

The Kennet Morris Men Celebrate 50 visits to Yattendon's Fete

The Kennet Morris Men have been invited to the Yattendon and Frilsham Fete ever since 1970 and this year was no exception. There have been three “non-events” due to BSE and COVID which, by our calculations, made this our 50th visit.



The oak leaves withered in the glorious sunshine!

And what an auspicious one – we were able to dance outside the Royal Oak pub by the village square's oak tree on the 29th May – Royal Oak, or Oak Apple day. For 200 years this was a public holiday following the restoration of King Charles II and oak apple sprigs would be worn to celebrate. After defeat at the Battle of Worcester in September 1651, Charles II escaped the Roundhead army by hiding in an oak tree near Boscobel House in Shropshire. The rest, as they say, is history.

And what better way to commemorate it than by performing a morris of our own devising entitled “The 29th of May” danced to the traditional tune of All Things Bright & Beautiful. As we had a couple of dance spots in the very well attended and sun-drenched village square – bright and beautiful it was – so enjoyable we did it twice, to conclude both of our schedules performances.



Kennet are were formed in 1957 with a number of members from the Newbury area and Yattendon always featured on our May Bank Holiday tour which traditionally started in Newbury Market Place. We have been based in Shinfield since 1978 but we're still proud to maintain our connection with Yattendon.



Although we had 20 members performing on the day we are still very keen to recruit more dancers to join our happy bunch. If you're interested in continuing this marvellous tradition please go to our website's “Join page” to learn more about it: <http://www.kennetmorrismen.co.uk/join.php> or email our “Bagman/secretary” bagman@kennetmorrismen.co.uk