

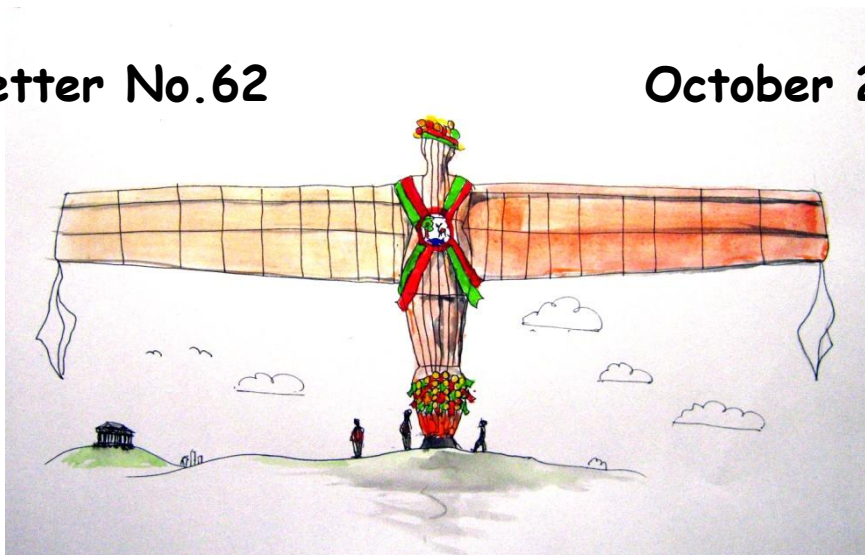
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## The Newsletter No.62

October 2009



Sketch of the proposed monument to Kennet Morris Men 2009 tour of the North East

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**QUAD**

Gallery Cinema Café Bar Workshop

**cinema  
event**

## Morris: A Life With Bells On

Dir: Lucy Akhurst / UK / 2009 / 100 minutes



The film all Morris and Folk fans have been eagerly awaiting...  
...an homage to all that is green, and sometimes unpleasant, in the world of Morris  
dancing. Featuring an all star cast including Sir Derek Jacobi, Harriet Walter and  
Dominique Pinon (*Amelie*) the film will delight and surprise in equal measures.  
Bring your bells and prepare to jig the night away!

"I thought Morris dancing was weird... Now I know it's the most fun you can have  
with bells on." Mail on Sunday

Showing at QUAD: Friday 23rd October at 6:00pm, Saturday 24th  
October at 8:40pm & Sunday 25th October at 6:30pm

QUAD, Market Place, Cathedral Quarter, Derby  
Tickets & Information 01332 290606 [www.derbyquad.co.uk](http://www.derbyquad.co.uk)  
Tickets £6 full price £5 concessions

## MORRIS: A LIFE WITH BELLS ON

How wrong can I be! In Newsletter No 61 I commented that the film MORRIS: A LIFE WITH BELLS ON seemed to have disappeared without trace. As you will be aware it was released nationally, albeit at selected cinemas (the Picturehouse/City Screen chain) from the 27th September 2009. [See [www.morrismovie.com/](http://www.morrismovie.com/)

or [www.picturehouses.co.uk/](http://www.picturehouses.co.uk/) for further details.] Some wonderful posters advertised the opening and many of the venues were supported by the local Morris sides - good publicity for both the film and the Morris.

# An Appeal on behalf of the Morris Ring



Every year we hold an Annual Reps Meeting (ARM) hosted by one of our member sides. You will have noticed that there is no firm details about the 2010 ARM included in this Newsletter. There are reference to the elections and reports to be made at the ARM but no reference to a **Host side** or **Venue**.

The tentative offers that we had received have sadly not materialised into solid arrangements.

## Is your side able to step into the breach?

We need a venue that can accommodate up to 100 men at the meeting part of the ARM weekend plus floor space to sleep approximately 60 on the Friday & Saturday nights. The catering is fairly standard - even the feast - and Bagman of the MR will happily provide further information about this and other aspects of the weekend. We are hoping to follow the precedent set last year with something on the Friday evening and workshops on the Saturday morning.

Ideally we would like a fairly central venue blessed with good transport links!  
Please discuss this with your side - can you help?

# HELP



**Amplified Music** Sadly the strong advice (we cannot give instructions!) about amplified music seem to have fallen on deaf ears - too much amplified music perhaps! Please remember that the exemption for Morris Dance from the licensing regulations assumes that it is with unamplified music. The advice is simple - if anyone plans to organise an

event that involves amplified music then they must ensure that the location is covered by a "Public Entertainments Licence" or if not a "Temporary Events Notice" must be obtained - either by the 'owner' of the venue or the organiser. [See Newsletter No 61 or the MR Website for further information.]

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**2010 Meetings of the Morris Ring.** With this Newsletter you will find details about the four meetings planned for 2010 and an application form. Many more sides than usual applied to attend the 2009 meetings and it was a difficult and at times acrimonious task to allocate places. It is always unfortunate when a side cannot attend the meeting of their choice.

30 <sup>th</sup> April - 2 <sup>nd</sup> May	322	Helmond MM's 75 Anniversary	(110 men)
4 <sup>th</sup> June - 6 <sup>th</sup> June	323	Thaxted	(300 men)
3 <sup>rd</sup> -5 <sup>th</sup> September	324	Trigg	(100 men)
10 <sup>th</sup> -12 <sup>th</sup> Sept	325	Castleford Longsword	(120 men)

Three of these meetings are quite small so again I expect allocation issues so please can I remind you that:

- **Host side:** Ultimately the final choice is up to the Host side
- **Priorities:** Sides which have hosted a recent MR meeting have priority
- ***First come first served*** cannot be fully applied both because host sides frequently make private arrangements and are under pressure to present a variety of traditions to the public but I will record the date that applications are received as a guide.
- **Second choice:** It would be extremely unfair to make judgements based upon whether a side has or has not made a second choice so I don't **but** if you are unsuccessful with your first choice and would be prepared to attend a second or third choice meeting please put it onto the application form so that those hosts sides can approach you.
- **Day Men:** In the past sides have attended meetings as Day men on either the Saturday or Sunday of a meeting. If you plan to do this, or would be prepared to do so should your application to attend for the full weekend be unsuccessful please put



this on the form. It will not prejudice your application to attend for the whole weekend.

It is unfortunate that in 2008 and 2009 some 'successful' sides then backed out - leaving host sides in danger of not balancing their budgets due to unfilled places and sides who wanted these places unable to change revised plans at short notice. Please only make applications if you are certain that you will be able to keep your side of the agreement.

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**Membership records.** Thanks to those Bagmen who have informed me of changes in officers / addresses/ emails etc. I repeat that that our records can only be as accurate as you, the membership, allow. Sadly, if your side has not notified me of changes in your club's contact details you are unlikely to be reading this and so will not know. You will also not have received the membership renewal request and so will not be insured when your membership lapses through non-payment!

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**The Illustrious Order of Fools and Beasts** This year's Unconvention will be on 23-25th October 2009 hosted by Utrecht Morris Men. Further details and application form from Robert Chisman; MR Website & Google Group site. I remind you that Pete De Courcy is collating a list of all past and present members of The Illustrious Order of Fools and Beasts even if it was not so-called when you were a member. Please let him (e-mail [pete\\_de\\_c@ntlworld.com](mailto:pete_de_c@ntlworld.com)) or Robert Chisman ([triggertrotter@aol.com](mailto:triggertrotter@aol.com)) have your details if you are, or wish to be, a member of the Order.

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**Vetting and Barring Scheme** This development has caused a great deal of consternation throughout the Morris world and beyond. Sadly there has been a lot of misreporting and rumour-mongering surrounding this topic. In an attempt to clarify the situation I quote from the ISA website (<http://www.isa-gov.org.uk/>)

"The Independent Safeguarding Authority (ISA) has been created to help prevent unsuitable people from working with children and vulnerable adults. We will do this by working in partnership with the Criminal Records Bureau (CRB), which will gather relevant information on every person who wants to work or volunteer with vulnerable people."

“On 20 January 2009, ISA assumed responsibility for making those decisions. From the 13 March 2009, the ISA also assumed responsibility for making barring decisions previously made by the Department of Health, Social Services and Public Safety (DHSSPS) under the Protection of Children and Vulnerable Adults (Northern Ireland) Order 2003 (POCVA) and the Department of Education (DE) under the Prohibition from Teaching or Working with Children Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2007 (Unsuitable Persons Regulations). This will further strengthen the Government’s safeguarding arrangements by establishing the toughest ever vetting and barring scheme - placing decisions in the hands of independent experts.”

**Employees** If you are already employed to work with children or vulnerable adults and have had a Criminal Records Bureau (CRB) check, you will need to apply for ISA registration in due course. Details of how and when you should apply will become available on the ISA website. If you are employed to work with children or vulnerable adults and have not been CRB checked you will need to apply for ISA registration as early as possible. Details of how and when to do this will become available on ISA website. In both cases you will need to pay a one-off fee.[£64) Once you have paid for registration we will give you a personal ISA Registration Number and you remain on our database even if you change employers.

**Volunteers** If you work or want to work with vulnerable people you will need to apply to register with us in exactly the same way as an employee. The only difference is that we do not charge an application fee for volunteers.

This may all seem rather over the top especially as any volunteers are likely to be supervised by a registered person (teacher, scout leader, etc). It seems that because of administration glitches people who already have a CRB clearance will not need to register for a few years - but all new volunteers will and please note that it will be a criminal offence to employ (paid or voluntary) anyone who is not registered.

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**Morris Ring 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Youth Fund** Since the launch of this initiative there has been a great deal of discussion and debate across the land and clearly some of this has suffered from some extremely negative and inaccurate *Chinese whispers*. To help clarify the aims and correct the rumours surrounding this initiative, which is intended to mark our 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary, the Squire of the Morris Ring, Brian Tasker, has issued this statement of clarification. Please get your side to discuss this topic and by putting on the agenda of your AGM!

"The purpose of the *Morris Ring 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Youth Fund* is to help youth sides consisting of members between the ages of seven years (start of key stage 2) and nineteen years. This proposal is in addition to and separate from the work already being done by many Morris Ring sides to recruit young people into their sides whether as members of the adult side or as a linked youth side. The objective of this *Morris Ring 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Youth Fund* is to introduce young people to Morris dancing in any of its various forms by assisting with any costs involved in setting up and running new sides of young people. Through this we hope to further raise the national profile of the Morris. These sides may remain as youth sides with constantly changing membership, as youngsters move through for example a school or Scout group, or individuals may feed into existing sides or the whole group get established in their own right as a new side. It is an attempt to re-establish the Morris as our national dance.

As the *Morris Ring 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Youth Fund* is a specific fund, Member and Associate sides, as well as individuals, can contribute or not depending on whether or not they support the purposes for which the fund will be used. The type of expenditure that we might contribute towards include: dancing kit, instruction, cost of travelling to events and possibly the cost of musical instruments. Any project funded by the *Morris Ring 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Youth Fund* would have to involve a Morris Ring side or members of a Morris Ring side, as they would have to make any claim, but could be initiated by a scout group, youth club, school or other organisation. The elected Morris Ring officers would decide in each case whether or not to make a grant. All relevant information provided in the application would be considered including alternative and additional sources of funding available.

The monies in the *Morris Ring 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Youth Fund* would be derived solely from contributions which would be sought in the same way as contributions to the Archive Fund are sought at present, i.e. as a voluntary additional contribution paid with the annual subscription. Further, if a club folds, the members of that club might decide to donate to the fund as a positive gesture to the future of Morris dancing and the Morris Ring

The *Morris Ring 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Youth Fund* will be carefully managed, progress regularly reviewed, and a report presented to the ARM by the Morris Ring Squire. The accounts will be administered by the Morris Ring Treasurer and an annual financial report presented to the ARM. In the event that the fund is no longer required, contributions would cease and any remaining balance paid into Morris Ring general funds." Brian Tasker: Squire of MR

"Some sides have made attracting youngsters into their sides an art, often these are the sides which have been persistent and inventive in attracting recruits across the whole age range. Traditionally it has been sons of dancers or involvement with scouts, youth clubs, schools and colleges by dancers who are youth leaders or teachers that has yielded results in a nucleus of youngsters that has attracted other youngsters. There is a need in a more concerted way to make contact again with schools and youngsters and develop community, school or new club sides.

This is a plea for teachers and musicians who are prepared to make themselves available to teach the Morris. We need a data base and directory region by region of instructors and musicians who are prepared and available to teach the Morris in their area or further afield. Being a qualified teacher is an advantage but not essential. It is fervently hoped that area reps will be able to support this initiative and assist in coordinating volunteers into groups that can deliver the necessary instruction and demonstration of the Morris. With the North West and North East there is no one shared tradition so what is taught may be more fixed to the tradition of that community or local area. The launch of this initiative is specifically designed to run alongside the launch of the Youth Fund.

We have lost a generation of dancers through the break in the experience and delivery of traditional dance in schools, and its omission from the core of the National Curriculum. Continuity of exposure, involvement, and enjoyment of our traditional dances needs to be reintroduced from the earliest years onwards if we are to preserve and safeguard the expression of our national, regional and community identities through dance. The climate is now right; we need people to deliver instruction across the nation to complement the sport and fitness and creative dance initiatives already out there and now being championed.”

Paul Reece. Chair of Adv. Council

**GCSE Dance** (AQA Specification) develops amongst other things:

- students' skills, knowledge and understanding of choreography through which they are able to communicate ideas, thoughts and meaning drawn from a range of dance styles;
- a critical appreciation of dance in its physical, artistic, aesthetic and cultural contexts

This does not seem to exclude any or all aspects of Morris dance. This might be a way into your local schools. Are there already teams involved with this? Please let the Officers of the MR know - we want to encourage and copy good practice.

If you are interested in being involved in this initiative please forward your details to Charlie Corcoran, Bagman of the Morris Ring. We will then build up an idea of the level of support, expertise, and good will for this scheme.

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**Trevor Stone** died on 26<sup>th</sup> August. He had been a leading figure in the longsword world for many years and it was his original idea to stage the series of Sword Spectaculars which have been held in Scarborough, Whitby and York. He compiled an extensive collection of videos of sword dancing both here and abroad. He danced with Spen Valley, wrote the booklet about longsword dancing entitled "Rattle Up My Boys" and founded the longsword quarterly publication of the same name. He was a holder of the EFDSS gold badge, his citation having been written by Ivor Allsop.

A full appreciation of Trevor's work will appear in due course in the Circular.

**For Sale:** Trevor left a load of books and journals. Ivor Allsop is offering these to good homes along with materials from John Wells. Ivor says that no reasonable offer will be refused with all the money raised will go to the archive - but please remember that there the cost of P&P to add on.

**Memorial to Jack Hamilton** Jack was an EFDSS gold badge holder who devoted his life to folk music and dance. He founded the Broadstairs Folk Festival; was a member of the Southerners Folk Dance Band and was a well known caller at barn dances. He had been an early member of the Beaux of London City Morris Men and performed with the Tunbridge Wells Mummers. For many years he organised a festival of Christmas Revels in West Peckham church in his home village in Kent. Following the famous hurricane of 1987 the Whitstable Hoodeniers presented him with a Kentish Hooden Horse called "Wespec", which was made from one of the trees which had fallen in Jack's village. With "Wespec" Jack was a regular on the annual White Star January tour where they performed a Hooden Horse play.

At the Broadstairs Folk Festival in August 2009 in Pierremont Park, a focal point for the Folk Shows in the late sixties and early seventies, a park bench was dedicated to his memory. It was a happy occasion attended by the Mayor of Broadstairs, Jack's widow Tricia, and many friends. At the ceremony friends spoke of Jack's love of folk music and dance. Four ex members of The Beaux of London City Morris Men, now sadly defunct, regrouped to dance in his memory and Denis Smith of Westminster Morris Men played the mummers' tune from Symondsbury in Dorset that he had played at Jack and Tricia's wedding many years earlier..



**"Blue Plaque for Janet Blunt.** Janet collected the songs and dances of Adderbury between 1907 and 1931. The Adderbury Village Morris Men, members of the Morris Ring, dance according

to Janet Blunt's notation rather than Cecil Sharp's. In particular they do not do processional down and up."



Brian Tasker, Squire of the MR



**Treasurer's Notes:** As the summer draws to a close, we are fast coming up to Membership renewal time. This year's forms for Full and Associate member Sides are included with this Newsletter and will be deposited as files in the Morris Ring Google Group.

As agreed at the ARM in March, the subs remain at the same level as last year.

Please read the notes with the forms carefully as they give some background to the changes on the forms for this year. Briefly, as well as an option to donate to the Archive Group, there is a further option for your side to donate to the 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Youth Fund. This is an initiative to help drive recruitment of the next generation of Morris dancers, please give this serious thought, no donation is too large or small.

Many sides have created Standing Orders for payment of subs, which is a great help in administering the renewal process. If you haven't yet, it's not too late! Contact me on [edworrall@googlemail.com](mailto:edworrall@googlemail.com) to obtain your side's unique payment reference code and make your Treasurer a happy man....

Finally, whether you have used a Standing Order or renew by cheque, please ensure your side completes and returns the relevant membership information form. This information is vital to help us keep an up to date and accurate list, not only of our membership but also contacts and information about your side.

Ed Worrall MR Treasurer



## Antony Gormley's fourth plinth, Trafalgar Square

I have received this letter:

Dear Human Dancers,

I thought you might like to know that I have obtained a slot on the Anthony Gormley plinth. I was going to say secured, but I do not think it is that secure up there!

It is about the worst possible time and date, but I am determined to get there and do my bit, (no pun intended), for the Morris and the Illustrious Order of Fools and Beasts, as far as I know, the only group affiliated to all three UK Morris organisations!. I will be there from 3 a.m. to 4 a.m. on Thursday October 8<sup>th</sup> (i.e. after midnight on the 7<sup>th</sup>).

If anyone can get there to support me, especially a musician and maybe a scratch side, I think we could get a lot of publicity out of it. There do not seem to be a lot of Morris Dancers taking part and even fewer Hobby Horses.

The link to my plinth profile and other details are on [www.foolsandbeasts.org.uk](http://www.foolsandbeasts.org.uk).

With a Hey and a Hay,

*Knotty*

(Horse to Stafford Morris Men)



**Etiquette** If you are dancing out as a guest of another side please check with your hosts before you sell your own club badges. In these straightened times such sales are likely to be to the detriment of the collection. If the collection is going to a designated charity it is mean-spirited. In other cases part of the host's budgeting for the event might be based on selling a reasonable number of their own badges and once a kid has bought a badge, they won't buy another one!

## Kennet Morris Men Conquer the North East: A Report

"A year or so ago John Austin of Kennet, left the Reading area and went back to his roots in Newcastle on Tyne. From 28<sup>th</sup> - 31<sup>st</sup> August 2009 he and his wife, Karen, organised an excellent tour of Newcastle and Durham for us. We were pleased that Monskeaton Sword, Kern Morris (a mixed non-Morris Ring side) and representatives of Durham Rams could join us at various times over the weekend.

The tour was so successful that a 67 ft high statue is to be erected somewhere north of the Tyne to commemorate it. *A sketch out the proposed monument appears at the front of this Newsletter.* (Courtesy if Chris Hutchinson)

### What Morris men do when not dancing

1. **Play Blow Football** On the Sunday morning of the August Bank Holiday tour of Newcastle and Durham we played blow football on The Bishops Mill, Durham.



2. **Pull rubber gloves over their heads** and blow them up: Pat Naylor (Ripley) on the Saturday night at the 2009 Saddleworth Rush Cart Ceremony.



3. **Break ribs and dislocate shoulders.** Elliot Brady is one of the rising stars of Morris dancing. He was one of the youngest Squires of Yateley and one of the youngest members of Kennet. Unfortunately his reputation was dented when, dressed as a horse at Kennet's 50th birthday celebrations in Henley in 2007, he fell off the towpath and into the River Thames, breaking a toe in the process. At Saddleworth in 2009 he entered the wrestling competition and regrettably dislocated a shoulder, broke a number of ribs and bones in the shoulder joint. We hope that he will make a full and complete recovery but it will be a number of months before he is able to dance again. "



Photos: YateleyArt    Information: Chris Hutchinson

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## Morris Ring Shop Keepers Ramblings:

What a fun year this has been. Despite the interesting times that we are all currently experiencing, the Morris seasons still manage to come and go as ever. This summer has seen your Morris Shop at events that it had previously been unable to attend. One of these was the York Festival of Traditional Dance (Est. 1988) at the beginning of September and hosted by our own Ebor Morris Men.

This is a perfect example of an indigenous Morris side working in perfect harmony with its city centre management team in order to produce a Morris spectacle in the most fitting of historic settings. Your Morris Shop was up and running for the duration of the weekend event in St. Sampson's Square, slap bang in the city centre and at the hub of the festival activities. My thanks to all with Ebor Morris Men for their endless labours and here's to next year.



Steve Adamson BfB  
(A while ago).  
Picture: John Price

Due to an incredible late season rush on our recently replenished hoard of bells, the larger  $1\frac{1}{4}$ " brasses are now **Out Of Stock**. I will endeavour to replenish our shelves before Christmas. At the time of this Newsletter going to print, our present stocks are:

4,300x	$\frac{7}{8}$ "	Brassed Bells
4,250x	1"	Brassed Bells
4,800x	$1\frac{1}{8}$ "	Brassed Bells
O.O.S.	$1\frac{1}{4}$ "	Brassed Bells

As I always say, "You are all my eyes and ears" for what is happening out there. If you see or hear of something that you believe we might be interested in, please do get in touch. The ever vigilant Ron Shuttleworth (Mumming

Archivist) has done it again by pointing me in the direction of the 'Make Merry in Step and Song' at £18.99. I know that this appears to be a lot of money but it is a great deal of book and a must for any mumming play devotee.

After far too long Colin and Karen Cater, of Heddingham Fair fame, have decided to publish a book and CD reference to his life on the Morris and folk song circuit. This is now going out at £17.99 for both the book and CD.

Please see the centre fold of this Newsletter for details of the above and other recent additions to your Morris Shop.

Steve BFB, The Morris Ring Shop





**EFDSS News** [www.efdss.org](http://www.efdss.org) / [info@efdss.org](mailto:info@efdss.org)  
**020 7485 2206**

1. You will be pleased to hear that two active Morris Men are included among the new Gold Badge Award holders announced by the EFDSS. This award, the highest that the Society can give, is to be made to Roger Nicholls of Bedford Morris and to Derek Schofield, Bagman of Manley MM and Editor of the EFDSS flagship magazine *English Dance & Song*. Jack Brown has also been nominated.
2. The EFDSS is working on a new rapper publication project, comprising a double DVD and book. The anticipated publication date is 2011, to celebrate the centenary of the publication of Sharp's first Sword Dance book. The DVD, compiled by Chris Metherell, will contain all known archival film of rapper dancers, plus new film of contemporary teams, all published notations, references and articles about rapper, manuscripts, team histories etc. The book, authored by Phil Heaton, will describe the past and present of rapper dancing, both in the UK and abroad, looking at 19th century teams, the collecting of the dances, the twentieth century developments in the north-east and the continuing development of the dances in the revival. (See the EFDSS website for further information- including an appeal for sponsorship.)

The EFDSS are looking for archival and recent film; photographs of rapper prior to 1970; and stories, family memories, recordings or news cuttings about rapper. Teams might like to share notations so that a wide picture of this unique and developing tradition can be captured. Those who can help should contact:

Chris Metherell [chris@chrismetherell.org.uk](mailto:chris@chrismetherell.org.uk) Tel: 07505 134070 or

Phil Heaton [pcheat@btinternet.com](mailto:pcheat@btinternet.com) Tel: 01791 7027128

3. England's Heritage of Folk Songs "Given back" to the nation  
In 2007 the **Heritage Lottery Fund** awarded £154,000 to the **EFDSS** for its **Take 6** project. The aims of the project were to:
  - Catalogue, conserve and digitise six of its major manuscript collections of England's folk songs - those collected by Janet Blunt, George Butterworth, Francis Collinson, George Gardiner, Anne Geddes Gilchrist, and the Hammond Brothers
  - Make the collections freely accessible to all through a dedicated website

- Give the songs back to the areas where they were first collected in the early twentieth century through projects with primary schools in Lancashire, Hampshire and London
- Develop an interactive website designed especially for children to explore and learn folk-songs from the EFDSS archives, with additional tips and classroom materials for teachers.

The **EFDSS** is delighted to announce the launch of this dedicated website - a first in the field of folklore in the UK. Access to 22,000 images of the actual documents, notebooks and letters of six major fieldworkers at the tips of your fingers, fully indexed and searchable at <http://library.efdss.org/archives>

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**Mystery solved** I received this email from John Jenner (Cambridge MM):

"I am just looking at some old photos that have come my way and there is one taken in Sept 1936 at the Coniston Grassmere (Morris) Ring Meeting showing the audience placing money in the new collecting box donated by Ernest Makepeace \* ( We weren't allowed to collect). However my point is a query as to whether this tin still exists . I do remember it but I suppose that the various buckets etc arranged by clubs have superseded it. I hadn't realized that it was so old."

The pamphlet *Information for Squires and Members of the Advisory Council* compiled by Ivor Allsop in October 2003 which contains details of the "Regalia, Gifts and Doles together with notes on the Advisory Council, the Morris Ring Logo and the Morris Ring Archive" records:

"The Bagman Secretary keeps a heart-shaped copper collecting box, made by a Mr. Makepeace in 1935; it takes one coin at a time.

\* The copper collecting box, heart-shaped, was presented by Ernest Makepeace, of the Clifton M.M. He had it made by Miss Winsome Bartlett, of Portishead, a skilled worker in metals. It was used for the first at the Wargrave Meeting."

As Bagman I have never seen this box, nor had my predecessor John Frearson. It transpires that it with the MR Archivist Chris Metherell. We are discussing my taking custody depending upon its condition so that it can be returned to at least token use.

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**Dudley Binding - an apology.** Dudley Binding: Morris Fool; founder member of West Somerset MM and until March 2008 Area Rep for the Morris Ring SW and Wales and Member of Morris Ring Advisory Council

Following a recent exchange of emails with Dudley I realised that as he had been unable to attend the last ARM his retirement from the post of SW Area Rep due to ill health had gone unmarked. He had been Area Rep for twenty-one years and was a very paragon, a role-model for any aspiring Area Rep. He knew all the sides in his extensive patch, visited when he could and phoned and more recently emailed when he couldn't. I have known Dudley since the late 1960s, when we were both members of Mendip MM, and know that he would not want a fuss but I would like to publically record my thanks for many years of enthusiasm, dedication, hard work and friendship. As a young lad I was amazed at how frequently he had to go to check on his bike. He is still nagging me to search my loft for photos of the 1960s St. Albans Ring Meeting for the Mendip Archive!

This is scary - can you spot Dudley? <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=LtTd84kTaZI>

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**Bramble Bank:** Morris Men Dance On The Solent (Photos & Video) from VentnorBlog Sunday, 23rd August, 2009 at 1:22 pm, Isle of Wight

After a busy morning down in Ventnor, yesterday afternoon found us making our way towards the Hover Travel terminal in Ryde to join some 80+ Morris Men for a very exciting trip to the middle of the Solent to visit Bramble Bank.

If you're a sailor, you'll know Bramble Bank, or the Brambles, as a place to avoid. It's a sandbar in the Solent that is so high that it's exposed by low water spring tides.



The Men of Wight Morris dancing side, collectively being slightly mad, thought it would be a great idea to visit the Bramble Bank with visiting Morris sides from around the UK for a dance or three. Happily Hover Travel thought it sounded fun too, so donated the use of one of their hovercraft and the crew gave their time.

The anticipation was high, not just from the Morris Men as they waited for the craft to arrive, but from us and the other passengers too. I mean, how often do you get to walk about in the middle of Solent?

It really was an amazing experience with all involved grinning from ear to ear. Standing on the bank watching the assembled throngs dancing made you feel that the world had gone mad - in a good way. It had the added benefit of all that the money raised went to charity.

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*So... what's it all about then? Morris 18-30 provides a network for young Morris Men. Its primary activity is to organise an annual weekend, hosted by a Morris Ring side, to which all young Morris Men are invited. The aim is to encourage a group of energetic young men who, whilst representing their own local teams, can dance together to push the Morris Ring into the future.*

This year, 2009 Pontefract and Wakefield Contact Pete Stephens for further information: 07791 182 122 or [pontefract@morris1830.org.uk](mailto:pontefract@morris1830.org.uk) or [www.morris1830.org.uk](http://www.morris1830.org.uk)

Dan Corcoran 18-30 Morris

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### **John Gasson Jig Competition Results** <http://www.johngassonjig.org.uk/winners.html>

Results are dancer(s) followed by musician.

Solo	Ben Moss	Nikki Heweitt (Great Western)
Audience Appeal	Dave & Matt Brassington	Dave Hubbard (Great Western)
Double	Ben Moss & Dom Moss	Bob Dunlop
Over 40 [Veteran]	Mick Croucher	Frank Lee (Hexham)
Best New Entrant	David Roodman	Mark Rogers (Thanks to the contributor on the MDDL)

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## Morris and the Olympics Update: Summer 2009

### SOUTH WEST REGION.

Eighty dancers performed in the Olympic venue of Weymouth Harbour:



**Dinosaurs Not Allowed** - A Traditional Dance Youth Festival, Youth Morris involvement in the first of the annual Music and Dance Weekends planned for the last weekend in September in the South West Region inspired by the Cultural Olympiad is about to happen in Weymouth on the Jurassic Coast on Saturday 26<sup>th</sup> September. This is probably the first grass roots Morris event that has received funding from the Arts Council. School sides largely trained under the Bristol based Great Caper project will be taking part as well as representatives of Bristol Morris Men and Bristol University.

"This was the first youth Morris / traditional English dance event put on under the auspices of the JMO and it showed that we do have enough young dancers to put on a really good show. There were representatives from Ashley's Rise, Babylon, Green Shoots, Bishopstone Primary School, Steps in Time, Silver Flame and Great Western. All the sides worked well together. Ashley's Rise taught Babylon some dances and Babylon taught Ashley's Rise a dance. Great Western did an excellent job at leading audience / team participation dancing and I know



*ASHOWCASE OF YOUTH  
TRADITIONAL ENGLISH DANCE*

that Ashley's Rise are looking at Cotswold with renewed interest and probably aren't the only ones. Some of the young dancers had not seen Cotswold or Rapper before. Excellent team work all round and huge amounts of learning must have happened.

We will be there again next year, so if you know of any young dancers or musicians in the area who would like to be involved then do ask them to get in touch.

Kim Leader Ashley's Rise Junior Morris (Open Morris)



**Further liaison with the EFDSS Education Director and interested parties** are to be planned to identify where, when and who should be involved to achieve the best results and where to showcase these results. Autumn

### **Funding Considerations**

Possible cost of tuition, travel costs for instructors, and eventual possible travel costs for youth and school sides performing outside catchment area. Liaise with schools, local and county education authorities re charges and subsidy for children. Heritage Lottery Grants etc.

### **SOUTH EAST REGION**

In response to the South West initiative several sides within the South East region expressed an interest in contributing to the annual Open Weekend which took place in all regions except the South West on the last weekend in July.

### **EASTERN REGION**

**The Spectacular Dancing Tent** has completed its stay in Christchurch Park Ipswich where it was successfully used as part of the Children's Festival within the Ip-Art Festival to deliver Morris dancing to 432 Suffolk primary school pupils over three days by East Suffolk Morris Men. This was made possible by the **Constant Billy Trust** set up to deliver traditional dance in the region and will be applying for the Cultural Olympiad 'Inspire Mark'. Sponsored by DanceEast in Suffolk and Essex the Spectacular Dancing Tent or Spiegeltent is through our lobbying being used by various sides to promote and teach Morris-in-the-tent. It is hoped to spread the idea further into engaging pupils of interested Essex and Norfolk schools. This is the first real bridge that has been made between a regional dance promotion agency funded by the Arts Council, where its focus has previously been exclusively on ballet and contemporary dance, and the acceptance of the performance and promotion of traditional dances of this country. It is hoped to spread the concept further into

### **LONDON**

EFDSS have recently run a week's choreography course exploring the Morris as a resource for contemporary dance. Simon Care was one of the instructors. London will be divided into four regional quadrants.

### **EAST MIDLANDS**

Lobbying for Morris involvement took place in Leicester but the organisers seem only to be interested in professionally organised original projects. Simon Care is looking into the possibility of developing an idea in Northamptonshire.

## WEST MIDLANDS

Various representatives of Morris Ring sides attended meetings for the three year 'People Dancing' project with a view to Morris involvement.

Paul Reece, Chair of MR Advisory Council

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**Morris Ring Archive:** Andy Padmore has recently volunteered his services to the Morris Ring Archive Group and in consultation with Chris Metherall and Dick Shilton has adopted the Sound Archive. He explains that his role requires him to 'deal with':

1. "the existing material which is contained on audio cassette and I currently have approx 200 cassettes, reel-to-reel tapes which I am as yet not in possession of but I understand may be in the order of 60 or more tapes, and possibly other mediums yet to come my way. These need to be listened to, probably converted to digital files, catalogued, and recorded onto the Morris Ring database. This I see as an on-going project and will be looked at as time permits, and may take years to complete.

2. The acquisition of new archive material to add to the existing collection.

It is regarding item 2 that I appeal to all the MR sides, dancers and musicians for assistance and suggestions. I welcome your thoughts on the sort of material you would want to see kept in such an archive, and indeed you may have items that you have kept that you may wish to put forward as a donation to the archive.

Currently within the audio cassette collection I appear to have:

- Interviews with respected members of the Morris Community (e.g. Lionel Bacon and Nibs Matthews)
- Recordings of Morris Ring ARM's
- A few Morris Ring Meeting Feasts (speeches and songs etc)
- Recordings of instructionals etc
- Many unmarked tapes of which I have no clue as to the content!"

So...Please let Andy Padmore have your ideas:

- a. Suggested other 'respected members of the Morris community' who perhaps should have their thoughts recorded for posterity
- b. Any other sound files you think might be of value in the future that should be kept or obtained at this time
- c. Details of sound recordings you possess that you feel ought to be kept in the Morris Ring Sound Archive
- d. Any other advice you would want to impart as I begin my new role

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**Man Friday Archive Appeal** MR Associate Side Man Friday are seeking to fill a few gaps in their side Archive. If at any time over the past thirty off years you have danced with them and have photographic evidence or anecdotes please contact their Squire Pip Thomas (0116 2695532) - he will be delighted to hear from you.

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**St George's Day / RAC Club Woodcote Park, Surrey** We have received a request from their Events manager for a Morris Dancing troupe (her word, not mine) to perform on St Georges Day 2010. This prompts me to ask you to let me have details of any performances sides have planned on 23<sup>rd</sup> April, whether one-offs or annul events. If we receive enough to make a splash we should be able to use it for general publicity.

If you are in the Epsom area and can help Anna at the RAC club he contact details are: [anna.taylor@royalautomobileclub.co.uk](mailto:anna.taylor@royalautomobileclub.co.uk)

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**May Day Photos:** Alan Cocker, the Squire of Wyvern Jubilee Morris Men has suggested that we make more of May Day as a time for Morris dancing by compiling a portfolio of photos taken on May Day 2010. Initially these could be published on the Morris Ring web site. As a starting point for wider publicity might I suggest that if you let me have the information I will compile a similar list to the one I have suggested for St George's Day.

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**Travelling Fellowships, Winston Churchill Memorial Trust** Applications are now open for the 2010 Winston Churchill Memorial Trust 'Travelling Fellowships'. Each year

around one hundred fellowships are awarded to UK residents for overseas travel to undertake study or research projects. Grants average £5000 and are designed to support travel and living expenses for a visit of four to six weeks.

Deadline for applications: Tuesday 6 October 2009. [office@wcmt.org.uk](mailto:office@wcmt.org.uk)  
<http://www.wcmt.org.uk>

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The Morris Ring is affiliated to The Association of Festival Organisers .

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**Bledington Workshop** Bedcote Morris will be hosting a Bledington Workshop on behalf of **Open Morris** on Saturday 10<sup>th</sup> October 2009 at Gigmill Methodist Church Hall, Glebe Lane, Stourbridge DY8 3YH. *10.30 am until 5.00 pm*  
Taught by Mike Nesbit (Lady Bay Revellers) the cost will be £4, includes tea, coffee, biscuits. There is a pub very near by for liquid lunch and cobs, a chip shop within 400 yds and a food pub about the same distance, otherwise bring your own lunch.

Afterwards at Royal Exchange, Stourbridge there will be a social evening, at which their sponsors, Bathams Brewery, will supply the first two pints per head. (Sorry only beer is given away; buy your own soft drinks, cider, lager etc).

Bedcote Morris will supply a light Buffet. If you wish to attend, please contact Phil Watson at [philwatson5852@gmail.com](mailto:philwatson5852@gmail.com) .

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**Forest of Dean MM and the Wildlife Heritage Foundation.** To raise funds for this charity, Kevin Passey Squire of FOD MM went to Peru at his own expense on 16<sup>th</sup> September to take part in a trek over the Andes to the ancient city of Machu Picchu. Part of seven days of high altitude trekking will take Kevin via the Salkantay pass, nearly 5000mts above sea level, to Machu Picchu, where he plans to dance a Morris jig at the city entrance. He hopes to raise £1,000 through sponsorship and donations for the Wildlife Heritage Foundation which is a charity set up in England, to promote the protection of several

species of large cats which are in danger of extinction. Further information from [k.passey@btinternet.com](mailto:k.passey@btinternet.com) or [justgiving.com/kevinpassey](http://justgiving.com/kevinpassey)

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**Jigs Instructional 22<sup>nd</sup> - 24<sup>th</sup> January 2010**

**Important News about the Jigs Instructional**

The price for first-time attendees at the Jigs Instructional will be  
**discounted by £10**

***What is more the price has been reduced for everybody to £42 - previously £45!***

This event is the only dance instructional organised on a regular basis by The Morris Ring and offers tuition on the major Cotswold traditions and a few more besides. We provide a thorough grounding in the steps, arm-movements, and evolutions of each tradition. For many that's enough reason to attend but we then teach most if not all the solo Jigs of the traditions covered.

We run parallel sessions, one to cover the **basics** of each tradition for the relative novice, and one to give detailed instruction in the Jigs for **advanced** dancers.

This year, for the first time, we shall also offer a separate session for **beginners** where the instruction will be geared more towards a general dancing ability rather than perfecting any particular style or dance. This session is designed to complement rather than undermine individual club styles that the new dancer has been exposed to.

The number of men who can attend the weekend is necessarily limited by the size of the venue and in order to maintain small groups for each session. The event is frequently oversubscribed so I shall accept applications strictly in the order received whether from a first-time attendee claiming the discount or from a person who has been before (and there are usually quite a few, such is the popularity).

To take advantage of the discount pay in full with your application and indicate that this is your first time at 'The Jigs'. I shall advise the Morris Ring Treasurer of those who are eligible and he will send the £10 discount to your club. Oh, and by the way, yes I do have a record of who's been before.

I look forward to seeing you in January.

Geoff Jerram



**Jockey John is on a high**      Reporter: KEN BENNETT      Date online: 24/08/2009

SOFTLY-spoken civil servant John Brooks really went up the world at the weekend. He was the “jockey” elected to sit 15ft up on top of a swaying rushcart as it was towed through the streets of Saddleworth. John (55), from Delph, admitted: “I did not really have a head for heights — but I do now!”

John, a member of Saddleworth Morris Men for the last 14 years, spent most of Saturday and part of Sunday in his aerial pinnacle as the men were applauded by thousands who turned out to support the colourful Rushcart festival.

“It’s been a great experience,” he declared. “My only concern was getting down from the top of the rushcart safely. It really is high up.”

Saddleworth Rushcart sets off through Uppermill, Jockey: John Brooks



in

The festival, celebrating its 35th anniversary, opened in bright sunshine outside The Commercial in Uppermill’s Square with the Morris Men performing an opening dance before pulling the three-ton cart to Greenfield along crowd-thronged roads.

The men and their cart then moved to Delph and Dobcross before returning to Uppermill.

Yesterday, despite worries of road works in the centre of Uppermill, the Morris Men bowled the cart up Church Road for a service at Saddleworth Parish Church.

Squire Richard Hankinson said: “The road works did not hamper us. Everything has gone very smoothly. There has been some great dancing and everyone enjoyed themselves. The weather has been very kind and that really encouraged the crowds to come out and enjoy the festivities.”

Families settled down with picnics and refreshments for an afternoon of dancing by more than 20 teams of Morris Men who had travelled from across the UK to take part in the event.

Dave Holland retained his wrestling crown for the 10th year and Mark Robinson, from Stockport, claimed top prize in the gurning contest. In the worst singer contest, prizes went to Kathy Brooks, Pat Whittall, Trish Leigh and Sarah Pearson.

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**PRESS RELEASE** for new book: "**London Pride - Morris Men and Country Dancers 1922 - Present**" by John Hawkins. The history of London Pride is, in miniature, a history of the interest in English folk dancing and the Morris tradition. The London Pride Country Dance Club was founded in 1922 by a small group of women, highly influential in the development of the English Folk Dance Society, including Maud Karpeles and Helen Kennedy. Men's morris flourished - London Priders adopted the City gent's bowler hat rather than the conventional straw hat - and their logbooks provide a fascinating insight into the development of the Morris Ring in the 1930s. Order from: 'London Pride,' 85 Amblecote Road, Grove Park, London SE12 9TR, UK. Cost is GBP 7 - make cheques payable to 'London Pride' P&P is GBP 1 for UK.

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### **Conclusion:**

The missing Castagnari Mori, believed stolen in Plymouth a couple of weekends ago has now been reunited with its owner following a appeal through all three of the Morris organisations for people to keep their eyes open. A big Thank You from the relieved owner. Please remember that if you are offered any instrument at a silly price that there is likely to be someone somewhere looking for it.

As I explained at the beginning of this Newsletter and every other one I have edited I need to have your news. I aim to provide information and snippets of news. The in-depth stuff appears in The Circular and to help you to remember this special 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Summer of the Morris Ring might I suggest that you order a copy of the Morris Ring Circular 'The Special Edition'. There is an order form for this celebratory colour edition included with this Newsletter - Harry Stevenson, the editor of The Circular, needs these advanced orders to ensure that he has enough printed to meet the demand. Harry is also keen to secure the very best content from the very best of contributors for this 'Special Edition'. To ensure your best bits are included his final copy date is 31<sup>st</sup> October 2009 but have a chat with him asap so that he can plan ahead.

The Newsletter is available in paper form; on the Morris Ring Website and also on the Morris Ring Google Group. This was set up to simplify mass communications between the Officers of the Morris Ring and the member sides - rather than sending large documents as attachments via email. Whilst it is essential that every side has a named

individual (usually the Bagman) who is a 'member' of the GoogleGroup other officers and members of individual sides are not excluded from signing up. If you would like to join the group please talk to your Bagman.

I would be interested to hear whether anybody from the Morris Ring Membership have put themselves forward for the BBC TV "So you think you can dance" - attracted by the offer of the chance to win £100,000 and the opportunity to appear in Hollywood. They are looking for talent and raw potential amongst the 18-35 age bracket - either professional or amateur.

Finally a reminder: please remember that we are looking for nominations for the elections at the 2010 ARM. Officers:

- Squire - a biographical sketch, a digital photograph and a supporting statement from the nomination club must be received by the MR Bagman by closing date of 6<sup>th</sup> December 2009.
- Treasurer [Ed is willing to remain but an election is required to formalist the situation as insufficient notice was given last year.]
- Area Reps whose term of office expires but are eligible for re-election:
  - East [Graham Cox];
  - North East [Brian Pollard]
  - South East Regions [Fred Hands].
- We also have a vacancy for the West Midlands.



Charlie

**Bagman of the Morris Ring**

Taken on Exeter Meeting by Richard Veal.  
<http://www.redbubble.com/people/kcphotography>

Also included with the printed Newsletter are the application forms to attend the Musicians Weekend; the Jigs Instructional and the 2010 meetings of the Morris Ring along with details about each of the meetings. The latest flyer of the MR Shop is as usual in the centre of the Newsletter so that you can detach the order form for use and leave the Newsletter otherwise intact. These documents are also available on the MR Web site and Google Group.

## Future Dates:

### 2010

22 <sup>nd</sup> -24 <sup>th</sup> Jan	Jigs Instructional 2010. Sutton Bonington
5 <sup>th</sup> -7 <sup>th</sup> March (?)	ARM Venue still to be confirmed
30 <sup>th</sup> April - 2 <sup>nd</sup> May	322 Helmond MM's 75 Anniversary
4 <sup>th</sup> June - 6 <sup>th</sup> June	323 Thaxted
3 <sup>rd</sup> -5 <sup>th</sup> September	324 Trigg
10 <sup>th</sup> -12 <sup>th</sup> Sept	325 Castleford Longsword

### 2011

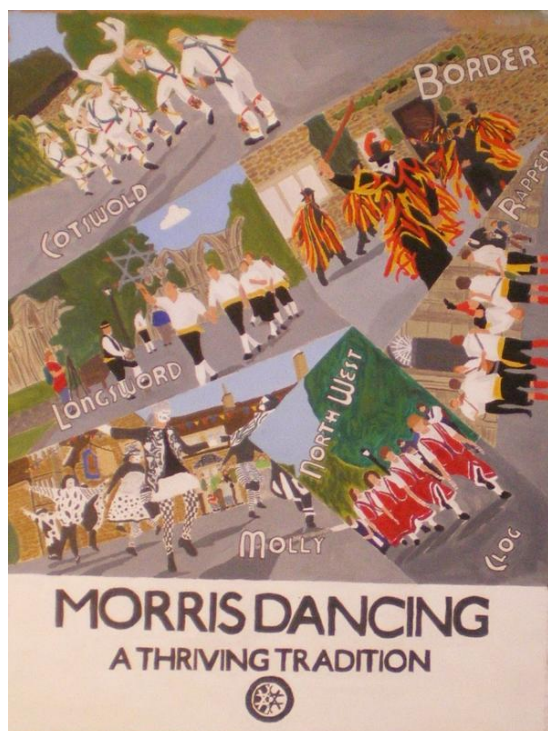
4 <sup>th</sup> - 6 <sup>th</sup> March (?)	ARM Hosted By TBA
3 <sup>rd</sup> June ~ 5 <sup>th</sup> June	Thaxted "Centenary" Morris Ring Meeting
TBA.....	Bristol 60 <sup>th</sup> Anniversary Morris Ring Meeting

### 2012

3 <sup>rd</sup> ~ 5 <sup>th</sup> March (?)	ARM Hosted by TBA
25 <sup>th</sup> ~27 <sup>th</sup> May	Chipping Campden Cotswold Olympic Morris Ring Meeting
1 <sup>st</sup> June ~ 3 <sup>rd</sup> June	Thaxted Morris Ring Meeting
27 <sup>th</sup> ~ 29 <sup>th</sup> July	Hartley 60 <sup>th</sup> Anniversary Morris Ring Meeting

### 2013

? March	ARM Hosted by TBA
31 <sup>st</sup> May - 02 <sup>nd</sup> June	Thaxted Morris Ring Meeting
?	Dolphin Morris Men



### Stunning Poster

As part of my GCSE art coursework, I've produced a poster depicting the 6 main forms of Morris, in the style of a 1930s transport poster. After showing it to friends, there seems to be sufficient interest to buy a print... I've not looked into printing them yet, so I'm not sure how much I'll charge, but the intention is for 25% of the money to go to the charity Headway Cambridgeshire.

Ollie (Cambridge and Devil's Dyke)  
[oliver.king11@btinternet.com](mailto:oliver.king11@btinternet.com)



**SQUIRE: Brian Tasker**, 6 Roopers, Speldhurts, Tunbridge Wells,  
TN3 0QL, Tel: 01892 862301.

Email: Brian.Tasker@totalise.co.uk

**BAGMAN: Charlie Corcoran**, 70, Greengate Lane, Birstall,  
Leicestershire, LE4 3DL. Tel: 0116 2675654

Email: Bagman@TheMorrisRing.org

**TREASURER: Eddie Worrall**, 8 Bankside Avenue,  
Uppermill, Saddleworth, OL3 6JU

Tel: 01457 829349

Email: edworrall@googlemail.com

## The Morris Ring Circular No 60 Special 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary

The next issue is a Special Edition, celebrating The Morris Ring Meetings of  
2009 - the 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Founding of the Morris Ring.

Up to 24 pages with 8 pages full colour

We expect this to become a collector's item. Extra copies can be bought at £3 each, postage free; we are  
selling copies to assist in defraying the extra cost of printing in colour; copy date: 31<sup>st</sup> October 2009

Please complete order form below, Cheques made payable to The Morris Ring and send to The Treasurer,  
address above, expect dispatch before Christmas

Name.....

Morris Club..... No of Copies.....

Cheque enclosed for £.....

Address.....

.....

POST CODE.....

Telephone:..... Email:.....



## Morris Ring Meetings 2010

30<sup>th</sup> April - 2<sup>nd</sup> May      322      Helmond MM's 75 Anniversary

There will be two tours running in opposite directions round the same 5 stops - with lunch taken at the middle stop. The feast will be at the Theo Driessen Institute (named after the club's founder) and following Ray King's advice (Squire for the Helmond meeting in 1985) this will be followed by an indoor show to a paying audience. Guest teams will be to contribute "turns" or "acts" to make this a varied show. There will be a formal display around Sunday lunch time



**30<sup>th</sup> April** is the Dutch Queen's Day in Holland and a public holiday. Helmond MM usually perform in Helmond from about 11 until 4 o'clock that day. It is a uniquely Dutch day with everyone in a happy mood. Those visiting teams who

are able are invited to arrive a day early and to join us on that day.

There will be a separate price for this to cover Thursday evening meal and Friday breakfast - lunch will be at your own cost).

**Monday 3<sup>rd</sup> May** is a bank holiday in the UK (but not in Holland) and we will try to keep the accommodation open for men who may want to delay their departure until the Monday.

We would suggest a "Dutch treat" meal in town on the Sunday evening and the only other costs to the men will be Monday breakfast.

**4<sup>th</sup> June - 6<sup>th</sup> June      323      Thaxted      (Approx 300)**

The overwhelming success of the 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Morris Ring Meeting in Thaxted, the so called 'Great Northern', where 33 sides, over 400 dancers and eight tours left a lasting impression on AA Gill in the Sunday Times, BBC Panorama and an early day motion in parliament, and not least Thaxted, who are still recovering and the church where the feast of feasts took place. We are hoping for a slightly more modest meeting for 2010 in the run up to our Centenary in 2011, but that of course is up to you.



If you are a fan of anniversaries and the work of the Morris revivalist and social worker Mary Neal, it is the 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary of her birth on the Saturday 5<sup>th</sup> June.

It was one of her Esperance teachers, Blanche Payling, who taught the first Thaxted side which numbered 50 plus in 1911. Unlike this year when we were the most northerly Morris Ring meeting, next year we are the only UK Morris Ring meeting before the Autumn so come and see what all the fuss has been about and make our 'classic' 77<sup>th</sup> meeting in our 99<sup>th</sup> year even more special and worth celebrating.

The Thaxted Morris Meeting is the one against which all other meetings are compared. Sword dance in front of the medieval cutlers guildhall, folk and mummers plays in front of the guildhall and church, feast in style, process from both ends of the town and experience massed dancing in the arena of Town Street and just when you thought you had reached experience overload, all will go quiet and the hairs on the back of your neck will stand up for the climax of our Horn Dance. We are fully licensed, wired up and prepared for whatever you may want to perform provided it is of a high enough standard. Join those who come year after year and make it the spectacle that it is and an experience to remember. Reductions for children and day men, individuals and scratch sides as well as full sides are very welcome. There is extensive indoor and outdoor camping available. Cost estimated between £65 and £70 for the full weekend with all meals, but can be reduced if you don't book every meal. Numbers approximately 300.

### **3<sup>rd</sup> -5<sup>th</sup> September 324 Trigg**

Due to a shortage of meetings Trigg foolishly and belatedly offered to stage another one after a lapse of some 14 years. This will give us an excuse to celebrate our 40 years of existence. After making the decision, we had to overcome a further setback when shunned by our original choice of venue; but we are pleased to say that is all behind us.

The date was not chosen to give us extra organisational time, but to give you an easier time getting here, in the past when we have had earlier meetings there have usually been problems for some of you actually getting here on the Friday evening.

We will be using Poltair School in St Austell where we can accommodate a 100 or so men, where the main accommodation will be in the Sports Hall, and we are currently negotiating the possibility of providing space for some of the hardier souls who might want to camp, and those needing the comfort of their camper vans!



We will be using a common format and Saturday tours will be arranged so that everyone will get to dance somewhere in a town and in the countryside as well as at the coast as you must have some sea air if coming to Cornwall. Ale connoisseurs will know that in the County we have at least 3 very popular breweries and your tours should give you occasion to sample their wares.

Sunday will be reserved for the customary visit to church and a show for the public before you

lunch and take the (long) journey home.

If you had not already guessed, the cost of your weekend with us will cost you between £65 and £70.

We know it may be a long way, (it is the same for us every time), but if any side wants to extend their stay for an extended Morris Tour, or just for any other relaxation I am sure we could help you find accommodation or let you know where you should go! (There might even be those who want to bring families or partners for the weekend on the Riviera whilst they get on with the serious business of the Morris, we might also give them a few pointers too!)

**10<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> Sept**

**325 Castleford Longsword**

This Northern Morris Ring Meeting will be located close to the historic market town of Selby, in the village of Thorpe Willoughby in North Yorkshire.

Accommodation will be mainly outdoor camping with limited (20 men max) indoor camping in the village hall.

The beverage for the weekend will be specially

brewed for us by the local Brown Cow Brewery at a cost of £2 a pint. Due to many limitations this will be a relatively small meeting of 120 men max with tours visiting the very historic city of York and its surrounding villages by double decker buses.

Saturday lunch will be taken at The Yorkshire Air Museum near the village of Elvington and once again beer will be brewed by the Brown Cow Brewery.



We would advise anyone wishing to partake of a drop or two of the amber nectar in York take their own Tankard as glasses are not allowed in outside areas in the centre of York.

Massed display on Sunday in Selby will follow the Church service in Selby Abbey. Lunch will be taken back at Thorpe Willoughby village hall before you depart on your journey homewards.

Cost of the weekend will be £54 per man, limited space may be available on Saturday or Sunday for those wishing to attend for part of the weekend, but will depend on how popular the weekend proves to be, and preference will be given to full weekend attendees. We look forward to seeing you in Yorkshire.

