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Newsletter No.72

# February 2011

# ARM 2011 18th - 20th February

Hosted by Mendip Morris Men

Clevedon Community School, Valley Road, Clevedon, BS21 6AH.

Link to ARM Website: <a href="http://arm2011.co.uk/">http://arm2011.co.uk/</a>

# Please read this in conjunction with Newsletter No 71

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# Programme for the 2011 ARM Weekend

# Clevedon

Friday		
18.30	ARM Reception opens.	
19.00- 21.00	Food available	
	Instructional: Winster	
Saturday		
7.30 - 8.30	Breakfast	
9.15 - 10.30	Instructionals Session 1	
	Jig: Bonnets so Blue, Bucknell	
	Welsh Border: Silurian MM interpretation	
10.30 - 11.00	Coffee	
11.00 - 11.45	EGM (if necessary) or Area Meetings	
12.00 - 12.45	Area Meetings or Open Discussion re Recruitment	
13.00 - 13.50	Buffet Lunch	
14.00 - 16.30	Annual Reps. Meeting	
16.30 - 17.00	Tea	
17.00 - 18.15	Instructionals Session 2	
	Advisory Council Meeting	
19.00 -	FEAST (followed by informal dancing/singing)	
Sunday		
8.00 - 9.00	Breakfast (Note change of room from Saturday) &	departure



# AGENDA for 2011 ARM

#### 1. Welcome Guests

Open Morris: John Clifford & Phil Watson

• Morris Federation: Barry Goodman

• EFDSS:

• Insurance Guru: Michael Stimpson

• Legal Guru: Chris Metherell

## 2. Apologies for Absence

#### a. Sides:

Ravensbourne

Men of Wight (Proxy: Geoff Jerram)

Mayflower.

Abingdon traditional Morris Dancers
Dolphin MM (Proxy: Peter Halfpenney)

Kennet Morris Men (Proxy: Peter Halfpenney)

Ewell St Mary's Morris Men Chapel-en-le-Frith Morris men

## b. Past officers etc.:

Ray King Past Squire
Richard Hankinson Past Squire
Gerald Willey Past Squire
Brian Pollard NE Area Rep

- 3. Minutes of the last ARM (Previously distributed).
- 4. Matters arising from the Minutes

a. Report on the Youth Fund (Brian Tasker: Chair of Advisory Council)

b. Up-date on the Olympics (Squire)

- c. Recruitment leaflet / PowerPoint (Bagman)
- d. Performance Standards
- 5. Squire's Report: Peter J Halfpenney
- 6. Bagman's Report. Charlie Corcoran
- 7. Treasurer's Report and proposed subscriptions for next year Eddie Worrall

#### 8. Constitutional Motions:

Explanatory summary statement from Peter J Halfpenney, Squire of the Morris Ring

Following months of discussion on the MR Google Group, and elsewhere, please remember that:

- 1. We are voting on the constitution of the Morris Ring. The vote will determine the permitted membership of the Morris Ring and the way it conducts MR activity.
- If accepted, KISS will not affect the membership or day to day running and performance of individual sides with the single exception that you will not be permitted to remain MR members or associates if you have female members of your side that dance or act.
- If you want to stay all male and only run all male events, that will be fine and permissible as far as the MR and the EA is concerned.
- If you want to open your club membership to women (in non-dancing/acting capacity), that is your right and also fine and permissible as far as the MR and the Equality Act 2010 is concerned.
- 2. Ignoring the minutiae, there are three routes open to the Morris Ring:
  - a. Revert to all male exclusively and expel any club with female members (accepting that other clubs may leave in disgust).
  - b. Permit membership of sides with women (in non-dancing/acting capacity) as well as all male sides (accepting that some all-male sides may leave in disgust)
  - c. Open membership to women in all capacities.

#### THAT IS IT.

Option (a) is offered as an amendment (see blow) to the Rumford proposal

Option (b) is the Rumford proposal

Option (c) has not been proposed by any side.

We must vote to adopt one of these options to comply with the Equalities Act 2010. Once we have agreed, by a 2/3rds majority, which option we want, we must complete the building of a workable model for the Morris Ring.



- i. Women Musicians: Additions in *italics* / <del>Deletions</del> struck through "to amend Clauses 2 and 10 to read:
  - 2. The Morris Ring shall be an association of Men's Morris, Sword and Mummers Clubs and Teams. Any established Men's Club or Team which meets regularly for Morris or Sword Dancing or Mumming, which restricts its dancing or acting members to men, and endeavours to uphold the standards and dignity of the Morris, shall be eligible for Membership of the Morris Ring.
  - 10. There shall be at least one gathering of Morris Men Morris Ring Clubs in each year, to be sponsored or arranged by the Morris Ring.

Proposed by Rumford Morris

## Amendment 1: proposed by Thaxted MM

Insert / add the words in italics and delete the words struck through

2. The Morris Ring shall be an association of Men's Morris, Sword and Mummers Clubs and Teams. Any established Men's Club or Team which meets regularly for Morris or Sword Dancing or Mumming, which restricts its dancing, musicians and all other performers or acting members to men, and endeavours to uphold the standards and dignity of the Morris, shall be eligible for Membership of the Morris Ring.

## Amendment 2: proposed by Moulton MM

Insert / add the words in italics.

"The Morris Ring shall be an association of Men's Morris, Sword and Mummers Clubs and Teams. Any established Men's Club or Team which meets regularly for Morris or Sword Dancing or Mumming, which restricts its dancing or acting members to men *only*, and endeavours to uphold the standards and dignity of the Morris, shall be eligible for Membership of the Morris Ring. Such Clubs and Teams retain Membership as long as they restrict dancing and acting members to men only and provide annual confirmation of this status by renewing subscriptions."

## ii. Composition of the Advisory Council Additions in italics

"to amend Clause 6 to read:

6. "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 action in an emergency. The Advisory Council shall meet at least one 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

## iii. Standards of Performance Additions in italics

"to amend Clause 9 to read:

9. Clubs whose standards fall below those generally accepted by the Member Clubs, or who do not conform to this constitution, may, following the advice of the Officers, be suspended from Membership of the Morris Ring if at least two thirds of the votes cast at the Annual Meeting of Club Representatives are in favour of such suspension.

Proposed Moulton MM

- 9. Chair of Advisory Council's Report Brian Tasker
- 10. Archival Reports:

a. Chair of Archive Committee: Chris Metherell

b. Paper: Geoff Douglas Apologies offered - in Australia

c. Photographic: Duncan Broomhead

d. Mumming: Ron Shuttleworth

e. Sword: Ivor Allsop f. Sound: Andy Padmore

g. New Dance Collator: Mike Wilkinson

h. Keeper of the Morris Ring Scrapbook: Keith Francis (Final Report!)

## **Publication Officers Reports:**

i. Editor Morris Circular: Harry Stevenson

ii. Editor Morris Dancer: David Thomson

iii. Webmaster's Report John Maher

iv. Others, incl. Google Groups; Google Site:; Facebook, etc.

"I suggest that a second Google Group be set up, and be titled "Morris Ring Discussion", or similar, and that the existing Morris Ring Group be set to broadcast only. This would be for Morris Ring officers, or other designated persons, to disseminate information that is of interest or relevance to the membership of the Morris Ring at large (e.g.

Newsletter, Events, Fees, and so on). If others want to promote something via that Group they can do so via the Officers or other designated persons.

The "discussion" or "chat" list can then be an open-posting forum, designed to facilitate general discussion such as periodically breaks out on the group at present."

Jason B. Standing (Westminster Morris Men)

- 11. Overseas Bagman's Report John Maher
- 12. Election / Ratification of Area Representatives No other nominations received

West Midlands
 North West
 South West & Wales.
 Northern
 Pete Simpson
 Dave Loughlin
 Robin Springett
 Alastair Hutchinson

## 13. Area Representatives Reports.

a. North West David Loughlin

It has been another tough year for some Morris Sides regarding membership and it is starting to show as some of the small sides are talking of winding up again.

Royal Preston Morris Dancers are one side that is very concerned for the Preston Guild Merchant Celebrations in September 2012. The Royal Preston Morris Dancers was formed from two teams amalgamating, Preston Royal Morris Dancers and Royal Lancashire Morris Dancers in the year 2000. They are trying to recall former members to maintain the Traditions at the "Once in every Preston Guild" Event. Anyone who is interested, Royal Preston would like to hear from them. They are looking at suitable kit for the occasion, dances, practices and a Day or Weekend of Dance with invited teams to perform in Preston on a given date before the main Guild Celebrations.

Horwich Prize Medal have been on a regeneration exercise locally and had a moment of celebrity on North West Tonight, just for a few seconds, but they have had the misfortune of two well-known members, Steve Hanson and John Shield, passing away during last year, both with very long service with the side and both near to their working life retirement age.

Another to be remembered is Jim Jones from Mersey Morris Men at the ripe age of 86 who danced with the reincarnated Liverpool Morris Men and was one who instigated the amalgamation of Liverpool and Wirral Morris Men in the 50s to become Mersey Morris Men as it is today. They all are sorely missed by everyone who knew them.

Getting back to recruitment, those whose sides are getting new dancers tell me you have to be seen, regularly dancing out, and talking to people to encourage young or not so young to come along and try it at your practice nights. You have to be positive with no negative thoughts and get out and dance. Britannia Coco-nut Dancers of Bacup have been very lucky recruiting a few new members since their appearance on the old TV box last autumn, so it does work.

Now for those who attended Saddleworth Rushcart in August this year, it is with great pleasure to report that the Jockey of the Rushcart for 2011 is no-other than Ed Worrall the Morris Ring Treasurer, congratulation and we wish him well on the top of the Rushcart when seen sober and along with his banner.

As I have for the past three years expressed nothing but thanks to those women musicians who play for the North West Area Morris Sides and without them most of the sides would not be able to maintain their dancing performances. The ladies themselves support the traditions of men only dancing Morris and Sword. I personally thank them for their willing support and appreciation of our constitution and do believe that the majority of the Morris Ring Clubs will see common sense and understanding when they cast their vote at the ARM it will be in support of them and the men only dancing traditions.

- b. Northern Stuart Bater Apologies for lack of report due to ill health
- c. North East Brian Pollard Nothing to report (Apologies received)
- d. West Midlands Pete Simpson
- e. North Midlands David Thompson
- f. Eastern Mike Stevens
- g. South West and Wales Robin Springett No report submitted
- h. South Midlands Roger Comley
- i. South East Fred Hands

Report on the Morris Ring "Whitchurch" Musicians' Weekend

Clive Du'Mont

Another splendid event was held in November 2010, by all reports enjoyed by all 18 participants, including four lady players, who were attracted from 12 Ring and two Federation clubs. Via an approach that took account of broad skill and experience differences, the tutor team successfully covered the entire programme as planned, providing information, guidance, example and practice that explored the basics of playing for Morris dance and recognition of the differing needs of the various traditions, through an examination of some particularly troublesome music-v-dance anomalies, to "poly-playing" (getting the most out of multiple musicians) and the special needs of massed-dance demands, and more.

Whitchurch MM once again provided us with superb hospitality, led as ably as ever by chief cook and furrowed-brow-massager, Nigel Cox.

After 10 years as organiser, I've decided to hand that batten to others, which announcement I shall look to formalise at the 2011 ARM. In the meantime, I would like to register here my personal gratitude and great debt to the late Jim Catterall, Mike Chandler and Allan Jarvis in particular, without whose generosity, influence and encouragement neither I nor any of the several hundred other Morris musicians who have benefited from these events would have had such a splendid opportunity to develop our understanding and skills and so, hopefully, have been able to add constructively to the standard of our own and our club's performances.

In recent years, Mike Howley, Hugh Crabtree and Malcolm Frier have also added their personal contributions to the mix, to excellent effect, and it's anticipated that future Weekends will be arranged by Malcolm with support from Tim Barber, both of whom have returned to "face the music" as participants several times since the "Musicians' Instructionals" were initiated in the early 1980's and will, I have no doubt, ensure that the high standards of tuition and guidance that have been promoted thus far will be continued.

Most of all, though I would like to say "thank you" to the many individual players who have attended over the years and through whose interest, enthusiasm and willingness to be individually challenged and tested have provided the impetus for these Weekends to have been arranged ...and to have been so enjoyable.

## 14. Future Programme.

- i. Morris Ring Meetings 2012 and beyond. (Bagman)
- ii. Instructionals

## Date and Venue of Next Meeting.

### 15. A.O.B.

a. Morris Ring Display Boards Brian Tasker

\* \* \* \* \*

### CONSIDERATIONS FOR THE ARM

Paul Reece Thaxted MM & Past Squire of the Morris Ring

"We are or should be protectors and promoters of all our Morris and Mumming and club traditions however they were started, by men or by women, and however they have evolved and are presently constituted. The gender of musicians has not been an issue for many clubs at certain times in their histories when their future and the continuity of these clubs and their male members to dance are at stake. The future for some clubs may necessitate having a female musician. We cannot put the clock back to some golden age in the Morris Ring's history when we can say with certainty that there were no female musicians playing for Morris Ring sides as I believe that there have always been some at some time.

Both the all-male dancers and musicians and the all-male dancers with female musicians have to be respected and coexist, I passionately support both sides' rights to exist in our organisation. Beware those who beat the all-male drum as the future of sides and traditions are never certain as the effect of wars and other catastrophes or simple demographics of village populations and cultural tastes prove so painfully to be true as our membership declines and the smallest Morris organisation, The Open Morris is poised to overtake us.

Both full member sides with female musicians and those associate member sides with female musicians who cannot vote add up to a significant loss to the Morris Ring if the Rumford motion is defeated. The fallout from the Goathland Ploughstots having to leave the Morris Ring because we have no membership category to support failing sides while they sort themselves out will be nothing compared to the own goal of all these other sides having to leave. It is a position from which we will not be able to recover. "



## Agenda for post ARM Advisory Council Meeting

Matters raised at the JMO AGM a fortnight prior to the ARM will be added to this agenda

- 1. Recruitment reaction to recruitment package Media & national image
- 2. JMO National Morris Spectacular, Sheffield
- 3. Olympics
- 4. Queen's Diamond Jubilee 2012
- 5. Equality Act outcome of ARM vote; where do we go from here?
- 6. Morris Dancer Editor replacement
- 7. Other publications content and editorial responsibility
- 8. AOB arising from ARM



# Massed dances for 2011 Morris Ring Meetings will be:

Adderbury: Lads a-Bunchum

Bampton: Rose Tree (Banbury Bill to alt. tune) & Maid of the Mill

Bledington: Bonnets so Blue (William & Nancy to alt. tune) & Young Collins

**Brackley:** Jockey to the Fair **Fieldtown:** The Valentine

Headington: Constant Billy and Laudnum Bunches

Lichfield: Vandals of Hammerwich (Chorus: show first & strike second, unless No 1 indicates otherwise)

Peter Halfpenney; Squire of the Morris Ring

# efdss English Folk Dance and Song Society



#### February at Cecil Sharp House

With January finally on the way out, it's time to come out of hibernation for some great events at Cecil Sharp House. Highlights this month include The Broadside Day, our Family Barn Dance, and the first in our third season of Folk Rising concerts.



February's Highlights

#### What's On



#### Folk Rising - Thursday 3

The return of Folk Rising! In association with The Magpie's Nest, it's the third season with the brightest new folk in the



firmament - this first concert features Robin Grey, Gavin Davenport, Jo Burke and Lizzie Nunnery. More information and buy tickets

Get Your Folk On! Half term project:

A week of fabulous foot-stomping folk music! For ages 11-

19, newcomers to folk as well as dedicated folk enthusiasts.

Monday 21 - Friday 25

Absolute beginners welcome. More information and book your place



#### Family Barn Dance - Sunday 6

Bring the family along for fun, lively dances from all over the British Isles, with a band and caller to help you along. With caller Jane Pfaff and musicians Jeremy Monson and David Sutton Anderson

More information and buy tickets



#### VWML launches online catalogue

The first phase of an on-going programme to enable anybody around the world to access information about items held by the library and even browse a library shelf.

Access the catalogue

#### **EFDSS** supports IVFDF

This year's IVFDF will be held in Bristol on 25-27 February. We are proud to be festival sponsors for the IVFDF 60th anniversary IVFDF website



#### Late programme additions!

We've just confirmed gigs in March with the Imagined Village and the Ukulele Orchestra of Great Britain both likely to sell out quickly.







## MORRIS RING PUBLICATIONS

(2) Harry Stevenson: Editor of the Morris Circular

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Circular No 62 is now online at:

http://www.themorrisring.org/thecircular/images/Circular\_62.pdf



Visit http://www.efdss.org/ for full information about events organised by the EFDSS not just in London at Cecil Sharp House but across the country.

© David Thompson: Editor of The Morris Dancer

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#### On-line Links:

<u>http://www.themorrisring.org/</u> The main MR website with millions of pages stuffed to the gunnels with all you need to know about the MR. No registration required to access - the site is open for the world to visit. j.p.maher@gmail.com

http://groups.google.com/group/the-morris-ring?hl=en&pli=1 The Morris Ring Google Group (MRGG). Still open for messages but files section is now closed. Forum for debate or announcements. Private site; Contact Morris Ring Bagman to register to use.

https://sites.google.com/site/morrisring/?pli=1 Morris Ring Clubs Website. Private site, register to use. (Likely to replace the MRGG in time.) Files can be posted here so you can access Newsletters, circulars etc. as well as current affairs, events calendar & What's On news.

http://www.facebook.com/pages/The-Morris-Ring/158759257502840 Morris Ring Facebook site: Managed by Ollie King. oliver.king11@btinternet.com



If your side has forthcoming events or items of interest to all, make sure that you get them posted on one or more of these sites.

## Morris Ring Instructionals

Morris Ring Musicians' 2 Instructional Day

Date: Saturday 12th March 2011 9.30am - 6pm.

Contact: Simon Care <u>melodeonplayer@hotmail.com</u> Tel: 01604 670192

\* \* \* \* \*

**Jigs Instructional** 20<sup>th</sup> -22<sup>nd</sup> January 2012 Sutton Bonington

\* \* \* \* \*

# JMO Sheffield National Morris Spectacular

Hosted by The Morris Ring

Sat 14<sup>th</sup> May. Sheffield City Centre
Opening ceremony performed by the Lord Mayor of Sheffield and Mayor of Amber Valley
Highlights

Massed dance displays in Tudor Square in front of the world famous Crucible & Lyceum Theatres

Up to 1,000 performers - and that's a lot of bells & ribbons!

## Showcase performances by the cream of English Folk Art:

- Northwest Processional Clog Dancing
- Garland dancing
- Individual step clog dancing
- Longsword and Rapper sword dance displays
- Mumming Plays & Street Theatre
- Molly dancing
- Fools, Beasts, & Characters of myth & legend

Plus Ye Olde Morris Shoppe

## Organisational Details:

- 10.00 Assembly and opening ceremony
- 10.15 16.30 Performances throughout Sheffield City Centre
- Only short hops between venues
- Lunch stops either 11.45 13.00 or 13.00 14.15.
- Prepaid ticket lunches to ease congestion (various venues & menus) or bring own picnic.
- Music & singing inside Sheffield Cathedral throughout the day (with real ale bar)
- Variety of Real Ale pubs including Sheffield Kelham Island and Abbeydale ales
- Prepaid ticket meal for late-stayers who may wish to enjoy:

Evening ceilidh / concert organised by and taking place inside Sheffield Cathedral.

Entry by ticket. Real ale bar. Details to follow

Please apply to Peter J Halfpenney, 35 - 37 Main Street, North Anston, Sheffield, S25 4BD 01909 560059 Email: JMOSheffield@aol.com

Indicating your side's performance style and questimate of likely numbers.

# Sides will be accepted on first-come first-served basis

and issued with

Full application pack giving details of venues / parking / meals etc.

## OUR COTSWOLD MORRIS HERITAGE An Insight into the way it was

A weekend workshop led by Roy Dommett Exeter 15th-17th April 2011

For further details please contact Mike Boston <u>mike.boston@lineone.net</u>

\* \* \* \* \*

# 2011 Meetings of the Morris Ring

326<sup>th</sup> Meeting 20th - 22<sup>nd</sup> May Hosted by Moulton Morris to mark the 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the revived Moulton Festival.

Sides attending are King John's; Richmond on Swale and Yateley

\* \* \* \* \*

 $327^{th}$  Meeting  $3^{rd}$  June ~  $5^{th}$  June hosted by Thaxted Morris. This meeting marks the Centenary of Thaxted Morrismen.

Sides attending include Dolphin; Moulton; Helmond; Westminster; Ravensbourne; Leicester; Cambridge; Dartington; St Albans; Chanctonbury Ring; Saddleworth; Mayflower; Greensleeves; Monkseaton; Stafford; Letchworth; Shakespeare; Standon; Jockey; Whitchurch; Harthill; Chalice; Hageneth MM; East Suffolk; Offley; East Surrey; Het Utrect and Bedford.

\* \* \* \* \*

328<sup>th</sup> Meeting 24<sup>th</sup> - 26<sup>th</sup> June Hosted by Wath-on-Dearne Morris Although now running as a Family Day of Dance, with a feast, this is still a meeting of the Morris Ring.

\* \* \* \* \*

329<sup>th</sup> Meeting 8<sup>th</sup> - 10<sup>th</sup> July Hosted by Greensleeves Morris Men to mark the 50th Anniversary of their Chipperfield weekend.

Sides attending include Dolphin; Martlett; Long Man; Ripley; Greenman and Winchester.

\* \* \* \* \*

330<sup>th</sup> Meeting 22<sup>nd</sup> -24th July Hosted in Rutland by the Rutland Morrismen.

Sides attending include Devil's Dyke; Thelwall; Foresters; Northwood; Colchester; Hartley;

Thaxted; St Albans; Peterborough; Men of Wight; Traditional Illmington; Horwich Prize Medal;

Redcar Sword and Lincoln & Micklebarrow





7<sup>th</sup> - 9<sup>th</sup> October 2011

Venue: Oxford.

Hosts: Icknield Way MM

Further information and application

information see

http://www.morris1830.org.uk





# Morris Ring Meetings - 2012 and beyond.

We are looking for sides to host meetings in 2013 and beyond. Could it be you?

20	1	2
----	---	---

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 MR Meeting

8<sup>th</sup> - 10<sup>th</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

? March ARM Hosted by TBA

31<sup>st</sup> May - 02<sup>nd</sup> June Thaxted Morris Ring Meeting

21<sup>st</sup> - 23<sup>rd</sup> June Dolphin Morris Men

?

# 2014

? March ARM Hosted by TBA

TBA Thaxted Morris Ring Meeting

?

2015

? March ARM Hosted by TBA

TBA Thaxted Morris Ring Meeting

?

Use of the Morris Ring Logo. Please use the Morris Ring logo on your side website, and add a link to the Morris Ring website.

http://www.themorrisring.org/



# And finally......

Thanks as usual to those who have contributed news and information for inclusion in this Newsletter, or simply pointed me in the right direction. For future publication please let me have details of your May Day venues so that I can publish and publicise where we do what we do.

In the immediate future if your side has yet to pay its subscription please may I remind you that you will not be covered by our insurance unless you do and if you have booked places at one of the Morris Ring Meetings in 2011 please get your deposits paid a.s.a.p..

I look forward to seeing many of you at the ARM.

Charlie

Bagman of the Morris Ring

