



**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:** Steven Archer, 28 The Glade, Fetcham, Surrey,  
KT22 9TH. Tel: 01372 454024  
Email: treasurer1934@barwick-green.co.uk

**Newsletter No. 87**

**December 2013**



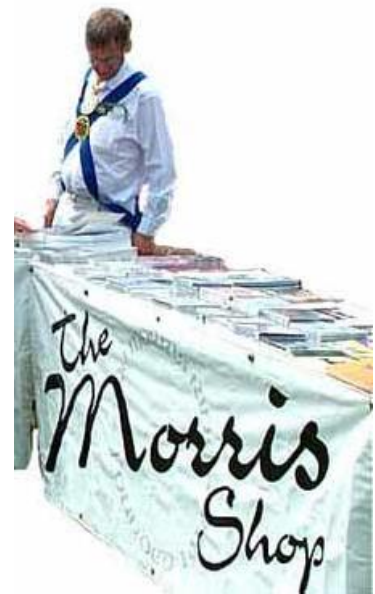
**Stephen Adamson 1955 - 2013**

Photo from the Morris Ring Photographic Archive taken by Donald Reid at Thaxted 2013

The Morris Ring is the National Association of Men's Morris and Sword Dance Clubs

Steve BFB Adamson, all round good bloke, Keeper of the Morris Shop, Ex Treasurer of the Morris Ring, skilled whistle / pipe player for Boar's Head Morris, Great Yorkshire Morris, Green Oak and Jockey Morris or simply as Steve Adamson, died of bronchial pneumonia on Sunday 1<sup>st</sup> December.

Steve's funeral will be held at 2.40pm on Friday 13<sup>th</sup> December at the Nab Wood Crematorium (Bingley Rd, Shipley, West Yorkshire, BD18 4BG). Dancers and musicians are asked to wear full kit and the funeral will be followed by a gathering at the Brown Cow, Bingley (BD16 2QX) where there will be a plentiful supply of Yorkshire Tea and the opportunity to dance, play and sing in celebration of Steve's life and contribution to the Morris and wider folk world.



The family have requested no flowers please but will welcome donations to the Motor Neurone Disease Association<sup>1</sup> which can be sent c/o Steve's sister: Christine Wright, 1 York Road , Brigg, N Lincolnshire DN20 8DX

Musicians are invited to play at the ceremony - tunes that Steve particularly used to enjoy with Jockey:

- Banks of the Dee (twice through, one normal, one slow),
- Room For The Cuckold (again twice through) and
- The Maid and the Palmer (Broad Cupid) - three times through but only two "corners" rather than three.

---

<sup>1</sup> Their father died of Motor Neurone Disease (MND). It is a progressive disease that attacks the motor neurones, or nerves, in the brain and spinal cord. This means messages gradually stop reaching muscles, which leads to weakness and wasting. MND can affect how you walk, talk, eat, drink and breathe. However, not all symptoms necessarily happen to everyone and it is unlikely they will all develop at the same time, or in any specific order.

Page	The highlights of Newsletter No.87 include:
2	Stephen Adamson 1955 - 2013 Funeral information
4	ARM Programme & Housekeeping
6	Provisional Agenda for Morris Ring ARM 2014
8	Candidates for the Post of MR Squire 2014-2016
9	Area Reps
10	Clogs & Clog Irons Squire's Massed Dances for 2014
12	Children in Need
13	Archives
14	Arthur Dexter of Foresters Morris
16	Morris Ring Publication Contact information
17	Events planned for 80 <sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Foundation of the Morris Ring
20	Sword dance matters
21	'Chancs' Morris on Fire!
22	An idea from East Surrey MM



**17<sup>th</sup>-19<sup>th</sup> January 2014 Morris Ring Jigs Instructional** is led by **Geoff Jerram** and offers dancers at ALL levels of competence a full weekend of high-quality dance coaching - even if you don't aspire to be a solo performer.

Using the solo dance as a vehicle for instruction, this event will give you a good basic grounding in the art and science of the Cotswold Morris Jig, plus opportunities for detailed instruction in a variety of specific traditions (Bampton, Bledington, Fieldtown, and Sherborne) plus selected jigs in other styles.

There are parallel streams: one for the relative novice and the other for the experienced dancer, plus sessions for BEGINNERS covering the basics of the Cotswold dance.

[jigsinstructional@themorrisring.org](mailto:jigsinstructional@themorrisring.org)

## 2014 80th Anniversary of Foundation of the Morris Ring

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

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

Please seriously consider sending representatives to this important event.  
*Details of the venue and accommodation options were in Newsletter No 86.*

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

Mindful of the fact that many reps will have travelled considerable distances to attend in addition to the official business of the weekend a number of presentations and workshops are planned:

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 attract 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.



## AGENDA for 2014 ARM

1. Apologies for Absence
2. Minute's Silence
3. Minutes of the ARM 2013 (Circulated as part of Newsletter No. 84 May 2013)
4. Matters arising from the Minutes
5. Squire's Report: Robin Springett
6. Bagman's Report: Charlie Corcoran
7. Treasurer's Report: Steven Archer
8. Chair of Advisory Council's Report: Peter Halfpenney
9. Archival Reports:
  - a. Chair of Archive Committee: *Chris Metherell*
  - b. Paper: Geoff Douglas
  - c. Photographic: *Duncan Broomhead*
  - d. Mumming: *Ron Shuttleworth*
  - e. Sword: (See Above)
  - f. Sound: Andy Padmore
  - g. New Dance Collator: Mike Wilkinson
  - h. Keeper of the Morris Ring Scrapbook: Cliff Marchant
  - i. Keeper of the Morris Ring Log Book: Charlie Corcoran
10. Publication Officers Reports:
  - a. Editor Morris Circular: *Tony Foard*
  - b. Editor Morris Dancer: Andrew Bullen / Mac McCoig
  - c. Social Network Coordinator's Report: Olli King
11. Overseas Bagman's Report
12. Web Editor's Report
13. Elections
  - a. Ballot for Squire of Morris Ring.
  - b. Ratification of Area Representatives following decisions reached at Area Meetings (no nominations so far received)
    - West Midlands Pete Simpson (2014)
    - South West and Wales Jed Dunn (2014)
    - North West David Loughlin (2014)
    - Northern Vacancy

**14. Area Representatives Reports.**

- |                         |                       |
|-------------------------|-----------------------|
| a. North West           | David Loughlin (2014) |
| b. Northern             | Vacancy               |
| c. North East           | Brian Pollard (2016)  |
| d. West Midlands        | Pete Simpson (2014)   |
| e. North Midlands       | Ben Robinson (2015)   |
| f. Eastern              | Mike Stevens (2016)   |
| g. South West and Wales | Jed Dunn (2014)       |
| h. South Midlands       | Roger Comley (2015)   |
| i. South East           | Ian Bush (2016)       |

**15. Ratification of Perth Morris as members of the Morris Ring.**

**16. Discussion item: The Morris Ring Archive**

**17. Future Programme.**

- a. Morris Ring Meetings 2014 and beyond. (Bagman)
- b. Instructionals

**18. Date and Venue of Next Meeting.**

**19. A.O.B. (Notified to Squire in advance please.)**

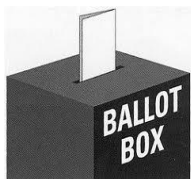


**Can you help?** 1. "The Morris Dancer" is an occasional publication of the Morris Ring of research articles, histories, recollections and book reviews. It relies on contributions from those interested in the Morris and is published on-line when there is sufficient material submitted.

As the current editor of this journal, I am now making a call for papers. Writings on the theme of the Morris and associated traditions are invited. I am looking for any researched material at this stage. I am also asking for reviews of recent relevant books, DVDs and CDs - and most recently, show reviews. In addition, I am looking for some original pithy personal observations on relevant subjects, stories and events.

Mac McCoig 01785 851052

## 2014 ARM



**Elections** Three candidates who have been put forward for the post of Squire of the Morris Ring 2014-2016. They are:

**Simon Care** Moulton Morris

*Nominated by King Johns Morris Men  
of Southampton*



**Adam Garland** East Suffolk Morris Men  
*Nominated by Dolphin Morris Men*



**Peter Simpson** Jockey Morris Men

*Nominated by Green Man Morris  
& Sword Club*

Bagmen & Women will receive nomination papers and supporting statements for the three candidates with their printed version of this Newsletter.

*Ballot papers will be distributed with Jan/Feb Newsletter*



**Area Reps**, whose constitutional roles is to "*....to advise and assist the Squire and the other elected officers to further the objects of the Morris Ring*".<sup>2</sup>

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 have a vacancy for the Northern Region and have received one nomination: Paul Cross of Great Yorkshire Morris.



## Morris Ring Display Boards

Contact your Area Rep if you can make use of a set of the Morris Ring Display Boards.  
Arrangements can be made to get them to you!



---

<sup>2</sup> An outline of the role in the form of a Job Description was included in Newsletter No 86.

**Clogs, Clog Irons Soles and Heels:** Dave Loughlin has, on behalf of the Morris Ring for whom he is the North West Rep, acquired some Clog Irons Soles and Heels, which are for sale at £17.50 a pair of Soles and a £1 for a pair of Heels, plus postage and package.

Dave has also learnt that a Cumbrian based Clog Maker is retiring at the end of the year and "....he is selling his remaining 'fancy' clogs at half price - £38 for large sizes / £35 for small sizes. (For example, size 7's are £35, plus £8 postage). He has sizes from 6 to 13 (only one 13). They are black, unpatterned (unfortunately!), and "what the dancers wear".

Contact Dave directly on his mobile: 07825 634825



### **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:

<b>ADDERBURY</b>	Lads a-Bunchum	Constant Billy
<b>BAMPTON</b>	Banbury Bill/Rose Tree	Maid of the Mill
<b>BLADINGTON</b>	Idbury 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	

**Side Contact information:** 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.

Recommendation: We strongly suggest that each side creates a generic "[bagman@sidenamewebsiteaddress](mailto:bagman@sidenamewebsiteaddress)". 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.



### Calendar of all Feasts, Weekends and Days of Dance



Please let the MR Bagman have outline details / dates of the Feasts, Weekends and Days of Dance & other events that you regularly organise. The MR Squire 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)



White Rose dance at sunrise, not dawn.

**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. So far this year only £2,428 has been paid into the account from all 3 orgs. I suspect that there are many sides who are waiting for a reminder of the bank details. These are:



Sort Code: 40 - 41 - 44      Account number 01729780 (HSBC)

Please do not pay it directly to Pudsey.



**Monkseaton MM** went on a pub crawl along North Shields Fish Quay dancing the Winlaton rapper in 4 pubs and raised £138.45

*Penalties were imposed for any dancer losing his ears during performances.*

Thanks to Peter Brown for the photo



**Taunton Deane Morris** are planning their 40th anniversary year starting in April 2014. They are holding a ceilidh in June at Halsway Manor and plan to hire a large horse drawn cart for a romp around some local villages with plenty of dancing.



Does your side have anything special planned for 2014 (or 2015, 2016,...)? Please let the MR Bagman know either so that you get the publicity through the Newsletter and the MR website or simply to add it to the list of events.

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

In recent Newsletters, in addition to appealing for 'stuff' to be contributed towards the MR Archive, I have been asking for information about how individual sides maintain / store their scrapbooks or archive material, where it is stored and perhaps more importantly, how others can access the information therein contained. My own side, Leicester Morris, has 40 plus large ring folders of stuff collected over the past 60 years and we are keen to find a way of making this available to the wider world! We do not want to reinvent the wheel, even if we could, so we are keen to draw upon the knowledge and experience of those who have already gone down this path.

Please send any materials for the archive to the appropriate individual:

Archive Group Chairman

Chris Metherell                      chrismetherell@googlemail.com

Morris Ring Archivist & Keeper of Paper Archive

Geoff Douglas                      geoffdouglas@hotmail.com

Keeper of the Mumming Archive

Ron Shuttleworth                      mumminguk@mail.com

Keeper of the Photograph Archive

Duncan Broomhead                      duncan.broomhead@btopenworld.com

Keeper of the Sword Dance Archive

*Situation vacant*

Keeper of the Sound Archive

Andy Padmore                      andy.padmore@ntlworld.com

New Dance Collator

Lester Bailey                      lester.bailey@gmail.com

Scrapbook Keeper

Cliff Marchant                      cliffmarchant@btinternet.com

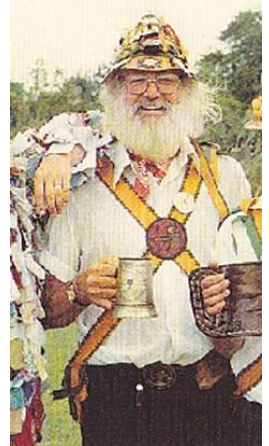
Logbook Keeper

Charlie Corcoran                      charliecorcoran7@ntlworld.com

◇ ◇ ◇ ◇



**Arthur Dexter of Foresters Morris** On Friday 25<sup>th</sup> of October the Foresters Morris Men said goodbye to Arthur Dexter who died peacefully after a short illness. He had been dancing with the side for over twenty years. Arthur was a likeable 'rogue', well known for his comical banter and determination to enjoy everything that life has to offer. Out of baldrick his appearance was always akin to Father Christmas in a T-shirt. In baldrick he was a magnet for the paparazzi. This led him into a spot of bother with Chalice Morris Men when his picture was used to promote their area. Arthur will be sadly missed and his entertaining presence in the Foresters will not be forgotten.



**Can you help?** 1. Sue Bell is running some Morris dance sessions near Eccleshall in Staffordshire, with a view to setting up a side. She has been told that there used to be a Morris dance side in Eccleshall and she is keen to contact their ex members to see if they might be interested in joining the new group. If you have any contact details for anyone from the old side please contact Sue via [suebell28 at aol.com](mailto:suebell28@aol.com)



**Redding Moreys** The Context of Early Tudor Morris Dancing  
Saturday 2.00pm - 4.00pm 25<sup>th</sup> January 2014  
Tadley, Berkshire, RG26 3PD

Redding Moreys is a small group of amateur dancers and period musicians based in Reading, Berkshire.

The oldest record of Morris dancing in Reading dates from August 1513 and the group was recently formed as part of the 500<sup>th</sup> Anniversary celebrations of this event earlier this year. Using the Gresley Manuscript as its source, Redding Moreys set out to reproduce early Tudor Morris performances with as much historical accuracy as possible. This has not been an easy or cheap

project to set up or run but they successfully danced in Reading on the 500<sup>th</sup> anniversary day itself and at St Laurence church, where the original event took place.

On Saturday 25<sup>th</sup> January 2014 at the Memorial Hall in Tadley, Berkshire Steve Rowley will talk about the things that were known to accompany early morris dancing: hobby horses, giants, church ales in general and ale itself, games, such as "Thread the Needle" and songs. They plan to look at the fragmentary "fourth dance" in the Gresley Manuscript and to demonstrate at least one of the known dances.

Early Tudor morris dancers would have been young men but they welcome anyone who would like to join them. Dancers, pipe and tabor players and people interested in making early Tudor clothing using authentic materials and method are especially welcome.

They see their future role more as educational rather than just entertaining and have already accompanied the Shakespearian re-enactment group "Lions Part" on their celebrations on the London's South Bank and plan to attend the York Mystery Plays in 2014.

Further information from CHRIS HUTCHINSON 01252 875510

## MORRIS RING PUBLICATIONS

☺ **Anthony Foard:** Editor of the Morris Circular

33 Cunningham Drive, Bromborough, Wirral, CHESHIRE. CH63 0JX

Mobile Tel: 01513344566

[thecircular@themorrisring.org](mailto:thecircular@themorrisring.org)

☺ **Andrew Bullen** Co-editor of the Morris Dancer

619 E. 111th St. Chicago, IL. 60628

Phone: 773-291-0005 Mobile: 773-297-6714

[abullen@ameritech.net](mailto:abullen@ameritech.net)

☺ **Mac McCoig** Co-editor of the Morris Dancer

8 Redhills, Eccleshall, Staffordshire ST21 6JW

01785 851052

[mac.mccoig@btinternet.com](mailto:mac.mccoig@btinternet.com)



☺ **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>



## Events planned to mark the 80<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Foundation of the Morris Ring

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

Early information suggests that 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.



**Saturday 10<sup>th</sup> May** JMO Day of Dance    Hosted by the Cambridge Morris on behalf of the Morris Ring.

Take the opportunity offered by the JMO day of dance on Saturday 10th May 2014 to dance in Cambridge, a mediaeval city of open spaces, buskers and ancient pubs.

You share a show with one or two other sides then, after a short walk, meet different sides at a new spot. This idyllic progress enables you to explore the old town, to find good food and ale, to discover fine tea and cakes and to enjoy the whole range of dance traditions. Do not be surprised if the audience includes not only tourists from the far East and West but also cattle, grazing less than a mile from King's College Chapel.

To end the day several hundred dancers will congregate for a very few massed dances and for displays by the young stars of the Morris.

*Places are allocated pro-rata with the other members of the JMO*

Interested?    Apply to the MR Bagman a.s.a.p.

MR sides booked in so far: Greensleeves MM; Leicester MM; The Kings Morris; Colchester MM; Ripley MM.



**17th of May 2014** Regional 'JMO' Day of Dance in Warwick on the 17th of May 2014 20 teams are being invited and it is being split 10 to the Fed, 5 to the Open and 5 for us. So far 11 local MR sides have expressed an interest!

Pat Herlihy Shakespeare Morris Men

. ♦ ♦ ♦

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

The meeting starts on the Friday evening with sessions in all of the Thaxted pubs and informal dancing at The Star. After leisurely tours of some splendid village pubs in the outstanding North Essex countryside during the day on Saturday we then reach the main event of the weekend. This consists of the two processions that meet in Town Street followed by two massed shows of massed and show dances with a feast in the interval. This culminates in the Horn Dance, the climax, in front of an appreciative audience of several hundred people.

Bagman for the meeting Ian Anderson 01702 466335

[iandbanderson@btinternet.com](mailto:iandbanderson@btinternet.com)

. ♦ ♦ ♦ ♦

**22<sup>nd</sup>-24<sup>th</sup> August** Saddleworth 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Rushcart

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. The weekend will operate as a hosted meeting of Morris Ring Clubs (a 'Ring Meeting' in old money), but will 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, and NO bus tours. If you want all these things, this may not be the event 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 'Cart is pulled around the villages of Saddleworth on the Saturday with dance spots throughout the day. On Sunday the 'Cart is pulled up to Saddleworth Church for the spreading of rushes on the Church floor, with dancing and competitions such as Gurning, Wrestling, Clog Stepping & Worst Singer, throughout the afternoon.

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). 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! A fact sheet will be sent out in the New Year to all sides who have accepted our invitation.

Eddie Worrall Rushcart Secretary Saddleworth MM

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



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

This meeting is already heavily subscribed and Dartington are asking that sides who wish to attend confirm this in writing (email is preferable) by no later than Monday 13th January; [iain.davison@data-harvest.co.uk](mailto:iain.davison@data-harvest.co.uk).

They will let everyone know one way or the other by Monday 20th January. Those Sides who are successful will need to pay a deposit of £30 per man by Friday 28th March.



**We are looking for sides to host future meetings / events. To date we only have:**

**2015**

March	ARM Hosted by TBA
29 <sup>th</sup> - 31 <sup>st</sup> May	Thaxted Morris Meeting
Late June	Great Yorkshire Morris
4 <sup>th</sup> - 6 <sup>th</sup> Sept	Anker Morris' 40 <sup>th</sup> Anniversary

## **2016**

March

3<sup>rd</sup> - 5<sup>th</sup> June

ARM Hosted by TBA

Thaxted Morris Meeting

◇ ◇ ◇ ◇

**The Sword Dance Union** have revamped their website:

[www.sworddanceunion.org.uk](http://www.sworddanceunion.org.uk) . Recent news offerings on the website have included the publication of a map of UK sword dance teams and advice on building and maintaining a good team website and social media accounts. They are also trying to pick up what's happening event and crawl wise and show people how alive and vibrant the UK sword dancing scene is.

Look at the map of UK sword teams, if you're not on there contact [tommy@sworddanceunion.org.uk](mailto:tommy@sworddanceunion.org.uk) with your practice location and postcode, and practice day/time and they will get you on there.

Edwin, Website Officer The Sword Dance Union

. ◇ ◇ ◇ ◇

## **Redcar Sword Dancers back on winning form!**



At the Sword Dance Union's annual day of dance and longsword tournament held in Ripon on Saturday 12 October, Redcar emerged victorious in the 'Traditional Dance' class with their performance of the Greatham dance against strong competition from Sallyport Swords, Monkseaton Morris Men and Maltby Phoenix. Our musician, Moira Clarke, was adjudged 'Best

Musician' and the team were also awarded the 'Best Overall Performance' trophy.

We are now looking forward to our 47<sup>th</sup> Boxing Day performance of the Greatham Sword Dance and Play at Greatham outside the Hospital gates. This is a 'hospital' in the sense that it is an alms house for the old men of the village. Most of us would now qualify for a place there



Nightfall. The men gather together in the dark interior of the hostelry awaiting their mission. Outside, crowds gather and explosions are heard. Equipment is checked, ear defenders put in place, final straps and uniforms adjusted- and then- as a team, and the 12 men step out onto the streets. In position, the waiting starts. In the distance, drums beats, banners wave. Security forces patrol the area. And then it's off, following blazing torches, to the beat beat beat of the drum.



The **Chanctonbury Ring Morris NorthWest** side again head off down through Lewes for the famous November 5<sup>th</sup> bonfire parade<sup>3</sup>.

<sup>3</sup> Organisers describe the event as having "deep historical significance", commemorating Guy Fawkes and the 1605 Gunpowder Plot as well as the burning at the stake in Lewes of the Seventeen Martyrs from 1555-1557



The 'Chancs' Morris men are cheered by the 30,000 people who descended on what has been dubbed the bonfire capital of the world. Winding their way through the narrow streets of the town. To their fronts and to their backs are blazing torches, fire barrows and burning crosses of the men from Borough Bonfire Society, one of

the six rival bonfire societies competed to put on the most dramatic display in the town of Lewes, East Sussex.

An hour of constant step step step. Musicians keeping the beat and the tune to keep even the spectators dancing in the street as the men approach - "It's the Morris Men!" they scream and clap. 10,000 paces in wood-and-iron clogs crashing onto the paved streets."

. ♦ ♦ ♦ ♦

### **An idea to steal from East Surrey MM?**

#### **Morris Dance Give-it-a-go Evening**

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/thingstodo/activity/morris-dancing-give-it-a-go-evening/occurrence/325118>

Instructional evenings for those interested in Morris dancing and joining ESMM.

Morris Dancing is a living English tradition which has been practiced for hundreds of years. It is an immensely enjoyable aerobic and social activity which when done well commands good balance, grace and timing together with an appreciation of many a fine ale. It is part of our unique culture - so be proud of it, support it when you see it but best - participate in it and keep it healthy for generations to come to enjoy.

We perform dances from the Cotswolds traditions in sets of six or eight men.

East Surrey MM



And finally...

We have been reminded that 2014 is the centenary of the outbreak of WW1. It is always said that understandably this decimated many of the Morris sides. If you have any information about the impact of this tragedy on your side or sides in your area please get in touch as it could lead to a fascinating article in either the MR Circular or the Morris Dancer.

On behalf of my fellow Officers of the Morris Ring I would like to thank you for your friendship and support over the past year and wish you joy in all that you do in 2014 - especially if it involves you supporting the ARM and or one of the other 'Morris Ring' events.

*Charlie*

Bagman of the Morris Ring

P.S. Don't you just love the press!

## 'Unsafe' Morris dancing event banned

By Daily Telegraph Reporter

A MORRIS dancing tradition that dates back 156 years has been barred from its Lancashire hometown because of safety concerns.

Members of Britannia Coconutters, dressed in turbans, red and white kilts and clogs, and with blackened faces, perform 12 hours of dances at 20 pubs in Bacup, every Easter Saturday.

But council bosses say the tradition must end, after photographs taken at the



**The Britannia Coconutters' dance has been banned because of concerns that it takes place on the road**

last event showed spectators standing on the road. The group - affectionately known as the Nutters - traces its origins back to 1857 and has held an Easter

Boundary Dance parade in its current form for 110 years. Neville Earnshaw, the group's treasurer, said: "We are the envy of the folk-dancing world. We can dance in Dublin on St Patrick's Day or Yorkshire - but we can't dance in our own town."

He said he received the news at a meeting with police and county council chiefs. Officials have concerns about the dancers and crowds using the roads and suggest the dancing be contained to the pavement. However, organisers of the event say that this is not viable.



