

## The Whitchurch Morris Men – Exhausted!

The deadline for this article is the day before The Vale Tour so something has to give. As the organiser of the Tour and principal chef, my time resource is very limited. If you are reading this then it's a big thank you to the editor's kind heart.

Having had reasonable weather the previous 2 days the forecast was not good. Friday evening's arrival dinner was finally ready for 9 p.m. and we all ate too much and true to the forecast the weather had turned. 48 men and musicians set out by bus and our first venue on Saturday, Wendover Waste, which was dry and attracted a good crowd. On to the Bell at Hardwick which offered shelter from the inimitable rain. The White Swan at Whitchurch provided a warming chilli lunch with space to dance it off under the gazebo in the garden. The landlady really looked after us superbly and we'll be returning for Christmas singing and dancing on the evening of 8<sup>th</sup> December. Nothing was too much trouble and we all appreciated it. Thank you Rosalind and Peter.

This led to a first in Aylesbury. The 2:30 venue was Friar's Square by kind permission of the Centre Manager. No sooner had we arrived at the Market Square entrance then we were dragged into Metro Bank and asked to perform. Two sides formed up and danced The Rose Tree inside the Bank. That was fun. So, on to the first ever precession in Aylesbury; led by the musicians and the Squire of the Morris Ring, we formed 2 columns danced the Winstar Precessional up the ramp to the area outside New Look and Top Shop. Apologies to the man selling whirlpool baths though he seemed to enjoy the diversion. It was nice to be in the warm and dry with an appreciative audience many of which joined in the dancing.

After a quick coffee stop, we danced outside BB's cafe before returning to the bus and continue the Tour. Wingrave found us in the Rose and Crown where the Leicester Men danced inside and though a dad and daughter refused to join in, they were soon dancing. The final stop was our home base of the Half Moon at Wilstone and the Feast in the village hall. My knees and legs ached after all of that.

Friar's Square was a big success for us and we potentially have a new man out of it. The Squire was most impressed too so thank you once again to the Centre Manager. If you want to join in with the fun our practice nights are on Tuesdays at 8:15pm in Wilstone village hall so all you men and boys have to do is come

along and join us. You can contact us through our web address:-  
[www.whitchurchmorris.org.uk](http://www.whitchurchmorris.org.uk) , just turn up and now you can come and meet us.

Wassail  
John King,  
WMM