



SQUIRE: Adam Garland, 5, Penny Lane, Purdis Farm,
Ipswich, Suffolk, IP3 8UX Tel 01473 273793
Email: bodhranplayer@btinternet.com

BAGMAN: Charlie Corcoran, 70, Greengate Lane, Birstall,
Leicestershire, LE4 3DL. Tel: 01162 675654
Email: bagman@themorrisring.org

BAGMAN ELECT: Jon Melville, 57 Shakespeare Drive, Nuneaton
Warwickshire CV11 6NW Tel: 02476 345543
Email: jon_melville@yahoo.co.uk

TREASURER: Steven Archer, 28 The Glade, Fetcham, Surrey,
KT22 9TH. Tel: 01372 454024
Email: RingTreasurer@themorrisring.org

Newsletter No. 94

May 2015

Page The highlights of Newsletter No.94

- 2 May Day 2015
- 3 MR Squire: Adam Garland: 2015 Diary & Massed Dances for 2015
2015 JMO Day of Dance: 18th April in Bristol
- 5 JMO Statement of Purpose
- 7 Morris Ring Display Boards
- 10 Morris Ring Youth Workshop Peterborough
- 11 Adelaide MM 2015 UK & European Tour
- 12 Two for the Price of One: Recruitment Success
- 13 Apology
- 15 Children in Need
- 16 Was King Richard III a Morris dancer?
- 18 Morris Ring Publications
- 19 Helmond Barrel Organ Museum
- 20 Future Events (incl. info about the Thaxted Plaque and Red Roses)
- 22 And final 'and finally'



May Day Morris Dancers at Ham Hill Country Park

By Snapperlen | Posted : May 1, 2015

Photo from the Western Gazette taken by Len Copland

<http://m.westerngazette.co.uk/pictures/Morris-Dancers-Ham-Hill/pictures-26424348-detail/pictures.html>

Submitted by Tony Quigley Bagman, Wyvern Jubilee Morris

Greetings All

Thanks to Tony Quigley of Wyvern Jubilee Morris for sending me the link for this stunning photo and I will take the opportunity to remind you that Duncan Broomhead Duncan the Morris Ring Photo Archivist (duncan.broomhead@btinternet.com) will welcome any photographs that you care to submit as, I am certain, will Tony Foard the Editor of the Morris Ring Circular (Editor <thecircular@themorrisring.org>).

Cliff Marchant (Keeper of the MR Scrapbook) is always delighted to received appropriate contributions for the Scrapbook, and even though I am standing down as Bagman of the MR I will still be maintaining the Morris Ring Log Books and so I will still be keen to receive information and stories about Ring Meetings - both the formal and more quirky.

Morris Ring Squire's Diary 2015 is as follows;

- W/E May 30th Thaxted 345th Meeting of the MR
- W/E June 27th Oakworth Village Weekend of dance
- W/E July 11th Hartley 346th Meeting of the MR
- August 15th Mersey 347th Meeting of the MR
- W/E August 22nd Saddleworth 348th Meeting of the MR
- W/E September 5th Anker 349th Meeting of the MR



* * * * *

Squire's Massed Dances for 2015

Bampton	Rose Tree
	Maid of the Mill
Bledington	William and Nancy
	Young Collins
Brackley	Jockey to the Fair
Bucknell	Queen's Delight
Fieldtown	The Valentine
	Balance the Straw
Headington	Constant Billy
	Getting Upstairs
Lichfield	Vandals of Hammerwich

JMO Day of Dance 2015: Saturday 18th April 2015 10.00 – 17.00

The Press Release issued by the Open Morris and Rag Morris promised:
Five Hundred Morris Dancers - and a Month of Folk Dancing in Bristol
Hundreds of performers from across the country, from as far afield as
Sheffield, Cornwall, Cambridgeshire, Cardiff, York, and Westminster, will
be dancing in fabulous costumes and with live musical accompaniment in
variety of different styles, all under the collective name of Morris Dancing.
Graceful Cotswold Morris with hankies and sticks, from the villages of
Gloucestershire, Oxfordshire and Warwickshire. Energetic Border Morris,
from the wild Welsh Border counties of Shropshire and Herefordshire.



Photo courtesy of the Open Morris (<http://www.open-morris.org/jmo.html>)

Mysterious Molly Dancing from the flat fenlands of East Anglia. Stave Dancers plus death-defying Rapper Sword and Longsword dancing from the North-East. Processional North-West Clog Morris from Lancashire and Cheshire. Such different flavours of Morris dancing will be accompanied by Clog Step Dance teams with dances from both English and American Appalachian traditions.

And a great day was had by all. On behalf of the Morris Ring membership we record our thanks to John Clifford and the other officers of Open Morris and to Bristol's Rag Morris.

* * * * *

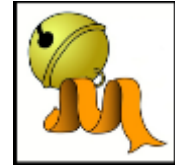
After several years of increasingly successful cooperatively working together the committee of the Joint Morris Organisations (the Morris Federation, the Morris Ring and the Open Morris) have come up with a Statement of Purpose to clarify what might seem blindingly obvious to many: that the Committee exists to help in the promotion and development of Morris Dancing, and to address issues of common interest.

See over:

The Committee of the Joint Morris Organisations

The

Morris Federation – The Morris Ring – The Open Morris



Statement of Purpose

The Committee exists to help in the promotion and development of Morris Dancing, and to address issues of common interest.

Terms of Reference and Definitions

1. Morris Dancing: Shall mean all styles of dance and allied traditions commonly included under the umbrella term of Morris Dancing; this shall include, but not be limited to:
Cotswold, Border, North West, Molly, Long Sword, Rapper Sword, Step Clogging, Fools, and Beasts, Mummers, and Pace Eggers.
2. Membership: JMO membership currently means all member clubs from the three national organisations: The Morris Ring, The Morris Federation, and The Open Morris. Other organisations may be admitted subject to a vote in favour by the existing committee members.
3. The Committee: The Committee shall be made up of no more than three members of each of The Morris Ring, The Morris Federation, and The Open Morris. These will normally be from the elected Officers from the three organisations.
4. JMO Objectives: (NB. This list is not considered to be exhaustive)
 - a – To co-operate when addressing issues of common interest
 - b – To promote Morris and allied traditions generally
 - c – To encourage high standards of performance
 - d – To maintain and promote communication between the member organisations
 - e – To negotiate and arrange insurance for the member Sides
 - f – To arrange joint events between the members
 - g – To encourage cross-membership working on projects relating to Morris Dance
5. Committee Meetings:
 - a. The Committee shall meet annually to discuss current matters of interest and future proposals which affect the membership. Additional meetings can be arranged by agreement if urgent or important issues arise.
 - b. The Committee meeting shall be held and run by each member organisation in turn. Such members shall host the meeting, and produce the agenda and minutes. The Chair for the meeting shall be drawn from the hosting organisation.

- c. When matters arise for which a vote is required each member of the Committee shall have one vote.
- d. Members of the committee can invite any party to attend who, in the opinion of the committee members, has an interest in the matters to be discussed. Any such attendees shall not, however, have a vote.
- e. The date of the meeting shall be set so as to be mutually convenient.
- f. Where appropriate the Committee can agree to ask anyone from the full membership to undertake specific tasks which contribute to the stated purpose of the JMO

6. National Dancing Events

- a. Each year one national day of dance shall be held as a JMO event.
- b. All financial aspects will be considered and agreed by the appointed or elected treasurers for the three member organisation prior to any arrangements being finalised.
- c. The organisation responsible for hosting the Committee Meeting shall also be responsible for arranging and hosting the national day of dance. These arrangements can be delegated to any of that organisation's total membership
- d. The liability for any financial losses incurred shall be on a pro-rata basis by the three membership organisations

7. Regional Dancing Events

- a. Any Side or Group from any of the total JMO membership can host a dancing event under the name of the JMO at any time. These can be but are not limited to invited guests only, regional events, days of dance, weekend events, instructionals, and workshops.
- b. The host Side or group shall be liable for any financial losses incurred

8. Charitable Donations

- a. The Side or group which hosts any JMO event can choose a charity to which any monies collected shall be donated.
- b. If a charity is nominated, any monies raised as a profit during the event shall be donated to this charity by the host

- 9. Dissolution: At any time the Committee can be dissolved at the request of any one member subject to giving reasonable notice to all concerned parties. Dissolution of the committee does not preclude cross-organisational working by any of the Morris Ring, Morris Federation, and Open Morris thereafter.

* * * * *

the morris ring

The Morris Ring

The Morris Ring is an organisation for men's clubs. Every year our members can be seen dancing out during the summer, either on their own or in the company of dancers from other clubs who have been invited along to share a day or a weekend of dance. We hold a number of special meetings of the Morris Ring each year at which clubs from all over the country come together to dance. The most important of these is the annual meeting in early June in Thaxted in Essex, the town where the Morris Ring was founded in 1934.

You can find out more about the Morris Ring by visiting our web site at:

www.themorrisring.org

On our home page there are links which will enable you to find the Morris clubs in your area.



Fools and Animals

Often the dancers are accompanied by a fool, whose job is to engage the audience with humorous banter and ensure that they are paying attention to the dance. Many clubs have made an animal head which is mounted on a pole and attached to a cloak. One of the dancers entertains the audience by going among them underneath the cloak and snapping the animal's jaws together.



The Joint Morris Organisation

The Morris Ring is one of three organisations representing Morris dance clubs. The other two are the Morris Federation and the Open Morris. Once a year we all get together for a combined day of dance to celebrate the Morris as a dance for everyone, irrespective of age or gender.

founded 1934

Morris Ring Display Boards

Board A

Are you making full use of this asset?

If you have any opportunity to make use of one of the five sets we possess please contact your Area Rep.

If you want to use them, even if a set is not currently in your area, arrangements can be made to get a set to you!

Centre Panel (Board B) Page 8

Right Hand Panel (Board C) Page 9

the morris ring

Morris Dancing

Morris dances are the national folk dances of England and have a recorded history going back six hundred years. In this display you will see examples of the various styles of dance which have developed over the centuries and which are performed today in all parts of the country. Why do we do it? That is an easy question to answer. It is because we enjoy it and for the fun and friendship which comes with being a member of a Morris dancing club.



Regional Styles of Morris Dancing

Most people are familiar with the Cotswold style of dance which comes from the counties of the West Midlands and which is characterised by the use of sticks and handkerchiefs. Other styles of dance have evolved in other parts of the country. There are sword dances from the North and the rapper, or shortsword dances from the North East.

In the North West there are the processional dances, which are often performed in clogs. The Border style comes from the counties bordering Wales and there are the Molly dancers from East Anglia. Mummers' plays come from all parts of the country.

www.the-morris-ring.org

the morris ring

A Potted History

Over the centuries the popularity of Morris dancing has waxed and waned but by the latter part of the 19th century dancing had died out in many parts of the country. By great good fortune in 1899 there was a chance encounter between Headington Quarry Morris Men in Oxford and Cecil Sharp, a professional musician.

Following this meeting, Sharp devoted the rest of his life to the collection of English folk songs and dances. As a result of his work and the work of others who were inspired by him, there was a great revival of interest in our folk traditions in the 20th century and especially in the 1960s and 1970s.



Looking to the Future

There are probably more people Morris dancing today than at any time in the past and our clubs are always keen to recruit new members. Many Clubs are involved in teaching young people to dance through programmes with schools, the Scout organisation and other youth groups.



How about you ?

Would you like to try Morris dancing to see if it does for you what it does for us?

Many clubs hold special sessions for potential members to come along and try it out. Find your local clubs by following the links on our web site and go along and meet the dancers.

Before long you too could be a Morris dancer !

founded 1934

Morris Ring Youth Workshop On Saturday 14th March, young men from six sides in the east and midlands met in Peterborough to dance in a workshop in the morning and in the city centre that afternoon.

Led by past Squire of the Ring, Mike Garland, and supported by musicians Danny Gallagher and Dave Dolby, the group of lads aged between 12 and 17 worked on a programme of dances that they would perform later in Cathedral Square in an energetic and entertaining display. Including a leapfrog double jig and dances from Wheatley and Ravensthorpe, the display concluded with an impressive Fieldtown Balance the Straw to cheers as sticks were thrown across the set and deftly caught.

The workshop was the fifth such event to receive support from the Morris Ring Youth Fund, for which we are all very grateful. Thanks also to Matt Simons of 18-30 Morris for his assistance.

Mike Stevens, Morris Ring Eastern Area Representative



Photo of Upton-on-Severn hanky dance, by Richard Simons

Adelaide Morris Men 2015 UK & European Tour



Adelaide Morris Men are planning a trip to the UK in August, traveling around the country and visiting various sides along the way.

The planned itinerary:

- 7th August Arrive in London
- 8th- 9th August Tour of London,
- 10th-13th August Tour of Oxford and the Cotswolds
- 14th-16th August Liverpool. Mersey Meeting of the Morris Ring
- 17th-18th August Durham, local sides
- 9th-23rd August Saddleworth Rushcart
- 24th-27th August Free time
- 29th-30th August Tour of Utrecht

Paul Howard AMM Squire

* * * * *



EFDSS Don't forget to keep an eye on their website to keep abreast of what on there.

<http://www.cecilsharpshouse.org/csh-whats-on>



TWO FOR THE PRICE OF ONE!

Interesting new recruits boost Benfieldside's numbers

'I was playing traditional music for a story-telling gathering in Totnes in 2008,' remarks Durham man Paul Martin. 'While there I ran into a Morris convention; it was probably a Morris Ring meeting. The experience stuck in my mind and I thought to myself - I must try that someday.'



Paul Martin 'Pipes in' the Squire of the MR Adam Garland to the Feast at the 2015 Helmond Ring Meeting.

A few years later, this experience led Paul to join up with Durham County based Benfieldside Morris men and soon after he brought along his seven-year-old son Loughie (pronounced Lockie.) Both have breathed new life into the side and Loughie danced out for the first time on Plough Sunday last year. Paul, however, has been seen out with the side on a number of occasions dancing and showing many of the other remarkable musical talents he possesses. Currently he works as a professional musician with a number of strings to his bow. In his youth, he played the Highland pipes and still does today although he now prefers those

pipes associated with the Anglo/Scottish borders. He is also highly competent on the whistle, fiddle, melodeon and hurdy-gurdy.

'I've had a lengthy interest in Morris tunes,' he continues, 'and especially those that fit into the relatively short range of the pipes. I've also done a lot of work on early music and reckon a number of popular tunes may have started life as limited pipe tunes and were later developed to be played within the wider range of notes on the fiddle'.

Equally fascinating is the other side of Paul's professional career. He joined the Royal Scots Dragoon Guards as a piper but later developed an interest in horsemanship. This led to his appearance in a variety of military



Loughie Martin with Plough.

display teams and has enabled him today to appear in re-enactments (with his own horse) as a Roman cavalryman, knight and either Saxon or Viking warrior. Watch this space for news of his appearance in a mainstream television historical drama series next year. As far as Morris dancing on horseback while playing the pipes goes - nothing is impossible!

Report by fellow Benfieldside member Keith Gregson (www.keithgregson.com) .

Keith's most recent book - 'A Tommy in the family - WW1 Family History and Research' (The History Press 2014) contains a chapter on the wartime sacrifice of members of Cecil Sharp's pre-war demonstration side.

* * * * *

Apology for starting a "scurrilous rumour".



On Page 20 of Newsletter No 93 as part of the Treasurer's Report it was reported that the famous Horwich Prize Medal Morris men had resigned from the Morris Ring because they had become a mixed side. I would like to

apologise for any embarrassment this misinterpretation of the situation has caused. I quote:

"Horwich is not, and as far as I can foresee, will never be a men/women dance team. We do have women musicians in our band and that's as far as it goes! It's a matter of aesthetics: men and women dance differently and it's the view of almost the entire Horwich team that mixed teams of dancers don't work. I understand that both our new secretary, Andy Stevenson-Jones, and foreman, Tom Besford have contacted The Morris Ring to point out the error in the Newsletter Number 93."



"The team has joined the Federation. The background to Horwich's decision not to renew membership of the Morris Ring, taken at last November's AGM, is partly due to.....//.....a sense of discomfort on the part of a number of particularly younger men at being associated with an umbrella organisation for Morris teams which does not treat women as equal."

"I hope that Horwich's new associations don't cut us off from folk and teams who are part of the Ring. I'm delighted that both Saddleworth and Bacup took part in last weekend's A Day for St. George. And Horwich are signed up for Rushcart."

"So if you can make it clear within your Ring associates: No Women Dancers in Horwich. A correction and perhaps an apology in the Newsletter might be nice!"

Please accept this apology. We appreciate your acknowledgement that the attitude of the majority of the Morris Ring membership has changed due indeed in part to your positive, forward thinking input, and that the whole atmosphere among most member sides had changed significantly.

* * * * *




THANK YOU

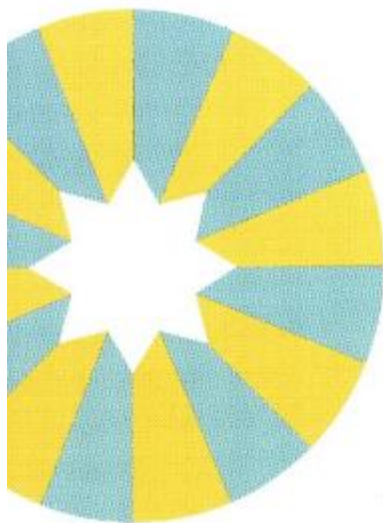


The Joint Morris Organisations

...for raising a fantastic



£1,929.16



BBC
Children
in Need
Appeal 2014

BE A
HERO★

Receipt Number
00004209/1139117

Reg charity no 800552 in England and Wales and SC 039537 in Scotland

Was King Richard the Third a Morris Dancer?

Since the discovery of the fallen king's remains in 2012 in the Leicester Grey Friars car park both national and international visitors have been drawn to the area along with high profile media coverage. Local Morris sides have not been slow to get involved!



Photo taken at Middleham Castle in Wensleydale, Yorkshire, where Richard spent several of his childhood years.

Leicester Morris visited Middleham Castle as guests of Leeds Morris as part of their annual Dales Weekend shortly after the rediscovery of his remains.

We were warmly welcomed by the English Heritage custodians who were amused by Richard's transformation.

Several Leicestershire Morris sides played an active part in the internment celebrations of Richard III. Anker and Anstey Royale Chalfont danced at Dadlington, apparently the closest village to where we now believe King Richard died, and near the start of the procession route of the remains back to the city of Leicester. Far more people turned out to watch the cortege than expected (the beer tent sold out in an hour) and Anker and Anstey Royale Chalfont ended up dancing to a crowd of around 2000 people once the procession passed by. *[Toby Melville wishes to record his quip: "A hearse, a hearse, my kingdom for a hearse."]*



Leicester Morrismen dance The Rose, Fieldtown for twelve around the statue outside the King Richard III Visitors Centre, Leicester on the occasion of the King's re-interment.
March 2015
Photo by Rachael Forster.



Pete Smith Squire of Leicester MM & Prof. Martin Barstow Pro-Vice Chancellor & Head of the College of Science & Engineering at Leicester University being thanked by Philippa Langley, the secretary of the Richard III Society.

Photo by Rachael Forster.

+ + + + +

MORRIS RING PUBLICATIONS

☺ **Anthony Foard:** Editor of the Morris Circular
33 Cunningham Drive, Bromborough, Wirral, CHESHIRE. CH63 0JX
Mobile Tel: 01513344566
thecircular@themorrisring.org

☺ **Mac McCoig** Editor of the Morris Dancer
8 Redhills, Eccleshall, Staffordshire ST21 6JW
Tel: 01785 851052
mac.mccoig@btinternet.com

The latest edition of **The Morris Dancer** is available for download
<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>





Utrecht Morris performing in the Stichting Draaiorgels Helmond, with Mike and Adam Garland, performing Rigs of Doom in the style of Bampton.

The Helmond meeting of the Morris Ring was based in the Jan Visser Museum (a museum of agricultural and other rural artefacts) and the Sunday display took place in the Stichting Draaiorgels Helmond - a museum dedicated to the preservation of "barrel organs", from the portable to the massive, as can be seen in this photo by Steven Atcher providing the backdrop for Utrecht Morris, supported by Mike and Adam Garland, performing Young Collins, Bledington.

A first? Both a massed Idbury Hill and Bonnie Green Garters were performed to the accompaniment of one of these organs (A Handdraaiorgel "onze klenne" to be precise). It was awesome.

Future Events:

2015

29th-31st May 345 Thaxted Morris Meeting

For more information contact iandbanderson@btinternet.com

Thaxted Plaque To mark the 60th Anniversary of the formation of the Morris Ring it was decided that it would be appropriate to mark the occasion by erecting a plaque on the wall of Mrs King's House in Thaxted where the initial idea for the Morris Ring was discussed.



Mike Chandler, Chair of the Advisory Council at the time, due to his property management and Town Planning experience at work, was charged with the task of look into the possibilities.

He explains:

" I prepared a sketch which I discussed with Daniel Fox and the dancing man was added. We talked through the proposal with the current house owners who were quite happy to agree.

" One of my sign making contacts made up working drawings, now in the archive I hope, and we made planning and listed building applications. Peter King as a Ullesford District Councillor kept an eye on the process, John Burke drew up the legal agreement which states that the



"payment of six red roses to be presented at the Thaxted meeting each year by the Ring Squire!"

Following planning consent etc. the plaque was made by Mr Ricky Ashbolt of D & AP Products Ltd. Of London on our behalf free of charge."

10th - 12th July **346 Hartley Meeting Inc.** JMO Regional Day of Dance
One day low cost meeting based on Rugby Club Beer Festival.
Accommodation available
Venue: Tonbridge Juddians Rugby Club

Sat 15th August **347 Mersey MM** One-Day Meeting based in Liverpool
City Centre (Day of Dance format: day time only, no feast, no
accommodation.)

21st-23rd August **348 Saddleworth Rushcart**
Pay as you go event. Limited accommodation available. No centrally
organised food. No feast.
Email: saddleworthmorris@gmail.com

4th - 6th Sept **349 Anker Morris' 40th Anniversary**

Sat 3rd October **2015 SDU Longsword Tournament**

"With dance locations around the picturesque village with the final showcase
being held in the Village Hall you have the choice of exhibiting or competing,
dancing your own dance or traditional." Hosted by The Goathland Plough
Stots for the Sword Dance Union. For further information please contact
john.atkinson@yahoo.co.uk or goathlandlongsword@yahoo.co.uk

2016

March **ARM** Hosted by TBA

3rd - 5th June **Thaxted Morris Meeting**

8th - 10th July **Greensleeves MM 90th Anniversary**
(Based in Chipperfield)

The weekend starts on Chipperfield Common at 9:00 pm when Greensleeves
dance around the tree planted by them in memory of Leslie Nichols, former
Squire and former Squire of the Morris Ring.
For more information contact the bagman@greensleevesmorris.org.uk or go
to the Greensleeves website.

2017

March

ARM Hosted by TBA

TBC

Thaxted Morris Meeting



And finally.....

While I have been Bagman of the MR for a comparatively short time I have been Bagman of Leicester for the past 35 and, as a member of Ravensbourne put it on our recent trip to the Morris Ring Meeting in Helmond, 'trying to be' a Morris dancer, since 1962. Since starting with the Weston-super-Mare Grammar School side, shortly before also joining Mendip MM before moving to Leicester to teach and joining Leicester MM I have met, from many sides and from all three of the Morris organisations, what must amount to thousands of dancers and musicians and made many good friends and hopefully only a handful of enemies. The Morris community is indeed wonderful.

As I said in my report to the recent ARM it has been an interesting decade for the Morris Ring. Despite the dissonance engendered by the female musician 'debate' that looked to tear the whole MR apart and the furore caused by my Press Release that suggested that some sides might fold due to their failure to recruit young people (for which I was pilloried by some of the 'Old Guard') I am pleased to hand over to Jon at a time when while some things have changed much that is so important remains constant. Our involvement in the success of the JMO and JMO events is a huge measure of how the majority of the MR membership has 'grown up'. Whatever the membership of each individual side we recognise that what is important is the quality and presentation of the Morris performed - not the gender of the performers or their musicians.

The Morris fraternity shares a sense of humour – well it has to really as we are constantly asked “Are you Maurice?”. Thanks to the several people who pointed me in the direction of this edition of the New Statesman.



Rather like at the TV awards ceremonies I conclude by thanking

- Steven and Adam, my current fellow officers.
- My extremely tolerant friends the Leicester Morrismen
- My wife Jane and the rest of my family. The phone has rung less in recent years but I have spent many hours apparently glued to the computer.

Please keep your information and news flowing in to bagman@themorrisring.org so that Jon has something to include his Newsletters.

Thank you – for your support and friendship

Charlie

Bagman of the Morris Ring



