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**Newsletter No. 89**

**April 2014**

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

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## The Squire in Civilian life - the Squires' Badge of Office in the wild



As I put the finishing touches to this rather slim newsletter I can reflect upon what has to have been one of the earliest meetings hosted under the auspices of the Morris Ring. Devil's Dyke celebrated their election to full membership of the MR, following the recent changes to our constitution allowing sides with female musicians into membership, and they celebrated in style. The organisation, the accommodation, the tours and even the weather, on Saturday at least, was superb. Thanks, welcome and congratulations to Devil's Dyke.

We await with some excitement the other events programmed to celebrate the 80<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the foundation of the Morris Ring - especially the JMO events which illustrate so powerfully the cooperative strength of the Morris in 2014. The National Day of Dance in Cambridge with an anticipated attendance by sixty plus sides; the innovative Regional Day of Dance in Warwick and the JMO Conference in October. Details of these joint events and the meetings hosted under the auspices of the Morris Ring are to be found later in this Newsletter.

The Minutes of the 2014 ARM are now available from the website (or electronically upon request from [bagman@themorrisring.org](mailto:bagman@themorrisring.org)). From them you will know that we welcome Adam Garland of East Suffolk MM as our Squire Elect. In his pre-election statement he said:

*"Following recent changes I believe that now the Ring needs a time to settle into its current constitution; further major changes would not be welcomed by the Sides. However I do want to continue the good work of my predecessors in advertising the work of the Ring and its clubs, in supporting sides in encouraging recruitment from younger generations, and to forge links abroad with other Traditional Dance organisations. Further, I believe strengthening the links with our fellow organisations in this country, while protecting the interests of the Ring, is important."*



**Advisory Council** At the ARM the 33% of the AC whose term in post was up were either re-elected or replaced. The Advisory Council, advising the Squire of the MR, now comprises:

**Advisory Council Chair:**

Peter J Halfpenney

**Elected members:**

- Squire Elect
- Bagman
- Treasurer

Adam Garland  
Charlie Corcoran  
Steven Archer

**Elected Area Representatives**

- Area Rep.: East
- Area Rep.: North
- Area Rep.: North West
- Area Rep.: South West & Wales
- Area Rep.: West Midlands
- Area Rep.: North East
- Area Rep.: North Midlands
- Area Rep.: South Midlands
- Area Rep.: South East

Mike Stevens  
Paul Cross  
David Loughlin  
Tim Sercombe  
Pete Simpson  
Brian Pollard  
Ben Robinson  
Roger Comley  
Ian Bush

**Past Officers:**

- Past Sq 2006
- Past Sq 2008
- Past Sq 2010
- Past Tres 2009

Paul Reece  
Brian Tasker  
Peter J Halfpenney  
Edward Worrall

**Co-opted by Squire\*:**

- Morris Shop Keeper

Shaun Lambley

**Note.** *The MR Squire can co-opt to the AC or consult with, take advice from, anyone who he sees fit. Obviously this includes all previous holders of MR Offices.*

## Morris Ring Display Boards

Please look for opportunities to use this resource; 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!



## Reminder: Squire's Massed Dances for 2014

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



## Children in Need.

The three Morris Organisations have agreed to retain BBC Children in Need as their charity. A Presentation of the monies raised in 2013-14: £2,660 will be made at the JMO Day of Dance in Cambridge and every team or side in the country is encouraged see if we can best this rather disappointing total (we raised £10,000 last year) in time for next year's National JMO Day of Dance on Saturday 11<sup>th</sup> April 2015 hosted in Bristol by Rag Morris on behalf of Open Morris.



A reminder of the bank details for donations to the JMO Charity Appeal:

Sort Code: 40 - 41 - 44

Account number 01729780 (HSBC)

Please do not pay it directly to Pudsey.



## MORRIS RING PUBLICATIONS

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

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Mobile Tel: 01513344566

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

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The latest edition of **The Morris Dancer** is available for download featuring more of the life of Cecil J Sharp, The Bradmore Morris dancers of 1618, Morris in the Media, and book reviews. It also includes an article by MR Past Squire Brian Tasker about *The origins and history of morris and sword dancing in Britain*, based on the presentation he gave at the ARM,

<http://www.themorrisring.org/publications/morris-dancer>

### ☺ 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/>

Follow the latest media reports concerning Morris Matters at

<http://www.themorrisring.org/article/morris-matters>

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>

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

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



Graham Cox writes:

*"On behalf of The Morris Ring, The Morris Federation and Open Morris, Cambridge Morris Men welcome sides attending to the historic, university city of Cambridge. As the fens have lower rainfall than most other areas of England, we expect good weather and a great day of dance.*

*This will be the 9th JMO Day of Dance, celebrating the historic 2003 achievement of the Joint Morris Organisations in persuading Parliament, through the House of Lords, to exempt Morris dancing from the restrictions of the Public Entertainment Act.*

*We all benefit from that first really major collaboration of the Morris organisations, overcoming many years of mutual distrust. We also enjoy increasingly constructive interactions between the member clubs of the three organisations at local level.*

*Cambridge was chosen for this Day of Dance as part of the celebration of the 90th anniversary of the foundation of the Cambridge Morris Men following the first tour of the Travelling Morrice. In that same year, 1924, Cecil Sharp died so this is a suitable occasion to celebrate his life of which many years were dedicated to collecting dances despite his unfortunate underestimate of the value of the North-West traditions.*

*During the day, sixty or so sides will be performing with various other sides at thirty or so busking sites in and around the city centre. At the end of the afternoon all sides will congregate for a final flourish in a large, open space called Parker's Piece.*

The sides representing the Morris Ring are: Adlington MM; Brackley MM; Colchester MM; Dartington MM; East Suffolk MM; Greensleeves MM; Grimsby MM; Kemps Men of Norwich; Leicester MM; Letchworth MM; London Pride MM; Peterborough Morris; Ripley MM; Rumford MM; Stafford MM & The King's Morris.





**17th of May 2014 Regional 'JMO' Day of Dance in Warwick** on the 17th of May 2014  
 Being organised by Shakespeare in conjunction with Chinewrde Morris; Plum Jerkum and Hereburgh. 20 teams are being invited and it is being split 10 to the Fed, 5 to the Open and 5 for the MR.



### **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.



**Stephen 'BfB' Adamson** A diamond pane in the window by Fools' Corner is to be engraved in memory to Steve and it will be dedicated at the end of the service on Sunday 1st June of the Thaxted Morris Weekend.

*His family are in the early stages of negotiating to have his ashes to be interred in the graveyard, near the windmill.*

Steve's many friends from across the Morris world are welcome to attend this service on 1<sup>st</sup> June. If you would like to pre-order lunch please contact the Bagman of the Thaxted meeting.

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!

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)

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

Based in Dartmouth indoor camping at Dartmouth Academy. Friday evening, in local hostelries in Dartmouth; following the tours on Saturday the feast will be held in the Academy Restaurant and on Sunday will include a visit to Britannia Royal Naval College.

Further information available from Iain Davison (Bagman for the Meeting):  
[iain.davison@data-harvest.co.uk](mailto:iain.davison@data-harvest.co.uk)

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## The Illustrious Order of Fools and Beasts

17<sup>th</sup>- 19<sup>th</sup> Oct. Annual Unconvention

Hosts: Trigg MM Venue: Cornwall

2015 Ripley;

2016 Wyvern Jubilee;

2017 Stafford



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### 2015

16<sup>th</sup>-18<sup>th</sup> Jan Morris Ring Jigs Instructional

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

Jan 29<sup>th</sup> -1<sup>st</sup> Feb Musicians Instructional Hosts: Ripley MM

Venue: Kirky-in-Ashfield

Open to male and female musicians from three Morris organisations. More details will follow.

March ARM Hosted by TBA

April 11<sup>th</sup> JMO National Day of Dance in Bristol

Hosted by Rag Morris of Open Morris

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 ARM Hosted by TBA

3<sup>rd</sup> - 5<sup>th</sup> June Thaxted Morris Meeting

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**JMO Workshop:** Saturday 18<sup>th</sup> October  
Rickmansworth British Legion  
**RUNNING A SUCCESSFUL MORRIS SIDE**  
Cost £15.00 per person including lunch

**JOINT MORRIS  
ORGANISATION**

MORRIS FEDERATION,  
MORRIS RING & OPEN MORRIS

- 1 - Role of Officers
- 2 - Finance
  - Why have a Side Bank Account
    - Possible Inland Revenue Problems
    - Sudden death of fund holder
    - Paying for kit & events
- 3 - Insurance
  - Public Liability Insurance
  - Additional Covers
  - Personal Accident Insurance
- 4 - Constitution
  - Why have a constitution
  - Why have an AGM
- 5 - Organising Events
  - Day of Dance
  - Ceilidh
  - Publicity
- 6 - Morris and the Law
  - Public Entertainments Licence
  - Road Closures
  - Marshals and Stewards
  - Collecting

We would strongly recommend that sides seriously consider sending a representative to this workshop. Similar events in the past have been very informative. The session covering 'Morris & the law', dealing with road closures, stewarding & the like, is something with which all sides need to be familiar.

*Application information to follow.*

## 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.

Please supply the following information:

Name of Side (Obviously)

Style (s) of dance                  Membership of MR / MF / OM

Public events:

- Calendar linked events: (Venues & Times)  
e.g. Plough Monday / St George's Day / May Day / Boxing Day etc
- Non-calendar events (Dates / Venues & Times)  
e.g. Festivals / Gala / etc.

Private / Invitation only events:

- Feasts / Ales (Dates)

Information please to [bagman@themorrisring.org](mailto:bagman@themorrisring.org)





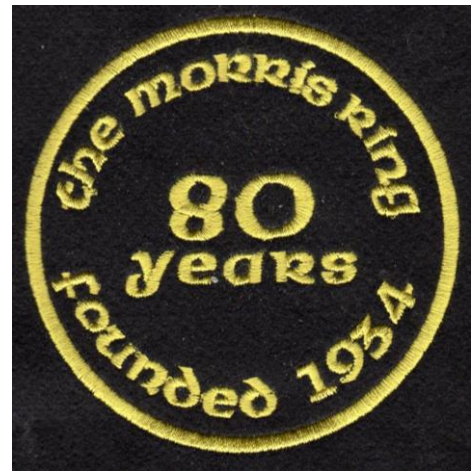
## Morris Ring 80th Anniversary Polo and Rugby Shirts.

You can now purchase polo or rugby shirts in a selection of colours embroidered with the Morris Ring 80th Anniversary logo, and have your own wording as well from [www.snappycrab.co.uk](http://www.snappycrab.co.uk).

You can use debit cards, but not credit cards for your purchase; choose your colour and add your own wording on the chest or sleeve.

Go to the website, select Home and scroll down to The Morris Ring, or use the following link:

<http://www.snappycrab.co.uk/products/92/-the-morris-ring/>



**Your Area Rep:** Please remember to make contact with your Area Rep. and keep them informed about your programme and performances. In addition to being responsive to the desires and whims of the incumbent Squire your Area Rep will assist and support you in many ways, including through

- Relaying to all sides in their / your area, (and to the MR Officers) any interesting developments, successes, awards, funding, opportunities, deaths, etc., in the area.
- Promote and encourage good inter-side 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.
- Report each year to ARM about the Morris activities in your area during the past twelve months.
- Offer your side assistance should you decide to organise a national hosted meetings (aka Ring Meeting); the ARM; a Day of Dance or an instructional.
- Assist in seeking maximum coverage in the media of any noteworthy event that you decide to organise.

And finally.....

On page seven I list some of the contents of the new edition of the Morris Dancer, including Brian Tasker's article concerning *The Origins and History of Morris and Sword Dancing in Britain*, based on the presentation that he gave as part of the ARM weekend. I now understand that this will in fact be included in the next edition. Mac, Tony and I are always looking for papers, articles, stories, pictures, news, etc. to include in our various MR publications as well as hosts for meetings and instructionals. As I embark on my final full year as Bagman of the Morris Ring I have been looking back through earlier Newsletters. In my first Newsletter (Number 39 June-July 2005) my final comment was:

*"Please keep the News flowing - this can only truly be a newsletter if you provide me with news to write about. I would also like to receive copies of your programme, and, obviously, information concerning any changes for the Directory. Information, reports, fliers for events are best (for me at least) by Email - it is so much easier to copy than type."*

Many things have changed over the intervening nine years but some things remain constant. While we now take electronic communications for granted and happily welcome sides with woman musicians (without the world ending) the Morris Ring remains constant in its purpose - to encourage and support the enjoyment, excellence and fellowship that we find through the performance of the Morris.

I hope that you have a successful and enjoyable Summer.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Charlie". A long, sweeping horizontal line extends from the end of the signature towards the right margin of the page.

Bagman of the Morris Ring

the MORRIS RING  
founded 1934