



New Year's Party

As there is always lots to do in the run up to Christmas, this year we decided that instead of a Christmas party we would have one at the New Year instead.

Twelfth Night just happened to fall on Saturday 5th January, so we chose to hold our party that night. We are lucky to have a branch of the Hawkshead Brewery at Staveley, just outside Kendal.

They have a great upstairs bar and beer hall, which is just right for a party with music, singing and dancing, and they brew terrific beer into the bargain!

The theme was "Posh Frocks", so some of us put on our grown-up clothes and shoes, whilst others raided the charity shops and dressing up box for gaudy finery. (Crook is always relaxed on dress code, so those preferring jeans and T-shirt did not feel out of place.)

The evening started with drinks, and then we had a buffet supper provided by Wilf's Café. After this there was a presentation to two founder members of Crook Morris. Colin and Margot Milton have been part of the side since Crook was formed, originally as a splinter group from Crook Folk Dance Group. This year they have had to withdraw from the main stream of Crook activities, so we decided that they should be made Life Members of the side. Shelley collected a series of 'photos spanning their history with the side, and made a beautiful book to mount them all in. It was a very emotional moment when they were presented with the album, and we hope it will remind them of their many happy years with Crook.

Festivities continued with ceilidh dancing, song and a session, until we were finally obliged to leave at midnight. The party continued for some in Martyn and Jenny's van, with the sampling of damson vodka and sloe gin, where the idea for another evening of fun (a vodka tasting competition!) was hatched. The following day a few of us managed a bracing walk in the snow. Let's hope next year's party is as good!