



The Bagman's Newsletter - No. 6 – January 1999

Greetings,

This first Newsletter of 1999 is my sixth and the final edition of the 1998/99 Season. The ARM in Bedford will soon [too soon] be upon us – I look forward to seeing many of you there. Various ARM papers are enclosed – the Minutes were distributed last March – can you find your copy of this now historic document? Please bring it to save recopying!!

A brief summary of the Newsletter contents is again enclosed. Please copy this to your Side, or leave this full copy around for them to peruse. An E-mailed version of this Newsletter is also available on request [as Word document either zipped [WinZip] or unzipped; or plain text – please request and specify by Email].

Also enclosed with this mailing are:

More details and an Application form for the **Archive Meeting** on ARM Sunday.

An additional, amended, application form for the **ARM** – in case you haven't got yours off yet. Please could you try to ensure these reach Bedford by mid February latest – with payments. If space is short, the Treasurer will have to sit upon late applicants' knees!!! Cheques to be made out to "**Bedford Morris Men ARM**" please.

ARM Papers – The Agenda; The Accounts for 1998; Nomination for **Aldbury** who wish to transfer to Full Membership; Nomination for the Proposed Bagman.

A page of amendments to the Directory – **any more NOW for the New Directory?**

The Squire's list of massed dances for Ring Meetings.

For Members of the Advisory Council – The Agenda for the Meeting at the ARM.

Remember: Unless you pass on the content of this Newsletter to the Men in your Side, the information stops with you. Pass it around - copy it – read it out – précis it – whatever but let the Men know that the Ring does communicate to you and to them!!

ARM – 1999 BEDFORD. Friday 5th – Sunday 7th March 1999.

The **1999 Annual Representatives Meeting** will be held on **Saturday 6 March 1999** at Daubeney School, Orchard Street, Kempston, Bedford.

We have kept the price to a minimum to encourage support – all the prices are less than last year. In fact the price for the whole Meeting is £5 less than last year!! This budgeting assumes that we will have a good attendance – do not let us down!!!

We are also arranging to fill the afternoon gap [when some officers vanish to reconvene as the Advisory Council] with constructive activity. We anticipate an instructional taken by **Roger Nicholls** – probably covering the three set dances from Hinton-in-the-Hedges. Roger is Foreman of **Bedford Morris** and worked with **Fred Hamer** and **David Welte** on “sorting out” Brackley and Hinton – and was responsible for the re-formation of **Brackley Morris** in the early 1950s, before he came to Bedford.

Hopefully, we will all fit into the School!!! If we prove too popular we will have to limit the number attending per Side.

An application form was included with the last Newsletter. An updated version is included herein – please return, if possible, by mid-February.

ARCHIVE MEETING, 7 MARCH 1999.

The second Archive Meeting will be held as a Sunday “follow-on” after the Ring ARM. Details and an **application form** are enclosed. **Please note:** we have **reduced** the Archive Meeting price for those **not** attending the Saturday events to **£15.00**.

If you are attending the main part of the ARM, then the effective cost of the Archive Meeting is **only £5.00** per person – and you should book on the ARM booking form.

Our speakers will include: -

Malcolm Taylor - Librarian, Vaughan Williams Library, EFDSS, Cecil Sharp House – “**The problems of housing a collection**”.

Doc Rowe – Collector - “**The Problems of Audio Tape and Similar Materials**”

Patrick Russell - Assistant Archivist, East Anglian Film Archive, University of East Anglia – “**Conservation and Storage of Film and Video Material**”

Stuart Welch – Conservation by Design Ltd., Bedford – “**Conservation and Storage of Photographic and Miscellaneous Materials**”

Rachel Watson - The County Archivist, Northamptonshire - “**Putting it in Perspective**” - A summary and round up of thoughts from our 1997 guest speaker.

John Frearson. - “**The story so far**” - The background to the Workshop and “**The Guidance Notes**” - a brief outline of progress.

We hope to have various archival material on display on the Sunday, if your Representatives wish to display any items, please bring them along. We also hope to be able to show various “historical” film both at the Archive Meeting and possibly at the ARM itself.

As mentioned in the last Newsletter, this should include film provided by *Simon Melvin*, Squire of **Bedford**, who has raided his father-in-law, *Nicolas Wadworth*'s home movies. Taken mainly in the 1960s these include colour [no sound] shots of Padstow, Minehead, Abbots Bromley, **Headington**, **Brackley**, **Bampton**, **Chipping Campden**, and **Abingdon**. They also include the Farnborough Morris, dancing their own tradition and the shots include a youthful *Roy Dommett* – the victim of the camera for once, rather than being behind the lens.

RING MEETINGS – 1999 – APPLICATIONS

I am pleased to announce that all applicants for 1999 Ring Meetings have been “successful”. **Long Man** and **Silurian** have expanded their numbers rather than be forced to make choices as to which Sides to turn down – always a difficult task. Thank you Long Man and Silurian.

Deposits will no doubt be needed fairly soon – late payers may find they are deselected, especially as things are now fairly tight at Silurian and Long Man!!

N.B. There is still space at the Leicester and Thaxted Meetings. Apply as soon as possible.

FUTURE RING MEETINGS

For those contemplating hosting Ring Meetings, the bookings are already stretching into the future. There is space for one more Meeting in 2000 – at present **Chalice** have a reservation for this slot for [probably] July 2000.

2001 is over-full on the Ring Meeting list! There is one vacancy in 2002 and possibly one in 2003. Things can change. If you are contemplating celebrating an anniversary, it is worth thinking well ahead – although it is impossible to know quite what will happen that far ahead!

ARM 2000

We are looking for a Side to volunteer to host the 2000 ARM. A leaning to the North or West of the country might be preferred. There are also opportunities to host the ARM from 2000 onwards. Please contact the Bagman.

MILLENNIUM NEWS

Our Year 2000 co-ordinator “Dome-master” *Paul “Monty” Montague* [Tel: 01276 20817] has been successful in contacting the Dome Organisers and is progressing Dome matters. Please get in touch with him if you have any Dome-ideas or Dome-information. We are offering him to Tony Blair in place of Peter Mandelson, we reckon that Monty can manage the job with a smaller mortgage! [The Treasurer says he is NOT providing ANY mortgages!].

WEB NEWS

John Maher is updating our **www.TheMorrisRing.org** web pages. He wishes to include maps to indicate practice venues. Please inform him of the location [including map reference and/or postcode] of your practice location – and the day of the week and time – and he will conjure up a map to help folk get off the E waves and to find the real you!!!

John Culf of **Dartington Morris** writes “ ... when I was in Germany on business recently I had a few spare minutes on an ISDN inter-net connection and had a look at various Morris pages from the Ring, Federation and Open Morris ... ”

Abingdon Traditional Morris Dancers announce that their web site is presently under construction at <http://www.ifwtech.demon.co.uk/atmd>

Events Listing: In view of the clash of **DETR99** and the **ARM** [see “Other Events” below] I am suggesting that we look into the possibility of a national events calendar – and have asked **John Maher** to consider if he has time to look into how this could be done. This would at least let organisers know of potential clashes of dates before they plan their events. In the mean time, could Sides please let us know of dates of other national events, of which we may not be aware - there must be enough weekends in the year that we do not have to clash too often.

We are receiving increasing numbers of contacts through the Internet – an E-mail number or a Web page can be very useful to you, even though it may seem a bit “high Tech”. If you do not have an E-mail contact yet for your Side, it would be useful to see if you can identify one – then E-mail me the details.

DANCING AT THE BASS MUSEUM

The Ring Public Relations Advisor, **Adrian Wedgewood**, writes “The Bass Museum is always pleased to hear from Morris sides that will be welcome to dance at this cathedral to ale, Britain's national brewing museum and Burton's biggest attraction.” He can be contacted at Adrian.Wedgewood@Brewers.Bass.com or via www.bass-museum.com, or more conventionally at the telephone number in the Ring Directory.

OTHER EVENTS [non-Ring, but Ring Sides welcome]

Scarborough Fayre: 28 May – 6 June 1999. Most Sides will have already been “circularised”. Details from Jim Clarke, Tel: 01944 738422 Email: jimclarke@morris99.demon.co.uk

DETR 99 - Newcastle upon Tyne: The Dancing England Rapper Tournament [DETR] is being hosted by the Newcastle Kingsmen and **Sallyport Sword Dancers**, to celebrate their 50th and 30th anniversaries respectively. The event is on the 6 March – it is unfortunate that this clashes with the Morris Ring ARM. Those interested please contact Chris Cartridge, Squire, Kingsmen Sword Dancers and Secretary - DETR 99 on Chris.Cartridge@sanofi.com.

WORDS OF WISDOM

From *Jonathan Unna* of **Rutland Morris** – a quote that is no doubt known to many – but I enjoyed seeing it again – one asks only, was this Morris? – Surely not ... !! ...

"Dancing is for the most part attended with many amorous smiles, wanton compliments, unchaste kisses, scurrilous songs and sonnets, effeminate music, lust-provoking attire, ridiculous love pranks, all of which savour only of sensuality, of raging fleshly lusts. Therefore it is wholly to be abandoned of all good Christians. Dancing serves no necessary use, no profitable, laudable or pious end at all. It is used only from the inbred pravity, vanity, wantonness, incontinency, pride, profaneness or madness of men's depraved natures. Therefore it must needs be unlawful unto Christians. The way to Heaven is too steep, too narrow for men to dance in and keep revel rout. No way is large or smooth enough for capering roisters, for jumping, skipping, dancing dames but that broad, beaten, pleasant road that leads to Hell. The gate of Heaven is too narrow for whole rounds, whole troupes of dancers to march in together. "

Histriomastix (1632)

ANNIVERSARIES

There are a number of noteworthy anniversaries in 1999.

Jockey celebrate their 50th Anniversary– they kicked off the year with their annual Plough Tour in Birmingham on the Saturday before Plough Monday.

Northampton also celebrate their 50th Anniversary.

Sallyport Sword are celebrating their 30th Anniversary.

Etcetera are celebrating their 25th Anniversary.

Harwich are celebrating their coming of age – 21st - Anniversary.

Lichfield celebrate their 20th Anniversary of the present Side at their Ale in February.

IN MEMORIAM

The death is reported of *Jack Sleeman*, past Squire of **Bathampton Morris Men**, at the age of 81 on 4th January 1999. It is hoped that an appreciation will appear in the next Morris Circular.

YOUR NEWS

Staying overnight prior to an Archive committee meeting, Ring Archivist, *Chris Metherill*, was dragged to a Bedford Pipe Band ceilidh and persuaded to “sing for his supper”. He danced a Scottish hard shoe step jig to the Highland pipes. A very polished performance [even more so as neither Chris nor piper had practised together – or even met until ten minutes before their “turn”!!]. No wonder Chris is in demand as a instructor in matters clog.

Welcome to two new Associates: **Lordsmere Longsword**, whose contact name - one **Richard Hankinson** - seemed familiar. It seems our Past Squire, and a few **Saddleworth**-ies plus a few others, are dancing Long Sword out and about this Christmas. If the snow is too deep to pull a rush-cart - then I suppose pushing a few swords will keep them all in trim!! Welcome also to **Coton Morris Men** from Cambridgeshire.

The latest **Stafford** Newsletter included a “condensed and generally hacked about” version of my last Bagman's Newsletter – it is good to see the information flowing to the Sides. If anyone else would like an E-mailed version to hack – just let me know. How Stafford get all my ramblings down to one page amazes me – and no doubt the Ring Treasurer will now want me to condense myself similarly!!! – *but* can we afford the magnifying glass for each Side?!!

The Squire of **Exeter**, **Alan Chappell**, found himself sitting with Past Squire **Fred Hamer**'s daughter Jaquie at a civic meeting. Morris matters were more interesting than the set agenda.

Dave Walters of **Dolphin** reports they have just had their first potential recruit for many years via their Internet address.

Helier from Jersey thought that they might appear on a first day Europa stamp issue envelope featuring Jersey Festivals. In the event they finished up on the wallet and in the Stamp Bulletin, as it seems that they feature at all the Festivals!!! Hopefully Eddie will be able to print the photograph in the next Morris Circular. Helier are always pleased to meet up with dancers and musicians on holiday in Jersey and have them join their Monday sessions during a busy Summer Season – another idea for my air miles!! They also copied a fine half page “Spotlight on ...” feature on Helier from the Jersey Evening Post – they apparently need a trombone player for their Border Side – any volunteers!!!

The Business and Finance Section of the Cambridge Evening News [1 December] featured an article on Morris dancing and the Squire of **Devil's Dyke**. Business and finance always has a certain something in Cambridge!!

Jon Holmes, Bagman of **Kennet** E-mails “... read out your account of candle-light Morris with Kennet at our practice last Monday, before we broke up early and moved on to a pub to sing carols (another Kennet tradition on the Monday before Christmas). All Morris men are no doubt aware that 'While Shepherds Watched' can be sung to the tune of 'Ilkley Moor', and some that you can sing 'Little Town of Bethlehem' to British Grenadiers, I wonder how many have tried 'We Three Kings' to the tune of Monks March....”

Derek Oliver, Bagman, **Thameside Mummers** E-mails “... I'm hastily responding to e-mails whilst preparing to go out for our 26th Boxing Day performance on Billet Wharf in the harbour of Old Leigh, Essex, which is traditionally followed by a 3 hour plus singaround in the Crooked Billet pub. We're such a local tradition now that we pull an enormous crowd (getting into the little, old public bar to sing afterwards is an experience) and when we tried one of our other Christmas plays last year we had many complaints that the Dragon hadn't killed St. George this time!”

Exeter and Past Squire **Tim Sercombe**, featured in a photograph in the West Somerset Free Press after dancing at Dunster's Victorian Candlelight event. “Exeter Morris ... started an impromptu Conga through the ... store, while **West Somerset Morris Men** kept to their script on Saturday”. **Dudley Binding** suggests that Exeter's “Bonny - Conga - Green” must need some more attention!!!

Thaxted made their traditional [come rain or shine] Boxing Day outing. Ring Squire **Daniel Fox**, notes that they dance Banbury Bill to Little Town of Bethlehem and the Quaker/Highland Mary to Ding Dong Merrily on High. I understand that after the dancing, Daniel was presented with an engraved decanter and glasses by the Thaxted Men and his wife Denise, to commemorate his 14 years as Squire of Thaxted, prior to stepping down to take on the onerous task of Ring Squire. Quite a record of service – our congratulations also. It is understood that a photographic record of this event may be available for the Morris Circular.

Good news and bad news from the Ring Treasurer, **Steve Adamson**. The bad – or tragic – news: it seems despite his commendable weight loss, the engine of his recently acquired motor vehicle has blown up – or gasped out. Rumours are circulating that “final straw” overloading was caused by transportation of Past Squire, **Tim Sercombe**. There is talk of a further sponsorship campaign for an engine re-build!!!! The good news: his other more recently acquired asset – the E-mail - is assisting the chasing up of overdue subscriptions from our further flung Members – and helping produce ARM papers on time.

We are saddened to lose Member Side, **Ellington Morris**, who have become “mixed” and joined the Federation. Associates, **Gorton Morris**, have also ceased to be.

Into the New Year and **Ravenbourne** featured in a full page [and a bit] article on the front page of the Independent's Saturday Weekend Revue [2 January]. A large colour photograph and a very readable article, without all the usual howlers – we could do with more like that. The writer mentioned that he had had no reply from several Sides - always ring reporters back – not all mess you about – and this was an excellent example. OK – some humour at our expense, but a lot of good fact also.

OUT AND ABOUT

Missed from the last edition for space reasons, was my visit to the **Rutland Feast**. This was attended by representatives from amongst others, **Bedford, Packington, Letchworth, Lutterworth** and **Devil's Dyke**. It commenced with dancing outside the local pub on a bitterly cold evening. No audience naturally, but tradition must be observed. The Feast served buffet style was, as usual, distressingly good – a fine spread of salads [to try and convince us this was a healthy occasion!!] – the diet suffered yet again, the cous-cous was manner from heaven. The very bitter Oakham Ale “JHB” was definitely worth returning for – in fact my drive to Liverpool the next day may not have been entirely legal!!

Another hectic weekend in early December. A trip to Worcestershire for a practice with the **Original Welsh Border Morris** – and that was just the practice!! Some 30 men gathered in a skittle alley behind the Admiral Rodney pub for the day with some excellent Enville Ale [5% and £1 a pint – they know how to do things in the Borders].

That evening, a visit to **Packington Morris** [in one of the best-disguised halls known to Morris] to partake of their Brussel Sprout Menu. The reasons behind this culinary extravaganza are far too complex to report here. An excellent evening. All three Ring Officers were present. A scratch Side including representatives from **Coventry, Handsworth, Stafford** et al danced an excellent bit of Long Sword at a goodly pace “especially figure four” [quote Stafford Newsletter]. They needed the pace, as they had to warm up, having been practising outside in the freezing cold!!

A search on the Internet revealed **Cardiff** had a Christmas pub tour – and a visit was hastily arranged to a customer in South Wales!! By taking along a nephew, resident in the city as “a possible new recruit”, we were made doubly welcome and bought beers etc. Cardiff also dance their own 8-man tradition based on some Welsh dances – I watched with interest.

Cardiff have a very fine beast – a Dragon of course [he had apparently celebrated his 16,217,213th birthday the day before!!]. He felt even more aged when nephew [now 25] recalled being terrified by said beast at the age of eight at a **Forest of Dean** family weekend!! The ex-naval Dragon thinking of a reviving gin, asked an inexperienced barman if they had any Angostura Bitters; he was somewhat flummoxed by the reply “No sir, we’ve only got Brains and Smoothflow”!! We finished at their local in Penarth drinking locally brewed [and very strong] Bullmastiff Ales.

The weekend before Christmas and road traffic incidents conspired to delay our arrival at Events various. **Mendip** Ale hove into sight, and a crash had closed their M5 junction. This had not been mentioned on the spoof Daily Mirror front-page invite. Sides made it via the lanes, but **Exeter** had to forego their preliminary pub visit. **Chalice** produced a case of Mexican lager to accompany their Sound of “Music??” rendition of “Dos a beer, a very good beer ...”, followed by dancing “A health unto his majesty” with a chorus figure of “Side-step, half pint down in one..” done in turn by each man in the side. A refreshing dance!! Later their Bagman, **Bob Cross**, led the singing of “The Holly and the Ivy”.

Our host Mendip's sung contributions: a blues version of Ilkley Moor and a fine send up of Morris and folk singers from **Stuart Angelinetta** “... sea shanties sung as only land lubbers can, which they sing all down their noses with their hands behind their ears ...” or words conveying that effect. He declines to let me publish the full version – but sent a copy for my files!! Notable show dances also from **Exeter** [Constant Billy, Ilmington], **Bathampton** [Room for the Cuckold, Bucknell] and **Dartington** [an 8 man Constant Billy, Adderbury]. The Ring Treasurer, **Steve Adamson** – with over a stone slimmed off – played his whistle.

Others present included **West Somerset**, **Bristol** and some **Letchworth**-ies. We ate well and enjoyed the Abbey Brewery's “Bellringer”. After a generous provision of night-caps and floorspace, some departed at 7am [no joke after a Mendip Ale!!] for an annual Border Morris Tour. This time the police closed the whole M5 North to try and prevent our participation – but we just made the coach, but missed a second breakfast [and our first couple of pints – probably a very good thing!!!!].

For those fortunately not aware, the **Welsh Border Morris** is a one day a year Border Side who tour some of the traditional Border Morris villages on the Saturday before Christmas. This was their 25th Anniversary Tour. The initiation rites for those “Tour Virgins” invited to participate for the first time, will not be gone into here!! Also present, disguised in an unfamiliar kit, were Past Officers **Roy Yarnell**, **Tim Sercombe**, **Keith Francis**, **Tony Parsons**, besides representatives from other Sides, which will remain anonymous to protect their reputation. Pictures of the event are on their web page – www.steve-fiddler.demon.co.uk.

The tour visited White Ladies Aston, Pershore, Upton upon Severn and Worcester. There were more pubs in the three latter than dance spots. We also visited a Worcestershire cider house – The Monkey Tree at Defford – apparently to wash down the beer!! We soon realised why a label was affixed to each participant bearing the legend “If found wandering in a dazed or incapable condition, please return to”. Many cars were abandoned at the pub and Past Treasurer **Richard Sinclair** kindly accommodated his successor and the Bagman.

Christmas and end of year events with **Bedford** have been abstemious by comparison – we introduced a Carol and Border pub tour [fusing all the lights at the first venue with over enthusiastic sticking of the light fitting!!!]. By Boxing Day for the Bedford Boar's Head ceremony, the Side had been decimated by flu – caught from the Bus Driver on the Carol tour. Numbers were still significantly reduced for the New Year's eve party.

Stopped off in Birmingham on the way to Stafford Feast – well I like to make an early start just in case! Visited St Martin's Church for the good of my soul, and found it full of **Jockey**, a plough and their guests. After a service to bless said plough, the congregation joined Jockey's annual Plough Tour of Birmingham. Guests included **1st Sedgeley, Green Man**, and North British Rapper. These latter are an occasional side with two dances, "Elgin" Long Sword for "outside" use and the "North British Rapper Dance" for "internal" consumption – both very spirited and a pleasure to watch. Birmingham centre is surprisingly deficient in pubs – and even more deficient in other "facilities" – Men visiting this tour will need to know that at Rackhams, time is needed to pass the attractive staff in perfumery and to climb to the sixth floor – we lost Past Squire, **Tim Sercombe**, in ladies underwear!! A splendid day.

Stafford feast followed, and was well attended with representatives from **Addlington, Chapel-en-le-Frith, Coventry, Green Man, Jockey, Lichfield, Shakespeare, Thelwall** and **Uttoxeter**. There was a plethora of Squires past [and present]: - **Mike Chandler, Tim Sercombe, Roy Yarnell** and **Daniel Fox**. Stafford had placed the "top table" down the length of the room to ensure that everyone with pretensions could be included thereon!! This ensured that the other tables were far more exclusive!! Jockey re-presented Stafford with "the Sandwich" suitably embalmed in a clear plastic block!!

An evening visit to join in the **Cambridge** practice for their Molly Tour on Plough Monday. Guidance was provided by **Cyril Papworth**, whose Grandfather was the last of the Comberton Molly dancers. What a pleasure to have such a living link in the Side. Plough Monday was then spent with the "Cambridgeshire Molly Dancers" [who bear remarkable similarities to Cambridge]. The Tour started at Comberton, where some of the dances were collected.

On the evening of Plough Monday blacking was applied for a tour of three pubs with **Bedford's** Branston [Leicester] plough play. Also present, **Aldbury** [who provided superb vocal and instrumental contributions] and **Ray Fuller** from **East Surrey**, who became that "member of the audience" who proves that anyone can join in and have a go!!

THE DIRECTORY

Amendments are listed on a separate sheet – they come in fast and furious at this time of AGMs.

Remember to communicate any changes of Bagman [or any other changes] to me, and to copy this information to your Area Representative. A form was provided with a previous Newsletter.

We will be going to press with the 1999 – 2000 Directory very shortly. Make sure we have your correct updated information.

BALDRICK MATERIAL and OTHER KIT

Thanks to those providing information on manufacturers of baldrick braid. **Adlington** have suggested two local makers and The Squire of the Ring has put forward a Birmingham one.

Selectus Ltd., Bidduph, Stoke on Trent ST8 7RH. Tel: 01782 522316 Fax: 01782 522574.

Beresfords Ribbons Ltd., Jubilee Mill, Thomas Street, Congleton, Cheshire. Tel: 01260 274011 Fax: 01260 274014.

Tove, Kenning & Spencer, 77 Warstone Lane, Birmingham B18 6NL. Tel: 0121 236 3615 Fax: 0121 236 7217. They make medal ribbons among other things.

There was also a note in the Morris Federation Newsletter about weaving workshop for people with learning disabilities being set up in Dorset. They can apparently weave to all manner of specifications. The contact there is Helen English Tel: 01747 811212.

Also in the Federation Newsletter, details of a hat maker. Toppers and felt hats a speciality, contact Tom Norbury, Batchelor's Cottage, Crowcroft, Leigh Sinton, Nr. Malvern, Worcs WR13 5EE. Tel/Fax: 01886 832767

If you know any other good suppliers, let us have their details. Then they can be included in the useful address section of the Directory.

10 NEW YEAR RESOLUTIONS

Copied, with minor edits from outgoing **Stafford** Squire, ***Peter Morgan***'s "Comment" in Stafford's Newsletter and Feast Menu. I am sure there is something here for all of us.

1. To do more dancing and less talking at practice.
2. To recognise the Side's dancing style is more important than individual interpretation.
3. To achieve the same standard of dancing, as one comes to expect of the musicianship.
4. To support the Side's Officers – even if one does not always agree with them.
5. To promote a positive Morris image in public displays.
6. To support the Side's performances wherever feasible.
7. To promote good fellowship within the Side and towards other Morris Sides.
8. To think that other people are usually motivated by the best intentions.
9. To put as much into the Side as one expects to get out.
10. To remember, above all, that Morris Dancing is fun.

PUBLICATIONS SCHEDULE

Reminder: Items for March edition of this Newsletter by or at the ARM. I anticipate a dispatch date towards the end of March with the Minutes of the ARM.

Copy for the May 1999 edition of the Morris Circular to Eddie by end March 1999.

The **Morris Dancer** will be dispatched shortly in a separate mailing, to enable this Newsletter and the ARM papers to go out on schedule. It promises to be a record size edition.

BBC VIDEOS

The BBC Folk Dance videos will be transmitted this year as follows:-

Country Dance 1	Wed 21 April 09.25 – 09.45	Repeat Fri 28 May 10.30 – 10.50
Country Dance 2	Wed 28 April 09.25 – 09.45	Repeat Fri 11 June 10.30 – 10.50
Morris Dance	Wed 5 May 09.25 – 09.45	Repeat Fri 18 June 10.30 – 10.50

IN CONCLUSION

May I thank all those who have sent Christmas cards. Not that I wish to draw attention to any individual Side – BUT - **Bristol**'s card will have its own page in my Archive. For those wishing to view this item, there will be a small charge – and you will need a signed note [or three!!!] certifying that you are over 18 and giving your parents' permission!!!

Many thanks to you all for your support, assistance and good wishes in my year as your appointed Bagman. I have thoroughly enjoyed myself!!!

I have been amazed by how few telephone calls I have received – I had far more as Bedford Bagman – **if** you discount the number of calls from the Ring Treasurer!! My daughters have now presented me with a subscription to the Telecom answering service as a Christmas present – so you can now leave messages on my work, mobile **and** home number – as well as the Email.

Hopefully, we will have a properly instituted Bagman next year – you do not appear to have much choice – just yea or nay!! If yea, you will still have me dropping in on you – so be warned. If nay, then someone out there will have to be lumbered!!!

Any comment on the Newsletter will be welcome – don't be shy. For those who have written in with news and contributions – please keep it up.

May I wish you all a very happy and [dare I say it] prosperous, New Year.

Wassail,

John Frearson
Bagman, The Morris Ring

The Bagman's Newsletter - No. 6 – January 1999 - SUMMARY

The Sixth Newsletter includes:-

ARM and Archive Meetings - Details, various papers and Application Forms are provided for the Meetings in Bedford on 5-7 March. Those interested in **Archives** can attend the Sunday Archive Meeting for a mere £15. Details of the speakers are given in the Newsletter.

RING MEETINGS – 1999 – all applicants have been “successful”. **Long Man** and **Silurian** have expanded their Meetings. **There is still space at Leicester and Thaxted.**

MILLENNIUM NEWS - Our “Dome-master” **“Monty” Montague** [Tel: 01276 20817] has managed to contact “The Dome”. We are offering him to Tony Blair in place of Peter Mandelson - we reckon that Monty can manage the job with a smaller mortgage!! [“He’d better” says Ring Treasurer!!]

WEB NEWS - John Maher is updating our **www.TheMorrisRing.org** web pages to include maps to indicate practice venues. Has your side sent him the Map Reference or Post Code?

DANCING AT THE BASS MUSEUM - Adrian Wedgewood writes “The Bass Museum is always pleased to hear from Sides that will be welcome to dance Burton's biggest attraction.”

ANNIVERSARIES - in 1999. **Jockey** and **Northampton** celebrate their 50th Anniversaries; **Sallyport Sword** their 30th; **Etcetera** their 25th; **Harwich** their coming of age – 21st; **Lichfield** the 20th Anniversary of the present Side.

IN MEMORIAM - The death is reported of **Jack Sleeman**, past Squire of **Bathampton Morris Men**, at the age of 81 on 4th January 1999.

YOUR NEWS – Mentions are made of: Ring Archivist, **Chris Metherill**; of **Stafford's** Newsletter; of **Exeter** and **Dolphin**, and **Helier** from Jersey, who are always pleased to meet up with holidaying dancers and musicians. **Devil's Dyke**, **Exeter** and **Ravensbourne** have been in the papers. **Kennet** have been carolling with alternative Morris tunes. On Boxing Day **Thameside Mummers** had a 3 hour singaround and **Thaxted** presented **Daniel Fox** with decanter and glasses for 14 years as Squire.

New Year Resolutions are provided by **Stafford** and “words of wisdom” by **Rutland**.

We welcome two new Associates: **Lordsmere Longsword**, and **Coton**.

OUT AND ABOUT – The Bagman has visited Feasts and Ales at **Rutland**, **Packington**, **Mendip**, **Stafford** and enjoyed Tours with the **Original Welsh Border Morris**, **Cardiff**, **Jockey**, **Bedford** and **Cambridge** - the latter in guise of the “Cambridgeshire Molly Dancers”.

IN CONCLUSION – Many thanks to you all for your support, assistance and good wishes in my year as your appointed Bagman. I have thoroughly enjoyed myself!!! May I wish you all a very happy and [dare I say it] prosperous, New Year.

FIND OUT MORE - ask your Bagman to show you the full Newsletter!!!

Wassail,

John Frearson
Bagman, The Morris Ring