



The Newsletter - No. 18 – March 2001

Greetings,

This edition of the Newsletter will be issued at the ARM [or if your Side was not represented, shortly afterwards]. The Treasurer – for those who do not see him at the ARM, is “fitter and weller” – and is back in communication.

Welcome to **Lincoln and Mickleborough Morris Men**, being the merged **Lincoln** and **Mickleborough** Sides, both of whom were low in numbers [although Mickleborough were well represented at Ripley’s Feast]. The existing Mickleborough Bagman will undertake that duty for the combined Side. Welcome. We look forward to the formal exchange of Staffs of Membership in due course.

With Foot and Mouth threatening events, we are sure you do not need reminding to consider the implications of any Tours or Dance Outs. Whilst our own “animals” may not have cloven hooves, we would not wish them [and their Sides] to give rise to any concerns. For latest information from MAFF see <http://www.maff.gov.uk/animalh/diseases/fmd/default.htm> .

Also enclosed with this mailing are:

- A **summary** of this Newsletter – as the last page of the Newsletter.
- Inevitably, more **amendments** to the Directory, collated with this bundle. [These are in fact included in the New Directory – but outline the latest changes.]
- A **Booking Form** for a further **Fieldtown Instructional** – in the accessible Midlands
- The latest **Directory for 2001 – 2002**.
- Your / your Side’s copy/ies of the **Morris Circular**.

Remember: Unless you pass on the content of this Newsletter to the Men in your Side, the information stops with you. A summary is included on the last sheet.

E-mailed versions of these Newsletters are available on request [ideally as an attached Word document; please order and specify by Email].

IN MEMORIAM

David Edgley, sometime **Bristol**, previously with **White Horse** and **Jockey**, died of a heart attack on 1st March 2001. He was a chemist who used to teach at Brunel College in Bristol.

The Funeral was on Thursday, March 8th at Frenchay Unitarian Chapel. His wife requested that Men should be in kit and followed the coffin into Chapel.

Paul Woods of **Bristol** writes “Dave had not danced for a few years now, being well into his retirement, but always enjoyed seeing the Morris. He last came to watch Bristol in May 2000, when he expressed delight at the influx of young dancers and musicians we had with us. Dave was the first person to greet me at the first Bristol Morris practice I attended - not surprising, because (as always) all the other buggers arrived late, while Dave was always punctual. Despite being the oldest member of the side, even then, he was welcoming and encouraging to me and to all other beginners. He greatly enjoyed going away with the side to Ring Meetings and the like, and it was a source of amusement that he always would bring an OS map with him to find the destination - only trouble was, the map was generally pre-1920!”

John Maher [also Bristol] recalls “It was David who used his stick to bash the car which drove through the set at the Sherborne Ring Meeting – a Police Officer tried to arrest the Morris Side – until it was noticed that the car was un-taxed, and a photograph was taken to prove the point; after which the Officer [who was the driver’s brother-in-law!!] decided not to proceed.”

FORTHCOMING EVENTS –

RING MEETINGS – 2001 – UPDATE.

Arrangements are progressing well for all four Ring Meetings. You should be receiving information direct from the host clubs. Please ensure that deposits are paid promptly.

COTSWOLD TOUR - Midlands and North Area Day of Dance - 16th June 2001. Visiting Stow-on-the-Wold; Bledington; Lea Field; Bampton; Sherborne; Longborough or Oddington; and Ilmington. This tour is now open to others than the Mids. & N. Area. Details from and bookings to **David Thompson** - **Tel:** 01332 770578 **Email:** Thompson_Capers@tesco.net

Fieldtown Instructional - 21-23 September 2001. **Green Man** have agreed, at the Squire’s request, to host a further Fieldtown Instructional in the Sutton Coldfield area. The tutor will be the inimitable, Bert Cleaver. A Booking Form is enclosed with this mailing.

Jigs Instructional 2002. **Dolphin** have agreed to host next year's Jigs Instructional at Sutton Bon(n)ington. **Dave Walters** has booked the hall for **18th – 20th January 2002**.

Whilst on the subject of **Instructionals** – WHAT DO YOU WANT. Contact the Squire directly and he will be delighted to hear your views and requests for future events. Oddball and Minor Traditions? – Old standards? [that you think you know, but wish you really did!!!] – New dances of the evolving Morris? – The “Ale & Feast” top of the pops repertoire for your new Men? – etc - etc.

WEB INFORMATION

English Folk Play Research Home Page of the Traditional Drama Research Group can be found at <http://www.shef.ac.uk/~tdrg/index.htm>

ARCHIVAL MATTERS

At the **Leicester** Feast, the Ring Bagman was handed a box of photographs. These proved to be the Ring's "proof sets" for the **Thaxted** Ring Meetings of 1965 and 1966. These were usually passed from club to club so that orders could be placed. In the box is a letter from the Ring Bagman at the time, *Ewart Russell*, with a plea for their prompt return!! - and he included an [obviously unused!!] stamped and addressed label for that purpose. It is good to find that Sides do respond in the end, even if it takes a few - well 35 - years!!!!

Fortuitously, there are photos of **Bedford** [dancing both Rapper and Cotswold], for a period when their photo-coverage is poor and these will be copied for their Archive. The other Sides with Email contact, have been offered copies [at a modest cost]. [Extant Sides at that meeting **Bedford**, **Colchester**, **East Surrey**, **Greensleeves**, **Leicester**, **London Pride**, **Manchester**, **Oxford**, **Rumford**, **St Albans**, **Standon**, **Thames Valley**, **Thaxted**, and **Westminster**].

Bedford have just acquired a short video of some 1947-ish 9.5mm film of Morris dancing. Whilst not all of best quality, it may be possible to re-borrow the film and try again. It was taken by a past Bedford man, *Arthur Bues* [now a sprightly 85]. He was mainly a folk dancer – hence able to film the Morris!!! There was an entry in the 1947 Bedford Log referring to him filming a Jig at a hospital fete, and following up the lead proved very worthwhile. As well as *Arthur Walmesley* dancing [almost out of frame!] the said Bampton "Princess Royal" Jig, it includes a snatch of Past Squire *Fred Hamer* in his sighted days dancing with Bedford. Among other Sides; a selection of **Headington** at a similar date – with good footage of their Fool dancing the Fool's Jig to *William Kimber's* [silent] accompaniment. There is also some rather gloomy footage of **Chipping Campden**. Some other sides still have to be identified. There is also some folk dance, and a side of women dancing some rapper figures.

Good News: The **Emberton** Scrapbook - missing for some 20 years – has reappeared. Emberton were one of the early revival Sides in the 1920s – often featuring on the cover pictures of the EFDS magazines. It was compiled by *Wilfred Abbott*, the Squire of Emberton in the 1920s. He died in the 1930s, and it was missing from his wife, Freda's, papers when she died [she was another keen dancer and taught Morris in the Bedford area]. It was re-identified when Freda Abbott's second husband died. As her second husband became less "aware" it had been difficult to investigate. On his death, *Andy Malleson* [Bedford's Fool] and his wife Sue [Freda was her aunt] were able to gain access from one of the Executors [who lived next door]. As the scrapbook [and various other Morris items, photos etc] have "no value" it is hoped that the Executors to agree to give them to "the family", who intend that the scrapbook be given to the Ring Archive.

Whilst on matters Archival, the Bagman holds the Staffs of defunct Sides who have handed these back [they remain the Ring's property]- against the possibility that one day that some of these Sides might re-form. We are trying to identify the Side that had a Staff distinguished by turned brass mounts at each end, one mounting a flat carved brass "beacon" basket, with three flames coming from it. Does anyone know who might have had such a beacon symbol?

ANNIVERSARIES

Harthill celebrate their Silver Jubilee in 2001. Their Spring Ale will expand to a celebratory weekend in April. News of the event in the next Newsletter.

Pilgrim will be celebrating their 30th Anniversary next year and want to try and reach any wayward “Pilgrims” that they have lost touch with but that are still within the Ring or its circle of influence. Would they please contact the Pilgrim Bagman [see Directory updates].

Abram Morris - Sunday 1st July 2001 is the centenary of the last performance by the traditional Morris dancers of Abram. On Saturday 30th June 2001, the Abram Morris Dancers and guests will perform throughout Abram, Bickershaw, Hindley and Platt Bridge. The first performance will be at the Morris Dancers Ground, Park Lane, Abram, Lancashire, at about 11a.m. and the finish at about 8.30p.m. at the Dover Lock Inn, Dover, Abram. On the actual anniversary Sunday, there will be dancing at the Morris Dancers Ground, followed by a community church service at the parish church, with more dancing opposite the church and later at the Bucks Head Inn. There may be an afternoon trip to neighbouring Golborne, to visit the Railway Inn (and its brewery!). The brewer is considering producing a special summer ale. It is also hoped to restore the Morris Dancers Ground to its proper status as Abram's village green. Wigan Council have given consent – a plan is drawn - now funds are needed. Visitors will be welcome on the day, but no uninvited teams. Anyone wishing to have a rough idea where to find the dancers during the day should contact **Michael Jackson**, 12 Church Street, Adlington, Chorley, Lancashire, PR7 4EX. Telephone 01257 480331 (home) or 01257 515490 (work). Email: michael.jackson@tinyworld.co.uk.

PUBLICATIONS and REVIEWS

“**THE WRAGGLE TAGGLE GYPSIES**”, The story and notations of the Lichfield Dances by **Jack Brown**. Published by **The Morris Ring**.

Jack Brown was there when the original manuscripts arrived and was given the job of working the dances out. This A5 Book contains 80 pages of history, instructions with diagrams for dancing the dances, 8 pictures, music notation of the tunes, and for the first time ever, copies of the manuscripts themselves.

Steve Tunnicliffe [Rutland] wrote “This morning the postman brought me my copy of “The Wrangle Taggle Gypsies” by Jack Brown, as advertised on this list by and available from David Thompson. I haven't quite read it cover to cover, but I've read enough to recommend it highly to anyone who dances Lichfield, might dance Lichfield, or is just interested in the history and mythology of the Lichfield dances. If you believe in the “authenticity” of the dances, your faith will not be shattered; if you are one of those who subscribe to the elaborate hoax theory, or revel in the history of postmarks, here are reproductions of all the original manuscripts to pick over. A nice touch is the spiral binding which allows the book to lie flat for the convenience of sight reading musicians or for consultation during practice. Only a fiver!”

The book, indeed, only costs £5.00 plus £2.25 postage and packing. If you wish to order a copy, send your payment to the Midlands and North Area Representative, **David Thompson** at 13, Larks Close, Littleover, DERBY DE23 7TE. If you require more details, contact him direct at Tel: 01332 770578, or e-mail at **thompson_capers@tesco.net**. It is also available from **Steve Adamson**'s Morris Ring shop.

[Our many thanks to **David Thompson** for all his hard work in the setting and publishing of this book – and producing it on schedule for the Lichfield Instructional.]

Keith Chandler's "Ribbons, Bells and Squeaking Fiddles" [and] "Morris Dancing in the English South Midlands, 1660 – 1900, A Chronological Gazetteer"... is due for republication, in CD ROM format, in February 2001. To check availability go to www.mustrad.org.uk. Keith Chandler advises that "The CD ROM will contain: "Ribbons, bells & sf" - cosmetic revisions only. Nothing has appeared since 1993 to alter or even modify any of my theses". "Gazetteer - thoroughly revised in the light of hundreds of hours further research since 1993, with additional features that had to be omitted from the first edition through lack of space, such as complete performance chronology, by decade at least, and year where explicit. Plus additional figures showing distribution of ales, dance sides by county and by decade. Plus, of course, misinterpretations from the first edition (expected of any work in progress) corrected. Two new locations (and one deleted). New dancers. Dozens of fresh sources incorporated. A new beast altogether." "Various of my previously published articles" "A never before published Forest of Dean equivalent of the gazetteer, which I've been working on for longer than I care to remember" "All profits go towards maintaining one of the best sites on the web, www.mustrad.org.uk"

"EIGHT DAYS WONDER", is a booklet commemorating and recording last April's re-dancing of Kemp's "Nine Daies Wonder" from London to Norwich. The author "The Scribe", accompanied the event recorded her personal impressions as the days unfolded. It is perhaps a little short on the Morris, history and routings – and seems to concentrate on what beer she was bought and the condition of the ladies loos at the various pub stops – but no doubt these were important features during such an event. When taken with the various other reports that appeared on the Web, and in the various notes from participants and visitors it contributes to the overall record of a unique event. A useful souvenir for those involved in any way for a "modest" £5.00 [incl. Postage]. [Next year the team hopes to recreate Kemp's later feat by dancing over the Alps!!! Details on the Website or from Julie on 01508 470851] The booklet is available from the Morris Shop, or direct from the publishers, The Larks Press, Ordnance Farmhouse, Guist Bottom, Dereham, Norfolk NR20 5PF. Tel: 01328 829207. A reproduction of the Kemp's "Nine Daies Wonder" describing the original feat is also available, and very good value, at £2.70.

THE MEDIA

- - **Television:** A follow up from **Anthony "Nanty" Foard**, Bagman of **Mersey** re the Jonathan Meade show: - "What a treat! To appear on national television on the "intellectual" channel! A chance to present the Morris in a less trivialised way than some of those working in the medium normally allow. At least, that was our initial response to the invitation from the BBC to be recorded dancing in Port Sunlight last autumn. We danced, the sun shone, they filmed, and Jonathan Meades (for it was he) ambled past the set opining about mock-rural idylls and Victorian hippy William Morris (spot the connection?) for an opus on...well, what was it about? One of the broadsheets trailed the programme (which was broadcast one Sunday evening in early January) thus: "Jonathan Meades looks at the influences which shaped Victorian architecture and social structures, including religious mania, syphilis and the widespread use of opiates." "The Radio Times saw it as "...a combination of comic sketches, dance routines and riotous bad taste." "So not quite the lofty opus that we first envisaged (or feared), but not quite family game show stuff, either. And we were given hard liquor. And we got paid. And we looked (despite the ravages of "religious mania, syphilis and the widespread use of opiates") wonderful. That's what my Mum said, anyway, though she didn't like the nudity. Did I mention the nudity...?"

Richard Smith of Bristol, noted that **Mendip** were on HTV on 15th January. "They were advertising their Open Evening, trying to drum up new members. The presenter, Susan Osman, made some comment about "nice to see morris men shaking their bells", but Murphy's Law prevailed, and a tip of the slung turned it to "shaking their bums". [Mark Rogers commented "I was told the quote was "shaking their balls" "].

The **Mendip** newsletter indicates that **Chris Avery** and **John Burgess** were interviewed on the BBC Breakfast Show, and in the evening were on “Points West”. Chris Luxford saw them on BBC Points West “They did a bit of Lichfield Ring O’ Bells.”

- - **Film:** **Richard Farmer**, Squire of **Pilgrim** notes “You might also wish to know that ‘Circle 8’ have just completed a feature length film entitled “Tales of the Pilgrims Way” shot on 16mm format (I’m told that’s the expensive and up market version), which uses Pilgrim Morris Men as a continuity theme to link a dozen or so short stories based on sites along the Pilgrims Way between Winchester and Canterbury.

- - **Sound:** The **Jockey** CD is now advertised on the Japanese HMV site!! **Steve Holder** of Jockey also notes that they had a “very positive” twenty minute interview on BBC Radio WM on the Wednesday before their Plough Tour.

NEWS

JIGS INSTRUCTIONAL WEEKEND 19 – 21 JANUARY 2001 - A full report by **Peter Brunton** of **East Surrey** is included in the Morris Circular – in line with our policy of including more News in more Editions of the Morris Circular.

A traditional clash of dates for **Ripley** and **Utttoxeter** Feasts on 27 January. The Squire and Treasurer attended Utttoxeter – the Bagman made it [at least by the main course] to Ripley.

Ripley Feast was attended by some 150 plus men, representing in whole or part some 24 Sides. Always an eventful occasion, this year was no exception – indeed this report can only be a précis – the notes becoming less legible as the evening progressed!!!

“The guests were Councillor John Nelson Mayor of Amber Valley and the Bagman. Sides present in whole or part included: **Adlington, Anker, Bristol, Chanctonbury Ring, Coventry, Green Oak, Harthill, Icknield Way, Isca, John O’Gaunt, Kennet, Leicester, Letchworth, Lincoln and Micklebarrow, Man Friday, Richmond on Swale, Rose and Castle, Saddleworth, Shakespeare, St.Albans, Full Moon, Winchester and Whitchurch.**

“The menu card was illustrated by a fine print of Ripley at Sidmouth. The Feast included Paté and French Bread; Beef in Guinness with Roast Potatoes and Seasonal Vegetables; Fruit Crumble and Fresh Cream. The Mints appeared – courtesy of Thorntons of Belper, but the coffee had to be dealt with in shifts – cups being in a minority!! With excellent beers from the Saddleworth Brewery – including the “Shaftbender” [5.4%], as well as “Hopsmacker” [4.1%], “Harvest Moon” [4.1%], and “Saddleworth Moor Gold” [4.6%] – not one slight murmur of complaint was heard!!! A quick word of thanks here to Adlington, who had with them a bottle of Green Chatreuse; a tippie that brought back memories of dissolute evenings at college in days before sobriety and Morris dancing descended upon the Bagman!!!!

“Various speeches and songs followed and later various show dances. Past Squire **Geoff Jerram** sang “Danced the World Around”, **Coventry** and **Anker** performed a double “Jockey to the Fair” double jig, from Ascot-under-Wychwood. **Icknield Way**’s less senior men danced the Bampton double jig “Princess Royal”. **Ripley** provided a sixteen man Lichfield “Ring of Bells” in square formation. **John o’Gaunt** gave us their Wyresdale “Old Mans’ Dance” with their additional figures. A Side of Fools showed they could also dance.

“At a later hour cheese and biscuits were served, and Ripley sang their farewell anthem “Rolling home”. Then “Gentlemen desirous of sleep could establish themselves on the floor overnight,” however, there was a traditional “after hours session” arranged for insomniacs - and those in need of further liquid refreshment - in the George, a short stagger down the road. In the morning a light breakfast was served in the hall kitchen, followed by a hot breakfast served “by the wonderful Lillian” at the Red Lion in Fritchley.”

The Squire prevailed upon **Keith Hutchinson**, Bagman of **Uttoxeter**, to provide some notes on their Feast. [Information from other sources suggest these were a somewhat modest summary of an excellent evening]. The Feast was held at Wilfred House in Uttoxeter on 27 January. Sides attending or represented included **Boar's Head**, **Green Man**, **Jockey**, **Mersey**, **Stafford** and **White Hart**. The meal included Roast Pork; Apple Crumble and Custard and Cheese and Biscuits. The ales were sourced from the Bass Museum Brewery courtesy of **Adrian Wedgewood** [who it seems still has influence despite having retired]. The Retiring Squire, **Keith Lawson** welcomed and toasted the visitors, and **Gerald Willey**, Squire of the Morris Ring responded for the visitors. The new Squire, **Jeff Miller** then took over and during coffee and between dances, songs were performed by **Jack Brown** [Uttoxeter]; **Richard Morgan** [Thaxted]; **Phil ?** [Chester]; **John ?** [Jockey]; and **Fred Waygood** [Stafford]. Stories and monologues were presented by Adrian Wedgewood and **Mac McCoig** [Uttoxeter]; **Jim Jones** [Mersey] and **Bob Carter** [Boar's Head]. **Ken Smith** of Uttoxeter provided a flute solo.

Leicester, **Standon** and **Winchester** all had Feasts/Ales on 3rd February. The Squire visited Winchester and the Bagman finally made it “up the road” to Leicester – it would have been logical if he had not started only a few miles north Winchester. The Squire having started somewhat nearer Leicester!!!

Leicester Feast was held at the Miner's Institute in Markfield – with dancing before and after the Feast itself. “The guest list was extensive: in addition to the Bagman, there were three Past Squires - Messrs. **Ivor Allsop**, **Mike Chandler** and **Bert Cleaver**, various local dignitaries, friends and former members of the Side, as well as representatives from: **Anker**, **Coventry**, **Darlington** **Mummers**, **Ebor**, **Anstey**, **Man Friday**, **Royal Preston**, **Ripley**, **Thaxted**, **Whitchurch** and the **Whittlesea Straw Bear Festival**. The Feast, admirably catered by Messrs. **Charlie Corcoran** and **Peter Johnson** plus other pressed Leicester Men, included a Chestnut Soup; Chicken and Broccoli Pie, with Cabbage with Juniper Berries, and Celery with Apple and Cider among the selection of vegetables. A port and Tangerine jelly was followed by Leicestershire Cheeses and Coffee. Marston's Bitter and a superb Bank's Mild provided liquid accompaniment during the evening.”

Alan Salter of **Royal Preston** made the quip about the “reserve team” having “three broken ribs, one dodgy toe and a knackered knee?” He was later to advise that “It is necessary to add to that one broken wrist, sustained on the night itself! **John Musgrave** had a fall you may recall, and sadly damaged his wrist rather more than we thought. As a dentist it has immediate repercussions for him.” We wish him a very speedy recovery.

Once again, to save straining his memory, the Squire prevailed upon **Stroph Rayner**, Bagman of **Winchester** to provide a few notes on their Feast – this is what he can remember!!! “This year the tour of world cuisine reached Iberia and the men of Winchester (lead by chefs **Geoff Jerram** and **Albert Wilkins**) produced a Spanish feast for 110 including a variety of tapas for starters. The food was up to their usual high standards as was the Pots Ale and Diggers Gold. Guests include Georgina Busher, the Mayor of Winchester, and Ring Squire, **Gerald Willey**. The Spanish theme was continued when the squire (Albert Wilkins) gave a speech entirely in that language (I think). There was the normal dancing and singing which finally finished around 4 or 5 next morning.

Notable events included **Peter Contrastano** dancing in as a full member of Winchester with Bonnets so Blue, and Gerald singing Widdicombe Fair assisted by a host of notables and old lags. The highlight was probably young **Matthew Culf** of **Dartington** dancing a superb Fieldtown Princess Royal to Geoff Jerram's playing.”

LICHFIELD INSTRUCTIONAL – prior to **Lichfield Feast** - 17th February 2001. At the Guildhall, Lichfield, led by **Jack Brown**. To celebrate the launch of Jack Brown's book and coincide with the Lichfield Feast, an excellent Instructional was organised. Jack was the first to recreate the dances from the various notes that appeared in the 1950s. A full guildhall with some four Sides danced their way through the full repertoire – including the four winds Jig for the masochists present.

Between Instructional and Feast, some research on real ales was undertaken in the Queen's Head, conveniently placed between the hall and Past Squire **Roy Yarnell's** Morris Hotel!!!.

The Lichfield Feast “bring a hard plate – non plastic cutlery and an apron” was something special in its setting in the wonderful surroundings of the historic Guildhall. Sides present – or represented – included **Anker, Bedford, Boar's Head, Brackley, Chanctonbury, Chapel-en-le-Frith, Coventry, Dartington, Ebor, First Sedgely, Ilmington, Jockey, John of Gaunt, Packington, Plymouth, Rumford, Shakespeare, Stafford, Stockport, Sweyn's Ey, Uttoxeter** and **White Hart**. Presentations were made to **Les Horne** for 15 years infatigable service and for producing the present Squire of Lichfield – who also received his tankard - **Aiden Horne**.

The Squire of the Ring then presented **Jack Brown** with a finely bound and boxed presentation copy of his book on the Lichfield tradition that had been launched at the instructional that afternoon.

Bob Weddell, Bagman of **Broadwood** reports – “On Saturday 17th February 2001, Broadwood danced at the Surrey History Centre, Woking as part of the Exhibition of Lucy Broadwood Papers being held there during January and February. We danced at 11.30am and 2.30pm, and in between listened to a very interesting talk on Lucy Broadwood given by Dr Dorothy de Val from Toronto. The talk gave us a solid background for the lady whose name we proudly bear. We also managed to find time for sandwiches and liquid refreshment at a nearby pub beside the Basingstoke Canal. Although the crowd of spectators was rather thin we were photographed by two local papers and thoroughly enjoyed our day at this new Centre.”

ASCOT INSTRUCTIONAL – 10th March 2001; held at Corley, and hosted by **Coventry**, with most capable Foremanship from **Martin Trewinnard**, and music from, among others, **Pete** [Damn - the milk's still in my fridge!!] **Grassby**. Some 30 attended from: **Bedford** [the Bagman]; **Jockey**; **Northampton**; **Peterborough**; **Shakespeare** [the Squire] and **Stafford**, all keen to learn some of the dances from this rarely seen tradition.

The Squire – **Gerald Willey** writes “In the morning session from (10.30am - Noon) we covered: Highland Mary (handkerchief); Balancy Straw (stick); Country Gardens (hand-clapping); and Jockey to the Fair (jig).” The Squire remembered this last very well since this was his chosen jig to “dance in” at the Chalice Ring Meeting in 2000.

There was a migration to the Horse and Jockey in Corley for a pint and a meat pie. “In the afternoon session (2.15 - 4.15pm) we launched into: Mrs Casey (handkerchief); Orange in Bloom (handkerchief) [one of the less-authenticated dances]; The Black Joke (stick); Banks of the Dee (stick); and finished off with an exuberant display of Valentine (handkerchief). A good if somewhat exhausting time was had by all.”

Cam Valley are returning to Lithuania [they were there the summer before last], this time as guests of the British Embassy, for the opening weekend of British Week. Details and pictures [hopefully] in the Summer Morris Circular.

The Bagman made a daring foray [via Rugby Beer Festival – to get “courage”] “to broaden his mind”, at an Open Morris ale in Leicestershire hosted by New St George and the Lady Bay Revellers. Arriving fearing the ghosts of Sharp and Pat Squires would strike him down – he was most heartily welcomed, and found present representatives from **Anstey, Dolphin, Ripley** and **Rutland**. A most enjoyable evening was had by all - a good floor, no waiting around for the dances, and music with good pace - plus excellent food [and beers from Brewster’s Brewery, just up the road] - what more could one need.

Tony Foard, Bagman of **Mersey**, writes “...I’ve been side-tracked by a spell in hospital following a cycling accident, and am just catching up with the outside world again. The bad news is that the doctors think I should be able to dance no worse than before!”

AND FINALLY

Bob Wilson of **High Spen** asked on the Morris Discussion List on the Web about “Morris Dancing on the Radio”. “Did anyone else hear the so called 'comedy' act on Ned Sherrins' 'Loose Ends' last Saturday” [10 March 2001] “(BBC R4). Something about virility and that morris dancers’ glands are 'worth four tiger penises on the Asiatic market'.” In response **John Price** of **St Albans** replied “Yes. I did. I thought it was quite funny. It didn't rely on any prejudice against morris dancing for its humour. It took to an extreme the idea of waving hankies as a method of transferring pheromones from underneath our armpits to the vicinity of the noses of our potential conquests.” So now we know the secret of our success !!!!

IN CONCLUSION

We now have 145 out of 167 Full Member Sides [but only about half of our 60 Associate Members] who can be contacted by Email. If we do not have an Email contact, you may miss out on “Stop Press” information and possible bookings. Some numbers go into disuse as you change your “provider” – remember to update both the Ring Bagman and the Overseas Bagman/Webmaster, John Maher, with any changes.

As ever, please remember to keep the News [Gossip and Scandal] flowing in and as usual report any changes of Contact Person, Addresses or – as noted above - Emails.

The next Newsletter will probably be produced in June-ish.

Wassail

John Frearson,
Bagman, The Morris Ring

The Newsletter - No. 18 – March 2001 - SUMMARY

IN MEMORIAM - *David Edgley*, sometime **Bristol**, previously **White Horse** and **Jockey**, died of a heart attack on 1st March 2001. The Funeral was on March 8th.

Welcome to **Lincoln and Mickleborough**, the merged **Lincoln** and **Mickleborough** Sides.

FORTHCOMING EVENTS – As well as the four Ring Meetings, there is a Cotswold Tour [arranged by the Midlands and North Area - **16th June 2001**. **Instructionals** - **Green Man** host tutor Bert Cleaver on **Fieldtown** - **21st-23rd September 2001**. **Dolphin** host next year's Jigs Instructional – **18th-20th January 2002**. WHAT INSTRUCTIONALS DO YOU WANT?

WEB - English Folk Play Research Home Page of the Traditional Drama Research Group can be found at <http://www.shef.ac.uk/~tdrg/index.htm>

ARCHIVES – Re-found: the Ring's "proof photo-sets" for the **Thaxted** Ring Meetings of 1965 and 1966. The **Emberton Scrapbook** - missing for some 20 years – has also reappeared [Emberton were one of the early revival Sides in the 1920s]. **Bedford** have just acquired a short video of some 1947-ish 6.5mm film. It includes Past Squire **Fred Hamer** and **Headington**'s Fool dancing the Fool's Jig to William Kimber's [silent] accompaniment.

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PUBLICATIONS and REVIEWS – of "THE WRAGGLE TAGGLE GYPSIES", The story and notations of the Lichfield Dances by **Jack Brown**; and of "EIGHT DAYS WONDER", commemorating last April's re-dancing of Kemp's "Nine Daies Wonder" from London to Norwich.

THE MEDIA - **Mersey** on the Jonathan Meade show: **Mendip** on HTV; interviewed on the BBC Breakfast Show, and on "Points West". - **Film:** **Pilgrim** in "Tales of the Pilgrims Way". - **Sound:** The **Jockey** CD advertised on the Japanese HMV site!!

NEWS – Reports of Feasts at **Ripley**, **Uttoxeter**, **Leicester**, **Winchester** and **Lichfield**, and Instructionals hosted by **Dartington**, **Lichfield** and **Coventry**. With mentions of: - **Adlington**, **Anker**, **Anstey**, **Bedford**, **Boar's Head**, **Brackley**, **Bristol**, **Broadwood**, **Cam Valley**, **Chanctonbury Ring**, **Chapel-en-le-Frith**, **Coventry**, **Darlington Mummers**, **Dartington**, **Dolphin**, **Ebor**, **First Sedgely**, **Green Man**, **Green Oak**, **Harthill**, **Icknield Way**, **Ilmington**, **Isca**, **Jockey**, **John O'Gaunt**, **Kennet**, **Leicester**, **Letchworth**, **Lincoln** and **Micklebarrow**, **Man Friday**, **Mersey**, **Northampton**, **Packington**, **Peterborough**, **Plymouth**, **Richmond on Swale**, **Ripley**, **Rose and Castle**, **Royal Preston**, **Rumford**, **Rutland**, **Saddleworth**, **St.Albans**, **Shakespeare**, **Stafford**, **Standon**, **Stockport**, **Sweyn's Ey**, **Thaxted**, **Uttoxeter**, **Winchester**, **Whitchurch** and **White Hart**.

Ask your Bagman to show you / provide a copy of the full Newsletter – and the Circular.

.Wassail,

John Frearson, Bagman, The Morris Ring