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**Newsletter No. 91**

**September 2014**

## 2014 80th Anniversary of Foundation of the Morris Ring

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## Morris Ring Display Boards

Please look for opportunities to use this resource; Contact your Area Rep if you can make use of a set of the Morris Ring Display Boards.

Arrangements can be made to get them to you!



Area Rep.: East	Mike Stevens	MikeStevensPE11@aol.com
Area Rep.: North	Paul Cross	pakcross@gmail.com
Area Rep.: North West	David Loughlin	Dave.Loughlin@ernestgriffiths.com
Area Rep.: South West & Wales	Tim Sercombe	timothy.sercombe@gmail.com
Area Rep.: West Midlands	Pete Simpson	simpsonfam@live.com
Area Rep.: North East	Brian Pollard	bripol@sky.com
Area Rep.: North Midlands	Ben Robinson	ben@packingtonmorris.org.uk
Area Rep.: South Midlands	Roger Comley	No email address
Area Rep.: South East	Cliff Marchant	cliffmarchant@btinternet.com

If you made use of one of the sets of the display boards please let Tony Foard have a photo of them *in situ* for possible inclusion in a future edition of The Circular.



Robin Springett danced out and Adam Garland dances in at Dartington

Photo by Steven Archer



Greetings All.

It has been a busy summer and next year looks likely to be equally hectic - and from the events offered in this Newsletter the intervening months could be just as busy. Bagmen - please share the information with your side and remember that many of the events welcome individuals even if the whole side cannot go!

Please remember that we are looking for nominations by the ARM to take over the role of Bagman of the Morris Ring



## MORRIS RING ANNUAL SUBSCRIPTION 2014-2015

Bagmen will receive a copy of the Member or Associate Renewal form with the printed copy of this Newsletter. *[Bagmen: For sides who have agreed only to receive electronic communications it is also available as a pdf and if you are not the person responsible to your side for making this payment please forward this form to the person who is..... ASAP.]*

Please complete and return the form to Steven Archer, the MR Treasurer, even if your side pays by Bankers Standing Order, to ensure that our records are up to date and to ensure that we, the Morris Ring, complies with Data Protection regulations ①. As in previous years the subscription deadline remains St. Andrew's Day: 30th November 2014.

Your new Third Party Public Liability Insurance document will run from the 25<sup>th</sup> January 2015. If you settle your annual subscription dues before 30<sup>th</sup> November 2014 you will receive your insurance document by e-mail from the Morris Ring Treasurer before the insurance renewal date. **If your subscription is NOT received by the date stated, the additional £10 becomes due** and your insurance document may be delayed.

For a policy schedule, please see:-

<http://www.themorrisring.org/sites/default/files/attachments/Joint-Morris-Summary-2011V1.pdf>

The application / renewal form for the optional Personal Accident Insurance will be available with the next Newsletter. The deadline for this remains 20<sup>th</sup> January 2015.

EXTRA: Please remember that if any person in your side wishes to receive their own personal copy of either the Morris Ring Newsletter or Circular, please contact the Treasurer for the 'Individual Publication Subscription' form.

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① Contact information provided to the Morris Ring is collected for its database, to be used for Morris Ring membership purposes and activity. It will be published and circulated to members and others with a legitimate interest in the information. However the person supplying it to the Morris Ring agrees to any disclosure of the information that may occur inadvertently outside of that purpose. Please contact the Bagman if this presents any problems.



**Retirement** In April we heard that Malcolm Taylor is stepping down from his post as Library Director of the Vaughan Williams Memorial Library of the English Folk Dance and Song Society (EFDSS) after 35 years.



Malcolm Taylor and Ursula Vaughan Williams in the Vaughan Williams Memorial Library  
Photo: EFDSS

Robin Springett commented:

*"Malcolm has been an influential figure at the VW Library for so long, and where he has offered substantial help to many members of the Morris Ring (as well as others!) who, over the years, have been researching Morris related matters. The Morris Ring feels that it is appropriate to formally register our sincere appreciation and thanks for all his work during his 35 years with EFDSS. He will be missed and will be a hard act to follow."*

Bursary fund:

"Malcolm has been an exemplary Director and for much of his tenure, for much of the wider world, Malcolm Taylor was EFDSS. His work has been acknowledged with the EFDSS Gold Badge, an OBE and Roots Award at the BBC Folk Awards 2012, the first non-musician to receive this award.

To honour the support and sustain the work and the approach to the work that Malcolm has fostered over these many years we (*the EFDSS*) would like to set up a bursary fund to support the maintenance and archiving of the records of small folk

organisations such as dance clubs, festivals and display dance sides. This has been one of Malcolm's keen interests (other than cricket!).

So on behalf of the current EFDSS Board of Trustees, I would like to invite you to join us in honouring Malcolm by contributing what you feel you can to this Bursary Fund."

Alan James EFDSS Chair Shirley Collins EFDSS President

If you or your side would like to contribute please send a cheque made payable to EFDSS and send c/o Jane Gregory, Membership Administrator, EFDSS, Cecil Sharp House, 2 Regent's Park Road, London, NW1 7AY with a note to say it is for the Malcolm Taylor Bursary Fund. Alternatively you can make a payment by electronic transfer to the account below; please use the reference MT Bursary Fund.

If you are able to add Gift Aid to this donation, please enclose a note authorising EFDSS to claim Gift Aid on this donation for cheque payments or email Jane at [membership@efdss.org](mailto:membership@efdss.org) to let her know.

Bank: HSBC, 176 High Street, Camden, NW1 8QL Account No: 10333034  
Account Name: English Folk Dance & Song Society Sort Code: 40-02-03



### **Morris Ring 80th Anniversary Polo and Rugby Shirts.**

It is still not too late to purchase polo or rugby shirts in a selection of colours embroidered with the Morris Ring 80th Anniversary logo, and have your own wording as well from [www.snappycrab.co.uk](http://www.snappycrab.co.uk).



You can use debit cards, but not credit cards for your purchase; choose your colour and add your own wording on the chest or sleeve.

Go to the website, select Home and scroll down to The Morris Ring, or use the following link: <http://www.snappycrab.co.uk/products/92/-the-morris-ring/>



## Children in Need.

Please remember that the three Morris Organisations' charity is BBC Children in Need.



A Presentation of the monies raised in 2014-15 will be made at next year's National JMO Day of Dance on Saturday 18<sup>th</sup> April 2015 hosted in Bristol by Rag Morris on behalf of Open Morris.

We encourage every team or side in the country to see if we can raise £10,000 over the year.

A reminder of the bank details for donations to the JMO Charity Appeal:

Sort Code: 40 - 41 - 44

Account number 01729780  
(HSBC)

Please do not pay it directly to Pudsey.



**EFDSS with the Joint Morris Organisations (JMO) presents:**

## **More Morris, Better Morris, in schools and beyond**

Sunday 2 November 2014, 10am - 5pm  
Cecil Sharp House, Camden, London NW1 7AY

*A dynamic day of presentations and practical sessions on the delivery of high-quality morris dance workshops, both in school and out.*

Whether you are an experienced morris dancer, teacher or morris side, or just starting out and keen to pass on the morris traditions, this conference offers a fantastic opportunity to learn more about teaching morris dancing to young people. This day will inspire you, connect you and feed your ideas for the delivery of great morris dancing sessions!



Content will be across a range of morris and sword dance traditions and styles, and include topics such as:

- Delivery in primary and secondary education and links to the curriculum
- Setting up and running groups in out-of-school settings
- What an inspiring morris dance workshop looks like for children and young people and current best practice in dance education
- Safe practice - looking after the bodies of young dancers at different stages of their development
- Kitbag - ideas, information and resources on planning and structuring sessions, writing a CV, insurance and safeguarding issues

### **Inspire future generations of morris dancers**

**Conference fee** £20 including refreshments and lunch

Book online via Eventbrite <http://bit.ly/1kbN9Vf>





Visit: <http://www.themorrisshop.com/>



## MORRIS RING PUBLICATIONS

☺ **Anthony Foard:** Editor of the Morris Circular

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The latest edition of **The Morris Dancer** is available for download

<http://www.themorrisring.org/publications/morris-dancer>

☺ **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/>

Follow the latest media reports concerning Morris Matters at

<http://www.themorrisring.org/article/morris-matters>

- Morris Ring Google Group (MRGG). Private Forum for debate or announcements. <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>

**Youth Fund** This has been used to assist the Sussex Primary Schools Morris Festival and Mike Stevens "Great Eastern Morris Workshop". The fund is now very low on cash and if we wish to continue to support youth projects from the fund an urgent injection of cash is needed. The AGM season is upon us and it would be a good opportunity to remind sides of the fund and to ask for their support.

"In 2009 the Morris Ring set up a Youth Fund to support the formation of new sides of young men. Since that time the parameters of projects which the fund supports have been widened and now the fund is available to support any project which gets young people dancing the morris. Donations have been made to the Plumpton Children's Morris Festival in Sussex and support was given to The Great Eastern Morris Workshop run by Mike Stevens in the Eastern Area. A report on this event was published in the Winter 2013/14 edition of the MR Circular. This project was designed to improve the dancing skills of boys and young men and participants were aged between thirteen and twenty years. It is hoped that similar projects can be run in other parts of the country but this can only be supported by the Morris Ring if it has dedicated funds available."

Can you or your side follow the fine example of Mayflower?

*"At our AGM last night, it was agreed that our side would like to make a donation of £300 to the Youth Fund. We feel that this is excellent work and the right way to keep the tradition going."*

Andrew Reynolds Bagman (treasurer) Mayflower Morrismen. Billericay.



**2014**

**A very busy weekend:**

**Oct 17<sup>th</sup>-19<sup>th</sup> Fools & Beasts Unconvention**



There is still time to apply for a place at this year's Unconvention at St Mabyn, nr Bodmin, Cornwall, Oct 17<sup>th</sup>-19<sup>th</sup> 2014!

You may be thinking - "Why should I travel all that way?

What's it all about, anyway?" Well, if you are a Fool, Beast, Molly/Betsy or any other character e.g. a Master of Ceremonies involved in the Morris, then you are eligible to become a member of the Illustrious Order of Fools and Beasts by attending an Unconvention! Cost? £65 for the weekend.

Accommodation is holiday lodges, or bring your tent or camper van.

Whether you think you know everything about Fooling or Beasting - or know nothing at all because you have just started, or want to start, then this event is for YOU! It is a great opportunity to meet, chat and swap ideas with other fools and beasts, join in our workshop on the Saturday morning, then put into practice what you have learnt by dancing out with Trigg, Tywardreath and Plymouth sides on the tour, visiting Bodmin and Mevagissey. There will be a Feast on Saturday night, AGM on Sunday morning - a chance to have YOUR say, then more dancing and optional Sunday lunch.

Lady fools, beasts and musicians more than welcome - this event is open to members of all three Morris organisations. Closing date is October 6<sup>th</sup> - so please don't procrastinate - send your application in NOW! Application forms available from our website [www.foolsandbeasts.org.uk](http://www.foolsandbeasts.org.uk) or from ring website, or from me, Robert Chisman [triggertrotter1@aol.com](mailto:triggertrotter1@aol.com).

I do have one minor problem - Trigger and I are moving very soon to a new address, so as well as sending your application forms to the address on the form, please e-mail me with your intention to come, better still text me on 07970063922 because I don't know what the communications are going to be like during the move!!

See you all soon - yours, Robert and Trigger.

**Application form at end of Newsletter**

**JMO Workshop: Saturday 18<sup>th</sup> October**

**Postponed**

Rickmansworth British Legion

**RUNNING A SUCCESSFUL MORRIS SIDE**

Cost £15.00 per person including lunch

**JOINT MORRIS  
ORGANISATION**

MORRIS FEDERATION,  
MORRIS RING & OPEN MORRIS

We would strongly recommend that sides seriously consider sending a representative to this workshop. Similar events in the past have been very informative. The session covering 'Morris & the law', dealing with road closures, stewarding & the like, is something with which all sides need to be familiar.

**17<sup>th</sup> - 19<sup>th</sup> October Morris 18-30 Weekend.**

Birstall, Leicester <https://www.facebook.com/Morris1830>



**Sun 19<sup>th</sup> Oct 2014 MR Advisory Council Meeting Birstall. Leics.**



**5<sup>th</sup>- 6<sup>th</sup> Dec. Mummers Festival, Gloucester.** On the 5<sup>th</sup> Dec there is a symposium at which along with the academic papers they include presentations from mummers about their team, the history of their side, or other aspects of their experience of mumming and mumming related activity.

The Call for Papers can be found at:

<http://www.mummersunconvention.com/symposium/call-for-papers/>

Stephen Rowley

**2015**

**16<sup>th</sup>-18<sup>th</sup> Jan Morris Ring Jigs Instructional**

For dancers at ALL levels of competence, a full weekend of high-quality dance coaching, even if you don't aspire to be a solo performer. [jigsinstructional@themorrisring.org](mailto:jigsinstructional@themorrisring.org)

**Application form at end of Newsletter**



**Jan 29<sup>th</sup>-1<sup>st</sup> Feb Musicians Instructional**

Hosts: Ripley MM Venue: Kirky-in-Ashfield

Open to male and female musicians from the three Morris organisations.

**Application form at end of Newsletter**



**Sat 7<sup>th</sup> March ARM West Midlands venue. Details to follow**



**18<sup>th</sup> April JMO National Day of Dance** hosted by Rag Morris in Bristol

***Note late change of date***



**Sat 25<sup>th</sup> April West Somerset Morris Men 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary DAY OF DANCE** with Invited Teams. Contact them for further information.



**8<sup>th</sup> - 10<sup>th</sup> May 344 Helmond 80<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Ring Meeting** will be a traditional Ring Meeting with tours and shows on Saturday and Sunday. There will be outdoor camping (indoor camping is still under consideration). The costs will be about the same as comparable Ring Meetings in England. Information as it becomes available will be posted on <http://morrisdans.nl/helmond/ring.html>

## 29<sup>th</sup>-31<sup>st</sup> May 345 Thaxted Morris Meeting

Further information will follow when available from host side.



## 13<sup>th</sup>-14<sup>th</sup> July 346 Hartley Meeting

The Feast and accommodation numbers are limited to 120 bods.

This meeting of Morris Ring sides is based around the 9<sup>th</sup> SIBA South East of England Beer Festival held at the grounds of the Tonbridge Juddians Rugby Club, (TN9 1HR), which is located behind Tonbridge Castle and close to the High Street with its pubs and restaurants.

Our aim is to design a low cost, pay-as-you-go meeting, but with a proper Hartley style Feast. (Good food, beer and company, no speeches, just toasts followed by singing etc.)



The Siba Beer Festival Marquee and the Rugby Clubhouse

**Accommodation:** Indoor camping will be in the Juddians clubhouse, adjacent to the Beer Festival. A limited number of tents and campervans can be located in the club grounds. The clubhouse has numerous changing rooms and showers. We can sleep in the large hall and the changing rooms. An en-suite changing room will be set aside for Female Musicians.

All meals (other than the Feast) can be purchased from the Beer Festival, or the pubs and cafes in the Town. These include a range of pubs including Wetherspoons and most of the national restaurant chains.

**Costs:** The only fixed charge for the weekend will be in the region of £23. This will cover the cost of the Feast and accommodation in the club house or grounds. If you want to come for the day or part of the weekend, please contact us.

**Expressions of interest by January 1<sup>st</sup> and FULL payment by 1<sup>st</sup> May**

The proposed programme for the meeting is:-

**Friday 10<sup>th</sup> July** - Evening - informal socialising at the festival or in the town. Meals at the festival barbecue or in the Town at cost. Bed down from after Beer Festival closes at 11pm.

**Saturday 11th July** - showers etc., then clear hall and stow bedding in secure changing rooms. Breakfast at local Wetherspoons etc. Clear hall by 11am when Beer Festival opens. Dance displays throughout the day at the Beer Festival and designated sites around Tonbridge (possible tours to local villages by service buses). It is hoped to organise a massed display in the afternoon. Evening, Feast then socialising, etc. The Beer Festival closes at 11pm. Most town pubs stay open until later. Bed down from after Beer Festival closes at 11pm.

**Sunday 12th July** - as Saturday until 11am. Dance displays throughout the day at the Beer Festival and designated sites around Tonbridge. We will be joined by other local Morris sides and the day will be organised as a Regional JMO Day of Dance.

**Contacts:** All booking & accommodation enquiries direct to Tony Tomlin on Tony-Tomlin@outlook.com phone - 01622 685960

- Meeting Website - <http://www.hartleyringmeeting.org> for an application form
- SIBA Beer Festival website - <http://www.southeastbeerfest.org.uk>
- Tonbridge Juddians Rugby Club - <http://tjrffc.co.uk/ation>



**15<sup>th</sup> August 347 Mersey MM** One-Day Meeting Liverpool City Centre based. Day of Dance format: day time only, no feast, no accommodation.



**21<sup>st</sup> - 23<sup>rd</sup> August 348 Saddleworth 41<sup>st</sup> Rushcart**

Pay as you go event. Limited accommodation available. No centrally organised food. No feast, speeches, massed dancing, p.a. systems, or bus tours.

The 'Cart is pulled around the villages of Saddleworth on the Saturday with dance spots throughout the day. On Sunday the 'Cart is pulled up to Saddleworth Church for the spreading of rushes on the Church floor, with dancing and competitions such as Gurning, Wrestling, Clog Stepping & Worst Singer, throughout the afternoon.

A Morris weekend where you are in charge of how much you spend!



## **4<sup>th</sup>- 6<sup>th</sup> Sept 349 Anker Morris' 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Morris Meeting**

For a chance to explore the delightful villages and breweries of North Warwickshire, come and join Anker Morris Men for their 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary celebrations. Indoor camping will be provided in the village of Bulkington, just outside Nuneaton, and 2 coach tours on Saturday will take in the market towns and country villages of the area with Weston Hall hotel hosting our feast on Saturday evening. At the centre of Britain, we are easy to find and to get to wherever you come from. Female musicians are very welcome; in fact, we have one of our own! The approximate cost will be £75 for the full weekend. We haven't capacity for the world's biggest ring meeting, so do hurry to let us know you'd like to join us!

### **2016**

March	<b>ARM Hosted by TBA</b>
3 <sup>rd</sup> - 5 <sup>th</sup> June	<b>Thaxted Morris Meeting</b>
TBC	<b>Greensleeves MM 90<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Morris Meeting</b> (Based in Chipperfield)

### **2017**

March	<b>ARM Hosted by TBA</b>
TBC	<b>Thaxted Morris Meeting</b>



Below is a link to a petition to protect music venues from new UK planning rules. If you feel strongly, please sign and alert any other musical forums.

[http://www.change.org/p/sajid-javid-mp-adopt-the-agent-of-change-principle?recruiter=45934723&utm\\_campaign=signature\\_receipt&utm\\_medium=email&utm\\_source=share\\_petition](http://www.change.org/p/sajid-javid-mp-adopt-the-agent-of-change-principle?recruiter=45934723&utm_campaign=signature_receipt&utm_medium=email&utm_source=share_petition)





And finally.....



### Is it a record?

The Rutland Morris Men 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Day of Dance bus 'broke down' 25 metres from Exton Village Hall, the base for the weekend.

... but it still was an excellent day - thanks Rutland!

### New Squire's Massed Dances for 2015

Bampton	Rose Tree
	Maid of the Mill
Bledington	William and Nancy
	Young Collins
Brackley	Jockey to the Fair
Bucknell	Queen's Delight
Fieldtown	The Valentine
	Balance the Straw
Headington	Constant Billy
	Getting Upstairs
Lichfield	Vandals of Hammerwich

*Charlie*

Bagman of the Morris Ring

**the morris**  
**80**  
**years**  
**founded 1934**