



# The Belles of London City

The Belles continued with a busy second half of the year in 2024, dancing at events from Saddleworth to Lyme Regis and (what feels like) all points in between. And in the time between 'we should write another one of these newsletters' and now, we also appeared at the frosty but beautiful Whittlesea Straw Bear Festival for the first time - a huge thank you to everyone who's welcomed us so heartily in the last six months!

## NEW DANCERS

We're looking forward to introducing you to some brand new Belles in May 2025 - which means it's about time to get them started on the Belles sewing workshops! For everyone who's admired our stays: yes, we make them ourselves, which is why it's the one bit of kit we're determined not to spill beer on...



## OUR FIRST ALE

In November we held the first ever Belles Ale - a celebration & culmination of a really special dance season for us.

A huge huge thank you to everyone who came along (including many who made the trip from outside London, and some who travelled literally hundreds of miles to join us!) - it was such a joy to laugh and dance and talk and play with so many friends. And it was wonderful to see so many sides and traditions dancing together, including all the back and forth all night between Cotswold, Border, & NW Clog - you looked incredible!



## WHERE WE'VE BEEN

In the second half of 2024 we danced at:

- **Lyme Morris** Day of Dance
- Our own St Pancras tour
- Soho Village Fete
- Croydon Night of Dance
- Saddleworth Rushcart
- Bromyard Festival
- Love & Beer Festival
- **Dartington Morris** Day of Dance
- **Peterborough** Day of Dance
- **Jockey Morris** Day of Dance
- The Belles of London City Ale
- **Westminster's** festive dance out



## IMPORTANT SHENANIGANS UPDATES

Our resident bard, Leo, has written our very own mummers' play, entitled I Know What You Did Last Mummer. It's a suitably scholarly festive work & definitely includes no stupid morris in-jokes nor any lovingly-targeted Thaxted jibes (take your best shot, gentlemen!). It has now been catalogued in the VWML!

## COMING UP

In 2025, the Belles plan to be busy (again) - we're still finalising our 2025 calendar but expect to find us at the **Brunel Museum Wassail** (25 Jan), **May morning** on Primrose Hill, **Westminster Morris Day of Dance** (17 May), **Thaxted Weekend** (30 May - 1 June) and much more!

## Does all this sound fun?

In September we'll be ready to welcome brand-new dancers!

15TH ANNIVERSARY YEAR

NEWSLETTER



WINTER 2024



DANCING



SHENANIGANS

# I KNOW WHAT YOU DID LAST MUMMER

By Leo Samson - an excerpt

## St Nick

And now the play starts with an almighty yell...

## Belle

...In comes I, the Henchest Belle.

Laced in a signature corset and bloomers,  
Beloved by all of our artform's consumers.

In I come to rest my head,  
For summer was long and I long for my bed.

I've jigged across London, and Essex in part,  
Went to some beaches and hauled the rushcart.

From Thaxted to Westminster's stick in the drain,  
To Bromyard and Margate and Thaxted again.

Now Straw is all Balanced and Orange is Bloomed,  
I'll sleep through off-season, or so I'd assumed.

But here in the winter we meet once again...

## Thaxted Man

In comes I, of the Thaxted Men...

Want more? Here it is!

**[A Morris History of 2024, For Five Players](https://tinyurl.com/lastmummer)**

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