a final count up was made, the proceeds being £20.52p, from which £5 was donated to the Old Folks Treat, and the rest put into the Bank by our instant treasurer, Malcolm.

A very satisfactory start, both for the team, and 1975.

Thursday 28th January

Performed at Smith's Arms for Old Folks Treat. Unfortunately by the time the team arrived at the pub (9 O'clock) all the old people had gone home after a hard day's boozing. Enough courage was eventually plucked up to perform for the regulars in the tiny space in front of the bar. An average display for the circumstances resulted in a collection of about two pounds, which was donated to next years Old Folk's Treat, so at least they did benefit to some extent.

Monday 3rd February

Invited to Ring O' Bells, Cleckheaton, where the Cleckheaton team (Spenn Valley Longsword) were holding a film show of old teams. While one was of the North Skeiton team, the other showed London Pride Morris Men giving a typical "Revival" display. After a rather heated discussion on Regional Ethics between unlike minds (Kirkburton vs. Leeds M.M.) the two sword teams performed, probably not for their own edification but in unhealthy rivalry. We are still good friends. We'll leave it at that.

Bob Schofield, October 1999

Another birthday...

Bob Schofield, in his article above, mentions a film show and social evening held by Spen Valley Longsword. Spen Valley were founded in 1974, not many months before/after Kirkburton were set up (there is some "uncertainty"). As befits an elderly team Spen Valley plan a low key birthday celebration on December 11th from 1.00'ish at The Wheatsheaf, Gomersal. Further details from David Webster (see back page for contact details).

Trevor meets the Sexy Sword Squad

By Noel Jackson

Trevor Stone is a great source of encouragement to anyone trying to set up or develop a new sword team, providing that essential link that ensures that one feels part of an overall movement rather than a clash in the wilderness. So it was too good an opportunity to miss when he suggested that he could run a workshop for us. I was able to plug it into our activities week at the end of term and a mixture of teenage sword-dancers and ceilidh band musicians turned up to try something different.

Whilst I sorted out a post-motorway cuppa, the squad took Trevor through our basic dance (calling on song five men: High Basket, Low Basket, Over Your Shoulder & Back, Single Unders, Single Overs, Line Over*, Slag Over*, 5-lock. Bring on an extra man: chop his head off, Double Under, Double Over, 6-lock. Bring on an extra man, raise the captain, Over Your Own Sword, Scott Squeeze*, 7-lock and parade off. Starred figures have been developed by the squad, the rest was given to us by Carlisle Sword at a Folkworks workshop about four years ago.)

By the time I returned with the brown liquid, Trevor was already giving them hints on how to improve their hilt-and-point rings by not gripping the sword and how to make their baskets more showy by the way they hefted their swords into the figure. It's tips like this that show the value of working with a really experienced tutor.

Trevor took us through some new figures, like Over your neighbours sword, Double over your neighbours sword and the double triangle lock. I had been let into the secret at Kirby Malzeard on Boxing Day but had not got the squad using it with confidence. Trevor had them clicking it into place within a few minutes.

Trevor had a range of swords with him. We use heavy, 3mm stainless steel swords. These are stiff enough to enable us to lift the captain but they make the stars difficult to lock and the girls in the squad can not lift a seven sword lock above their heads. It was interesting to find out what could and could not be done with wider and more flexible swords.

Trevor and I went in search of liquid sustenance at lunch time (surprisingly hard in East Durham on a weekday) and returned to find that the squad had devised a narrative sword dance based on the new and modified figures that Trevor had taught in the morning. It told of the Border Wars between the English and the Scots with the Geordies acting as mediators, restoring life, peace and harmony through the liberal application of brown ale.

The tale requires a lot of practice and polish but the skeleton was there after just a few hours stimulus from Trevor. I am sure that it will be a real crowd-pleaser in the future and we intend to give its world premiere at the school Christmas concert.

Some people may be upset because neither Trevor nor I have been teaching a particular traditional dance. However, the forms and the figures that we have used are all firmly based on tradition. The dancers all know good dancing when they see it and really appreciate traditional sides as guardians of our heritage

when they see them. If nothing else, there is a small bunch of kids in the North East who don't share the usual view of ageing morris dancers!

One has to remember that a tradition is anything that has been happening for longer than one can remember. For a young teenager, that is only a few years. The Sexy Sword Squad has been going for sufficient length of time that it is taken for granted by the school population. Our pupils are genuinely surprised when they find that other schools do not all have long-sword teams and ceilidh bands! The key role for people like myself is to make sure that the music and dance we tackle with the pupils is fun and exciting. If we achieve this, then the enthusiasm of the kids ensures that the tradition evolves and looks after itself in the future. Traditions all have to start somewhere and with the Roman Wall Sword Dance, Trevor can be proud of the role that he had in creating it.

Noel Jackson, November 1999

Norris Winstone's find

I was pleased to receive a letter recently from Norris Winstone, who, many years ago, had regular contact with Cleveland teams. He tells me that a friend of his was recently delving into a box of old books when he came across two typed sheets headed "FLAMBOROUGH SWORD DANCE via Ron Horsley" with a lesser note "Swords held in left hand". The contents are divided into numbered sections: 1. Lock; 2. Clash; 3. Threading (spelt this way on the notes); 4. Double Thread; 5. Pousette; 6. Long Hey and 7. Final Lock.

Norris wonders if they are notes handed out at a workshop or course - the paper is A4 size so they cannot be that old. When time permits I plan to read Norris' find whilst running a recent video of the Flamborough team to see if there are any variations.

Norris also reported on the progress of Weavers Morris, a local team who (no doubt encouraged by Norris) are working on a sword dance. They had swords made by a local engineer to details from past copies of Rattle Up My Boys.

Sharp's Field Note Books rediscovered

I recently heard from Ivor Allsop that Sharp's long lost Field note books had come to light at Cecil Sharp House. I hope to get more details of what may be a very interesting development to print in the next issue.

A lecture by Cecil Sharp

Gordon Ridgewell wrote recently drawing attention to the fact that "this Christmastide we celebrate the 100th anniversary of the famous meeting of Cecil Sharp and William Kimber which inspired Sharp to collect our native songs and dances for posterity."

Gordon went on "To commemorate that chance encounter, which led to Sharp eventually to the north of England to piece together and publish details of some 15 sword dances, let us recall the lecture he gave on the Sword dances of Northern England at Stratford-upon-Avon on 21 August 1912."

Gordon uncovered this report of Sharp's lecture whilst on a visit to the British Library, Newspaper Library at Colindale (the rest of us take holidays, often abroad but not Gordon!). The report is from *The Stratford-upon-Avon Herald and South Warwickshire Advertiser* of Friday 23 August 1912 (page 2). He suggests that it would be topical for this issue and I agree with him. The article reads:

MR. CECIL SHARP ON THE

"SWORD DANCES OF NORTHERN ENGLAND"

At his lecture at the Parish Parlour on Wednesday afternoon, Mr. Cecil Sharp devoted his attention entirely to the Sword Dances of Northern England. He prefaced his remarks by saying that he intended that afternoon to show, in a practical way, what evidence was to be found in the Sword Dances themselves in support of the theory of origin so ably propounded by Mr. Tidy in his lecture the previous day. The lecturer first of all commented upon the ceremonial character of the dances. He pointed out the gravity of demeanour which invariably characterised the performers, a peculiarity which was markedly absent from the Country Dances. He mentioned that the Sword Dance was performed at one season of the year only - at Christmastide or the New Year: it was not an ordinary everyday dance. He then proceeded to examine the dances themselves, and to show that the central idea embodied in them was the killing of an animal. This, in the first instance, was illustrated by the performance of the first section of the Grenoside sword dance, in which the performers danced in a ring round the captain, laced the swords round his neck, and afterwards, at a musical climax, drew the swords sharply from the lock. This, Mr Sharp pointed out, was clearly a mimetic decapitation, the captain with his helmet-shaped hat covered with rabbit skin, and with a rabbit's head in front, evidently symbolising the victim. The Kirkby Malzeard, the Flamborough, and the Sleights were then performed, and the various movements explained so far as they illustrated the argument under discussion. Mr. Sharp showed that although the derivation of these dances could be traced back to a Pagan religious rite, for many centuries the original idea had been forgotten, and the development of the dances had proceeded along artistic lines. And this was quite evident, from the dances themselves, apart altogether from their origin, being extremely beautiful and delightful to watch. The dancers performed the varied movements, many of them complex and elaborate, with great agility, and with a perfection of finish which betokened careful training and assiduous practice." Gordon Ridgewell, September 1999

SYMPOSIUM 200 at Korcula

In her article on dancing at Lastovo (Croatia) in the last issue of *Rattle Up My Boys* Prof. Elsie Dunin mentioned a conference to be held in Korcula next July 3rd to 9th. The deadline for submission of papers has past but it is still possible to attend (and see the local sword dances "at home"). If anyone is interested in attending contact me for more details.

The Goathland Plough Stots Millennium event

Keith Thompson has sent more details of the Plough Stots plans to celebrate the Millennium.

On Saturday, January 15th three teams will march from the Reading Room for dancing to start at approx 10.00 am (depends on when Lange Wapper arrive) outside the village shops where Goathland and their guests Lange Wapper and Sallyport Sword will each perform. After that Goathland Plough Stots and Sallyport will tour the village and, because of the nature of their dance, Lange Wapper will dance at Malyan Car Park, Brereton Lodge, "Inn on The Moor" and Oakwell Avenue, Darnholm. Presumably the teams will end up at Beckhole. The Plough Blessing is the previous Sunday - phone Keith Thompson (01947) 896 311 to confirm. Keith Thompson, November 1999

Plans for a Sword dance web site

Every time Renaat and I meet the conversation turns to the possibility of us jointly producing a book. In spite of many meetings we have not got much further than to produce a list of Chapter headings!

However we have both recently moved into the modern world of the Internet and, in spite of the masses of crap, we have both found the web useful in following up leads and maintaining contacts. So it seemed obvious that sometime one of us would bring the web into our plans.

On Renaat's last visit late in October we put together some ideas for a sword dance site that would provide an introduction to beginners and a base for people with a developing interest in sword dance. Together we examined a number of existing sites - we soon saw many examples of what we didn't want - out of date listings with minimum content (and often what there was was full of pagan origins material).

Perhaps readers have some ideas for content - there may even be an expert out there who is willing to help us with the technical bits. If so get in touch - by e-mail if you wish: jtstone@globalnet.co.uk.

Malvern Sword team "discovered"

I often get requests asking for information on sword teams from dancers who move to a new area. Such a situation arose when Rob Guest, formerly of the York Gentlemen team, moved home and job to the Gloucestershire area. I gave Rob a few contacts but the only one which seemed relevant was a team who I had heard of but never seen - Malvern Swordsmen.

After a number of false starts Rob finally contacted the team and sent this report - he describes the outing as "... an interesting day out, but no prospect of regular dancing for me - so it looks as if I shall continue to migrate back to Yorkshire on a regular basis! (not an unpleasant thought)" Rob writes:

"Phew!! I can't believe they are dancing in this heat!"

After a search of nearly a year, we had finally tracked down the Malvern Swordsmen to a display in a village in the Cotswolds on a July afternoon with the temperature hovering around 30 degrees. The dancers included men, women and children of all ages and during the afternoon they performed a range of Morris dances, country dances including one Cecil Sharp had collected in the Appalachians, and one sword dance.



The team has been established for nearly fifty years - next year will be their jubilee. They were formed by John Lewis who was at that time a teacher at Malvern College. He had learned the Ampleforth dance whilst a student at Cambridge, and this was the first dance he taught his pupils - hence the name of the team.

These days the Malvern Swordsmen only meet and dance on one weekend each year when they tour villages in the Cotswolds, taking in about five venues each day. The dancers are predominantly old boys of the school, including two of John's sons - Anthony and Richard, as well as grandchildren. Most of their dances are local Morris, but they still perform an abbreviated version of Ampleforth as shown in the photo and also a rapper dance which was not danced this year because a key participant was absent. The dancers adopt a slightly different uniform for each type of dance - for the sword dance the uniform resembled that worn by the Bacchu Ber. There must be an unwritten rule that this is the accepted uniform for dancing in such heat!!!!

Rob Guest, August 1999

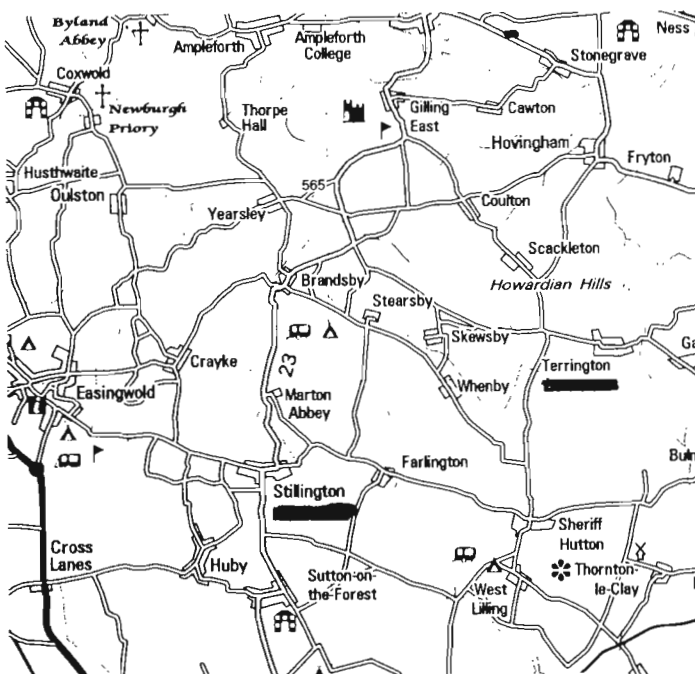
Rob followed up with an e-mail giving more details of the team including contacts etc.

Links with Garland dances

by Gordon Ridgewell

Shortly after the publication of the review by Renaat Van Craenenbroeck of Steve Corrsin's book *Sword Dancing in Europe: A History* I received a letter from Gordon Ridgewell which set out a number of points arising from Steve's book. One of the themes that Gordon pursued was the following observations on the garland dance:

Renaat Van Craenenbroeck in his review of *Sword Dancing in Europe: A History* by Steve Corrsin, published in *Rattle Up My Boys*, Issue 1, Series 8, Spring 1999, discusses possible links between garland dances and hilt and point sword dances. Renaat referred to the garland dance tradition in Bavaria, Austria and Spain. On this theme I would add that garland dancing used to be a Plough Monday custom in Yorkshire.



Evidence for this is to be found in Arthur St. Clair Brooke's book *Slingsby and Slingsby Castle*, published in 1904, wherein the following account concerning garland dancing and sword dancing being performed on Plough Monday by teams from the neighbouring North Riding villages of Terrington and Slingsby, is to be found at pp 230 - 31:

Among the sports and pastimes that have died out, may be reckoned Plough Monday processions (the Monday next after twelfth day). These were common in the early part of the last century. I have heard that great

rivalry existed between Terrington and Slingsby in these performances. Terrington would parade with garland dancers, and Slingsby with sword dancers, then the spokesman of the Slingsby company having formed a ring, would step into the middle and address the Terrington company in the following doggerel rhyme:

*"Garlands make room, I pray, for here you plainly see
Six youths in pink and blue, who now do follow me.
They'll do the best they can, so let them try their skill.
Music, strike up and play 't'auld wife o' Coverdale"*

Gordon Ridgewell, August 1999

Team profile

Bishop Gundulf's Morris of Rochester, Kent

Ken Anderson, a regular correspondent who has recently deserted Longsword for Molly dancing, promised to supply details of Bishop Gundulf's side before he left for the opposition. With a little prompting Ken assembled these notes with the help of other dancers and Mai Zobell, one of the original dancers who recently broke her hip and was prompted to use her enforced inactivity to write down some of the details which may otherwise be lost. Ken writes:

The original side was first formed in 1981 as Medway Mummers, (a men only side). Later that year Longsword was added, and then the wives of team members decided to form a Ladies Garland team. These styles (Longsword & North West) were chosen as being relatively rare in the Medway, Kent area. In August 1981 Valerie Dennis & Pauline Town attended Sidmouth Folk Festival and learned the Peover North West dance.

The titles of the two sides were then "Bishop Gundulf's Men & Gundulf's Garland" but this was changed to our present title in 1984 when we joined the Morris Federation Insurance scheme. We first danced out at the Fleur de Lys Public House at Burham on Boxing Day 1981.

The side is composed predominantly of teachers. Of our founding members, only one (Mai Zobell) is still with the side, albeit semi retired (she is 70+). She says that she will dance "if we are desperate!" As well as being a "standby



Bishop Gundulf's Morris (they dance only Longsword in spite of the name) dancing at a sword workshop in Rochester. They are one of the few teams who dance in clogs.

dancer" Mai also helps to teach our children's sides - the youngest member is three and a half years old.

Other founder members still dance or play for other sides in the area.

Original men: John Dennis, (mens' squire). Mark Austin, (fore), Mark Lawson, Chris Baker, Graham Burdis, Dave Jenkins and John Wilds, (concertina). After one year Dave Brown joined the side and they both still dance with us.

Original ladies: Valerie Dennis, (ladies squire), Pauline Town, Margaret Crittenden, Mai Zobell, Hilary Jenkins, Sue Marrable and Sue Salter. After one year Angie Brown & Gill Fisher joined and they still dance with us.

In our first few years of existence musicians were at a premium and we grabbed whoever we could get, occasionally borrowing from other sides at joint stands and often dancing to "self made" percussion only. Now we often have musicians to spare!

As so many of the side were teachers, during our first visit to Rochester Sweeps Festival (in 1983?) we managed to have a large number of group of children dancing with us, making it an ideal day for educational purposes!

Our sides now consist of twelve men, seventeen ladies and seven musicians.

We have two children's sides: the "Novices" (5 to 10 years old) numbering twenty eight and ten "Tweenies" (11 to 15 years old). Both these junior teams are nearly all girls.

The men's repertoire includes the "traditional" dances from Helmsley, Bellerby, Flamborough and Sleights plus our self-penned dances Six Bells, River Stour, Boley Hill, Hever dance/play and numerous Mummers Plays (traditional and self penned). Notable tutors for the Longsword are Ivor Allsop and Trevor Stone.

The Ladies dance repertoire is Hepples, Black Rod, Whitby, Lostock Junction, Green Willow, Prestcott, Horbury Delight, Millbrook, Mossley, St. Helens Gala, Newton le Willows, Carr Lodge Polka, Grenoside, Peover, Rose Of Rochester and Gundulfs Joy (the last two are self penned). Notable tutors: Trefor Owen and workshops held by traditional sides.

The colours of our kit have always been green & yellow. Our original men's olive breeches were superseded by bottle green trousers, green waistcoat with yellow lining and white collar less shirt, yellow socks, green neckerchief, and black clogs. We once wore green & gold sashes but these are no longer worn. The Ladies dresses are pale green with pale yellow embroidered apron, black tights and clogs. The Ladies original "Alice band" headgear was changed to floral garlands.

Ken Anderson, September 1999

Travelling teams

Flamborough Sword dancers to go to Antwerp

Whilst on a visit to see the Flamborough team on Boxing Day 10 years ago Renaat mentioned the possibility of inviting the Flamborough team to Antwerp at Half Lent. At that time the team had not been outside the village for many years a seemed unlikely to want such an adventure.

Since then outings at the two Sword Spectacular (especially their reception at the first event) has tempted the team to think about travelling - if only to register the fact to the many teams who dance "Flamborough" that a village teams exists. And so when I approached them (on behalf of Lange Wapper) to go to Antwerp next year on April 2nd I was delighted that their response was "we'll take on the challenge".

More details of the trip in the next issue - if you want information on the Half Lent event in Antwerp contact me..

Handsworth to dance at Bolton Percy

For three years now a group of "regulars" Ivor Allsop, Les Seaman, Pat Malham (both of Handsworth) and myself have travelled to Bolton Percy, near Tadcaster, to see the Plough Sunday dancing by local team York Gentlemen and their regular guests West Yorkshire Longsword. The day is most enjoyable. Apparently word has got back to Handsworth who have been invited to the event. In my view this should be umissable. See the back page for details of where and when.

The Handsworth team return to an earlier base

After their Boxing Day (see back page for the date) dance out outside the Handsworth Parish Church the Handsworth team and followers have retreated to the nearest (very crowded) pub for a sing.

This year the team have decided to change the venue for their apres dance and use the New Crown a little way along the road. The pub has the benefit of a friendly Landlord, a large upstairs room and, to cap it all, it was a team venue many years ago.

All welcome - I'm told.

Decided on Christmas presents yet?

The list of sword dance related gifts is growing - hopefully reflecting a growth in interest. You may like to consider (or get a friend or relative to consider) the following:

Prints of paintings by Bill Kirkby depicting Handsworth or Grenoside teams on their Boxing Day outings (framed or unframed).

For a print of Handsworth or Grenoside print contact the team contact listed on the back page.

If books are more your thing:

Steve Corrsin "Sword Dancing in Europe - a History". ISBN 1 874312 25 7. (Available from the Folklore Society in the UK). The price is £25 including p & p - phone 0171 387 5894).

Ivor Allsop "Longsword Dances from Traditional and Manuscript Sources" (Available direct from Ivor at 36 Green Spring Avenue, Birdwell, Barnsley S70 5RY) £15 plus £3.80 postage if necessary.

I hear that copies of a new book are available now "History of Morris Dancing 1458 - 1750" by John Forrest £48.42 hardback or £19.54 paperback - inclusive of postage -. Enquiries/orders to publisher - Customer Services, 01223 350865. Videos (an amateur production) of teams at the first Sword Spectacular in 1996 are still available from me - VHS only - £12.75 including post and packing.

Late news

I am afraid that if you haven't already seen York Gentlemen (see various complementary reports in *Rattle Up My Boys* over the past 18 months) you have missed your chance. They have folded! However West Riding Longsword will take over the Bolton Percy Plough Sunday event this year (details on back page) with guests Handsworth Longsword.

RATTLE UP MY BOYS

Summary of contents of Series 5 to 8 inclusive

SERIES 5

Issue 1: Autumn 1994

- "1992-93 North American Sword Dancing Survey." by Stephen D. Corrsin.
- "Bellerby Sword Dance." a report on research by Ruth Dodsworth.
- "Longsword dancing at EFDSS Royal Albert Hall Festivals." by Trevor Stone and Gordon Ridgewell.
- Report of Spen Valley Longsword dancing on TV programme "Emmerdale"
- Availability of a print (to buy) depicting Handsworth Longsword at Boxing Day by Bill Kirkby.
- List of Winter, 1994 dance outings.

Issue 2: Winter 1994/95

- "KER-FLOOM, KER-FLOOM - report of a visit to Japan in the 1950's by Ralph Page".
- Clarification of "the bombing of Guernica" - Letter from Jan Vroman.
- Arising from John Ledbury's articles - comments and corrections from Gordon Ridgewell.
- "Sword dance in rhyme - poems and calling on songs" (various contributors).
- "Longsword Virgins - The Ryburn Longsword Dancers (hopefully)." - observations by Mel Howley.
- Flamborough on Boxing Day, by Renaat Van Craenenbroeck & Trevor Stone.
- Report of the deaths of Alwyn Grayson, the last of the 1922 revival of Goathland Plough Stot dancers and Eric May, long-time dancer with Grenoside.
- Progress report on plans for Sword Spectacular.
- The first Grenoside village tour.
- Handsworth shown on postcards.
- Report on the work of the Morris Archive Group.
- Confusion with Diaries - correspondence about the date of Boxing Day by Gordon Ridgewell.

Issue 3: Spring & Summer 1995

- The Newsletter was incorporated into the Broadsheet in this issue.*
- Obituary "Father Kenneth Norman Joseph Loveless - Priest." an appreciation by Ivor Allsop.
- Details of the plans for the 1996 Sword Spectacular event.
- Überlingen on July 9th - advance notice of a visit to Germany to see this team.
- "Derek Schofield's EFDSS Library Lecture" - the 1935 International Event.
- 1995 Whitby Competitive Festival results.
- Visit to Wype Doles Day of Dance.
- Snark Rapper - a report on their visit Antwerp.
- Bishop Gundulf's Sword.
- Correction to Gordon Ridgewell's correspondence re. the date of Boxing Day.
- "More Poems" - (extra contributions).
- Kirkburton's 21st Birthday.
- Catching up on photos - various teams and venues.
- 1995 Whitby Competitive Festival - Goathland Plough Stots are the winners.
- "The Blue Stots - details of North Yorkshire mummings traditions" by Chas Marshall.
- "Dunkirk - a French letter" a report by Keith Thompson on a visit to France by the Goathland Plough Stots.
- "The Brompton Scorpers, a local tradition revived" - Vince Rutland supplies details of a new team.
- "North East shines at (1995) DERT" - report by Vince Rutland.

"Scarborough Fayre" - details of the Morris Dance event arranged by Yorkshire Coast Morris.

Dance Programme - details of the Autumn 1995 dance programme of Lord Conyers Morris and appeal for more.

Issue 4: Autumn 1995

- "An Amazing Day" - report of a visit to Überlingen by Trevor Stone.
- International Sword Event in Carlisle - details of the teams who have expressed interest in attending the 1996 Sword Spectacular.
- Notices of the deaths of Richard Wolfram (Austrian researcher), Fred Myers (ex dancer from Grenoside) and Joe Brown BEM (from Whitby).
- Advance notice of a book of dance instructions by Ivor Allsop.
- New team leaflet produced by Grenoside.
- Dates for dance events by Lange Wapper (Belgium) and In De Kring (France).
- Details of first outing by team from Quevaucamps (end of March 1996).
- Award of EFDSS Gold Badges for Ivor Allsop and Harry Pitts.

Issue 5: Winter 1995/96 (not numbered)

- "Sword dancing presented on postcards" - the postcard collection of Pat and Rennie Pickles.
- Confirmation of plans for the Sword Spectacular and a list of teams expected to attend.
- "My collection of cards" by Trevor Stone.
- Report on press comment on the work of Ricky Forster to encourage young dancers.
- An appeal for help identifying a photo supplied by Tony Foxworthy.
- Call for teams to attend a "Europeade" event.
- "An intriguing document" report by Renaat Van Craenenbroeck on an ancient French manuscript which may depict sword dancing.
- Report of the ceremonies to present the EFDSS Gold Badges to Ivor Allsop and posthumously to Harry Pitts (extract from citation for Harry Pitts).

SERIES 6

Issue 1: Spring 1996

- "Traditional and Invented Sword Locks" an article by Rhett Krause presenting some unusual longsword and rapper locks.
- "Further thoughts on Locks" - details of the Sleights lock and the portcullis variant used by Boar's Head Morris.
- The Monte Cristo trademark (in the form of a double triangle) on a cigar box.
- Pic of York team "Hoisting" of their fool as part of their dance.
- Edited citation from presentation of the EFDSS Gold Badge to Ivor Allsop.
- Correct date of an article on Grenoside Sword Dancers in the Pall Mall Gazette.

Issue 2: Autumn 1996

- "The Sword Gathering, May 24th to 27th 1996" - report on the Sword event in Scarborough by Trevor Stone.
- Details of books by Ivor Allsop (edited by Tony Barrant) and Steve Corrsin.
- Details of VHS video of Highlights of Sword weekend offered for sale.
- Query on the outcome of a report of a painting in Kronberg Castle, Denmark.
- Proposal to form an International Exchange Group following the successful Sword Gathering.
- Note from Pete Coe about the Hunton King's Song which is used by Ryburn sword teams.
- Corrections from Gordon Ridgewell re article on Grenoside in the Pall Mall Gazette dated January 8th 1895.

"Late News" Winter 1996/97

address sheet with details of dance displays over the Christmas and New Year period, new address for Trevor Stone, initial plans for another Sword event in

1998, Details of an Archive Conference organised for the Ring by Bedford Morris, death of Fritz Zugmantel, late leader of Überlingen team, EFDSS Gold Badge for Tony Foxworthy, brief details of DERT at Burton-on-Trent, award from Lottery fund to High Spen, details of swords (Longswords and Rappers) from Specialised Products and death of Keith Pearson of Spen Valley.

Correction to Late News: Winter 1996/97: sent out December 20th 1996

Correction to the date in the Late News of the outing of Goathland Plough Stots. Details of an outing by York Gentlemen, a newly contacted team from York.

Issue 3: Spring 1997

"More Invented Locks" by Rhett Krause.

"A problem spotted and solved" by Ian Davies.

"More Sword thoughts" by Ken Anderson (above three items follow-up on the article on locks in the previous issue).

"The Diminishing Sword Dance" by Ron Shuttleworth of Coventry Mummers.

Norman Peacock comments on the impact that the design of swords has had on dance performances and especially on the Kirkby Malzeard Triangular Lock.

"Sharp got it wrong" comments by John Ledbury following queries and corrections by Gordon Ridgewell.

Details of a Second Sword Spectacular, supplied by Vince Rutland, of an event planned for May, 1998.

Further comments on the Papa Stour dance from Barclay Wilson and the article from "Southern Folklore Quarterly" by James Spears suggesting a link between the Shetland dance and Masonry.

Details of Samuel Hibbert's last resting place.

Presentation of the EFDSS Gold Badge to Tony Foxworthy.

Report of Plough Sunday outings (York Gentlemen at Bolton Percy and Highside at Kirkby Malzeard and Masham) by Pat Malham.

"Sword dancing in 1389" - details of a visit by Renaat Van Craenenbroeck, Steve Corrsin and Trevor Stone to the archives in Brugge (Belgium) to see the earliest written reference to sword dancing (with photo).

Issue 4: Summer 1997

"Green Ginger Morris and the Goathland story" article by Clive Weston of Green Ginger Morris Men.

Last call for teams for the 1998 Sword Gathering.

"Freemasonry and the Papa Stour Sword dance" contributions on the subject by Chris Clarke and comment from George Peterson.

"The Pirate" is back in print - a chance to get a copy of Sir Walter Scott's novel which contains a detailed reference to the Papa Stour dance.

"A Lock with three swords?" a challenge from Chris Clarke.

"Photos from the 1996 Sword Spectacular" (pics of Redcar, Markina, East Saxon, Orion and Komna and details of the Second event planned for 1998).

Details of the 25th birthday celebration plans by East Saxon Sword.

Notice of the deaths of Southport musician, Peter Rowley and Grenoside dancer, Peter Clarke.

Progress on books - "Sword dancing in Europe - a History", "Longsword dances from traditional and manuscript sources" and a new book in French "Le Bacchu-ber et les Danses d'Epees les Alpes Occidentales".

Reference (from 1968) to a painting from Antwerp depicting sword dancing.

Tracing details of "Boosbeck Tulips" who performed at the EFDSS Royal Albert Hall event in January 1935. By Gordon Ridgewell.

News of a Sword event to be held at the 1997 Sidmouth Folk Festival.

Issue 5: Winter 1997/98

"The Sharp Cards" - re-print and update of the report by Norman Peacock (first published in the Journal in 1957) into the responses received by Cecil Sharp as a result of his postal survey in 1912.

Update on the second Sword Spectacular - event moves to Whitby - date remains unchanged.

Letter from Ron Shuttleworth with further comments on the Papa Stour dance and details of (rapper) locks with two swords and three swords.

"East Saxon celebrate" a note from Gordon Ridgewell about the participation by East Saxon Sword in the Morris Ring "Nine Daies Wonder" at Easter 1977.

Announcement of a further questionnaire in the study of Longsword teams which started in 1979.

Information about Barnsley Longsword - more members - more active?

"Don't take my word for it" Gordon Ridgewell finds details in the Yorkshire Post of a performance of a sword dance in Driffield in December 1912.

John Pitts takes over as Captain of Handsworth Sword.

A brief note about new team "Seven Stars Sword and Step dancers" from the Wigan area (with photo).

Congratulations to Sullivan's Sword on winning the cup in the Sword Class at the Whitby Competitive Dance Festival in March 1997.

List of dance outings over Christmas and New Year, 1997/98.

SERIES 7

From January 1998 RUMB was published quarterly, four issues to a series.

Issue 1: Spring 1998

"The Elgin Sword Dancers - who they were and why they did it?" an article by Andrew Kennedy.

Final details from Vince Rutland, Secretary of the Second Sword Spectacular in Whitby, May 21st to 25th 1998 (photo of Bagnasco team).

Dancing out over Christmas and the New Year - report on various sword dance outings:

Barnsley Longsword at the EFDSS Carol Concert on December 14th 1997 (with photo);

Handsworth and Grenoside on Boxing Day;

Grenoside Village tour on January 3rd 1998 (with photo);

Boar's Head Morris New Year tour (featuring Kirkburton and Spen Valley)

York Gentlemen with guests West Riding Longswords at Bolton Percy on Plough Sunday (with photo).

Congratulations to Cyril Swales on receipt of the EFDSS Gold Badge at the Cecil Sharp House 1997 Carol Concert.

Finally - Steve Corrsin's book "Sword Dancing in Europe - A History".

Team Profiles - Seven Stars from Wigan visit Angers in France, a report by Steve Armstrong (with photo) and the origins of Southport Swords by Dick Shillaker.

"Open mouthed at Belmont's Sword Dance" by Noel Jackson.

Report on sightings by Dick Shillaker of other sword teams (Castleford and White Rose) at York's tenth Festival in October; new team "Solstice" from Pocklington School at the 1997 East Riding of Yorkshire Folk Festival.

News of the winners at DERT Rapper competition in Ryton.

Issue 2: Summer 1998

"Endings, Beginnings and Identity" an article by the late Peter Clarke, former dancer with Grenoside (with photo).

"The Second Sword Spectacular - some first thoughts" comments by Trevor Stone on the sword event held in Whitby, May 21st to 25th 1998.

Le Bacchu-ber, a hand-out produced by this French team for their appearance at the above event.

News of the disbanding of the Loftus team.

Corrigenda and Addenda - wrong name of the dance performed was given in caption to photo in earlier issue - York Gentlemen danced the Kirkby Malzeard dance at Bolton Percy, not Askham Richard as reported. Various other corrections, mainly to place names.



After a long and illustrious existence it was depressing to learn of the ending of the Loftus Sword dancers. They are shown here dancing in 1979 at the Longsword weekend in Ryedale, North Yorkshire.

Gordon Ridgewell comments on the Clew from the Papa Stour dance.
 Details of a new copy of the 1932 film of North Skelton White Rose dancers.
 Reminder of the recently issued Sword teams questionnaire.
 Delays to the promised review of Steve Corrsin's book.
 Seven Stars to learn a sword dance composed by Orion Sword (USA) which they first saw performed at the first Sword Spectacular.
 False reports of the death of Trevor Stone.
 Plans to up-date sword sections of the Geographical Index, 1962
 News of two more sword makers.

Photo update - Royal Earsdon Rapper dancing at DERT '98 at Ryton, (photo from Fred Ignanni who died in February 1998), Ryburn Sword costume, East Saxon Sword birthday party in October 1997, Goathland Plough Stots Plough Tour, January 1998, Barnsley Longsword, the late Gordon Crowther, and Cyril Swales at EFDSS Gold Badge award.

Issue 3: Autumn 1998

"The Uri Geller thing - the Mechanics of Sword Locks", by Norman Peacock.
 "Guilty" comments by Trevor Stone on illustrations for Rhett's article on locks.
 Corrigenda and Addenda - various errors in recent issues.
 Following up a lead ... news of Andrew Kennedy's latest work.
 "Sword dancing in Bolton" Peter Bearon who has been following up a reference in Sharp's survey to dancing at Deane, near Bolton.
 "Dark Age Dance Project" research into links between dance forms (especially sword) and early aspects of the Christian church - by Alan Nowell.
 Progress on the updating and revision of the sword section of the 1962 Geographical Index.
 News from Highside Longsword (of Kirkby Malzeard).
 Photo of a Whitby team from 1932.
 Web pages of interest.
 Contribution by Gordon Ridgewell - photo and details of sword being performed by Coventry Morris Men at Thaxted Ring meeting.
 Belmont School's Calling-on song.

Issue 4: Winter 1998/99

"The Second Sword Spectacular" the event held in Whitby, May 21st to 25th 1998 - report by Trevor Stone plus a review of the "Official" video of the event.
 Reminder of work on the first Sword Spectacular by the late Gordon Crowther.

Photo call at Sword Spectacular - pics of Bagnasco, Sullivan's Sword, Wype Doles, Ryburn Longsword, Short Circuit and Stone Monkey - just some of the teams who attended the weekend.

"A day never to be forgotten - the fete of Saint Roche at Pont de Cervieres on August 16th 1998" report of visit to see Le Bacchu-ber, by Gillian & Rob Guest.
 "How others see us" - a press report announcing the first Sword Event sent in by Gordon Ridgewell.

"Invention - the Mother of Tradition?" an article by Ian Porter questioning the way in which a number of English teams have "adopted" Continental features into their dances and the rights and wrongs of such moves.

List of dance outings over Christmas and the New Year - 1998/99.

"Dancers on the loose" - details of two dancers who have moved home and may welcome details of teams in their new area.

SERIES 8

Issue 1: Spring 1999

A Review of Steve Corrsin's Long Awaited Book - "Sword Dancing in Europe: A History" reviewed by Renaat Van Craenenbroeck.

Summary of a book on the Bacchu-ber Sword dance - "Le Bacchu-ber et les Danses d'Eppees dans les Alpes Occidentales" by Gillian Guest.

"Ivor's book is selling well ..." a report on sales of Ivor Allsop's book "Longsword Dances from Traditional and manuscript Sources".

"Thoughts on locks" Ron Shuttleworth writes about Norman Peacock's article on the Mechanics of Sword Locks.

"Further Thoughts on Sword Locks" follow-up to earlier article by Norman Peacock.

UK teams and Outings - a review of team news from:

- Belmont Sexy Squad (with photo),
- Southport Sword's birthday (with photo),
- Boxing Day outings by Handsworth Longsword, Flamborough Longsword (with photo), pic of Grenoside,
- Plough Sunday at Bolton Percy with York Gentlemen and West Riding Swords (pic of multisword lock),
- Plough tour at Goathland by Plough Stots,
- Plough ceremony at Kirkby Malzeard,
- Ashvale Longsword (with photo),
- Kirkburton Rapier dancers (with photo),
- Highside Longsword (with photo), and Barnsley Longsword (with photo).

Advance notice of a St Georges Day event organised by West Riding Swords.

Update on "The Nut" and Vince Rutland's explanation of delays in publication.

Details of overseas teams - initial report on details of sword dances from Croatia and Madeira (with photo).

"Going Dutch" - an update on the Helmont Morris Men from Holland who have taken up sword dancing again.

Lange Wapper's 30th birthday - details of celebration by Flemish team.

Longwood Rapper (Boston, USA) have folded.

Sword Spectacular organisers upset.

New jackets commissioned for the Grenoside team.

Old jackets from Cambridge (report of a mummers/sword dancers costume in Cambridge Museum).

Issue 2 Summer 1999

"Extracts from "The Forgotten Morris" taken from a publication of that name by Paul Davenport (with photo of unknown team at Carlton).

Photo of dancers at Carlton, near Selby - an appeal from Paul Davenport for more information.

"New and invented Locks, Rhett replies ..." Rhett Krause replies to comments by Norman Peacock.

"A New Model for the Evolution and Dissemination of Sword Dancing in Europe" a theory presented by Alan Nowell.

"Swords and Sword Dancing" by Robin Longbottom - proposes the possible development of the swords we use for dancing may be developed from cutlery.

St George's Day - report on an outing by West Riding Longswords (plus photo of "Clog Fighting").

Search for new members by West Riding Longsword.

Hopes for a New Team - Norris Winstone encourages a local team.

Highside Longsword/Flag and Bone Gang - comments on these teams (who share members).

EFDSS workshop - report on a workshop on the Flamborough dance at Cecil Sharp House led by Cyril Swales.

Comment on Steve Corrsin's book by Gordon Ridgwell.

Some birthday celebration! - a report on the 30th birthday celebration by Lange Wapper and guests. (with photo of Renaat Van Craenenbroeck with items presented to him).

Congratulations to Spen Valley on winning the Sword class at the 1999 Whitby Competitive Dance Festival.

..... and from the Web - a number of general observations from the Internet.

Issue 3: Autumn 1999

"Lastovo" - report on the traditional outing of the sword dancers on this Croatian island by Professor Elsie Ivancich Dunin, (with two photos of Croatian team).

"The Richmond Sword Dancers" observations on reports of sword dancing from North Yorkshire - by Bob Schofield.

"A visit to Traunstein - Easter 1999" a report by Trevor Stone on a visit he and Renaat Van Craenenbroeck made to see this Sword Dance in Germany, (with photos of dancers and of St Georgritt - a parade of decorated horses).

"Do Not Replace the Chamber Pot Under the Bed After Use" - a report on the making of the swords used by West Yorkshire Longsword from bed springs, (with photo from The Independent).

"A possible route for the development of Longsword and Rapper dancing - the two styles of sword dancing" by Gordon Ridgwell. Uses references to the Murton dance to illustrate a possible "cross over" of traditions.

Change of address for Steve Corrsin.

Photo identified - information from Chas Marshall on the background and origin of the photo printed in the previous issue to illustrate the extracts from "The Forgotten Morris"

More from Norman Peacock - additional information from Norman on the photo used to illustrate "The Forgotten Morris" extracts.

New ruling on Dance Decency - a newspaper piece spotted by Paul Freeman (of Highside team) which quotes a ruling on dance from a Middle Eastern cleric, (plus photo of Stone Monkey Rapper).

A letter from Cyril Swales and further comments on the EFDSS workshop at Cecil Sharp House.

Goathland Plough Stots plans for the Millennium - Keith Thompson reports on changes the team plan to make to this years Plough Tour.

Details of another maker of swords from Northampton.

The next Sword Spectacular - an interim report from Vince Rutland, including a list of interested teams from overseas, (with photo of Bagnasco team at last event).

Issue 4: Winter 1999/2000

World Millennium Sword Spectacular - repeat of handout supplied for last issue - no new information from Vince Rutland. Details of overseas teams who are expected to appear and info on the proposed Conference.

"The Kirkburton Jubilee" details of the formation and early outings by Kirkburton Rapier Dancers by Bob Schofield.

Another birthday - Spen Valley Longsword's planned 25th birthday celebration to be held on December 11th 1999.

"Trevor meets the Sexy Squad" - a report by Noel Jackson on a workshop for a team at Belmont School, Durham.

Discovery by Norris Winstone - notes on Flamborough dance.

Sharp's Field Note Books re-discovered.

"A Lecture by Cecil Sharp" Gordon Ridgwell draws attention to an illustrated lecture given by Cecil Sharp in Stratford on Avon on August 21st, 1912.

"Symposium 2000" reminder of a ICTM Conference at Korcula on July 3rd to 9th 2000 - contact is Professor Elsie Ivancich Dunin.

Goathland Plough Stots plans for the Millennium - Keith Thompson gives details of dance programme by GPS and guests Sallyport and Lange Wapper at Plough Tour in January 2000.

Plans for a Sword dance Web site.

"Malvern Sword Team discovered" - report by Rob Guest of an outing by this seldom seen team (with photo).

"Links with Garland dances" - thoughts by Gordon Ridgwell about links between sword dancing and garland dancing, prompted by Renaat Van Craenenbroeck's review of Steve Corrsin's book.

Team profile: Bishop Gundulf's Morris of Rochester, Kent (with photo).

Travelling teams - details of proposed visits by Flamborough team to the Lange Wapper event at Half Lent in Antwerp and Handsworth to the Plough Sunday event at Bolton Percy.

Handsworth Longsword return to an earlier base.

Suggestions for Christmas presents.

News of the folding of York Gentlemen.

List of contents of Rattle Up My Boys from beginning of Series 5 up to and including the last issue in Series 8 (with photo of Loftus).

List of dance outings over Christmas and the New Year - 1999/2000

Back issues of Rattle Up My Boys

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LONGSWORD DANCE OUTINGS

CHRISTMAS & NEW YEAR 1999/2000

Note that this year Boxing Day (the day after Christmas Day) falls on a Sunday - some teams have opted to hold their traditional outing on the Sunday and others will perform on one of the official Bank holidays - Monday Dec. 27th or Tuesday Dec. 28th.

As usual you are recommended to confirm details before travelling.

EARLY DECEMBER

Seven Stars Sword & Step Dancers (Wigan area)

December 11th 11.00 am onwards - Dickensian Day - street fair and parade in the Cheshire village of Lymm - phone John Kelly (01744) 884 031 to confirm.

Spn Valley Longsword Birthday (Cleckheaton area)

December 11th. A simple celebration from 1.00 pm 'ish at The Wheatsheaf, Gomersal - phone Dave Webster (01924) 402 897 for details.

Lord Conyers Morris (South Yorkshire)

December 18th 2.00 pm - Christmas Wassail at The Angel Inn, Killamarsh including singing and, at dusk the Abbots Bromley Horn Dance - phone John Ledbury (01332) 799 074 to confirm.

"BOXING DAY", Sunday, December 26th

Barnsley Longsword

12.15 pm at The Shaw, Barnsley; 1.00 'ish at Spencers Arms, Cawthorne; 1.45 at Cawthorne Village Club - phone Roger Thompson (01226) 281 248 to confirm.

Flamborough Longsword

Likely to dance at 12.30 'ish at the Rose & Crown followed by visits to other local venues ending at 2.45 pm approx at the Dog & Duck Square, Flamborough, - phone Richard Traves (01262) 851 311 to confirm.

Highside Longsword (Kirkby Malzeard)

1.00 pm Grantley Arms; Kirkby Malzeard followed by a tour of the village - phone Ted Dodsworth (01765) 620 374 to confirm.

Redcar Sword

Dancing at 12.00 noon at The Church in Greatham followed by other venues - phone Brian Pierce (01642) 454 371 to confirm.

Spn Valley Longsword (Cleckheaton area)

A tour of Cleckheaton and Gomersal area starts at 12.00 noon at the New Packhorse; 12.45 at the Wickham Arms; 1.30 at the Old Saw and 2.30 at the Wheatsheaf - phone Dave Webster (01924) 402 897 to confirm.

"CHRISTMAS BANK HOLIDAY", Monday, Dec. 27th

Claro Sword (Knaresborough area)

Tour of Knaresborough - phone Barry Slaymaker (01423) 880 526 for details.

Grenoside Longsword

11.00 am The Old Harrow, Grenoside dance followed by local guest teams and a song session - phone Joe Dunn (0114) 246 0463 to confirm

Handsworth Longsword

11.15 am at The Crossed Daggers, Woodhouse; 12.00 noon outside The Parish Church, Handsworth. Phone Peter Macham (0114) 255 4137 to confirm. Singing later in the upstairs room at The New Crown.

NEW YEARS DAY, January 1st 2000

Kirkburton Rapier Dancers (Huddersfield area)

Tour of the Kirkburton area starting at 12.30 pm at The Carlton Club; 1.00 at The George; 1.30 at The Royal; 2.00 at Spring Grove(?); 2.30 at The Junction Inn at Kirkburton and ending at The Smiths Arms from around 3.00 pm - phone Ken Clarkson (01484) 651 510 to confirm.

Monkseaton Morris

For over 20 years Monkseaton Morris have performed the Ampleforth play and dance on New Years Day, 12.00 noon outside The Ship in Monkseaton - phone Peter Brown (0191) 252 3022 to confirm

White Star Sword (Kent)

Last year had a tour visiting 11.30 am Chafford Arms, Fordcombe; 1.00 pm at the Queens Arms, Cowden Pound and 2.30 The Fountain, Cowden - phone Brian Tasker for more details.

Wype Doles (Peterborough area)

A Cycle tour visiting the homes of members of the team - phone Coral Cornell for more details.

SATURDAY, January 8th 2000

Boars Head Morris Mens' tour

10.00 am to 3.00 pm 'ish - tour of Bradford centre (hopefully with Kirkburton and Spn Valley sword teams) - phone Andy Fieldhouse (01274) 585 595 to confirm.

Grenoside Longsword village tour

The Village "Traipse" starts at approx 10.15 am outside The Village News and then tours the village - phone Joe Dunn (0114) 246 0463 to confirm.

Seven Stars Sword & Step Dancers (Wigan area)

From mid-day onwards starting at The Mill at the Pier followed by a tour of Adlington - phone John Kelly (01744) 884 031 to confirm.

SUNDAY, January 9th 2000 (Plough Sunday)???

Sullivan's Sword (Nottingham area)

Celebration of Ploughtide, Church service at Morton Church followed by dancing and "celebrations" at 12.00 noon at The Waggon and Horses, Bleasby and at 1.30 pm at The Full Moon, Morton - phone Alstair Bloomfield (0115) 922 7989 to confirm.

West Riding Longsword (Tadcaster area)

Plough Sunday Church Service followed by dancing at Bolton Percy Church (near Tadcaster) - may include Handsworth as guests. Phone Robin Longbottom (01535) 642 086 to confirm.

SATURDAY, January 15th 2000

Goathland Plough Stots

Starting at 10.00 am outside shops (with guests Lange Wapper and Sallyport Sword). Lange Wapper will go on to dance at Malyan Car Park, Brereton Lodge, "Inn on The Moor" and Oakwell Avenue, Darnholm whilst the other two teams will tour Goathland and Darnholm, presumably ending up at Beckhole. Goathland Plough Blessing Service is the previous Sunday. Phone Keith Thompson (01947) 896 311 to confirm.

SUNDAY, January 16th 2000

Claro Sword

Plough Blessing service starts at 10.30 am at St John's Church, Knaresborough - dancing afterwards outside the Church followed by a procession to the Market Square - phone Barry Slaymaker (01423) 880 526 to confirm.

Highside Longsword (Kirkby Malzeard)

(Possibly) 10.30 'ish Plough Blessing Service in Kirkby Malzeard Church (includes dancing in the Church) - phone Ted Dodsworth (01765) 620 374 to confirm.

AND LATER IN THE YEAR

March 4th & 5th

DETT Rapper event in the Millennium Dome - contact Andrew Kennedy, 41 Bourg-de-Peage Avenue, East Grinstead, RH19 3YD, phone (01342) 311 236.

March (TBC)

Whitby Competitive Dance Festival - details next issue.

April 2nd (Mothering Sunday)

Lange Wapper (Antwerp). Flamborough Longsword have been invited and plan to attend - contact me for more details.

April 28th - May 1st, Moor & Coast Festival

Festival at Whitby - likely to involve sword dancing, especially on Monday May 1st which is "dancing only" day. Further details from Moor & Coast Festival, 9 Windsor Terrace, Whitby, North Yorkshire YO21 1ET, phone (01947) 820 408.

May 25th to 29th, International Sword Spectacular

Large gathering of UK and overseas sword teams - see details in this issue.

August 5th, Millennium Dome

Dance spot by Kirkburton Rapier Dancers - contact Roy Dyson for details.

This is the last issue in Series 8 - annual subscriptions are now due. A list of contents has been added covering the past four Series (5 to 8 inclusive).

The next issue will (hopefully) contain an update on plans for the World Sword Spectacular 2,000plus a report on outings over the festive period. More details will be supplied of the demise of York Gentlemen.

Contributions are welcome ...

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