

Annual Morris Dancing Festival for St George

Every year mens Morris Dancers converge on the area and perform their ritual and colourful dances in Horwich, starting off at the Brown Cow on Church

Street dancing their way via pints in just about every pub on the way, to reach the main dancing area at the Saddle junction of Brownlow Road and Lee

Lane just by the Pheasant Plucker pub. The whole caboodle then carries on to the Crown for more dancing and some more serious drinking. Seems to me its not enough to be fit to do Mens Morris Dancing (and it must be very hard work) but you need to have a fantastic capacity to drink copious amounts of ale.

The traditional events brings colour and great entertainment to the region and we love it - long may it reign.

Horwich Prize Medal Morris Men organise the event and invite Morris

men from all over the region to join in. One of the groups who have turned up for quite some years are the Britannia Coco-Nut Dancers of Bacup. Their dances and dress are said to have originated from Cornwall and are of Pirate origin. The Moorish Pirates who settled in Cornwall became employed in the mining industry in the North of England in the 18th and 19th century. The ritual dances they perform are of pagan origin and a celebration of Spring and renewal. The male dancers black up to prevent them from being recognised by the evil spirits after the dancing but it may also reflect their mining origins. The definitive origin of these dancers is lost in the mists of antiquity but it is known that the dances were performed as far back as feudal times.



The Britannia Coco Nut Morris Men from Bacup

