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## The e-Newsletter No.e-54 January 2007

Hi fellow Bagmen.

Thanks for your applications to attend the various meetings of the Morris Ring during 2008. It has proved difficult to satisfy everyone - hence the slight delay in getting back to you - I hoped to get it sorted before Christmas so I am only a couple of days late! Liverpool and Dartington have been heavily over subscribed and Long Man Morris Ring Meeting has been cancelled.

### 2008 Morris Ring Meetings

30<sup>th</sup> May - 1<sup>st</sup> June 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Thaxted Morris Ring Meeting 200+ men Cost:£65  
4<sup>th</sup> - 6<sup>th</sup> July Whitchurch MM 60<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Morris Ring Meeting. 120 men Cost:£70.  
~~11<sup>th</sup> - 13<sup>th</sup> July Liverpool Morris: the 80<sup>th</sup> anniversary Ring Meeting Full~~  
~~Long Man MM "South Downs" Morris Ring Meeting Cancelled~~  
~~5<sup>th</sup> - 7<sup>th</sup> Sept Dartington MM 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Morris Ring Meeting. Full~~

**Thaxted.** All who have applied have been accepted - and there are 80 plus spaces for any late applicants or transfers for those who have been unsuccessful elsewhere.

Bagman for Meeting Ian Anderson [bettyanderson@onetel.com](mailto:bettyanderson@onetel.com)

**Whitchurch** I have heard nothing to the contrary so conclude that all who have applied to this meeting have also been successful. (Plus Trigg & Letchworth - see below)

Bagman for Meeting: Chris Strong E-mail Address: [strongscam@aol.com](mailto:strongscam@aol.com)

**Darlington.** They have agreed to accept all who put them as first choice but Ken will contact sides directly to negotiate numbers. To quote Ken directly:

"Having originally decided to limit the number of Sides to a maximum of 15, and having received that number exactly, we are not proposing to disappoint ANY of the 15, but to welcome them all, on the following basis!

- a) Initially, each of the 15 Sides will be limited to just 12 (Twelve) Men.
- b) We wish to contact personally those who have requested larger numbers than we are able to accommodate. If the opportunity arises, we propose to enter into a limited degree of flexibility, but on a DIRECT basis with individual Sides, during the months ahead.
- c) We shall be seeking Deposits from the individual Sides in Jan/Feb.

**Liverpool (Mersey)** It seems that unless some of the larger sides (Leicester 14, Chester 14, Ripley 15, Manchester 15) can lose a few men we'll have to *drop Colchester besides passing Trigg and Letchworth to their second choices.*

There is enough space for sleeping but it's going to be tight fitting 140+ into the Feast (we'd thought 120 was a good fit). Mersey will end up standing.

**So,** YES to Dartington, Chester, Hartley, Uttoxeter, Ripley, Leicester, Thelwall, Kinnerton, Manchester and Utrecht plus Leyland for the Day (but there's no room for them at the Feast).

Bagman for Meeting: Andrew Siddons [Andrew.Siddons@veolia.co.uk](mailto:Andrew.Siddons@veolia.co.uk)

**Long Man** Unfortunately due to the lower than expected number of applications to this meeting Long Man MM have decided that it is not viable. Sides who applied for this meeting will be treated favourably should they wish to attend either the Thaxted or Whitchurch Morris Ring meetings (Dartington & Liverpool are already oversubscribed).

Date	Side	313 Thaxted	1
	Dolphin		8
	Morrisdansgroep Helmond		9
	Saddleworth		14
	White Rose		12
	Ravensbourne	Day	12
	Great Yorkshire		10
	Jockey		16
	Colchester	Day	10
	Cambridge		10
	Monkseaton		10
<b>Totals:</b>			111
Date	Side	313 Thaxted	1
	<b>200+</b>	Less Day	89

Date	Side	314 Whitchurch	1	2
	Leeds		7	
	Letchworth			<b>6</b>
	Stafford		10	
	Thaxted	Day only	10	
	Trigg			<b>12</b>
	Winchester		8	
	Durham Rams		8	
	Etcetera		5	
	Harthill		10	
	Lincoln & Micklebarrow		7	
<b>Totals:</b>			65	18
Date	Side	314 Whitchurch	1	
		Less Day	55	
	<b>120</b>	Plus 2nd choice	83	

Date	Side	315 Mersey	1	
	Dartington		12	
	Hartley		10	
	Kinnerton		10	
	Leicester		14	
	Letchworth	-	<del>8</del>	x
	Leyland	Day Only	12	
	Manchester		15	
	Thaxted			
	Trigg	-	<del>12</del>	x
	Uttoxeter Heart of Oak		12	
	Chester City		14	
	Utrecht		9	
	Thelwall		9	
	Ripley		15	
	Colchester		<del>10</del>	x
<b>Totals:</b>			162	
Date	Side	315 Mersey	1	
	<b>120</b>	Less Day	150	

Date	Side	316 Dartington	1	2
	East Surry		18	
	Exeter		12	
	Green Man		10	
	St Albans		10	
	Standon		10	
	Thaxted		10	
	Wadard		10	
	West Somerset		10	
	Westminster		12	
	King Johns		16	
	Martlett		15	
	Mendip		20	
	Ravensbourne		12	
	North Wood		14	
	Bristol		15	
<b>Totals:</b>			194	0
Date	Side	316 Dartington	1	2
	<b>160</b>			

Date	Un-placed due to cancellation of Long Man	
	Albury	11
	Mayflower	8
	Foresters	10
	Men of Wight	10
	Grand Union	10
	Thames Valley	7
	Chapel in le Frith	?
<b>Totals:</b>		<b>56</b>

**What happens next?** Host clubs have received this information at the same time as applicants. They will contact successful sides in their own time with further information but all host sides will require a potentially non-refundable **deposit of £25 per man to be paid by the end of February** to the host side. Please note that this is vital as over the past couple of years sides and individuals have dropped out at short notice and this has put the viability of individual meetings of the Morris Ring in jeopardy.

### Future meetings:

#### **2009 THE MORRIS RING'S 75<sup>th</sup> ANNIVERSARY**

29 <sup>th</sup> May ~ 31 <sup>st</sup> May	318	Thaxted Morris Ring Meeting
24 <sup>th</sup> - 26 <sup>th</sup> July	319	Exeter Morris Ring Meeting
21 <sup>st</sup> - 23 <sup>rd</sup> Aug	320	Men of Wight Ring Meeting
4 <sup>th</sup> - 9 <sup>th</sup> - September	321	Bathampton MM 75 <sup>th</sup> Anniversary Morris Ring Meeting

### Morris Ring ARM

The 2008 ARM will be hosted by Wadard on the weekend of 29th Feb, 1st & 2nd March 2008. The venue is Hopehill Scout Camp site. <http://www.hopehill.org.uk/>.

The Bagman for the weekend is Tony Lewis - Wadard Morris Men

Email: [anthony.lewis17@btinternet.com](mailto:anthony.lewis17@btinternet.com) Tel: 01474 874377

All application forms, correspondence regarding accommodation, meals etc. to Tony please at 5 Westfield, New Ash Green, Longfield, Kent DA3 8QN

***An application form was included with Newsletter No 53.***

**Elections:** We have received three nominations for our next Squire of the Morris Ring:

Paul Beaumont	Nominated by Stafford Morrismen
Steve Parker	Nominated by East Surrey Morrismen
Brian Tasker	Nominated by Broadwood Morrismen

There being no other nominations for the post of Morris Ring Treasurer, Steve Adamson BFB is prepared to stand again for a further 2 years.

### Other elections: Area Reps

West Midlands	Kevin Downham (existing Rep)
North West	Vacancy (Duncan Broomhead is standing down)
South West & Wales.	Vacancy Alan Chappell (Exeter) Nominated by Dartington.

## **Application to Join the Morris Ring**

We have received an application from Great Yorkshire Morris to convert their Morris Ring Associated status to that of 'Member'. Application supported by Gloucestershire MM & Uttoxeter MM

## **New Morris Ring Associates:**

We welcome Uplyme Morris Men (Devon) and Porthleven Morris Men (Cornwall) to Morris Ring.

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## **Formal notice of proposed changes to the Constitution of the Morris Ring:**

One of the advantages of our existing Constitution is that it is clear enough to serve the purpose of providing the fabric that holds us together without binding us so tightly that we are suffocated either by rules and regulations or those who might seek to circumvent such rules.

The proposed changes are simply intended to provide a slightly sharper focus upon the role of our Area Reps as we grapple with the issues such as the rising average age of our membership and falling recruitment.

The Morris Ring Officers have considered the function of area reps as currently perceived and would like to add to this a regional development perspective.

We are hoping that these people will use their drive, professionalism and communication skills and time to continue to liaise with sides in their area but expand their remit to work with other agencies in the promotion, recruitment, training, performance and development of Morris dancing in their regional context. This will allow us, the Morris Ring, to grasp the opportunities such as the regional events to be staged as part of the Cultural Olympiad for which regional Creative Programmers have just been appointed. They could also have a role in liaising with counterparts in other areas where appropriate for the promotion and performance of joint events where it was to everyone's advantage.

To mirror this change in focus we are proposing that their title be changed from that of Area Representative to [Regional Development Officers \(RDO's\)](#).

Second. Currently the membership of the Morris Ring is divided into NINE sections based upon geographical area. There has been an immense amount of discussion in past times concerning where these boundaries should or should not be drawn. The last revision tried to take into account local government boundaries to facilitate the application of funds (from Arts Council / Sports Council/ etc) that were at the time allocated by and though these areas, as well as issues such as the number of clubs in and area, ease of transport and the like.

Each of these nine areas elects an individual to represent them on the Morris Ring Advisory Council. Beyond the general remit of the Advisory Council which is "[to consider how best to further the objects of the Morris Ring and to take action in an emergency](#)" the precise role of these nine area representatives has never been defined but they have become to be seen as the eyes and ears of the serving Squire across the country and have responded to various calls for assistance, advice etc. as requested.

To optimise the effectiveness of the re-designated RDOs their areas should as close as possibly match those of the regional Creative Programmers that is Arts and Culture regions: East, East Midlands, North East, North West, South East, South West, Yorkshire, West Midlands and London Area. The following table shows how these might morph:

Current Area	Proposed Area
East	No change but some transfers to London
North East	No change
North West	North West & North Wales
South West & Wales	South West & Wales
South East	South East
North	Yorkshire
?	London
West Midlands	West Midlands & Mid Wales
North Midlands	East Midlands
South Midlands	Re-allocate to appropriate areas

Proposed amendments to the Constitution of the Morris Ring:

These will be Proposed by Paul Reece (Squire) &  
 Seconded by Charlie Corcoran (Bagman)

1. That all references to "Area Reps" be changed to read "Regional Development Officers".
2. Should proposed amendment number one be accepted that the areas covered by the RDO's be realigned to match the Arts and Culture regions. Where a member side's dancing patch takes in more than one such area they elect one area in consultation with the Officers of the Morris Ring for the ease of administration.
3. Incumbent Area Reps shall be encouraged to remain in post until due for re-election when those are naturally eligible for re-election. It is hoped that they would, in the meantime, actively embrace their enhanced role within the structure of the Morris Ring.

**TREASURER'S RAMBLINGS**

At the time of this newsletter hitting the eather (Sunday 30/12/2007) the members and associates subscription figures to-date are as follows:

Members: 146 paid + 14 overdue = 160 Members  
 Associates: 43 paid + 07 overdue = 50 Associates  
 Totals: **189** paid + **21** overdue = **210** Total Mem & Assoc

We are almost there. Those sides who are still 'outstanding' are: Unpaid Members: *Bampton MDs, Banchory Ternan MM, Chester City MM, Chipping Campden MM, East Suffolk MM, Furness MM, Goathland Ploughstots, Northampton MM, Peterborough MM, Royal Preston MM, Het Utrecht Morris Team, Vancouver MM, Whitchurch MM (balance due), Wyvern Jubilee MM.*

Unpaid Associates: *Crendon MM, From Valley MM, Hexham MM, Mid Winter Mummers (3 years), Pilgrim MM, Stockport MM & Yelvertoft MM (yet to confirm folded)*

I am aware that some of the above sides have already been in touch and their subscription is in transit. If your side is listed amongst the defaulters and you have not yet contacted me about this, then please do so asap: Tele: 01274773830 or Email: Sadamsonbfb@Blueyonder.co.uk

Many thanks to all those sides who have made donations to the Morris Ring Archive Group. You have, so far collectively donated £849.51 towards this groups invaluable work.....but they can always use more.

### **Reminder from the Squire about the Cultural Olympiad.**

Has your side contacted the Squire with ideas of how we can contribute towards this great initiative? These Creative Programmers for the regions are waiting for us (The Morris Ring) to approach them with regional proposals and a timetable of events from 24th August 2008 through to August 2012. So those area reps, members and, or representatives of sides in the regions who are enthusiastic in the Morris being involved in these high profile events, or have ideas and contributions to make please contact Paul Reece initially so that a plan can be put together for their inclusion in the Cultural Olympiad programme of events.

The Creative Programmers are:

- East - Liz Hughes [www.livingeast.org.uk](http://www.livingeast.org.uk)  
Tel: 01223 372683 [liz.hughes@goeast.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:liz.hughes@goeast.gsi.gov.uk)
- East Midlands - Paul Brookes [www.culture-em.org.uk](http://www.culture-em.org.uk)  
Tel: 0115 988 8449 [enquiries@culture-em.org.uk](mailto:enquiries@culture-em.org.uk)
- North East - Lorna Fulton [www.culturenortheast.org/](http://www.culturenortheast.org/)  
Tel: 0191 202 3785 [lorna.fulton@gone.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:lorna.fulton@gone.gsi.gov.uk)
- North West - Deborah Lander [www.culturenorthwest.co.uk/](http://www.culturenorthwest.co.uk/culture.northwest@nwda.co.uk)  
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Tel: 0133 394 4579 [tgordziejko@yorkshire-culture.co.uk](mailto:tgordziejko@yorkshire-culture.co.uk)
- West Midlands - Paul Kaynes [www.culturewm.org.uk](http://www.culturewm.org.uk)  
Tel: 0121 245 0150

### **Mendip Ale**

A wonderful event – thanks for the invitation chaps - Mendip's 'Show Dance' (vaguely Kirtlington with a dash of Adderbury)



**Roger the Fool and his coconut dance** (also at Mendip Ale)



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## CONCLUSION

The end of a very busy year and there are a lot of business issues dealt with in this final Newsletter of 2007. As usual please share it with the members of your side along with my good wishes for 2008.

On behalf of my fellow Officers of the Morris Ring I again would like to thank you for your friendship and support over the past year and wish you joy in all that you do in 2008 - especially if it involves you supporting the ARM and/or one of the four Morris Ring Meetings.

*Charlie*

**Bagman of the Morris Ring**