



SQUIRE: Pete Simpson, 69 Norfolk Road, Erdington, Birmingham,
West Midlands B23 6ND Tel: 0121 3734654
Email: simpsonfam1984@gmail.com

BAGMAN: Jon Melville, 57 Shakespeare Drive, Nuneaton
Warwickshire CV11 6NW Tel: 02476 345543
Email: bagman@themorrisring.org

TREASURER: Clayton Francis, 25 Aultone Way, Sutton, Surrey SM1 3LD.
Tel: 0208 3957821
Email: RingTreasurer@themorrisring.org

Newsletter No. 111

September 2018

Page The highlights of Newsletter No.111

- 2 Future Events
- 3 Squire's massed dances for 2019
- 4 Miscellaneous News
- 6 Calling all Dance Teachers
- 7 The Illustrious Order of Fools and Beasts
- 7 Sword Dance Union Longsword Gathering
- 9 Morris Ring Display Boards
- 10 Morris Ring Publications
- 11 Call for Contributions
- 12 Appendix 1: Fools and Beasts Unconvention Application Form
- 14 Appendix 2: SDU Longsword Gathering Application form

Future Events

2019

18th – 20th January **Morris Ring Jigs Instructional weekend (details to follow)**

2nd March **ARM, Oak Farm Lodge**

1st – 2nd June **Thaxted Morris Weekend (not a Ring Meeting, please apply directly to Thaxted MM)**

22nd – 23rd June **Utrecht proposed Ring Meeting (meeting no 360)**

Utrecht's 40th anniversary will be celebrated on this weekend with Saturday dancing and lunch, a feast, then a boat trip and more dancing on the Sunday. A cost of approximately 80 Euros will cover those (Brexit permitting). This means that sides will need to arrange their own travel, accommodation and breakfasts. Numbers are limited to a total of 100 applicants.

19th - 21st July **Jockey MM 70th / Shakespeare MM 60th Ring Meeting (meeting no 361)**

Jockey Men's Morris and Shakespeare Morris invite you to join them for a weekend of dance from the 19th-21st July 2019 as part of their respective 70th and 60th anniversary celebrations. Based at Henley-in-Arden School in Warwickshire, coach tours will run across the county showcasing the beautiful countryside (and pubs!). Dance spots include the city of the Birmingham and the historic towns of Warwick, Leamington Spa and Stratford upon Avon. We also intend to include the traditional morris villages of Ilmington and Bidford-upon-Avon. Details are being finalised, however the expected cost for the full weekend will not exceed £90 per person. Applications to be sent in writing to ringmeeting2019@outlook.com

24th – 25th August **Saddleworth Rushcart (not a Ring Meeting, please apply directly to Saddleworth MM)**

Squire's Massed Dances for 2019

Massed dances are one of the things the Morris Ring can do well, they are made better if we can do them with some uniformity. With this in mind I have added notes to some of them so we are all doing the same thing. If your club has a different interpretation please don't think for one minute I am trying to dictate to you a correct way of doing things, I just want us to put on a good massed dance for the public.

Adderbury: - Shepherds Hey (2notes then walk round, singing)

Bampton: - Rose tree (finish on rounds)

Bledington: - Idbury Hill, Young Collins.

Brackley: - Jockey to the Fair (long version, Jockey MM take note)

Bucknell: - Queens Delight.

Headington: - Constant Billy (Foot up, Cross over, Back to back and finish on Whole hey)

Field town: - The Valentine, Balance the Straw.

Lichfield: - (In the chorus show the first time and clash the second except the last time when it is show twice).

Miscellaneous News

Dancing England

By popular request, Dancing England will return in 2019, on the evening of 26th January at the Nottingham Playhouse. This is a unique opportunity to see performances from today's evolving tradition including teams such as Abbots Bromley Horn Dancers, Handsworth Longsword and Chipping Campden Cotswold Morris.

Further information and details on how to purchase tickets will shortly be available on the website: <http://www.dancingengland.co.uk/2019-event/>

Rob Elliott writes...

A former bed-and-breakfast owner from Herefordshire has crowdfunded his way to the top of the charts with an incredible new book on the revival of an almost forgotten Morris dance.

For close to 600 years Morris dancing has taken place on village greens and market places across much of England. Rob Elliott was part of a folk revival movement who attempted to bring back an ancient form of the dance from the Welsh border.

His fabulous debut book, *The Fool and His Dancers*, vividly brings to life the characters and adventures he encountered along the way. And he had the support from 100 funders to help with the production costs.

Rob said: "The book was crowd-funded so the first 100 copies were sent out on publication to those who pledged for the project

"*The Fool and His Dancers* is about the revival of an ancient form of the Morris dance, as practised on the Welsh border, and the impact this had on the more general folk revival culture.

"But, more than that, it is a story of comradeship, anarchy and pushing boundaries.

"I needed to give it more substance and indeed I have thought a lot over the years about the possible origins of this custom, and so I did quite a lot of research to confirm my theories and to give weight to my propositions."

Morris on the Welsh border was a simpler and more vigorous style of dancing which often had participants with blackened faces. Traditionally danced in Herefordshire, Shropshire and Worcestershire, the Dark Morris had an emphasis on sticks rather than handkerchiefs.

Within the highly entertaining *The Fool and His Dancers*, Rob relives the efforts of his friends to make it a permanent feature throughout those counties once more.

He added: "The main characters in *The Fool and His Dancers* are a disparate collection of eccentrics drawn together by the common purpose of challenging received wisdom, championing the underdog and reinventing street theatre in a new context.

"What I would like to think is that I have taken a set of real life events in an area that is relatively unfamiliar to many and created a readable page turner."

Since the publication of *The Fool and His Dancers*, it has reached number one in Amazon's dance charts and received five-star reviews from readers. Ron is currently working on a sequel. For more details, visit Amazon and search for Rob Elliott, where the paperback and Kindle formats of *The Fool and His Dancers* are both available.

Calling all Dance Teachers

About a year ago, the Ring Bagman issued a survey to dance teachers in sides on how they manage teaching and standards effectively. It produced diverse responses, and inconclusive data, which is why the results were not published.

The Ring is proposing a Dance and Discussion Day on teaching and improving standards in Morris. This first day is aimed at Cotswold teachers / foremen / forepersons; other events are planned to follow. The intention is for all teachers to experience teaching of both new material and to work on improving standards and consistency, with an opportunity to discuss different approaches once dancing has concluded.

Saturday 10th November 2018

Venue: Chilvers Coton Heritage Centre, Avenue Rd, Nuneaton CV11 4LU

Programme (come prepared to spend a large proportion of the day dancing; you are not expected to be in kit, sticks and musicians provided):

10am – 1pm Tea and coffee available throughout. All participants will learn something new – a new dance from an unfamiliar tradition. Followed by a discussion on the effectiveness of the tuition and different approaches to teaching new material.

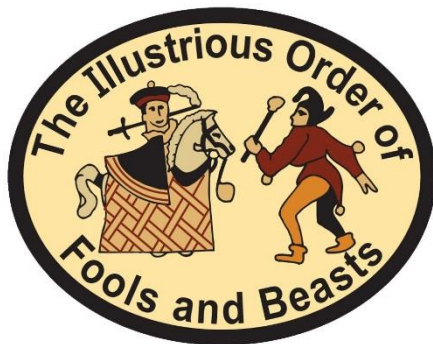
1pm – 2pm Lunch

2pm – 5pm All participants will work to improve standards and consistency with a familiar dance. Followed by a discussion on the effectiveness of the tuition and different approaches to setting and maintaining high standards.

Cost: £10 per participant for the day for Ring members and £20 for non-Ring members. Please book a place for the Dance and Discussion Day via bagman@themorrisring.org before 22nd October. Payment details will be provided by return email

We shall have to finish at 5pm latest to allow setting-up for Anker MM's Ale at the same venue that evening. Any participants wishing to stay for the Ale (which will be in kit) are welcome – you will need to book this separately by contacting j.oldaker@btinternet.com, cost for this will be £17, payable in advance to Anker MM.

The Illustrious Order of Fools and Beasts



The first "team" to rejoin the Ring after the change to the Constitution would like the following information disseminated:

The next Fools and Beasts Unconvention will be hosted by Lassington Oak Morris in Highnam, Glos. 12th – 14th October 2018.

Open to all budding or experienced Fools, Beasts and Morris Characters, there will be workshops, a Saturday walking tour of Gloucester (bring your bus pass if you have one!) and a Feast on the Saturday night, before the AGM on the Sunday. This will be followed by an invitation to attend the Sung Eucharist at Gloucester Cathedral, in kit. A first!

Accommodation is indoor camping and the weekend cost is £70.

The application form is included as Appendix 1 of this Newsletter.

Sword Dance Union

This year's SDU Longsword gathering, Tournament, and AGM will be held at the Hollins Mill pub in Sowerby Bridge, West Yorkshire, on **Saturday 6th October**, hosted by the Kirkburton Rapier Dancers. Sowerby Bridge is easily accessible from the motorway and train network and is worthy of a visit in its own right.

The format for the day is a series of display spots in the morning, followed by the longsword Tournament in the afternoon. There will be Display and Competitive entries, so that teams who don't want to compete can still take part in the day. The SDU Annual General Meeting will be held after the competition finishes.

The SDU would like as many teams as possible to attend, so that we can jointly celebrate the tradition of Longsword dancing, whether you intend to compete or not.

Pre-entry is advised, but you can enter up to 12 noon on the day.

There will be four Competitive classes. Teams can enter multiple classes, using the same dancers if they want to.

- Youth Team
 - o All dancers must be under 18
 - o Any notated or modern dance
 - o If there are enough entries this could be subdivided by age
- Traditional/Notated Dance performed by the 'keepers of the dance'
 - o Includes traditional teams such as Handsworth, and teams where a particular tradition is now associated with them, such as Sallyport and the Poppleton dance
 - o If there are fewer than three entries for this class it will be merged with the next
- Traditional/Notated dance
 - o Dances from the established notation
 - o The judges will have some discretion to mark down teams who deviate too far from the notation.
- Modern/Invented/Own Dance
 - o The judge's brief for this class will be wider than for the notated dances. The judges will consider the dances themselves as well as the team and their performance. Factors such as novelty, inventiveness, and level of interest are more relevant in this class than in the traditional/notated classes. Also, the way that the dance is constructed to build and hold excitement will be considered.
- There will also be awards for the best musician(s) and the best audience reaction

The full competition rules and the scoring approach will be published by the end of August 2018.

Entries can be made in advance, or before 12 noon on the day. It will help the organisers if you can inform us in advance if you're attending. The flyer and entry form are attached.

We look forward to seeing you on 6th October.

If you have any queries then please email them to SDU.longsword.2018@outlook.com

Kevin Holland









Acting SDU chair.

Morris Ring Display Boards

Are you making full use of this asset?

If you have any opportunity to make use of one of the five sets we possess please contact your Area Rep or the Ring Bagman.

If you want to use them, even if a set is not currently in your area, arrangements can be made to get a set to you.

the morris ring	the morris ring	the morris ring
<p>The Morris Ring</p> <p>The Morris Ring is an organisation for men's clubs. Every year our members can be seen dancing out during the summer, either on their own or in the company of dancers from other clubs who have been invited along to share a day or a weekend of dance. We hold a number of special meetings of the Morris Ring each year at which clubs from all over the country come together to dance. The most important of these is the annual meeting in early June in Thaxted in Essex, the town where the Morris Ring was founded in 1934.</p> <p>You can find out more about the Morris Ring by visiting our web site at: www.themorrisring.org</p> <p>On our home page there are links which will enable you to find the Morris clubs in your area.</p> 	<p>Morris Dancing</p> <p>Morris dances are the national folk dances of England and have a recorded history going back six hundred years. In this display you will see examples of the various styles of dance which have developed over the centuries and which are performed today in all parts of the country. Why do we do it? That is an easy question to answer. It is because we enjoy it and for the fun and friendship which comes with being a member of a Morris dancing club.</p> 	<p>A Potted History</p> <p>Over the centuries the popularity of Morris dancing has waxed and waned but by the latter part of the 19th century dancing had died out in many parts of the country. By great good fortune in 1899 there was a chance encounter between Headington Quarry Morris Men in Oxford and Cecil Sharp, a professional musician. Following this meeting, Sharp devoted the rest of his life to the collection of English folk songs and dances. As a result of his work and the work of others who were inspired by him, there was a great revival of interest in our folk traditions in the 20th century and especially in the 1960s and 1970s.</p>  
<p>Fools and Animals</p> <p>Often the dancers are accompanied by a fool, whose job is to engage the audience with humorous banter and ensure that they are paying attention to the dance. Many clubs have made an animal head which is mounted on a pole and attached to a cloak. One of the dancers entertains the audience by going among them underneath the cloak and snapping the animal's jaws together.</p>  	<p>Regional Styles of Morris Dancing</p> <p>Most people are familiar with the Cotswold style of dance which comes from the counties of the West Midlands and which is characterised by the use of sticks and handkerchiefs. Other styles of dance have evolved in other parts of the country. There are sword dances from the North and the rapper, or shortsword dances from the North East. In the North West there are the processional dances, which are often performed in chaps. The Border style comes from the counties bordering Wales and there are the Molly dancers from East Angles. Mummers' plays come from all parts of the country.</p>	<p>Looking to the Future</p> <p>There are probably more people Morris dancing today than at any time in the past and our clubs are always keen to recruit new members. Many Clubs are involved in teaching young people to dance through programmes with schools, the Scout organisation and other youth groups.</p>  
<p>The Joint Morris Organisation</p> <p>The Morris Ring is one of three organisations representing Morris dance clubs. The other two are the Morris Federation and the Open Morris. Once a year we all get together for a combined day of dance to celebrate the Morris as a dance for everyone, irrespective of age or gender.</p>	<p>How about you ?</p> <p>Would you like to try Morris dancing to see if it does for you what it does for us? Many clubs hold special sessions for potential members to come along and try it out. Find your local clubs by following the links on our web site and go along and meet the dancers. Before long you too could be a Morris dancer!</p>	
<p>founded 1934</p>	<p>www.the-morris-ring.org</p>	<p>founded 1934</p>

This is what the complete set of three banners looks like.

Morris Ring Publications

Anthony Foard: Editor of the Morris Circular
33 Cunningham Drive, Bromborough, Wirral, CHESHIRE. CH63 0JX
Mobile Tel: 01513344566
thecircular@themorrisring.org

Mac McCoig Editor of the Morris Dancer
8 Redhills, Eccleshall, Staffordshire ST21 6JW
Tel: 01785 851052
mac.mccoig@btinternet.com

On-line Links:



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

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

The Morris Ring Google Group (MRGG). Private Forum for debate or announcements.
<https://groups.google.com/group/the-morris-ring>

Contact the Morris Ring Bagman to register to use.

Morris Ring Facebook site: <https://www.facebook.com/TheMorrisRing>

Morris Ring Twitter: <https://twitter.com/TheMorrisRing>

The Morris Shop *"the Bells and Whistles"*

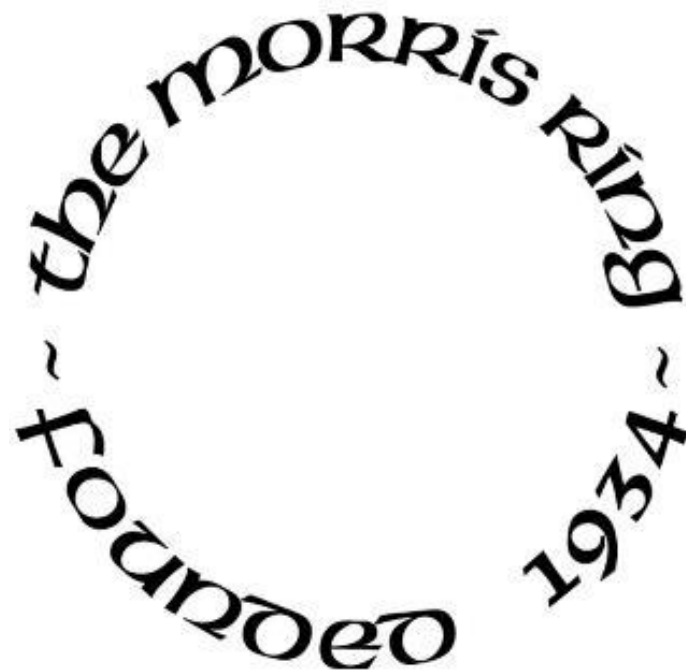
<http://www.themorrisshop.com/>

Call for Contributions

Any items of Morris-related news, please send to me at bagman@themorrisring.org for inclusion in the next Newsletter. Longer pieces to Tony Foard, please, for the Circular.

If you have any photographs, you can send them to Duncan Broomhead, the Morris Ring Photo Archivist (duncan.broomhead@btinternet.com) and any articles, ideally accompanied with photographs, can be submitted to Tony Foard, the Editor of the Morris Ring Circular, details above.

Charlie Corcoran, the Keeper of the Morris Ring Log Book, is keen to receive stories about Ring events, both the formal and the quirky (Charliecorcoran7@ntlworld.com).

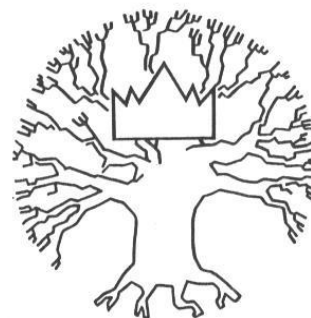


Appendix 1: Fools and Beasts Unconvention Application Form



Fools and Beasts **Unconvention** **2018**

Hosted by Lassington Oak Morris
Highnam Community Centre, Glos.



Open to all budding or experienced Fools, Beasts and Morris Characters from any team from the Ring, Open or Federation. A truly JMO event!

This year's Unconvention will be based at the Parish Rooms, Highnam community Centre, Highnam, Gloucestershire, GL2 8DG and will involve workshops, Saturday walking tour of Gloucester, plus the Feast at The Toby Carvery, Highnam. On Sunday we will have the AGM of course - your chance to have your say. Accommodation is indoor camping; there may be provision for outdoor camping and Motorhomes, to be confirmed. Please indicate at time of booking. For anyone who wishes to be posh, there are some excellent B&Bs in Gloucester.

The cost this year will be £70 per person, which includes all meals except Sunday lunch. Pro rata rates available for those who wish to attend part of the proceedings, please contact Rob for details.

Closing date for Applications 20th September 2018.

Yours,
Robert Chisman, Scrivener and Convenor

Delegate: 1).....email.....Fool/Beast/Other.....*
....

2).....email.....Fool/Beast/Other.....*
....

Team:.....

Address for correspondence.....
.....:

Tel: Day:.....Eve:.....

Any Special Dietary needs.....

We anticipate having further applicants, if places available.

Return this form with cheque for the full amount (£70 pp) payable to "The Illustrious Order of Fools and Beasts" to Robert Chisman, Fools and Beasts Convener, 1, Treverbyn Road, St. Austell, Cornwall, PL25 4EU Tel:01726 68178 mobile 07970063922. OR pay by BACS - please ask for details.

*E-mail: triggertrötter1@aol.com
Follow Trigger on Facebook and Twitter!*



Trigger Morris-Horse



@TriggerMHorse

**Provision of email address indicates willingness to be included on IOFB e-mail list. If you DO NOT wish your email address to be included, please tick HERE*

Appendix 2: Sword Dance Union application form



SDU LONGSWORD Gathering & Tournament

*Hollins Mill, 12 Hollins Mill Lane, Sowerby Bridge, West Yorkshire,
HX6 2QG*

Saturday 6th October 2018

SATURDAY October 6th

1. *Registration and on the day entries between 10am and 12 noon.
 2. Dancing at pre organised spots. 11am to 1:30 pm
 3. 2pm Tournament. SDU Rules and Judges. Expected sequence:
 - Juniors ~ *Traditional Teams*
 - Juniors ~ *Named dance*
 - Seniors ~ *Traditional Teams*
 - Seniors ~ *Named dance*
 - Modern dance Written
 - Non-competitive displays
- 6 pm. SDU AGM
Afterwards: Social in the competition venue

*Pre entry £5 per dance, plus SDU membership £10

*On the day, £10 per dance, plus SDU membership £10

*Please advise expected attendance by 1st September
by email to SDU.longsword.2018@outlook.com*

Food and drink can be purchased from various locations, including the competition venue.

Indoor camping available for up to 20 people @£5 per person per night, pre-booked.

Caravans, motorhomes and tents £5 per night, pre-booked.

For more information contact SDU.longsword.2018@outlook.com

SDU Longsword Gathering and Tournament 2018 Entry Form

Saturday 6th October, Sowerby Bridge

Team name	
Primary contact name, email, phone	
Secondary contact name, email, phone	
Dance class #1 @£5	
Dance class #2 @£5	
Dance class #3 @£5	
Indoor camping numbers @£5 per person per night	
Tents/Motorhomes/Caravans @£5 per unit per night	
Total amount payable £	

Cheques payable to the **SDU**.

Please send in advance to P.Heaton, 86 Derby Rd, Draycott, Derbys. DE723NX