

Police probe allegation of 'abuse and threats' aimed at black face-painted Alvechurch Morris dancers

Readers may have seen [Birmingham on Saturday](#) celebrating Plough Monday (that was yesterday) traditionally the start of the farming year in England. On the Monday after Twelfth Night a plough is blessed by the local priest and taken round the village or town, bands play, Morris dancers dance, the Lord is praised for His gifts of agriculture and everyone prays for a fruitful harvest eventually. One of the sides was Alvechurch Morris who dance in the border tradition with black, guised faces. I have written about this [here.](#)

On Saturday some 'anti-racists' decided to interrupt the dancing in Birmingham, and in order to avoid causing an incident the Alvechurch men decided to finish the dance early. But they did stand up for themselves very politely, as shown in this video of one of the arrogant young pups who wanted his hurt feelings tended to.

As an aside I don't think this little boy is local to Birmingham – I think his accent is from a bit further north. Manchester would be my best guess.

Someone, presumably a dancer from the Alvechurch side made a formal complaint to the police about the harrassment. The Birmingham Mail describes how the 'anti-racists' tried to snatch the dancers hats. Now remember this is the West Midlands Police here. The [Undercover Mosque](#) by arresting the reporters. This is the report from local newspaper the [overwhelmingly in favour o](#) of the dancers. As are other Morris sides and Festival organisers. The next important event in the

folk calendar is this coming weekend in Cambridgeshire, the
Straw Bear Festival in Whittlesey (sometimes Whittlesea).
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