

# THE COMPANY OF THE GREEN MAN



## Company of the Greenman

*Jack in the green am I  
and master have I none  
and whilst there are trees upon this land  
the woods shall be my home  
To the seasons kings I bow my head  
as they do bow to me  
for my faces are as many  
as the leaves upon a tree*



Greetings to all members of The Company of the Green Man. Welcome to the much awaited sixteenth edition of The Company of the Green Man e-newsletter. Normal service has finally been resumed.....

My sincere apologies once again for the delay. I find it hard to believe that the last e-newsletter went out in February 2017, time seems to have passed by so quickly. I am extremely grateful as always to everyone who has contributed to this newsletter and to all those who have sent kind words of support. I am hoping that your patience has been rewarded with this edition of the newsletter and that it will go some way to make up for missing a Summer and Winter edition.

When my laptop blew up last year I was very lucky to have backed up most of the Company's data and to be using MailChimp as our membership management system, meaning that very little data was lost. However, I am aware that a small quantity of e-mails may have disappeared into the digital ether. If you sent me an e-mail last year and thought I was being extremely rude by not replying please accept my apologies and e-mail me again, hopefully this time the gremlins won't interfere.

This edition has come together very slowly over the last eighteen months. I have edited it in front of a roaring log burner in our new home whilst the beast from the east was busy depositing some of the deepest snow I have seen since the 1970's. And just recently I have been writing this introduction sweltering in the shade whilst we have experienced the longest heatwave since...the 1970's! Perhaps Father Christmas will finally bring me that purple Chopper bike this year?

My thanks to everyone who kindly donated to St Giles Animal Rescue Centre for our rescue dog Milo's Christmas appeal. Every penny raised and every item donated will make a big difference to the lives of some wonderful animals. Milo received his very own late Christmas present in the shape of a sister, Mabel, a rescue puppy from St Giles. Milo still isn't quite sure what's hit him! Neither are we! Though as I write this sentence they are both curled up together on the sofa in front of me!

2017 and 2018 were great years for the Jack in the Green with some old favourites as well as some exciting newcomers to the scene in some most unexpected locations. My thanks to everyone who kept me informed of the appearances of Jacks around the globe. You can see pictures of many of the Jacks from this year and last year within these pages.

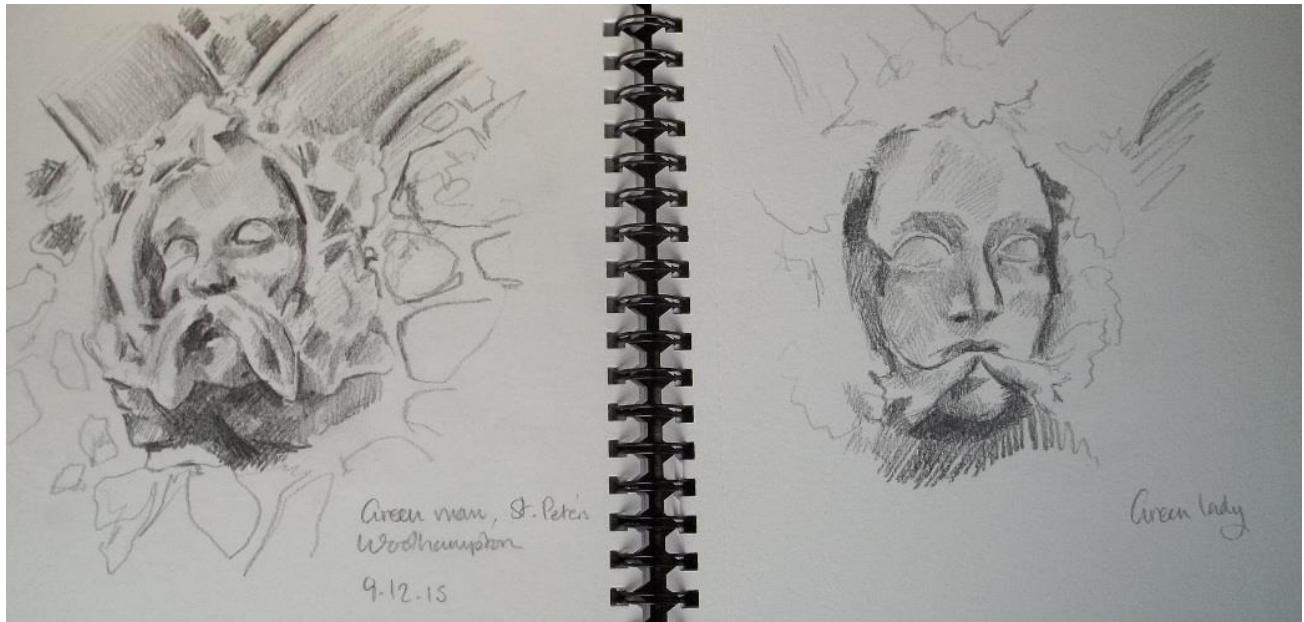
My thanks as always to Vanessa Piggott for all of the additions and amendments to our gazetteer and to John Roper for keeping me up to date with Green Man appearances in the media and elsewhere.

Dr Colin Harris founder of The Green Man Forum and good friend of The Company of the Green Man has had a series of major health set-backs over the last two years. Colin is a much valued supporter and member of The Company and I would like to wish him all the best.

Fingers crossed our next e-newsletter will be published in the Winter of 2018/19. Any and all contributions as always will be very gratefully received.

Chris Walton

# Cuttings



Amanda Bates is an artist, based in Kingsclere north Hampshire, with a growing interest in the tradition of the Green Man. One of the things to spark that interest was a chance visit to St. Peter's in Upper Woolhampton, West Berkshire, where she found a delightful pair of Victorian Green Man stone carvings on the exterior of the church that were previously undiscovered. Amanda didn't have a camera with her so instead recorded them in pencil (above). Amanda then created the wonderful pictures below using Acrylic Ink on rough watercolour paper, entitled *Green Man & Green Lady*. Amanda wrote: "The faces are Victorian (the church was rebuilt in 1857) and, with their surroundings of leaves, the gentleman's leafy moustache and the vegetation emerging from the lady's mouth, are in the Green Man tradition. I fancy that they might represent the local landowner and his wife."

My thanks to Amanda for getting in touch and sharing her incredible work with us. You can see more of Amanda's work on her website: [www.amandabatesart.co.uk](http://www.amandabatesart.co.uk)



# The Rumford Morris Jack-in-the-Green



Rumford Morris Men and Royal Liberty of Havering 1977



Close up of the Jack

The history of the revival of the Jack in the Green in the 20<sup>th</sup> Century is extremely complicated as anyone who has read my article on our website will know. Some revivals were linked directly with or inspired by, others whilst many popped up completely unconnected. Every now and then I discover another little piece of the jigsaw puzzle. I was really surprised and delighted when Paul Woloschuk contacted me to let me know about the Green Man that his old Morris side used to have and to send me the wonderful pictures on this page.

Paul wrote "Rumford Morris Men from Essex used to have a Green Man (which we called Jack in the Green) back in the mid-1970s. Our Jack in the Green wore a boiler suit (dyed green) upon which were sewn dozens of cotton strips of differing shades of green cut into the shape of Oak leaves. The leaves were cut from sample material cadged from a Laura Ashley shop. So, the material was not only different shades, but was of various pattern (striped, paisley etc.) Jack also wore a pith helmet adorned with long strips of the same material hanging down and covering his face and extending down to his chest. Apparently, it was extremely warm to wear, and Jack often had to be refreshed with lots of ale to prevent wilting! Jack was the idea of one of our members. The bloke who appeared as Jack left the side after four or five years, and nobody carried on with the character."

Trying to work out where this Jack fitted I asked Paul if they had any connections with Greenwood Morris or the Earls of Essex both of whom started Jacks in the 1970's? Paul confirmed that "We had no historic connections with any local traditions or other sides. Jack was out with us from May Day throughout the summer. We didn't know Greenwood Morris, but we often danced with the Earls of Essex (and I used to play regularly with the wonderful late Dave Roberts from the Earls both in ceilidh bands and at Folk Camps).

So it would seem that this is another example of those wonderful Jacks that sprang out of nowhere in the 1970s. My ever expanding article about the history of The Traditional Jack in the Green and the revival is here <https://thecompanyofthegreenman.wordpress.com/jack-in-the-green> I would love to hear from anyone who can fill in more detail on any of the Jacks or indeed make any corrections if required.



Rumford MM canal trip Stoke Bruerne Northamptonshire 1979



Close up of the Jack

# Sightings



I'm grateful to Derek Penrose for letting me know about this Green Man with a fascinating history and for sending in this wonderful picture. St Telio's Church was originally located at Llandeilo Tal-y-bont, Glamorgan in Wales. It was built in the late 12th century and furnished in 1530. Between 1984 and 1985 the whole church was dismantled and moved to St Fagans National History Museum.

The following is from St Fagans own website:

"St Teilo's church is believed to have been built during the late 12th or 13th century on the site of an earlier Celtic church. Over the ensuing centuries the building was altered and extended.

The oldest parts of the present structure are the nave and chancel. During the 14th century, small chapels were built onto the north and south sides of the chancel, and during the late 14th or early 15th century the church's capacity was increased by the addition of an aisle to the south side of the nave. The old south wall was replaced by two arches, with a third arch opening into the chancel, and finally, a porch was added to the entrance door leading into the south aisle of the church.

The roof timbers are of typical early fifteenth century design (arch-braced collar-beams), though they may in fact be slightly later in date. The west wall of the nave was altered in the early 18th century (datestone 1736) and in 1810 the interior was furnished with box pews and a three-decker pulpit. Most of the stone-mullioned windows appear to have been blocked up at this time, and were replaced by new 'Georgian gothic' lancet-shaped windows. One original two-light stone-mullioned window (14/15th) survived in the south aisle. Probably the oldest surviving feature of the church is the stone font which is believed to date from the 13th century or earlier.

St Telio's church has been refurbished as it may have appeared about the year 1530, complete with all the elements associated with a late medieval Catholic church, including a rood screen and loft (between the nave and chancel), altars, carvings and brightly-coloured paintings on all the walls."

You can find more information about St Telio's Church and all of the wonderful Historical Buildings at St Fagans National History Museum here: <https://museum.wales/stfagans/>



Whilst touring Wales Derek also discovered these two identical (?) Murals from Lord Bute's bedroom in Castle Coch (Welsh for Red Castle) a 19<sup>th</sup> Century Gothic revival castle in Tongwynlais in South Wales. The first castle on the site was built by the Normans after 1081, to protect the newly conquered town of Cardiff and control the route along the Taff Gorge. Abandoned shortly afterwards, the castle's earth motte was reused by Gilbert de Clare as the basis for a new stone fortification, which he built between 1267 and 1277 to control his freshly annexed Welsh lands. This castle was likely destroyed in the native Welsh rebellion of 1314. In 1760, the castle ruins were acquired by John Stuart, 3rd Earl of Bute, as part of a marriage settlement that brought the families vast estates in South Wales.

# Cuttings



Saturday 7th July 2018 witnessed the launch of Hoodwinked 2018, Nottingham's stunning new public art trail, featuring a twist of the tale of local legendary outlaw Robin Hood: Thirty three giant Robin statues have appeared on the streets of Nottingham, each one hand-painted by an artist. This free public art trail is presented by Nottingham City Council in partnership with creative events producers Wild in Art and charity partner Nottinghamshire Hospice, for whom the Robin symbolises hope after the passing of a loved one. Wild in Art is celebrating its 10th anniversary this year.

The Sheriff of Nottingham Councillor Catharine Arnold attended the official Hoodwinked 2018 launch party in the picturesque grounds of Nottingham Castle on the evening of Thursday 5th July, at which many of the Robin sponsors and artists were also present.

Ipswich artist Lois Cordelia was proud to publicly reveal her design entitled Green Man of Sherwood Forest

Lois has recently explored the theme of the Green Man in a variety of unusual art mediums, including paper-cutting, creative cartography, and upcycled plastic straws. Now she is preparing to paint the Green Man onto an unexpected canvas: a giant Robin statue.

On the subject of her involvement in the Nottingham art trail, Lois remarks: "Have you seen faces in the leaves of Sherwood Forest? Many folklorists claim that the legend of Robin Hood is derived from the ancient image of the Green Man, or related figures such as Jack in the Green or Robin Goodfellow (Puck). No surprise that Robin Hood is clothed in Lincoln Green. The mischievous outlaw could be hiding in any disguise! Speaking as a Wild in Art addict, I can't wait to start painting my Robin for Hoodwinked. It means a lot to be part of this (my seventh public art trail), and I'm very grateful to Benoy for sponsoring Green Man of Sherwood Forest. I often link the Green Man with the legend of Robin Hood in Lincoln Green in my artwork. My partner Jason (appropriately also an archer) has kindly agreed to model for the Green Man."

You can find Lois blog here:

<http://www.loiscordelia.com/blog/2018/5/faces-in-the-leaves-of-sherwood-forest-hoodwinked-2018>



# Sightings



Tina Negus sent me these wonderful images of (top) Crowland Abbey, Lincolnshire chancel boss and (bottom) The green man in Cley Church, Norfolk.

# Cuttings



Those of you who follow our blog may have seen this incredible picture before as part of our May morning 2017 post. But it is so spectacular that I just had to reproduce it within the pages of our e-newsletter too. It is called "Jack in the Green" and is by Hastings artist Dan Pearce, it is oil on board 155 x 105 cms. To see more of Dan's art go to <http://www.danpearce.graphics/>. I am extremely grateful to Dan for allowing me to reproduce his picture here. I've spotted Nathaniel the Giant and many other well known faces from Hastings Traditional Jack-in-the-Green as well as a rather dapper Aleister Crowley! I will let you all have a go seeing who you can spot....I'm convinced that Keith Leech is in there somewhere!



Blacksmith Andrew Findlay kindly sent me this picture of an incredible Green Man that he crafted. Andrew wrote "One I made using blacksmithing techniques which I thought may be of interest. I became a blacksmith because the process of creating in the forge is spiritual, alchemical and elemental all at the same time. A magical experience. Using the transforming fire we shape a sterile, cold and hard material into beautiful and permanent organic forms." You can see more of Andrews work at [www.andrew-findlay.com](http://www.andrew-findlay.com)

# Sightings



My thanks to Sarah Poole who discovered these three *fleur de lis* like greenmen (above) in Horsham. They are Victorian and are above the same terrace of shops along Piries Place and one on the corner in East Street.

Harri Hautala and his wife spotted these two green men (above) in spring 2016 during a holiday in Bratislava, Slovakia.

# Cuttings



Green Man from the cloisters



Pre-sketches of the author by Jason Hurst for the cover image of Gordon's book

Dragons, griffins, a unicorn, wild men, green men, an imp, an elephant with hooves and stone carved heads. These are just some of the wonders of the medieval world that can be found in Chester Cathedral and the Church of St John the Baptist, formerly Chester Cathedral.

During the late 14th century an intricate wooden quire was carved in the former St Werburgh's Abbey church. Monks had to pray for long hours standing up, so a system of 'misericords' or mercy seats was made with armrests and small ledges to rest on. The underneath of the seats, usually used in an upright position, were carved with illustrated scenes.

When the church was restored in the last quarter of the 19th century the seats were taken out and photographed outside in natural light. However, by the time of the photographs, five of the interesting medieval carved seats had been destroyed because the themes were too indecent for the Victorian morals of Dean Howson, who had them destroyed and replaced them with blanks. These five were later carved with Christian scenes and Aesop's fables.

Now, for the first time the almost complete set of unique photographs of the medieval carvings under the monks' seats in the old abbey church quire are available to the public along with a plan of the 112 carved corbels, marvels of the 14th century carvers' art. One of these represents the green man, a figure found in churches countrywide with leaves growing out of his face.

Gordon Emery's book is a must for anyone interested in the history of Chester, the cathedral, or myths, legends and fantasies of medieval England. Local artist Jay Hurst has depicted the author as the green man on the cover.

Available from Chester History and Heritage, Chester Visitor Information in the Town Hall, and all good bookshops. Price £7.95

Post free (in the UK) from [www.gordonemery.co.uk](http://www.gordonemery.co.uk) or from Amazon.

# Sightings



Nick Booth sent in these wonderful pictures of beautifully painted roof bosses and intricate carvings on the rood screen in St Andrew's Church, Ashburton in Devon. You might recall in the last e-newsletter that when I visited this church they were in the process of replacing the entire floor which made some green men easier to find and others extremely elusive. Nick has done a wonderful job hunting down those that I missed.

# The Burryman



G Malkin sent in these wonderful photographs from The Burryman's latest outing in South Queensferry, Scotland and wrote "Whilst the providence of his origins and meaning are lost in time there are definite green man qualities to his costume. He processes through the town every year (as he has done for at least a couple of hundred years) during the Ferry Fair in August, stopping to receive a drink at each bar/hotel during his 8 hour walk - needless to say he is in a bad way at the end! It may be that he wards off evil, promotes good fortune for the town or helps with a good harvest with the local fishing - no-one really knows. He is a well loved local tradition though and is quite something to see."

I found out a few additional facts about the Burryman or Burry Man: He is the central figure in an annual ceremony or ritual, the Burryman's Parade, that takes place on the second Friday of August. It is sometimes said that the custom was first recorded in 1687 but it is widely believed to be much older. A local man is covered from head to ankles in burrs of two species of burdock that grow locally. The stickiness of his burry covering means that he has to walk awkwardly, with legs apart and arms held out sideways, but he is nevertheless paraded around a seven-mile route through South Queensferry for nine hours or more. Only men born in the village can take on the role of the Burryman. Although local residents must apply annually to the local council for the honour. He supports his aching arms on waist-high poles decorated with flowers. Two attendants (dressed in normal clothing) guide him through the town and help him through his ordeal. They visit the town's pubs, some factories, and the provost's house, at each of which the Burryman is given a drink of whisky, but because of his sticky facial covering he can only drink through a straw. He is not allowed to speak. By the end of the day he is exhausted.



# Sightings



Andrew Staplehurst spotted these modern Green Men which didn't appear in the gazetteer. There are eight in all, carved in oak on a footbridge over the Paddington Arm of the Grand Union Canal in West London. The footbridge links two parts of the Northolt and Greenford Countryside Park in the London Borough of Ealing.

Details: Northolt Footbridge 17A  
Grand Union Canal - Paddington Arm

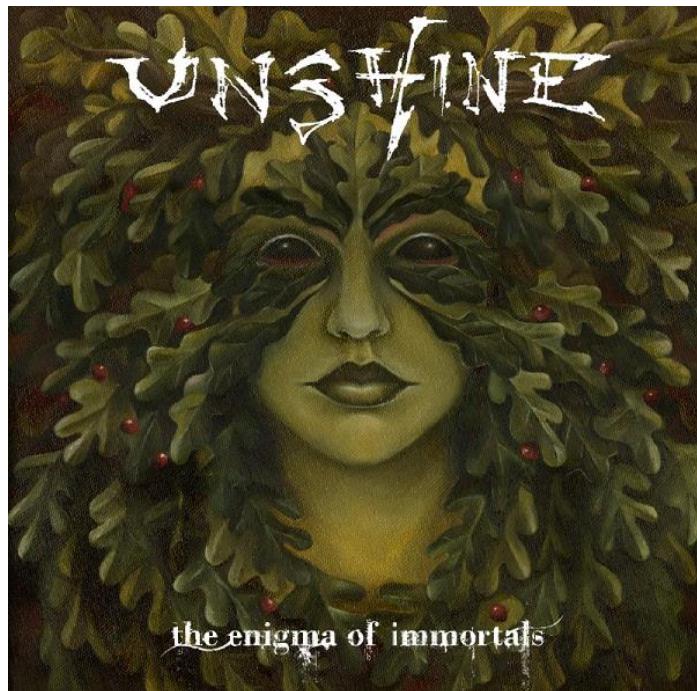
Address: Greenford, Northolt UB5 6UA

Location: OS Grid Ref: TQ 13446 83417  
Latitude: 51° 32' 17" N, Longitude: 0° 21' 56" W  
(51.5380556°, -0.3655556°)



# The Green Man

By Harri Hautala



Greetings from Finland, the most forest-clad country in Europe. I do not know whether I'm the only Finnish subscriber of this great newsletter. However, I have had a long-time interest in the green man, mythology and the nature spirituality surrounding him. In this short article, I will write about my own connections to the green man, first as a Finn, second through writing music.

To my knowledge, we do not have a green man-like figure in the Finnish folklore. The nearest figure resembling him was maybe Tapio, who was the god of the forest in Finnish mythology. There was also a 'smaller' god called Hippa, a bearded golden creature with a pointed hat. It was thought that he brought good luck for hunters. Sometimes Hippa was regarded as a female figure. Green men can be spotted in some older, mostly art deco-style Finnish buildings, I've seen his appearances at least in Helsinki, our capital city.

How did I meet our beloved chap for the first time? In this digitized time, I guess like many of you, via internet. My first encounter with the green man took place around 15 years ago. I was looking for internet pages about relaxation (I had some backpains at that time) when suddenly I came across a quite cheap-looking page (with poor animations) about a thing called green man. Instantly, I was drawn towards this mysterious but still happy figure. The green man that was depicted on that page, was a very friendly-looking character. There were a few sentences about him and his connection to our souls. I somehow felt oddly like I had known him for ages and that this was the place I was looking for. So, from time to time, I returned to that page and started my quest for his secret. Since my childhood, I've been always drawn towards his surroundings. As a child, the best thing in the world (besides the home) for me, was to wander alone in forests, fields and meadows. I grew up in countryside, for which I am eternally grateful to my parents. So, I probably received the influence of the green man back then, in Finnish nature, a long time ago.

As a youngster, I made quite a lot of visual arts, I always drew trees and forests, plants and animals. Later I became more interested in music, and nowadays I compose songs and write lyrics for my own metal band called Unshine. When we speak about our music and the influences behind it, we use the term Druid Metal. To me, this is the best descriptor of the spirit and the spirituality behind it.

To me the green man is a family member of longer continuum of European folklore and the essential natural spirituality in the heart of it. He is the mediator between wild nature and mankind. But, most importantly, I see him as a sign of a healthy ecological relationship between man and nature, a symbol of balance.

There are two ways how he speaks to me: First the green man gives me endless inspiration and hope. He is the symbol of rebirth, which is one of the most important things all artists should include in their lives. Just like shamans, I believe that every artist should now and then destroy (at least) part of the old and generate something totally new out of it. In Finland, we have very distinct seasons, and the rural life of our forefathers in Finland, just like everywhere else in Europe, was focused on following the cycle of nature and the continuous renewal of nature, death and birth. The green man is the symbol behind all he always has hope on his side. Even during the darkest December day, green is hiding somewhere under the ice and snow, ready to conquer again during the coming spring months. And green, let's face it, it is the most important colour on earth. Without green, there would be no mankind, no Green Man, no Gaia.

Secondly, in a more academic manner, he has connections to other interesting figures, beliefs and phenomenon in our common European history. The whole world of the Celts has become familiar to me, as well as the world of nature spirits and elementals. I believe also that there is a connection between the green man and the Greek pantheon (with Pan, satyrs, Dionysus etc.), but this is probably shrouded in the mists of history. I've even found out many connections of him to a shamanistic world view and even to the theories of C.G. Jung about the nature of consciousness. There are countless things still to explore. Out of these motives, I draw all my inspiration. I have recorded four albums with our band. In all of them the green man has been the motivator of inspiration. For our first album, we recorded a song about the green man (lyrics below).

On the cover of our second album, 'the Enigma of Immortals', we wanted to use a painting called 'Green Woman' by Katrina Sesum, a talented English woodland painter. This painting somehow symbolized the spirit behind the album. It also suited nicely the style of our band as we have a female singer, Susanna Vesilahti. Our fourth album Astrala was released in January 2018 and contains a song dedicated to the Green Man called Jack's Feast (lyrics below).

#### *DEVOURER OF DEATH (AND AROUSER OF LIFE)*

will you bring to the years the years bygone  
will you cover me again with green  
I am counting on a blooming meadow  
I am longing for a shared home

in leaves of arcane grove in blackbird's song above  
wisdom of his words can be heard  
devourer of death and arouser of life  
the cycle will again lead back to life

devourer of death arouser of life  
devourer of death arouser of life

in my time I recede from my eyes you will see  
I return this trail to home

#### *JACK'S FEAST*

here we are dining endlessly having feast at holiest of halls  
we are the primal images we emerge for the one who sees

on thorns of fall deserted garden walls out of mouth evergreen sprouts  
you are the cosmic face of me you renew the missing unity

green are your alleys you dwell in solitude  
green are your mysteries you pour birth and death



Harri Hautala is guitarist and keyboard player for Unshine a gothic metal, symphonic metal band from Helsinki Finland. They describe their music as druid metal. Unshine was formed in May 2000. They have recorded four albums with their latest Astrala released in January 2018.

Link to the painting 'Green Woman' by Katrina Sesum (and to Unshine's website): <http://www.unshine.com/teoi>

Link to Katrina's page: <http://www.katrinasesum.com/>

# Cuttings

## The Green Man's Apprentice

Peter Michael Rowan



**SKYE BABY:** Straw Bear regular Peter Rowan, from the Isle of Skye, carries baby Selmi Rowan (5 mths), around the route (Photo: 9501132/11)

I am indebted to Peter Michael Rowan for sending in his tune "The Green Man's Apprentice" to be included within the pages of our newsletter. It was written some years ago when following Whittlesey Straw Bear, where Peter and his son tagged along with the Straw Bear's regular Green Man, Wocko Watkins.

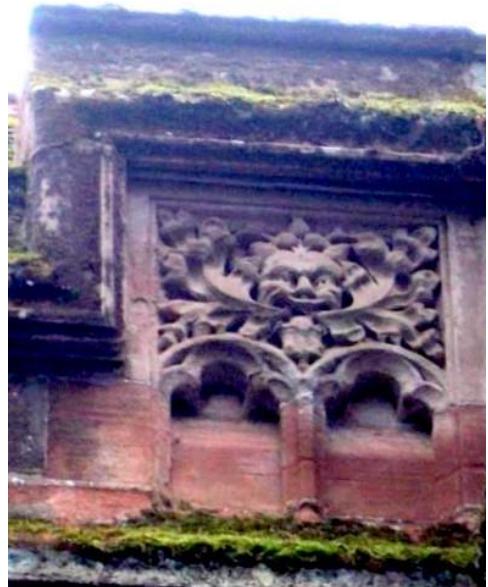


Andrew Miller Squire and Fool of Hemlock Morris Dancers sent us in these great pictures. Andrew wrote " What a glorious start to May 2018. We were up before the lark to welcome in the first of May and to Dance up the Sun, in Ampthill Great Park, Ampthill, Bedfordshire. Our Green Man was busy dancing to the assembled throng. He was even busier escorting a bride and groom procession through the sleepy village of Eversholt, Beds on Sat 5th May 2018. The green Man danced ahead of the procession from the Church to the Village Hall, via a grassy meadow where a Hand-fasting ceremony was conducted."

# Sightings



My thanks to Sarah Poole for this Green Man discovered on St Margaret's church, Warnham, West Sussex. He really doesn't look happy about the drainpipe!



Bob Woodroffe spotted these previously unreported Green Men (above right and below) on the exterior of St. Mary's church at Burford, near Tenbury Wells.

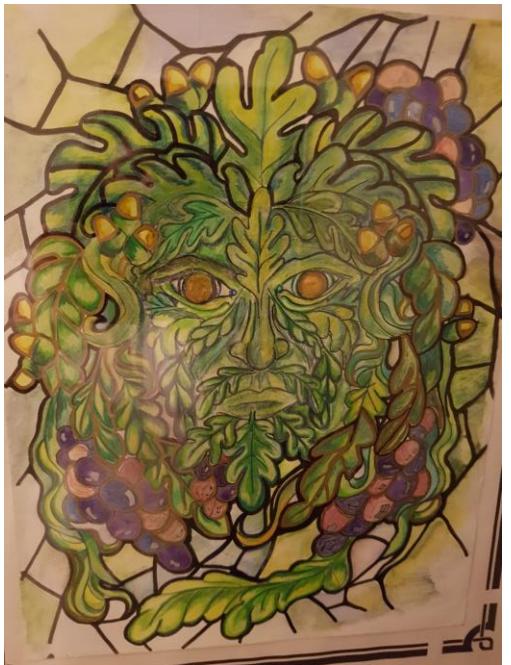


Trevor Hill was the Lay Reader at Shifnal Parish Church (St Andrews) Shropshire back in the 1970s & 80s. In 1978 he developed a local history group that later published a book (Watts S, ed Shifnal a Pictorial History, Phillimore 1989). It included a truncated copy of a photograph (left) that he had taken of an unusual Green Man which included a Cornucopia as well as the traditional foliage, it was situated high up on the top of the chancel arch. Someone at the time suggested that a Green Man associated with a Cornucopia was rare, although they thought some had been seen in Eastern Europe. Trevor's copy of the photograph showing its full extent used to hang in the church with an explanation of its significance but then another vicar was appointed to the parish who removed it from view. Trevor wrote "Whether it was replaced after he and I had left Shifnal I do not know. As I travelled the country later when visiting churches I always looked out for the Green Man but never found one like that in Shifnal. Maybe you know of the Shifnal Green Man but if not it might be worth a visit." If one of our members would like to take up the challenge please do let me know.

# Cuttings



Oak House in West Bromwich contacted me to let me know about their May celebration this year with a Green Man in attendance. In its second year they are hoping to make this an annual event.



My thanks to Dr Joanna Elsom for sending me her wonderful Green Man picture.



At last after living in Shropshire over forty years Derek Penrose managed to get to Clun in glorious weather and witness the battle between the Ice Maiden and the Green Man on Clun Bridge. Derek wrote 'Thankfully the Green Man won again and we will all have a good Summer this year'. Whilst sitting typing this indoors because it's too hot outside and the words 'hosepipe' and 'ban' are being used together for the first time in years I think Derek was right!

# Sightings



I am indebted to The Rev. Alice Nunn who returned from a holiday in N Cyprus (the Turkish bit) in May 2017 and was pleased to report that "The Green man is alive and well there, especially in the old Churches and Abbeys built during the Lusignan period (French Gothic style). I think there may be many more than I have found. Here is one definite (above left) and another probable (above middle) found in the Church of St Mamas (now an Icon Museum) near the ancient city of Soli (Guzelyurt) (above right lives outside the refectory at Bellepais Abbey, nr Kyrenia, up in the hills. it's a spectacular site and was an Augustinian foundation. Larry Durrell lived in the village for a while".

The three below are all from Nicosia, on exterior of a medieval French church near to the Cathedral (which is now a mosque)



Thanks to Judith Dunkling who found this previously unreported Green Man (above) on the rood screen in St Mary's Church, Ditchingham, Norfolk. Judith notes that "According to Pevsner the screen is said to be 16th Century originally, but is mostly Victorian."

My thanks to Vanessa Piggott for this image of a Green Man on a corbel frieze on the Chancel exterior of St James the Great Church, Hanslope, Milton Keynes, dated 1160.

# Cuttings

Sarah Pool alerted us to a new Green Man tradition that she spotted on Facebook.

The slaying of the Green Man at the Bishop Stortford May Games which happened on 20th May has been going for about three years.

Anna Smith Spark who made the original Facebook very kindly allowed us to use her photos here. The event is organised by Contexture Theatre. They say on their website: "Contexture is an innovative new company, born out of a love for theatre and a desire to bring professionally produced plays to Bishop's Stortford."

"The Green Man, resplendent in a costume made from freshly cut leaves that morning, joined the group of actors, volunteers and members of the public as they paraded through town." May Games 2018.

You can find out more about Contexture Theatre at:

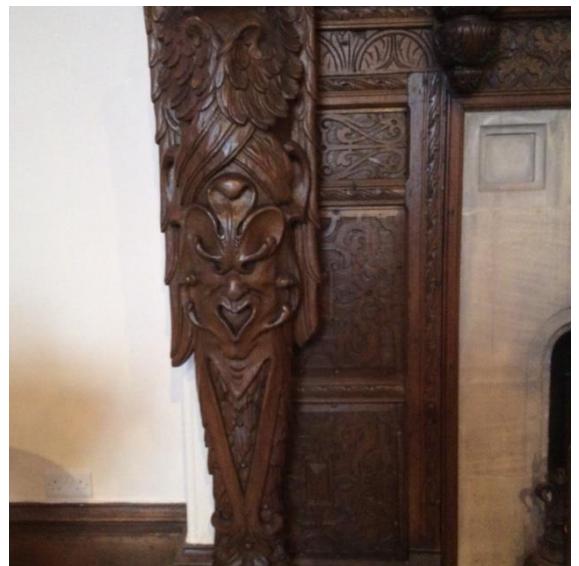
<https://www.contexturetheatre.com/>



# Sightings



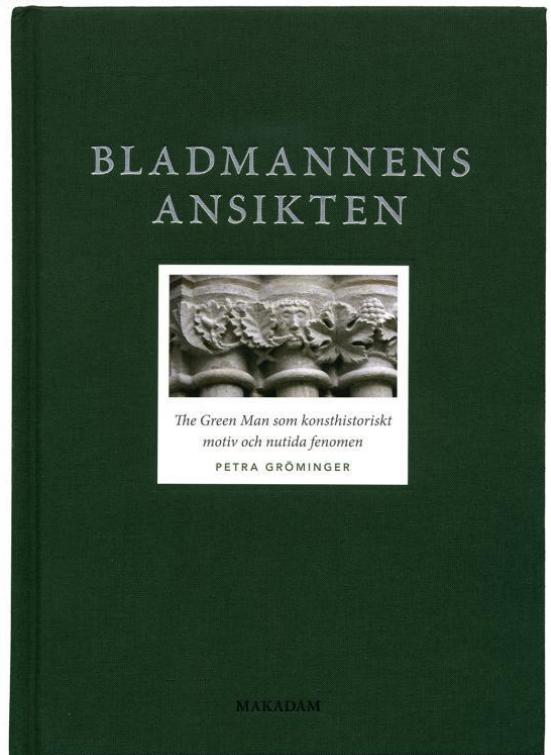
Derek Penrose sent in these sightings from Cartmel Priory. Derek wrote "There is a wooden screen around the Choir stalls which dates from 1620 Which has a Greenman on the door and also to the right of the door (pictures above) and then on the Misericords which date from 1450" (pictures below).



Derek also sent in this Green Man from The Crown Hotel in Grange over Sands. There are seven identical carvings on the main hotel building.

My thanks to Vanessa Piggott for this Green Man discovered in Burton Court, Leominster.

# Cuttings



Petra Gröminger kindly sent me a copy of her excellent new book (above) about the Green Man in Sweden. It is written in Swedish, but the images can still be very much appreciated by non-Swedish speakers. Petra is currently working on translating it into English.

Jackie Breadmore sent in this great picture of Garston Gallopers Green Man out on May Day 2017 (that leather badge on his hat looks familiar!)



Paul Wooloschuk sent me these pictures of a hammered dulcimer. Paul wrote "it was made for me in the late 1970s by the highly respected carver, Alan Lamb. <http://alanlamb.co/> who at the time was a maker of early stringed instruments, living in Hackney. There was a small circle of instrument makers in East London at this time who learned their skills at the London College of Furniture. Besides Alan Lamb, there was Jon Swayne (of Blowzabella), Dave Armitage (also of Blowzabella), and one or two others. I no longer have the instrument, but Alan had made the instrument to my specifications, and I specifically wanted the green man insert carvings, which Alan made in box wood."

# Jack-in-the-Green 2017

During 2017 a spectacular nineteen Jacks were spotted in the UK and further afield with the Isehara (Japan) Jack-in-the-Green joining the ranks. The Grand Hama Morris Jack-in-the-Green paraded in the city of Isehara accompanied by the Grand Hama Morris team who are based in Kanagawa, Japan and were established in 2015.

The Jacks spotted during 2017 were:

- ❖ The Hastings Traditional Jack-in-the-Green
- ❖ The Oxford Jack-in-the-Green
- ❖ The Whitstable Jack-in-the-Green
- ❖ The Ilfracombe Jack-in-the-Green
- ❖ The Bovey Tracey (Grimsound Morris) Jack-in-the-Green
- ❖ The Fowlers Troop (Deptford) Jack-in-the-Green
- ❖ The Hammersmith Jack-in-the-Green
- ❖ The Guildford Bush
- ❖ The Bluebell Hill (Rochester Sweeps) Jack-in-the-Green
- ❖ The Highworth Jack-in-the-Green
- ❖ The Winchcombe Jack-in-the-Green
- ❖ The Dead Horse Morris (Whitstable) Jack-in-the-Green
- ❖ Kentwell Hall (Suffolk) Jack O'Green
- ❖ Wythenshawe Hall (Manchester) Jack 'O' Green
- ❖ The Bristol Jack-in-the-Green
- ❖ The Knutsford Jack-in-the-Green
- ❖ The Brentham Jack-in-the-Gree
- ❖ The Isehara (Japan) Jack-in-the-Green
- ❖ The Carshalton Straw Jack

So far during 2018 sixteen Jacks have been sighted with, of course, the Carshalton Straw Jack on 8<sup>th</sup> September to bring this year's total to seventeen. I have received no reports of either the Kentwell Hall (Suffolk) or the Wythenshawe Hall (Manchester) Jacks parading again this year so I can only assume that they were one-off appearances. I am also unsure whether the previously reported Jack in the Green at Hever Castle is actually a Jack in the Green or a Green Man like the one at Clun. If anyone can give me more information I would be extremely grateful.

The Jacks spotted so far during 2018 are:

- ❖ The Hastings Traditional Jack-in-the-Green
- ❖ The Oxford Jack-in-the-Green
- ❖ The Whitstable Jack-in-the-Green
- ❖ The Ilfracombe Jack-in-the-Green
- ❖ The Bovey Tracey (Grimsound Morris) Jack-in-the-Green
- ❖ The Fowlers Troop (Deptford) Jack-in-the-Green
- ❖ The Hammersmith Jack-in-the-Green
- ❖ The Guildford Bush
- ❖ The Bluebell Hill (Rochester Sweeps) Jack-in-the-Green
- ❖ The Highworth Jack-in-the-Green
- ❖ The Winchcombe Jack-in-the-Green
- ❖ The Dead Horse Morris (Whitstable) Jack-in-the-Green
- ❖ The Bristol Jack-in-the-Green
- ❖ The Knutsford Jack-in-the-Green
- ❖ The Brentham Jack-in-the-Gree
- ❖ The Isehara (Japan) Jack-in-the-Green

If anyone knows of any Jacks I may have missed this year or any previous year please do get in touch. I hope to create a comprehensive list of each Jack that goes out every year. I would also be grateful for any pictures or descriptions of Jacks.

On the following pages are all the pictures I have received so far of 2017 and 2018's magical Jacks.

# Jack in the Green 2017



On May 1<sup>st</sup> 2017 I joined the Ilfracombe Jack in the Green for a fantastic procession through the streets of Ilfracombe. My thanks to Kelly Raveney and everyone involved for putting up with me getting in the way with my camera. Jack in the Green was accompanied by spectacular giants, Humdrumconundrum drummers and a host of fascinating characters. The parade ended at the clapping circle overlooking the sea. Maypole dancing ensued and then Jack was ritually stripped of his greenery to help usher in the summer. Much liquid sunshine was evident but it didn't put a dampener on a magical day.

Ilfracombe's Jack-in-the-Green procession was started in 2000 by Lisa Sture. Local children were involved and it was supported by local Morris teams. Another descendant of the Hastings Jack, the Ilfracombe Jack event also finished with the release of the spirit of summer and the distribution of leaves often on Ilfracombe beach. The Ilfracombe Jack did not appear in 2015 after the previous committee were unable to continue. Kelly Raveney stepped in to help and Ilfracombe's May Day Celebrations returned in 2016 and are once again a fabulous annual event.



My thanks to Sue Gooch for this tantalising glimpse of the Carshalton Straw Jack. Sue wrote "Having nearly mowed these people down lol, I had to Google to find out who they were and found your blog and the request for photos. I lived in Carshalton for 20 years and had no idea this took place. Anyway, I can report there were a great many followers, lots of them dressed appropriately and now having witnessed it I wish I'd known about it while I still lived here, it looks a lot of fun."

# Jack in the Green 2017



Hastings Jack in the Green © The Crown



Hastings Jack in the Green © IanFMCL



Hastings Jack in the Green © Rose Blakeley

# Jack in the Green 2017



Bluebell Hill (Rochester Sweeps) Jack in the Green © ianfmc



Fowler's Troop (Deptford) Jack-in-the-Green Janita Drew



Highworth Jack-in-the-Green © Paul Baskerville

# Jack in the Green 2017



Bristol Jack in the Green © Roger Hinchliffe



Bristol Jack in the Green © Roger Hinchliffe



Bristol Jack in the Green © Roger Hinchliffe



Dead Horse Morris Jack in the Green © Jonathan Henson and Dead Horse Morris.

# Jack in the Green 2017



Whitstable (Oyster Morris) Jack in the Green © Barry O'Brien



Guildford Bush or Jack in the Green © Helena



Guildford Bush or Jack in the Green © Helena

# Jack in the Green 2017



Oxford Jack in the Green © John Spiers



Brentnham May Day Jack-in-the -Green  
© @MPSCLlevelandHob



Bovey Tracey (Grimsound Morris) Jack in the Green  
© Martyn Hillstead



Grand Hama Morris (Isehra - Japan) Jack in the Green

# Jack in the Green 2018



Bluebell Hill Jack-in-the-Green © Tom Phillips



Knutsford Jack-in-the-Green



Ilfracombe Jack-in-the-Green © Tom Phillips



Grand Hama Morris Jack-in-the-Green



Bristol Jack-in-the-Green © @glosrdcentral

# Jack in the Green 2018



Whitstable Jack-in-the-Green with the wonderful Dixie Lee



Hammersmith Jack-in-the-Green  
© Hammersmith Morris



Deptford (Fowlers Troop) Jack in the Green © Bob Barton

# Jack in the Green 2018



Hastings Traditional Jack-in-the-Green © Rose Blakeley



Hammersmith Jack-in-the-Green  
© Hammersmith Morris



Bristol Jack-in-the-Green  
© Nick Plant



Hastings Traditional Jack-in-the-Green  
© @radicalhoneybee

# Company Notices



## Members Archive access and Merchandise

The Company of the Green Man t-shirts are available via our Zazzle store. You can choose the type of t-shirt (men's/ladies) the colour and the fabric (standard/organic etc.) You can also choose from a number of styles including hooded sweatshirts and double sided items. As with most online t-shirt manufacturers the prices are still a little high, but Zazzle regularly feature promotional codes on their website which brings them down to a reasonable price if you use standard shipping. The Company of the Green Man will make the minimal percentage possible on any sale in order to pass the saving on to our members. Zazzle promise 100% satisfaction, if you don't absolutely love it they'll take it back! To purchase yours just go to

[www.zazzle.co.uk/companyofthegreenman/products](http://www.zazzle.co.uk/companyofthegreenman/products) or use the merchandise tab on the blog.



Our Company of the Green Man members badge was designed and crafted by clog maker and leather worker Phil Howard. You can purchase your very own badge via our blog. Just click on the Members Badge tab and follow the instructions.

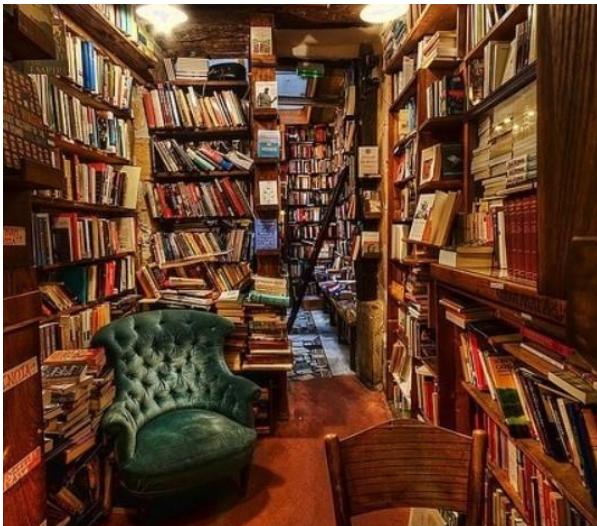


You can purchase unlimited access to our Newsletter Archive for £10.95. As well as Ron's 27 newsletters the archive contains downloadable .pdf copies of all the archived e-newsletters (currently 15) Each current e-newsletter will be added to the archive after being accessible to members for approximately 6 months. To access the archive just go to our blog at [www.thecompanyofthegreenman.co.uk](http://www.thecompanyofthegreenman.co.uk) and click on the "How to access the Newsletter Archive" tab at the top.



# Company Notices

## The Bookshop



The Company of the Green Man's very own virtual bookshop (with its virtual comfy leather chair) is currently closed for refurbishing. Unfortunately Amazon no longer allow their astore owners to add new content to their shops so I was unable to add any new titles to the webpage or even modify any existing titles. If you know of another online book shop that provides referral fees please do let me know.

## The Website



Our website and blog has been getting a bit cluttered and difficult to navigate over the last few years. I recently took the opportunity to update and tidy the website and hopefully members will find it much more user friendly. [www.thecompanyofthegreenman.co.uk](http://www.thecompanyofthegreenman.co.uk) Please feel free to have a wander and let me know if you think. I am always grateful for any corrections to the information on the website as well as additions to areas including Green Man Pubs, Morris Green Men, The Bibliography, The Image Archive and of course the Gazetteers of Green Men and The Traditional Jack in the Green.

## The Gazetteer

THE COMPANY OF THE GREEN MAN



## GAZETTEER

The Gazetteer of Green Men is available to download for free via the blog. It is now extremely large and requires a lot of updating and re-formatting but I would rather keep it available to you all in the meantime. I hope to be able to settle down and update it during next Winter. We always need help verifying many of the entries and members regularly discover as yet unrecorded green men, so please download the gazetteer and take the opportunity to find out if there are any green men near to you.

## Discussion Pages



A reminder that the discussion pages on the blog are now live. Please feel free to join in. I've built a main page which contains links to all the discussion posts that appear. Just look for the "Discussion Pages" tab at the top of the blog. If you would like to start a discussion topic please contact me via the 'Contact' tab at the top of the blog.

If you would like to comment on an open discussion please feel free to do so.





## The Company of the Green Man

(Founded 1998)

Ronald (Dusty) Millar wrote "The Green Man Companion and Gazetteer" in 1997 and in a note at the back of the book invited interested people to join The Company of the Green Man. And thus The Company Began.

The Company of the Green Man gathers, archives and makes freely available information, images and folklore about the Green Man and the traditional Jack in the Green. It supports current traditions that feature the Green Man and the Jack-in-the-Green worldwide. The Company also promotes artists and writers who feature the Green Man and the Jack-in-the-Green in their work and assists where possible the protection and preservation of architectural images of the green man and traditions involving the traditional Jack-in-the-Green.

Membership of The Company of the Green Man is currently free, and it is my intention to keep it free for as long as I can. One of the main reasons I can keep the running costs low is by trying to be as paperless as possible by keeping everything we do online. However, keeping the company online still costs money and it makes a loss every year. It would be great to be able to recuperate a small part of the costs if possible. If you enjoy your membership and these newsletters please do consider making a donation via the members area (where you downloaded this e-mail).

*If the wind is in the right direction and all is well I hope to publish the next e-newsletter in Winter 2018/19.*

*Please send any contributions to*

*[thecompanyofthegreenman@gmail.com](mailto:thecompanyofthegreenman@gmail.com)*

*In the meantime our website and blog at [www.thecompanyofthegreenman.co.uk](http://www.thecompanyofthegreenman.co.uk) is the place to find the latest information about the Green Man and the Traditional Jack-in-the-Green*



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*Thanks to Rob Stephens for designing our fantastic logo.*