

THE RUMWORTH MORRIS — dedicated to the excellent performance of local dance traditions.



The Rumworth Morris of Bolton

Rumworth is a district of Bolton which is itself central to the traditional Morris dancing area in the North West of England. Present day Bolton is an ideal base for this style of dance as its distinguished industrial history combines with a lively modern community to create a very sympathetic setting.

The present Rumworth Morris was founded in 1976 to dance the North West style of Morris in its traditional setting and as closely as possible to traditional style. Before the team performed in public, members carried out extensive research into the details of dances, costumes, and customs related to earlier North West Teams. As a result of this research the team has developed a repertoire of six dances which have been performed both locally and at a wide range of events about the country.

Rumworth are anxious to retain the traditions and features which set the North Western Morris apart from the more widely danced Morris from the Cotswolds.

Our dances originated as a processional accompaniment to the rush bearing ceremonies to carry rushes to churches for use as a floor covering. In the past dozens of teams throughout the area established their own distinctive style of dress and dance but all teams aimed for a high standard of disciplined performance. We aim to maintain these traditions by dancing with the spirit, precision, and dignity of Lancashire Morris.

However, when we are not dancing, we have been known to abandon the sobriety of performance applied to the dance in favour of more refreshing activities — some just as historic as the dance.

Another tradition retained by the team is passing round the clog for collection during the dances. We often dance for charity but the collections are usually used to cover our expenses as it costs several hundred pounds a year to keep a team of

this size "on the road". In helping towards these expenses your donation is a valuable contribution towards our efforts to uphold and display the unique dance tradition of our area.

Another form of collection is important to us. We are anxious to gather details of earlier teams who danced North West dances. If you remember anything at all about any earlier teams we would be delighted to talk to you.

We hope you have enjoyed our performance. If you have a special interest, we would be pleased to welcome you as either dancer or musician. To become a full team member requires dedication and regular practice but the rewards and satisfaction are well worth the effort. We practice every Thursday throughout the Winter at Deane Memorial Church Hall, Junction Road (just off Wigan Road) Deane, Bolton. Do come along one evening and see if you enjoy it, or get in touch with one of the contacts given below.

Rumworth Morris perform regularly at local events such as carnivals, processions, Lancashire Evenings and folk related events such as ceilidhs etc. If you wish to discuss the possibility of booking our team we would be pleased to hear from you.

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