

Ebor Morris Bagmans report 2020/21

2021 will probably go down in history as the second strangest year ever for Ebor Morris. Thanks to the Covid restrictions we did no dancing and had no practices until mid May 2021, when the restrictions were eased to allow 30 people to meet up outdoors.

So from 12th May we started outdoor socially distanced practices in a York University car park, entertaining the occasional passer-by and a resident fox.

We got a new member, Jordy, another refugee from Great Yorkshire Morris. Welcome Jordy!

Later in May I was contacted by a Yorkshire Post journalist who wanted to do an upbeat feature about morris dancing featuring us. She had found us by searching the Internet for Morris Dancers Yorkshire, and particularly liked our attractive and informative website, and the photo of us dancing in the sea, as she didn't want to use a team that was boring and old-fashioned!

A great (and mostly accurate) article about us was printed in the Yorkshire Post on 3rd August 2021 and online, accompanied by some excellent photos and a video taken at the practice on 26th July. I think that's the first time we've been featured in a national daily newspaper since the infamous 'Cloggies spoil 5 star dinner' episode way back in the early 1980s.

Us officers wanted a gentle start to our public performances, so on Saturday 24th July a small but perfectly formed number of us performed at my streets party, then at the Fox on Holgate Road on 1st August for Yorkshire Day.

We then did 3 Monday evenings in King's Square starting on 2nd August, danced at Walmgate Bar and outside the Phoenix for the York Walls Festival on 15th August, Bishopthorpe on 19th September for a fund raising event, and 26th September to say farewell to Cheng before he goes back to China.

Looking forward to 2022, we might get problems with Kings Square as York Council seem to be wanting café tables everywhere, but I'm pretty sure we will be able to find somewhere flat and near the Bluebell.

Kevin 'Pikey' Holland, Ebor Morris Bagman