

2024 Reports

Upton upon Severn Folk Festival

3rd to 6th May



This year, the rugby field was too wet for camping so we were moved onto a different site the other side of the river. Martyn, Jen, Rique, Anne, and Beth had arrived before the Friday to mark out the Crook area, build the gazebo and put up the Crook banner so we could all try and find out way on! Friday brought lots of rain for Upton (although it was sunny in Cumbria and Yorkshire!). This made for a very muddy field. However, everyone seemed to make it on one way or another into the Crook compound or thereabouts. People did their usual Friday thing of setting up camp and then heading in to town for various sessions.

Saturday brought glorious weather! First suncream of the year for me. Crook had an earlyish showspot of 11.10 am which meant getting up early to have a walk through of Dorris Lancer and Sweet Jenny Jones. Despite some apprehensions, we put on a great show and danced well, which set us off to a great start for the weekend. The dancing continued on throughout Saturday with the usual Upton smiles with us finishing about 3pm so we could all have a rest before the fancy dress party that evening. The theme for the party was fantasy/mythical creatures which of course many interpreted in the usual cryptic manner!

Sunday rolled around with yet more beautiful weather but an even earlier showspot time of 10.10! Not easy to get up for that one with just 4 hours sleep and too much gin! We were down Tom, Eunice and Patrick all who had to depart early. But we still managed to put our best foot forward with a great show of 9 for March Past, Ally Park and an extra dance of Lily Bolero. Despite everyone being a bit tired (and hungover in some cases) we pressed on and managed to get in a couple more dances before having a short break before the procession. Which of course Crook did marvellously in. Several people mentioned to me that we were one of the best sides there for the procession, keeping it interesting for the audience. After a long lunch, we fitted in several more dances. Finishing just in time for the rain to start! A small group of us carried on with a very fast rapper tour trying out 6 of the various floors and deckings of Upton. As evening rolled round, Crook got set up for it's usual mass Indian take-away (collected by the Mason brothers in Dan's new trolley he was very keen to try out!). With everyone well fed and the slight pitter patter of rain on the gazebo roof, we enjoyed a little Crook sing around (with the odd joke and story thrown in). As darkness fell around us, we departed off to various pubs and vans.

Monday morning started off with a misty dampness that didn't bring much hope for the weather. However, by the time 11am had come round, the sun was shining and a crowd had gathered to watch our infamous Mummers play. The usual jokes and some extras were well received by the audience, with many saying it was our best performance yet! Crook were in good spirit for our final dances of the weekend which we shared outside the swan with the Bunnies from Hell and our new friends Golden Star. Over the weekend Crook danced a total of 31 dances PLUS the 6 rapper dances, covering almost the entire repertoire bare 3 dances. Very well done Crook!

Once everyone had said their goodbyes, I went off to enjoy an ice-cream in the sunshine smiling at how very well the weekend had gone, how well everyone had danced, rolling with the ups and downs, and how lovely it is to spend a weekend with all you lovely people. A tired but very happy squire.

Written by Evie (squire)