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## Newsletter No. 86

October 2013

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David Blick, founding Squire of the Forest of Dean Morris Men, being awarded his EFDSS Gold Badge. The presentation took place on 5<sup>th</sup> October, the award being presented by Doug Oates (aka Jim Moray) & Baroness Janet Royall.

*An article about Dave Blick will appear in a future edition of the Morris Ring Circular.*

## Greetings all

Again the publication and distribution of this Newsletter has been delayed originally due to a lack of content (there is no point publishing for the sake of it) but more recently due to my waiting for information about the meetings planned for 2014. In the interim I have kept people up-to-date via emails, the Google Group and even the occasional phone call.

Of key importance now are:

- the arrangements for the ARM, including booking accommodation;
- candidates for the various posts due for election, and
- Subs Renewal.

This information has been circulated electronically to ensure notice deadlines have been met. *(6 months' notice of the date of the ARM and 3 months for nominations for Officers and Elected Members of the Advisory Council, proposed alterations to the Constitution and formal resolutions for discussion at the ARM.)*

With this Newsletter Bagmen have access to electronic copies of the annual Subs Renewal form and an up-date on the Joint Morris Organisation (JMO) - Personal Individual Insurance, will be made available as soon as it is issued by Michael Stimpson on behalf of our insurers Townergate Mardon.

Steven Archer, Treasurer of the MR, says:

*It's that time of the year again and soon your membership subscription will be due. Last year, according to my records, you went through all the hassle of writing out a cheque and posting it to me which in some cases came late and incurred the additional £10 charge.*

*Why not pay by Standing Order this year and save the hassle and the risk of late payment?*

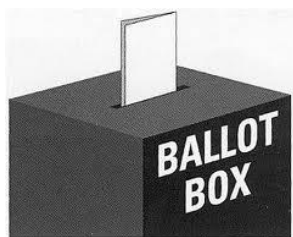
*We don't anticipate changing the subscription rate in the near future so a Standing Order will save you money by:-*

- *Ensuring your subscription is received on time each year without the risk of an additional charge*
- *Save you the cost of postage as the renewal form can be e-mailed.*

*On the renewal form there are the bank details for the Standing Order.*

**Application form for  
Individual Morris Ring Publication Subscription 2014  
included in this Newsletter**

**Elections** As I reminded everyone in the last Newsletter, at our 2014 ARM we will be electing a new Squire and several Area Reps. Robin's time in office will nearly be over and some of the Area Reps are up for triennial election / re-election and we have another vacancy.



For the post of Squire the Constitution requires:

- I. a biographical statement <sup>(1)</sup> (250 word max.) and
- II. photograph of the candidate, and
- III. a supporting statement <sup>(2)</sup> of no more than 250 words, to be submitted by the nominating club.

*(1) The nature and content of this Pen portrait / Short Biographical sketch is up to the individual candidate. They usually contain some general information about the candidate's life and Morris history' and it has been suggested that it would be helpful if candidates were to give some indication as to their general philosophy regarding the Morris and more particularly the Morris Ring.*

*(2) The supporting statement should be submitted on the club's headed paper. Any additional supporting statements received from other sources will not be published.*



**Area Reps** It is unfortunately still obvious that in spite of the work done by Brian and then Peter over their time as Squire that there remains a great deal of ignorance about what the role of the Area Reps actually is!

Our Constitution states that they and other members of the Advisory Council exist

*"...to advise and assist the Squire and the other elected officers to further the objects of the Morris Ring"*

but it does not say anything about how they might do this.

To help any potential candidates to make up their mind as to whether they put themselves forward below is an attempt at a 'job description'. *(I appreciate that in the past there has been a debate about whether you can have a job description for an un-paid role. If it offends you think of it as a set of guidelines to inform both sides and potential candidates.)*

### **Morris Ring: Area Rep. Job Description**

Each area, and every candidate, is different and will require and have to offer different challenges and skills.

- Set up and maintain telephone and email contact with all sides in the area.
- Obtain a programme of events from all sides in the area for reference and to know what is going on.
- Relay to other sides in the area, and also to the Morris Ring Officers, any interesting developments, successes, awards, funding, opportunities, deaths, etc., in the area
- Visit as many sides in the area as possible to make contacts and exchange views.
- Encourage associate sides in the area to progress to full membership.
- Promote inter-relationships between all sides in the area, including members of the Morris Federation and the Open Morris, e.g. act as a catalyst to arrange/organise instructionals and days of dance.
- Act as the "eyes and ears" of the Squire and provide a link between the sides and the Morris Ring officers.
- Attend the ARM and present a report of activities in the area during the past twelve months.
- Attend meetings of the Advisory Council.
- Offer assistance to sides organising national hosted meetings or ARMs
- Seek maximum coverage in the media of any noteworthy event by any side in the area.
- Offer all possible assistance to sides experiencing a crisis of numbers.

Plus, of course, the catch all so common in many jobs:

- Be responsive to the desires and whims of the current Squire who the Advisory Council exists to advise.

Who is your Area Rep?

○ North West	David Loughlin	(2014)
○ Northern	Vacancy	(2015)
○ North East	Brian Pollard	(2016)
○ West Midlands	Pete Simpson	(2014)
○ North Midlands	Ben Robinson	(2015)
○ Eastern	Mike Stevens	(2016)
○ South West and Wales	Jed Dunn	(2014)
○ South Midlands	Roger Comley	(2015)
○ South East	Ian Bush	(2016)

Areas whose Reps term of office expires this year:

- |                        |                |        |
|------------------------|----------------|--------|
| ○ North West           | David Loughlin | (2014) |
| ○ West Midlands        | Pete Simpson   | (2014) |
| ○ South West and Wales | Jed Dunn       | (2014) |

Plus we still have a vacancy for the **Northern Region Area Rep.**

That means that if you dance or play for one from one of these sides:  
*Barnsley Longsword Dancers; Castleford Sword Dancers; Great Yorkshire Morris; Green Ginger Morris & Sword Team; Green Oak Morris Men; Grimsby Morris Men; Handsworth Traditional Sword Dancers; Harthill Morris Men; Lord Conyers Morris Men; Oakworth Village Morris Men; Wath-on-Dearne Morris Men; White Rose Morris Men; Chewitwell Mummers & Ebor Morris Men* this could be your opportunity to contribute towards not just the Morris Ring but the wider world of the Morris in your area. Please think about it - don't think that someone else will do it - because for the past couple of years they haven't and it has made a negative difference.

Nominations for any of the positions to the Bagman of the Morris Ring.



### **Two losses:**

**Griff Jones** died on 5<sup>th</sup> September 2013 at the age of 86. He was a dancer and musician with the Lutterworth Morris Men, and also taught a boys' team at the local grammar school where he was a teacher. He was heavily involved with the Sidmouth Festival in the 1960s and 70s, and also with the EFDSS and Folk Camps.

**Roy Shergold**, Bampton fool and brother of Francis, died on the 23rd of August peacefully in his local hospital...



## The **Museum of British Folklore** has an ambitious aim:

"Folklore is a vibrant element of 'Britishness' and a living cultural heritage; these beliefs, customs and expressions link the past to the present and help us understand our specific communities and cultures, as well as our shared humanity. Far from being static or an ageing genre, it remains relevant by adapting to new circumstances, with the 'Folk' (people), and the 'lore' (stories) continually informing and influencing each other.

There are many hundreds of recorded events, rites and customs practiced in the UK each year, but folklore is reflected in everything from the names we bear from birth, to the names of our local pub. Folklore is the slang we use, the secret languages of groups, from school children to guilds and masonic groups. It is the shaping of everyday experiences in stories swapped around the kitchen table, or told on blog sites."

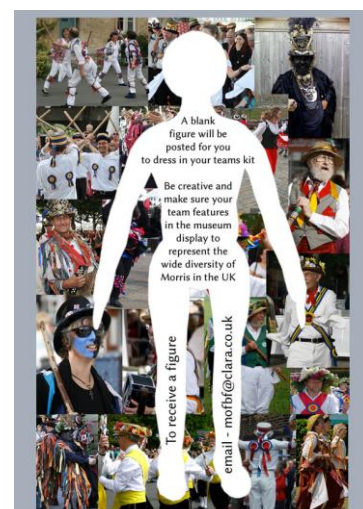
## Simon Costin, Director of the **Museum**, states:

"At the moment there is no dedicated institution within the UK that specifically explores and celebrates our folkloric culture and heritage in its full richness, including all of our annual



customs and traditions. I feel this is a sad state of affairs and points towards a yawning gap within the cultural landscape of Britain. It is my aim that within a few years, this situation will be examined and resolved and there will exist a properly funded new national establishment which will not only impart knowledge and stimulate inquiry, but will also provide aesthetic experiences and kindle individual ambition by strengthening community ties and making visitors aware of the richness of our shared folk-culture in all its manifold forms. At the present time we are in the process of deciding the best way for us to operate and we do not have a building which the public can visit. We are however involved in a series of exhibitions within the UK where visitors can come to gain an appreciation of what will eventually be on offer once we are established. "

Currently they have launched a new initiative to represent the wide variety of Morris sides within the UK. Any teams wishing to take part will be sent a blank figure to decorate with their team kit. The idea being that over time, the collection will grow into an original and unique visual record created by the people who participate in the dance. For any teams wishing to receive a figure, please email [mofbf@clara.co.uk](mailto:mofbf@clara.co.uk)



[http://www.museumofbritishfolklore.com/about\\_the\\_museum/](http://www.museumofbritishfolklore.com/about_the_museum/)

## Morris Ring Display Boards



Under the inspiration of Brian Tasker the Morris Ring invested in this wonderful resource to publicise and educate. Over the past 12 months they have been a sadly underused resource. Please can your side look for opportunities to use the Morris Ring Display Boards whenever and

wherever possible? Like all displays they only have a limited useful life before with changing styles they become dated and we want them to wear out through use rather than simply becoming tired through time.

They are currently available from Roger Comley (South Midlands); Robin Springett (South West); Ian Bush (South East); Mike Stevens (East) and Charlie Corcoran (Midlands).



**'Morris dancer filter'** My predecessor as Bagman of the Morris Ring (John Frearson) pointed out the slur on the whole world of Morris Dancers that appeared in the Farmers Guardian on 30<sup>th</sup> September 2013.

### Paterson seeks 'Morris dancer filter' under reformed CAP

DEFRA Secretary Owen Paterson has promised to put in place a so-called 'Morris dancing filter' to ensure rural development money is spent appropriately in future. Mr Paterson acknowledged that there is a 'vigorous debate' going on about how much money should be transferred in England from farmers' direct payments to the rural development budget.

/.../

"What I also want to put in place is what I call a Morris dancing filter," he said.

"There have been mistakes in the past and I want to make absolutely sure they are good schemes that deliver good worthwhile projects that are good the economy and good for the environment," he said.

I have a decent sense of humour but I was irritated by this usage by a politician of the term 'Morris dancer filter' as a pejorative phrase implying wasted funds on non-appropriate rural projects is offensive and needs to be challenged. Regardless of the implication that we (Morris dancers) are in any way EU or government funded (which we are obviously not) aside there is

the implication that Morris dancing is in some way unworthy of serious consideration as part of heritage.

I drew the attention of my fellow Bagmen and was delighted that so many protested to whom so ever they saw fit. Julia Catovsky, Secretary of Treacle Eater Clog, the Somerset mixed North West Morris team, wrote:

Dear Mr Paterson

I am writing with reference to the above quotation which appeared in the Farmers Guardian on 30<sup>th</sup> September 2013 on behalf of members of the rurally based Morris Dance side, Treacle Eater Clog. Many of our members have been Morris dancers for 30+ years and we are saddened that you have used the term 'Morris Dancer filter' in this derogatory manner to imply wasting funds on inappropriate rural projects. The words 'put in a filter to avoid wasting money' would have been just as effective to get your point across without causing any offence.

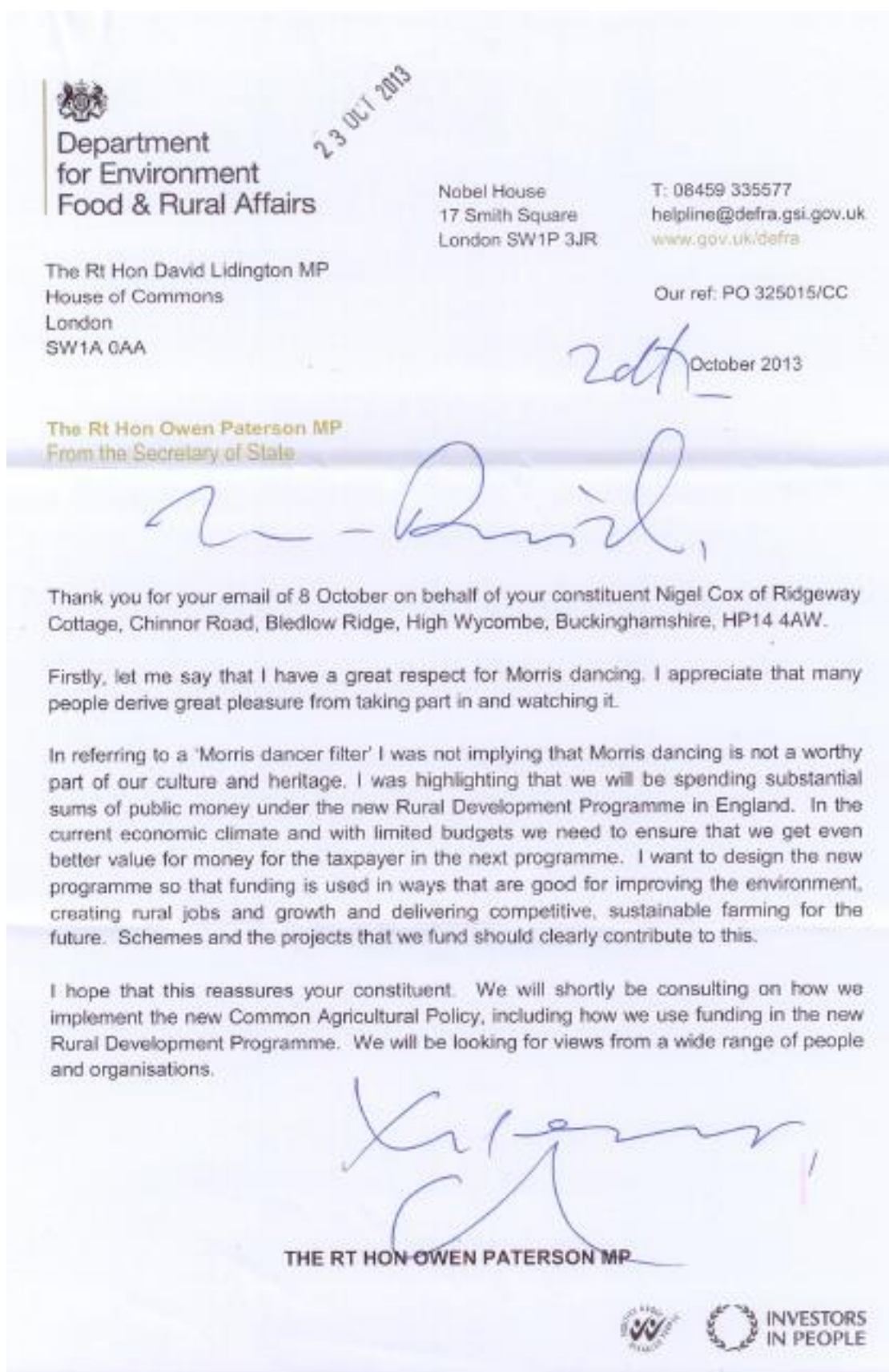
The 10,000+ Morris dancers in this country of all ages and from a wide range of backgrounds, both rural and urban, receive no funding from either the UK government or the EU subsidy in pursuance of our minority sport. We feel that Morris dancing is an important part of our British heritage and that this term sheds a negative light on an activity which is enjoyed by a large number of people, causes no environmental damage and is often in support of charitable causes. The level of commitment given at very short notice by many dance teams to the Olympic Park entertainment programme in support of the British economy in 2012 was a shining example of this. Our hobby should not be devalued in this way. Please would you find another term to promote your better use of UK Government/EU subsidy? An apology for what may at best have been a clumsy choice of words would seem appropriate.

Yours sincerely,

Julia Catovsky  
Secretary Treacle Eater Clog



Nigel Cox, of Whitchurch Morris, actually received a reply to their letter:



## Squire's Massed Dances for 2014

This marks no change from 2013 as the Squire is content that this pool of commonly practiced dances has allowed the construction a varied and interesting programme of massed dances with which to intersperse the individual side performances. The uniform, almost regimented, displays performed by dozens of different Morris groups in as near symmetry as possible have passed but the public love massed displays. *The concept of there being a right or wrong way of performing any dance or tradition has been replaced by sides adding their own slant or interpretation to their performance. :*

<b>ADDERBURY</b>	Lads a-Bunchum	Constant Billy
<b>BAMPTON</b>	Banbury Bill/Rose Tree	Maid of the Mill
<b>BLADINGTON</b>	Ildbury Hill	Young Collins
<b>BRACKLEY</b>	Jockey to the Fair	
<b>BUCKNELL</b>	Queen's Delight	
<b>FIELDTOWN</b>	The Valentine	Balance the Straw
<b>HEADINGTON QUARRY</b>	Constant Billy	Laudnum Bunches
<b>LICHFIELD</b>	Vandals of Hammerwich	



## News from the Sides

### Saiorse Ronan in film without The Men of Sweyn's Ey.

In July 2012, the Men of Sweyn's Ey, supported by Isca Morris Men, were asked to dance for one scene in the film "How I live now". This is based on the book by Meg Rosoff, and stars the delightful Saiorse Ronan. She plays a young lady adrift in a dystopian England as World War 3 breaks out. It also includes the young lady who is the voice of Peppa Pig.

We passed quickly through costume (none needed) and make up (none needed) and as it was raining, were obliged to visit the local hostelry until after lunch, when the rain almost stopped. The scene is the biggest in the filming, a fete in a small town in England. We think that we were there to add credence to this, as it was actually Llandovery.

Others have doubtless experienced filming. We were on set for about two hours, and did the same dance thirteen times. It was then dropped from our repertoire for the rest of the summer. One entertaining point was when an elderly local lady inadvertently strolled across the set.

After the filming, several of us read the book to try to understand both how morris men and men with green faces fitted into the story. We were no wiser. The film was released at the beginning of October, and our film buff went to watch it, again to try to clarify how we fitted in. We didn't. The scene including us failed to make it to the final version.

Never mind, we had a pleasant day out, and it was interesting to see how a film production company works.

Keith Lascelles Men of Sweyn's Ey



### From Letchworth Morris Men

"We're currently teaching both men and lady members of a local amateur dramatic club to perform shortened versions of two dances that they will be incorporating in their autumn production of "Er Excuse Me" and Alan Ayckbourn's "Gosforth's Fete" at Stotfold, Bedfordshire. After just a couple of lessons they mastered the basics of Adderbury 'Shooting' (the men) and Abingdon 'Princess Royal' (the ladies), as taught to us by the late great Morris Sunderland.

We're hoping that some of the men will come to our practice evenings and eventually join LMM as full members.

We're also planning a series of musician's evenings, where musicians of any ability and any instrument can gather, outside of normal practice nights, to learn specifically the tunes we use or will use in the forthcoming season. This initiative is aimed at getting more varied music within the side, and helping to retain older members who find dancing increasingly difficult.

Theo Thomas Bagman, Letchworth Morris Men



**From Woodside:** *An ongoing project at Woodside Morris has been the notation of our own repertoire of dances - so that they may hopefully be included in a Morris Ring book of contemporary dance. This project is nearly completed. A less arduous task but one which is equally dear to our hearts (and stomachs) is the writing out of the famous shepherd's pie recipe. And what more opportune time for this esteemed document than 2014 - the occasion of our 30th annual ale. Held every February, and now in its established home of Sarratt Village Hall, the Ale is the highlight of our close season and takes place just yards from our new Boxing Day spot at the Cricketers pub. But the alehouse is relegated to a mere bystander as men from all over the region, and beyond, descend on the Hertfordshire village on a dark (and often snowy) Friday night. Inside is warmth, laughter, music and dance. And home-made shepherd's pie. Now, 30 years on, the welcome is as warm as ever - except to any health and safety bod who might wonder about the average morris man's ability to cook a pie. Well we have documentary evidence. The quality is assured. What can go wrong? Come along and find out. No wait a minute.... anyway... get in touch with Nick, chief pie taster, at [bagman@woodsidemorrismen.com](mailto:bagman@woodsidemorrismen.com)*



**Martlet Morris Festival - Chichester 5<sup>th</sup> - 7<sup>th</sup> July 2013**

"60 Years with bells on" Martlet have produced a DVD with 570 photographs and a Video on covering the whole meeting. These are available at £5.00 each or £8.00 for both of them. Contact Peter Davey ASAP at

[festivaldirector-martletmorrismen@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:festivaldirector-martletmorrismen@hotmail.co.uk)





40th Anniversary Year 21<sup>st</sup> - 22<sup>nd</sup> December 2013

### Strictly No Whooping!

This year has seen The World Famous Ashdown Mummers celebrate their 40th anniversary. Whilst acknowledging that traditions have to develop and move with the times, their emphasis has always been on local traditional performances in their local area. Whilst being known internationally for their Sussex Mummer's play just before each Christmas, they have so far marked their 40th season with days of Sussex men's dances in the Ashdown Forest area in June, and Border dances in pubs around Shrewsbury and Much Wenlock in August.

The Ashdown Mummers first performed their Sussex Mummer's play after a copy of a script was discovered in the old East Grinstead library. Members of Ashdown Forest Morris Men and friends performed the play in various pubs in and around East Grinstead just before Christmas 1973, and have performed the play every year since on the last weekend before Christmas. A dance was added to the play, and this led to regular performances of less usual dances, including dances in strictly traditional Border Morris from 1977. The men take pride in their attitude to the dancing which differs from many groups because of their focus on keeping to the collected versions of the dances, i.e. no fancy costumes, no unnecessary fancy movements, and above all no whooping!

During a dancing tour of Scotland, having then performed in more than one country, the title "World Famous" was bestowed on the men by the (now defunct) Lothian Morris Men, and ever since they have been known as "The World Famous Ashdown Mummers"



(see <http://www.mummers.org.uk/> ). The men have also featured on CNN Worldwide News, had a Guardian Theatre Review of their own, been one of the ten things to do at Christmas in the Sunday Times, and had numerous other mentions in the press and media; all of which validate the title.

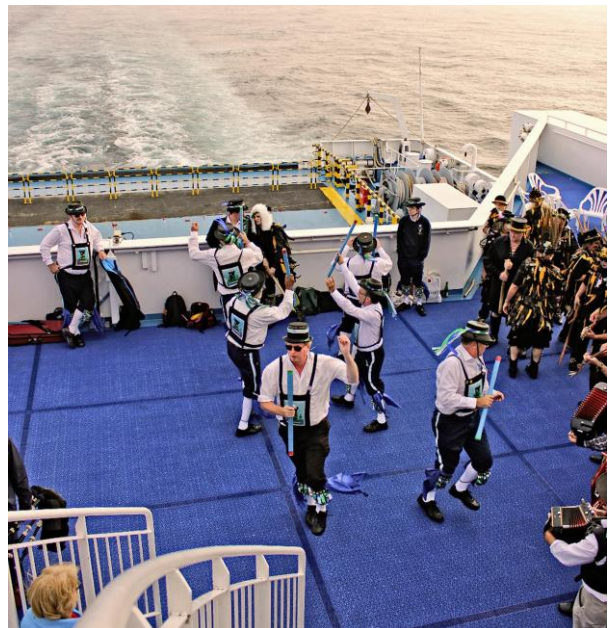
Details of this year's Sussex Mummer's play venues in the Ashdown Forest area on 21/22 December will be announced at the start of the month. For more information please contact Paul Carey on 07904 269 495 or on [paul.carey@afmm.org.uk](mailto:paul.carey@afmm.org.uk)



### **Plymouth Morris trip to Brest 26<sup>th</sup>- 29<sup>th</sup> September 2013**

Plymouth Morris Men were among the 160 people invited to Brest to help celebrate the 50th anniversary on the Plymouth - Brest twinning link.

Plymouth Morris Men dancing on the rear deck of the ferry 'Armorique' to an appreciative if sometimes bemused audience of both travellers and crew.



Geoff Thompson a founder member of **Packington Morris Men** is reviewing the side's scrapbook and creating a digital copy. If you have any pictures of Packington over their 38 year history he would be delighted to hear from you.

[geoffthompson1046@gmail.com](mailto:geoffthompson1046@gmail.com)





**Contact information:** As we are in the midst of AGM time please ensure that you let us know if you elect (or press-gang) new officers and check & change your Morris Ring *Find a Side* Entry. Remember that as well as your side's location, website address (where published) and contact name and phone number, we have now added the contact e-mail address we have been given for the Bagman.

Recommendation: We strongly suggest that each side creates g a generic "bagman@sidename.web address". This has the twin advantages of anonymity plus as ease of administration (for you and for the Morris Ring) where post holders change.

Click here <<http://www.themorrisring.org/find-side>> and follow the instructions, to check your side's entry.



**Stewarding and road-closures.** Please re-read the information from the JMO and Chris Gigg of Dolphin MM's suggestion concerning this contained in Newsletter No 84. This is not an issue simply for the few high-profile procession event as it will



impact upon more and more Morris sides, festivals and similar events across the land as both councils and police forces are required to save money. The key point is that the responsibility burden for safety is being placed increasingly on the organisers of these events.

**Available on loan:** The Morris Ring has its own supply of very smart high viz waist coats with the Morris Ring logo and the words 'Event Marshal'. These are currently lodged with The Morris Shop and are for the use of ALL member and associate sides.



**Children in Need.** As a result of the joint efforts of sides belonging to the three Morris orgs in 2012 Pudsey Bear was presented with a cheque for £10,000 by Peter Halfpenney on behalf of the Joint Morris Organisations. The money had been collected by Morris dancing sides from all over the country during the past year."



Further details of the 2013 Morris appeal and how to contribute can be found on the Morris Ring Website at [www.themorrisring.org.uk](http://www.themorrisring.org.uk).

Please do pay any monies collected, or donations made, into this dedicated account rather than donating directly through the BBC Pudsey process. The money will obvious end up in the same place but we would like to publically mark the joint efforts all Morris sides across the country with a cheque for one huge sum.

We are aware that sides already raise vast sums for their own charities but all we are asking is that every member group of each of the three Morris Organisations were to get involved and make a donation ..... Please try.



**Morris Shop.** As you know, Steve BfB Adamson is about to retire from



behind his shop counter and we have been advertising for someone to take over the reins. It has become obvious that the scale of the job has deterred potential successors. In view of this it has been suggested that we will reduce the stock the shop deals with to essential items only: bells, handkerchiefs and long white socks plus the black & blue books. So, with only this limited stock to manage and reorder, might you, or a member of your side, consider taking on the role? If you or someone you know would like further information about this slimmed down role please contact Stephen Adamson ASAP.

[sadamsonbfb@outlook.com](mailto:sadamsonbfb@outlook.com)

## **Catalogue Feasts, Weekends and Days of Dance**

This project, undertaken at the request of the Squire Robin Springett, has failed to produce the hoped-for deluge of information. I asked for outline details / dates of the Feasts, Weekends and Days of Dance & other events that Morris Ring sides regularly organise. Robin would like to have compiled a list or catalogue that could be used by all for propaganda or publicity purposes (for example the number of sides who are performing on a particular day or date across the country) or simply to help to prevent avoidable clashes of events. Information please to [bagman@themorrisring.org](mailto:bagman@themorrisring.org)

Information received so far includes:

**Taunton Deane Morris** are planning our 40th anniversary year starting in April 2014. We've a ceilidh in June at Halsway Manor and we intend to hire a large horse drawn cart for a romp around some local villages with plenty of dancing.



### **Saturday 19<sup>th</sup> July Chapel-en-le-Frith Day of Dance 2014**

We will be holding our annual Day of Dance in conjunction with the Buxton Festival Fringe on Saturday 19 July 2014. Dancing takes place in various venues in Buxton all within walking distance. There are numerous pubs, cafes and take-aways for refreshment. We are limited to sixteen sides for logistical reasons and details will be sent out shortly to all those sides who have attended previously or have expressed an interest. Further information can be found on our website <http://www.jingle.plus.com/> or by contacting Will at [willgnew@gmail.com](mailto:willgnew@gmail.com).

**Saturday 19<sup>th</sup> July Victory Morris Day of Dance** around Portsmouth - it will be invitation only at this stage. Barni Fry, Victory Treasurer



**19<sup>th</sup> - 21<sup>st</sup> September 2014 Rutland Morris 40th Anniversary Year - Weekend of Dance**



## Might your side or area copy this initiative?

### The Great Eastern Morris Workshop - 7 September 2013

On the morning of Saturday 7 September nine young Morris dancers stepped into Mayfield Primary School hall in Cambridge. Of the nine, six were aged between thirteen and sixteen and three between eighteen and twenty. Already members of Morris Ring sides in the east of England and each with at least two years dancing experience, several with much more, they were keen to meet each other and extend their experience of Morris in the company of others of their own age-group.

The workshop was led by Past Squire of the Morris Ring, Mike Garland of East Suffolk MM, with a challenging programme for the day.

By the end of the day all were agreed that we had achieved our primary goal: *"to develop friendship and mutual support in a cohort of boys and young men that can perform together and become a beacon for prospective dancers of a similar age"*.

If proof were needed of this, the very next day Kemp's Men of Norwich and Peterborough Morris joined with The King's Men for their annual walking tour of Thornham. Five of the workshop participants were present and had soon augmented their number into a set of six to dance Bledington Cuckoo's Nest, Headington 29th of May and Ravensthorpe Shepherds Hey to an enthusiastic reception by audience and other dancers.

The next week saw Kemp's Men and Rutland Morris Men tour the Bittern Heritage Railway Line into Norwich. The Eastern Daily Press quoted Peter Mayne of Kemp's Men: *"One of the great high points .... was that we had some young people with us - a 14-year-old and a couple of 16-year-olds who recently went on a Morris dancing weekend away in Cambridgeshire and were able to come back to show what they had learned."*

If you have been inspired by this example please contact Mike Stevens, MR Eastern Area Rep, who along with Graham Cox or Mike Jones, was the driving force behind this initiative. He will happily share their experience of working through the necessary organisational stuff, including the important Child Protection issues. Remember that subject to the obvious safeguards being in place the Morris Ring is looking to financially support such initiatives.



## Archives What should the Morris Ring keep, where and how?



In Newsletter No 84 I asked that all sides who keep an archive contact the Morris Ring archivist [chrismetherell@googlemail.com](mailto:chrismetherell@googlemail.com) to let him know how you are going about this task, where it is stored and how others can access the information therein contained. Eight months later, to the best of my knowledge this appeal has far fallen on deaf ears.

We really want to know what you, members of our constituent sides, think about this - and what you are currently doing with your own archive materials. Please share your good ideas with Chris and send any materials for the archive to the appropriate individual:

Archive Group Chairman

Chris Metherell [chrismetherell@googlemail.com](mailto:chrismetherell@googlemail.com)

Morris Ring Archivist & Keeper of Paper Archive

Geoff Douglas [geoffdouglas@hotmail.com](mailto:geoffdouglas@hotmail.com)

Keeper of the Mumming Archive

Ron Shuttleworth [mumminguk@mail.com](mailto:mumminguk@mail.com)

Keeper of the Photograph Archive

Duncan Broomhead [duncan.broomhead@btopenworld.com](mailto:duncan.broomhead@btopenworld.com)

Keeper of the Sword Dance Archive

*Situation vacant*

Keeper of the Sound Archive

Andy Padmore [andy.padmore@ntlworld.com](mailto:andy.padmore@ntlworld.com)

New Dance Collator

Lester Bailey [lester.bailey@gmail.com](mailto:lester.bailey@gmail.com)

Scrapbook Keeper

Cliff Marchant [cliffmarchant@btinternet.com](mailto:cliffmarchant@btinternet.com)

Logbook Keeper

Charlie Corcoran [charliecorcoran7@ntlworld.com](mailto:charliecorcoran7@ntlworld.com)





1513. "It. payed for a hope (hoop) for the joyaunt and  
for ale to the Moreys dawnc's on the dedi-  
cacon day iij<sup>d</sup>."

Kennet Morris Men felt Reading St Lawrence's Churchwarden records for the year 1513 could not go unrecognised. The dedication day of 10<sup>th</sup> August - St Lawrence's feast day (or St Laurence's Church as it is now known) conveniently fell on a Saturday and we were able to celebrate the event exactly 500 years to the day. In preparation for the anniversary, a "Redding Moreys Dauncers" was formed by the Kennet Morris Men, dressed in authentic Tudor costume created for the occasion, performing dances reconstructed by Steve Rowley, an expert on dances of the period, and a past Kennet man.

We were joined by local sides Aldbrickham Clog, Borderline, Icknield Way, Garston Gallopers, Mayflower, OBJ, Shinfield Shambles and Yateley Morris Men.



The day began at 11:00am outside St Laurence's Church with a welcome by The Deputy Mayor of Reading Councillor Tony Jones in the presence of Robin Springett, Squire of the Morris Ring, followed by dancing by Kennet & Redding Moreys. St Laurence's Bell Ringers joined the celebrations with a peal or two. The medieval side repaired to The George (the only building of the era) where ale was ceremoniously purchased for 3 old pence!

Sides performed on the hour from 12:00 until 3:00pm for about half an hour dancing at each of 4 spots - The Forbury Gardens, Broad Street (the performance area nearest to The Ale House), The Market Place and St Mary's Church precinct.

The day concluded at 4:00 pm inside St Laurence's Church with a well-attended Redding Moreys instructional passing down their ideas of medieval dance to wind up a thoroughly enjoyable, and sunny, day.

Pete de Courcy





## Sidmouth FolkWeek 1<sup>st</sup>-8<sup>th</sup> August 2014

Celebrating its 60<sup>th</sup> year and *your festival* in style

So...it's the big one! **Sidmouth FolkWeek** holds its 60<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Festival from 1<sup>st</sup>-8<sup>th</sup> August 2014 and plans are already well underway for making it a bumper birthday celebration. Some exciting extra special events are in the offing to mark the Diamond Jubilee year as well as significant plans for the future.

The festival, in its worlds-within-worlds diversity, is so special to so many people in so many different ways. Some come for the concerts, some for the dancing, some for the tradition, some for the family events, some for the participation, some for the unexpected...and on it goes. As such, you can expect **a whole series of 60<sup>th</sup> birthday events** marking all the **different aspects of the festival**, from the very local to the world-wide stage, from the essence of grass roots tradition to top line headliners, storytelling names from past and present, vintage ceilidh bands and some social dance specials....watch this space!

**Sidmouth FolkWeek** has been a cause for celebration for festival-goers for many years - in terms of the music and festival experience on offer, the colourful, welcoming atmosphere and the stunning setting of the town itself. From its early incarnation as an EFDSS dance event in 1955 through its heady international days of dance displays and now, back to the heart of high-quality music, dance and song, Sidmouth has always offered the very finest festival holiday. People have grown up within the festival and with the festival as a constant; it has provided so many life-changing experiences. We would love to hear **your stories about your festival**.

For more details, visit [www.sidmouthfolkweek.co.uk](http://www.sidmouthfolkweek.co.uk)





Spotted by Bill Aldridge, of Stockport MM,  
who saw this on a District Line underground train.



## Fools & Beasts Unconvention 2013



Fools and Beasts from sides drawn from all three of the Morris Organisations assembled for the new traditional annual gathering - this year on 25<sup>th</sup> - 27<sup>th</sup> October and based at the 142nd Fulwood Scout Hut in Sheffield. This event provides a unique opportunity for this rather specialist sub-group of Morris enthusiasts to exchange ideas and experiences ranging from the design and

construction of a beast to methods of engaging with an audience that will entertain while not detracting from the performance of the Morris. It was a wonderful weekend - and I would like to publically thank Robert Chisman, Scrivener and Convenor of the group, who works tirelessly on our behalf.

If you are a Fool or a Beast, or would like to know more about how these characters can add to the public spectacle of a Morris performance do get in touch with Robert via [triggertrotter1@aol.com](mailto:triggertrotter1@aol.com) or visit the website <http://www.foolsandbeasts.org.uk/> where there is a mass of information and links.

*The Unconvention in 2014 will be held in Cornwall.*

## MORRIS RING PUBLICATIONS

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### ☺ On-line Links:



The main MR website with millions of pages stuffed to the gunnels with all you need to know about the MR:

<http://www.themorrisring.org/>

The Morris Ring Google Group (MRGG). Private Forum for debate or announcements.

*Contact Morris Ring Bagman to register to use.*

<http://groups.google.com/group/the-morris-ring?hl=en&pli=1>

Morris Ring Facebook site: <http://www.facebook.com/pages/The-Morris-Ring/158759257502840>

Morris Ring Twitter: <http://twitter.com/#!/TheMorrisRing>



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 - and let the Bagman of the Morris Ring have details for the Newsletter.



**1<sup>st</sup> – 3<sup>rd</sup> Nov 2013** 18-30s Weekend  
Hosted by Whitchurch MM at Haddenham



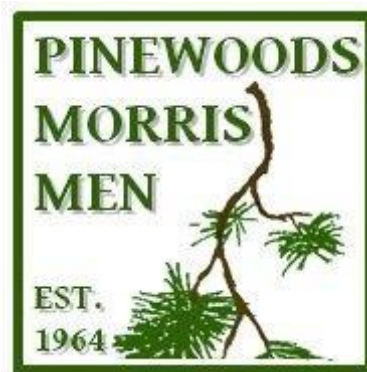
Morris 18-30 provides a network for young Morris Men. Its primary activity is to organise an annual weekend, hosted by a Morris Ring side, to which all young Morris Men are invited. Morris 18-30 also seeks to represent the views of all young Morris Men.

Further information about Morris 18-30 and the 2013 weekend visit:  
[www.morris1830.org.uk](http://www.morris1830.org.uk)



### **The Pinewoods Morris Men's 50th Anniversary**

"The Pinewoods Morris Men came together in August, 1964, at Pinewoods Camp in Plymouth, Massachusetts. We were formed at the urging of Nibs Matthews, who had seen American Morris dancers for the first time the previous year, when he and his wife Jean were on the Pinewoods dance staff. What he saw were men from several different parts of the country who could put together a respectable demonstration team for the weeks' events. He was impressed enough to recommend that, during the coming year, we should work out a set of bye-laws for a national organization of male Morris dancers, on the pattern of English sides and of the Morris Ring. If we could do that, and if, on his subsequent visit the following year, we could continue to present an acceptable level of dancing, he would use his influence to submit our request to become the first Morris side outside the UK to be accepted into the Ring.



We did, and he did, and here we are. For the first ten or fifteen years of our existence, we had two personalities. First, we were an umbrella group for all male Morris dancers in the US and Canada, so that at places like Pinewoods we could come together and dance as part of the same team. Second, we provided an identity for dancers in the larger cities, such as



Boston and New York, where there were enough men to practice and dance out more often.

In 1966, Tom Kruskal, then a young Harvard undergraduate, persuaded the Boston members to organize the first Fall Tour, modelled after those he had seen when visiting England earlier that year. Originally a gathering of Boston and New York dancers, it has become a permanent fixture in our dancing season.

By the mid-1970s, other Morris teams were being organized (many by Pinewoods men), and the umbrella function became less and less needed. For the past 30 years or so, we have been a cohesive side based in the Boston (Mass, not Lincs) area. Like any side, we've had our ups and downs, but with a number of new young dancers in recent years (including our dynamic Squire, Natty Smith), we're on a roll.

We've decided to celebrate our milestone with events throughout the year, including two that involve the UK. If any side is planning, or could plan, a visit to the US between now and next August, come to Boston and we'll organize a tour.

We are also planning to bring a side to England next year, probably in June or early July. We hope to meet some of our old friends and make some new ones.

Martin Graetz

They are angling for an invitation! Please contact their Bagman, Martin Graetz, [jmgraetz@ttwriter.com](mailto:jmgraetz@ttwriter.com) if there are events they might take part in. We will have travel dates firmed up in the next month or so.



## Folk archives on BBC Radio

"England's vast wealth of folk music heritage has finally been put online. Named 'The Full English', it includes rare archives found in the basement of EGDSS's Cecil Sharp House and a dozen other collections. Songs that haven't been heard for a hundred years are now being sung again and are already inspiring a new generation of musical writers and artists. Our guide to the remarkable 'The Full English' collection is John Kirkpatrick, one of the giants of the British folk scene and BBC Radio 2 Folk Musician of 2010. <http://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/b0383vyr>

English Folk Dance and Song Society librarian Malcolm Taylor has gathered together manuscripts of early 20th century songs that were once scattered across the country and placed them on one searchable internet portal. These are songs collected in the early 20th century by the likes of Cecil Sharp, Vaughan Williams and Percy Grainger who set out, notebook in hand, to record the songs sung by ordinary folk up and down the country. Now a whole new wave of artists is clicking on to the digital archives. Singer Billy Bragg has previously used them for his own musical inspiration and folk musicians Fay Hield, Nancy Kerr and Martin Simpson are now doing it too, as they create new music from old sources.

The programme also hears from playwrights Nell Leyshon and Lee Hall (of Billy Elliott fame) who have been drawn into an exploration of the ethics of how the songs were originally collected and published."

Thanks to Derek Schofield for drawing my attention to this - he comments that *"The programme may not have mentioned dance, but there is plenty of dance in the Full English - all of Sharp's morris, sword and traditional country dance collections, plus dance tunes, plus Maud Karpeles' dance collections, for example..."*.





## 2014 80<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Foundation of the Morris Ring

**17<sup>th</sup> -19<sup>th</sup> January 2014 MR Jigs Instructional**

Foreman & Director of Studies: Geoff Jerram (Winchester Morris Men)

Venue: Sutton Bonington, Nottinghamshire LE12 5NJ Cost £47 <sup>(1)</sup>

*The Morris Ring Jigs Instructional endeavours to inspire the confidence and ability to dance Cotswold Morris Jigs by giving a good basic grounding followed by detailed instruction. We run simultaneous streams for the relative novice and for the experienced dancer. There will also be sessions for beginners covering the basics of the Cotswold dance.*

*The streamed traditions are Bampton, Bledington, Fieldtown, and Sherborne, occupying the Saturday in four sessions of approx. 1½ hours each, plus selected jigs from other traditions on the Friday evening and Sunday morning and an opportunity to review.*

*(1) For your money you will receive indoor camping facilities including showers, food from Friday supper to Sunday lunch, beer for the Feast, instruction, good company, and a pub that's never heard of closing time.*

*(2) Discount: The cost is discounted for Ring Member club delegates who are attending for the first time (£10) or who attended for the first time in 2012 (£5).*

To apply, please send the application form included later in this Newsletter to Tony Foard (Jigs Instructional Bagman).



**7<sup>th</sup> - 9<sup>th</sup> March ARM Hosted by Hartley**

**St George's Hall, High Street, Wrotham, Kent TN15 7AB**

Founded in 1934 the Morris Ring provides much more than a few publications and a shop but too many people in our member sides are unaware of the fellowship and friendship that makes the Morris Ring tick. One thing is certain; just as we have changed over the past few years and must continue to change if we are to retain our position of influence in the Morris world. Those sides represented at the ARMs are central to this process. Please seriously consider sending representatives to this important event.

All booking & accommodation enquiries direct to Bagman for the A.R.M.  
Tony Tomlin - tonytomlin@aol.com 01622 685960

The meeting will be based in the historic village of Wrotham in North Kent. Wrotham is close to the junction of the M20 and M26 and has good public transport links via Borough Green or Meopham Stations and a hourly bus service in each direction. The weekend is centred on St Georges Hall where all the meals will be served.

**ACCOMMODATION** Indoor camping is provided in the Cricket Pavilion. This is a new building with two halls, separate officials' suite and 3 sets of showers some 250yds from St George's Hall. This will allow us to provide the choice of a quiet room and separate accommodation for women. There are several hotels and B&Bs in the area for those who prefer a proper bed and attend the ARM as Saturday Delegates. We can set up group bookings if required (please contact Tony), but you will have to book directly with the hotel, etc. There will be secure outdoor camping in the school grounds. There is on-street parking in the quiet roads near the Hall.

All the meetings and dance workshops will be held in the local primary school some 350 yards from St Georges Hall. The musicians workshop will be held in St Georges Hall.

There are 3 Real Ale pubs in Wrotham village (one suited for singing, one for music sessions and a quieter one) all within a few minutes' walk of each other, where delegates can socialise on Friday and Saturday evenings. Beer will also be on sale in the hall throughout the weekend.

## PRESENTATION AND WORKSHOPS

1. **Morris and Sword Dancing - an evaluation in the light of recent research.** *Presented by Brian Tasker (Past Squire of the MR) this presentation will be of interest to all those with an interest in the origins and development of the dances. It will include demonstrations to illustrate the points being made. There will be an opportunity for those attending to participate.*
2. **Melody, Rhythm and Dynamics in Music for Morris.** *"Do you think about how you will give the dancers the best, or are you just pleased to get to the end of the tune"? Presented by John Dewdney who has played and danced with the Broadwood Morris Men for many years.*

3. **Molly Dancing, Kentish style.** *Presented by The Seven Champions Molly Dancers. The Seven Champions are the inspiration behind most of today's Molly dance sides. Their style and expertise has set the standard for other sides to follow and develop. This is an opportunity to learn from the experts. (The Seven Champions will be attending the feast as guests of the Morris Ring.)*

## PROGRAMME

### Friday:

- 18.30 ARM Reception opens
- 19.00 The Bar opens for an informal evening with the opportunity for informal dancing in the Hall, visiting local pubs for singing, music and chat.
- 19.30 -21.00 Hot supper will be provided. With leftovers available for late comers.

### Saturday:

- 08.00 - 09.00 Full English Breakfast at St George's Hall
- 09.15 - 10.45 Presentation and Workshop:  
i. Cotswold & Sword at the School and  
ii. Music at the Hall
- 10.45 - 11.15 Coffee / Tea at School
- 11.15 - 12.00 Area Meetings
- 12.30 - 13.30 Buffet Lunch at St George's hall
- 13.45 - 15.45 Annual Representatives Meeting, including the election of the next Squire of the Morris Ring
- 15.45 - 16.15 Tea / Coffee and Cake at school and general discussion about the future of instructionals.
- 16.30 - 18.00 iii. Workshop: Molly dance (Seven Champions Molly)
- 16.30 - 18.00 Advisory Council Meeting [In room at school]
- 17.00 Dancing in Wrotham Square (in kit) and/or visit the pubs in the village, depending on the weather.
- 18.15 - 18.45 Dancing outside the Rose & Crown to be joined by the Seven Champions
- 19.00 FEAST at St George's Hall
- Post-feast: Go down the pubs or informal dancing in the Hall.

## **Sunday:**

08.00 - 09.00 Full English Breakfast and departure  
OR Dance by the Castle in Tonbridge (just 8 miles from Wrotham (close to A21/M25)), with invited local sides followed by Lunch and Session in pub.

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**13<sup>th</sup>-14<sup>th</sup> December 2013 Mummers Festival.** Gloucester Folk Museum, Gloucester. Mummers, guisers, hoodeners, howlers and soulers are all invited. Details on [www.mummersfestival.com](http://www.mummersfestival.com)

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**440<sup>th</sup> 4<sup>th</sup> - 6<sup>th</sup> April Devil's Dyke Morris Meeting** Venue: King's Ely

This promises to be a very special meeting. Accommodation will be in study bedrooms. And the Feast will be held in their 14th century monastic barn. The tours will cover the Cambridgeshire and Suffolk countryside, each visiting 5 pubs (showcasing a range of breweries and not just Greene King) and tea at a local National Trust property. On the Sunday morning there will be an optional service in Ely Cathedral followed by massed dancing on the large paved area outside the West door of the Cathedral. With a maximum of 120 places this will be one for early application.

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**Saturday 10<sup>th</sup> May JMO National Day of Dance** Hosted by the Cambridge Morris on behalf of the Morris Ring. Visit this historic and picturesque city and dance. Please put this event in your diary. Further information will be distributed nearer the date but as sides are allocated places pro-rata with the other members of the JMO expressions of interest to the Bagman of the Morris Ring a.s.a.p. on [Bagman@themorrisring.org](mailto:Bagman@themorrisring.org)

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**Saturday 17<sup>th</sup> May Midlands Regional JMO Day of Dance**

Hosted by Shakespeare Morris & two local Morris Fed sides.

The event is planned to coincide with the 1100th anniversary of the town of Warwick and will follow a similar format to the national JMO Day of Dance

but bringing together sides from the Midlands area. Numbers will be limited and shared pro rata between the 3 organisations, *this will result in 5 places being available for Morris Ring Sides*. Expressions of interest from sides within the Midlands region, please contact Pat Herlihy, Bagman of Shakespeare MM on [bagman@shakespearemorris.org.uk](mailto:bagman@shakespearemorris.org.uk)

**441<sup>st</sup> 30<sup>th</sup> May – 1<sup>st</sup> June Thaxted Morris Meeting**

This will follow the tried and tested format with tours around North-West Essex on Saturday followed by massed shows in Thaxted culminating with the Abbots Bromley Horn Dance. On Sunday there will be a Massed Show in the churchyard following the traditional church service.

The cost will again be in the region of £80 for the full weekend, day men are welcome. This is a men only weekend. Indoor and outdoor camping will be available but space is limited.

Apply to Ian Anderson (Bagman for the meeting) [Iandbanderson@btinternet.com](mailto:Iandbanderson@btinternet.com)



**442<sup>nd</sup> 22<sup>nd</sup>-24<sup>th</sup> August SADDLEWORTH RUSHCART 2014**  
**40<sup>th</sup> Annual Rushcart Festival**

Saddleworth Morris Men invite you to attend the Rushcart in 2014, which falls on the **Bank Holiday weekend of Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> August to Sunday 24<sup>th</sup> August**.

As you may know, 2014 is our 40<sup>th</sup> birthday as a side and also the 40<sup>th</sup> Saddleworth Rushcart, since we revived the local tradition after a 50 year break. We are delighted to be sharing our celebrations with the Morris Ring in its 80<sup>th</sup> year!

For the first time ever, the weekend will operate as a hosted meeting of Morris Ring Clubs but will still follow our tried and trusted format of the last 39 years. There will be NO feast, NO speeches, NO massed dancing, NO p.a. systems, NO bus tours. If you want all these things, this may not be the meeting for you....

There will however, be the usual enthusiastic & Morris savvy audiences in the local Saddleworth villages waiting for you to turn up and dance and a weekend spent in the beautiful Pennine countryside. The beer's pretty cheap as well.

The Friday evening is an informal beer, music & song session in the pubs of Uppermill. The 'Cart is then pulled around the villages of Saddleworth on the

Saturday with dance spots throughout the day. On Sunday morning the Rushcart is pulled up the hill to St. Chad's Church in Uppermill for the Rushcart service. This is the culmination of the Rushcart procession, where rushes are ceremonially spread on the Church floor as has been the custom in Saddleworth for centuries past. Throughout the Sunday afternoon all sides will dance and competitions such as Gurning, Wrestling, Clog Stepping & Worst Singer, will be held.

As in previous years, both indoor and outdoor camping will be available at a minimal cost over the weekend (approx. £5 per man/tent pitch at time of going to press). No other cost is charged by us, all we ask is that you buy your own food & drink over the weekend. A Morris weekend where you are in charge of how much you spend!

If your side would like to attend, or you would like to attend as reps, please get in touch ASAP. We would also like to hear from sides who would like to attend as day men for the Saturday/Sunday (or both if you are local!). For the sake of clarity, female musicians are welcome at Rushcart.

**We particularly would like to hear from sides who dance NorthWest as a main or second tradition. If you are secretly practicing a Colne, an Ashton or a Royton, this is your chance to put that hard work to good use!**

Our accommodation for visiting sides is limited, Saddleworth is after all a fairly small place. However, there are various options locally, including camping/caravan sites, B & B's, Hotels etc. details of which will be supplied to sides who are booked in to attend.

Apply to Eddie Worrall (Rushcart Secretary) [edworrall@gmail.com](mailto:edworrall@gmail.com)

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**443<sup>rd</sup> 5<sup>th</sup>-7<sup>th</sup> Sept.** Dartington Morris Meeting.

This time to be based in Dartmouth. The cost of £90 includes indoor camping at Dartmouth Academy (two local camp sites for those bringing their own tents/caravans), food on arrival; tours, all meals and the feast on Saturday; breakfast and a packed lunch Sunday. Friday evening, those attending will be encouraged to visit hostelryes in Dartmouth; on Saturday the feast is in the Academy Restaurant; Sunday we hope to include a visit to Britannia Royal Naval College. Open to sides with lady musicians. Numbers



limited to 120, and a maximum of 12 per side. Priority given to sides outside the South and West (Opportunity for local sides to tour on the Saturday). Apply to Iain Davison (Bagman for the Meeting): [iain.davison@data-harvest.co.uk](mailto:iain.davison@data-harvest.co.uk)



**We are still looking for sides to host meetings / events in 2015 and beyond. This is all we have so far:**

## **2015**

March ARM Hosted by TBA  
May 29<sup>th</sup> - May 31<sup>st</sup> Thaxted Morris Meeting

## **2016**

March ARM Hosted by TBA  
June 3<sup>rd</sup>-5<sup>th</sup> Thaxted Morris Meeting

## Oliver Simons (Peterborough Morris) is World Champion

The Morris Ring have a World Champion in its ranks: Oliver Simons is the 11 to 15 year old World Conker Champion for 2013.

The World Conker championship was re-launched earlier in 2013 under the direction of the enthusiastic Rob Stone and the event took place on Sunday 13th October at the Shuckborough Arms, Southwick, in Northamptonshire.



Oliver delivers a killer strike

Peterborough Morris was amongst those asked to provide entertainment for the competitors and supporters.

Oliver Simons aged 13 lives in Peterborough, attends The Thomas Deacon Academy and is the youngest member of Peterborough Morris Men. Whilst dancing for Peterborough, Oliver entered the Junior Competition and rose steadily through the knock out stages. Before Peterborough could begin their fourth set they witnessed Oliver get through the semi-finals and then the stage was set for him to appear in the main ring under the eyes of national newspapers and various television channels. Oliver defeated Louie



Oliver collects his trophy.

Ireland from Harlow to become 11 to 15 year old champion. Interviewed afterwards Oliver said "I cannot believe I am world champion".

Peterborough Morris hope to dance at next year's championship with Oliver there to defend his title.

Neil Costello Bagman Peterborough Morris





**Melodeon Making course** Alan Balding (of Wyvern Jubilee Morris Men) & Emmanuel Pariselle are planning a melodeon making course in Somerset in May 2014. Limited to 10 people, closing date October 2013 (parts have to be ordered). For more information contact [alanbalding@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:alanbalding@yahoo.co.uk)



A personal Thank You to all those sides who helped Leicester Morris celebrate our 60<sup>th</sup> Jubilee over 2013 and especially in September.

It has been suggested that the Morris Ring might have a new Logo for use in 2014 - our 80<sup>th</sup> Anniversary year. If you have an idea for a design - that could be used on posters and letterheads to temporarily replace our usual one please send your suggestion to the Squire.



Please visit the Morris Histories page on Google and check the information about your side - and if your side is not included please add it. This is intended to be a straightforward list of Morris sides or groups of all descriptions, both existing and defunct, from anywhere in the world. Cut and paste this address or follow the link on the Morris Ring website.  
<https://docs.google.com/spreadsheet/ccc?key=0AvW7D0dGkBaXcDhvTjlzdI9ISEFRT0Q0TjJCNGZzQXc#gid=0>  
*I would add that you can also add whether your side has a Fool or Beast!*

Bagmen (of both genders - because *Bag ladies* has so many other connotations) PLEASE share the news and information in this Newsletter with the members of your side.

- You might have the ideal candidate for one of the job vacancies;
- It is vital that every member of every side is aware of our responsibilities in the changing world of Stewarding and Road closures - even if it is simply that you partially block a thoroughfare for 5 minutes while you perform;
- All need to know how much was raised for Children in Need last year and that the Morris Ring along with our Open Morris and Morris Federation colleagues are continuing our Children in Need Appeal this year.

Please support the limited number of instructionals (perhaps more accurately described as 'workshops' these days?) and meeting planned for 2014 and very seriously consider acting as host for something in 2015 or beyond. You will appreciate that at this moment, after 2014, the only planned meetings will take place in Thaxted. These things take some time to plan and organise but there are a lot of sides and individuals with the experience and enthusiasm to advise and support you. Remember that the format of the event, and the sides who attend, is up to the host side - it does not have to be a full weekend, it can be a day with no feast or accommodation. It could be an event that you have organised for years that is simply designated as a Morris Ring numbered event so if you would like more information, or to discuss an idea, please get in touch with me.

And finally, to save your frustration when you do not get action or a reply, please do not use my @nasuwt.net & @longslade.leics.sch.uk email addresses. I no longer work at Longslade College and the @NASUWT email system is changing in the near future. Please only use only use [bagman@themorrisring.org](mailto:bagman@themorrisring.org) or [charliecorcoran7@ntlworld.com](mailto:charliecorcoran7@ntlworld.com).

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Charlie". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long, sweeping underline that extends to the right.

Bagman of the Morris Ring

## THE MORRIS RING - ANNUAL REPRESENTATIVES' MEETING 2014

**DATES:** Friday 7<sup>th</sup> to Sunday 9<sup>th</sup> March 2014  
**VENUE:** St George's Hall, High Street, Wrotham, Kent TN15 7AB.  
**HOSTS:** The Hartley Morris Men  
**WEBSITE** [www.hartleyringmeeting.org](http://www.hartleyringmeeting.org) (more and updated information and a download form)

**YOU WILL NEED:** Kit for the feast & dancing, Tankard, Indoor camping equipment etc.

**BAGMAN FOR THE WEEKEND:** Tony Tomlin, Hartley Morris Men  
**email:** [tonytomlin@aol.com](mailto:tonytomlin@aol.com) **Tel:** 01622 685960  
**address:** 39 College Road, Maidstone, Kent ME15 6SX

Please complete the form below and send it to the address above, with full payment, by 1<sup>st</sup> February 2014. Cheques to be made payable to **Hartley Morris Men**.

Any late bookings will be subject to a **LATE BOOKING FEE OF £10 PER PERSON**.

Confirmation & Directions will be emailed to the Contacts Named unless otherwise specified.

### **BOOKING FORM – ARM 2014**

**Name of Side:** .....

**Contact Name(s):** .....

**Tel No:** ..... **Email:** (or send SAE) .....

<b>Full Weekend</b> - Friday evening to Sunday am (All meals & Fri. and Sat. night accommodation)	No of Delegates Male .....@ £48.00 =	<input type="text" value="£"/>
	Female .....@ £48.00 =	
<b>Saturday ARM</b> - Saturday to Sunday am (Meals & Saturday night accommodation)	No of Delegates Male.....@ £38.00 =	<input type="text" value="£"/>
	Female .....@ £38.00 =	
<b>Saturday ARM - including feast</b> (No accommodation)	No of Delegates .....@ £32.00 =	<input type="text" value="£"/>
<b>Saturday ARM - excluding feast</b> (No accommodation)	No of Delegates .....@ £10.00 =	<input type="text" value="£"/>
<b>Feast only</b>	No of Delegates .....@ £22.00 =	<input type="text" value="£"/>
<b>ARM only -</b> (no meals)	No of Delegates .....@ Free =	<input type="text" value="£ NIL"/>
<b>TOTAL</b>		<input type="text" value="£"/>

Please specify number of non-alcohol drinkers .....

Please specify how many delegates require vegetarian meals .....

Other dietary requirements, please specify .....

Number of Caravans, Campervans or Tents, please specify .....

Please specify numbers interested in the Presentations and Workshops?  
Morris and Sword.....OR Musicians..... AND Kentish Molly Dance.....

Would you like to join us for a dance display and session on Sunday (see overleaf) .....Y/N



# The Morris Ring – Jigs Instructional

*Foreman & Director of Studies*  
**Geoff Jerram** (Winchester Morris Men)

**Location** Village Hall, Sutton Bonington, Nottinghamshire LE12 5NJ  
**Dates** 17th -19th January, 2014  
**Cost** £47 – see note below on the discount plan

The Morris Ring Jigs Instructional endeavours to inspire the confidence and ability to dance Cotswold Morris Jigs by giving a good basic grounding followed by detailed instruction. We run simultaneous streams for the relative novice and for the experienced dancer. **There will also be sessions for beginners covering the basics of the Cotswold dance.**

The streamed traditions are Bampton, Bledington, Fieldtown, and Sherborne, occupying the Saturday in four sessions of approx. 1½ hours each, plus selected jigs from other traditions on the Friday evening and Sunday morning and an opportunity to review. More information on the weekend and the streams will follow with the Joining Instructions.

**Discount:** The cost is discounted for Ring Member club delegates who are attending for the first time (£10) or who attended for the first time in 2012 (£5). To claim the discount please indicate below and **pay in full**. The Ring Treasurer will send the appropriate subsidy to your club for those eligible after the event.

For your money you will receive indoor camping facilities including showers, food from Friday supper to Sunday lunch, beer for the Feast, instruction, good company, and a pub that's never heard of closing time.

To apply, please send the attached slip to

**Tony Foard** (*Jigs Instructional Bagman*), 33 Cunningham Drive, Bromborough, Wirral, Cheshire CH63 0JX  
or copy and send as an email attachment (address below). The application *must* be accompanied by payment in full. You may pay by

- Electronic transfer to: Sort Code 07-02-46, Account No. 03105973 *(the preferred method)*  
quoting your **club name** as the reference
- or, by cheque (**club name on reverse, please**) payable to Anthony Foard

If you have any queries, please email Tony at [jigsinstructional@themorrisring.org](mailto:jigsinstructional@themorrisring.org) or telephone 0151 334 4566.

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**The Morris Ring Jigs Instructional 17<sup>th</sup> - 19<sup>th</sup> January, 2014**  
**PLEASE USE BLOCK CAPITALS THROUGHOUT**

Club Name \_\_\_\_\_ Bagman/Correspondent \_\_\_\_\_  
Address \_\_\_\_\_  
E-mail \_\_\_\_\_ Tel \_\_\_\_\_

I have sent payment of £ \_\_\_\_\_ at £47 per man

- electronically, quoting my Club name as reference
- quoting my Club name on the enclosed cheque *(delete as appropriate)*

Name of delegate	Dietary needs	Claiming discount (state 1 <sup>st</sup> or 2 <sup>nd</sup> timer)



**SQUIRE:** Robin Springett, Calpe Villa, 57, Seymour Drive, Dartmouth,  
Devon TQ6 9GE. Tel 01803 832062

Email: springettrobin@googlemail.com

**BAGMAN:** Charlie Corcoran, 70, Greengate Lane, Birstall,  
Leicestershire, LE4 3DL. Tel: 01162 675654

Email: bagman@themorrisring.org

**TREASURER:** Steve Archer, 28 The Glade, Fetcham, Surrey,  
KT22 9TH. Tel: 01372 454024

Email: treasurer@barwick-green.co.uk

November 2013

Dear \_\_\_\_\_

## **Individual Morris Ring Publication Subscriptions** **renewal or initial application for 2014**

- A. ☐ Morris Circular [Spring, Summer, Autumn].. ..... £ 7.00 per annum
- B. ☐ Newsletter [periodical]..... £11.00 per annum
- C. ☐ Combined Morris Circulars & Newsletters..... £17.00 per annum

**Please 'X' the appropriate box to indicate your subscription level and complete below**

**Name**.....

**Morris Side (Optional)**.....

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Please make your cheque payable to '**The Morris Ring**' and send the same, with this completed form, to me at the address shown above.

Many thanks

Steven Archer  
Morris Ring Treasurer

