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Newsletter No. 85

July 2013

Page	The highlights of Newsletter No.85 include:
2	Bagman's comments
3	Vacancies <ul style="list-style-type: none">• The future of the Morris Shop• Area Rep for North• Squire of Morris Ring 2014-16
4	Reminders <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Morris Ring Display Boards• Squire's Massed Dances• Find a side entries
6	Up-dates from Newsletter No 84 <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Stewarding & Road Closures. JMO Information• Catalogue of feasts, weekends and Days of Dance• Morris Ring Archives - an appeal for information• Clog Irons• Sponsorship Request• Children in Need 2013 and 2014
13	Morris Ring Publications
14	Morris Ring and other events
15	Events in the year of the 80 th Anniversary of Foundation of the Morris Ring - including <ul style="list-style-type: none">➤ ARM 7th - 9th March 2014 Hosted by Hartley
17	2015 and beyond
18	Redding Moreys

Greetings all,

There has been no Newsletter since March because I have received so little news to include! While in some ways this is positive as it shows that the alternative 'modern' communication methods such as the Morris Ring web site and the Morris Ring Google Group are working and it saves the Morris Ring the expense of printing and postage, some people prefer an old-fashioned newsletter. I therefore begin rather than end Newsletter No 85 with an appeal that individuals and sides use this as an additional vehicle for news, requests, appeals, announcements, invitations, anything in fact that you would like to be communicated to the wider membership of the Morris Ring - and beyond because this newsletter always appears on the Morris Ring website.

In addition to the extremely successful JMO Day of Dance hosted by Great Western on behalf of the Morris Federation in Exeter four of the five 2013 meetings organised under the auspices of the Morris Ring in 2013 have taken place: Adelaide; Thaxted; Dolphin and Martlet. Information about and photographs of all of these events can be found on the host sides' web sites' and on the Morris Ring website and Reports will appear in the fullness of time in the Morris Ring Circular, now under the editorship of Tony Foard of Mersey Morris who is always on the lookout for morris-related snippets, articles, reports and pictures.

Please share the news and information in this Newsletter with the members of your side. You might have the ideal candidate for one of the job vacancies, it is important that everyone is aware of the issues surrounding Stewarding and Road closures, and it would be nice if all were aware how much was raised and that the Morris Ring along with our Open Morris and Morris Federation colleagues are continuing our Children in Need Appeal for a second year.

Please look at the various instructionals and meeting planned for 2014 and beyond. We are still looking for hosts for 2015 and as these things take some time to plan and organise we need volunteers fairly soon. Remember that the format of the event, and the sides who attend, is up to the host side - it does not have to be a full weekend, it can be a day with no feast or accommodation. It could be an event that you have organised for years that is simply designated as a Morris Ring numbered event so if you would like more information, or to discuss an idea, please get in touch with me.



A number of exciting opportunities will shortly become available for **you** to get involved in one aspect or another of the work of the Morris Ring.

Position 1: Shopkeeper.

After 19 years Steve BfB Adamson has decided that the time is now right to move on. Having announced this at the 2013 ARM he agreed to remain in post until a volunteer came forward but with a final cut-off date of the ARM 2014. During this interim period he is continuing to run the Morris Shop via mail order but with a reduced physical presence at Morris events.



We appreciate that Steve will be an impossible act to follow so accept that the Morris Shop of the future will be what the incumbent makes it. However, if no one steps forward the shop will be split into two. Core items that are difficult if not impossible to obtain elsewhere (bells, handkerchiefs, long white socks, the Black and Blue books and LMM CDs) will be available from the Morris Ring Bagman. All other remaining stock will be sold off via eBay or wherever else over the following few months and the proceeds returned, as has always been the case with Morris Shop profits, to further the work of our organisation. If you would further information as to what might be involved in this unpaid opportunity to serve the membership of not only the Morris Ring but the Morris community worldwide contact Steve on 01274 773830; 07826 299629 or Sadamsonbfb@Blueyonder.co.uk

Position 2: Area Rep for the North: The 16 sides in this MR area are still looking for someone to represent them on the Morris Ring Advisory Council.

While each area, and every Area Rep, is different in a nutshell their role is to be a link between the MR Squire and the sides within their geographical area. (See Newsletter No 84 for an outline of what they do - or have a chat with one of the other Area Reps.)

Position 3: Squire of the Morris Ring 2014-2016

Elections to find a replacement for Robin at the end of his period in post (September 2014) will be held at the 2014 ARM. Details of the nomination process will be included in the September Newsletter but please start thinking now. Could it be you or perhaps someone you know? Think about it. Talk about it. For information about what is involved in being Squire of the Morris Ring talk to Robin or one of his illustrious predecessors.

Position 4: Triennial elections for Area Reps.

This year the positions of Area Rep for North West (David Loughlin); West Midlands (Pete Simpson) and South West and Wales (Jed Dunn) come around for (re-) election.

Position 5: Bagman of the Morris Ring 2015 onwards

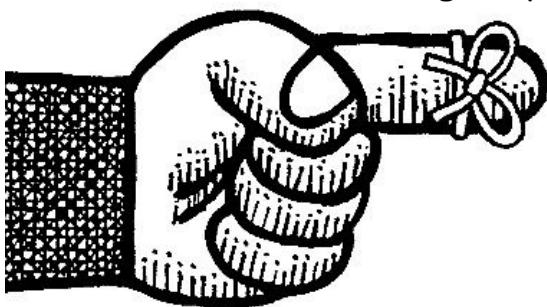
At the 2013 ARM I gave notice that this would be my last couple of years. We are therefore looking for candidates to put themselves forward for election at the 2015 ARM. Please give it your careful consideration.

Don't be shy - if you think that you could fulfil any of these roles please contact the Squire or the Bagman of the Morris Ring.



Reminder 1: Morris Ring Display Boards

Please use the Morris Ring Display Boards whenever an opportunity presents



itself. They are available from Roger Comley (South Midlands); Robin Springett (South West); Fred Hands (South East); Mike Stevens (East) and Charlie Corcoran (Midlands).



Reminder 2: Squire's Massed Dances for 2013

The uniform, almost regimented, displays performed by dozens of different Morris groups in as near symmetry as possible have passed. The concept of there being a right or wrong way of performing any dance or tradition has been replaced by sides adding their own slant or interpretation to their performance. While this has removed the awesome spectacle such as seen in the Opening Ceremony of the Beijing Olympic it is for many members of the public the highlight of a Morris event or festival. To this end each Squire of the Morris Ring publishes a list of dances as a suggestion for what might be included in such spectacles:

ADDERBURY	Lads a-Bunchum	Constant Billy
BAMPTON	Banbury Bill/Rose Tree	Maid of the Mill
BLEDINGTON	Idbury Hill	Young Collins
BRACKLEY	Jockey to the Fair	
BUCKNELL	Queen's Delight	
FIELDTOWN	The Valentine	Balance the Straw
HEADINGTON QUARRY	Constant Billy	Laudnum Bunches
LICHFIELD	Vandals of Hammerwich	



Reminder 3: Please check your Morris Ring *Find a Side* Entry

As well as your side's location, website address (where published) and contact name and phone number, we have now added the contact e-mail address we have been given for the Bagman.

Recommendation: We strongly suggest that each side creates a generic "bagman@sidenamewebsiteaddress". This has the twin advantages of anonymity plus as ease of administration (for you and for the Morris Ring) where post holders change.

Click here <<http://www.themorrisring.org/find-side>> and follow the instructions, to check your side's entry.

Peter de Courcy The Morris Ring Website Editor in Chief
(better known as Kennet's Fool)

Update 1 **Stewarding and road-closures**

In Newsletter No 84 there was an appeal on behalf of all three of the Morris Organisations (The JMO) concerning stewarding and road-closures (The involvement or not of police, local councils in traffic management or processions, road closures and the like.) It is clearly a problem that is likely to impact upon more and more Morris sides, festivals and similar events across the land as both councils and police forces are required to save money. The key point is that the responsibility burden for safety is being placed increasingly on the organisers of these events.



In the light of the information received and discussions held the following is being circulated to member groups on behalf of the JMO:

The Traffic Management Act 2004

Morris Dancing is an ancient pastime, which has been performed safely on our streets for centuries; however, following guidance from the Government, your local police force is unlikely to provide manpower to marshal any event involving closure, blocking or crossing any highway, and sides that have been running events for years are suddenly being asked to provide suitably qualified stewards/marshals. The reason for this is The Traffic Management Act 2004, which clearly states that the responsibility of the safe and efficient passage of traffic (including pedestrians & cyclists etc.) on the highway is the responsibility of the Highways Department of each Local Authority. So whereas the Police "have always done it" it is one of those things that they have recently realised they have never had the power! The Police are increasingly being held to account for what legislation they use and the reasons why they use it both in terms of litigation and proportionality. So nationally, the landscape is changing and locally your Police may have been subject to legal challenge and complaint around their traffic management powers, or lack thereof. The response nationally, is a Police withdrawal from anything covered by the 2004 Act, which covers anything "planned", rather than an "emergency".

The JMO is unable to give advice on exactly what to do, but one thing is certain, you will need to start early, at least 12 months in advance; be prepared for a lot of pre-planning and you will be required to complete a risk assessment (RA). The local authority will advise you of the best route etc., but if you have an historic route, your options are limited, and it is likely that you will be required to provide stewards/marshals trained and suitably equipped. Your local authority should be able to give advice. In principle,

the event organiser is required to do something to mitigate the risk to people participating in their event. The Police will no longer do that for you and you will have to consult with your local authority, and you will have to be guided by them. You should, of course remind them of the benefit to the town of the event you organise, and the amount of trade you will bring into the town; it will help if you get local councillors on your side. If you have to employ a private firm to steward your event, it is likely to cost at least £1000, so sweet talking your local authority is a must! You may wish to consider confining any large group movements to pedestrianized areas; when you cross roads, do so in relatively small groups, utilising such things as zebra or pelican crossings and avoiding walking in the road. Lawfully, as pedestrians, when you step onto the carriageway you have right of way. But a group of people is effectively a slow moving vehicle and must be surrounded by people in hi-visibility vests when on a highway, which takes us back to the need for trained stewards/marshals! The best advice is talk to your local authority well in advance!

Chris Gigg of Dolphin Morris Men has agreed to share his traffic plan / experience with the Gate to Southall last year - but expects further changes in the future.

The main problem they experienced was in understanding what the Police and the Highways departments wanted. The main points he learned were:

- *The Police have no powers to stop traffic and have a plan to stop policing all events except one or two national ones.*
- *We can all step onto the Queens Highway provided we do so safely.*
- *Police and Highways want to see an organiser as taking responsibility for the event by carrying out a risk assessment and writing a Traffic Management Plan.*
- *They want you to walk on the pavement wherever possible.*
- *They may want a traffic management company to deal with this, but I don't think they can insist.*
- *They may want marshals to be trained to a nationally recognised standard, but I don't think they can insist.*
- *In my experience of dealing with the authorities, they can suggest measures to take, you can accept or refuse to carry them out, but they leave you in no uncertain terms who will be to blame if it goes wrong.*
- *There is usually a fee associated with a road closure (this was waived as ours was a 'Community Event').*

- *Don't wait for them to contact you, get in touch as early as possible, I mean months ahead. If you don't receive a reply then persist as they will get in touch and pick holes in your plan with only a short time to go.*
 - *In all my dealings I stressed how long we had been doing this, the traditions associated with the day, and mentioned that Press Releases had already been issued.*
- Chris Gigg Dolphin Morris Men

**Traffic Management Plan
Gate to Southwell 2013
8th June 2013**

Created by: John Smith
email - event_organiser@morris.co
Phone - 0115 xxx xxx Mobile - 07801 xxx xxx

Distribution: Highways Department Police events planner - Nottingham Police
Traffic Marshals - Organisers - First Aiders

Index:

- 1 Introduction
- 2 Event proposal - Nottingham and Southwell
- 3 Roles responsibilities / Control structure
- 4 Communications
- 5 Risk Assessment
- 6 Emergencies, Incidents and First Aid
- Appendix A - Briefing to Marshals - Nottingham
- Appendix B - Briefing to Marshals - Southwell and TRO
- Appendix C - Risk Assessment
- Appendix D - Public Liability Insurance Certificate

1 Introduction:

The Gate to Southwell is a procession of dancers and musicians from Nottingham to Southwell in the manner of an ancient event some 500-600 years old. The modern procession was revived in 1981 and has taken place every year since then.

It is a community event, funded by the dancers and musicians themselves. Since 1981 it has been organised by Dolphin Morris Men and is a non-profit making event.

The Gate to Southwell provides a vehicle for local or national charities to fund raise for themselves.

Our insurers are Royal and Sun Alliance with a public liability indemnity of £10,000,000, a copy of the certificate is attached to this plan.

Chris' working template is on the Morris Ring Website:

Don't forget! The Morris Ring has its own supply of very smart high viz waist coats with the Morris Ring logo and the words 'Event Marshal'. These are currently lodged with The Morris Shop and are for the use of ALL member and associate sides.



Update 2 Catalogue of all Feasts, Weekends and Days of Dance

Also in Newsletter 85 I asked for outline details / dates of the Feasts, Weekends and Days of Dance & other events that Morris Ring sides regularly organise. The Squire of the Morris Ring would like to have compiled a list or catalogue that could be used of all, similar to those compiled by our partners in the JMO. This can be used for propaganda or publicity purposes (for example the number of sides who are performing on a particular day or date across the country) and can help to prevent avoidable clashes of events. Information please to bagman@themorrisring.org



Update 3 Archives What should the Morris Ring keep, where and how?



This question was posed to the Advisory Council by the MR Squire. To assist with this research in Newsletter No 84 I asked that all sides who keep an archive contact the Morris Ring archivist chrismetherell@googlemail.com to let him know how you are going about this task, where it is stored and how others can access the information therein contained. To the best of my knowledge this appeal has so far fallen on deaf ears. Please share your good ideas with Chris and send any materials for the archive to the appropriate individual:

Archive Group Chairman Chris Metherell chrismetherell@googlemail.com
Morris Ring Archivist & Keeper of Paper Archive Geoff Douglas
geoffdouglas@hotmail.com

Keeper of the Mumming Archive Ron Shuttleworth mumminguk@mail.com

Keeper of the Photograph Archive Duncan Broomhead
duncan.broomhead@btopenworld.com

Keeper of the Sword Dance Archive *Situation vacant*

Keeper of the Sound Archive Andy Padmore
andy.padmore@ntlworld.com

New Dance Collator Lester Bailey

Scrapbook Keeper Cliff Marchant cliffmarchant@btinternet.com

Logbook Keeper Charlie Corcoran charliecorcoran7@ntlworld.com



Update 4: Clog Irons

I have no idea of the source of the Telegraph's information, and even less the author of the Guardian's "Shortcut Blog", but the rumour, apparently exaggerated as it turns out, of the shortage of 'clog irons' even spread to BBC Radio 2. This exposure elicited several suggestions and offers, including:

I've just read the article in the Daily Telegraph about difficulty in obtaining clog irons. One suggestion might be to contact the Black Country Living Museum in Dudley. They have a working blacksmith there and it might be just up his street to produce some clog irons.

Regards from Sue Bell, Glorishears of Brummagem.

and

I saw your article on the shortage of clog irons in the Telegraph. I am a professional Blacksmith and I also teach at Kingston Maurward College in Dorset. I would be interested in helping you out with possibly a small pilot project to produce some of these for you. It is something that would be of interest to us as a college as many of my students will go on to be self-employed and will be looking for niche markets for traditional forge work.
Simon Grant.

or

I read the article in the Daily Telegraph about the shortage of irons for the Morris shoes; I would like to know more about the irons as I am a blacksmith and may be able to assist in some way. I am based in Peterborough Cambridgeshire
Regards, David

Following Robin Springett's interview with Simon Mayo we received this offer:

*I have just been listening to BBC 2 and heard Robert (sic) Springer talk about the problem of getting clog irons. I am a retired blacksmith in the Frome area and will be starting a small forge in the area in August. If I can help please contact me.
John Walton*

As a dancer of Cotswold and Border this is a foreign field to me - and the email from James who explained:

Plasma cutting is definitely a good way to go -- at least with respect to making blanks. You may have some minor forming to do to match the curvature of the clog.

Another option would be laser cutting. There are quite a few places that will take a computer file and cut out as many what-everes as you need for a reasonably economical price. Laser cutting tends to be more precise than plasma so there's less clean-up work to do.

And finally, from Jerry the Clog

I hold several sacks of clog irons. No one has ever shown much interest in them. I've got some Narrow Duck, some Wide Duck, a lot of Common Round, and some London Toe. These are old stock irons, not the modern mild steel garbage sold by *****s.
Mild steel's the wrong base metal to make irons from, don't last didley sqat. Old stock were mostly wrought iron
Cheers

Thanks for all who have tried to help .and despite the rather shallow content of some the recent media coverage of the *Clog Iron shortage*, some good has come from the publicity. We are grateful to all those who contacted us directly or contributed information on MDDL. Those wanting more information on clog making and clog irons would be well-advised to explore the following websites:

<http://www.ebay.co.uk/itm/Blacksmith-specialist-tasks-tyres-and-clog-irons-DVD-of-working-smiths-/380586988481>

<http://www.ebay.co.uk/itm/ORIGINAL-PATENT-APPLICATION-NUMBER-1954-FOR-CLOG-IRONS-/170746277395>

http://uk.images.search.yahoo.com/search/images?_adv_prop=image&fr=crmas&va=clog+irons+maker

<http://ftvdb.bfi.org.uk/sift/title/171190>

<http://www.clogmaker.co.uk/index.php>

<http://uk.search.yahoo.com/search?ei=UTF-8&fr=crmas&p=clog+irons+maker>

Caveat emptor: No assumption of quality should be inferred by Morris Ring publication of these links.



Update 5: Sponsorship Request:

Toby Melville of *Anker Morris Men* is still seeking sponsorship for his Kenyan expedition.

See Newsletter No 84 or contact Anker Morris men for further information



Update 6: Children in Need. First -a big thank you to Peter Halfpenney, immediate past Squire of the Morris Ring, for his efforts organising this joint effort. The following Press Release was issued but sadly sunk almost without trace:



Pudsey Benefits From Morris Dancing

At a ceremony in Sheffield on Saturday during a day of dance organised by Harthill Morris, Pudsey Bear was presented with a cheque for £10,000 by Peter Halfpenney on behalf of the Joint Morris Organisations. The money had been collected by Morris dancing sides from all over the country during the past year.

Peter said: *"Although Morris sides do much work for their local charities, this is the first time that we have concerted our efforts into a national appeal. We are very proud of the amount raised and thanks go out to all our members who contributed. So keen have been our dancers to engage with the project, we have decided to repeat the effort this year."*

Pudsey Bear was accompanied by actor and TV presenter, Matthew Kelly, for the handover. Matthew, who is appearing in Alan Bennett's acclaimed play 'The History Boys' at Sheffield's Crucible Theatre, told us: *"It is an honour to accept this huge donation on behalf of BBC Children in Need. I know that the Morris have danced their socks off in all weathers to raise this money. Their hard work will help to improve the lives of so many children. It is a creditable achievement."*

Morris dancing is the oldest form of folk dance continuously performed in England. Records in Caister Castle confirm its existence as early as 1448. Its popularity has waxed and waned over the centuries but a resurgence in national pride and keenness to keep fit has seen dancing numbers rising in recent years.

Further details of the 2013 Morris appeal and how to contribute can be found on the Morris Ring Website at www.themorrisring.org.uk

Please note that the *"So keen have been our dancers to engage with the project, we have decided to repeat the effort this year"*

If every member group of each of the three Morris Organisations were to get involved and make a donation Please try.



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☺ On-line Links:



The main MR website with millions of pages stuffed to the gunnels with all you need to know about the MR:

<http://www.themorrisring.org/>

The Morris Ring Google Group (MRGG). Private Forum for debate or announcements.

Contact Morris Ring Bagman to register to use.

<http://groups.google.com/group/the-morris-ring?hl=en&pli=1>

Morris Ring Facebook site: <http://www.facebook.com/pages/The-Morris-Ring/158759257502840>

Morris Ring Twitter: <http://twitter.com/#!/TheMorrisRing>



If your side has forthcoming events or items of interest to all, make sure that you get them posted on one or more of these sites - and let the Bagman of the Morris Ring have details for the Newsletter.

Morris Ring and other events: 2013

339th 23rd - 25th August Silkeborg Meeting



Date & Venue to be confirmed: JMO Conference planned for the Autumn:

Taking Morris into schools - an opportunity to share good practice.

Further information to follow. Barry Goodman Morris Fed)



Dancing with Staves: One Day Workshop with Roy Dommett

Date: Saturday 5th October 2013

Venue: Saltford Community Hall, (on A4 between Bath and Bristol) BS31 3BY

The day will include a talk by Philip Hoyland.

Tickets £12 available in April Further info from: Barbara Butler

somersetmorris@hotmail.com



11th - 13th October 2013 Cotswold Set Dance Instructional

Hosts: Uttoxeter Heart of Oak Morris Men

Venue: Offley Hay Village Hall, Copmere. Eccleshall, Staffs, ST21 6HH

Cost: £60 per person, discounted by 50% for under-18 year-olds.

Age limit is 16 years.

Traditions covered: Bledington, Hinton and Oddington.

The aim of the instructional is to provide a detailed training session in selected Morris traditions. This will be a brush-up for those who already dance these traditions or a starter for those wishing to add these to their repertoire. Since this is the first instructional I have organised and a new venue, this year will not be suitable for those new to Cotswold Morris.

The venue allows us to run at least two sessions simultaneously. The sessions will start on Friday evening and finish on Sunday at lunchtime.

For further details and to apply please contact Mac McCoig or if you have any queries please email mac.mccoig@btinternet.com or telephone 01785 851052.

Morris Ring Advisory Council There will be a meeting of the Morris Ring Advisory Council on Sunday 13th October at Eccleshall. If there is anything that your side would like brought to the attention of the Squire of the Morris Ring either contact him directly or talk to your Area Rep.

*25th - 27th October Fools & Beasts Unconvention
Open to all budding or experienced Fools, Beasts and
Morris Characters from any team from the Ring,
Open or Federation.*



This will be based in Sheffield, SOUTH YORKSHIRE and will involve workshops, walking tour and more tba! The Feast is planned to be at the Fulwood Inn

Accommodation is indoor camping as usual, but there is no space for outdoor camping - anyone wishing to bring a tent will have to camp at a nearby Camp site - please contact *Robert Chisman, Scrivener and Convenor* for further details. 01503 272250 (day) 01503 272437 (eve); mobile 07970063922. E-mail: *triggertrotter1@aol.com*

Camper vans are welcome, but there is no hook-up. There are toilets and a shower available. Robert will need to know at **time of application** which sort of accommodation you require. Cost: approx. £60 per person.

Application form is on the Morris Ring website

Final date for Applications 12th October 2013.



1st - 3rd Nov 2013 18-30s Weekend
Hosted by Whitchurch MM at Haddenham



Morris 18-30 provides a network for young Morris Men. Its primary activity is to organise an annual weekend, hosted by a Morris Ring side, to which all young Morris Men are invited. Morris 18-30 also seeks to represent the views of all young Morris Men.

The aim is to encourage a group of energetic young men who, whilst representing their own local teams, can dance together to push the Morris Ring into the future.

Further information about Morris 18-30 and the 2013 weekend visit:
www.morris1830.org.uk

2014 Morris Ring events to mark the 80th Anniversary of Foundation of the Morris Ring

7th - 9th March ARM Hosted by Hartley

Based in the village of Wrotham, handy for the M20/M25/M26 motorway network. Accommodation will be indoor camping (heated & showers for both sexes) with secure facilities for tents or caravans and this will be reflected in the price. For those who wish to pay extra there is a 'posh' Inn in the village or either a Holiday Inn or a Premier Inn both situated about 1.5 miles away.

Friday & Saturday evening pub sessions and a Sunday morning excursion will be arranged if there is sufficient interest. Brian Tasker will be leading a Sword Instructional on Saturday morning.

"2014 is the 80th anniversary of the founding of the Stansted Morris Men whose members reformed as the Hartley Morris Men after the war had interrupted their activities. We look forward to welcoming representatives from other sides to join us in the village that has become our 'spiritual' home for the past 36 years." Terry Heaslip

Please remember that this weekend provides the opportunity for all sides in the Morris Ring to get together to influence the future of this organisation. Founded in 1934 the Morris Ring provides much more than a few publications and a shop but too many people in our member sides are unaware of the fellowship and friendship that makes the Morris Ring tick. One thing is certain; just as we have changed over the past few years and must continue to change if we are to retain our position of influence in the Morris world. Those sides represented at the ARMs are central to this process. Please seriously consider sending representatives to this important event.



4th - 6th April Devil's Dyke Morris Meeting Venue: King's Ely

Early information suggests that this promises to be a very special meeting. Accommodation will be in study bedrooms. And the Feast will be held in their 14th century monastic barn. The tours will cover the Cambridgeshire and Suffolk countryside, each visiting 5 pubs (showcasing a range of breweries and not just Greene King) and tea at a local National Trust property. On the Sunday morning there will be an optional service in Ely Cathedral followed by

massed dancing on the large paved area outside the West door of the Cathedral.

With a maximum of 120 places this will be one for early application.

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Saturday 10th May JMO Day of Dance Hosted by the Cambridge Morris on behalf of the Morris Ring. Visit this historic and picturesque city and dance.

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30th May - 1st June Thaxted Morris Meeting

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22nd-24th August Saddleworth Rushcart

This is indeed a coup for the Saddleworth chaps to agree that the event in 2014, their 40th Anniversary, should double as a numbered Morris Ring occasion. Nothing will change. The format of this hugely popular weekend will remain the same - and for those who have never experienced the pleasure and the pain I cannot recommend it highly enough.

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5th-7th Sept. Dartington Morris Meeting. Popular venue in the far South West. Watch Robin dance out - and the new Squire (might it be you?) dance in.

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Morris Ring and other events: 2015 and beyond

We are still looking for sides to host meetings / events in 2015 and beyond. So far we have.....

2015

March ARM Hosted by TBA
May 29th - May 31st Thaxted Morris Meeting
Late June Great Yorkshire Morris

2016

March ARM Hosted by TBA
June 3rd-5th Thaxted Morris Meeting

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♦ ♦ ♦ ♦
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10th August 2013 Redding Moreys



The 500th Anniversary is Saturday 10th August. Kennet and ten other local sides will be dancing in and around Reading throughout the day. Local dancers have formed a group called "Redding Moreys". With assistance from Steve Rowley they have interpreted the Gresley Manuscript and hope to re-create a Morris

performance that would not have looked out of place in 1513.

They plan to perform all of the three known dances from the era!

Pictures of what the Redding Morris Man will look like and hopefully might have looked like.



The dancers would have worn their own clothes with a waistcoat over the top. The waistcoat would have been painted in the colours of whoever was paying for the performance - in this case St Laurence's church - so this shows the Arms of the Diocese of Winchester on the back. The colours and garishness of the waistcoat are about as authentic as we can get them.



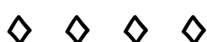
The dancing should last start at 11.00am - at St Laurence church itself and finish formally at about 16.00. If you would like more information about Redding Moreys, would like to get involved with them or help sponsor the kit please contact Chris Hutchinson on 01252 875510 or 07739 216553. Details of events on the day should also appear shortly on Kennet's web site.



A Morris history question. Can you help?

Anonymous Morris has been given a "percussion stick" (the kind with lots of bottle tops nailed to it). It has a head with a face done in pyrography and a lot of pom-poms hanging round the top. They believe that it originally belonged to a now defunct side in Bristol. The 'best before' date on the bottle caps is 1964, and the side probably folded at least 10-20 years ago. Have you any idea what the side might have been?

If you have any ideas please let me know and I will pass the information on to Anonymous.



Melodeon Making course Alan Balding (of Wyvern Jubilee Morris Men) & Emmanuel Pariselle are planning a melodeon making course in Somerset in May 2014. Limited to 10 people, closing date October 2013 (parts have to be ordered). For more information contact alanbalding@yahoo.co.uk



An open invitation Leicester Morris celebrate their 60th Jubilee. You are invited to join Leicester Morris Men and their friends at Rothley Station on **The Great Central Railway** on Sunday 1st September 2013



The Great Central Railway is the UK's only double track, main line heritage railway. It's the only place in the world where full size steam engines can be seen passing each other - just as it was when steam ruled the rails.

We plan to have displays running from 11.00am to 2.00pm - arranged to fit in with both GCR schedules and requirements of visiting sides. Visitors from both near and far will have the opportunity to dance, watch the dances, and look at the trains or a combination of all three.

Based at Rothley Station the **day is free**, but you have the opportunity to purchase reduced-price tickets (£8



instead of £15) to travel on the trains - to Loughborough and the engine sheds, to Quorn and on to Leicester North.

More information about GCR on: <http://www.gcrailway.co.uk/>

There will be a **Real Ale Beer Tent** and you can pre-order lunch (for £5), bring your own or purchase from the Station Buffet.

More information from Bagman of Leicester Morris Men

And finally I repeat my appeal for you to check your email systems and erase my @nasuwt.net & @longslade.leics.sch.uk email addresses. I no longer work at Longslade College and the @NASUWT email system is changing in the near future. Please only use only use bagman@themorrisring.org or charliecorcoran7@ntlworld.com.

Enjoy the rest of the Summer.

Charlie

Bagman of the Morris Ring