The Newsletter No.69 - October 2010

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Things you thought you'd never see:

Daily Telegraph Headline on 1st Sept 2010:

Thoroughly modern morris dancing
Morris dancing? Sexy? You'd better believe it.

New Morris Ring Display materials
After months of work, coordinated by the immediate Past-Squire of the Morris Ring Brian Tasker the long talked of revised displays are almost ready. They were exhibited to members of the Advisory Council at their meeting in Packington on 3rd October.
The design and artwork has been done by Moulton’s Paul Carpe.

The hardest part of the project has been to get sides to submit appropriate photos due I suspect to undue modesty.

This is near final draft of what will be three banner-style posters that can be displayed as a triptych. With appropriate modifications it might also be available for sides to add their own heading etc as an A1 poster and as one side of a handout that could then have a side’s information / Programme as a local publicity and recruitment aid.

New Squire enjoys first public events

i. Rutland Morris Three Counties Weekend of Dance

Personal commitments prevented me from getting to Exton in Rutland for the traditional Friday evening social so it was bright and early on the Saturday morning that I set sail from God’s county of Yorkshire arriving in Exton in time to shake a few hands and board the coach for a glorious tour around the borders of Rutland, Northants and Leicestershire.
The sun shone upon us pretty well all day as we meandered through the three counties, receiving a warm and enthusiastic welcome from the locals, sampling a few halves (quite a few halves) and displaying our Morris dancing skills to a splendid standard.

As G K Chesterton so poetically put it, 'The rolling English drunkard made the rolling English road', amply demonstrated as the coach weaved three times under the famous one kilometre long Welland Viaduct. A rolling English Morris drunkard was heard to comment how fortunate is Rutland to have three such wondrous viaducts in its county multum in parvo I say!

Morris lunches tend to be variable in quality and full marks to the Fox at Hallaton for keeping it simple - cottage pie & apple pie prepared to a high standard and ample in quantity. This did however make the nine choruses of Bonny Green Garters round the duck pond at Barrowden something of a chore.

A pleasant evening feast and the ensuing dancing & singing saw us all worn out and retiring to bed before midnight now that has to be a record.

My thanks once more to Rutland for their generous hospitality and apologies for scooting off on Sunday morning to

ii. 18-30 Weekend of Dance & Advisory Council Meeting

Over the next two years I shall be most grateful for the wealth of experience within the Advisory Council. I noticed a comment recently that "it would be a foolish Squire that went against the advice of the AC". On many a subject that is in itself gilt-edged advice, however I did discover that they are not always unanimous in their opinion and on certain subjects it was like dropping a spark into a box of fireworks! Nevertheless I was soundly advised, which allows me to move forward with greater confidence in working for the good of the Morris Ring.

It had been decided to convene our meeting during the Sunday session of the 18-30 Weekend and to join them for lunch. Their merry bunch proved to be first-class hosts. The atmosphere pervading the Bull & Lion at Packington was as good as I can remember at any Morris weekend. Despite atrocious weather conditions there were an impressive number of dancers performing in the forecourt, soaked to the skin but all with grins as wide as the huge umbrella protecting the musicians. I was quite amazed at the number of local dance sides who also turned out, helping to make the festival a veritable feast of
entertainment. And talking of feasts, the buffet lunch was gargantuan in quantity and generous in variety.

Fears that the 18-30 concept has a hidden agenda to entice younger men from their existing clubs or might by its disparate nature undermine our determination to display a high standard of dance were completely dispelled. This was a celebration of young men who can still get off the ground in a caper, enthusiastic in their love of Morris, and with a spirit and bonhomie rivalling that at any group function I have ever attended.

Some of these men will accede to high rank in the Morris Ring in the fullness of time and it was comforting to realise that our future will be assured in their hands. Recruitment is the immediate future concern and to that end the AC invited representation from the 18-30 Group and elsewhere to our afternoon session, to contribute their ideas for simulating interest amongst their peers. Their input was mature, positive, and most helpful.

How effective can these gatherings be in promoting our art? Suffice it to say that I already have feedback from the 18-30 Group that two men have applied to join Ebor Morris as a direct result of the Packington weekend.

Well done to all & Morris on!

Peter J Halfpenney Squire of the Morris Ring

2012 Update For the 2012 Olympics

The country is divided into regions and so far only the SW region has shown any interest in the Morris playing any part in their events. It is becoming clear that Morris in any form will not play any part in the Opening Ceremonials the first time since the revival of the Olympic Games that the host country’s folk tradition has been ignored. Even the idea of Morris in the areas of the entry gates / bridges is a non-started as this space is going to be occupied by big screens celebrating the history of British Cinema.
Since the announcement of London being the venue for the 2012 Games the MR, along with the EFDSS and the other Morris Orgs, have always planned for the JMO event in 2012 to be in London, jointly organised with the other organisations. Sadly all the big venues in London in the run up to the games have been commandeered by the official Olympic powers.

Paul Reece, who has been spearheading the Morris Ring's efforts for Morris to have a toe-hold in this venture with all its potential for positive publicity for the Morris, is now urging all sides to campaign for involvement at their local level. There are Olympic venues scattered across many areas of the country; the touch relay is criss-crossing the country, we must not give up. It things are not possible at a national level is not possible then we must coordinate the publicity for these things that sides do in their own area across the JMO. Members of the Morris Ring Advisory Council have made it clear that we must act quickly, and that we must not simply accept the snubbing or ignoring of this important part of our folk culture.

**EFDSS EVENTS: WHAT'S ON OCTOBER 2010**

**CECIL SHARP HOUSE**
2 Regents Park Road, London, NW1 7AY
020 7485 2206 [wwwefdss.org](http://wwwefdss.org)

Saturday 23rd & Sunday 24th Dance Around the World Festival celebrating traditional dance cultures from all parts of the world 10am-11pm, tickets and information from [www.datw.org.uk](http://www.datw.org.uk)

Regular weekly or monthly EFDSS classes and workshops
Morris Dancing Tuesday evenings 7 - 9pm, £4: 0207 485 2206
Clog Dancing Every Tues (1st and 3rd Tues open classes) 6.45-9.15pm Kathryn Tattersall: 020 8889 8087 [www.camdenclog.org.uk](http://www.camdenclog.org.uk)
C# Minors Folk dance, song, music and singing games for children. Exercise, teamwork, rhythm, co-ordination and FUN! Tuesdays, 4-4.45pm, 4 to 5 year olds; 5-6pm; 6 to 9 year olds. Autumn term 28 September-7 December (no session October 26). For more info or to book contact Nina at EFDSS: 020 7485 2206 ext: 23, education@efdss.org

**Youth Fund**
Subscription time has come around again and I would like to take the opportunity to remind you all about the Youth Fund. The fund exists to help finance the setting up and running of new youth sides. Full details can be found on the Morris Ring web site. I am aware of a number of youth projects which are being planned and which may call on us for financial assistance. If your side would like to donate to this fund please add it to your annual subscription or make a separate payment to Eddie Worrall. (MR Treasurer)

Brian Tasker Chairman of the Advisory Council

South West & Wales Area Representative’s Update Report

Since being elected at the ARM in March, it has been a steep learning curve, made more difficult by the vast volume of correspondence on the Morris Ring Advisory Council (AC) Google group. The SW&W Area is by far the biggest and busiest of the areas, and to date I have still to get fully to grips with the data base of sides in my area.

There have been three main thrusts since the ARM:

- First was to write, at the request of the then Squire, a Draft Terms of Reference (ToRs) for Area Reps;
- Secondly was to encourage youth sides to take part in the Dinosaurs Not Wanted event at Weymouth in September. This is a dry run for participation in the Opening Ceremony of the sailing event at Portland in 2012. Currently there is only one Morris Ring side in the South West capable of putting out a full junior (under 20 in Olympic parlance), and that is Dartington but unfortunately they had to pull out at the last minute. Chalice, who also have reasonable numbers of juniors, declined the invitation. So, sadly, the Morris Ring was not represented but the banner was carried ably by sides from the Morris Federation and Open Morris.
- Finally, there was an AC meeting early October, timed to coincide with the 18 30 Morris weekend in Leicestershire. The AC meeting was called by the new Squire of the Morris Ring, Peter Halfpenney, exercising his right to seek guidance. In particular, he wanted to discuss Recruitment; the composition of the AC and a proposal following the Trigg meeting of the Morris Ring concerning lady musicians.

The Trigg Meeting was, for me, very successful and enjoyable. It was held 200 yards from the St Austell Brewery Tap, so a good Friday evening was had by all; the quality and quantity of the food was quite amazing; the tours were good and we were not too
This newspaper was the one taking pictures at the Sunday Show. Visit www.staustellvoice.co.uk and refer to the 8th September edition under buy pictures you can see all they have, they did not publish them all! Roger Hancock

long on the bus; the showers were hot, and finally, the feast was good. At the feast there was an over long address to the Immortal Memory; some complained about the delay in serving food to those at the far end of the room, minor glitches I am sure; others felt that someone should have gripped the dancing after the feast, but most, including me, had a good night’s sleep as a result. A personal low point was the post-lunch stop. Why, I wonder, were we moved from a nice busy pub to an empty dance spot? Still things picked up at the Eden Project. Maybe sides hosting Morris Ring Meetings might consider just how soon after lunch dancing is resumed? The Dartington Juniors attended on the Saturday, and managed to dance with all the visiting sides; quite an experience for them.

Well done Trigg, a great weekend!

**Bathampton Morris** have celebrated the fact that one of their regular dancers, Bill Holt reached the grand old age of 90! I was invited, as Area Rep, to go to celebratory lunch on 9th October held in his honour, and to say a few words. I
was delighted to attend, and a grand day it turned out to be. The venue was the pretty town of Bradford-on-Avon, in Wiltshire. We started at midday at the Riverside Inn, from where we moved to the Green to dance - to the amazement of some Japanese tourists. From there we crossed the river and danced in the narrow Shambles, a short distance from the Kings Arms, where we had an all Italian lunch, followed by a quite exquisite cake decorated with the Bathampton MM crest in royal icing, made for Bill. He blew out the candles and then cut the cake. After the repast, we had some excellent singing and dancing, the highlight was nonagenarian Bill standing on his chair dancing! He also did the Sailor’s Hornpipe, thankfully on the floor this time, sang some songs and gave a most interesting address, starting with a story about his birth in Cairo! What a splendid man! Bathampton’s Squire proclaimed him “Father of the Side” and presented him with an engraved “Grand Old Man” medal supported on a ribbon in the colours of the side. Thank you to Bathampton for inviting me; I was delighted to represent the Morris Ring, and will be happy to be asked by other sides to their events, should they wish.

Robin Springett SW&W Area Rep

Joint Organisations Recruitment Day

It was an interesting, friendly and useful "brainstorming" session which showed that some sides were keen to engage with recruitment. Mike Stimpson organised the day, and came with a white board of communication ideas he wanted to suggest, which he then added to from contributions from the twenty five or so participants. The whole day was spent together, with no break-out groups, so detailed interrogation of ideas, needs or suggestions wasn’t really possible.

The meeting was effectively co-chaired by Barry Goodman, Chair of the Morris Federation, who encouraged and moderated contributions from participants. There were some very useful ideas about things that could be done, and it was a good tactical sharing session for local sides, rather than a planning meeting to think strategically about recruitment.

The "collective wisdom" of ideas that have been attempted by the various sides represented with be presented to the next meeting of the JMO in February but I suspect there was little critical analysis of what works or doesn’t work, or why. That having been said it was an excellent initiative, and provided a really good kick-start to some serious thinking about the issue of recruitment.

What we need now is strategy. Good ideas about the use of various media are fine in themselves, but individual sides have very different needs, and without
any consideration of how to discover what message is needed, or a planned structure to agree, implement and review it, a list of good ideas may cause as much frustration as it solves.

Things that struck me as important for local implementation include:

1. Any side that is serious about recruitment needs to develop a (written) recruitment strategy, with either an individual or a small group responsible for its agreement, implementation and review. This will help them think, discuss, and agree a plan, with an associated budget, and to identify skills they may not have. Lack of money should not be a barrier it can always be raised. The group need to go through the cycle of learning (design, agree, implement, review, re-design) so that the strategy can be fine-tuned against things that work. That strategy will differ depending on the skills, needs, and culture of each side.

2. Training in good communication skills and practices needs to be available to local sides at area level, because people are not going to be able to travel long distances to a national event. Web-sites were a particular cause for concern amongst participants, with some sides having little or no skills available, but recognizing the need. See point 1 above.

3. More careful research needs to be done on what apparently works, and why. For example, it was apparent that much of the recruitment being done by local sides was to "keep the old side going", rather than to foster a new generation of Morris dancers. The two do not have to be the same. Whilst some sides have been successful integrating new young dancers into their sides, there was some evidence that where new young dancers formed their own sides, or at least their own teams within a side, they flourished because of internal pressure to succeed. "We can do better than them" is a strong driver for younger members. Where attempts were made to integrate one or two younger dancers into older sides there appeared to be less success.

Comments were made about the need for a national strategy for communication and recruitment into which this will all fit, and a couple of suggestions for national activity, but the thrust of contributions showed that participants were not really thinking "nationally" and certainly not strategically. However, I think that it would be perfectly possible for the JMO to sponsor a professionally run consultation for its respective leaderships to look at strategic planning for recruitment which covered the five areas below:
1. Research into what works, and why, based on evidence rather than speculation, looking at both the barriers and the attractions for young people. "They're all old" is clearly a barrier!
2. The development of a national strategy based on the findings of that research, possibly implemented jointly by the Morris Ring, Federation and Open Morris.
3. A possible joint national campaign, supported by local groups, focused on recruitment.
4. Support, training, and development for those local sides that wanted to be part of that campaign.
5. A programme of general support and training in marketing and communication for sides that have appointed a recruitment / communication group or individual.

My own view is that the focus should now move to the national bodies to develop a national evidence-based strategy. Morris Ring Officers, and the JMO, should be cautious about national initiatives until they have done the necessary preparatory work. Given the priorities of the current Morris Ring Squire, and the need to improve recruitment, I also think that the Morris Ring should set aside both a budget and the necessary time to produce a really effective strategy, jointly with the Federation and Open Morris.

Richard Thomas MCIPR Chalice Morris Men

Another viewpoint:
"I had a very interesting day at the on Sunday 3rd Oct 2010. A lot came out of it, and a number of ideas are to go through to the Joint Orgs meeting on Sunday 6th February. I am pleased that this meeting is before the ARM as most of these projects need firm commitment from sides belonging to all Three Orgs, and joint funding."

Nigel Cox Bagman Whitchurch Morris Men
PRESS RELEASE: Chalice Morris Dancers in Somerset elect Youngest Squire in the Country!

The Chalice Morris Men, based in Brent Knoll in Somerset have elected Adam Busby as their new Squire, who at just 18 years old is possibly the youngest Squire of a Morris Side in the country. Adam, who is studying Forensic Science at Bridgewater College, has been dancing as a member of the side since he was a boy. He comes from a family who has Morris Dancing in its blood: his father, Roy, stood aside as Squire to allow the Side to elect a younger leader, and his mother, Beverly, is the side’s "Ragman", responsible for the Side’s dancing kit.

The job of Squire is an ancient one. The Squire is much more than the "Chairman" or leader of the Side. Traditionally, the Squire’s word is "law" in a traditional Morris Side, and the job is often hotly contested by Morris dancers, and results in the election of the most respected member of the Side.

Bob Cross, himself a former Squire of the Morris Ring and Chalice’s foreman, said at the election meeting: Adam continues to grow not only in height but in the precision dancing he is capable of. His obvious leadership skills shine out as well. Those leadership skills were surprisingly endorsed by a large majority when he was both proposed, then elected as the Squire of the Chalice Morris Men.
His election comes at a time when the Morris Ring is concentrating on recruiting younger dancers and musicians. But Adam said before the election: I don't want to be elected just because I'm young. If I am elected, it's because I can do the job well.

Adam takes over as Squire of the Chalice Morris Men when Morris dancing is gaining ground nationally. Adam has already played an important role locally in helping to recruit younger members. His election as Squire means that he can now make a national contribution to Morris Dancing, and particularly to recruitment issues.

Treasurer's Notes

After a busy Summer’s dancing we are now moving swiftly into Autumn and the annual membership renewal for Full and Associate sides. The forms are included with the paper version of this Newsletter and are broadly similar to previous years. Electronic versions are on the Morris Ring Google Group if you prefer to complete online and e-mail to me.

Following the decision of the Officers, confirmed at this year’s ARM, there will be no increase in the subs rates for 2010/2011.

A few of our member clubs are also members of the Morris Federation or Open Morris. If this applies to your side, please contact me to confirm this. This information is collected by all 3 of the Organisations, to ensure the overall cost of the Public Liability Insurance, coordinated by the Joint Morris Organisations’ Broker, is correctly allocated between us. If you have any queries regarding this, please do contact me.

Also, if your side wants to arrange a Standing Order for subs or a direct payment rather than a cheque, again please contact me so I can help set this up.

All that remains is to wish you all a great winter’s practice and I look forward to seeing some of you at an Ale or two over the coming months.

Ed Worrall Morris Ring Treasurer / Saddleworth MM
'Milky' Keith Davis

It with great personal sadness I have to announce the death of an old Morris stalwart & personal friend 'Milky' Keith Davis who was the former fool of the (now defunct) Mansfield Morris Men.

Keith was a familiar figure in his jester's hat at many a Morris and folk do. Larger than life, always great fun but held in high regard for his dedication to quality Morris dancing. Many of us are better dancers today by dint of his careful tutelage.

Peter J Halfpenney Squire of the Morris Ring

Morris 18-30 Packington The 9th Annual Event, and the Biggest Yet!

This year's Morris 18-30 Event was a fantastic success, and was our biggest weekend to date, with 32 men from 20 sides, aged 18-30 (ish) attending. We were hosted by Packington Morris Men, their Squire being our Squire-for-the-weekend Ben Robinson, a long standing 18-30s attendee. Our base of operations for the weekend was a very posh Scout Hut in Ashby-de-la-Zouch, well stocked with a ridiculous amount of food (does anybody want any left-over sausages?), more beer than we could drink (really!) and a monstrous pile of charcoal for the Saturday night feast.

As people arrived on Friday night we set to for a lengthy practise and "get to know you" session. We ran through a number of 18-30s favourite dances, spurred on by Yours Truly, the event's Self Appointed Shouty Man, to ensure that we all did our figures and corners in roughly the same direction and at roughly the same time to avoid too many collisions over the course of the festivities. It provided an excellent chance for many of us, myself included, to try our hands at traditions and dances that we hadn't tried before a special thank you especially to Dan from Forest of Dean and Mike from Winchester for taking a turn at being foreman to teach a specific dance!

After the practise we decamped to a local pub, The Plough, for a session of music, song and dance (plus a bit of free-style rapping courtesy of the human beat-box Ben Ambrose, Esq.), which was much appreciated by the landlord and viewing public alike.

An early bus on Saturday morning saw us in Burton-upon-Trent for a 10.30 start at the War Memorial. After a wet and miserable early morning the weather did
us proud and gave us sunshine for the rest of the day. There were few people around to see us start off, but by the time we got to the Market Place at 11.15 people had brightened to the idea of a brightening day and were turning out, having seen our advertisements in the local media. There were a couple of people who seemed very interested, and hopefully Packington will have some new members in the near future!

After a vigorous display in Station Street (one lady offered a generous donation to the collection if we danced with EXTRA vigour Vigour she wanted? Vigour she got!) we processed in traditional 18–30 style (one hand on the shoulder of the dancer in front) round and about the shopping centre, to the amusement and confusion of many onlookers, to the National Brewery Centre.

We were again treated with an enthusiastic audience, this time of football fans waiting to go to the match, and again we were offered a generous donation for a "private dance." We performed Monk’s March inside their smoking shelter, in perhaps the smallest space I have ever seen it done. The Centre put on a fabulous buffet lunch for us, and we danced again in the museum courtyard before it was time to move on to a few more select pubs for dancing, music and singing. The day’s tour finished at the Coopers Tavern, where we met a group of Historic Re-enactors. A small amount of discussion resulted in the answer "Of course we’ve got 6 swords," after which we, of course, we went straight home.

The feast was the brain child of AJ from Leicester Morris, and turned out to be a monstrous barbecue with enough burning charcoal to melt the tankard from your hands. A huge amount of chicken kebabs, burgers and sausages were ceremonial cremated and a vast amount of sundries were consumed in the most unusual, but none the less successful, feast I have ever attended. Saturday night was rounded off with a return to The Plough for more of the above, with some enthusiastic men afterwards braving the vibrant night life of Ashby for a chance to mix with the locals to spread the good word of The Morris.

Sunday dawned wet and grey, and progressed, in stages, to a wet and grey day overall. After a hasty breakfast and tidy of the hall we left to dance in Ashby centre at 10.15. At my final count there were 27 wet Morris men present, two old men and a lot of rain. We danced on regardless, with the musicians hiding inside shop doorways and the dancers getting wet. Equality in action! Some brave men danced outside of a coffee shop, to the appreciation of those inside, but were soon forced away by the spray from passing cars.

Our next stop was Ashby Castle. We did one or two dances in the deserted, and soggy grounds, and then had six up for a standing still a-cappella Hunt the
Squirrel on top of the castle tower a definite "high-point" for the Morris 18-30.

Having posed for some squad photographs in the grounds we decamped to the Bull and Lion at Packington for lunch and our final spot of the weekend.

We were joined at the Bull and Lion by the members of the Morris Ring Advisory Council who had been using our hastily vacated Scout Hut for their meeting, and representatives from local (and not so local) teams who wanted to join us: Ouse Washers Molly Dancers, Icknield Way Morris Men, Packington Morris Men, Leicester Morris Men, Man Friday Morris Men and Penny Royal Garland Dancers. We danced alternately with the visiting sides, including some massed dances, for a solid 90 minutes in the pouring rain to a combined audience of dancers and assorted attendants there were hardly any members of the public to be seen, although you can’t blame them! Morris 18-30s finished the weekend on a high note with 5 sets for Bampton Speed the Plough and then an exuberant rendition of the Upton Stick, danced in six different styles but very much together. The final dancing act was of course Bonny Green, with a set that stretched the length of the car park.

Thereafter we retired to the bar to await our repast, a truly stunning banquet of a hot buffet that even the ravenous hordes of the 18-30s couldn’t defeat. There was yet another protracted singing, music and drying-off session in the back bar, where the Squire of the Morris Ring regaled us with some fine singing, including a "duet" with Morris 18-30 spokesman Stu Giddens, after which he revealed a special moment that they had shared in their past.

So a stunning weekend all round! The biggest "Thank You" must go to Ben Robinson, Squire for the weekend, who put on a fantastic show, but who contrived to break his collarbone early on Sunday morning, and also to Daryl Coulbourn of Leicester Morris who then drove him to A&E, missing out on much of the Sunday morning dancing. Next time you see them buy Daryl a drink and bring a magnet to stick on Ben to find out where the metal plates have been inserted.

So what is next for the Morris 18-30 Event? In previous years we have danced with drinking straws and scimitars; capered on a barge on the Isis, a boat on the Ouse and a ferry on the Solent; jigged in buses, nightclubs and breweries; and been hosted by sides in locations the length of Britain: Oxford, Leicester, Leeds, The Isle of Wight, York, Kennet & Yateley, Pontefract and Packington. Next year we are returning to the 18-30’s "Ancestral Home": Oxford, where it all started, for the 10th anniversary year. The dates are 7th 9th October 2011, and we are once again being hosted by Icknield Way. Next year will be even
bigger and better than before, so if you want more information log on to www.morris1830.org.uk. See you there!

Daniel Corcoran Bagman 18-30 & Leicester MM

Morris Ring Publications

Harry Stevenson: Editor of the Morris Circular
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SO22 4JB. Tel: 01962 855911
Email: Harry Stenenson
Circular No 62 is now online at:

Hastings Pier Emergency Fund

Hastings Pier As you would guess most of Hastings and the local Morris are devastated by the burning down of our pier. Can I ask those of you who remember the good old days dancing on the pier and the great ceilidhs we had to sign this petition? It’s not much but it all helps. We are determined to rebuild it and the more support the better.

Hastings Pier Emergency Fund We want to see a community-owned 21st century pleasure pier serving residents, visitors with a year-round offer of leisure, pleasure, education, entertainment, arts, business & job opportunities. This Emergency Fund will be used to stabilise the bridge and central section Pier to mitigate against the risk of collapse during the Winter Storms. You can pay
When interviewed in Beijing about the opening ceremony of the 2012 Olympics, Lord Coe joked that it would include 5,000 morris dancers. Little did he realise that his words would inspire a major art event that would be described as an 'anarchic reinvention of the image of English Morris' involving morris dancers, Morrissey and the Southbank Centre.

Folk-pop artist David Owen’s installation of an alternative vision of the traditional English Morris dancer was the focus of a large-scale multimedia event in and around the Southbank Centre in September called 5000 Morris Dancers after Lord Coe’s quip. Owen said: 'I’d like to demonstrate that 5000 morris dancers can look cool. 5000 morris dancers can be iconic. They can take your breath away.'

The project was supported through an Arts Council England Grants for the arts award of £43,256 and produced by Terry O’Brien in partnership with English Folk Dance and Song Society (EFDSS) and supported by the UK’s leading world roots music magazine fRoots. The Arts Council has been working extensively to support the English folk industry, encouraging project such as this.
5000 Morris Dancers created included a street art campaign across Central London, opportunities to see and hear live music, film and dance performances, and to take part in discussions about the place of traditional English music and dance in our culture.

The project was a huge success in terms of raising the profile of morris dance and the artists involved, attracting major national media coverage, including features in the Telegraph, Time Out, The Observer, The Guardian Guide, The Independent, Songlines and Metro and a feature on The Today Programme on Radio 4 on the day the event opened.

English folk artists and bands performing over the three days included The Imagined Village and The Demon Barber Roadshow. While a night of music, A Celebration of Morris On, showcased new folk artists Sam Sweeney, Saul Rose, Jon Fuller, Dave Burbidge, and BBC Folk Awards winners Jim Moray, Jackie Oates and Sam Carter.

More than 130 Morris dancers took part, challenging perceptions and entertaining audiences. Some of the best Morris teams from around the country were invited to perform.
'These were some of the finest Morris, sides cherry-picked from across the country and showing all of the varied styles of Morris that have evolved across England,' said Terry O'Brien, Project Manager for 5000 Morris Dancers.

The programme also included a film preview of Way of the Morris, Tim Plester’s 2010 documentary.

Terry continues: '5000 Morris Dancers was a truly joyful event that has had a positive response from the huge audiences across the weekend, and our Morris sides left on the Sunday assuring us that serious in-roads had been made to realign the image of Morris in the UK.

'We are now talking to the Southbank Centre about possibilities for a related event as part of their Festival of Britain celebrations next year and perhaps establishing an annual event.'


(From the Arts Council Website) Submitted by Derek Schofield

One Day Rapper project on 8th January 2011 in Leicester

The aim of the day is to learn a traditional dance and then perform it in the evening on a crawl around Leicester City Centre with a local team (tbc) who will then run workshops the next day (non display). The website is www.onedayerapper.co.uk which is going to be re-constructed in a couple of weeks but hopefully it’s got the basic info on for now!

One Day Rapper will cost £20 for the day, including tutoring, evening meal and kit, I haven’t got provision at present to supply rapper shoes so smooth soled shoes (preferably black) will be need to be brought along.

New for One Day Rapper is the focus on musicians and playing for performance. James Tween will be coming along to lead the musicians on how to improve their skills. Musician’s attending will need to be able to hold a swift tune on their instrument and due to the nature of the project we cannot accept beginners. Dancers can be complete beginners or competent regular dancers looking for a new challenge.
Costs: One Day Rapper £20; One Day Rapper plus Sat night indoor camping £25;
Whole weekend (ODR, camping, 2x workshops) £30; One Sunday Workshop - ££
Both Sunday Workshops - £8.

Further information from website or phone Natasha on 0116 2741752

Winster Morris Dancers Workshop & Ale 13rd November 2010

It is our intention to build upon the success of last year’s workshop and to repeat the event by holding a workshop and Ale. We propose to provide a workshop on our dances as they have been variously remembered at the various revivals, during the last century. The purpose of this is to ensure that the dances are known to a wider company, so that we may ensure the continuance of Derbyshire’s only Morris dance tradition, that goes back for as long as can be remembered for the future.

The event will start at 2.00pm with a look at the Processional, the Morris Dance, the Reel, the Blue-Eyed Stranger and the Gallop. We will break for an hour to allow for the Burton Institute to be set up for the Ale. We are proposing a simple two course meal, short formalities and then some singing and dancing to a conclusion at cost of £10.

Indoor camping will be available in the Institute at the conclusion of the evening for those who want to stay overnight and in the morning breakfast will be available at the Miner’s Standard. Camping and limited accommodation are available at the Miner’s Standard for those who require something more.

For further information and to book a place contact tradcap@ntlworld.com or 01332 770578

David Thompson Winster Morris Dancers
The Castleford Ladies' Magical Circle By Jake Thackray

Slightly adapted and performed by Nigel Moorcroft at the Castleford Meeting

The Castleford Ladies' Magical Circle meets tonight,
In an upstairs aspidistra'd room that's lit by candlelight,
Where Elizabeth Jones and Lily O'Grady
And three or four more married ladies
Practice every week unspeakable pagan rites.

Dressed in their Sunday coats and their flowerpot hats,
Respectable middle-aged ladies - running to fat, at that -
There's Elizabeth Jones and Lily O'Grady
And three or four more married ladies,
Each with a Homebase broomstick and a tabby cat.

But they don't waste time with a Ouija board or a séance now and again, no.
None of your wittering, twittering, petty poltergeists for them. No,
Elizabeth Jones and Lily O'Grady
And three or four more married ladies
Prefer to be tickled by the whiskery chins of bogey men.

Their husbands are sword dancing down the club,
Unaware of the devilish jiggery-poke and rub-a-dub-dub,
While Elizabeth Jones and Lily O'Grady
And three or four more married ladies
Are frantically dancing naked for Beelzebub.

And after the witches' picnic and the devil's grog,
After their savage pantings, their hysterical leap-frog, well,
Elizabeth Jones and Lily O'Grady
And three or four more married ladies
Go back home for cocoa and the Epilogue.

So be careful how you go of a Saturday night:
If you see a little old lady passing by, it very well might be
Elizabeth Jones or Lily O'Grady
Or one of those satanical ladies.
Their eyes are wild and bright, their cheekbones all alight.
Don't go where they invite,
Because the Castleford Ladies' Magical Circle meets tonight

Notes: Homebase was 'Woolworth's' are sword dancing' was 'potter at snooker'
ARM 2011 18th 20th February Hosts Mendip Morris Men

Further details and booking information for the meeting will be circulated nearer the date but two motions have already been submitted for the 2011 Morris Ring ARM:

1. **Women Musicians:**
   
   *Revised statement from the Bagman to be inserted here - 22nd November 2010*

2. **Composition of the Advisory Council**
   
   Propose the following amendment to the Morris Ring’s constitution:
   
   "to amend Clause 6 to read:
   "The three officers, officers elect and all past officers of the Morris Ring for a maximum of six years following the conclusion of their term of office, together with the nine elected members shall constitute the Advisory Council of the Morris Ring. The duty of the Advisory Council shall be to advise and assist the Squire and the other elected officers to further the objects of the Morris Ring and to take acting in an emergency. The Advisory Council shall meet at least once a year. In such cases where it is entrusted with executive powers, a quorum shall consist of five members, including three elected members."

   **Proposed Horwich Prize Medal Morris Men**

In light of this here is a reminder of the relevant sections of the Morris Ring Constitution:

15. **Nominations for the positions of the Officers and the Elected Members of the Advisory Council,** proposed alterations to the Constitution and formal resolutions for discussion at the Annual Meeting of Club Representatives shall be received by the Bagman at least three months before the Meeting.

16. **Details of the nominations for the positions of the Officers and the Elected Members of the Advisory Council,** proposed alterations to the Constitution and formal resolutions for discussion at the Annual Meeting of Club Representatives shall be circulated by the Bagman to Member Clubs at least one month before the Meeting.

17. **Clubs unable to send representatives to the Annual Meeting may, in the case of elections, send a postal vote to the Bagman, to arrive at last seven days before the Meeting.**

Please contact your Area Rep, any member of the Advisory Council or the elected Morris Ring Officers for further information or to express an opinion.
Morris Ring Instructionals

Fools and Animals Weekend

Was 22nd - 24th October 2010. See website: www.foolsandbeasts.org.uk/

Jigs Instructional 21st -23rd January 2011 Sutton Bonington

Only £42 and we will again be offering a £10 subsidy to sides for first time attendees and a £5 subsidy for any first-timers who attended last year who return for a second helping. Application Forms and additional information included with paper copy of this Newsletter and on the Morris Ring Google Group..

Musicians Events. There are TWO musicians’ events on offer:

Morris Ring Musicians 1 Instructional Weekend 12th-14th November 2010
Hosts: Whitchurch MM Book up now!
Venue: Wilstone Village Hall, Herts (just a few miles to the east of Aylesbury)
Cost: £45 for the whole event (including basic accommodation)

This popular, informative and enjoyable weekend will once again be held at Wilstone VH. We’ll meet on the Friday evening to settle-in, have a play and get to know each other and then on Saturday there’ll be two parallel sessions:

1. For those who are fairly new to Morris playing or who haven’t joined us before, who, through an exploration of some basic theory and practical sessions, can expect to find the day both interesting and challenging, so be prepared;
2. For more experienced players, who’ll get the chance to explore some tricky aspects of Morris music and consider how these can be dealt with to best effect.
On Sunday well reflect on the special requirements of playing for massed dances, such as at Morris Ring Meetings, and also, recognising that many clubs now have bands, we’ll spend an hour or two exploring and experimenting with alternatives to multiple musicians all just playing the same notes together (or not!), the aim being to enhance the quality of the music without, of course, detracting from the needs of the dance or dancers.

Whilst we’ll focus on Cotswold dances, the fundamentals of playing for the dance are the same for all styles and traditions, so if you’re a swordsman, cloggist, or whoever, you too will find benefit and, naturally, have a great weekend to boot!

It’s not just musicians who have found these weekends useful. If you’re a Squire or Foremen, you will be most welcome, especially if you would like to gain a better understanding of what makes us musicians tick and recognise how we need to address the dance if we are to help you achieve the best overall performance.

Our hosts, Whitchurch Morris Men, always look after us well - especially the inner-man - and so good and plentiful food, ale and company are guaranteed.

Basic sleeping accommodation for male participants will be available in the hall, whilst there are a number of hotels and the like within a few miles for any ladies who’d like to join us, or those chaps who might require a little more privacy or comfort.

Whilst organised under the auspices of the Morris Ring members of the other Joint Morris organisations are welcome. For further information, and to book a place, please email Clive Du’Mont: cdumont@blueyonder.co.uk.

**Morris Ring Musicians 2 Instructional Day**

Please note change of Date & Format
Hosts: Moulton MM Book up now!
Date: Saturday 12th March 2011 9.30am 6pm.
Venue: Moulton VH

A day course for musicians concentrating on playing for the different genre of Morris. There will be different groups available with tradition-specific playing skills: Border, Cotswold, etc.

Food provided plus evening pub session for those interested.
JMO Sheffield National Morris Spectacular

Sat 14th May. Venue: Sheffield Hosted by the Morris Ring. You want to be there. It will be a full day, lots of opportunity to dance and not too much hanging around.

2011 Meetings of the Morris Ring

Circumstances have lead to there being two of the five 2011 meetings of the Morris Ring being opened to sides with female musicians. This is in no way intended to pre-empt or influence any decision made at the Spring 2011 ARM. By the date of the ARM we will know whether the meetings are heavily oversubscribed or likely to fold. Whilst the presence or otherwise of women musicians will only one of many factors that influenced a side's choice of which Morris Ring Meeting to attend it has to be relevant and will help inform debate around the issue.
40th Anniversary of revamped Moulton Festival
Cost per man: £35 / £40

This weekend is rather different from other Morris Ring Meetings: you park your car on Friday evening and you don’t require transport until you depart on Sunday afternoon. All the dancing takes place within the village centre as large crowds come to enjoy the Village Festival. It will be a small meeting of about 100 to 120 men, and we are providing for unlimited outdoor camping, and a limited amount of indoor space.

The programme will follow its traditional pattern with pub sing songs and access to a folk song concert on Friday evening. On Saturday the Morris have responsibility for the village's traditional May Queen ceremonies and we will take her procession around the village pubs and dancing spots. There will be the usual formal Morris Ring feast on Saturday night and more dancing and singing at the pubs.

On Sunday a massed show with individual team displays takes place outside the Parish Church followed by lunch and more dancing at The Telegraph pub. Costs will be modest and fall within the £35 to £40 range and cheaper if we can get a deal on the beer for the feast!

327th Meeting 3rd June - 5th June
Hosts: Thaxted Morris
Thaxted Morris Centenary
Estimated Cost per man: £ 75

This is an especially enlarged Morris Ring Meeting to celebrate the 100th anniversary of the founding of Thaxted Morris. It will be based on our highly successful "Great Northern" meeting for the 75th anniversary of the Morris Ring last year where over 400 Morris men took part and included 8 tours. The feast will again take place in the magnificent and significant setting of Thaxted Church and accommodation indoor and outdoor will be at the school and at other locations across the town.

Due to the special occasion and the likely extraordinary early demand as was the case last year you are encouraged to book as early as possible to avoid disappointment. Feast numbers will be at a premium.
The whole weekend is envisaged to cost around £75 if you take all meals, but can be reduced if you have fewer meals or attend as day men. Individuals are most welcome and special rates are available for youngsters. There is Bed and Breakfast accommodation nearby as well as a large Travelodge at Great Dunmow for those seeking greater comfort.

If you haven’t been to Thaxted for many years, are a regular, or have never been, then this is the one we have been building up to.
328th Meeting 24th 26th June
Hosts: Wath-on-Dearne Morris
Estimated Cost per man: £100

(Pictures: Paul Reece)
Accommodation will be at the Park Inn, Wath-on-Dearne, a 4* hotel based on 2 men sharing a twin en-suite room.

There are all the facilities you would expect including gym etc. Details can be found at: [http://www.parkinn.co.uk/hotel-rotherham](http://www.parkinn.co.uk/hotel-rotherham) Single occupancy is available at an extra cost of £50.00 per man.

The weekend will follow the tried and tested format of Friday gather and meal; Saturday tours (based on our annual "Pretty Villages" tours Beautiful locations rather than shopping centres) and Sunday church, dance & depart after a light lunch.

The price of the weekend is £100. We have secured a brilliant deal with the hotel and we feel that there is a market for this type of accommodation and our watchword for the whole weekend will be quality in all aspects. Why pay £70.00 to sleep on a shared floor in a school or village hall when for only £30 more we can offer a comfortable bed, en-suite facilities in all rooms, TV, gym, tea making facilities and a much more relaxed experience.

If it proves that there is no market or appetite for this type of event, then so be it, but we feel that this is the accommodation which would appeal most to us at a Morris Ring Meeting if offered as a choice.
Female musicians in Morris kit will be welcome at events throughout the weekend. This is not trying to pre-empt or influence any decision made at the Spring 2011 ARM. This Meeting of the Morris Ring is an experiment, a trial 'luxury' event which needs exposure to all sides, even those with female musicians, to ensure maximum take-up.

329th Meeting 8th 10th July
Hosts: Greensleeves Morris Men
Chipperfield 50th Anniversary Meeting
Based at Chipperfield, Hertfordshire
Estimated Cost per man: £65 Max: 6 sides (no more than 60 men)
Indoor and outdoor camping

Friday evening: Meal available 7-10.00pm. Greensleeves dance at 9.00pm; other clubs may join us (in kit) if they wish. Followed by music and singing at nearby pub.

Saturday: Two bus tours; Feast in Chipperfield Village Hall at about 7.45pm.

Sunday: Procession to Chipperfield Parish Church, followed by open-air church service (in Church if wet). Massed show to follow (in Village Hall if wet). At 11.55 procession to Windmill (pub) for further massed show and lunch.

330th Meeting 22nd-24th July
Hosts: Rutland MM
Estimated Cost per man: £75 Max: 140 (including Host side)

Rutland, population 32,000, motto is "Multum in Parvo", or "Much in Little", and that could describe Rutland Morris Men! www.morrismen.org.uk Cecil Sharpe was educated at Uppingham School and this meeting of the Morris Ring is based in the small town of Uppingham at the Uppingham Community College. There is ample parking, indoor classroom and outdoor camping, scenic open aspects and easy access.

Friday: Fish and chips vouchers and informal dancing.

Saturday: Massed dances then short distance touring picturesque Real Ale villages, as Rutland is only the size of the Isle of Wight when the tide's in. Feast ales supplied by Oakham Ales, founded by our lead musician John Wood.

Sunday: Procession, optional Church service, and massed dancing.
Female musicians in Morris kit will be welcome at events throughout the weekend. This is not trying to pre-empt or influence any decision made at the Spring 2011 ARM. This Meeting of the Morris Ring is an extension of Rutland's usual annual Day of Dance which always incorporates female musicians.


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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Morris Ring Meetings - 2012 and beyond</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>2012</strong></td>
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| 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 |
| TBC                                   | Letchworth  
    Centenary  
    Morris Ring Meeting |

**2013**
and finally

Thank You again to those who have contributed news and information for inclusion in this Newsletter.

From the September edition of the Dartington Morris Men Newsletter
Photo by Terry Underhill

We have had the permission of the Bride Kate Humphries to reprint this wonderful picture.

The bride was lifted by a firm and cheeky grip

Caption Competition

Come on Charlie - Fetch!  <JM's entry>
This photograph was taken moments after Peter Halfpenney danced in as Squire of the Morris Ring at the Castleford Meeting.

There is a pint for the writer of the most amusing caption!

Charlie

Bagman of the Morris Ring