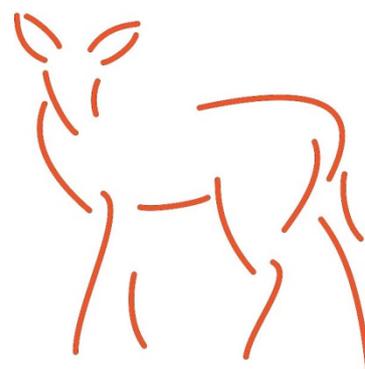


News

Deorfrith Morris and surviving the coronavirus Covid-19



Deorfrith Morris

17/03/2020 The government recommendations for small gatherings (such as a Morris practice) have changed very rapidly in the last few days, and after a vote, the side decided that it should suspend practice sessions. Sadly this situation could continue until the end of the current practice season, as this is only a matter of weeks away. We are not the only side to take this decision – several of the local sides have chosen to do the same.

How this will affect the danceouts is still not clear, given that once they can again take place, the side will not initially be on top form. A private function near the end of April has been cancelled by the organisers, and it seems unlikely that a planned Day of Dance in the Isle of Wight will go ahead.

20/03/2020 We now know that the “Bricks, Beer and Buses” event at Bursledon Brick Works has been postponed; the organisers hope to run it in the autumn. The day before the Bursledon event, there was to have been a celebration of VE Day in Lyndhurst, the town where we practise, and we have now heard that that has been cancelled. They hope they might have a ‘party’ later – perhaps to celebrate the end of Covid-19 restrictions?

25/03/2020 We now know the major local event in May – the Winchester MayFest – has been postponed until next year. The organisers of the Chippenham Folk Festival and those of the Lichfield Folk Festival have all decided to postpone, although they hope to keep to the same programs as much as possible. The New Forest Folk Festival takes place in July, when, fingers crossed, the worst of this crisis will be over.

Dancing at pubs, our usual weekday dances, are unlikely to happen until people are again ready to visit pubs, and the pubs themselves are prepared to open. (We have no idea how many will shut in the near future, nor for how many this might result in permanent closure – a prospect we would prefer not to countenance.) We have cancelled all our May danceouts and at the moment are not too hopeful we shall be dancing in June. Only time will tell.

Sadly, for the first time in many years we shall not be dancing at sun-up on May Day in the New Forest. Whether any other sides will dance at dawn on that day is presently unknown.

We shall update this page as the future becomes clearer. In the meantime we hope all our followers and occasional audience stay well and that we shall see you all again before the end of this year.