



## The Newsletter - No. 20 – September 2001

*Greetings,*

This Newsletter contains a number of enclosures – see list below. Please ensure these are brought to the attention of those in your Side that may be interested.

If you did not see it before, in an Email update, please note the Treasurer's new Email.

**NOTE:** The **2002 ARM** will be hosted by **Stafford**, at the Moreton Millennium Centre, Nr. Newport, SHROPSHIRE on **1<sup>st</sup> – 3<sup>rd</sup> March 2002**. Further details herein.

**Fieldtown Instructional – postponed** – it also clashed with Bromyard Festival.

*Also enclosed with this mailing are:*

- A **Summary** of this Newsletter – as the last page of the Newsletter.
- Inevitably, more **Amendments** to the 2001 - 2002 Directory.
- The **Subscription** reminder / renewal form.
- A “**shop**” **order list** – in plenty of time for Christmas.
- A **booking form** for the **Fools and Animals** Instructional/Un-convention.
- A **booking form** for **Ring Meetings in 2002**
- A **booking form** for the next **Jigs Instructional**.
- The **Minutes** of the **ARM** held on 1<sup>st</sup> April and hosted by **Dartington** – including the final DRAFT of the Areas [please check you are where you think you should be!!].
- For Members of the Advisory Council, Minutes of their Meeting after the ARM – N.B. There is no autumn meeting of the Advisory Council.

***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

**John Nourse** of the **Ancient Men** died in late July; his funeral was on Tuesday, 7<sup>th</sup> August near Chippenham. "John was the first elected bagman (1951) of "The Oxford University Morris Men" - i.e. the first after they were granted permission by the University to use that name. (*David Welti* was elected Squire at the same time.) John was spoken about with respect and affection when I joined over a decade later. I met him once on tour and found him very personable. I also have a couple of large vinyl records of his excellent playing of Playford tunes on the piano (He was a church organist by profession)."

[From *John Price* - **St Albans / Ancient Men**].

**John Messias**, Fool for **East Kent** died on the morning of 16<sup>th</sup> August 2001, following a prolonged fight with a brain tumour. "John was our fool for 43 years and was throughout that time a great ambassador for Morris Dancing. He will be remembered in his bowler hat and red nose announcing the next dance, giving the dancers a break with his patter or leading processions. He would talk to anyone, whether civic or church dignitaries or a child in the audience. Beware the owner of a bike, it would soon be found wending its way through the set with John aboard." The funeral was held on Wednesday 29<sup>th</sup> August in Christ Church, Old Road East, Gravesend, followed by private family cremation. Morris Men were expected to be in kit and to dance. Donations to the Lions Hospice, Gravesend, Kent. A fuller appreciation will be included in the next Morris Circular.

[From: *Pete Thomas*, **East Kent**, and *Lawrence Hodges*, **Wadard**]

**Christoffer Carstanjen**, a member of the Marlboro Morris Men, was on the first of the planes that crashed into the World Trade Center. Chris was an enthusiastic dancer and team mate and will be missed greatly.

**Steve Adams**, former squire of Marlboro Morris Men and member of both Thames Valley International and The Bowerie Boys was at work in the North Tower of the World Trade Center at the time of the first plane crash. His work place was above the impact level. There is no further news.

[Information from Alex Naar on MDDL]

**Fred DeVecca** wrote "For the past 10 years or so I've been squire (though our team never really likes to use that word, we've never come up with a better one) of the Marlboro Morris Men, now centered in the western Massachusetts area, formerly of the Marlboro, VT area. .. Both Christoffer and Steve were members of our team. Both of these guys were dancemates and friends of mine. I do not want to go into long tributes and remembrances here. .... And, besides, there is not enough space in all of the internet for me to tell the millions of great stories of wonderful Morris and non-Morris times I've had with these two men. I simply want to thank everyone who has written ... for their thoughts, words, prayers, and offers of help. Our team has always been very close, family-like and we are now trying to bond together and go on - go on with our lives and go on as a Morris team. We had a gathering last night (Thursday) hosted by our neighbors and friends the Juggler Meadow Men (THANKS you guys!) and that was the start of our sorting this all out as a team rather than as individuals. It was the first time since this all happened that I personally felt hopeful enough to think that dancing can be fun again. We will go on. I loved both of those guys. More than I can say. Many of you did too. I still love them and I think I will always feel their presence when I am dancing, singing at a pub, or simply hanging around a table drinking beer and telling stories. Many is the time that I danced corners with Steve and with Christoffer, and I will always remember their smiles as we stepped in together. Steve is the person who introduced me to Morris dancing. Both acted as caregivers to me last year when I had a serious illness. These were, each in his own way, great people and great friends. How ironic that (and I pray I am right about this) the only two Morris dancers to die in this tragedy were not from DC or NYC, but from bucolic, "safe" Western Mass/Vermont, and one was on the plane that crashed into the other. It's bizarre and odds-defying and I think that is one of the reasons it is so hard to grasp and accept. Again, thanks to all from me and from the Marlboro Morris Men. Joy, health, love, and peace to us all."

## ELECTION FOR SQUIRE – 2002

Further nominations are welcome and completed papers [available from the Bagman] should be returned at least three months before the next ARM, that is by 1<sup>st</sup> December 2001. I am very pleased to announce a further candidate has joined the contest and announced that he is standing.

**Bob Cross** [**Chalice**] can be contacted on Tel: 01934 632850. No Email, but his address is 22, Clevedon Road, Weston-super-Mare, Somerset BS23 1DG.

## HONOURS

In the previous Newsletter, the Birthday Honours for ***Dennis William Manners MBE***, for service to the community through Morris Dancing in Oxfordshire, was mentioned – some further details are given below.

**Peter Lund** [**Oxford University**] wrote of ***Dennis Manners MBE***. “By now I expect you have had many replies to your message about Dennis Manners. He left **Oxford City** many years ago to set up **Towersey** and then **Crendon**. I knew him first as chairman of the Oxfordshire District of the EFDSS. Oxford City attended his 80<sup>th</sup> birthday in considerable numbers. The local paper, Oxford Times, had quite a splash”

**Paul Dolman**, Bagman of **Towersey** wrote “Further to Dennis's MBE, ... Here, by way of amplification, are some notes of my own. Dennis was Squire of **Oxford City** in the mid-sixties. When they danced at the Three Horseshoes in Towersey, the local youth were inclined to take the piss. Dennis, as our programme notes used to say for a number of years, said, "What are you making fun of? You couldn't do it ... and we've been proving him right ever since!! The story is true. That IS how he founded **Towersey** . . . (You said you understood he was a Towersey founder - Oh no, he was THE Towersey founder). If you think about it, that's what he deserves an MBE for, if not a knighthood. A bloody Morris Man of all people, says to a gang of teenagers who're busy sniggering at him, "You couldn't do this." Do they laugh louder, and run off to do some urgent graffiti, pausing only to throw a stone at the Morris Men? No, they form a side. It's quite amazing, but that's Dennis. I don't think he was on such difficult turf when he founded **Crendon** a little later. He had some trouble convincing people when he was founding Towersey Festival, (but also some able allies) but for pure love of life, people and fun, and communication of that spirit, the way he founded Towersey Morris Men is in a class of its own. He was Squire, Foreman, and driving force, giving up each post as soon as the Side had a viable alternative, but remaining an active member for years. We let him off doing a jig on his eightieth birthday - he had, and still has, plenty of strength for it, but arthritis has taken its toll. I think I'm right though, in saying he joined in Bonny Green on May Morning last year, when he was eighty-one, or was it the year before? Definitely after he was eighty though. His eightieth birthday was a good bash. Oxford City, Towersey and Crendon, from the Ring dancing, together with Owlswick and Cry Havoc from the Fed. Roy Bailey and the Wilson Family led the stage performances. Some festivals have worse line-ups, and every single person there had cause to count him as a friend. We gather it was a member of a Federation side who nominated Dennis for his MBE. That'd be because the Ring had never heard of him. Think on.”

## ARM 2002.

As already circulated by Email, the 2002 ARM will be hosted by **Stafford**, at the Moreton Millennium Centre, Nr Newport, Shropshire and will be held on **1<sup>st</sup> – 3<sup>rd</sup> March 2002**. With the ARM itself on **Saturday 2<sup>nd</sup> March**. This returns to the more normal earlier date. Please note that the Email [and a separate letter for Sides without that facility], provided the required six month notice required by the Constitution. We understand that the “Geoff Jerram jig and catering team” will be in attendance to deal with the Feast. Those who attended **Dartington** last year will no doubt be booking without delay!!!

## AREAS – and AREA REPRESENTATIVES

The revised Areas, as agreed at the last ARM, together with any preferred changes notified to date, are enclosed with this Newsletter, as part of the ARM Minutes. Please advise any other realignment of Sides that may be required [it is a Side's choice where it is represented]. There has already been a slight realignment of the Welsh clubs to the South West Area, and the Area names have been re-amended to reflect this!

**John Tarling** is moving to the South West and has stepped down from the **Eastern Area**. On 26<sup>th</sup> July John “Danced out with **Rumford** with a one-man version of I'll Go and Enlist for a Sailor. The band got slightly wound up and I realised that such a lengthy jig is not really appropriate for someone of my age! The end of over thirty years association with the side. Sad for me, if not the rest of the men.”. We thank him – and he reports on some of his final area visits in the News Section. For the interim, **Paul Campbell**, also of **Rumford**, has been volunteered to fill the gap. His telephone number is 01708 500741.

With the realignment of Areas at the ARM, we also required a new Representative for the North. **Stuart Bater** of **Harthill** has volunteered [or has been talked to by the Squire!!] and is taking over the **Northern Area** for the interim. His telephone number is 0114 2749529.

**David Thompson**, an existing Area Representative, has taken over the post of **Midlands Area** [in which **Ripley** now finds itself] and **Tony Ashley** [of **Anker**, which is now in the same Area] has stepped down – we thank Tony for his hard work on our behalf over many years.

**N.B.** All appointees are subject to appropriate ratification by their Areas at the next ARM, subject to there being no other candidates advised prior to the ARM [in which case an election would be held at the Area Meeting at the ARM]. They will then be due for election [or re-selection] in due course at the appropriate point in the three yearly cycle.

## FORTHCOMING EVENTS - RING MEETINGS – 2002

A summary of the dates of the proposed 2002 Ring Meetings is outlined below. Fuller details are given in the enclosed **Application Form**. So that Sides can be advised of their success, or otherwise, by mid December, Sides should return the form to the Bagman, without delay, and by **11<sup>th</sup> November** latest. Start thinking about next year **NOW**.

10 <sup>th</sup> - 12 <sup>th</sup> May	<b>RICHMOND-ON-SWALE RING MEETING - 100 Men - Richmond.</b>
7 <sup>th</sup> - 9 <sup>th</sup> June	<b>THAXTED RING MEETING - 200 plus men - Thaxted.</b>
19 <sup>th</sup> - 21 <sup>st</sup> July	<b>SILURIAN RING MEETING - 150 Men - Ledbury.</b>
26 <sup>th</sup> - 28 <sup>th</sup> July	<b>BRISTOL RING MEETING - 180 Men - Bristol.</b>
30 <sup>th</sup> Aug - 1 <sup>st</sup> Sept	<b>HARTLEY RING MEETING - 300 Men - Kent.</b>

## INSTRUCTIONALS

The Squire is taking a personal interest in Instructionals and is assisting with their co-ordination. Please let him know your needs. Forthcoming Instructionals include: -

**Fools and Animals "Instructional" – 26<sup>th</sup> - 28<sup>th</sup> October 2001.** Hosted by **Ripley** at Ambergate. *Booking Form with this mailing.* Details from **John Butler** at Ripley [Tel: 01623 456831 or **Mick Buckley** by Email: mickbuckley@hotmail.com ].

**Jigs Instructional 2002.** **Dolphin** has agreed to host next year's Jigs Instructional at Sutton Bon(n)ington. **Dave Walters** has booked the hall for **18<sup>th</sup> - 20<sup>th</sup> January 2002.** *Booking Form enclosed with this mailing.*

**Longborough and Adderbury Instructional** with **Jack Brown** and hosted by **Stafford** in **September 2002**, and ...

**Bucknell and Badby Instructional** with **John Burke** of **King John's** in **November 2002.**

More details of these latter two, and booking forms, nearer the date.

## OTHER EVENTS

**Gloucester International Pipe and Tabor Festival** - 28<sup>th</sup> - 30<sup>th</sup> September 2001 – Gloucester. Hopefully, all those interested received notification by Email.

**Area Excursion** to the **Cotswolds.**

The next "North Midlands" Area trip will be on Saturday 14<sup>th</sup> September 2002. Visiting [hopefully]:- Bucknell; Wheatley; Headington; Banbury; Adderbury; Hinton-in-the-Hedges and Brackley. Details available from **David Thompson**. Email: Tradswag@btinternet.com.

**Morris Federation Instructionals.**

These are also available to Ring Members. Forthcoming Federation events:

**Rapper** – Shardlow, Derbyshire – Phil Heaton/Stone Monkey Rapper – 20<sup>th</sup> October 2001.

**Contemporary Cotswold** – Stroud, Glos – Sue barker/Stroud Ladies - 10<sup>th</sup> November.

**North-West Morris** – Bolton, Lancs. – Rivington Morris - January 2002.

**Morris Issues for Discussion and Debate** – Cecil Sharp House – 23 February 2002.

Details from the Morris Federation Events Officer: Nicola Bouault; Tel: 01332 882857; mob: 07811 833693; Email: niq@supanet.com.

## ANNIVERSARIES

**Isca** have provided a Report on their 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary celebrations over the year – this will be included in the next Circular, together with details of their trip to the Czech Republic in June.

Congratulations to **Leslie Argyle** who celebrated 50 years with **Abingdon** this year.

[Information: **Ian White** of Abingdon on the MDDL]

## GET WELL SOON

**Pete Shadbolt**, of **Ilmington** - the jockey of Sam Bennett's horse, suffered an aneurysm of the aorta to heart, in the early hours of Thursday 5<sup>th</sup> July 2001. He had an emergency operation, and was in intensive care. Our thoughts are with him, Rene and the family.

**[It is understood that he is now home and recovering well.]**      **[Information: Paul Bryan - Ilmington]**

## WEB INFORMATION

**John Maher** -, Ring Webmaster - writes "Appeals such as this usually fall on deaf ears, but I'll give it a try! Can you give the following some publicity somehow!

"Looking at the Ring site, I realise that I have rather a lot of pictures of **Bristol!** Whilst this may help my Side's ego, I would like to get more good pictures from other Sides; this is always difficult. "Good pictures?" 1) Good quality images, jpegs for photos. The top rhs picture is 200x200 size, it links to some other picture or full URL. It is very important that the linked URL is not going to change. If people want to send me a picture then I'll do the editing and leave a copy on the Ring's site, with a link to whatever reference the person suggests. I suggest jpegs not larger than 50K for this. 2) Images should be of interest to other people, that is outside the Ring and Morris circles. Action shots dancing, (not drinking, talking, eating ....), or shots of interesting characters (faces). Pictures that I can link into significant events. Headington was a good one, as is Dartington's ARM page. Things we want to sell (Steve!). Historical pictures and current Morris characters in the Ring. I don't claim that the present clutch has these properties, but it is all I have at present.

"This is the Ring's Website, so it would be useful to have good content input from some more of the Member and Associate sides."

## THE MEDIA

**Peter Judge** [**London Pride**] has been watching Aliens learning Morris on the children's' TV!!! "I saw Morris performed on a children's programme called the Hoobs early one morning. two weeks ago. Hoobs is a sort of pre-school educational programme for kids above Teletubby age, a bit like the Tweenies (those references may be Greek to you). In it, three muppet-like creatures from space investigate an aspect of human ("Peep") culture, usually having to ask children ("Tiddley-Peeps") to explain it all to them. In this episode, they looked into Dance, and met people doing ballet and other kinds, but had a long segment where they were shown Morris by an unidentified (or else I missed their name) group who wore green waistcoats, and featured one chap with exceedingly long straight hair. After the demonstration, the Hoobs had a go at Morris inside their space-Transit-van thing. I thought it was an excellent blow for raising the consciousness of Morris. Well, it was a cut above Sleze Nation magazine...." [See a previous Newsletter].

**Direct Roots** – Mrs Casey's Music has published "A guide and Directory of Folk, Roots and related music and Arts". It is a replacement / update of the EFDSS Folk Directory. The Morris section is inevitably out of date before publication, but it will people to find you. They have managed to edit out the Associate title – so all Associates are "Travelling Sides"!!

## NEWS

**Ring Meetings 2001.** Four very successful Ring Meetings this summer. Full reports and photographs in the next Ring Circular [with the mailing in November]. To summarise: **Thaxted** had good weather, and a successful move of base to the School, which was the venue for the Feast rather than the Bolford Hall. **Boar's Head** and **Claro Sword** enforced an early Friday night to allow for early Tour starts!! However, they were worth it – great weather, countryside and pubs!! The Sunday procession closed Otley High Street. The Bagman was interviewed on BBC Radio Leeds. **Greensleeves** built on the successful formula for their annual Chipperfields weekends; a gourmet Feast catered by the Men, including Past Squire **Bert Cleaver**, and laminated place mats of log extracts and a commemorative glass tankard for every man. **East Surrey** showed us local towns and rich countryside – and unfortunately some exceptionally heavy rainfall for the conclusion of the Saturday show and the Sunday morning start – but Morris spirit overcame all – and only the Procession had to be cancelled. Congratulations and our thanks to all five Host Sides – and to the participating Clubs.

**Paul Montague**, Bagman of **Yateley** reports on their apparent Political Affiliation! “Have we done it again? Our latest coup is that our premier dance spot in the village, used for our Massed Display at our Day of Dance each September and again on Boxing Day each year, namely the Dog & Partridge, is now the HQ of a British political party. Can any other side claim to have a political party operating on their own dance spot? Alan Hope, the landlord, is the joint leader of the Monster Raving Loony Party, along with his cat! There is a photo of the Yateley Morris Men, now the official morris team of the Monster Raving Loony Party, together with Alan outside the HQ on the Yateley website: <http://homepage.ntlworld.com/argreen/ymm>. Yateley hope that their association with the MRLP will be a long one and that they will help save Alan's deposit at the next General Election!”

**Graham Baldwin** of **Vancouver** has posted some of their UK Tour Photos at <http://www.vancouvermorrismen.org/tour2001/>. “This includes a historic photo of the VMM in Pershore with two old men - **George Collins** and **Sam Dufty** - who used to follow and imitate the original Pershore Not-for-Joes as young boys in the 20's. All the dancers of that era have now passed on, so George and Sam just may be the only living informants of the traditional Pershore side, last seen in the late 20's and early 30's. George and Sam paid us the ultimate compliment by saying "yes, that's how they danced". Also included in this picture is **Annie Jones**, widow of **Dave Jones**, who, almost single-handed, revived traditional Welsh Border Morris in the mid-70s. The VMM are pleased to be ... "custodians" of the Pershore tradition - indeed, after dancing (filmed by both BBC and ITV) and numerous local press and radio interviews, the Lord Mayor of Pershore presented us all with medals to commemorate our appearance, thanking us for "bringing the Pershore dances back home". We also had a good time in London (with the Smiffs), in Eynsham, **Bampton**, somewhere in Shropshire, Lancashire (with Rivington), Yorkshire (with Ripon City, Betty Luptons, Flag & Bone, etc.) and **Thaxted** (where we enjoyed a great double-act with **Silurian**).”

**Midlands and North Area Day of Dance and Cotswold Tour** - 16<sup>th</sup> June 2001. **David Thompson** 's report will appear in the next Morris Circular. [Next tour: 14<sup>th</sup> September 2002]

From **Derek Scofield** - **Manley**, **Chester City** and **Kinnerton** all danced in the Lord Mayor's Show in Chester on Saturday, 16<sup>th</sup> June, with some dancing first near the Commercial Hotel right in the centre of the city. The Lord Mayor this year **Graham Procter** is an ex-member of **Chester City** (and before that **Manchester**, with his father).

**Pete Thomas** [**East Kent** and previously **White Horse**] notes “I have just received a note from White Horse who are celebrating their 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary this year. They decided to restore their traditional Summer Solstice Sunrise dancing at Stonehenge among the stones. They used to do this in the 50's when it was possible to walk among the stones at anytime before it got invaded by new age rioters and coach loads of tourists on their day trip to Stonehenge, Bath and Stratford. Apparently they were filmed and interviewed by CNN. ... What really worries me is that I was dancing with White Horse when they passed their 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary.”

**Chris Bartram** - **Abingdon** reports on “Mayor's Day Magic” - “Forget Midsummer Magic! The Mayor of Ock Street was duly elected by the people of Ock Street, Abingdon, on Saturday 23<sup>rd</sup> June. The successful candidate was again **Stuart Jackson**, Ock Street born, and the grandson of a former Mayor. After last year's extravaganza,” ... [for the 300<sup>th</sup> Anniversary] “... the side chose to have only two guest sides – the **Britannia Coconut Dancers** from Bacup, and **Long Crendon**. From what I remember (!) a good day was had by all.” An incident this year when the Mace, was hijacked and held to ransom. [The Mace is the turned apple-wood chalice with silver decoration, said to have been made from a club used in the fight, and carried by the Mayor of Ock Street as one of his symbols of office, along with the sword]. It reappeared after the “Nutters” coach was threatened with “clamping” and a long sojourn in Abingdon was proposed!!!

The 30<sup>th</sup> June weekend and two reports on the 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary weekend hosted by **Isca**, for **Harthill** and **Yateley** in Monmouthshire. **Monty Montague** [**Yateley**] reported “Greetings from Yateley fresh back from the 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary weekend. As we have come to expect of Isca Squire, **Les Chittleburgh**, the organisation was superb. The w/e was based on the Red Hart Inn, Llanvapley and they really looked after us magnificently throughout the weekend, even closing their restaurant/bar meals on the Saturday evening for our celebration banquet. It's well worth a visit not only for the setting & hospitality but also for the excellent real ale bar - Cottage Ales from Somerset are always on tap. The Jubilee Ale @ 5.6% slipped down a treat! (For **Bob Pearce's** benefit the dancing wasn't bad either!)”. **Neil Fretwell** of **Harthill** noted “You should have come to Isca, it was one of the best weekends I, nay we, have attended. Yateley, Isca and, of course, Harthill danced to high standards. No town centres, no collecting, public by accident; just dancing (& drinking) for ourselves. Isca were absolutely super hosts, nothing was too much trouble. The landlords & ladies were of the 'old fashioned' type – great.”

The Bagman had a “Morris Week” either side of the **Boar's Head/Claro Sword** Ring Meeting [see report in next Morris Circular], in part to deliver Newsletters, but mainly due to fortuitous work meeting schedule!!!! After a Wednesday evening with **Bedford**, a visit to **Harthill** at two pubs, where he was pleased to make up an eighth man for some Lichfield dances, and to note an Adderbury “Skirmish” and an interesting variant on the Brackley “Side by Side into line” figure, with only one side moving for each section. Daughter Lucy, who was driving that evening, was startled to find she was expected to join in with “Bonny Green” – the first time such a thing had happened in 20 odd years of Morris watching!!! The excellent “Harthill Songbook” was “borrowed” and hopefully Bedford will not be questioned too closely about copyright!!! After the Ring Meeting, a chance to meet **Mersey** and guests **Kinnerton** on their joint evening out in the Wirral at The Wheatsheaf at Raby. A dance composed for Mersey's 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary last year was among those noted: entitled the “Five Faced Bishop” [being the local name for “*Adoxa Moschatel*” – the Clocktower plant]. The dance is in Bledington style and the Set is turned to face five directions during the dance. It was composed to a tune by **John Stapledon**, a former Member and a father and grandfather of present members of Mersey. The Bagman became Kinnerton's sixth man. They have a Fieldtown stick dance to “Princess Royal” – and the chorus stick and movement combination required some rapid learning – as did the multiple “change sets” of their Upton Handkerchief dance. Who says the Morris is not evolving?



The following day, a chance to dance with **Cardiff**; with the weather threatening before a record thunderstorm in South Wales. Some valuable dance time was missed whilst the AA were called out to attend to a ruptured fuel pipe - still Cardiff were re-located at their local in Penarth for a final welcome pint of Bull Mastiff's "Summer Moul't" [hopefully Cardiff will manage to recruit the Bagman's nephew, who has been watching for 20 years, but has not yet danced!!! – good luck to them].

**Steve Tunnickliff** [without an e – OK?!!!!] sent word that **Rutland** danced for the Queen in Uppingham – the dance, of course, "Queen's Delight". **Neil Manthorpe** noted that "There is a picture in today's "Guardian" newspaper of the Queen and the legs of two members of the Rutland side. Quite an "arty" photo, but you would have to know (or read the caption) to know what the Queen was looking at".

**Barry Mather** also of **Rutland** advises "... that we are dancing this year in all 21 'dry' villages in Rutland, linking them to 'wet'. We are getting tremendous welcomes from the dry villages, much more so than from the pubs we go on to, and several have organised village parties around our visit; this has meant that we usually have had several cans of beer down our necks before we even leave the supposedly 'dry' villages!" The Bagman was pleased to join **Rutland** and **Peterborough** on one of these evenings [fortunately the following two spots were not dry!!].

In a similar vein, the **Yateley** Web Site reports "We have danced many dry spots, Tockington Court, Moulsham; Copse Lane in Yateley and Vapery Lane in Pirbright to name but a few. These are ideal situations to take the Morris to people who are not able to otherwise come to see us, to show youngsters what morris dancing is all about and last but not least dispel, partly, the myth that morris dancers are a boozy crowd."

It is understood that there was a good turnout of animals various for the second Banbury Hobby Horse Festival. Ring Sides represented included **Adderbury Village; Bristol; Chipping Campden; Dartington; Gloucestershire; Ilmington; St Albans** and **Wyre Forest**

The retiring Eastern Area Representative, **John Tarling**, sent news of his final events and visits. "7<sup>th</sup> July. With **Rumford** on their annual tour of the Sevenoaks area. It rained, of course. The Foreman excelled himself for, besides beating his Willie on a board as he is wont to do regularly in public, he also led us in action choruses of 'In a Cottage in a Wood' and 'My Hat it has Three Corners' - much to the delight of the children present and to the embarrassment of certain adults!"

**Long Man** have had a busy Summer: Squire, **Norman Hopson** provides "Just a few notes for the next Newsletter": - "**June** .... For our Midsummer Walking Tour of Lewes, we were joined by men from **Martlets** and limited representation from **Chanctonbury Ring**. The tour started at Lewes Castle, with a number of stands through the town centre. During afternoon break from dancing, a short tour of Harvey's Brewery took place where we tasted their new 'wheat' beer. For this enjoyable interlude, we were also joined by visitors to the Southdowns Beer Festival. **July** .... Day trip to Boulogne: we danced on the cliff top at Cap Blanc Nez with a splendid view of the white cliffs of Douvre and at a number of places throughout the afternoon and early evening in Boulogne. We took part in the Meridian TV early evening news as part of their 'Summer Holiday' series when we danced on the village green at East Dean, our Fool & Bagman **Dave Rannie** took part in a short live interview, which we are pleased to report showed Morris dancing in a positive light. **August** .... Long Man do not normally dance in August due holiday commitments, however this year we managed to dance during the first week, for a visiting Aussie cricket team on Wednesday 1<sup>st</sup> and on the Seafront in Eastbourne on the Friday 3<sup>rd</sup>, and were pleased to welcome the **Ring Bagman** so far South for the Summer." [The Bagman was very pleased to be able re-sample the hospitality of the hosts of one of the 1999 Ring Meetings – and the acerbic wit of their Fool!!!].

**Thelwall** Day of Dance was on 14<sup>th</sup> July with **Manchester, Chapel-en-le-Frith** and **Leyland**.

Also on 14<sup>th</sup> July, **John Tarling** “Joined **Harwich** on their Day of Dance. Excellent organisation and a most enjoyable day with three tours. It just shows what a relatively small side can do.” On 2<sup>nd</sup> August, he was “In Devon, so I thought I'd do some spying!! Sorry, **Mr. Binding**, sir! Joined **Exeter** at Beer and Branscombe. Bonny Green at Beer Cliff Gardens was more like the goat dance and they insisted on scaring chickens with their performance of Highland Mary at Branscombe.”

**Peter Klosky** [on the 26<sup>th</sup> Annual of the American Travelling Morrice, 5 – 11 August in New Hampshire] reports “The usual gang of rogues and desperadoes will this year be accompanied by the renowned reprobate **J. Michael Blanford**, as has traditionally been his occasional wont (though not so recently), and will further feature the triumphal return of **Mr. John Jenner**.”

A final event for **John Tarling** “16<sup>th</sup> August. The Fox, Matching Tye. Joined **Standon** for their last dance of the season and my last 'visitation' as Area Rep. It's strange really, because Standon is the nearest side to my home and this is the first time I've been out to watch them. Thirteen men and boys had turned out, which I think is very good for the middle of the school holidays. Their programme, which was not quite the usual run of dances, was danced with spirit and precision. I particularly enjoyed watching The Captain With His Whiskers, which I haven't danced since the early 1970's. Special mention must be made of two young boys whose stepping would put many an experienced dancer to shame.”

**Bedford** visited their twin town, Bamberg in Bavaria in late July for a weekend of [limited] dancing and much “hospitality”. The smoked beer is recommended!!

**Martin Trewinnard**, Bagman of **Coventry** writes, “CMM have just [30<sup>th</sup> August] returned from a weekend dancing in Tipperary at the Aonach Paddy O'Brien. Paddy was a very notable accordion player who died 10 years ago and whose anniversary is celebrated by concerts, community events, etc. We danced something like 15 shows between Friday and Monday nights, in pubs, outside pubs and in local towns. The response was very appreciative even though we had to spend some time explaining that we were English because it is well known that the English have no traditions of music, dance or song. The sword dances seemed to be particularly appreciated whilst the other thing that amused our hosts was our tradition of carrying our beer in tankards, a habit which is quite unknown.” [An expanded version will, hopefully, appear in the next Circular.]

**Bob Pierce** reports that “**Gloucestershire** hosted a day of dance on Saturday 8<sup>th</sup> of September 2001. The day is a memorial to **Pat Snelling**, dancer, squire, fool, and Forman, who passed on several years ago. This day is held every year with all the proceeds going to the charity that Pat was involved in most, the Sue Ryder home in Cheltenham. This year we were joined by **Boars Head, Benfieldside, West Somerset** (aided and abetted by Squire of the Ring, **Gerald Willey**) and two men from **Claro**. The day was a walking tour of Cheltenham with five dance stops, with the last one at the Sue Ryder home itself where the collection is handed over. All our guests worked hard with the collecting as well as the dancing and we reached the magnificent total £1109.57. A truly wonderful total so on behalf of the Gloucestershire, I would like to publicly thank our guests for their exceptional efforts.”

Hopefully, reports will arrive for the **Saddleworth** Rush Cart weekend [24<sup>th</sup> – 26<sup>th</sup> August] and subjected to unseasonal “sun”!! – Also the **Winchester** “walking tour” [1<sup>st</sup> September].

The usual Morris / Folk addicts were out at Abbott's Bromley on 10<sup>th</sup> September. Ring Sides whose representatives were noted in the crowd included [among others]: **Armitage Mummers; Bathampton; Bedford; Bristol; Coventry; Durham Rams; Harthill; Ilmington; Jockey; Ripley; Shakespeare; and Thaxted**. During the early evening session, a “mixed” Side comprising members of **Lichfield; Stafford** and **Utttoxeter**, [and the Bagman], provided a selection of Cotswold Morris.

Hopefully, a full Report on the **Yateley** 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Day of Dance [15<sup>th</sup> September] will be collated for the next Newsletter. An excellent day out, supported by **Ewell St Mary's; Green Man; Spring Grove; Thames Valley**; and **Winchester**, as well as various individuals, including the Ring Squire and Bagman. There were two tours, encompassing some fine pubs [and a brewery!] Monkseaton provided an excellent Ampleforth Play and Dance for the show. There was a minute's silence in memory of our American morris colleagues at the start of the main afternoon mass show. Men and audience all participated. We were further reminded of them when the evening events were drawn to a close with the song "The glass on the bar" [words by Henry Lawson, Tune by Peter Bellamy] sung by **Matthew Wright**, Winchester musician.

## SNIPPETS

A quote found in the Telegraph by **Tony Foard**, Bagman of **Mersey**, " ... which I have adopted for a motto, having used the first part in jest for some time for Bangor MM. It was new to me, but then I didn't have the benefit of a classical edukashun. It seems very apt -- I claim it for the Morris!"

*"Nunc est bibendum, nunc pede libero pulsanda tellus". Horace Odes 1, xxxvii*  
*"Now we must drink, now beat the earth with lively step."*

The Bagman, already embarrassed by the additional text in **Wadard**'s name in the Directory, was further embarrassed to be informed of two further misprints in their name and address. However, this did not prevent **Lawrence "Lawrie" Hodges**, Bagman of Wadard receiving an advertisement pack from the Sidmouth Festival addressed to "Wgutterard Morris Men".

**Dave Pearce** [on the Web] remarked that "The esteemed **Mr Tunnicliff** and myself were returning to Long Clawson from Melton Mowbray today, having had a protracted, and rewarding, meeting with the Melton Mayor regarding our forthcoming day of dance (hijacked from the Mayor's appeal for the 'youf' of Melton). Steve and I were amused on the way home to pass a lorry belonging to '**Morris Lubrications**'. We were wondering if this might help 'older Morris Men', or indeed, affect the speed of dancing as teams age?"

**Pete Grassby** of **Coventry** send a copy of his song "The Morris Fool" – based upon the "Farmer's Boy". It seems that several people have requested the words and he has made it available. A copy can be included with to your next mailing if you request [Email preferred].

## IN CONCLUSION

If you feel that some Sides are over-represented in this Newsletter – then it is time that you sent in some News of your own Side!!!

As ever, please to keep the News [Gossip and Scandal] flowing in and as usual report any changes for the Directory [available by Email].

The next Newsletter will probably be produced in late November or early December, and should include the next Morris Circular [if not included with this issue!!!].

Wassail

John Frearson, Bagman, The Morris Ring

## The Newsletter - No. 20 – August 2001 - SUMMARY

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

**IN MEMORIAM.** *John Nourse* of the **Ancient Men**; *John Messias*, Fool for **East Kent**. *Christoffer Carstanjen*, a member of the Marlboro Morris Men, was on the first of the planes that crashed into the World Trade Center. *Steve Adams*, former squire of Marlboro Morris Men and member of both Thames Valley International and The Bowerie Boys was at work in the North Tower of the World Trade Center at the time of that first plane crash

**ELECTION FOR SQUIRE – 2002.** A further candidate: *Bob Cross* of **Chalice**

**HONOURS** – a fuller report on *Dennis William Manners MBE*,

**ARM 2002** will be hosted by **Stafford** on **1<sup>st</sup> – 3<sup>rd</sup> March 2002**. [The ARM itself on **2<sup>nd</sup> March**]

**REVISED AREAS – and NEW AREA REPRESENTATIVES.** *John Tarling* moving SW and *Paul Campbell*, **Rumford**, takes over. A new Rep for the **North**: *Stuart Bater* of **Harthill**. *David Thompson*, an existing Rep, takes over the **North Midlands**; *Tony Ashley* of **Anker** retires.

**FORTHCOMING EVENTS - Ring Meetings – 2002.** Details and Application Form. **Instructionals - Fools and Animals** – 26<sup>th</sup> - 28<sup>th</sup> October 2001. **Jigs** - 18<sup>th</sup> - 20<sup>th</sup> January 2002. **Longborough and Adderbury** - September, and ...**Bucknell and Badby** - November 2002. **Others - Excursion to the Cotswolds** - “North Midlands” Area Trip - 14<sup>th</sup> September 2002. Various Morris Federation Instructionals are also available.

### THE MEDIA

*Peter Judge* [**London Pride**] has been watching Aliens learning Morris – and– Mrs Casey’s Music has published *Direct Roots* - “A guide and Directory of Folk, Roots and related music and Arts”.

**NEWS** – The full Newsletter has more details of the following Summer events.

**Ring Meetings 2001.** Four very successful Ring Meetings this summer: **Thaxted**; **Boar’s Head** and **Claro Sword**; **Greensleeves** and **East Surrey**. **Yateley** – their local is Raving Looney HQ. **Vancouver UK Tour** met **Bampton**, **Thaxted** and **Silurian**. **Midlands and North Area Day of Dance and Cotswold Tour** - report in the next Circular. **Manley**, **Chester City** and **Kinnerton** danced in the Lord Mayor's Show in Chester. The Lord Mayor is an ex-member of **Chester City** (and **Manchester**). **White Horse** restore their traditional Summer Solstice Sunrise dancing at Stonehenge. **Abingdon** “Mayor's Day” with **Britannia Coconut Dancers** and **Long Crendon**. **Isca**, host Joint 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary weekend with **Harthill** and **Yateley**. The Bagman’s “Morris Week” with **Bedford**, **Harthill**, **Boar’s Head**, **Claro Sword**, **Mersey**, **Kinnerton**, and **Cardiff**. **Rutland** danced “Queen’s Delight” for the Queen in Uppingham. They are also dancing the dry villages. Banbury Hobby Horse Festival with **Adderbury Village**; **Bristol**; **Chipping Campden**; **Dartington**; **Gloucestershire**; **Ilmington**; **St Albans** and **Wyre Forest**. *John Tarling* retiring Eastern Area Rep, visits **Rumford**, **Harwich** on their Day of Dance, **Exeter** [to check out his new home patch], and **Standon**. **Thelwall** Day of Dance with **Manchester**, **Chapel-en-le-Frith** and **Leyland**. **Long Man**, report on a busy summer: met **Martlets** and **Chanctonbury Ring**. **Bedford** visited their twin town, Bamberg in Bavaria in late July. **Coventry**’s weekend in Tipperary. **Gloucestershire** Day of Dance with **Boars Head**, **Benfieldside**, **West Somerset**, and some **Claro**. Abbott’s Bromley: representatives seen from: **Armitage Mummers**; **Bathampton**; **Bedford**; **Bristol**; **Coventry**; **Durham Rams**; **Harthill**; **Ilmington**; **Jockey**; **Ripley**; **Shakespeare** and **Thaxted**. An evening “mixed” Side from **Lichfield**; **Stafford** and **Uttoxeter** - and the Bagman. **Yateley** - 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Day of Dance with **Ewell St Mary’s**; **Green Man**; **Spring Grove**; **Thames Valley**; and **Winchester**.

*Wassail,*

John Frearson, Bagman, The Morris Ring