

Haughley Hoofers North West Morris - Report for Haughley Parish Council May 2022

Haughley Hoofers continue to perform clog dances principally from the North West of England. The side has practised in Haughley Village Hall for around 37 years and during that time has danced at events and festivals in England, France, Germany and Belgium.

Normally 10% of our takings go to a charity nominated by the leader and we make a Christmas donation to a charity chosen by the side, but unfortunately, owing to the pandemic, our programme in 2020 was completely cancelled.

During the summer of 2021 though we were able to have limited practices in a member's garden when Covid regulations allowed and we managed one or two dance dates including the Haughley Christmas Lights event in December 2021. We all agreed that it was wonderful to see each other and be dancing again! Since then we have resumed practices in the village hall and have a tentative programme for the coming season (see below).

We have been delighted to welcome 2 new members to the side: a musician and a dancer. Being former Scottish dancers, they were more used to jigs and reels, but have made allowances for us and adapted well to English North West Morris! The musician has had quite a steep learning curve in changing from playing Scottish bagpipes to a melodeon!

The side now numbers 10 dancers and 6 musicians, considerably fewer than the 30 members which we had in our heyday in the 1980s and 1990s. Consequently, dances which, traditionally should be danced by at least 8 people, we have had to adapt for 4 or 6 as members may not always be available. This drop in numbers is now a common problem amongst Morris, clog and other traditional dance sides, resulting in many sides being unable to continue (including Haughley's Hageneth Morris Men who sadly disbanded in 2019 after 42 years). We continue to advertise for new members in the autumn, at the start of every practice season. We all enjoy what we do and very much hope to carry on, but if you know of anyone who would like to have a go, either dancing or playing a portable, acoustic, musical instrument, they would be welcomed with open arms - it's much more fun than a gym!

Contact: Gill Brett 01449 673518

<https://www.facebook.com/Haughley-Hoofers>

HAUGHLEY HOOFERS PROGRAMME 2022

Confirmed dates only. These dates/times may be subject to change.

DATE	TIME	VENUE
Sat 2 April	from 11am	Oxblood Molly Day of Dance, Halesworth, Suffolk
Sun 24 April	12.30pm	St George's Day Celebrations, Rose & Crown, Hundon, Suffolk, with Belchamp Morris and friends
Sat 4 June	11.15am 2.15 pm	Coney Weston Fete Haughley Platinum Jubilee Celebrations
Sat 11 June	12.00	Folk at the Boat, Steamboat Inn, Ipswich
Sat 2 July	All day	Potty Festival, Sheringham, Norfolk
Sun 9 July	All day	Ely Folk Festival, Cambs
Sat 16 July	All day	Newark Folk Festival, Notts
Sat 30 July - Sat 6 Aug	1 week	Normandy Morris Festival