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## Agenda for the 2026 Morris Ring Annual Representatives' Meeting

The ARM at Oak Farm Hotel, Hatherton (Watling St, Cannock WS11 1SB)  
on the 7<sup>th</sup> March 2026

1. Attendees and apologies
2. Minutes of the 2025 meeting see [Appendix 1](#)
3. Matters arising from the minutes

### Safeguarding policy – advice on DBS

*Anyone can get a basic DBS as an individual, anything enhanced needs to go through an organisation. If a side is doing something, eg, with the local cubs / guides, then the leaders will have all the appropriate checks and so the side doesn't need them as long as no-one is left alone with the children. If a side is doing something on their own with children then there are two possibilities. If someone has an enhanced DBS through work, then that is acceptable and the side do not need to do anything further. If no-one has an enhanced check, then individuals (at least 2) need to get individual basic DBS checks, and ensure no-one is left alone with the children. As long as there is no 'lone working' they don't need the enhanced.*

Wording on complaints policy – suggested update to wording on reputation

*The Officers of the Morris Ring need to consider carefully all such situations where the events may lead to poor public perception of Morris and its participants and act to change, deter or correct any such behaviour.*

4. Officers' reports:

- a. Squire of the Morris Ring - see [Appendix 2](#)
- b. Bagman of the Morris Ring - see [Appendix 3](#)
- c. Treasurer of the Morris Ring - see [Appendix 4](#)
- d. Chairman of the Advisory Council. – *no report yet received*
- e. Morris Ring Archive Group. – *no report yet received*
- f. Webmaster and publications - see [Appendix 4.1](#)
- g. Overseas Bagman - see [Appendix 4.2](#)

5. Election of Squire

6. Nominations of teams for Full membership

- a. Saddleworth Women's Morris and Clog - see [Appendix 5](#)

7. Area Representatives' Reports

South Midlands – *no report yet received*

North West – *no report yet received*

North East – see [Appendix 6](#)

North – see [Appendix 7](#)

West Midlands – see [Appendix 8](#)

Eastern – see [Appendix 9](#)

South West - see [Appendix 10](#)

South East - see [Appendix 10.1](#)

East Midlands – see [Appendix 10.2](#)

Overseas Bagman – see [Appendix 10.3](#)

Charle Corcoran the area Rep for The East Midlands is sadly stepping down we would like to thank him on behalf of the Morris Ring for all of his hard work as an area representative. We are looking for someone to fill this position.

8. ICH – consent – see [Appendix 11](#)

9. Future events

10. Date of next meeting (assuming no issues, likely to be March 6<sup>th</sup>, 2027)

11. Any other business

*It would be helpful if any AOB items beyond the usual event notices are submitted to the Bagman in advance of the meeting, if only so that responses can be prepared where appropriate*

## Appendix 1

### Minutes of the 2025 meeting

<https://themorrisring.org/files/docs/bagmans-newsletter/minutes-2025-arm.pdf>

## Appendix 2

### Squire's Report

So, end of my first year, and I don't really know where the time has gone.

I have travelled far and wide and been made welcome by new friends and old. I have been to events that I've never attended before such as Wath and Winchester feasts and Saddleworth's sword tour and had new roles at others I have been going to for most of my life.

I experienced the delight of being on the front stang at the Saddleworth Rushcart, the exhaustion of trying to learn six different jig traditions at the Ring Jigs Instructional and the hours of working out how to do an immortal memory toast without telling everyone the history of Cecil Sharp again.

The joy of leading the music down the hill at Thaxted was balanced against the nerve-wracking prospect of introducing all those buses and tractors forcing their way through the massed show in front of all those people.

There have also been some totally unexpected moments – a spread in the Sunday Times, an interview on ITV national news, a visit to the House of Lords – all of which, thankfully, my boss has signed off on the absence request sheets without complaint (just an occasional 'you're doing what?!')

There have been sad times – the last Horwich day, the passing of some good friends, the absence and memory of others who I would have liked to share the experience with – and a few difficult days. (Let's see if we can manage next year without mentioning black face makeup at all!)

But the great times have by far outweighed the minor hiccups.

I made time to make sure I did all the usual events with my own teams and – obviously – prioritised my grandchildren's birthday parties (there'll be another JMO, you're only 1 once).

I have just begun my year as the Chair of the JMO as well and we are working on making sure Morris – in all its forms – makes the government's new inventory on Living Heritage. Hence the visit to the House of Lords by invitation of a Baroness who happens to come from Headington so actually knew what we were talking about.

I am looking forward in the coming year to Colchester's 100<sup>th</sup>, Harthill's 50<sup>th</sup>, the 50<sup>th</sup> Rushcart – and those are just the ones I know of so far – as well as many more feasts and days of dance. With, again, apologies, to all those whose events

I simply don't have time to fit in. (Jockey and Letchworth may need to negotiate with my grandson about the yearly date of his birthday party.)

There are many more than just the Ring Officers who have eased the path this year – too many to mention them all – but a few who have gone above and beyond:

- Lewis and Daz who have represented the Ring at events I just couldn't make.
- Pete de Courcy who has dealt with frequent website and membership queries and requests at all hours of the day and night.
- Cheesy for all his advice and company despite having stepped down from official duties.

And, obviously, my family who have been hugely supportive both by coming along to things and, where necessary, dog sitting so I could go.

Most importantly, I couldn't do all this without Jon. He is my proof reader, dance teacher, musician, cheerleader, driver (sometimes, though we share that one), and the rock I lean on.

A huge thanks to them and all of you for a memorable and enjoyable first year.

Hope to see you somewhere in the next.

Emma

### Appendix 3

## Bagman's Report

8 months has passed since I officially danced in at Thaxted, this was quite an occasion with the roar of the 1821 Lincoln organ, the home crowd on the home turf is a memory I will always treasure. My thanks to Tommy Basset for playing so well for this. The Thaxted weekend went well with Emma doing a sterling job comparing the evenings dancing.

I've been made extremely welcome at all the ales and events I've managed to attend Westminster, Saddleworth, Dartington, Peterborough and Whitchurch were all highlights and it was the first time I'd been to the Stafford ale, this was also a huge treat, and I thank all involved for the invitations.

As I stated in my introduction, I've only been in the Bagman roll for 8 months and I am slowly finding my feet, this said I'm more than aware I'm not up to speed yet. A huge thank you to Peter de Courcy and Martin Jones who have been a great support with the technical stuff, they have both showed endless patience also to Lewis who is the other end of the phone for encouragement and advice and again thanks to Emma for her support.

## Appendix 4

### Morris Ring Treasurer's Report

#### **1 Introduction**

This is my 8th Treasurer's Report. At the time of writing, the 2025 accounts have nearly been completed and will be published. I can confirm that our underlying finances are very sound. The current subscription structure remains largely the same, but we now have a Youth side category that has fees waived, where the majority of the membership is below 18.

#### **2 Membership**

Standard renewal fees were unchanged.

Full	£60	Associate	£50
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Early payment reduction if completed by November 30th;

Full	£50	Associate	£40
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As before, if a Side wishes to obtain their JMO insurance from one of the other JMO organisations yet wishes to remain within the Morris Ring, then they can become Associates with the insurance element removed, currently £13.

#### **3 Insurance**

Our insurance cover arranged as part of the JMO has been finalised for 2026. This year we are again including individual Personal Accident Insurance as part of the cover offered to sides.

#### **4 Classes of Membership**

Our 2025 membership renewals for 2026 consist of;

Full	135
Associate	26
International	5
Youth	1

Several sides have folded, so the accuracy of the membership is questionable, with overall membership is down slightly. Any offer to assist in getting a more accurate picture of the membership would be greatly appreciated.

## **5 Ring Finances**

The Shop - after the requisition of required MR stock that took place at the end of 2024 there was a desire to sell off as much as possible to which most of the bells have been sold. There remain over 200 Black books available. I have now written off all the remaining stock.

Archive Fund – continues to support this important work.

Youth Fund – continues to be supported thinly by the membership.

Jigs Weekend - is supported, subsidised when necessary, and is run to break even with any surplus returning to the account.

Donations - **£80** to the MDDDB continued.

Other costs and reserves – i.e., Ring Officers and travel- have continued to be managed at consistent levels as before.

ARM costs were getting too high. Therefore, as from the 2026 ARM complimentary places and funding to the Federation, Open and JMO have been reduced to one night and the ARM itself for up to two officers per organisation. This is inline with their reciprocal arrangements.

The Cashless Refund Programme appears to have run its course and can be seen as a very successful initiative.

MR Grants - this was approved and launched to the membership last Autumn. See [here](#) for details. 2025, we received 5 applications for Small and Medium grants, approved 4, for a total of **£2,550** and are awaiting further information on one with another one to be received.

## **5 General policy and financial reserves**

Our finances are strong, we have a good level of reserves which will reduce with the MR Grants and as I have already stated, we can hold subscription rates at current levels. However, we have a stable to declining membership at the same time as the costs increase. So, we must still be prudent.

## **6 Future Plans**

I am not proposing any significant changes for the next round of renewals.

Regards,

2<sup>nd</sup> February 2026

Clayton Francis  
Treasurer  
The Morris Ring

Appendix 4.1

## Web Editor's Report 2026

Another problem free year maintaining our much-admired website that continues to attract users – something over 120,000 reads last year resulting in nearly 350,000 “click events”!

The top ten pages below:

<input type="checkbox"/>	Page title and screen class	+	↓ Views	Active users
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Total		122,271 100% of total	48,574 100% of total
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	1 The Morris Ring		7,322 (5.99%)	4,392 (9.04%)
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	2 Find a Side Near You   The Morris Ring		5,388 (4.41%)	3,523 (7.25%)
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	3 Search   The Morris Ring		4,565 (3.73%)	1,813 (3.73%)
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	4 Girls' Carnival Morris Dancing   The Morris Ring		3,428 (2.8%)	2,834 (5.83%)
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	5 A Handbook of Morris Dances   The Morris Ring		3,366 (2.75%)	1,957 (4.03%)
<input type="checkbox"/>	6 Morris Traditions and Tunes   The Morris Ring		3,326 (2.72%)	2,144 (4.41%)
<input type="checkbox"/>	7 The Morris Ring		3,182 (2.6%)	2,018 (4.15%)
<input type="checkbox"/>	8 Traditional Morris Events: May Day & May Bank Holiday   The Morris Ring		2,771 (2.27%)	2,245 (4.62%)
<input type="checkbox"/>	9 Morris Dance Music   The Morris Ring		2,519 (2.06%)	1,596 (3.29%)
<input type="checkbox"/>	10 List of all future events   The Morris Ring		2,481 (2.03%)	1,901 (3.91%)

(produced using Google Analytics – results for the other 474 items on request!)

The “Traditional Events” pages continue to well worth the investment in my time (the Fed are very jealous – and thank you Pauline for your excellent typo-spotting) – especially when linked on Facebook, so please do let me know of what you describe as your “traditional events” (it doesn’t have to date back centuries!). And a reminder that we will include your Days of Dance on our events calendar (now with buttons so you can add them to your on-line diary), especially if you wish to open invitations other sides. Just <mailto:webeditor@themorrisring.org>

We’ve added far fewer Facebook followers who still total over 2400, so we appear to have peaked. Facebook generally isn’t attracting new users, but still appears very popular with the morris community. The large majority are still over 65! – and just in case you needed a graph -

2,446 Total followers ⓘ

+2.4% from previous 365 days



58

Net follows ⓘ



31

Unfollows ⓘ

### Net follows by content type ⓘ

Lifetime

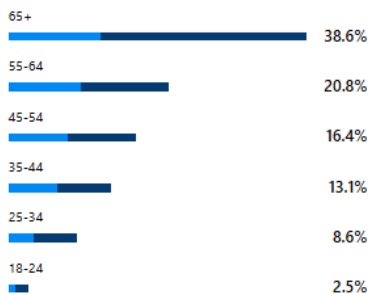
Post



### Age and gender ⓘ

Lifetime

● Women ● Men ● Unknown



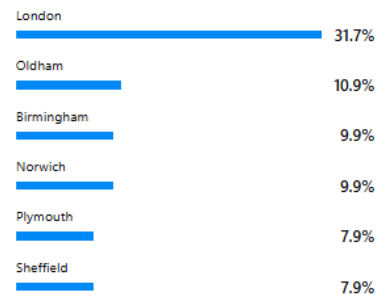
### Country ⓘ

Lifetime



### Towns/cities ⓘ

Lifetime



The web news subscription service continues to be active – we have increased to 161 subscribers this year. You can join to receive links to Morris Ring news items and important updates direct to your email in box using our [MailChimp subscription form](#). I promise not to inundate you – usually about once a month. You may unsubscribe from the service at any time. Your details will not be shared with any third party and will be deleted should you unsubscribe.

And finally, if you have ideas how we can improve our offering or service, do let us know. We may not have thought of everything – but we keep trying.

Yours Foolishly  
Peter de Courcy

## Appendix 4.2

### Overseas Bagman Report – Lewis Elliot

Being Overseas Bagman is a very different experience from being a local area representative. For one thing, the chances of my popping along to visit a side at one of their events is quite a bit lower... So, this year I have been busy pondering how I best fulfil the role of Overseas Bagman.

Over the course of the last year, I have exchanged email communications with the individual sides I represent, met up with Utrecht when they came over to England for the weekend to dance with Yateley Morris Men, visited a Morris Open side (Eken Morris) in Stockholm, travelled to France with North Wood Morris Men for their annual French tour, exchanged messages with representatives of the Australian Morris Ring and The North American Morris Dance Organization, as well as handling messages regarding Overseas morris from local and foreign sides. I feel that I have done something worthwhile, but it is hard to quantify how effective I am being compared to my experience of being a local area rep, where the feedback tends to be much more direct.

My plans for the next year involve continuing to try to learn a bit more about the international morris experience, promoting overseas morris relationships, and building bridges with the other organisations with a view to streamlining Morris communications between different sides in different countries. But that is for the coming year.

If anyone is considering travelling overseas this year, or if you have a side from Overseas visiting you, then could you please let me know. I'd like to be in the loop... Even better would be a report of your adventures, which I'm sure Mr de Courcy would be delighted to publish on the Morris Ring website.

Please find below a selection of End of Year reports from the Overseas morris sides I represent, combined with a selection of summaries/ additional information for sides who were not able to submit an end of year report.

If I can make myself useful in any way in my function as Overseas Bagman then please let me know.

Lewis Elliot

Overseas Bagman

[overseasbagman@themorrisring.org](mailto:overseasbagman@themorrisring.org)

Appendix 5

Saddleworth Women's Morris and Clog Full Membership Proposal

# THAXTED MORRIS MEN

FOUNDED IN 1911



We the Thaxted Morris Men would like to formally propose that the Saddleworth Women's Morris and Clog become full members of the Morris Ring.

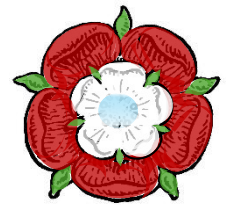
We were lucky enough to witness one of the Saddleworth Women's Morris and Clog's first dance outs in public at the Saddleworth Rushcart weekend 2024. We were ever so impressed. We have been fortunate to have danced with them on several more occasions, each time their dancing was first-rate. The Saddleworth Women's Morris and Clog even danced at the 98th Thaxted Morris weekend and created a wonderful impression on both the crowd and other Morris sides.

We followed eagerly the cross-cultural project the Saddleworth Women were involved with; in this day and age with all the division in the World, it's the small acts like sharing our culture with others and joining in with their community and culture that breaks down social barriers, promotes understanding and brings harmony to our wider community as well as opens our community to others who wouldn't normally join in due to lack of contact.

To sum up, The Saddleworth Women's Morris and Clog meet and excel the standard of dancing we expect from a Ring side as well as demonstrating the friendship, fraternity and understanding of Ring culture that will make them a fantastic addition to the Morris Ring.

Kind Regards

Daniel Kenning (Squire of Thaxted Morris Men) and Rob Evans (Bagman of the Thaxted Morris Men and The Ring)



Saddleworth Morris

Est: 1974

Letter to support Saddleworth Women's Morris and Clog becoming full members of The Morris Ring. 20<sup>th</sup> January 2026

Saddleworth Women's Morris and Clog have burst on to the Morris scene. At the time of writing this they have just celebrated their second birthday since their inaugural practice in January 2024 and at the time of reading will not have yet reached their second anniversary of dancing out. However, they have packed a lot in, turning out no less than 27 times in 2025 including topping the bill at the JMO in Stockport, wowing the crowds with their highly original dance in the Thaxted arena and taking part in one of the most successful Saddleworth Rushcart's for many years. On top of that they have been in collaboration with Global Grooves, an artist-led Carnival arts organisation based in the North West, who teamed them up with the Dancing Diyas, an Indian folk dance group from the Oldham Indian Association. Together they created a dance that showcased their individual dance heritage whilst revealing some remarkable similarities. Coupled with a bloody great bee puppet they travelled to Barcelona to perform 'Worker Bee Becomes Queen' at 'La Merce' the city's largest annual festival, representing the guest city of Manchester. Despite these headlines they have also managed to honour their commitments to turn out at residential care homes and Women's Institute meetings.

Although within the team there are a scattering of experienced dancers the vast majority of the team are new to Morris dancing, in fact most of them are new to any kind of dancing at all. Such is the popularity of the team they have now had to cap their new recruits to keep their numbers manageable. A problem many other teams could only dream of having.

Saddleworth Women's Morris and Clog dance in a traditional North West style but seem ever willing to advance their own originality that will make them a stand out team of the future and an asset to any day of dance, Ring meeting or festival.

Saddleworth Morris Men are very pleased that Saddleworth Women's Morris and Clog have decided to affiliate themselves with the Morris Ring and we are therefore delighted to support them in becoming full members. The Morris Ring should be equally excited to welcome them aboard.

Dave Biggs

Squire, Saddleworth Morris Men

## Appendix 6

### North Eastern Area Annual Reports.

#### Richmond on Swale Morris

ARM Annual Report

February 2026

#### Membership

At an Extraordinary General meeting in August 2025, it was agreed that the constitution be amended to allow the Side to become a mixed gender team. It was also agreed that the word 'Men' be dropped from the Side's name. Going forward we are to be known as 'Richmond on Swale Morris'.

One female, with no previous Morris experience has joined the team and danced out for the first time on Boxing Day. They have become an integral part of the team. For a few months the Side was joined by an experienced Morris dancer when for family reasons they temporarily lived in the area. They have since returned to their home area of England but hope to dance out with us when visiting the north.

Active membership has otherwise remained constant over the year. Recruiting new members remains a priority.

#### Practices

Practices were regularly held between September 2024 and May 2025. The Foreman has concentrated on teaching the traditions of Fieldtown, Adderbury and Bampton in order to bring everyone to a consistent standard. Other traditions are known and danced on occasion. The Crown, Manfield has continued to provide a warm after practice welcome.

#### Dance Events Attended

The main dance events during the year were:

- Our Boxing Day tour to Aldbrough St John and Richmond;
- Our Day of Dance with other teams as part of the Richmond May Festival;
- Joining Leeds Morris Men and other teams on a day tour of the Yorkshire Dales
- VE Day celebrations in Hutton Magna;
- Joining Black Diamond Mixed Cotswold Morris at Langton Farm Village Fete;
- A display at Richmond Christmas Fair
- Our own Dales tour, a tour of public houses through Wensleydale with local Sides.
- The summer saw 8 Thursday evening dance outs based on village public houses between 8th May and 24th July. A couple of these were with invited local Sides Black Diamond and Black Sheep.

## Non-dancing Events

A pre-Christmas carol singing evening was hosted at The Crown, Manfield.

The annual dinner with wives and partners was held at The George, Piercebridge.

## Conclusion

As in previous years we did not have the numbers to attend as many opportunities to attend dance outs with other Sides as we would have liked. It is to be hoped that by becoming a mixed Side and getting new recruits that we will be able to do so in future.

Andrew Bishop

Bagman, Richmond on Swale Morris

## Monkseaton Morris

2025 was a big year for the team as we celebrated our 70th year.

It started on New Year's Day dancing around many of the pubs and bars in Monkseaton, a tradition that has been going since the 1980s. The dances included cotswold, longsword, rapper and a Mummer's play. We collected £1220 for our chosen charity, the Bay Foodbank.

We danced out on Easter Saturday in Whitley Bay where we added the Humberside Egg Dance to the repertoire. Through this and a couple of 'have a go' sessions we recruited 3 new members with a further dancer and musician joining us later in the year.

We performed at the Newcastle Beer and Cider Festival on 10th April and took the opportunity to sample a few ales whilst there. It would be rude not to!

We were invited to dance at a primary school and the children were very excited by the bells, music and colourful costumes and were able to learn some basic steps. Great opportunity to start them young.

We joined other local sides at the Cumberland Arms in Ouseburn on 17th July. Organised by Hexham and Hexhamshire lasses we enjoyed participating in an evening of cotswold, border, north-west, clog, longsword and rapper dancing with Black Gate, Newcastle Kingsmen, Newcastle Kingsmen Cloggies, Sallyport, Star and Shadow, and Tyne Bridge. Great fun.

We had a number of successful dance outs during the Spring and Summer at pubs in Monkseaton and Tynemouth.

At the end of August we took part in the Saddleworth weekend of dance, culminating in the pulling of the Rushcart.

This is always one of the highlights of our year.

We arranged a successful day of dance on 13th September where we danced in 5 locations in North Tyneside and were supported by our friends from Hexham and Hexhamshire lasses, Star and Shadow and Black Gate.

Also, in September we held a 70th Anniversary ceilidh at St Mary's church in Whitley Bay. In October we joined other local sides to perform at the Hartlepool Folk Festival. We also danced at the Nile Street Street Party which contributed to the amazing North Shields 800 celebrations.

We performed rapper dances in several Whitley Bay pubs for Children in Need and raised over £200.

We ended the year as we started on New Year's Day dancing in Monkseaton. We raised a fantastic £2000 for the J.O.S.H. osteosarcoma support and health foundation. Our Walbottle Dance, with Tommy and a new Betty, ended in a fabulous triple somersault and we're delighted to have new and young members stepping up to take on this challenge. We're confident going into our 71st year that we have the enthusiasm and ability to continue the traditions of Monkseaton Morris.

## Benfieldside Morris and Sword

Regular Wednesday practices continued successfully over winter together with the Durham Rams, leading to our summer pub tours which were well received though not always by large crowds! Our group of new recruits took to practice with enthusiasm and danced out all through the summer.

We danced with Richmond on Swale at the Richmond Mayfest at early spring bank holiday and later in the month at Sedgefield Fair. Again, some of us joined the Durham Rams on the Leeds Morris Dales Tour at the late spring bank holiday.

In June we braved Thaxted for the second year running and again had a superb weekend. July and August were a little limited because of family holidays getting in the way! Hostilities resumed in the autumn and we spent another great weekend with Whitchurch Morris dancing around Aylesbury.

The new year began, as usual, with Plough Sunday. The weather proved kind although the temperature didn't rise above freezing! We danced on Palace Green in Durham in front of the Cathedral joined by Black Diamond Morris from Darlington. The plough was led into the cathedral by the Dean and blessed. A side of our newest dancers danced "Bean Setting" as an offertory dance and largesse was given to and accepted by our youngest member, Axel on behalf of the side. The plough then found its way to the market place where there was more dancing to a fairly good crowd.

Brian Pollard, Bagman.

## Redcar Sword Dancers - A Review of 2025

2025 was very much the same as 2024. We managed to raise a team to enable us to accept invitations to dance at Mayfest in Richmond (Yorkshire) with Richmond on Swale MM and at Saltburn Folk Festival in August, and also to take part in the Sword Dance Union's Longsword Day of Dance in Lincoln in November. We ventured out on a couple of practice nights to dance in our home village of Great Ayton and Guisborough, where we had a surprisingly good turnout of about forty people!

As usual we danced on Boxing Day in Greatham, near Hartlepool, our 59th Boxing Day performance of the Greatham sword dance and play. with our new female member taking part.

Despite appearances on local BBC radio and in the local press we have had no success in recruiting any new members.

Regards  
Brian

### Appendix 7

## Morris Ring North Area - Morris Side Reports

Barnsley Longsword – no report

Great Yorkshire Morris - no report.

Green Oak Morris Men (Doncaster)

Green Oak Morris Men are a men-only side based in Doncaster City in South Yorkshire. We have been dancing since 1971 and have been based in various places in and around Doncaster. Our current base is the Doncaster Brewery Tap on Young Street - we practice in the upstairs bar from 7.45 to 9.30pm on Wednesdays.

We mostly dance Cotswold with a couple of Border and a Longsword dance. We perform a Mummers play around Christmas in various pubs in the area.

Obviously, we are keen to get more new people.

We have 16 members and our band include Melodeon, Accordion, Concertina, and Pipe and Tabor.

We host the Doncaster Day of Dance on 25<sup>th</sup> April 2026. We have a mobile photographic display about the History of Morris Dancing including Green Oak

Morris Men which we will be displaying in and around central Doncaster during the year.

Website – <https://greenoakmorrismen.weebly.com/>

FB page – <https://www.facebook.com/groups/169869206912>

Email – [greenoakdoncaster@gail.com](mailto:greenoakdoncaster@gail.com)

Peter Heigham

Grimsby Morris - no report

## Handsworth Traditional Sword Dancers

We are one of the longest running folk dance teams in the country. We practice on a Wednesday night, 8-10pm at the Burton Street Foundation, Hillsborough, Sheffield m S6 2HH. We welcome anyone interested in having a go at our form of longsword, which is fast, energetic and dynamic.

Website: <http://www.handsworthsworddancers.org.uk/>

We are also on Facebook and Instagram.

## Harthill Morris

Harthill Morris have 26 active members – 9 musicians, 15 dancers, an animal and an occasional fool. Some of the musicians also have a dance or two up their sleeves for resilience. This is the same as last year – we have no new members and no leavers.

We mainly dance Cotswold.

The Harthill Morris Big Band includes violins, accordion, melodions, concertina, and a beer stick.

We practice on Thursday nights, September – April, in Harthill Village Hall, Whinney Hill, Harthill, Sheffield. Details can be found at [harthillmorris.org.uk](http://harthillmorris.org.uk) or the Harthill Morris Facebook page.

We have finalised our 2026 schedule and look forward to twelve Thursday evenings at different public houses throughout the Summer, performing in the village of Harthill at it's Well Dressing Festival and Carnival, as well as the Doncaster Day of Dance (hosted by Green Oak Morris), the Thaxted weekend, the Buxton Day of Dance, and the Lincoln Big Morris.

This year is our Big 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Year which began at the very beginning with us performing at the Harthill Morris New Years Eve Ceilidh to launch our year of celebrations as midnight struck.

We have our 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Day of Dance in Sheffield on Saturday, 19 September.

Cheers.

Lesley Ellam, Harthill Morris Bagman. [harthill.bagman@gmail.com](mailto:harthill.bagman@gmail.com)

Lord Conyers Morris Men

We are a male dancing side with mixed musicians. We have 18 members. We have two fiddles, a whistle, a concertina player, and an accordion, drum and bass drum.

Lord Conyers Morris Men are mainly a Cotswold side but also perform our own Longsword. We practice on Wednesday evenings at The Duke of Leeds, 16 Church Street, Wales Sheffield, S26 5LQ.

Last Summer we went on our annual pilgrimage up to Robin Hoods Bay. Blessed with fine weather, it was an extremely enjoyable weekend. And in September we danced as part of the Bromley Folk Festival.

A notable success was retaining our "sword dancing as a second language" champion status at the SDU competition in November.

We also performed our traditional Christmas Wassail & Abbots Bromley Horn Dance on Saturday 20<sup>th</sup> December.

For 2026 we will perform the horn dance again on May Eve and then dancing at dawn on May Morning, and we will return again to Robin Hoods Bay and Bromyard.

Email address: [lordconyers@gmail.com](mailto:lordconyers@gmail.com)

Website: [www.lordconyers.org.uk](http://www.lordconyers.org.uk)

Regards,

Peter Yendley, Secretary, Lord Conyers Morris Men

Spenn Valley Longsword – no report

## Wakefield Morris

We are a mixed North-West Morris side and are now very much a family team, having particularly attracted youngsters who have brought their parents with them to dance. In September, we welcomed a family of four, driven by an eight year old who wanted to dance and who just happened to bring her parents and brother with her, all of whom are excellent musicians.

We have had 4 new regular members join us in September 2025. We now have 36 members. 12 are musicians, 24 are dancers and 10 of the dancers are under the age of 16.

Our regular weekly practice night is on a Monday evening from 7.30 – 9.00 pm at The Kings Way Methodist Church Hall in Ossett, Wakefield, WF5 8ET. We also hold several Sunday afternoon practices throughout the practice season (September to June) when we welcome experienced dancers and musicians who may not be able to join us on a Monday evening.

After a busy year last year which included dancing at the Whitby Folk Festival, we are busy gearing up for the next season and looking forward to various events, including the Rhubarb Festival in Wakefield in February, IVFDF in York, our 11<sup>th</sup> Ossett Beercart Festival and various other dance outs through the year. to join us on a Monday evening.

Our website address is [wakefieldmorris.com](http://wakefieldmorris.com) and we are active on Facebook.

Website      [wakefieldmorris.com](http://wakefieldmorris.com)  
Facebook     Wakefield Morris  
Email         [wakefieldmorris@googlemail.com](mailto:wakefieldmorris@googlemail.com)

Kind regards  
Hazel

## Wath Morris

c/o 26 Fitzwilliam Street  
Wath-upon-Deerne  
Rotherham  
S63 7HF

Wath Morris have once again had a very successful year. After an influx of several new members over the last few years we have only had one new member this year. We currently have 26 members (people who have either danced or played for us, in costume, over the last 12 months). Of these 13 are dancers only, one is a musician and dancer (and squire) one is a mummer only

and 11 are musicians only. The number of musicians is a vast improvement on our historic position where musicians have been a limiting factor.

Wath is a mixed side, currently we have 19 males and 7 females.

The team perform dances from the Bledington tradition (Cotswold) (primarily in the summer) and Border dances (primarily in the winter). We dance sword dances all year (as part of a mixed set of dances) and perform a local mummers play primarily in the winter,

Instruments include Melodeon, Concertinas, Fiddles, Flutes and percussion.

Practices take place at Wath Rugby Club, Moor Road, Wath on Tuesdays 7:30 – 9:30 from mid-September until the end of April.

The team have their own website: [www.wath-morris.co.uk](http://www.wath-morris.co.uk) and also their own Facebook page and group: Wath Morris and also Wath Morris Group.

Our plans for 2026 are still to be finalised but include:

Wassailing:	24 <sup>th</sup> January
Lupercalia Day of Dance:	7 <sup>th</sup> February
Whitby Family Weekend	20-22 March
Bledington Instructional Day	28 <sup>th</sup> March
Wath Festival	2-3 May
Day of Dance or weekend away in June	(TBA)
Bainbridge in the Dales Family Weekend	4-6 September
Annual General Meeting	15 September

Over the Christmas period we will have an extensive programme including Dodworth Village Festival, Mumming in Barnsley, Wath Fire Festival (organised by the team), local mumming tour and Boxing Day tour (including Wentworth and Wath). Details of next year's Christmas events are yet to be finalised.

Plus dancing once per week from May to the end of July either on our own or with other local teams often at local pubs but also at fetes etc.

Overall Wath are in a historically good position. We lost 3 valued members of the team after our AGM but still have a strong side and this year plan to build on the abilities and depth of knowledge of, particularly, the newer members of the team.

Wath also have a junior side, Wath Morris Minors. These dance independently of the senior side though we often share events. The minors are aged from 5 – 12 years old and are trained by members of the senior team.

They meet at Wath Hall on Saturday mornings at 10:00 for 2 hours. There are approximately 10 members and they dance Border morris and sword.

They have a (very) extensive dance programme and are always in great demand for fetes and similar events.

We are always keen to welcome new recruits, to welcome visiting dancers who happen to be in the area, or to welcome anyone wishing to simply "try out morris".

Yours sincerely,

Tim Binns, Wath Morris Bagman

### White Rose Morris

We are a male only Cotswold side and dance in the styles of Headington, Bampton, Oddington and Fartown (our own tradition) with a few odds and ends from Fieldtown and Adderbury.

We mostly dance to a single musician who usually plays melodeon, though we also have English concertina. We currently have 22 active members of whom 2 are solely musicians, 14 are solely dancers and 6 are both musicians and dancers.

We practice every Wednesday except holidays from September to April and dance out on Wednesdays in May, June and July. We practice at: Move at HD1 Studios, 5 St John's Road, Huddersfield. HD1 5AY

We have just performed at the Whittlesea Straw Bear Festival and at the time of writing (January) are booked for:

- The Inter Varsity Folk Dance Festival in York, 28 of February
- Todmorden Folk Festival, 2 May
- Whaddon Whit Festival, 23/24 May
- Sowerby Bridge Rushbearing, 5/6 September.
- We run the Cliff Barstow Jig Competition during Whitby Folk Week.

Website: [whiterosemorrismen.org.uk](http://whiterosemorrismen.org.uk) or <http://nicksites.net/WhiteRose/>

Facebook: White Rose Morris

Regards,

Adrian Jackson - Bagman, White Rose MM.

## Appendix 8

### West Midlands Area Rep – Matthew Turvey

A big thank you to all the sides in the Area who continued to welcome me and my two children at events throughout 2025. Particular highlights I've done "Rep'd" at have been Gloucester Folk Trail, Jockey Feast, Oxford Folk Festival, Bulls in the City Day of Dance, Jockey Day of Dance, Stafford Feast and Jockey Plough Tour – with Uttoxeter Feast to come shortly. My home team Shakespeare Morris attended the Vale of Evesham Morris Weekend, Adderbury 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Day of Dance and Bromyard Folk Festival too as well as hosting their Day of Dance and it has been great to catch up with you at all of these big events. Please let me know if you would like invitations for the Vale of Evesham National Morris Weekend 19-21/06/26 or the Stratford-upon-Avon Day of Dance 15/08/26 and I'll drop you one over.

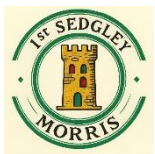
I'll continue to try and improve my communication throughout 2026 – first job will be updating the West Midlands googlegroup email to reflect any officer changes, so please let me know if I need to change the email – or equally if you haven't received any emails recently.

Please keep inviting me to all events and I'll do my best to attend!

Best Wishes,

Matthew Turvey

1<sup>st</sup> Sedgley Morris



Our 2<sup>nd</sup> year as a mixed side. We now have a membership [on paper] of 27 dancers and 4 musicians. We are still a "work in progress" but now feel able to increase our repertoire and the new members have benefitted greatly from a Spring "Boot Camp" and dancing out with many other sides during the year.

In fact, it has been the busiest year in our history with lots of regular bookings, tours organised by ourselves and a new policy of dancing out on our practice night during the lighter summer months.

Highlights of the year included:

- Being invited to open a **concert** by the Joe Broughton Conservatoire Folk Ensemble
- Taking an active part in the **Bulls in the City** Charity event in Birmingham – we are now members of Mercia Morris – a group of 10 local WM sides which will hopefully lead to more collaborative efforts in the future.

- A walking tour of Sedgley's excellent pubs.
- The Live Morris Dancing Drawing at the annual **Junction Festival** in Wolverhampton. This was our 2<sup>nd</sup> year, the focus was on members of the public drawing 1st Sedgley dancing in kit and folk singers under the instruction of artist, dancer & now Deputy Squire Hannah Boyd- McKee at The Royal Oak in Chapel Ash Wolverhampton. This year we were joined by Wulfruna Morris and Beorma Morris and with them toured the pubs of Chapel Ash where people drew the sides dancing and as timed musical statues.
- Organising "**Dusking**" event on 31<sup>st</sup> October last year three dancers quite spontaneously performed; this year it became much larger with dancing on Sedgley Beacon in black kit echoing dancing at dawn on May 1<sup>st</sup>. Vanessa O'Reilly adapted music to give an ethereal element. Dancing followed by Feast and Eisteddfod back at the Scout Hall with a newly written Soul Cake Mummings Play penned by Hannah in which the Dragon is replaced by an evil presence "Lichfield Hey" and Cake on a sword for good fortune. We hope that this will become an annual event.
- A return to performing at Bromyard Folk Festival – we have been regulars since 1981 but had only attended once since the Pandemic.

At our AGM in November Ian Davies stepped down as Deputy Squire to be replaced by Hannah, Dave Johnson remains Squire, Paul Davis foreman and Dave Jeffery still holds the bag. Graham Suffolk stepped down from his role as Wardrobe Mistress after 13 years.

One negative issue is our Maypole Festival. We ran this event for local Primary Schools from 1982-2018. We have tried to re-introduce it for the last 2 years but the schools have a problem getting staff to give up a Saturday morning and the same seems true of the parents. We will give it one more try!!

We have all found that our various WhatsApp groups are the main means of communication with e mails no longer read! Morrisbook App has been an incredibly useful tool and we wonder now how we existed without it!

Something else that has changed in recent years is the number of our members who belong to other sides – mainly Border tradition whereas we are committed to Cotswold.

In the coming year we will be dancing again at Dawn on the Beacon, taking part in the Junction Festival, retracing our steps with another walking pub tour, returning to the Beacon on 31<sup>st</sup> October and joining as many other sides as we can on Thursday evenings during the Summer – we would love it if anyone else wanted to join us at any of these events.

David Jeffery

Bag 1<sup>st</sup> Sedgley Morris

## Coventry Morris Men

Coventry Morris have had a successful year despite still being short of dancers overall and with some of our men not being able to dance as much as they used to. We were able to dance with 6 men for much of the year, which is an improvement on last year, with Ascot-under-Wychwood, Fieldtown, Badby and Headington the main traditions and work on Bucknell and Bledington progressing. The Border traditions have remained the same and we have danced our 4-man (Penshaw) and 5-man (Hearsall) sword dances regularly with the 6-man dance (Ampleforth) sometimes.

The pattern of dancing has been very much the same as before with the summer season starting at the end of April, continuing until the end of July and with a short burst in September. These include the Evesham event, and evenings with Jockey, Shakespeare, Anker and Braybrooke. The next burst of activity comes around Christmas and is extending further into January this year with our traditional Winter Tour, Wassails and other community events. In between we continue to provide workshops for various uniformed organisations and meet up with other sides at Feasts, Ales and other events.

Financially the side remains robust in spite of paying more for our practice venue which has had to change as a result of the previous buildings being sold to an organisation that has not sought external contacts. The new venue keeps us close to a pub newly included in the "Good Beer Guide"!

## Faithful City Morris Men

FCMM managed 24 excursions this dance year 2025 including 5 outings with other local Sides. We managed 208 dances this Season (250 in 2024) slightly lower than in previous years reflecting an overall reduction in the number of (paid) public & community performances at weekends when there are fewer dancers available. This year our Rapper Side was not able to convene for any public performances.

The dance year started with two Beer Festivals and a further 8 charity and festival public performances, including Boxing Day, Acorns Children's Hospice in Worcester and St. Georges Day at sheltered accommodation in St. John's Worcester. Two local Church / Village Fetes on a particularly warm day at the end of June stretched the dancers somewhat. Upton-upon-Severn Folk Festival and Bromyard Folk Festival were very enjoyable except Bromyard FF was sadly curtailed by tropical Storm Amy.

We enjoyed 14 Wednesday night "dance outs" with none being cancelled because of rain! In fact, when dancing at The Red Lion at Cradley after weeks if not months of no rain at all we did Glorishears 'The Rain Dance' from Bampton

and lo and behold 5 minutes later it rained much to the amazement and grateful thanks from the landlord and the local farmers attending that evening!

Again, this year, we managed to do most of the dances on our list, with Fanny Frail (Evesham our "come all ye" farewell dance) being the most present (24 times). Three other dances (Red Arrows (Bampton Style), Old Tom of Oxford (Bampton) and Shepherd's Hey jig (Bledington for as many as will) each performed 9 times, coming in closely behind Molly in in the Woods from our local Knightwick tradition (10 times).

The Side active dancer numbers remains constrained and continuing uncertainty regarding the sale of our practice venue (The Talbot) is also unsettling for everyone, challenging our longer-term viability as we approach our 60th Anniversary Year next year.

### Flowers of Ilmington Morris

We've had a lot of fun over the last year which is very important.

We have had a good year, having lots of fun in the process. We gained two new members, and completed 15 pub dance outs. We also took part in the first day of the National Morris weekend, the Shakespeare Morris Day of Dance, Ilmington Show, and the White Hart Day of Dance. We took a stall at Shipston Victorian Christmas market selling mistletoe and gained two new dancers as well as much needed funds.

We had a cracking Christmas meal, with music, carols and a stand-up Mummers Play. Talking of which our Mummers Play at the Red Lion was an outstanding success, gaining much applause.

We enhanced our kit with more ribbons and flowers, and changed from black tights to coloured tights to match our hankies, blue or yellow.

Finally, although we do need more dancers, the ones we have are dancing well, particularly our four newbies.

### Jockey Morris

2025 has been another active year for Jockey both locally and at many events round the country. Numbers stay healthy with 3 new recruits during the year one of whom danced in for his Baldrick at the Bromyard folk Festival. Typically, we have 15 men at practice though that has varied between 9 and 22 over the year.

The club has performed at 28 events, 7 of which being either pub nights or days of dance in the city centre, this along with 40 practice Fridays has very much kept us busy.

We have had some real high points, one such being our first Morris Ale for several years in Rowley Regis. This saw nearly 100 people being present, and representatives from 16 guest sides. It was an enjoyable evening so many thanks to those who travelled to be with us and make it such a success. Here's to the next on 21<sup>st</sup> March 2026!

Our annual January Plough Tour of Birmingham was as popular as ever and we also enjoyed several other big events including the JMO in Stockport, the Shakespeare Ring meeting and Bromyard Folk Festival. We also helped to organise a first charity 'Bulls in the City' day of dance in Birmingham along with several other local sides under the collective of Mercia Morris, this being a great success, raising a lot of money for Birmingham Hospice. We also were joined by many other sides for our usual day of dance in October.

Overall, another Marvellous year!

### Shakespeare Morris

Shakespeare Morris have had a good year, welcoming 8 new members throughout Jan '24 to Jan'25 – most of whom are completely new to morris and it has been fabulous to see them become more and more involved in the club's activities.

The highlight of the year was our annual Stratford-upon-Avon day of dance where we welcomed 15 sides to our hometown and raised over £700 for the Shakespeare Hospice. We will be running the day of dance again in 2026 – so please put the 15<sup>th</sup> August in the diary and get in touch with us if you'd like to come – [shakespearemorris@gmail.com](mailto:shakespearemorris@gmail.com).

We had a great series of pub-dance-outs in 2025 and you should have received an email with our programme for 2026 – please feel invited to any night on the list and keep us posted.

New Year's Day 2026 and our 1<sup>st</sup> Shakespeare Morris Wassail in Warwick were both fabulous successes, and we had fun last year at Shakespeare's Birthday Celebrations, Stratford-upon-Avon Mop Fair, also not forgetting Bromyard Folk Festival & The Vale of Evesham National Morris Weekend. We look forward to repeating our attendance at all of these events in the coming year.

Hope our sides can share a dance-out at some point in 2026!

## Stafford Morris

2025 was a great year for us at Stafford, lots of activity, lots of dance outs and some social events that were huge fun.

As always, each year commences with our annual Feast. In 2025 we took the decision to do the catering ourselves, which in theory was a great idea, but our Bagman obviously struggled to read a calendar and accepted a paid booking on the same day. However, all turned out well and lashings of home prepared sloe gin provided by one of our dancers meant all went well.

January is always wassail season too, and our annual trip to Wolseley Gardens with the Cannock Chase Order of Druids was a great success.

We attended numerous days of dance in 2025, a marvellous opportunity to join different Sides from across the region and nationally to celebrate our joy of Morris Dancing.



A memorable occasion for us was a joint memorial for Johnny Burke on 1<sup>st</sup> May with Uttoxeter Heart of Oak Morris. Johnny was a Founder Member of Stafford Morris, and his Son, John Burke is still a member of Stafford Morris, after starting dancing in 1961. He was a mere whipper snapper then though!

We've been fortunate to be invited to numerous fetes and fairs this year. We thoroughly enjoy these and always try and get the crowds involved. We're fortunate that a majority of these become repeat annual bookings.

A real highlight in 2025 was the Vale of Evesham Morris Weekend. It was the first time that we've been in a lot of years, and we thoroughly enjoyed it and have already booked for 2026. The administration and organisation that went on to make the weekend such a success has got to be applauded.



We've also done quite a few talks this year to further promote Morris Dancing as an activity in our local community. We find that we're always appreciated at these events and it's great to be able to give something back to the community.



September saw our AGM where new Officers were voted in. Our long-suffering Squire, Max Haynes, stepped down, to be replaced by Andy Chell. Kirsty Higgs joined as Deputy Squire, our first ever lady Deputy Squire, David Jones joined as Bagman (our thoughts will remain with him....), Alan Wylie as Foreman of Music. Peter Copley remains as Swagman, Max Haynes remains as Foreman and Marianne Jones remains as Safeguarding Officer.

The rest of the year was uneventful, but enjoyable. Lots of practices, lots of dancing out, lots of singing and general merriment. We're now looking forward to a packed 2026 season.

### The Original Welsh Border Morris Men

The Original Welsh Border Morris Men meet only twice a year and had there only practice on the 6th December 2025 at the Bell Inn in St John's, it was well attended even though a few of our members decided to only come to the practice as other commitments didn't allow for them attend the tour.

We had 3 new members including having the pleasure of the past-Squire of the Ring, Nigel Strudwick attend again. Unfortunately, the Bag of the Ring, even though invited didn't attend.

The Tour was carried out on the last Saturday of December, the 20th and again reasonably well attended, although numbers were down slightly from last year. The weather blessed us with a good turnout of public watching us at each of the spots, White Ladies Aston, Pershore, Evesham Market Square & Bridge Street, Upton upon Severn and then finishing in Worcester.

Our new members were initiated at the AGM held at the Millers Arms in Pershore.

At each of our dance out spots we collected for our chosen charity and this year it was St Richards Hospice, with thanks to our collectors and the public donations, we raised the amazing sum of £267.51 for the charity. They were very pleased with our donation to the charity and thanked us all for our efforts.

## White Hart Morris Men

White Hart Morris is based in Alcester in Warwickshire and we started 2025 as guests of Silhill Morris for their Wassail in Henley-on-Arden and then we hosted our own Wassail in Alcester, organised by Alcester Court Leet and then on to a third Wassail hosted by Aelfgythe in Alvechurch.

In March we were one of the guest sides at Jockey's Ale, always a good event. As well as dancing the dawn at Wheethley on May 1<sup>st</sup>, we also danced at the Upton-on-Severn Folk Festival and did our annual Bredon Hill and Crophorne Walkabout tour in May.

The summer was packed with dance-outs and events at weekends, notably, Alcester Street Market and the Evesham National Morris Weekend in June, Foxs Morris Skulkfest in Ludlow and the Cookhill Fete in July. In August we once again enjoyed our annual walking tour of Gloucester City and our annual visit to the Saddleworth Rushcart as well as the Court Leet Fun Day in Alcester.

In September, we enjoyed the Bromyard Festival once more and White Hart's very own Day of Dance, this year numbers increasing to two coachloads. In November we danced outside the Town Hall in Stratford-on-Avon at the invitation of the Stratford Town Council. In December, we were guests of Cardiff Morris at their ale and, as we are every year, and our final dance-out was on St Nick's Night in Alcester on 6<sup>th</sup> December.

We also had a new member last year, Malcolm, who had danced Morris before but not for many years. He is now our Bagman and is doing a great job! We have also just had an enquiry from another chap to have a taster session, so will hopefully see him at our next practice.

In January 2026 we have been invited to dance at a couple of primary schools in Alcester, to Join Silhill for their Wassail and will once again be hosting our own Wassail in Alcester on Saturday 17<sup>th</sup>. As well as dancing the dawn on May Day, on Monday 4<sup>th</sup> May we shall be doing the Bredon Hill and Crophorne Walkabout tour and the Thaxted Weekend later in May. In June we shall be dancing at the Evesham weekend and Shakespeare's Day of Dance and then The Saddleworth Rushcart in August, as well as numerous dance-outs on Monday evenings throughout the summer.

On 26<sup>th</sup> September we will be hosting our annual Day of Dance. On 17<sup>th</sup> October we will be attending the Apple Day – a new event this year – in Alcester. And in December, once again, we will be joining Cardiff Morris for their Ale and rounding off the year by dancing in Alcester for St Nick's Night on Sunday 6<sup>th</sup> December at 5pm.

Iain Davison Squire

White Hart Morris



### Appendix 9

## Eastern Area Report, 2025–26 (Matt Simons)

2025 saw many highlights for morris in the eastern region. The Thaxted Morris Weekend continues to go from strength to strength and last year's event was the largest gathering for many years. In July, the Potty Morris Festival saw some forty sides from across the country converge on the quintessential seaside town of Sheringham, though only four of these were Morris Ring members (of which Belchamp and Devil's Dyke were the only two from the eastern area). Other large gatherings in the area that I attended, with larger representations of Morris Ring sides, included the Peterborough Morris Day of Dance (September) and the Whittlesea Straw Bear Festival (January).

The first edition of an occasional newsletter for the eastern area — *Eastern Angles* — appeared in June, which appears to have been well received. Though I received several contributions, unfortunately this was not enough to warrant an autumn edition. These articles will be carried forward for a spring edition, which should appear soon.

I'm sorry to report that we have lost three sides from the eastern area over the past couple of years for various reasons. Blackmore Morris appears to have wound up now for good after more than 50 years. This follows an attempt in 2024 to rescue the side from oblivion after an earlier decision to fold at an AGM. Occasional side, Chameleonic Morris, appears to still be in abeyance, having not emerged after the pandemic. Finally, associate members, Good Easter Molly, have lapsed but continue to perform annually on Plough Monday. Whilst I have been pleased to see a steady influx of new dancers and musicians across the

eastern area in recent years, it is still disappointing to see old sides disappear from the circuit.

Below you will find brief reports from thirteen of the fifteen clubs in the eastern area. This year, I asked responses to focus on community engagement and recruitment initiatives.

### Change of Officers (almost definitely not comprehensive):

Devil's Dyke: Squire is now Lou Osman, Bagman is Guy Jarvis

East Suffolk: Bagman is now Mick Reeve

Golden Star: Bagman is now Jackie Sturton

Kemp's: Bagman is now Lesley Shipgood

London Pride: Squire is now Jonny Willoughby, Bagman is David Pope

Rutland: Bagman is now Gordon Blunt

### Big Jigs

(Steve Hickling, Bagman)

Starting at the beginning we sent a good number of people to the Devils Dyke Ale and the Rumburgh Ale (in the snow!) over winter and a fine time was had by all at both events. Into Summer, we had a number of pub dance outs with Rumburgh Morris at Shotesham, and with Kemps Men at The Jubilee in Norwich and again with Rumburgh at the Locks, Geldeston of their Summer Solstice celebrations.

Festival wise, we camped and danced at the Strumpshaw Tree Fair, Harlequin Fair (both in Norfolk) and Folk East where we delivered a couple of well received workshops as well as a couple of ceilidh spots and the usual dance stage spots. The new venue for Folk East is a great improvement and we hope they are able to keep to that venue. Attached is a photo from one of our Folk East workshops.

Our oldest member has retired, but we have gained a couple of new dancers, one from Kemps Men, one from Golden Star, bringing total membership to 13. Plenty for Cotswold Jigs!

### Cambridge Morris Men / Travelling Morrice (Matt Simons, Squire and Acting Bagman)

The Cambridge Morris Men continue to maintain a slim programme of local events, including Plough Monday, our Spring Day of Dance, and fortnightly pub tours on Friday evenings in summer. Unfortunately, we have decided to reduce the frequency of practices to fortnightly meetings as we are often unable to raise a quorum of dancers on a Tuesday evening. Whilst we have a strong cohort of dancers available for weekend events and tours, our local side is sadly depleted.

Of those who regularly attend practices and events, all bar two regularly dance with at least one other side.

Lou Osman ran a very successful (151st) Travelling Morrice tour of East Sussex in July, based in Ringmer, which attracted some 19 dancers and musicians over four days of dancing. This was our first time in the area, and I for one hope that it will not be our last.

### Colchester Morris

(Robin Taverner, Bagman)

Notable successes this year included dancing at Dedham Christmas Market last November. Our traditional dance out on Boxing Day raised considerable funds for St Helena Hospice Children's Bereavement Service. We held a Morris Taster Workshop which was a huge success and helped us to recruit four dancers to the side. We also held workshops for local scouts and guides.

We attended the Thaxted Morris Weekend and held / attended joint events with Bowes and Belles, Rising Larks, Belchamps and East Suffolk Morris. As usual we organised a programme of pub visits and performances during the summer. The Hare and Hounds Leavenheath was particularly memorable, as our Squire performed the Lincolnshire Broom Dance with his son, and a long-term member of the side invited his grandchildren to watch him dance for the very first time. Our side is stonger than it has been for a while and we are lucky to have some very talented, and committed musicians and dancers. We look forward to celebrating our centenary this year (2026).

### Devil's Dyke Morris Men

(Guy Jarvis, Bagman)

This year we welcomed four new members, bringing the group to 18 dancers and two musicians.

From September through July, we continued our regular Thursday practices and dance outs, alongside special events including Wandlebury at dawn on May Day, the Thriplow Daffodil Festival, Whitsun celebrations in Whaddon, the Sheringham Potties Festival, Chesterford Steam-Up, and performances at a local school and care home.

We raised £1,500 for Prostate Cancer UK, as well as £150 each for West Suffolk Marie Curie Nurses and St Nicholas Hospice, Bury St Edmunds, in memory of Norman Noble, whom we sadly lost to cancer last year.

## East Suffolk Morris Men

(Mick Reeve, Bagman)

East Suffolk continues to be active, with 15 dancers and 6 musicians, although age/injury is a factor and not everyone shows up to everything. In 2025 we danced out from April (St Georges Day) to September with our usual mix of pubs, the odd fete and occasional special such as a wedding or party.

Traditionally we have done a foreign tour once a year in May but have decided recently to make the 'foreign tour in the UK. The highlight of 2025 was the tour to Somerset, organised by distant member Adam Garland, whereby a good time was had by all.

More sadly we have recently lost our 2025 squire and foreman, Mike Garland, towards family in the midlands and are currently discovering how little we remember of the dances without Mike! Several men have been delegated to teach a tradition each and that approach is going well. Recruitment is ongoing. We have recently run a taster session, but without success, although the publicity did attract someone who had danced in the past to come back.

## Golden Star Morris

2026 is the year of the horse, so it's a good job we have a wicker one called Champion!

2025 was a great year for Golden Star Morris. With new recruits joining in the autumn of 2024, we had them kitted out and performing at the earliest opportunity we could. We upped our recruitment once again in autumn 2025, and at the time of writing we have 47 members of diverse ages, genders and backgrounds - something we always aim for in our inclusivity.

Taking opportunities when they arise, we have performed nationally and locally, and the latter has certainly proven fruitful in attracting new members; we tried several recruiting campaigns, but have found that word of mouth and local presence seems to attract people interested in joining our side. We attracted local media attention while dancing out on one of Norwich City of Ale Trails, and during our May Day morning dance. And we got lots of attention from the city crowds on our annual Christmas Shopping Disruption dance out in December. Our home-grown North Norfolk Bus Tour and Summer Camp weekend in north Suffolk are firm favourites with the side and get us out and about in the region. This year we aim to keep ourselves seen across Norfolk and Norwich as much as possible; that being said, it can be hard to balance when there are so many amazing events across the UK!

Last year we attended the Shrewsbury Folk Festival, performing across dance spots but also on stage with the Bar Steward Sons of Val Doonican. This was live

streamed on the festival website (no pressure there then) and then went out across the band's socials. We were invited to Sheffield City Morris's wonderful weekend of dance in the Peak District and also attended some firm favourites such as Vale of Evesham National Morris Weekend, the Gate to Southwell Festival and Upton Upon Severn Folk Festival - all of which we hope to attend again this year.

Of course, all the double stepping and sticking calls for refreshments and there's been plenty of opportunities to quench our thirst. Last year, in the spirit of trying something new, we discovered Buzzball cocktails! However, after those and one too many mojitos on a bus bar, we reckon we'll be sticking to ale - it's a bit easier on the stomach, and much less neon in colour.

Speaking of trying new things, our Foreman has been introducing a new repertoire for the upcoming season. Whilst we love our Adderbury dances, they'll be taking a back step for the time being as we bring in Bampton and Oddington which will be a good refresher for more seasoned dancers, and will keep newer recruits on their toes!

Finally, we have also upped our presence on social media sites such as Facebook and Instagram - please give us a follow to see what we're up to, where we'll be, and morris related memes.

Facebook <https://www.facebook.com/goldenstarmorris>

Instagram: @Goldenstarmorris

### Kemp's Men of Norwich (Lesley Shipgood, Bagman)

Kemp's Men have had a full, varied and international year! Activities included:

- Our usual summer programme of weekly dance outs at pubs across Norfolk from May to September, which this year included being able to dance our Norfolk tradition dance "Trunch Bypass" at Trunch Social Club (we think they were impressed, they treated us to a wonderful buffet!).
- After dancing up the sun in Norwich our 2025 May Day tour took us to Great Yarmouth, and Boxing Day saw us performing our traditional Mummers Play in Banningham, Norfolk.
- We had great fun on our Whit Tour of Derbyshire, dancing in caves and a stately home and August saw us in Suffolk as usual on our annual weekend tour with Knots of May.
- The end of the summer was equally as busy as we were delighted to be invited by our friends in Winnigen, Germany to be part of their joyous Wine Festival. This was quickly followed on our return by appearing at the Bungay Folk Festival.

We have gained another new member who was inspired by seeing us dance during the summer but were sad to note the death of another past member, Dave Robertson, at whose wake we were honoured to dance in November. Problems with dancer availability (probably not surprising given how full our diary has been this year) meant we were not able to many regional Days of Dance. In this 25/26 practice season we are expanding our repertoire of traditions to include Bidford.

Finally, we were well chuffed that our tune for the Norfolk dance “Win’s Galop”, (music by Stephen Bazire, dance by Dave Robertson) was accepted for the Morris Federation’s 50th anniversary project CD and we will be even happier when the CD becomes available to buy!

### London Pride

(Peter Kanssen, Past Bagman)

It's continuing to be productive to be supporting the morris class at Cecil Sharp house, with Andy's excellent instruction. We've had a couple of new members who look like they are staying, they are also active in other sides in the area so there is competition for their favours!

May day on Primrose hill is now so traditional that it feels like it has been done since time immemorial (proud instigator), we also continue to be regulars at the Angel canal festival and Apple Yowling in Walthamstow, and pubs when the class stops in the summer. Last year we attended Thaxted as a side again and thoroughly enjoyed it so are planning to be back.

An amicable coup has changed the Squire, Bag and Fore all in one go and the new team (Jonny Willoughby, David Pope and Grace Williams) are looking to build things up (as previous bagman I'm quite happy with this!

### Mayflower Morris Men

(Andrew Reynolds, Bagman)

Mayflower Morris carried out a number of events which engaged with the local Community.

- Anisha Grange Care Home in Billericay. A demonstration involving residents, relatives and carers.
- A Mummings 'Play in Billericay High Street.
- Dancing at The Billericay Christmas Market
- Dancing at The Billericay Late Night Shopping evening in November.
- Dancing Stock Flower Festival in July
- Dancing at local pubs on a Thursday Night
- Dancing at Ingatestone House in August.

- Dancing at Paycocke's House, Coggeshall
- (in all these events we engage with the local community and try to involve them in the dancing)

Mayflower Morris try hard to recruit when possible. We are keen to promote recruitment when dancing out. We hold a session in Lake Meadows Park, Billericay in July reaching out to local people. Demonstrating some of the more straightforward dances and offering them a pair of hankies and giving them a copy of our programme for the year.

During 2025, we have been planning an event for 2026. The aim is to contact local groups e.g. the rugby club, the running club, the street pastors and to invite them to take part in our Morris Challenge. If they are up for it, they will come to a morning session in a local hall and receive training for the Adderbury dance, Bluebells. The teams will then take part in a Morris dance off in the afternoon. Their family and friends will also be invited. This event will be sponsored by Billericay Council.

## Peterborough Morris

(Mike Grant, Bagman)

Our first event after the ARM in 2025 was our usual dancing at dawn on May Day in Peterborough. Our season of 16 pub nights kicked off in mid-May, and we shared these with Bourne Borderers, Crosskey Clog, Pig Dyke Molly, Rutland Morris and Sutton Masque. Festivals and large events we danced at included Straw Bear Festival, Ely Folk Festival, Hemingford Abbots Flower Festival, Oundle Fringe Festival, John Clare Festival, Peterborough Beer Festival, International Pipe & Tabor Festival, Deepings Lions Charity Duck Race and World Conker Championships.

We also supported local organisations by dancing or giving talks to Oundle Historical Society, Peterborough Local History Society, Lime Academy Special School and RAF Wittering. Our annual Day of Dance in September was a walking tour of Peterborough which 12 invited sides also attended. Our numbers have been fairly stable this year, with new recruits balancing retiring members.

## Rutland Morris

(Gordon Blunt, Bagman) 2025 was a busy year with numerous dance events, including 8 in May, 8 in June, and 7 in July, showcasing the group's commitment to public performances. New members were successfully integrated, with many making their public debuts at various events, including the Oakham Spring event and our regular May Day Dawn Dance. At this, we had three sets dancing (before breakfast!), which demonstrates the health of the club and the steady infusion of new members in the last few years.

We maintained a strong presence at traditional events like the Whittlesey Straw Bear festival, Boxing Day celebrations, St George's Day, despite some challenges such as poor weather and crowd sizes at village fetes. Having said this, at one fete, a Strictly Come Dancing judge awarded us 10 out of 10! As well as these, we had several successful Border and Mummers events in the winter – with three new members of the cast in the Mummers play, which was, as usual, played to large and enthusiastic crowds. Especially on Boxing Day, despite the cold. The musicianship and support from experienced members was crucial, with gratitude expressed towards those who stepped up during performances.

One problem, although it's a good one to have, is the nurturing of new members while continuing to maintain a high standard of dancing, so we relied on experienced dancers to take responsibility for mentoring new members.

Rutland has maintained scrap books since it started in 1974, but until 2025 they had been held by the scrap book keeper; this was obviously fragile. In April, we presented them – all 27 of them – to the Record Office for Leicestershire, Leicester and Rutland, where they will now be in secure storage in perpetuity. And, of course, available to any researchers who visit the Record Office.

We donate to a local charity in as many years as we can, and in 2025 we made one of our larger single donations – of £750 – to Root-and-Branch Out (<https://www.rootandbranchout.co.uk/>). As well as that, we danced at three of Root-and-Branch Out's events during the year; this was part of how we support our nominated charity.

## Thameside Mummers

(Simon Hill)

It's been much the same for us. Doing gigs where people go to see something rather than random pubs or fetes (worse than death). Beltane at the Locks Inn is a favourite and our Annual camp at Blaxhall. Faversham Hop Festival is good, great camping and a fee. Christmas now only 3 gigs, but one is the very well attended Boxing Day outside the Crooked Billet in Old Leigh. Our 50th year of performing there.

We gained a new member, miracles of miracles. He asked if he could photograph us and we roped him in. Unfortunately, another left. A shame as he was a younger one. No reason given but we believe pressure from his partner as we are all male. Two older members (70s and 90s) less able and will soon drop out I think.

## Thaxted Morris Men

(Rob Evans, Bagman)

Thaxted has had a very busy and successful year again this year, we have raised enough money to renew most of our aging jackets, some were still in use from 1952! Our older members have stayed fit, one actually climbing the outside of the church Spire whilst we danced below for his 90th birthday!

We have managed to attract 4 new members 2 adult and two junior members. The Thaxted Morris weekend was a great success with more dancers from more sides than we have ever hosted before. So many that we have decided to make it a little smaller this year to allow for some breathing room for 2027 - 2027 will be the 100th anniversary of the first Thaxted Morris weekend.

Our walking tour was well attended in late August and good fun. I'd like to take this opportunity to thank all the sides that have supported the Thaxted Morris men over the last year and for their friendship.

### *Appendix 10*

## South West Area Report

### Bathampton Morris Men

Despite low attendances at some of our summer programme evenings things are improving. Practice attendance has been good with a bumper turnout for our Plough Sunday performance. We have one new dancer out of six that expressed an interest over the summer in joining. We will repeat our summer programme again, despite pubs closing down all around us. We have discussed a foreign tour, but this is unlikely, because our income hasn't fully recovered since Covid.

### Bovey Tracey Mummers

We were unable to perform on our 50th anniversary year because of health issues with key members, so currently we are only a mummers group in name only.

### Bristol Morris Men

A programme of reinvigoration with an introductory workshops is underway focussing on our 75th anniversary in 2026.

Cam Valley Morris Men - No report forthcoming

### Chalice Morris Men

2025 went well. We continue to boost recruitment and managed to acquire a promising new recruit at the beginning of the practice season. We are looking forward to another good dancing season in 2026.

## Dartington Morris

Currently we have a total of 34 members with some 25 regular dancers and one principal musician. We had a surge of new members during the practice season a year ago, but many of these didn't get as far as performing. A fair number of our active dancers are members of one or more other sides, so we never have all 25 available for any event.

We elected our first honorary member in Lionel Harper, who had been our treasurer and sometime bagman for over 30 years and we are pleased he comes to join us on occasions. Brian Stone continues to be our reliable musician, with several dancers joining him on occasions during performances providing a band of anything from one to four players. We danced out every week from May to September, starting with May Day at Totnes Castle and finishing with our day of dance in Totnes with fifteen sides in total. Our now annual Autumn Ale was much appreciated with two invited sides joining us in November.

## Exeter Morris

2025 was another good year with a full summer programme including shared events with Otter, Sidmouth Steppers, Bradninch Millers, Winkleigh, Great Western, Glory of the West, Taunton Deane and Somerstep and attending numerous local fairs and festivals. We have around 30 members and there are now more new members than old running the side. 2026 is our 75th anniversary with many events such as a DoD at the end of May being planned. It looks as if we will have a very full programme to look forward to.

## Gloucestershire Morris

Boxing Day, where we performed the Gloucester Play, proved again to be one of the highlights of the year where we were joined by other sides, over 400 people attended.

Wassailing fun was had in January and from April sees us dancing out all over Gloucestershire on a Tuesday night. We hope to be join other sides for days of dance and festivals. We now have 20 members, of which six are women. Our social media is growing rapidly connecting people and sharing traditions.

## Helier Morris

2025 was a significant milestone it being 50 years since the late Harry Kitchener founded the side. Making our half century has been a struggle, but it was celebrated.

October saw the arrival of three young women at our practice, so we may yet with the infusion of young blood be able to dance out in public again.

## Lyme Morris

We had another very successful year performing at a record number of events. Our highlight was our Lyme Morris Day which attracted 25 sides and some 400 dancers and musicians performing on the sea front. This year our Morris Day is Saturday 11th July.

North Curry Mummers - No report submitted

### Plymouth Morris

We have continued to extend our Plymouth tradition with the resurrection of, Rubix, a complex dance with dancers changing position and orientation for each figure, to add to, Flowing Tide, and Lichfield, Old 38. Highlight of a very full and extending season were our May Day, the Jockey Plough Tour and Stafford Feast, King John DoD, Teignmouth and Sidmouth Festivals and Dartington's Brutus Day, DoD and Autumn Ale. Numerous performances of our Elizabethan Mummers Play took place in December along with Morris dancing on Boxing Day and New Year's Day.

### Sweyn's Ey

2025 was another busy year starting with a round of joyous Wassails in January, Cardiff's Valleys Tour in April and our dawn May Day, followed by every Thursday evening and numerous weekend events during the summer including Chippenham, Bradford-upon-Avon, Evesham and the all Wales festivals. We attracted three new members at our October taster session and finished the dancing year at the November Cardiff Morris Ale.

2026 is our 60th anniversary when we intend to celebrate with a weekend of dance and a DoD on the Gower and Swansea on Saturday 6th June. Our diary is overflowing as our services are in considerable demand.

### Taunton Deane Morris Men

Despite declining membership, following our usual Easter Monday tour we have maintained a full Tuesday evening programme dancing in the Somerset villages throughout the summer of 2025. 2026 began with dancing in the New Year where we collected £235 for our local hospice. We are still enjoying dancing Adderbury, Ilmington, Ducklington and our own Taunton Deane repertoire for as long as we can.

### Trigg Morris

A full season started with our annual Easter Monday tour where we danced our full repertoire of dances from Stanton Harcourt, Bucknell, Fieldtown and Lichfield. We attended Carn Brae's Hayle DoD, Teignmouth Festival and Dartington DoD. In December we perform our Mummers play alongside our seasonal Morris adapted to traditional carol tunes.

### Wessex Morris Men

Despite us being, of an age, and a few dancers are taking it, a little easier, we are still putting on a good show of our art with a full summer programme with regular show and festival appearances, not to mention our ever popular May Day and Boxing Day events in Cerne Abbas. We have an active membership of almost 20 men, including a recent surprise intake of a few young men. 2027 marks our 70th anniversary with our new practice hall and pub, so we are ready

to embrace a new chapter in our history.

### West Somerset Morris

We had a wonderful 2025 season celebrating our 60th anniversary supported by invited sides Sweet Coppin, Taunton Deane and Chalice. Somerset Air Ambulance and MIND benefitted from our charity collections. We have gained a few younger members and are busy practicing for the forthcoming season.

### Wyvern Jubilee Morris Men

Wyvern's membership since becoming a mixed side is healthy with new members arriving. We are looking forward to our 50th anniversary in 2027.

Paul Reece  
SW Area Rep

## *Appendix 10.1*

### South East Area Report – Lewis Elliot

It's a joy being the South East area representative for the Ring. Despite having lived in London for just over 20 years, I never really explored the surrounding counties as much as I should - and now I have the perfect excuse!

I'm fairly satisfied with my morris excursions this year. With the exceptions of The World Famous Ashdown Mummers and Stourvale Mummers, I have managed to get out to visit all the sides whom I have on my little list (though not necessarily at their own events). I've had the pleasure of visiting the Isle of Wight again, attending the Morris Federation AGM weekend with Taylor's Morris, heading overseas to France during the North Wood Weekend of Dance in Calais & Boulogne-sur-Mer, and, of course, going to Croydon for the Croydon Night of Dance.

I've attended feasts and wassails, seen Mummers and Hoodeners perform in the dark of winter, been burnt to a crisp during various sides' Days of Dance in the summer, and I've spent so much time with Hartley Morris Men that I have been voted in as a Regional Member - surely the greatest honour that I've received this year! Or, possibly, might that be becoming the first person from the South East area to be awarded the coveted Global Warming Award trophy from Rutland Morris for my services to farting? Who could say?

This year I have also had the great pleasure of gaining a side in my area: Winterbourne Morris. They are a youth side from Sussex who I have seen

many times over the last few years. It's with great pleasure that I welcome them to the Morris Ring and my area. If you would like to invite them along to any of events then please get in touch with the esteemed Mr Johns.

Anyway, I just want to thank all the sides who have kindly invited me along to their events over the past year. It has been both an honour and a pleasure.

I look forward to seeing you all again this year.

Lewis Elliot

Morris Ring South East Area Representative

The Reports:

Ashdown Forest Morris Men

What is it about the 'Magic of the Morris' that keeps a band of such diverse blokes together dancing in the street to one man and his dog?

Come rain or shine Ashdown Forest Morris Men have continued to entertain at the pubs around Ashdown Forest on Wednesday evenings. But right now we are currently hunkered down for the practice season at a village hall on the Forest - with a pint at "The Office" afterwards.

Boxing Day afternoon the sun shone and Ashdown were at their usual haunt - the Hatch - at Colemans Hatch - the aforementioned "office".

New year's Day was spent, again, at the New Inn - Hadlow Down - where they now have a light bulb in the toilets.

At these holiday stands our audience have been most generous as we continue to collect for children's charities. I'm not sure if their generosity is out of appreciation for our dance or just sympathy?

Dancing - Each new season our Foreman will replace one tradition with another and this year Adderbury makes a reappearance - yes another different hey lads.

Membership has remained stable but Adderbury will be a new tradition to some of our (older) newer chaps.

For the season ahead we've arranged our usual weekend fairs and activities to be much the same as previous years - going for quality not quantity.

Our annual tour is booked for the summer and this year we are hell bent on going to Exmoor.

Our beast - the Badger has survived another year.

All events and nights out will be on our website.

Keep Dancing.

Keith

Bagman AFMM.

### Bald Of Guv'nors

This year The Bald of Guv'nors played tunes and drank beer. We also danced Morris with the elegance of Stroh emboldened barrow boys. Our numbers are growing. By the year 3000 one half of the UK populace shall be Guv'nors.

### Blackheath Morris Men

This year Blackheath Morris have successfully continued to exist. Despite what our audiences think, we have been practicing regularly. We continue to support our local hostelrys and look forward to continuing to do so in 2026.

### Broadwood Morris Men

Broadwood had a really good 2025 – from the Wassail at Maplehurst in January to the Boxing Day Tour taking the Rusper Mummers Play back to Rusper. In March we appeared on ITV's "this morning" from Ardingly Antiques Fair for 5 of our 15 minutes of fame. We danced at a local school as part of their Cultural Day where we also got the Head and a Deputy Head up and dancing with us. We danced the sun down on May Eve and followed that with dancing in Rusper church as part of our May Day Tour. Also in May we had one of our best ever Days of Dance in Horsham. We had a summer of dancing out at pubs across the district. October saw our AGM quickly followed by Old Friday celebrating the annual launch of HBC's Old Ale and saw us back at practice. In December we danced as part of Maypoles to Mistletoe as well as the Boxing Day Tour.

If I had to pick a theme for the last year it would be returns – we've had two former dancers return to dance with us, and a couple of dances have returned to our repertoire.

We've also been reminding people that there's More to Morris; it's not only dancing, it's a fantastic social group. We've had music and song sessions, sometimes with dancing, on one occasion just a sausage and a song. We've kept up our involvement with our local cider orchard beyond the Wassail and been busy with pruning, picking up apples, and bottling and labelling a second limited edition batch of cider, this time called "Fools Gold".

### Buckland Shag Morris

Buckland Shagg had its best year for a long time in 2025. As you are aware we have benefitted from the unfortunate folding of East Surrey Morris Men on the eve of their centenary. I'm pleased that they are still meeting occasionally and that they have a centenary event arranged for July. Sadly, I will be unable to attend as we have a holiday booked for that period of July but I am sure we will be represented.

We initially acquired two East Surrey men and a friend of one of them. This allowed us to dance out most weeks from May to early August. We did not take on any paid events as we could not be certain in advance of having enough experienced dancers available, but this was still a huge improvement on the previous couple of years and much more satisfying for everybody.

In October we danced at the Pilgrim Brewery Taproom in Reigate and this went down well with staff and customers alike; we have been invited to return at any time and fully intend to do so. We have had a good practice season so far and have welcomed another East Surrey man into the side so I am hopeful we will have an even better summer season this year. We performed our mummings play on Boxing Day as usual at the Skimmington Castle pub on Reigate Heath in front of a very lark and enthusiastic crowd. The pub looks after us very well supplying beer and food and we have our best collection of the year on the day.

We now have 11 dancing members two of whom are competent musicians and two other musicians. It goes without saying that we would love to recruit a few more.

David

### Chanctonbury Ring Morris

#### Recruitment and retirement

Over the last year, we have recruited at least six people, and had the return of a lapsed member. While this sounds great, and it is, several of

these new dancers are also members of other sides. This brings up the concern of allegiances.

If there is a member who is a member of two teams and each want to dance out on the same day at different locations, who do they chose to dance with? Our current observation are they tend to choose their former side. But what happens if it is at the same location, perhaps at a day of dance. If they still go with the former and dancing with their former sides, do we, as their 'second side' let them dance with us too, but in a different kit? What do other sides do?

We have had had the retirement of two long standing members. One retired due to failure in his 'dancing legs', while another has changed sides.

One member has returned to the side after a lapse of several years. He just couldn't stay away any longer."

Clive

East Surrey Morris Men - Report under construction, not received at time of press

Ewell St Mary's Morris Men

Ewell St Mary's Morris Men have had a successful year. Following a taster session in January, we had two new members joining us for practice. Although one later dropped out, the other danced in to the side during our Boxing Day tour of Ewell Village.

Sadly, long-time member of the side Derek Warrilow, died also on Boxing Day. Derek had not been an active member of the side for some time and had been suffering with dementia.

We have also been joined by Clayton Francis, current treasurer of The Morris Ring.

Current numbers:

18 including three exclusive musicians - two others sometimes play for us.

Greensleeves Morris Men

Greensleeves consider their dancing year starting on Lord Mayor's Show day in the City of London, dancing for the crowds before and after the procession, and this enjoyable day attracted once again the best turnout of dancers of the year.

Our annual outing on Boxing Day, featuring the “Wimbledon Mummers Day”, was also well- attended as usual, with the Doctor’s surgery given help from “patients” from the audience.

As well as enjoyable stops at South London local pubs, a new departure for the club this year (for the squire at least) was a wassail at the Trafalgar, Wimbledon in the company of New Esperance. We also supported a number of local beer festivals, providing dancing and music (and thirsts!).

Other firsts were a Thames Riverboat tour, in practice for another in our 2026 Centenary year, in the company of Taeppas Tump, and a much appreciated show for an international audience at the Global Grass Symposium in Reading.

Weekends away were to Hastings and Rye, with local side Rheda’s Dream, and an excellent Day of Dance in Southwell hosted by Dolphin Morris Men, who also joined us for a walking tour of Chipperfield in Hertfordshire, home to many morris weekends hosted by the club.



## Greenwich Morris Men

2025 was a very busy and highly enjoyable year for Greenwich Morris. We danced at the Wassail in the East Greenwich Pleasaunce in January, and at local events almost every month, until we danced at the Wassail again last month.

Highlights were our Winter Warmer in Greenwich Park in February (it was freezing, challenging the musicians' fingers); the Telegraph Hill Folk Festival; Beating the Bounds of the parish of Lee, with our friends Dacre Morris; the Dawn Dance on May Day followed by Rochester Sweeps; a tour of old palaces in London with – er – Old Palace Clog; the Spring, Harvest and Christmas fairs at Surrey Docks Farm, where the audience of people is augmented by appreciative goats, pigs and fowls.

We had a great weekend in the North with Madder Mill Molly, when we danced with the very wonderful Hebden Bridge Hill Millies, whose kit is based on the wardrobe of Nora Batty, with yellow dusters rather than hankies, and the Britannia Coconut Dancers.

There was another cracking weekend in Calais and Boulogne-sur-Mer with North Wood. We danced for an international gathering of travel agents who, being travel agents, haven't been forthcoming with the agreed fee, and at a very posh hotel around the corner from Buckingham Palace, where we entertained audiences of curious tourists from all over the globe. We are fortunate to be based in a World Heritage Site, with great spots for dancing – by the Cutty Sark (ship), in the Old Royal Naval College, Greenwich Park, and the Cutty Sark (pub).

Other sides enjoy visiting and we had a very successful 'At Home' in the summer. We raised some money last year and were very pleased to be able to make a donation to the Motor Neurone Disease Society. We still miss Ged, who danced with and played his concertina for the side for decades, but had to retire due to ill health.

We are very grateful to Christine for playing for us now as our main musician. She is great! Marty is making rapid progress on the melodeon; Alan plays his sweet English concertina and Colin, the Squire, enjoys having an opportunity to play when we have enough dancers. Which, very happily, we almost always do now.

We are delighted to have been joined by Dan and George, terrific swift-to-learn dancers – and in their twenties! And Darren, a little longer in the tooth, but equally adept. It has been wonderful to welcome new, keen dancers, and lovely people, and to have Dave, our foreman, back from his

long sojourn in Australia, so the standard of dancing is on the rise and we are, slowly, adding to our repertoire. As I write, we're a month and a half into our 50th year – and going strong.

Julian May

Bagman, Greenwich Morris

Harry Taylor's Morris

Taylor's have continued to practice monthly in both London and Birmingham this year, with many of these practices also serving as workshops for new dancers. Hosting these after Ales seems to have worked a treat: a few pints of bitter are apparently all you need to trick people into thinking 'maybe Longborough isn't all that bad actually'. We currently have 15 dancers (one of whom is new to dancing with the side this year) and 3 musicians. We have also had a few people from workshops regularly attending practices, who will hopefully be dancing out with us soon.

Since April, we've danced at Oxford Folk Festival, Chippenham Folk Festival, The Fed Day of Dance in Sheffield, Belle's Ale, Jockey Plough Tour, and Stafford Feast. A flash of turquoise has occasionally been seen at other events across the country, too, as dancers have escaped here and there to beg scratch sides to please let them dance a slightly more relaxing tradition.

Looking to 2026, we're hoping for more of the same. More dance outs, more ales, and more workshops, gleefully timed to knacker unsuspecting friends. Hopefully, we can trick even more of them into sticking around with us for the long run.

Elysia – Bag for Taylor's Morris

Hartley Morris Men

Hartley Morris Men enjoyed another successful year during 2025, dancing to a mixed bunch of audiences ranging from one man and his dog to packed pubs and events, but on each occasion, there was fun and laughter on our part.

We benefited from the sad demise of Woodchurch Morris Men by recruiting a couple of their guys, and have had another recruit joining us since Christmas. This means our numbers remain healthy and our events are normally well attended by members of the side; the fact that many

are held at some great pubs serving the finest Kentish Ales is, we believe, a mere coincidence.

Last year we danced for a weekend 'up north', basing ourselves in Huddersfield, we attended the Victory Day of Dance, enjoyed another successful Shepherd Neame tour, spent our usual week on our holidays at Broadstairs Folk Week, had a weekend on the canals and ended with our now traditional Gallon of Ale Tour to round the season off. 2025 also saw us run our first Hartley Ale since the COVID Lockdown, the success of which sees us planning to repeat this again this year. Our regular Thursday's around the pubs of west Kent were also well attended.

During 2026 we plan to repeat many of our regular events, we're starting with an upgrade on Huddersfield (sorry, no disrespect to Huddersfield) by visiting Amsterdam and Utrecht and then repeating many of the events we attend and continue to enjoy.

We're a year older but still with just enough energy and just enough working knees to keep doing what we do and with a regular trickle of newcomers the future looks pretty good for Hartley Morris Men.

(Insert Name Here) Mummers (Insert End of Year Report) Here

### King John's Morris Men

King John's Morris Men took advantage of about twenty four opportunities to dance at various events in 2025, including our day of dance in April, with guests from Dartington, Plymouth and Bourne River (plus a certain Aberdonian), our usual May Morning at the Bargate, Southampton's mediaeval gateway, with Red Stags Morris, a number of local fêtes and the New Forest Folk Festival (we are the opening act, with dancing, a mummers' play and a sing-around, and run morris workshops), together with pub nights, mostly on Thursdays, meeting Winchester, Bourne River, Red Stags and Sarum.

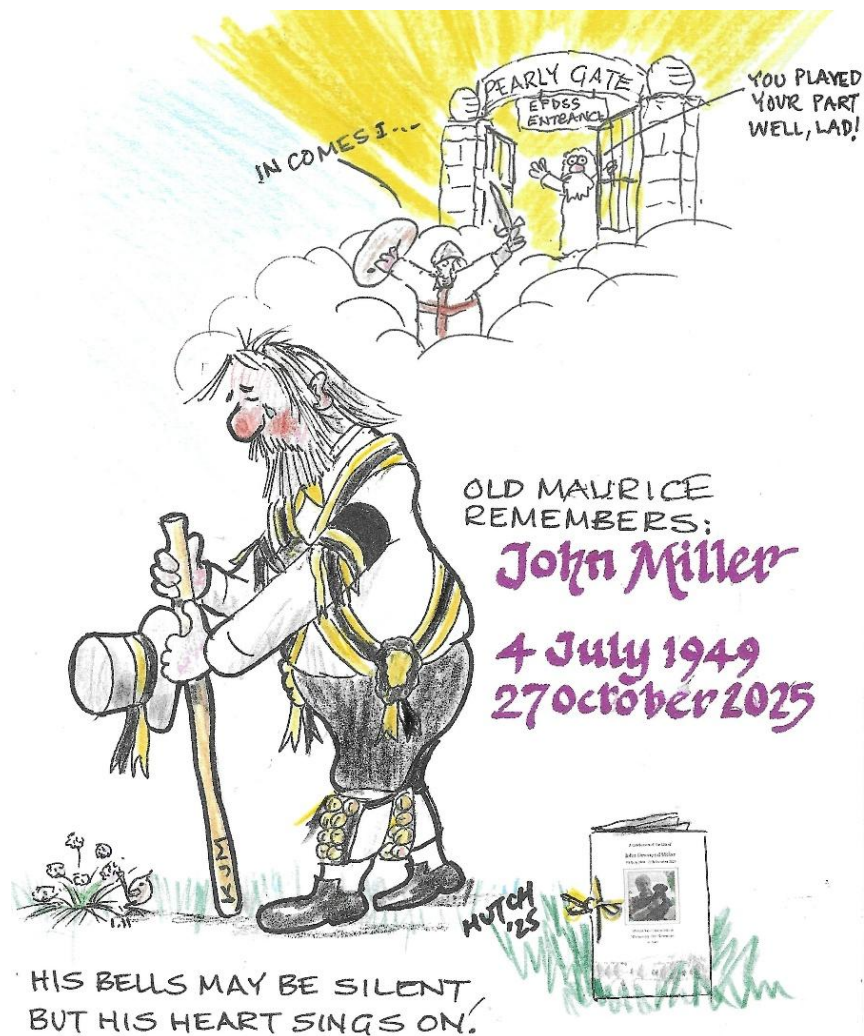
We also ran a further eight music and song sessions in the early and later parts of the year.

Before and after Christmas, our mummers play appeared locally and on Boxing Day, with us dancing Border – to a large audience in the limited confines of the narrow road outside the Vine in Bursledon. Our Christmas collections will result in a donation to a local prostate cancer support charity of £2200.

Our most anticipated event of the year was the celebration of 50 years of King Johns on 31st August, attended by many current and former members of the side, their partners and families.

Sadly, it has also been a year for remembering past members - on the 5th June, we commemorated the 20th anniversary the sudden death of Bob Waller whilst on tour with us at Thaxted.

We also lost John Miller to prostate cancer on 27th October. Despite his oft-noted lack of height, he was a big contributor to King John's - Squire for a total of fourteen years, and Bagman for five, let alone his contributions to the dancing, singing, mumming and music. John's funeral on 19th November was attended by many morris friends from across the country, a tribute to his involvement in the morris.



(Cartoon © David Hutchings of KJMM)

Kingston Spring Grove Morris -No report received at time of press.

### Long Man Morris

Long Man have had another good year. We have taken over the running of Sussex Day in Lewes and continue to run our popular Eastbourne Seafront Walking tour - this has proven a great hit with visiting sides.

Our programme seems to be leaning more towards weekend events and less to Friday Pub stands. This may be due to more pubs becoming foody pubs and the side preferring (or at least voting for) days of dance and local events. We've recently added a day of dancing at Scotney castle which is very popular, the Old Ale in Lewes seems to get better every year and we've finally got our Wassail back to its 'home' The Star at Waldron - huzzah.

Pub stands are still there and we have a good group of regular pubs we visit. One of our favourite days is Garland day led by the fabulous Knots of May. Side numbers are around 20 dancers and we have two excellent lead musicians and two muso/dancers should they be needed. All in all we are ticking over nicely.

### Men of Wight Morris

On paper we have twenty members of which four are ladies. However, some of us are feeling our age and we rely on the ladies to make up a full dancing side on quite a few occasions. The other factor is that they are good dancers and lift the performance of some of the not so young male dancers.

We had our Sunday Lunch event at the end of March open to all Island morris dancers (Oyster Girls, Moonshine, Bakers Dozen and Guith) which was well attended. On 1st May we danced at the Longstone on Brighstone Down at Dawn and from the middle of May until the beginning of September every Thursday evening at various locations around the Island.

The side also attended the Thaxted weekend but due to unforeseen circumstances had to perform four-man dances or borrow a dancer from another Side. In August we were delighted to welcome Bourne River MM who joined us for a day tour by Southern Vectis buses of towns on the east of the Island. Their ladies performed a rapper dance which brought back memories when we used to dance rapper.

Attracting new members is a problem that many Sides face and so it is with us, although we had a new member start last October, Sarah, who is picking up the dances quickly. There are currently two of us with knee problems, but we both hope to be able to dance when the season starts. Without our ladies we would have ceased and when in costume it's not obvious which gender each dancer is.

### North Wood Morris Men

North Wood Morris, Croydon's own side, celebrated their 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary year in 2025. No one would have ever thought that after performing a Morris dance at a Scout Folk event in 1975 we would still be dancing fifty years later.

We had a very busy year of dancing at no less than forty-six different events over the year around Surrey, London and Kent.

On the first of May we danced as usual at dawn outside the Croydon Alms-houses where it is reported that Morris dancers performed for May Day festivities as early as the time of King Henry VIII.

North Wood organised a Day of Dance coach tour with guest sides in June to a brewery to start with and then some nice pubs in the Kent countryside.

During the Summer, North Wood joined the Greenwich Morris Men to perform in London and surrounding areas.

In August we danced at the annual Croydon Night of Dance with many other sides. Over the year we had invitations from other teams to join them for dance outs.

At end of August 2025 to celebrate our 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary year we organised our regular three-day DoD weekend with guest sides dancing in France around Calais and at a rural museum where we will had a lovely meal and beers before dancing in the big Cite Europe shopping centre. The following day we travelled along the coast to Boulogne-sur-Mer to dance in the Old Town and finished the weekend with a meal before returning to England.

Later this year, North Wood will be organising another weekend in France early in September. We welcome any dancers or teams who would like to join us on this weekend. Please contact us for more details if you are interested.

In December, we organised our annual Christmas DoD tour along the London's South Bank with guest sides. We danced at the Christmas

Riverside Market and after lunch in the Borough market, we danced at two more pubs before returning home.

The weather was cold but dry for our final event on Boxing Day, dancing at a local pub with a good appreciative crowd.

North Wood, as with so many other teams, needs new members. It is proving hard to recruit, so we started up a mixed side called North Wood Way Morris. They now have some women members and hope this will continue to bring in more new members to both sides.

We look forward to having another good year of dancing during 2026.

### Ravensbourne Morris Men

Like most sides, we are always looking to recruit new members. We have been fortunate that since the last report, we have attracted four men to join, of whom, three are regulars and showing excellent potential, both as dancers and for continuing with the side.

We practice every Tuesday evening between September and April, generally taking May Day as the social start of the dancing programme, which runs from May to the end of July. In this period, as well as our programmed dancing nights, we also support other sides in their events, such as Westminster Day of Dance, Thaxted weekend, Old Palace Clog "At Home", Belles of London City Ale and Hop Hoodening in Canterbury.

We performed mumming plays on two successive weeks before Christmas and had a most enjoyable evening singing carols in a pub in Bromley North to help raise funds for St Christopher's, our local hospice. Our Boxing Day dancing saw the usual large crowd of around 400 people at the Greyhound in Keston.

We returned to the Greyhound a week later for our wassailing. Again, the pub was packed, and we finished the evening with a hearty singing session. As it is some time since we last recorded ourselves singing, which is now a regular fixture with Ravensbourne, we are looking to release another CD in 2026.

We have a full programme of Tuesday evening spots as well as looking to attend as guests at various weekend events. All in all, we are looking forward to 2026.

St Nicholas-at-Wade with Sarre Hoodeners - No report received at time of press

Thames Valley Morris

We had a good spring practice season with a new Fieldtown style dance based on Banks of the Dee and played to the tune Early One Morning.

And so to the year ,

We attended the Kennet Ale always a good event with good food and singing.

In March we put on our own Ale with sides coming from Ewell St Mary's, Phoenix Clog , and Kingston Spring Grove.

April found us in Oxford with a historic walking tour of the city concluding with a massed event in Gloucester Green Town Square. There was a visit from some of our country members, always welcome.

We joined Ewell St Marys, and Kingston, etc for May Day on the top of Boxhill to share a stunning view. Then repaired to Leigh for Breakfast and more dancing.

We also did a performance at Holmbury St Mary for the local Ramblers Association. We had hoped to attend Broadwood but we could not raise a side.

Our first weekend away in Tolpuddle courtesy of our Drs Phil and Leslie. A splendid weekend where the pubs kept appearing, beer flowed, and the food tried to slow us down.

Our annual event at Brooklands at Best of British with some of our ages nearly matching some of the exhibits.

June saw with Rampant Rooster at Westhumble followed by Midsummer at Teddington with Kingston Spring Grove, lovely to dance alongside the river. The wife of one our past members invited us to a summer party in her garden. A very Morris affair reminiscent of C# garden parties. June finished with a joint evening with Yately.

Well July came with a joint evening with Phoenix Clog. Then came Claygate Flower, and evening with Ewell St Marys, then finishing the month with Fleur De Lis.

The tail end of the season saw us visiting the Cotswolds for a Morris weekend .

All the elements of pubs, indoor camping, beer and good company.

Claygate scouts put on an excellent beer festival , well chosen beers and a chance to get public dancing.

September we had the Presidents garden party to round off the season.

Usual extras of Claygate Xmas Lights and Boxing day with a record collection of £1265 to go to local Hospice. Well that's it and for a side with no regular evening outings we had a busy year.

### Victory Morris Men

Victory can report three new members continuing to come to practice one of whom danced out on Boxing Day. Hopefully the other two will follow in 2026.

As you know 2026 heralds Victory's 50th year of dancing out and we are planning to make it another great season.

### Wantsum Morris Men

To be honest, it's been another good year. Same old venues and outings.

We ourselves are planning/banging our heads together for our 60<sup>th</sup> next Year.

### Winchester Morris Men

Winchester Morris Men had a very good 2025, kicking off with our 70th Annual Feast in February, which was well attended (15 sides represented). The 24/25 practice season saw us gain 4 new recruits of which 3 joined us with extensive experience and 1 a beginner – so we were able to start the spring and summer dancing season with a strong contingent.

The dancing season saw our usual coverage of the wonderful Hampshire countryside villages and towns and associated public houses. We were joined on some evenings by other Hampshire sides and were invariably blessed by good weather. We also performed at the excellent Whitchurch Folk Festival in May – an event we can strongly recommend.

For our annual Walking Tour (of Winchester) at the end of the season, we were delighted to be joined by the Bampton Morris Men. At the AGM in September our long-standing Bagman, Derek Stewart, stood down from the role. He had been Bagman for 10 years and his contribution to the side during all that period has been exceptional.

The 25/26 practice season is now in progress and we have been joined by 3 more recruits, so we look forward to 2026 with confidence.

### Winterbourne Morris

A report for the newest and 'probably' youngest Ring Side: Winterbourne Morris.

As many won't know about Winterbourne I'll give a quick overview. Winterbourne are a youth side in Lewes East Sussex, ages range from 8 to 14 at the moment. We are a mixed side. Winterbourne dance a range of dance styles, Molly, Border, Cotswold, and Jigs. The side started around 20 years ago and have danced out every year. We dance in and around Lewes - Garland Day, Broadwood Day of Dance, some local stands and Sussex day in Lewes. In the past we've danced at Wimbourne and Chippenham. We've joined the Morris Ring this year :) and I'm hoping we'll get to dance further afield and perhaps gain a few more evening stands.

Dave Johns, Bagman.

### *Appendix 10.2*

### Area Report for East Midlands

Whilst my path has crossed with a few of the sides in my area over the past year I have not seen as many as perhaps it should. I hear much news second hand and through the internet and social media but the individual reports below are contributed by the sides. Unfortunately, several have not responded to my requests for information and news.

Reflecting the age profile of many sides there have been the usual crop of losses, including past Morris Ring Bagman Keith 'Wilf' Francis. A lovely man who was a member of Leicester for the four years that he was at Leicester University.

On a personal note I have been serving on the Advisory Council in one guise or another since 2005, and Area Rep since 2019. I am very aware that I don't get around my area as much perhaps I should and certainly would like. I am put to shame by some of my colleagues from other areas are far more active, especially more adept at using social media to communicate with their area. Therefore I recognise that the time has come for me to pass the baton onto someone who has more time and probably less age.

## Aldbury Morris Men.

Aldbury Morris Men are still an active side. Practice every Thursday evening at Aldbury memorial hall in Aldbury village, near Tring. October - April 20:00 - 21:30.

We dance up the Sun on May Morn by the village pond, then at the village May fair on the early bank holiday. A full pub program, dancing on a Thursday evening, May - August at a different pub every week in Herts, Beds or Bucks, with music and singing in the pub after. We also dance at fetes and other local events over the summer, and usually a weekend away too, going on tour for a couple of days somewhere in June. We also dance in the village on New Year's Day.

The odd talk or demonstration for schools, scouts/guides and community groups etc. We have an annual ale and attend other, local ales.

Details of the summer pub locations appear on the website.

Website: <http://www.aldburymorris.co.uk/>

Facebook: [https://www.facebook.com/AldburyMorris/?locale=en\\_GB](https://www.facebook.com/AldburyMorris/?locale=en_GB)

Jon Bishop Squire

## Anker Morris Men

Anker have had a successful year mostly though the occasional practice had to be curtailed due to various retired members being on their 4th holiday of the year and the younger members being on their second baby!

We have gained a couple of new dancers and a new musician over the past couple of years, one of which has proved a natural dancer and has moved past basics to taking on the complications of the Derby tradition.

We made it to both Westminster and Saddleworth as well as more local dance events (I think we managed 3 different ones on St George's Day as well as our own tour on the following Saturday).

Website: <https://www.ankermm.co.uk/index.html>

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/ankermorrismen/>

Emma Melville

## Anstey Morris Men

The high point of 2025 was going to the Whitby Folk Festival. We were delighted to be invited and based on spectator response put on a good show. Our dance in the pavilion went well and can be viewed on our Facebook page. Of particular

delight was finding the Star Inn on Hagersgate which hosted our several stops for bag pints.

The year generally also went well and we only missed a couple of Wednesday dance outs as a result of insufficient dancers. Our Mummers play was most enjoyable. We did it once before Christmas and then again on Boxing Day, the fight between Guier and Slasher being high drama.

We continue to collect for the charity Prostaïd, last year resulting in a contribution close to £300.

Everards of Leicestershire, a local family brewery, have continued to sponsor us and for which we are most grateful.

Facebook: [https://www.facebook.com/AnsteyMorris/?locale=en\\_GB](https://www.facebook.com/AnsteyMorris/?locale=en_GB)

Bedford - No report received.

Website: [https://bedfordmorrismen.teamapp.com/?\\_webpage=v1](https://bedfordmorrismen.teamapp.com/?_webpage=v1)

Facebook: [https://www.facebook.com/bedfordmorrismen/?locale=en\\_GB](https://www.facebook.com/bedfordmorrismen/?locale=en_GB)

Brackley Morris - No report received.

Website: <https://www.thebrackleymorrismen.org.uk/>

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/people/The-Brackley-Morris-Dancers/61574559155701/>

Dolphin Morris - No report received.

Website: <https://www.dolphin-morris.co.uk/>

### First Class Stamp Appalachian

Another 'productive' year for First Class Stamp - i.e. we now take seven toddlers under 4 with us on tours with another due this summer. This involves careful planning of performances - who is dancing, who is minding the creche - but we still managed festivals and evenings out. All expectant mothers managed dancing for most of pregnancies and were back dancing again almost immediately - possibly something we could use as a selling point to antenatal classes! - so the team continues to thrive. Our only issue really is the age of our stage and the difficulties we are experiencing in sourcing an affordable replacement.

Website: <http://www.1stclasstamp.co.uk/>

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/1stClassStamp/>  
Emma Melville

## Foresters Morris and Sword Dancing Club

After a good practice season 24/25, we danced out at Nottingham Castle at sunrise on May 1st, then danced out at local pubs most weeks from May to July.

We lost two longstanding members of the side after they succumbed to prolonged illnesses.

Once again, we have held a few joint practices with the Lincoln and Micklebarrow Morris Men, and we have danced out together a few times during the year.

Highlights of the past year include dancing at the Nottingham "Ay Up" Festival, Nottingham Beer Festival, Nottingham Castle Christmas Market and also the Bottesford Duck Race on Boxing Day where we collected just over £200 for charity.

Website: <http://www.chezfred.org.uk/for/>

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/p/Foresters-Morris-100051667968387/>  
Steve Moore

## Hinckley Bullockers

We have just completed our 40th annual plough tour. The weather was warmer than last year (1° degree rather than -6°) though our last practice was snowed off. This, and the storms, meant a couple of our more far flung members didn't make it out this year and we were several people down on the day but we still had a healthy side and band and a couple of members of the audience have already signed up for next year.

Facebook: [https://www.facebook.com/HinckleyBullockers/?locale=en\\_GB](https://www.facebook.com/HinckleyBullockers/?locale=en_GB)  
Emma Melville

## Knightlow Morris

In brief, it's been another steady year for Knightlow. We continue to practice on Tuesdays in Ryton on Dunsmore, and welcome anyone looking to join our ranks.

We've been plagued with injury at various points in the year, but still managed to maintain a reasonable list of days out, including a lovely evening with Anker at their annual Midsummer Madness event.

We are looking to expand our profile by better promotion in the Rugby area, and to this end by the time these reports go out will have completed an open workshop in town. We wish all our colleagues across the Morris Ring a prosperous 2026 and a good dancing season.

Website: <https://www.knightlowmorris.co.uk/>

Facebook: [https://www.facebook.com/knightlowmm/?locale=en\\_GB](https://www.facebook.com/knightlowmm/?locale=en_GB)

Peter Austin

## Leicester Morris

Leicester Morris enjoyed another excellent year as I move into my final year as Squire. A superb summer tour—remarkably untouched by rain—set the tone for a highly successful few months. We welcomed three new members, and three others each received their cinquefoils, significantly expanded and improved our dance repertoire, returned (in notably youthful form!) to Saddleworth, and even saw the birth of “Jazz-Morris” on a sunny Wednesday evening.

The Sheringham Potties Festival, a firm favourite for many of us, also marked the welcome return of the legendary Leicester BBQ. Thanks are due to everyone who contributed, and especially to Pete J and Smiggy for taking charge of the cooking.

The rain we avoided in summer inevitably caught up with us during the Winter Border Tour, providing the rather novel “opportunity” for a second annual carols tour of the city centre. Nevertheless, we still managed a couple of stick dances in some of the smaller pubs—albeit with the aid of straws. Boxing Day once again delivered record attendance from both dancers and audiences alike.

The Griffin Inn at Swithland proved wonderfully accommodating, and we were delighted to raise a further £700 for the Rainbows Charity. Special thanks must also go to our musicians, who have worked tirelessly to support an increasingly varied programme of dances while also welcoming several new recruits of their own. Overall, it has been a vibrant and memorable year for Leicester Morris.  
Daryl Coulborn Squire

Website: <https://leicestermorrismen.co.uk/>

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/LeicesterMorris/>

Lincoln & Micklebarrow Morris Men - No report received.

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/LincolnandMicklebarrowMorrisMen/>

Moulton Morris Men - No report received.

Website: <https://www.moultonmorrismen.com/>

Facebook: [https://www.facebook.com/groups/25213139109/?locale=en\\_GB](https://www.facebook.com/groups/25213139109/?locale=en_GB)

Northampton Morris Dancers - No report received.

Website: <https://www.northamptonmorrisdancers.co.uk/>

Facebook: [https://www.facebook.com/p/Northampton-Morris-Dancers-61553292220445/?locale=en\\_GB](https://www.facebook.com/p/Northampton-Morris-Dancers-61553292220445/?locale=en_GB)

Ripley Morris - No report received.

Website: <https://www.ripleymorris.org.uk/>

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/RipleyMorrisDancers/>

## Rose and Castle

Having taken the historic decision to open up the dancing side to people of any gender Rose and Castle has pulled back from the brink of decline and attracted some six new members over the past two years. We have also had returning members of the band and a new recruit on the bass drum.

The newly designed "kit with skirts" looks good and complements the "kit with breeches" well. Dancers are instantly recognisable as belonging to Rose and Castle.

We held our usual traditional events, New Years' Day and St George's day celebrations at The Boat Inn at Stoke Bruerne. We also had a successful Weekend of Dance at the end of June – moved from our customary weekend of the first in July so as not to clash with the F1 Grand Prix at nearby Silverstone.

Other events included dancing in Daventry at a couple of events organised by the local community, dancing in Northampton's newly revamped Market Square as part of their St George's Day celebrations and a trip east to Ely for Eel Day – mainly much fun was had and a modicum of drink taken.

If anyone is looking to join a North West side as either a dancer or a musician we are usually to be found at the Village Hall in Stoke Bruerne on Wednesday nights from 8.30. If you don't know where the hall is pop into the Boat first where you will find some of the side pre-hydrating before practice!

Website: <https://www.rose-castlemorris.org.uk/>

Facebook: [https://www.facebook.com/RoseandCastleMorris/?locale=en\\_GB](https://www.facebook.com/RoseandCastleMorris/?locale=en_GB)

Lis

## Towersey Horseshoes

Towersey Horseshoes has been thriving recently with 6 new members joining us over the last 18 months and the amalgamation in 2022 has helped us continue Morris in Towersey. Which is now in its 60th year, without the amalgamation we would have been struggling to continue in our separate sides of men and women.

At our AGM in 2025, saw a big change with both the Bagman and Squire changing roles. We said a big thank you to both Hilary Conboy and Pat Day who had served for many years as both Squire (Hilary) and Bagman (Pat). Officers taking over were Bill Moore (Squire) and Nigel Allen (Bagman).

We have expanded our repertoire of dances and performed out last year at Swanage Folk Festival, Oxford Folk Festival, Bunkfest alongside many Fetes, days of dance and pub evenings. We are planning on revising all these events in 2026 and have many other local events to look forward to this year.

Website: <https://towerseyhorseshoes.co.uk/>

Facebook: [https://www.facebook.com/threehorseshoesmorris/?locale=en\\_GB](https://www.facebook.com/threehorseshoesmorris/?locale=en_GB)

Nigel Allen

**Witchmen** - No report received.

Website: <http://witchmen.com/>

### *Appendix 10.3*

## Overseas Bagman End of Year reports and latest news

### Pinewoods Morris Men

Greetings from the Pinewoods Morris Men outside of Boston, Massachusetts. We've had a great 2025 (dancing-wise at least...) We began the year with our now-customary Twelfth Night party, where we gathered with our families to enjoy each other's company after the rush of the holiday season, and then settled in for a stretch of uninterrupted practices during the cold months.

Our busy spring season began with PMM's trademark Daffodil Weekend on Nantucket, where we dance for the rich and preppy (and enjoy their antique-car parade, drunken antics, and the large quantities of food and drink they press on us) and bond as a team under the hospitality of our team musician Tom Kruskal. This year, Cisco Brewery went all-out in preparing for us, putting together a make-your-own-Morris-kit kit so patrons could feel like part of the dance.

The spring continued with more familiar favorites: Marlboro Morris M's Home Tour and Marlboro Morris & Sword's Gourmet Tour in Western Massachusetts; and then the Marlboro Morris Ale in Vermont over Memorial Day Weekend, the highlight of the season for many and a great chance to see far-flung dancing friends. We also added a new gig, the Harvard MayFair, where we danced for voluminous crowds and were drenched by voluminous downpours together with Muddy River Morris and with Great Meadows Morris and Sword, the Boston-area's teen team.

At our AGM in June, we thanked Michael Freeman for his two years of service as squire; he has been understandably occupied by the demands of new fatherhood and declined to run for reelection, in a rare instance of "I'm stepping down to spend more time with my family" actually being sincere. I was elected to replace Michael as squire, and Natty Smith graciously agreed to continue on as foreman (assisted by a number of others in running practices, including myself and Sam Overbeck), as did

Steve Roderick as bagman. We capped off the day with a tour of Woods Hole together with the Newtowne Morris Men.

PMM normally takes the summer off, but Matthew Duveneck's recent move to Maine resulted in a July tour in Portland joined by a small contingent of MMM. Highlights included dancing for befuddled beach- and bakery-goers, a Sunday trip out to Chebeague Island, and rides around the block in Matthew's extremely vintage Stanley Steamer car.

In September, we were very happy to participate in Muddy River's big 50th anniversary celebration weekend at Pinewoods Camp, and in turn to host the Muddies for our annual Fall Tour of Harvard Square and environs in Cambridge and Somerville. A subset of PMM (plus various friends) also spent the autumn preparing to perform in the Midwinter Revels in Cambridge in December, continuing our team's historic relationship with the Revels. In addition to the customary Lord of the Dance double jig and Abbots Bromley Horn Dance that feature in (almost) every year's Revels, Peter Kruskal adapted the Shropshire Bedlams' border dance Speed the Plough to a smaller set and the time and space confines of a stage show.

Our cohort of dancers who have joined in the last few years—Martin Barbour, Keith Ericson and Chris Woll—continue to make great strides in their dancing and are valuable assets to the team, both socially and dance-wise. This fall, we were also happy to welcome GMMS's Leo Neurath to practice. At the same time, we have been figuring out how to deal with low numbers at some gigs that have left us unable to do some of our dances, due to conflicting family and other-team commitments, injuries, and the general toll of aging. Nonetheless, Pinewoods remains a healthy and active team, and we are buoyed by strong relationships with the vibrant Morris scene in the Boston area and the greater Northeast.

Finally, I'll note that 2026 began on a sad note with the passing of our friend Tim Radford: PMM musician Jan Elliot's husband, a cofounder of Adderbury Morris and great lover/teacher/practitioner of Morris and traditional singing. The team will miss Tim, and will be honored to dance at his memorial this April.

Ian McGullam

### [Vancouver Morris Men](#)

The Vancouver Morris Men are going through a bit of a transition right now. Many of our long-standing members are retiring (due to age/health issues) but we've recently had an influx of new, younger men so the future seems promising – we just have to get them all trained up!

You can keep track of what we're doing from our website and Facebook pages.

Graham Baldwin

### Perth Morris Men

Perth Morris Men (Australia) checking in!

Reports of our death are much exaggerated, as we still manage a few stands a year, despite very low numbers.

In 2025 we danced up the sun on May morning (6:45am), along with representatives of the other 3 sides in Perth, followed by our traditional BBQ breakfast.

We attended the National Ale, held in Adelaide, and also a Mediaeval Fayre about 2 hours drive from Perth.

Our Xmas dance-out was at the invitation of local side Marlee Morris in a local park, with a great picnic spread.

(FYI, "Marlee" is the aboriginal word for the black swan, Western Australia's State emblem).

Please extend an invitation to any visiting Morris Men, (or even Women) who might be visiting Perth, Western Australia to make contact – we are a friendly lot, and it could be an excuse to go out and dance, or at least go for a beer!

Cheers!

Terry Sweet

### Adelaide Morris Men

The year has been relatively quiet for the Adelaide Morris Men except for two major events towards the end of the year.

In October the team hosted the annual Australian Morris Ring Ale for 2026. We had about 60 dancers and musicians from across Australia for a five-day event.

All attendees met during the day on Friday at a pub in the CBD before being transported to the accommodation in the Hills. On Saturday there was a tour around the Adelaide Hills, and on Sunday we danced in the CBD. A number left for home on the Sunday and those that remained caught a bus down to the coast where we stayed for a night at a hostel.

The final day the coach took everyone to Victor Harbour in the afternoon back to Adelaide.

The team received many good comments about the weekend, despite many attendees actually coming down with the flu.

The second major event the team did was a weekend in Edithburgh, for "A Day at the Burgh" one of the main attractions for doing this event was that as a coastal town it had suffered badly due to the Algal Bloom which had decimated the local fishing and tourism sectors. Along with dancing during the day, the team was also involved in a Shanty session in the late afternoon. That all from this part of Down Under.

### Silkeborg Morris Men

We are hoping to go to Thaxted in 2026. We do not much other planned at this moment. Silkeborg Morris Men were founded in 1977 so our 50th year is not until 2027. We have not yet planned any details regarding that. But we will let you know.

### Helmondse Morrisdansers

Last known information: Once a month Helmond Morris is practicing with Het Utrecht Morris Team

### Het Utrecht Morris Team

Utrecht Morris Men and Maids of the Mill amalgamated this year. Maids of the Mill have been made very welcome, although we do still struggle a bit with our different dance styles. But everybody is trying their best to accommodate each other and learn different dances. We are still struggling a bit finding a "kit" that everybody is happy with. So, for the time being it's a bit of mix and match.

Jean has taken over from Jan as events coordinator and has been kept quite busy. It's a tough job trying to please everybody.

Last year the Utrecht danced out locally a number of times, as well as travelling over to the UK to visit Yateley Morris Men (report available in the Morris Ring website) and dance in Oxford and Guildford. Utrecht have a number of events on their calendar for 2026, including:

- Friday the 10th of April we will be dancing with Leeds Morris in Delft.
- Sunday the 26th of April Hartley Morris are coming to us for a day of dancing.

- Saturday the 6th of June dancing with Yateley Morris somewhere in The Netherlands. Utrecht, Helmond or Maastricht.
- The weekend from the 21st of August we will be joining Saddleworth Morris Men for their 50th Rushcart.
- On Saturday 12th September we are usually invited to dance at the English Castle Fair in Weldam.

Appendix 11

Intangible Cultural Heritage / Living Heritage

This document is in respect of the UK's commitment to the 2003 UNESCO Convention for the Safeguarding of Intangible Cultural Heritage.

As a first step they are creating an inventory of items to class as Intangible Cultural Heritage or – as the UK are calling it – Living Heritage.

They have asked for expressions of interest in putting forward items for the inventory. These expressions can be found at

<https://livingheritage.unesco.org.uk/get-involved/elements>

The JMO has put forward expressions of interest for all areas we represent– Cotswold, Long sword, Rapper, North West, Mumming, Molly, Border, Appalachian, Stave, Plough, Maypole, Fools and Beast, English Country Dance, Clog Step, Step Dancing.

We now need to put forward full submissions by the end of March explaining what these are and why they need safeguarding.

As part of this process, we have to show that we have the consent of the community involved in the practice to put it forward to go on the inventory.

Below is a form which you can either post or email back, or bring along to the ARM, to register your consent.

If you have any members who would like to be more involved / consulted about the wording we are putting forward, then please identify them and we will include them in discussions.

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Name of Side:

We are happy for the Morris Ring, through involvement with the JMO, to represent the interests of Morris in submitting to the UK inventory of Living Heritage.

Signed on behalf of the side

The following person would like to help with the submissions

Name:

Email:

the MORRIS RING  
1934 ~  
founded ~