

TWELFTH NIGHT

An Ancient Midwinter Celebration

7:30m, Saturday January 6, 2018

The British (UK) Club of Cambridge

35 International Village Drive, Cambridge

Tickets: \$20.00 Advance, \$25.00 at the Door

This is not a presentation of William Shakespeare's play of the same name, but a revival of one of the oldest celebrations in the western world. Known in ancient Rome as Saturnalia, this was a twelve day festival celebrating the Winter Solstice.

In Christian times, it became the Twelve Days of Christmas. Beginning on Boxing Day, the Twelve Days consisted of dancing, feasting, music and merriment. It was the origin of today's Christmas holidays and Twelfth Night, the last and greatest night of the festival was regarded as the culmination of all the season's celebrations.

In the courts of the English Kings and Queens it was regarded as much more important than Christmas Day and was celebrated with dancing, feasting and elaborate Court Masques, These Masques consisted of fancy dress parties with dancing, fireworks and elaborate theatrical productions.

The common people celebrated much more simply, according to their means, but with the same enthusiasm and abandon. It was an important holiday up until colonial times in the early Americas, but has since become largely forgotten. Revivals of this celebration are occurring today in both Britain and the USA. The Mill Race Folk Society has now been celebrating this unique and ancient holiday for more than a decade.

The Mill Race Folk Society is presenting a Twelfth Night celebration as the grand finale of this year's Christmas events. The evening's festivities will include demonstrations of English folk dancing by Orange Peel Morris and Forest City Morris & Sword. Orange Peel Morris will also present a traditional Cornish Mummers Play entitled St. George and the Dragon and sing Pub Carols from South Yorkshire and Derbyshire.

Local band Tethera will provide ambient instrumental music to set the mood, and Relative Harmony from Guelph will host an English Country Dance where those willing can join in and participate.

Old Father Christmas will be in attendance in the role of Master of the Revels, accompanied by The Green Man. People are encouraged to come dressed in costume or any fancy dress of their choice.

Refreshments will be provided and there will be a cash bar. Tickets are only A MERE \$20 Advance and will be available at the door for \$25.00.

HOWEVER, the event regularly sells out so it is better to purchase tickets beforehand.

Advance tickets are available through the Mill Race Folk Society website: www.millracefolksociety.com

Part of the Grand River Folk Community: www.grandriverfolk.org

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