

2023 Reports

Upton Folk Festival

28th April – 1st May



Taken from Crook Facebook:

Another brilliant weekend down at Upton upon Severn Folk Festival! Crook go to this festival every year and never fail to have a good time. After a muddy start to the weekend with some early arrivers having to be towed onto the site, we were very fortunate with the weather on Saturday. Glorious sunshine all day! The good weather continued for our fancy dress party in the evening - NATO phonetic alphabet theme. We then did a show spot at the ceilidh in our fancy dress of course!
Sunday brought rain but luckily there was a good break while we danced in the precession down the main street and showed off our new banners. More dancing in the afternoon between the rain. Crook rapper hadn't had enough and went off to performed in a pub or two! Then mass curry for dinner on Sunday evening!
On Monday we performed our Pace Egging play (best one yet!) and more dancing in mummings costume. Not forgetting the keen 10 who got up at dawn to dance in the 1st May!

Written by Martyn:

Wow that was some festival wasn't it.

We danced really well and overall probably better than ever. With fewer sides than some years it wasn't a struggle to get plenty of dancing and a lot of the dances looked very slick. Evidenced by the reaction from the public and the other dance sides. The reaction to Crook's ceilidh spot.

Particular praise then to our new dancers and musicians.

What was particularly pleasing was how Crook always rises to the occasion and to any hick up that may occur. Saturday Show Spot - compere John Bradshaw " A side couldn't come and another one hasn't turned up ! Can Crook do more and start earlier? Quick check on music and dancer numbers - Yep we can do that". Saturday night Eskrigg gig, mid gig MC "Oh we need to move the gig upstairs please ! Yep no problem" Up they went and seamlessly picked up without a hitch. Also Saturday night Mo asked " Would Crook like to do a spot in the ceilidh?" over to Tom check music, check dancers - Yep and what a reaction from the hall including the 30 odd NYFTE youngsters who are a force to be reckoned with. On to Monday Mummings John B again " I've been dropped in it can the mumming start early or some dancing first. Yep and 3 dances later Crook's mummings took to the floor and absolutely nailed the play. Never been better has it? Monday afternoon and Rebecca looking a little worried about getting the caravan off the site - not a problem Crook clearly has a third Knight as our ever helpful squire leapt into the car - yes Tom I saw you leap ! - did the necessary and the Gillows could walk off to their car & caravan all neatly lined up ion the layby.

CROOK can just do anything can't we !