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Newsletter No. 95

July 2015

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Morris Ring Squire's Diary 2015 is as follows;

- 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
- September 19th Yateley Day of Dance
- September 26th Morris Federation 40th Anniversary Day of Dance and AGM
- October 31st Anker Morris Ale, Nuneaton

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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



Adam Garland, Squire of the Morris Ring, dancing Ladies' Pleasure, Fieldtown in Thaxted Church 31 May 2015. Musician Jon Melville, Bagman of the Morris Ring.

Photo courtesy Steven Archer, Treasurer of the Morris Ring.

A new Ring Bagman writes....

Charlie Corcoran danced out at Thaxted after ten years in the role of Bagman. The Ring and all its members owe a massive debt of gratitude to him for all his hard work and sensitive handling of difficult issues. He has now handed over the role: all the data files, all the responsibilities, the editorship of the Newsletter and the bagman@themorrisring.org email ~~spam~~ facility.

Please don't assume I know or will do things, on the basis that my predecessor always did. I would prefer to be asked or told about something I'm already aware of than find out when problems arise.

I learned the dark art of the Morris thirty-odd years ago with Derby Morrismen. Now, I mainly dance with Anker Morris, although I am also a Dolphin and East Suffolk irregular and an honorary Cambridge man. I play most squeezey things with bellows when not off the ground.

Please do send me contributions for the Newsletter, and feedback as you see fit. I am also currently looking for sides to host Ring Meetings for 2016 and 2017.



*Jon Melville, Derby Morrismen 1989
(photo DMM archive)*



*Jon Melville, Dolphin Morris Men 2015
(photo Hazel Melville)*

A true Nine Daies' Wonder

Rick Jones, 58, from Catford, replicated Will Kemp's 100-mile jig from London to Norwich, starting on 23rd April and completing the distance in nine days.

Rick does not appear to belong to any recognised side, nor did he have a



(photo BBC Online)

of which he had danced on nine, to complete his original effort.

musician accompanying him.

He only came to the attention of the media when the police tried to detain him outside Bury St Edmunds: "Someone apparently thought I'd got out of hospital or something, so I had to prove I had danced the whole way," he said.

Apparently, he had not known that Kemp had taken 23 days,

Thaxted Meeting 345, 29 – 31 May 2015



Perth Morris, photo Steven Archer.

The sun shone on the Saturday and a large number of men enjoyed a variety of excellent coach tours in the Essex countryside. There were three international sides in attendance this year: Utrecht, Silkeborg and Perth, who danced in to full ring membership in the first massed show.

This massed show also witnessed the first changeover of Ring Bagman for a decade. Charlie Corcoran, unable to dance through injury, played for Tom



Dancing out....

Simons (12) of Leicester MM to dance the Nutting Girl, Fieldtown, then Jon Melville danced Jockey to the Fair, Sherbourne, to the playing of Ian Stewart of Dolphin Morris.



... and in (photos Steven Archer)

There was some excellent dancing in the two massed shows, of particular note were several show-stopping performances by totally empty local buses and some fine dancing from Perth, Utrecht and Silkeborg among others; the latter put on an excellent display despite some of their number admitting to have taken full advantage of the beer price differential between Denmark and England!

And then, of course, the unique horn dance performance, which defies description.

Due to the higher numbers attending this year, the feast between the massed shows took place in two locations, with the Squire of the Ring travelling from one to the other between courses.



Thaxted fathers and sons (photo Steven Archer)

The Sunday dawned colder and wetter. The lengthy church service was punctuated by Perth dancing, then the massed show took place inside (apart from Chester, who out of consideration for the floor, danced on the threshold). Again, there was much excellent dancing from the various sides remaining. Thaxted were noteworthy in putting up a display team of fathers and sons, and a separate display team of grandfathers. Truly an integral part of the community.

Adelaide Morris Men 2015 UK & European Tour



Adelaide Morris Men are planning a trip to the UK in August, travelling 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

Steve Parker makes the Standard

Barnsley resident Steve Parker celebrates a milestone in Morris Dancing this weekend



The Gloucestershire Morris Men

First published Tuesday 16 June 2015 in What's On

TO CELEBRATE 50 years of Morris Dancing and his 61st birthday, Barnsley resident and Morris man Steve Parker is organising a weekend of dancing from Friday, June 19-Sunday, June 21.

Steve will be joined by five Morris Dancing clubs from Gloucestershire, Oxfordshire, Nottingham, Somerset and Wimbledon, who will all be staying in Bibury.



Steve Parker's weekend of dance to celebrate 50 years of dancing (and he's only 61) was reported in the Wilts and Gloucestershire Standard on 16th June.

Steve is looking to re-run the church service, and possibly the weekend, on 31st July 2016 in Bibury, Gloucs.

Expressions of interest to slparker@fsmail.net.

A report on this weekend will appear in the Circular.

(Wilts & Gloucestershire Standard online)

Long Man to appear with Griff Rhys Jones

Long Man have been appearing in an episode of a series called “Griff’s Great Britain” produced by Modern TV, to be broadcast next spring on Monday



evenings. They were approached to participate in the South Downs episode. The photo shows Griff interviewing one of the team, while his colleagues try to look shy and retiring for the camera.

(Photo John Wardle, Long Man)

Sadly missed

It is with great sadness I report the death on 8th July of John (IV) Allen, Squire of Cambridge Morris Men 1959/60 and 1963/4 and a regular with the Travelling Morrice, where his sense of fun and excellent fooling, particularly after he grew his long white beard, will be greatly missed. A fuller obituary will appear in the next Circular.

Future Events

2015

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

Weekend of dance in and around the delightful villages, pubs and breweries of Warwickshire; the Sunday massed show is at Coombe Abbey Country Park.

Accommodation available; fully subscribed.

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

23rd – 25th October Fools and Beasts Unconvention

Open to all budding or experienced Fools, Beasts and Morris Characters from any team from the Ring, Open or Federation. A truly JMO event!

This year's Unconvention will be based at Cromford Community Centre, 7/9 Market Place, Cromford, Derbyshire DE4 3RE and will involve workshops, Saturday bus tour to Carsington Water and various other delightful beauty spots! The Feast will probably be at the Greyhound Inn in Cromford. Plus the AGM of course - your chance to have your say!

Accommodation is indoor camping. No showers, I'm afraid, but we may be able to use the amenities of a local camp site a few miles away.

We have been able to keep the cost at £65 per person, which includes all meals except Sunday lunch, plus coach trip etc. Closing date for Applications 11th October 2015. Application form at the end of this Newsletter.

2016

5th March

ARM Hosted by Uttoxeter / Stafford MM.

Venue will be the same as last year; full details of the weekend to follow in the September Newsletter. Note that the post of Squire of the Morris Ring is up for election at this meeting: please give consideration to potential nominations ahead of the formal notification of the nomination procedure, again in the September Newsletter.

3rd – 5th June

Thaxted Morris Meeting

8th – 10th July

Greensleeves MM 90th Anniversary

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

28th – 30th October

Fools and Beasts Unconvention

Hosted by Wyvern Jubilee.

2017

March

ARM Hosted by TBA

TBC








Thaxted Morris Meeting

Morris Ring Display Boards

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 or the Ring Bagman.

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.

the morris ring		
<p>The Morris Ring</p> <p>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.</p> <p>You can find out more about the Morris Ring by visiting our web site at: www.themorrisring.org</p> <p>On our home page there are links which will enable you to find the Morris clubs in your area.</p> 	<p>Morris Dancing</p> <p>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.</p> 	<p>A Potted History</p> <p>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.</p>    
<p>Fools and Animals</p> <p>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.</p> 	<p>Regional Styles of Morris Dancing</p> <p>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 ripper, 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 Angles. Mummers' plays come from all parts of the country.</p>	<p>Looking to the Future</p> <p>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.</p> 
<p>The Joint Morris Organisation</p> <p>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.</p>		<p>How about you?</p> <p>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!</p>
<p>founded 1934 www.the-morris-ring.org founded 1934</p>		

This is what the complete set of three banners looks like.

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.

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

Contact the Morris Ring Bagman to register to use.

Morris Ring Facebook site:

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

Morris Ring Twitter:

<http://twitter.com/#!/TheMorrisRing>



Fools and Beasts **Unconvention 2015**

Hosted by Ripley Morris Men

Cromford, Derbyshire

23rd-25th October 2015

Open to all budding or experienced Fools, Beasts and Morris Characters from any team from the Ring, Open or Federation. A truly JMO event!

This year's Unconvention will be based at Cromford Community Centre, 7/9 Market Place, Cromford, Derbyshire DE4 3RE and will involve workshops, Saturday bus tour to Carsington Water and various other delightful beauty spots! The Feast will probably be at the Greyhound Inn in Cromford. Plus the AGM of course - your chance to have your say!

Accommodation is indoor camping. No showers, I'm afraid, but we may be able to use the amenities of a local camp site a few miles away.

We have been able to keep the cost at £65 per person, which includes all meals except Sunday lunch, plus coach trip etc.

Closing date for Applications 11th October 2015.

Yours,
Robert Chisman, Scrivener and Convenor

Delegate:1).....Fool/Beast/Other.....

2).....Fool/Beast/Other.....

Team:.....

Address for correspondence.....

.....

Tel:Day:.....Eve:.....e-mail.....

Any Special Dietary needs.....

We anticipate having further applicants, if places available.

Return this form with cheque for the full amount (£65 pp) payable to "The Illustrious Order of Fools and Beasts" to Robert Chisman, Fools and Beasts Convener, Robert's Pharmacy, The Coombes, Polperro, Cornwall, PL13 2RG, Tel: 01503 272250 (day) 01503 272437 (eve); mobile 07970063922. E-mail: triggertrotter1@aol.com Follow Trigger on Facebook and Twitter!



Trigger Morris-Horse



@TriggerMHorse

A date for your diary – next year's Unconvention will be hosted by Wyvern Jubilee 28/30 October 2016!

Call for Contributions

Any items of Morris-related news, please send to me at bagman@themorrisring.org for inclusion in the next Newsletter. Longer pieces to Tony Foard, please, for the Circular.

If you have any photographs, you can send them to Duncan Broomhead, the Morris Ring Photo Archivist (duncan.broomhead@btinternet.com) and any articles, ideally accompanied with photographs, can be submitted to Tony Foard, the Editor of the Morris Ring Circular, details above.

Cliff Marchant, Keeper of the Morris Ring Scrapbook, is always delighted to receive appropriate contributions, and Charlie Corcoran, the Keeper of the Morris Ring Log Book, is keen to receive stories about Ring events, both the formal and the quirky (Charlie.corcoran7@ntlworld.com)





SQUIRE:

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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

Morris Ring Annual Reps Meeting Saturday 7th March 2015

Utttoxeter Morris Men Bagman for the event: Mac McCoig

Minutes of 2015 ARM

1. Attendees / Apologies for Absence

<i>I. Elected Officers</i>		
Squire	Adam Garland	✓
Bagman	Charlie Corcoran	✓
Treasurer	Steven Archer	✓
Chair: Advisory Council	Robin Springett	✓
<i>II. Elected Area Representatives</i>		
Area Rep.: East	Mike Stevens	✓
Area Rep.: North	Paul Cross	✓
Area Rep.: North West	David Loughlin	✓
Area Rep.: South West & Wales	Tim Sercombe	✓
Area Rep.: West Midlands	Pete Simpson	✓
Area Rep.: North East	Brian Pollard	Apologies
Area Rep.: North Midlands	Ben Robinson	✓
Area Rep.: South Midlands	Roger Comley	✓
Area Rep.: South East	Cliff Marchant	Apologies
<i>III. Appointed Ring Officers: Archives</i>		

Archive Group Chairman	Chris Wildridge	✓
Archivist & Keeper of Paper Archive	Geoff Douglas	
Archives - Keeper of the Mumming Archive	Ron Shuttleworth	✓
Archives - Keeper of the Photograph Archive	Duncan Broomhead	
Archives - Keeper of the Sword Dance Archive	Vacancy	
Archives - Keeper of the Sound Archive	Andy Padmore	
Archives - New Dance Collator	Lester Bailey	
Archives - Scrapbook Keeper	Cliff Marchant	Apologies
Archives - Logbook Keeper	Charlie Corcoran	✓
IV. Appointed Ring Officers: Comms & Services		
Publications – Editor Morris Circular	Tony Foard	
Morris Dancer (Co-Editor UK)	Mac McCoig	✓
Social Network Coordinator	Ollie King	
MR Web Site Editor	Peter de Courcy	Apologies
MR Web Site Assistant Editor	Andrew Bullen	
Overseas Bagman	Nigel Strudwick	
Morris (Ring) Shop Keeper	Shaun Lambley	✓
Auditor	Richard Sinclair	
V. Past Officers: Squires		
Past Sq 1970	Bert Cleaver	Apologies
Past Sq 1976	David Welti	
Past Sq 1982	Barry Care MBE	✓
Past Sq 1984	Ray King	Apologies
Past Sq 1986	Geoff Jerram	Apologies
Past Sq 1988	Mike Garland	Apologies
Past Sq 1990	Mike Chandler	Apologies
Past Sq 1994	Richard Hankinson	Apologies
Past Sq 1996	Tim Sercombe	✓
Past Sq 1998	Daniel Fox	Apologies
Past Sq 2000	Gerald Willey	Apologies
Past Sq 2002	Cliff Marchant	Apologies

Past Sq 2004	Bob Cross	✓
Past Sq 2006	Paul Reece	✓
Past Sq 2008	Brian Tasker	✓
Past Sq 2010	Peter Halfpenney	✓
Past Sq 2012	Robin Springett	✓
VI. Retired Bagmen		
Past Bag 1984	Keith Francis	Apologies
Past Bag 1991	Chas Arnold	Apologies
Past Bag 1995	Tony Parsons	Apologies
Past Bag 1998	John Frearson	Apologies
VII. Retired Treasurers		
Past Tres 1990 (current auditor)	Richard Sinclair	Apologies
Past Tres 2009	Edward Worrall	✓
JOINT MORRIS ORGANISATION		
Morris Federation: Newsletter Editor	Colin Andrews	✓
Open Morris: Publicity	John Clifford	✓
Open Morris: South West Rep	Kim Woodwood	✓
J.M.O. Insurance Broker	Michael Stimpson	Apologies
EFDSS	Katy Spicer	Apologies

Morris Ring Members			
Abingdon Traditional Morris Dancers		Lassington Oak Morris Men	
Adderbury Village Morris Men		Leicester Morris Men	Charlie Corcoran
Adelaide Morris Men		Letchworth Morris Men	Theo Thomas
Adlington Morris Men / Mummers	Unreadable	Leyland Morris Men	Apologies
Aldbury Morris Men		Lichfield Morris Men etc.	
Anker Morris Men	Joe Oldaker	Lincoln & Micklebarrow Morris Men	
	Jon Melville	London Pride Morris Men	
Anstey Morris Men		Long Man Morris Men	John Wardle
Ashdown Forest Morris Men	Brian Tasker	Lord Conyers Morris Men	

Traditional Bampton Morris Dancers	Barry Care MBE	Malvern Swordsmen	
Banchory-Ternan Morris Men		Manchester Morris Men	John Alexander
Barnsley Longsword Dancers	Apologies	Martlet Sword & Morris Men	
Bathampton Morris Men		Mayflower Morris Men	Apologies
Bedford Morris Men		Men of Wight Morris Men	
Belchamp Morris		Mendip Morris Men	Clive DuMont
Benfieldside Morris and Sword Dancers		Mersey Morris Men	Andrew Siddons
Bourne River Morris Men		Monkseaton Morris Men	
Bourne River Morris Men		Mossley Morris Men	
Brackley Morris Men		Moulton Morris Men	Barry Care MBE
Bristol Morris Men		North British Sword Dancers	
Britannia Coconut Dancers of Bacup		North Wood Morris Men	
Broadwood Men (The)		Northampton Morris Men	
Bury Pace-Eggers	Apologies	Oakworth Village Morris Men	Unreadable
Cam Valley Morris Men			Paul Cross
Cambridge Morris Men	John Jenner	Offley Morris Men	
Castleford Sword Dancers		Oxford City Morris Men	
Chalice Morris Men	Dick Shilton	Packington Morris Men	Ben Robinson
Chanctonbury Ring Morris Men		Perth Morris Men	
Chapel-en-le-Frith Morris Men	Apologies	Peterborough Morris	Mike Stevens
Chester City Morris Men	Dave Loughlin	Pinewoods Morris Men	
Chipping Campden Morris Men		Plymouth Morris Men	
City of Gloucester Mummers		Ravensbourne Morris Men	
Claro Sword & Morris Men		Ravensbourne Morris Men	
Colchester Morris Men		Redcar Sword Dancers	
Coventry Morris Men	Apologies	Richmond on Swale Morris Men	
Coventry Mummers	Ron Shuttleworth	Ripley Morris Men	Malcolm
Darlington Mummers			Mike Sawley

Dartington Morris Men	Tim Sercombe	Royal Preston Morris Dancers	
Dartington Morris Men	Iain Davison	Rumford Morris Men	
Datchet Border Morris Men		Rutland Morris Men	Phil Hield
Devil's Dyke Morris Men		Saddleworth Morris Men	Eddie Worrell
Dolphin Morris Men		Saddleworth Morris Men	Ron Yates
Durham Rams Sword & Morris Men		Shakespeare Morris Men	
Earlsdon Morris Men		Silkeborg Morris Men	
East Suffolk Morris Men		Silurian Border Morris Men	
East Surrey Morris Men		Southport Swords	Apologies
Etcetera Morris Men		Spring Grove Morris Men	
Ewell St Mary's Morris Men		St Albans Morris Men	
Exeter Morris Men	Colin Andrews	Stafford Morris Men	Peter Copley
Faithful City Morris Men			John Edwards
1st Sedgley Morris Men		Stevenage Sword Dancers	
Forest of Dean Morris Men		Stockton Morris Men	
Foresters Morris & Sword		Sweyn's Ey (The Men of)	Apologies
Gloucestershire Morris Men	Steve Parker	Taunton Deane Morris Men	
	<i>Unreadable</i>	Thames Valley Morris Men	
Grand Union Morris		Thaxted Morris Men	Paul Reece
Great Yorkshire Morris	Paul Cross	Thaxted Morris Men	Ian Anderson
	<i>Unreadable</i>	Thelwall Morris Men	<i>Unreadable</i>
Green Man's Morris and Sword Club	<i>Unreadable</i>	Towersey Morris	Paul Dolman
Green Man's Morris and Sword Club	<i>Unreadable</i>	Trigg Morris Men	Robert Chisman
Green Oak Morris Men			Paul Reece
Greensleeves Morris Men			Robert Chisman
Grimsby Morris Men		Het Utrecht Morris Team	
Hageneth Morris Men		Uttoxeter Heart of Oak	John Arthur
Handsworth Traditional		Vancouver Morris Men	
Harthill Morris	Peter Halfpenney	Victory Morris	

Hartley Morris Men	Brian Tasker	Wadard Morris Men	
Headington Quarry Morris Dancers		Wantsum Morris Men	
Helier Morris Men		Wath-on-Dearne Morris Men	
Helmond Morris Men		Wessex Morris Men	
Horwich Prize Medal Morris Men		West Somerset Morris Men	Apologies
Icknield Way Morris Men		Westminster Morris Men	
The Traditional Ilmington Morris Men		Whitchurch Morris Men	Clive DuMont
Jockey Morris Men	Pete Simpson	Whitchurch Morris Men	Roger Comley
John O'Gaunt Morris Men		White Hart Morris Men	
Kemp's Men of Norwich		White Rose Morris Men	
Kennet Morris Men	Apologies	Winchester Morris Men	Mike ?
King John's Morris Men		Woodside Morris Men	Apologies
King's Morris, The		Wyvern Jubilee Morris Men	
Kinnerton Morris Men		Yateley Morris Men	
<i>Morris Ring Associates</i>			
Alvechurch Morris Men		Leominster Morris	
Blackheath Morris Men		Morris 18 - 30	
Blackmore Morris Men		North Curry Mummers	
Black Prince Morris Men		One Day Wonder	
Bovey Tracey Mummers		Original Welsh Border etc.	Unreadable
Boyden Gate [Mummers of]		Plymouth Reunion Morris Men	
Buckland Shag Morris Men		Redding Moreys	
Chameleonic Morris Men		Rose & Castle Morris	
Chewit Well Mummers,		Saint Bees Mummers	
Cinque Port Morris Men		St Nicholas-at-Wade etc.	
Crendon Morris Men		Spenn Valley Longsword Dancers	
Ebor Morris Men		Stourvale Mummers	
Frome Valley Morris		Tarka Morris Men	
Good Easter Molly Dancers		Thameside Mummers	

Greenwich Morris Men		The (Inst Name Here) Mummers	
Herga Mummers		Uplyme Morris Men	
Hexham Morris Men		Wantage Mummers	
Hinckley Bullockers		Woodchurch Morris Men	
Hoddesdon Crownsmen		World Famous Ashdown	
Illustrious Order of Fools & Beasts	Robert Chisman		

2. Minutes of the ARM 2014 (Circulated with Newsletter No. 89 April 2014)

Acceptance proposed by Tim Sercombe (Past Squire (1996-8) of MR) & seconded by Bob Cross (Past Squire (2004-06) of MR) Agreed by show of hands

3. Matters arising from the Minutes. There were none.

4. Squire's Report: Adam Garland

The Squire's Capers in *The Circular* detail the places I have been and the events I have had the pleasure of attending so I shall not be going over these again here.

There are, however, a number of items which I feel should be noted. The respective reports will go into greater detail where relevant but I would just like to make the following comments.

The Morris Ring Archive is currently being investigated with a view to turning it into something more usable from a public point of view. Chris Wildridge has the bit between his teeth and is embroiled in unravelling the items we have.

The difficulty, as I see it, is understanding exactly what makes an archive. There are numerous collections of material located around the country and I would guess that all Sides have a collection of ring-bound folders, the odd photo album, perhaps old bell pads and hats, and a tankard or two tucked away in someone's attic, but it is not necessarily

an archive in its current form. I look forward to Chris' findings and to hear how he thinks it can be developed to become a fully useable resource.

Nigel Strudwick is our Overseas Bagman, and I have had a discussion with him on what this actually means. In my experience Morris Dancing is well received outside the British Isles and I know of many Sides who have had spectacular experiences abroad. It would be nice if we could all work together in creating a communal resource that Clubs can use to find out about foreign teams, events, or countries where they would be welcome. Nigel's report should go into this in more depth.

Shaun Lambley has taken the Morris Shop by the scruff of its neck and has made a superb job of making it his own; I whole-heartedly support Shaun's desire to make The Morris Shop a stand-alone unit.

The shop already attends many non-Ring events, and indeed, non-Morris events, and the more this can be encouraged the better. Anything we can do to bring Morris into the minds of the wider public is a good thing in my opinion.

Recruitment is obviously a hot topic at present and with this in mind I have started a little project of my own to look at different methods Clubs have used which have been successful in bringing in new members. Obviously, there is no panacea in this regard; one size does not fit all, but if I can build on Peter Halfpenney's work currently on the Ring website, between us we may give Clubs ideas on how to go about recruiting which may not have been tried before.

Control of the JMO has now passed to the Open Morris and at the recent JMO meeting we discussed numerous aspects of the Morris Dancing world. We decided that the JMO could perform more efficiently without the hassle of bureaucracy waffle. In this regard it

was decided that the JMO should not have a constitution in its own right but should have an official statement of purpose.

The annual JMO day of dance will continue, and all clubs can now run events under the JMO name as and when they want. When the final wording has been agreed I shall send the Statement and its accompanying terms of reference to Peter to create a link from our website.

We have removed all the spurious ideas such as a stand-alone JMO website, facebook page, leaflets and so forth; all members of the three Organisations can advertise JMO items through their own media, or their organisations newsletters/circulars.

The JMO also decided that the idea of having a single chosen charity for the whole country had run its course. In future the host club of a JMO event can choose a charity if they wish and all profits would be donated to that cause. This allows clubs to support local causes if desired.

Something else that was discussed at the JMO meeting is the idea of taking the Cotswold Jigs Instructional round the regions and opening it up to the other organisations. This requires people to organise the weekend but Geoff Jerram has agreed to provide the tutors and music.

At the ARM last year it was decided that instructionals would be left for individual teams to arrange. This is OK, but there is always a lack of volunteers to run these even when Sides do express an interest in learning something. These events do not have to be run by a single Side; they can just as easily be arranged by a group of like-minded individuals from different Sides. I propose to set up a database of individuals who are happy to host or organise instructionals. If this is you, please email me your name, contacts, what you are prepared to do;

organise, play music, cook, be a tutor etc., and whether you are willing to travel and if so how far.

During the first few months of my tenure, I have had the pleasure of attending many excellent events and seen some top quality dancing. Unfortunately I have also seen the occasional dance where the quality has been less than I know the Sides in question can produce.

Yes, we all have bad days at times; I understand this, and this is the good thing about the winter practice season; it allows us time to go over our traditions, make sure we know figures, where our hands are supposed to be, which foot we start on, getting those lines straight and so forth.

As a final point, I have received a few comments regarding the format of the ARM this year, and the fact that it is a shortened event. Here I was stuck between the proverbial rock and hard-place. Either, I could have agreed to the full weekend but the costs per man would have been huge, or, we keep the costs down by running a shortened event. In the end I went for the latter but I do understand why this has created a little frustration.

My difficulty is, even though numerous requests for a host/organiser were sent out in the Newsletter and Circulars, after a little persuasion we only received one offer to host it. If I only get one offer, I have to accept that offer and we have to make decisions re the format, venue, and accommodation thereafter.

I would therefore make a plea. If you know you have a suitable venue in your area which can cope with the full weekend, and retain a relatively low cost, do not be shy in coming forward to host or organise it. As I said above, it doesn't need to be a single Club effort; a group of individuals, or a few Sides pulling together would be perfectly acceptable.

I would finish by offering my thanks to all involved with running the events I have enjoyed and look forward to many more over my remaining time as your Squire

In addition to the previously circulated written report Adam commented that he was pleased with the way things were going: Good progress is being made with the Archives; the revised 'job description' for the Overseas Bagman is more appropriate for the 21st Century.

5. Bagman's Report: Charlie Corcoran

Ten years have passed very quickly. It has been an interesting decade for the Morris Ring in which some things have changed whilst much remains constant. Several Area Reps on the Advisory Council both predate and survive my tenure as Bagman. It has been an honour to be part of the MR 'civil service'. I have worked with a sound set of Treasurers, including the incomparable Steve BfB Adamson, and an interesting set of Squires. As with any post holder in any organisation I have received support from the majority of our membership and criticism from a few.

At my first ARM as Bagman we remembered, in silence, Nibs Matthews, past Squire of the Morris Ring, a true gent. His was only the first of numerous deaths I have had to report - many being of personal friends made over my 50+ years in the Morris. While it would be impossible and certainly inappropriate to name them all I must mention two:

John Maher Overseas Bagman and webmaster for many years. I am certain that Martin Jones and Pete de Courcy will not mind me saying that John laid the foundations for the wonderful website that makes our lives so much easier today. When I took over from John Frearson, another wonderful servant of the MR, snail mail telephone dominated the job - seldom was a meal eaten in peace. Exclamations of "That

bl**dy phone" were the precursor of many a cold, or at least microwave-warmed, meal. Enquiries about this, requests for that, are now mainly via email and in most cases easily answered by a pointer to this or that page on the MR website. Now even the majority of 'Find a side' requests are dealt with through the website rather than through referral to the appropriate Area Reps. While the various MR Google Groups have not proved as helpful in improving communications across the MR as I had hoped there is little doubt that Facebook or something similar is the way forward.

In 2005 the cost of MR membership was £45. The fact that ten years on it has only risen by £5 is in a large part down to the late **Steve BfB Adamson**. His hard astute financial stewardship and timeless efforts in developing the Morris Shop, along with his vision of 'essential MR business' enabling our expenditure to be reined in, ensured our financial survival as our membership has decreased. Although not popular with all, he was not one of the world's diplomats and perhaps could harbour a grudge, he was a real support to me and good friend. Goodness he worked hard - frequently into the early hours. Many of us have had phone calls at one or two o'clock in the morning when he simply forgot how late it was. We must remember that the whole Morris community is indebted to him, for example for persuading Pressed Metal Products to re-tool (so that they could continue to provide the Morris world with bells) and for the work that he did with Mike Chandler to digitise the Letchworth Tapes.

Six squires. All very different, each with their own set of skills, but all dedicated to doing the very best for our Morris Ring in a changing world. While the acceptance, grudgingly by a few, of female musicians is the most obvious development there have been many other challenges. The improved cooperation between the three Morris umbrella groups is outstanding in the face of licencing, processing, and media 'difficulties' has really helped. Each organisation has its own

distinct character and ethos so we are not really in competition for member sides but I suspect that this might change when the Morris Ring finally admits sides regardless of their gender makeup. This is not meant to be contentious but we need to remember the doom-mongering of the tiny number of pessimists surrounding female musicians has come to nothing. The membership of individual sides is up to them and no one else. I here would like to record my thanks to the officers of the Morris Federation and the Open Morris as we have striven remove barriers and to de-bunk many of the myths and prejudices from the 1970s and 80s.

Ten years ago I reported on the then new format for the **Newsletter - A5** to reduce postage costs (*I had no inkling as to how expensive postage was going to become*) and explained that I had divided the existing Ring Directory in a new 'electronic' Handbook and an excel spreadsheet Contact List. This was a vain attempt to ensure that they were both up-to-date. The former was rendered obsolete by the internet and the latter is now maintained by Steven because if revised contact data is provided by the sides it is now submitted as part of the membership / subscription process. I also offered help and advisory documents on Child Protection; the organisation of Ring Meetings, Instructionals and ARMs; Risk Assessments and even side Constitutions. These are still available, even if not in printed form, but seldom requested.

I can report that in the past 12 months there have been five Newsletters and that while great savings have been made as an increasing number of sides (& individuals) have opted not to receive the printed edition following staff changes at my previous place of employment printing costs are increasing.

Notice I have called them 'Ring' Meetings. Following the various equal opportunities stuff that lead to the amendments to the MR constitution and the transfer of responsibility for selecting attendees

at these 'Morris Ring sponsored meetings' away from the MR onto the host side I was told that I should call them 'Meetings hosted under the auspices of the Morris Ring' or something similar. However common usage prevailed. I would like to thank all sides who have hosted meetings over the past decade - an appeal to others to consider so-doing. I will add that what should be a relatively simple organisation task is sometimes vastly complicated by the inability of many individuals (I will not blame whole sides or their Bagmen) to make or keep a commitment. Booking buses, organising catering and even ordering beer for some of these events when people will not confirm numbers with their Bagman has given substance to concepts such as herding cats and plaiting fog. Ring Meetings are not as important to the wider membership as they once were - thanks to the great proliferation of Day and Weekends of Dance. The cost of such events has escalated and sides hosting them have had to work much harder to attract customers, to sell their event, and attendance figures at recent meetings mirror the relative success of such efforts.

As the Bagman of Leicester Morris as well as Bagman of the MR I must record my thanks to my fellow Bagmen - now of both genders (I am told I cannot call them 'bag-ladies'). Those of you who have never undertaken the role have little idea how frustrating it can be to try to organise something when the masses have agreed to do it but then don't commit, or in many cases don't answer emails or the phone, and then complain when the event or booking is cancelled or turned down "I was looking forward to that". So all non-bagmen - respect your Bagman - and always be ready to show your appreciation of what they do for your side by offering to buy him (or her) a pint.

I also would like to mention those sides that do organise their own weekends. Leicester Morris annually attend the Forest of Dean MM Family Weekend; the Leeds Morris Dales Weekend; the Whittlesea Straw Bear and the Lobster Potties Festival in Sherringham as well as various one-offs. Increasingly these involve sides drawn from both the

Open Morris and the Morris Federation - and it is many a year since I have encountered any problems - we are all simply Morris dancers.

I conclude by thanking my current fellow officers. Steven has that attributes that I believe any treasurer of the MR requires: a sound financial brain, a sense of humour and he can proof read. I don't know Adam that well but I am certain that under his leadership the MR is in safe hands especially as after the Thaxted meeting he will be able supported by Jon, his brother-in-Law.

6. Treasurer's Report: Steven Archer

One activity has dominated the financial results more than anything else this year - the shop. Shaun re-launched the shop just before Christmas 2013 at the Mendip Ale in an atmosphere of great hope but also uncertainty. The 2014 Mendip Ale was Shaun's 17th outing of the year, having covered all the hosted meetings, the JMO day, festivals, days of dance and ales throughout the country. He has created and launched a new website for the shop with PayPal and credit card facilities and tirelessly despatched all the online sales. This huge effort has transformed the fortunes of the shop, increasing sales by 25%, returning a surplus and reducing stock levels. Last year we made a provision in the accounts against the slow moving stock as we were concerned that it could not be sold. This put the shop deep into the red last year. Shaun has proved that the stock can be sold and so the provision has been reversed this year. This shows up in the figures as a substantial one-off profit.

Although we made a small operating deficit this year (subject to audit) the shop performance has boosted our funds and so once again I have no plans to propose a subscription increase.

The Youth Fund started the year with £800 but with our continued support of the Young Dancers project and the EFDSS More and Better

Morris initiative, this fell to just £200. However your generosity has now boosted this fund to over £1,500, enabling us to continue to support youth Morris.

Unfortunately last year's upward trend in membership has not continued and this year we have lost 4 sides at renewal. City of Gloucester Mummers and Black Prince Morris Men of Truro both folded due to lack of numbers. Stevenage Sword Dancers went mixed and joined the Open Morris and Horwich Prize Medal Morris Men also went mixed and joined the Morris Federation. Having known Horwich for many years I know that this was a very difficult decision for them but they felt that it was the only way forward for them. This pattern of events is likely to play out again in future years. We are working to encourage more youth into the Morris which may help with part of this problem but the other issue will no doubt be the subject of much discussion throughout the Morris Ring.

There will be a further report to the ARM after the accounts have been approved by the Auditor

In addition to the previously circulated written report Steven referred to the JMO Charity Account - which is to be closed and remaining monies donated to BBC Children in Need. (Future JMO events will collect for appropriate local charities.)

- *Not proposing to seek an increase in subscription levels.*
- *Youth Fund - healthy and being put to good use.*
- *Jigs Weekend - positive up-take on subsidies for 1st & 2nd time attendees.*
- *Each of the 'Morris Ring' Meetings was successful.*
- *Need to remember that we have declining membership income and increasing post and printing costs.*
- *The Shop is a high point. Losses have been reversed and due to Shaun's efforts much of the old stock has been sold - leading to a*

revision of its value. Now the Shop is going to all JMO events and many other Folk Festivals. Congratulations recorded to Shaun.

The accounts were presented:

THE MORRIS RING - ACCOUNTS FOR YEAR ENDED 31ST DECEMBER 2014

		GENERAL FUND £	MORRIS SHOP £	ARCHIVE FUND £	YOUTH FUND £	RESERVE FUND £	2014 TOTAL £	2013 £
INCOME								
SUBSCRIPTIONS:								
Members 2013-14		170						
Members 2014-15		7,150						
Associates 2013-14		50						
Associates 2014-15		1,440						
Individual publications 2013-14		34						
Individual publications 2014-15		99						
		8,943						9,073
SALES								
Income		12,639						10,047
Plus stock increase		(5,325)						1,741
Less Expenditure		(3,400)						(11,703)
Suplus			2,913					84
Writeback slow moving stock			6,200					(6,200)
Surplus on Meetings								
Devil's Dyke (340)		396						
Thaxted (341)		500						
Saddleworth (342)		100						
Darlington (343)		711						
Joint Morris Organisations day of dance		177	1,884					1,230
DONATIONS/INTEREST								
Archive				200				205
75th Anniversary Fund					1,318			202
Bank Interest Received						234		55
Other		0						
Total Income		10,827	9,113	200	1,318	234	21,692	5,438
	prior year	10,970	(6,116)	205	202	55		
EXPENDITURE								
Insurance		2,767						2,055
Cost of Circular & Newsletter		2,166	4,933					2,310
OFFICERS EXPENSES								
Squire		580						304
Bagman		307						209
Treasurer		342						211
Other travel		180	1,409					0
General Expenses Paid:								
AC Meeting costs		900	27					433
Advertising		0						0
Archive costs				0				451
ARM Costs		743						1,023
Events					594			272
General Overhead Expenses etc		305						088
Jigs weekend subsidy		162						0
JMO AGM expenses		281						305
Ring meeting costs (£500 subsidy per host)		2,000						1,500
Ring meeting costs (other)		13						
Website		22	4,425					137
Charitable donations			177					100
Total Expenditure		10,944	27	0	594	0	11,564	10,718
	prior year	9,895	0	451	372	0		
SURPLUS/(DEFICIT) FOR YEAR		(117)	9,087	200	724	234	10,127	(5,282)
	prior year	1,075	(6,116)	(180)	(110)	55		
FUND BALANCE:								
Brought forward		2,765	20,568	3,315	801	49,096	76,544	81,827
Transferred to Reserve Fund		500	(8,000)			7,500		
Surplus/Deficit for year		(117)	9,087	200	724	234	10,127	(5,282)
Carried forward		3,148	21,654	3,515	1,525	56,829	86,672	76,545
MADE UP OF:-								
Cash at Bank		3,148	3,779	3,515	1,525	56,829	68,797	58,545
Value at cost of Stocks held for resale			17,875					
Fund balance at year end		3,148	21,654	3,515	1,525	56,829	86,672	76,545

Brian Tasker spoke in support of the Youth Fund and suggested that should any side fold they be encouraged to consider donating some of their surplus funds to the Youth Fund.

7. Chair of Advisory Council's Report: Robin Springett

I took over as Chair on 7 September from my very active predecessor Peter Halfpenney, and held an Advisory Council meeting on Sunday 19th October. The Squire of The Morris Ring Adam Garland had not asked for any specific advice; however, the meeting was successful and a wide range of subjects concerning Morris in general and The Morris Ring in particular were discussed.

Most significant was discussion concerning the problems associated with the control of traffic and closing of roads. Of course this affects the three Morris Organisations, but seems to be worse with the Ring. Perhaps our long history and our prominence in many towns and cities is to blame. In particular we shut roads for the Nutters, Thaxted and Saddleworth, amongst others every year. This is yet to be resolved.

The Bagman organised a nice lunch, and after saying our goodbyes, the South West and Wales Representative and I left to drive back to Devon.

The next AC meeting will coincide with the ARM on 7th March in Cannock.

Robin Springett: Immediate Past Squire of The Morris Ring.

Chair of the Advisory Council

JMO Annual Report from the Chair for 2014

At the Annual Meeting in February 2014, I took over as chair of the JMO for 2014. This is largely a figurehead role, as all decisions for the coming year are made at the Annual Meeting by the representatives of the 3 Morris organisations; where necessary referred to their membership. JMO custom and practice ensures that the titular head is the elected head of the Morris organisation which is hosting the Day of Dance (DoD) that calendar year.

Discussion was of common interest items such as insurance, JMO DoD and the JMO Charity of choice. Also discussed was the possibility of the JMO having a presence on the internet; the problems associated with the withdrawal of police support for road closures, and regional Days of Dance.

Insurance. The insurance scheme continues to be good value for money and well supported.

Road Closures and the Morris. This came to a head with the annual Britannia Coconut Dancers Easter extravaganza. In the event, the day went ahead with money provided by local councillors to support a private company to control traffic. It was very safe, but some local disruption, especially to public transport, occurred. In my opinion, it could have been done in just as safe a manner, but with fewer operatives, and with less disruption. This subject is far from resolved.

JMO DoD. This was held on the 10th of May in Cambridge hosted by the Cambridge Morris Men on behalf of the Morris Ring. It was incredibly well supported, with 66 sides being represented. Naturally enough, organising dancing spots for so many sides was not easy, and there were problems on the day at some of the spots and with buskers; but overall, the day built on the work done in Exeter the previous year and was an incredible success, with the dancers, the public and the city authorities. Cambridge MM were very disciplined with organising

collecting and a record sum was declared available for the JMO charity. The day ended with a display of massed and show dances on Parker's Piece. I must say that I had a brilliant time; (sadly having to leave after the massed display for a dinner on board HMS Belfast).

JMO Charity Children in Need. A presentation was made to Pudsey during 2014. Collections continued slowly throughout the year. If it is the intention to continue with this charity, then more publicity is required to keep it in the mind of Morris sides.

JMO Internet Presence. The value of having an internet presence was discussed and I researched having a page on the UK Morris Dancers website controlled by Alan Morley, which was agreed by Alan in principle, and if it is still the intention, then this needs to be taken forward. I also started a JMO Facebook page which has had teething problems, but continues to be quite well supported. I will give editing authority to anyone who wants it from the officers of our organisations.

Use of JMO for Regional and local Days of Dance. At the 2014 JMO Annual Meeting, the use of the JMO soubriquet for sub-national events was discussed and, at the time, no objections were raised, and no discussion was had regarding how sides would be selected, as it was assumed that all Morris sides in an area would be invited, and using the JMO banner for a DoD would raise the organisation's profile. A successful "Regional" JMO event was organised by Shakespeare MM in Warwick on the 17th May. A similar event organised by Hartley MM later in the year ran into problems over the ratio of sides attending. However, Dartington MM re-badged their DoD as "South Devon Regional JMO Day of Dance" and held a successful event, with all local sides invited, which they intend to repeat this year. For my part, I think we can become too bureaucratic. We should welcome that sides want to reach out to their local Morris teams and if a DoD or instructional is open to all, without exception in a county or region, then

badging it JMO has to be good; more so if they collect and pay monies into the JMO charity! My personal opinion is that the ratio of sides by Morris organisations is only appropriate for national JMO events, and does not need to be carried forward to local events. I appreciate that this discussion is not finished, but there is an opportunity here to improve the image of the Morris in general; both the Ring and Open seem happy, and a way needs to be found to bring the Fed on board!

I am delighted to hand over the Chair for 2015 from The Morris Ring to The Open Morris, and look forward to an excellent day in Bristol on the 18th May. I offer my apologies for non-attendance at the Annual meeting, and hope you have a successful day.

Robin Springett Chair Joint Morris Organisation for 2014

30th January 2015

8. Archival Reports: Chair of Archive Committee: Chris Wildridge *on behalf of Geoff Douglas (Paper); Duncan Broomhead (Photographic); Ron Shuttleworth (Mumming); Andy Padmore (Sound) and Lester Bailey (New Dance Collator)*. The post of Sword Archivist remains vacant.

Introduction

This report reflects a period of transition. Chris Metherell resigned from the position of Chairman and I took on the role in October 2014. I would like to publicly thank Chris Metherell and ask that his contribution to the development of the Archive be formally recognised. I prepared a paper for the Squire setting out my approach to some issues surrounding the various components of the Morris Ring Archive. This was put to the ARM meeting in October.

Activities

Since the 2014 report prepared by Chris Metherell the following progress has been made:

Contribution by **Duncan Broomhead**:

"Richard Broughton of the Bampton Morris Dancers and Charlbury Morris Men. Richard has now completed the massive task of digitising and cataloguing the Arnold Woodley Collection. Considerable work remains to index the material. This material will shortly be passed to Geoff Douglas. During the past year 139 separate e-mail enquiries relating to archival photographs were received. To gain a wider audience photographs are being posted on the 'How many Morris Dancers are on Facebook?' site."

Contribution by **Ron Shuttleworth**:

"For once, I have something really significant to tell you! Last year I reported the possibility that someone else might take on the paper after me. Sadly this did not materialise, so I was back to square one and the future looked really bleak.

Then, in the Autumn, Doctor Paul Smith, Professor of Folklore at the Memorial University in St John's, Newfoundland, suggested that I contact Ms Jacky Hodgson, Director of the Special Collections Department at the University of Sheffield which already housed what was left of the records of the defunct National Centre for English Cultural Traditions. She visited Coventry, liked what she saw, and offered a permanent home to the Paper Collection!

This posed a problem, as it all technically belonged to the Morris Ring. However, in light of the problems our Main Archive is having in finding a place for permanent storage, it seemed to me to be too good an offer to refuse. Your Squire and the other Officers concurred, so negotiations went ahead and an acceptable form of contract has been agreed which will give the Morris Ring joint rights.

The public have free access to the Special Collections, so any of you will be able to see it there. I will continue to develop and expand the Digital Collection, copies of which will be made available to the Ring and to the University, updated as required.

Since then I have been fully occupied in getting everything into good order for final transfer. I have been astonished at how much there is to do and how difficult some of it is. But, as I said to Ms Hodgson, if I find it confusing, what chance would anyone else have, coming to it 'cold'? It's nearly done now and I reckon about another month (hopefully) should see it ready to go.

On a general point, I think that there is a lesson here for anyone with papers they would like to see eventually lodged in an institution. I suspect that the clincher for acceptance was the fact that I had everything in good order and properly itemised and recorded in a database, so the work required of the University is minimal.

As for the rest, I again attended the Mummers' Festival and its Symposium, in Gloucester, where I was able to help a number of people and made several new contacts.

One of these is Yu Kai-liang ('Kent') who is a visiting scholar at the Dance Department at the University of Roehampton, and a PhD Candidate at the Dance Department at the Graduate School of China's National Arts Academy. Somewhat surprisingly, his is studying English Sword-dancing. I have inundated him with material and undertaken to put his written work into sound idiomatic English.

Otherwise, material continues to dribble in - my thanks to all contributors - keep it coming, and all enquiries have been dealt with."

In addition to the previously circulated report Ron added that the Mumming Archive was the largest public 'mumming' resource in the world. The new home that he had found for it had the space - but the fact that he had digitised the lot a persuasive argument for them accepting both digital and paper materials.

Ron suggested that individual sides need to get their own archives "in good order and in a serviceable database". He suggested that sides should approach their own local Records Office.

Dick Shilton (Chalice) reported that all of their scrapbooks were on disc - and that a back-up was essential but Joe Oldaker (Anker) commented that in the long run paper was better as the format did not become obsolete. Chris Wildridge confirmed that it was 'professional' to always have a 'back-up'.

The Archive Group has not met as a body and while contact by phone and email is a fact of life today, face to face meetings, as at the ARM remain an important aspect of human interaction.

Details of various archive components, lists, databases etc. have been passed to me. A number of files have been supplied, some of them in legacy formats which may be inaccessible with current versions of the software. Ways of converting those files will be identified.

Recent newspaper reports highlighted the issue of difficulties inherent in digital formats for archives with cutting edge technology becoming beset by legacy issues within relatively short periods of time. This affects all forms of archival preservation. Using established bodies, e.g. universities and public record offices may minimise these difficulties.

In December I met with Laura Smyth [the new Director of Library and Archives at Cecil Sharp House] and Steve Roud to discuss the indexing of traditional dance.

Since October I have made contact with my equivalents in the Morris Federation and Open Morris to discuss a common approach to tracing material on traditional dance. I've also been in touch with a number of other traditional dance organisations to explore similar themes.

Morris Ring Archive, Essex Record Office

In February I visited the Essex Record Office at Chelmsford to examine the deposited MR Archive and to discuss its cataloguing with an archivist. A recommendation has been made to the Squire. The archivist has suggested a method of re-structuring the material in the archive to reflect standard archival cataloguing practice for materials deposited by societies. This would collate formal documents, correspondence, etc into a coherent collection whilst allowing flexibility in other areas. By adopting this suggestion the staff at the Essex Record Office would then be in a position to schedule the full cataloguing of the archive.

- D/Z 571/1 Administration - minutes, constitution
- D/Z 571/2 Finance - annual accounts etc.
- D/Z 571/3 Squire - correspondence
- D/Z 571/4 Bagman - correspondence
- D/Z 571/5 Treasurer - correspondence
- D/Z 571/6 Other officers of the Morris Ring (as necessary, later categories to be renumbered to take account of this)
- D/Z 571/7 Correspondence - arranged by person, then chronologically
- D/Z 571/8 Morris sides - arranged alphabetically by place
- D/Z 571/9 Music - including singers, musicians
- D/Z 571/10 Dances - including notation
- D/Z 571/11 Recordings - sound, video
- D/Z 571/12 Photographs
- D/Z 571/13 Programmes - arranged by year
- D/Z 572/14- Other categories can be added as necessary

This is not a hard and fast arrangement but can be used as a basis for developing a hierarchy within the Morris Ring Archive.

In addition to the previously circulated reports Chris Wildridge explained that the relationship with the Essex Records Office was very positive. There are positive developments in the possibilities for cataloguing of our various resources.

Keeper of the Morris Ring Scrapbook: Cliff Marchant

Although I have the Scrap books 3 (Keith still has the most up-to-date one) I do wonder what I have them for! Can they not join the archives as nothing has been added to them: all is now kept on disc The Morris Ring and Thaxted Morris have had notable "birthdays" over the last 2/3 years, but nothing has been submitted for the Morris Ring scrap books. Do we still need scrapbooks?

Keeper of the Morris Ring Log Book: Charlie Corcoran

As previously reported the first eight books of the Log Book have been digitised and these volumes will be handed over for storage in Essex, at the ARM. When time permits I plan to get the rest digitised but more recent volumes are a mass of separate sheets and a degree of sorting is required. I need to point out:

- Over the years there has been a degree of confusion as some 'minutes of meetings' are included within the 'Log' while others are recorded in separate Minute Books.
- The Log Book is easily confused with the separate Scrapbook. The **logbook** is a record of important events in the management, operation, and event of the Morris Ring. It can only contain reports, information and anecdotes about the various meetings if I receive them even if I am there as I cannot be everywhere! This is not simply up to the Host side - attendees can also pass 'stuff' on.

Publication Officers Reports:

- a. **Editor Morris Ring Circular:** *Tony Foard* (Mersey Morris Men & Chester City Morris Men)

The *Morris Ring Circular* is published in both electronic and conventionally printed formats, and I aim to produce up to three issues

a year. The *MRC* focuses on recent events in the Morris Ring community, seeking to celebrate, in words and pictures, the activities of member sides by (*inter alia*):

- reporting their recent involvement in local, national and international events;
- featuring their important anniversaries;
- publishing original commentary on matters of immediate interest;
- reflecting upon the lives and accomplishments of memorable individuals.

Since my last report the *MRC* has been through what my colleague Mac McCoig has pithily identified as the editorial curse of "feast or famine" - the abundance or scarcity of contributions. The well was dry during the spring and summer (when, quite rightly, we're all busy with the chief purpose of our chosen "trade" and intent on getting our shoes dusty); happily I was inundated with sufficient material in the autumn to make possible what was effectively a double issue edition of the *MRC*, distributed in October.

I continue to liaise with the aforementioned Mr McCoig, Editor of the *Morris Dancer*, to lessen the chances of articles being placed in an inappropriate publication, and though we might (rarely) bicker about ownership of the odd item, we agree on the vast majority and share plans so that clangers shall not be dropped. I am, in addition, keen to include in the *MRC* occasional appetite-whetters for the *Morris Dancer* when our respective publication dates favour this approach. (If you're not sure to which publication you should send your piece, be assured that the editors, between them, will identify the appropriate outlet for your talents.)

Last year I raised the matter of the *MRC's* printed format and its sustainability, given the increasingly heavy postage costs associated with each issue. I am in the early stages of drawing up proposals which

I hope will secure the physical integrity of the publication as well as exploiting the advantages of the digital life- not least maximising value and reducing overheads. Of these notions, more anon.

Please keep submitting those photographs and articles! Grateful thanks to all who have done so.

b. **Editor Morris Dancer:** Mac McCoig

2014 saw two issues of The Morris Dancer: Volume 5, Numbers 2 and 3. Contributors included Rod Stradling, Andy Padmore, Bob Hine, Julian Whybra and Stephen Earwicker. I have also started serialising some previously unpublished papers on the Cambridge Morris Men written by the late Roy Judge.

The Morris Dancer would not exist without the hard work of the contributors and a heartfelt thank you goes to all those mentioned above. They have produced some very interesting material which has genuinely expanded our knowledge of the Morris and its surrounding traditions. A deeper understanding of our tradition enriches our experience of the performance, setting the dances in a cultural and historical context.

I am always on the lookout for new material and so once again I am appealing to you to get your pencils, pads and pcs out and get writing that article on that nugget of history you always wanted to put into print.

The next issue is scheduled for March 2015, but this always depends on what I have available to include in the issue. Please contact me if you want to discuss any ideas you may have.

Mac added to his report by thanking people for their supportive comments but that he had nothing to publish this month - and appealed for materials. Chris Wildridge promised something about the archives

and Charlie Corcoran offered something from or about the MR Logbooks.

c. Social Network Coordinator's Report: Olli King

No report received

9. Overseas Bagman's Report Nigel Strudwick

I really am an overseas bagman. Yet again I have to submit my apologies for failing to be present at the ARM. There is not a huge amount to report, again, so apologies for the brevity.

Role of the Overseas Bagman

I have very much been feeling that the job of Overseas Bagman is a role desperately looking for a function, a character in search of an author. This year, our new Squire has been in touch with a few ideas as to what the OB might do. We have agreed the following:

I will compile a list of where sides have been recently to act as the basis of a foreign info database. On the same basis, I will ask those same sides whether they have any contact points abroad which might be useful for a team planning on going on a similar trip. I already keep a list of regular overseas festivals of which I hear, and I will try and supplement that.

To achieve that aim, I will send a round-robin to all clubs, both via the Ring Google list and also by inserting a note in a forthcoming newsletter. Please co-operate with the request as much as you can.

Insurance reminder: Clubs with any queries about insurance, whether liability, personal or for things like taking our sorts of equipment abroad, should in the first place contact Michael Stimpson. He is rightly very insistent on being fully involved with Ring insurance issues, and for that reason please send any queries to him. I did that recently with the one enquiry I had this year.

Michael's summary is roughly this: UK Sides, including those in the Channel Islands, are insured worldwide except North America which requires additional cover. Non UK sides are not covered by the policy at all. He should be contacted with any queries, however (stimpsonm@aol.com).

Clubs I have not heard much from the handful of overseas clubs. Pinewoods MM in Massachusetts did visit the UK in late June as part of their 50th anniversary celebration. I was able to meet Martin Graetz (jmgraetz@ttwriter.com) therefrom at Thaxted last year. I am aware that this year Perth MM are planning to dance in at Thaxted.

I'd like to thank Adam Garland for getting in touch, and thank Charlie Corcoran for all he has done for the Ring over the years, now that he is dancing off into the sunset...

An additional plea was made that all sides who were contemplating an overseas trip should:

- i. Tell Nigel Strudwick
- ii. Have a native speaker in your group or ensure that you have an English speaking contact at destination.
- iii. Have insurance. Talk to Michael Stimpson

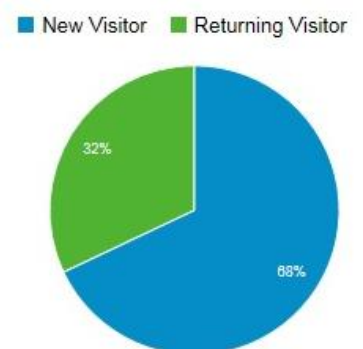
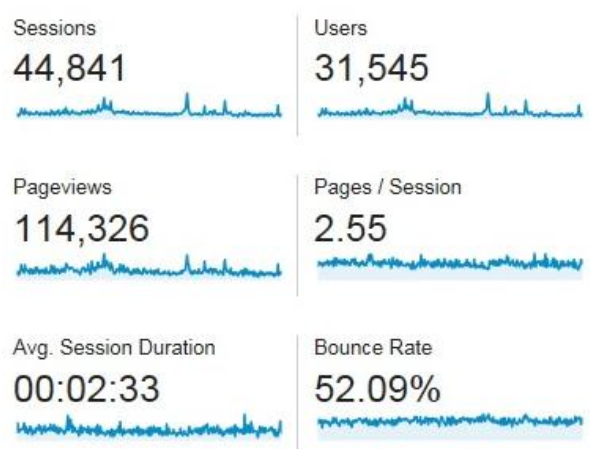
10. Web Editor's Report Peter de Courcy (perhaps better known as Kennet's Fool)

It has been another successful year for the website, if visitor statistics are anything to go by. Our user numbers are up by 30% and the number of sessions has increased by over 20% since 2013. This is despite transferring the Morris Shop activity from the web site to Shaun's own pages. I have continued the policy of "gentle change", by improving pages, some layouts and navigation, publishing relevant news and keeping the content up to date.

The Morris Matters news summary is the only really new feature, which seems to have been well received, although the Traditional Events pages have been reworked considerably. (Are your events included?). These are now accessible from the front page as is our "Find A Side" service. Keeping that up-to-date is a real labour of love with nearly a hundred changes though the year using details shared between myself, Steve Archer and Charlie Corcoran. We have introduced a standard e-mail feedback to side contacts enabling them to check and approve any changes made.

A couple of technical issues outside our control were quickly solved by Martin Jones of Natty Web Development (and Dartington Morris) and, as always, he has been very helpful in adding the new system tweaks and features I've suggested. My target of making updates within 48 hours of receiving them, holidays and weekends of dance permitting, has been maintained by and large.

The following metrics give some idea of the successful reach of our pages for the calendar year 2014.



% New Sessions

67.90%



Country	Sessions	% Sessions
1. United Kingdom	36,868	82.22%
2. United States	2,851	6.36%
3. Australia	684	1.53%
4. Canada	401	0.89%
5. Germany	309	0.69%
6. Netherlands	288	0.64%
7. France	272	0.61%
8. Brazil	247	0.55%
9. Spain	234	0.52%
10. New Zealand	168	0.37%

I have again taken responsibility for the content of our Facebook page as Ollie King has had to focus on more pressing things. Using Facebook and Google searches I am able to make or share many relevant posts but I would really like to see more people posting their side's stuff directly. We have a pretty good audience for you with over 600 people liking and regularly following our page (I suppose we shouldn't be surprised that 74% of them are male) - and we're reaching many more than that when you add shares and likes. One of our Saddleworth posts reached 1782 people!

I have removed the "no discussions here" plea as the Google group does seem moribund and I am more than happy to act as moderator, with my e-bladder at hand. The page description now reads: "A place for members or fans of The Morris Ring to keep up to date with the latest goings on and to share our love of traditional morris dancing." See you there ...

These are the 2014 "Your Fans" metrics.



(I too am worried about our missing 3% with no gender – perhaps Beasts?)

11. Elections

- a. Bagman of Morris Ring. The Squire thanked Charlie for all his hard work over the past ten years. Robin Springett (Immediate Past Squire) added Thanks on behalf of previous Squires with whom Charlie had worked. Kim Woodward added the thanks of the Open Morris.

There was a round of applause.

The election to the role of Bagman of the Morris Ring of **Jon Melville** (Anker Morris Men), who has been nominated by Harthill Morris (whose Statement of Support was included in Newsletter No 92), was wholeheartedly endorsed by the meeting.

- b. The appointment of these Area Representatives following decisions reached at Area Meetings was received:

- | | |
|------------------|---------------------|
| • North Midlands | Ben Robinson (2018) |
| • South Midlands | Roger Comley (2018) |
| • Northern | Paul Cross (2018) |

12. Area Representatives Reports.

North West David Loughlin (2014)

Horwich Prize Medal Morris Men have not renewed their membership with the Morris Ring and joined the Morris Federation. This was one side I really supported when we had the issue of Women Musicians I am deeply surprised as I'm led to believe they are still to remain an all-male dancing side. May they carry on their great traditional dancing for years to come!

It cannot be denied that sides in my area are all desperately requiring more new members to join their respective Morris sides and from those Bagmen who kindly took some time out of their very busy lives to fill in the forms that I sent out, I thank you that has helped me to make this report.

Adlington Morris Men, have only 11 full time members, but 2015 has seen a retirement with knee problems and unfortunately one has passed away. So struggling with numbers has made it difficult to be

frequently seen out, but they are still keen and have been to JMO, Saddleworth Rushcart and Folk Festivals in the past year.

Manchester Morris Men, are doing a lot better with an average 20 members of which a regular 11, their only problem having is only one regular musician. Sometimes I think it might be a problem when they dance North West just with their unique North West Dances. They are always welcome all over the North of England and are making sure they attend most of the invitations sent to them. They are pushing recruiting to all using their own mobile display boards taking them around local libraries, also running Morris tasters sessions with other local teams (must be the Fed again). Most of you who have danced out with Manchester will have met Keith Ashman who has passed the work of Bagman of the side (after 15 years) to John Alexander, I'm sure Keith will still be energetic as ever with support the Morris and Manchester Morris.

Thelwall Morris Men are determined successfully to dance out and to enjoying themselves, but trying to get a musician and 7 dances has its problems. Never the less they have made appearances at one Ring Meeting Morris Ring last year and do regular Village Fetes and having their Day of Dance is supported by other teams in the North West.

Chester Morris Men, although a membership now of 22 they have more musicians than dancers and events are decided by "Is there 8 dancers or not?". If you ever go to Chester Folk Festival they are in attendance every year, but you really have to be lucky to see them out dancing as bookings are few and taken as weekends away which are, always preferred. Usually seen at Westminster Day of Dance, but this year it is Thaxted Ring Meeting. Their 2014 North West Day of Dance was a most successful and another is shortly to be organised this year (with a bit of luck). A lot of health and family problems has limited the dancing but not the enthusiasm to continue but new members are needed.

Leyland Morris Men have 10 dancers and 6 musicians and a very busy programme last year. I have never seen so many workshops being delivered to Infants and Primary Schools, they must all be CRB checked now called DBS check (Disclosure and Barring Service) (Education my reports). Then they are at the Day Centres, yes another

side of elderly gents, but that does not stop them and their enthusiasm dancing at Hospices and Care homes in their local area.

a. **Northern** Paul Cross (2018)

This report is not taking the usual format of a list of what each club has been up to over the last few months. If you are interested in finding out, go online and look them up. My activities, briefly, have been: Scroggling the Holly in Haworth with Oakworth Village MM; a trip down south for the Mendip Ale; practices with GYM and OVMM; a memorial Pint & Curry for BFB (the new K2 is nothing compared to the old K2 for those who are interested), and spending Boxing Day with my wife for the first time since before we were married!

Little Willy has had an eventful year (more of his adventures to follow) and has made a full recovery since his arm fell off at the Leicester 18-30 weekend.

Now for the bulk of my report.

Since that item about the Youth Fund at the Advisory Council meeting in October 2013 (following the tremendous Morris 18-30 weekend hosted by the inimitable Leicester MM) I've been wondering about the number of young dancers in the North. Due to my own age (29 at last count) I'm counting "young" as below 35 (the maximum age at which one can sign up for a Club 18-30 weekend). To this end, and because I think recruitment might be worth touching on too, I sent out a very brief questionnaire to the clubs in my area.

For starters, I am pleased to announce that I am not the youngest member of the Morris Ring in the North! That honour goes to White Rose MM with their youngest dancer clocking in at just 10 years old. However, only a few of the other clubs have anybody between the ages of 16 and 35 with the average age of membership creeping inexorably towards retirement.

I also enquired about recruitment and found that most clubs had tried similar tactics (leaflets, newspaper, beer mats, taster days) with mixed successes. The simple upshot is that teams are struggling to recruit, and nobody really knows why. I know that this certainly isn't limited to the North, but when I get a phone call from father dearest to tell me that a certain side in a moderately rural area of the South-West had 24 *dancers* at practice it tends to grate a little; especially when both teams that I regularly dance with barely scrape half a dozen attendees *in total*!

Most sides now have a decent website and a presence on Social Media. A team on Twitter that I know have 40K followers (compared to our rather paltry 500). Is Social Media the answer? I can speak from experience that Great Yorkshire have had several inquiries about bookings via our Twitter feed, but, alas, no new dancers. We are now in the unfortunate position of not being able to take bookings due to lack of members. No physical presence, no new members. Repeat ad infinitum.

So, before I ramble on too long, what is the answer? I have absolutely no clue, but I'd love to hear from anybody who has any ideas. My aim over the next twelve months is to try and get the Northern clubs together for a massed recruitment drive, to share ideas and point new recruits in the direction of their nearest side. I hope to have good news in 2016. Please stay tuned.

b. **North East** Brian Pollard (2016)
Benfieldside Morris and Sword, 50th Birthday Year. We have enjoyed another successful year. Shared practices with the Durham Rams have proved to be very productive and enabled both sides to enjoy a full programme throughout including attracting two more new recruits!!

We have had a successful series of pub tours during the summer and into the winter culminating in a very well received Christmas charity tour in support of our local hospital's children's ward.

We also danced for a day of community dance in South Shields, an open day at Segedunum Roman fort, Wallsend and at Sedgefield Fair with the Rams.

In June we held a weekend of dance in Bampton (no, not that one!) in the Eden Valley, Cumbria, co-hosting with Great Yorkshire Morris and with guests Gloucestershire and Chalice.

In January we again danced out on Plough Sunday, dancing and processing along with the plough ending the day with an excellent music session.

Durham Rams. Our year began on a sad note with the passing of Ron Straughan marking the end of an era for the Rams. Before he died we were able to celebrate with him the 50th anniversary of the Ram's first practice and it was a fitting tribute that we were able to dance the rapper at his funeral. Our closer ties with Benfieldside have been beneficial to both sides with our repertoire of dances being increased and ensuring that both sides have enough men available to fulfil dance-out commitments. Our dance-outs this year included Plough Sunday in Durham, Black Sheep's day of dance in Barnard Castle, Sedgefield Mediaeval Fayre, Wolsingham Church Fete and events at South Shields and a local primary school. The dancing year concluded with some very enjoyable Wednesday night pub tours with Benfieldside.

Monkseaton Morris Men.

We have had a fairly busy year. We attended Moulton Village May Queen festival in May and a week-long international folk festival in Belgium centred round the town of St Niklass near Antwerp. We were

extremely well looked after and danced with teams from Sweden, Belgium, South of France and Hungary.

We helped Saddleworth Morris Men celebrate their 50th anniversary by attending the Rush Cart in August and ran a very successful Weekend of Dance in September with teams from Saddleworth, Moulton, Redcar, Chester, Jockey, Barnsley and White Rose. The sun shone, dances were danced and beer was drunk. What more could you ask for? This year we will be celebrating our 60th!!

Darlington Mummers are looking forward to a significant year in 2015. The team is 50 years old this summer and they are planning a series of raids on local folk clubs and a grand celebratory ceilidh in September.

c. **West Midlands**

Pete Simpson (2014)

It has been a quiet year in the West Midlands with no big anniversaries to celebrate or national dance events in the area. Having said that it seems most clubs have been busy enough and we did have our first Regional JMO.

A big thank you to Shakespeare MM and Pat Herlihy for bring it all together. The sun shone and it was a smashing day. To dance in the courtyard of Warwick Castle is one of those special places to perform and, at the end of the day, watching Cotswold sides teaching Border sides how to dance Bromsberrow Heath was a joy (my apologies to the Border Sides).

Despite the dancing being under new management I believe Bromyard Folk Festival proved the usual showcase for some top notch performances from Morris Ring Clubs. Unfortunately I had to miss Bromyard to make an arduous trip up north to join Monkseaton MM and others in their weekend of dance, and what a cracking weekend it was too.

Recruitment seems to have been stagnant this year and a number of clubs have commented they are having commitment problems, for various reasons.

On the brighter side there were at least 3 under 18s, from the area, at the Jigs workshop and 18-30 is coming to Birmingham this year so something for us to look forward to.

Now time for what some of the clubs want to say:

Earlsdon MM

Earlsdon Morris Men danced out on 22 occasions between March and December 2014, including two folk festivals, St George's day, Easter weekend and two beer festivals. The highlight of 2014 was our foreman's stag weekend in Luxembourg where we danced in front of the British Ambassador. We currently have 28 dancers and 20 musicians in the team.

Green Man's Morris & Sword Club

In the last year, we have performed at The Duke of York, Park Gate, the Swan, Stratford (Bancroft Gardens), the White Horse and the Black Eagle. In addition, we have also danced at Shenstone on Boxing Day, the Jockey Plough Tour, Middleton Hall, Anker Big Bash and led the Bower, for the 59th consecutive year.

The Bower was very successful, and we were joined in the procession by members of other clubs, most notably, for the first time, members of Three Spires Ladies Morris, who were a very welcome addition, and it is hoped that their participation will be repeated in future.

We attended what was for us an eventful, but enjoyable Ring Meeting centred on Ely organised by Devils Dyke. We accepted bookings to dance at both a Wedding in Lichfield the day before the Bower and at

a Maypole Day in Hednesford.

For the above events the club managed to achieve a respectable turnout of dancers, but once more no new permanent members were forthcoming despite ongoing attempts to follow the Ring advice for recruitment activities. This alongside the ongoing march of time resulted in the club having to turn down a number of events and opportunities to join with other local sides due to insufficient numbers, a situation that stimulates some internal discussion of the clubs' long-term future. This was further enhanced following a poignant but most enjoyable evening dancing with Tarka Morris men at Fradley Junction on 27th September who were there as their final ever dance spot before closing as a club.

The year ended in our usual manner on Boxing Day with our mummers play & dancing in Shenstone, which allowed us to collect over £300 for St Giles Hospice - a worthwhile end to the year.

Faithful City Morris Men

2014 has been another good season with plenty of dancing at a wide variety of events. Our core dancing is still our regular Wednesday evenings at a different pub every week throughout Worcestershire and Herefordshire. We're still finding good new pubs after all these years.

A highlight of this year was sending a side to Le Vesinet, in Paris, with the Worcester Twinning Association. Our side danced at a number of events during a long weekend. We also danced at a couple of Harvest Homes, weddings, fetes, the Beavers and other local events such as the Three Choirs Festival. We enjoyed The Day of Dance in Warwick and being part of the world record attempt.

We danced for Children in Need and raised nearly £400 and we also donated £250 to MacMillan Cancer Relief and £250 to St. Michael's

Hospice. The hospice donation was in memory of Ian Currie, a former member and Squire of our side who sadly died this year.

Our Wassail was great fun this year, on John Barker's farm. The largest and oldest Perry pear tree on Greenstreet Farm is thoroughly free from evil spirits - the fires, shooting and the rest will have scared most of them away but our singing certainly finished off any survivors! This was followed by an evening of folk music and dance in the granary. All great fun with the added benefit of raising a further £500 for MacMillan Cancer Relief.

Our Rapper team competed at DERT again. We introduced a completely new dance and had a thoroughly enjoyable weekend in Leeds.

We have plenty of active members, hence the range of events we're doing, but, like many sides, we are still wrestling with the problems of finding new members. We get interest shown by people but translating that into actually coming and having a go is the difficult part.

Overall, another good year of enjoyable dancing.

Jockey Men's Morris Club

We've had a good and enjoyable year, a great highlight being a weekend visit to Birmingham from our friends Volkdkunstgroep Nele (from Grimbergen).

Jockey travelled to events with Westminster, Saddleworth, Peterborough and Monkseaton, as well as taking part in Bromyard and Cleckheaton Folk Festivals.

Our own Day of Dance and Plough Tour in Birmingham have gone from strength to strength, with more visitors joining us than ever before. We continue to have a great relationship with the city of Birmingham, and also the Cathedral and the Library of Birmingham.

That old favourite, Morris on the radio, also featured twice this year, with visits to Heart FM and BBC Radio WM.

Our Facebook and Twitter presence is continuing to expand, and we get a lot of enquiries by these means. We intend to carry on improving what we do in both of these, and our website, as they are often the first contact with people looking for a side.

Despite all of this, our numbers remain about the same, as it is still proving very difficult to get new members for the side. We intend if possible to get into Birmingham more often, as being seen in our city is the best way to show what we do, and the fact we are having a great time doing it.

1ST SEDGLEY MORRIS MEN

This was our 35th year. We all have anniversary fleeces subsidised by our sponsors the multi award winning Kinver Brewery.

At the AGM Paul Davis was unanimously elected to continue as Squire, Jack Cotterill to continue as Foreman, Dave Jeffery as Bagman and Graham Suffolk as Wardrobe Mistress and keeper of the sticks.

During the year we fulfilled our usual annual commitments - Jockey Plough Tour, Dudley for St George's Day, Dawn on May the 1st on Sedgley Beacon, organised the Maypole Festival for local schools, Kinver & Harborne Carnivals and dancing at Ashwood Nurseries. Additionally we attended Bromyard Folk Festival and we also danced at a number of other Black Country fetes and other events. Finally we performed at a number of local beer festivals - helping to maintain the stereotype!

A high spot of the year was our appearance - with members of Jockey M.M. and other sides - at "Sunday Night at the London Palladium". The

host and compere Bradley Walsh had asked the director to provide groups of Morris dancers for the show and we were flattered to be selected. Our slight qualms that we might be there to be the butt of the usual Morris Men jokes were quickly overcome. There was some dancing for the audience in the queue outside the theatre. During the show Dave Monckton was appointed spokesman and presented Bradley Walsh with a straw hat which he wore on stage during the show. Not satisfied with our name he christened us "Sedgley Stoats" and there will be a motion at this year's AGM to formally change the name of the side!! A "dance off" between ourselves and a Cheerleader Group remains unresolved. The other high spot was a 35th Anniversary tour of the Black Country in a vintage double decker bus- an excellent, warm day out in July revisiting favourite locations and hostelryes.

Since the last report we have recruited 2 new members - Total membership is 25 of whom 22 are active musicians and dancers.

During the year we have supported Cystic Fibrosis charities with both dancing at Birmingham Botanical Gardens and also fundraising. Next year we will support Cancer Charities

Shakespeare Morris Men:

Shakespeare Morris Men have enjoyed a varied year!

We have participated in our usual calendar in and around Stratford, including:

St. George's Day at Lower Brailes, Shakespeare's Birthday Celebrations in Stratford upon Avon, May Day Celebrations, Stratford Mop Fair, Stratford, and Bidford Christmas Lights switch-on. We have also danced and performed the Apple Play (Mummers) at Mary Arden's Farm and the Fleece at Bretforton Apple Days.

We have danced with a number of other sides during the summer in Stratford, Warwick and neighbouring villages. We have spent a number of Monday evenings busking on the Bancroft Gardens in Stratford, raising funds for the side. We have also performed in Warwick for the town's St George's Day Parade and as part of the Evesham Morris weekend, hosting sides visiting Stratford upon Avon.

In May we organised the Midlands Regional Day of Dance in Warwick. 15 sides came to Warwick all danced within Warwick Castle as well as around the town centre.

There was an attempt at the Guinness World Record for the greatest number of dancers performing the same dance.. The number was achieved but the person (from another side) who had responsibility for submitting the claim does not appear to have been successful. A lesson to be learned for others with similar ideas. The event raised over £470 for the JMO's preferred charity - Children in Need.

The idea of a Regional JMO has continued, with one planned this summer in Kent. It would be good to see another one in the West Midlands.

We had dance sides performing at Saddleworth Rushcart RM and at Bromyard Folk Festival, and contributed to the combined side that performed at the church on the Sunday morning of Bromyard

In January we ran an open workshop for anybody interested in trying Morris Dancing. The workshop resulting in three, possibly four, new members to the side. Add to this two additional musicians who joined us in the Autumn and the new dancer who joined us in March, we are now looking to secure larger premises for our practice nights.

Looking ahead, we have 10 men due to attend the Morris Ring Meeting in Helmond, Netherlands in May of this year

Stafford Morris Men

An interesting year for Stafford Morris Men in many ways!

Whilst we have had many good dance occasions over the year we have struggled to maintain a constant supply of ready and able dancers at both practice nights and paid dance events. The reasons are understandable.

Some members have reached an age now where dancing has become a struggle (though they have now become valuable collectors!) Other members have had too many commitments outside of the morris, such as work or family commitments. Some members have moved away from Stafford and joined other clubs, some have moved on to other hobbies.

But still, the club soldiers on. We still have 'the old faithful' dancing with us, who have danced with us for many a year and will hopefully continue into the future. We have also gained a couple of new 'keen' members, which is fantastic. Our AGM was a good moment for me to ask for honest feedback from the men, many expressed negative points of where the club was going wrong but more importantly, they explained how they thought these problems could be fixed. Because of this open discussion, the format for practice evenings was changed and dancing standards have begun to improve.

John Edwards has taken over as Captain of Sword which has given the club a new element when dancing out and breaks up the evening effectively providing explosive entertainment!

We have recently had our annual feast which seemed to be enjoyed by all! We hope that all our guests return next year for more roast beef and (hopefully not burnt) custard.

As we move into our new year of dancing we hope to extend our dancing repertoire, attempting more complex traditions. We are still on the hunt for new members. And we have now started to contact past or out

of town members for more support. Whilst finding new members is great, many have to start from scratch so the support of out of town members is crucial for us.

To conclude, dips and troughs but Stafford Morris keeps dancing on into

2015!

Uttoxeter Heart of Oak Morris Men

Uttoxeter had a good year of dancing out with plenty of bookings accepted and many more turned away. In terms of the men, however, it has been a year of heartache due to the sad loss of Ken Smith, one of our musicians and an occasional dancer. Ken was a stalwart of the club and would always turn out and play, but after a short illness, died earlier in the year. A new tune and dance has been composed in his memory, in the style of Fieldtown, called 'Ken Smith's Morris'.



Uttoxeter also seem to have had a number of men fall by the wayside due to the illnesses of advancing years. In addition, we struggle to recruit new members in any sufficient numbers to keep ourselves proofed against 'the effluxion of time', as they say.

During 2014 we danced out at 11 paying venues, mostly fetes and festivals, but including a Prom Night at Westwood College, Leek! We joined forces with 1st Sedgeley Morris to perform at the East Park Extravaganza event in Wolverhampton (we still have your £75

performance fee for you if you want it chaps!). We had a brilliant day at the Eccleshall Festival, a biennial event which was well organised and well attended in glorious sunshine (which always helps). We also gave a couple of talks on the Morris to societies in Eccleshall and Uttoxeter, in addition to our usual fortnightly Thursday dancing out sessions during the summer.

This year saw our 60th year of dancing and we celebrated with a dinner for men and wives at the 'Shrew' at Kingstone. Our 60th Boxing day noon dance in Uttoxeter market square was also attended by Stafford Morris Men who have joined us for most of those 60 years. A reasonable crowd turned out to watch in, for 26th December, decent weather. Some of the Men performed a Mummer's play after the dancing, not too badly considering there had been just one practice which wasn't attended by all the performers!

Despite our setbacks, we are still going and will be performing and looking for recruits during 2015 as usual.

White Hart Morris Men.

White Hart Morris Men are still in existence - just! Last year 2014 we struggled through, often with only 6 dancers, leaving no room for injuries/family crises, etc. We therefore decided not to take bookings if there was any chance of letting people down.

On a more positive note we did hold our usual 1st May Dawn Dance & May Bank Holiday Monday Bredon Hill Tour. We also attended Saddleworth's Rushcart weekend & have been invited back this year for the third time.

Our Ale on the 1st weekend of October was deemed a success with a Black Country Tour of Brew Pubs on the Saturday, followed by a feast in the local pub. Any Morris Men within range of Alcester who would like to, will be very welcome to join us in the Town Hall from 8.00pm on Monday evenings.

Best to ring Bagman Barry on 07800 849393.

Pete added to his report the comment that several sides in his area were struggling for numbers.

d. **North Midlands** Ben Robinson (2015) **No report received.**
Ben apologised to the meeting that he had been unable to produce a report prior to the meeting. He commented that his survey of the sides in the North Midlands was very positive and while some sides were reporting losses others were making gains.

Musicians' Instructional 2015 Hosted by the Ripley Morris Men

St. Wilfred's Church Hall, Kirkby-in-Ashfield, 30th Jan - 1st Feb 2015.

The Instructional was attended by 28 musicians drawn mostly from Morris Ring and Federation sides but also including some with no specific affiliation. Leaders were Malcolm Frier (Ripley MM), Clive DuMont (Mendip), Tim Barber (Great Yorkshire Morris), and Eric Foxley (Foresters). This was Eric's first attendance and proved to be a literal baptism of fire as his OHP began to emit large quantities of smoke during his presentation!

The instructional ran mostly along tried and tested lines, with recording and playback sessions, a study of the limitations of written musical notation in representing music of a danceable nature, and an exploration of the influence on the music of a musician's chosen instrument. On Saturday evening, attendees were invited to the Ripley Morris Annual Ale Feast, at which they were able to perform as musicians. The Group also performed two Morris tunes played separately and together.

Sunday morning sessions started with individual delegates playing while the men of Ripley Morris danced and gave feedback to the musicians

from a dancer's perspective. There were also sessions on playing as a massed band, and on playing as organised groups, making better use of multiple musicians in playing for clubs' own performances.

I would like to record my sincere thanks to Leaders Clive, Tim and Eric for their input throughout the Instructional. I also owe a sincere debt of gratitude to Gilbert and David Butler and to Sally-Anne Booth for splendid catering and other support over the weekend, and finally, but by no means least, to the Ripley Morris Men for hospitality and dancing for the musicians on Sunday morning.

Feedback from the attendees has been both positive and constructively critical and encouraging of running future Instructionals. The weekend as it stands is not financially viable as a stand-alone event, and benefits greatly from being associated with an occasion such as an ale feast. This confers two main benefits. Bookings on venues can be held open up until the date of the event itself without incurring potential financial penalties, and a dancing side is available to allow musicians to perform and receive constructive comment. Ripley would most certainly be happy to host this event again, but the event might benefit from a change of venue. If other sides expressed themselves interested in hosting the event, the existing teaching "faculty" would be happy to present the Instructional.

Malcolm Frier Ripley Morris Men

Malcolm added that the Musicians Workshop had attracted more female attendees this time and that it was obvious that future Musicians Instructionals or workshops need to move away from the current Cotswold focus to embrace Morris in its wider sense.

Ripley are willing to host the weekend in January 2017 but not next year (2016). The Musicians events are not financially self-supporting and therefore need to piggy-back onto another event.

e. **Eastern** Mike Stevens (2016)

This has been a good year for Morris events in the east with two (what we used to call) Ring meetings, hosted by Devil's Dyke MM and Thaxted MM, and a Joint Morris Organisations day in Cambridge.

Devil's Dyke hosted a very professional meeting in Ely with accommodation in the boarding school. Tours in the surrounding fenland area introduced participants (all of whom boarded for the weekend) to this unique landscape. The Thaxted meeting took its familiar form, accommodating weekend visitors and also attracting local sides up for a day out. A sunny weekend always helps and both days benefitted.

Cambridge Morris Men hosted the JMO day of dance in May, again organised very professionally. Many sides took part, representing all three national organisations. Complements all round - and I would particularly mention Cambridge Bagman, Graham Cox and Squire, John Jenner, both of whom have been East Area representative in the past.

Other sides in the area have hosted their own days of dance, weekend camps and foreign tours. And most sides report having attended events organised by others, such as the Straw Bear festival, Saddleworth's meeting of the Ring and several Ales.

Since September 2013 the Morris Ring Youth Fund has supported four workshops for young dancers, the first in Cambridge and subsequently

three in Thaxted. Over the four meetings, young dancers representing six sides in the area were introduced to a variety of traditions and dances and were given the opportunity to work up several to performance standard. Appropriately the Thaxted meeting in May saw their first opportunity to perform as a team, which they did in the Town Street show, having toured separately with their own sides during the day. If you want to see this dance it is on YouTube under "MorrisRingEast". Other events attended by their home sides allowed them to get together to dance - notably at the Cambridge JMO, Peterborough day of dance, Rutland and Kemp's Norfolk tour, Saddleworth and King's tour of Thornham. I'm very pleased to note that the Thaxted workshop in December was also attended by Tom and Cory from Leicester MM and I hope this will be the start of a workshop group in the North Midlands. Participants range in age from 10 to 18 years and interest would be welcome from other sides with dancers in that age-range wherever they are. With youngsters moving through this age-range in just a few years there is a constant need for new entrants at the younger end if the group is to continue to flourish.

I asked bagmen if their side had any members who are teachers, if they have any connection with a school or youth group and if they have anyone who would like to support the teaching of Morris in such a group. There was some positive response to this, but with only a few sides feeling capable. I hope the new "Morris! Hey!" package might allow some sides to promote and support the teaching of Morris dance in schools.

Most bagmen report a better year in 2014. Numbers continue to be a concern for most sides but a few have gained new dancers. Those with younger dancers in the team seem the most satisfied with their situation. Sadly, new men have not arrived in time for all sides. Last year saw Stevenage Sword go "mixed" in order to survive, so they are no longer members of the Morris Ring. They have always appeared at

Straw Bear each January and this year was no exception so I wish them well.

As a supplementary to his report Mike asked other Area Reps to let him have information regarding "youth" initiatives in their areas. Brian Tasker (Past Squire 2008-10) of the MR) queried whether Mike would be willing to help with initiative in other areas and Mike said that he was. Mike went on to say that children in schools, scouts, etc. can be helped and that there were resources in the Youth Fund - adding that the MR needs to be more outgoing and target under 18s. A 'sponsored group' could be helped with training, insurance, liaison with others etc.

It was suggested that the MR should pursue links and that Youth Development should be a Discussion Item on the agenda of future ARMs.

Robin Springett said that this can be Advisory Council business. Steven Archer reminded the meeting what he had said earlier when he was reporting on the accounts, that the Youth Fund was well supported as sides recognised its importance, and that we need to be looking for creative ways to use it. Barry Care (Past Squire (1982-84) & Treasurer (1977-82) of the MR) commented that it was a MR fund and should be used by MR sides.

f. **South West and Wales** Tim Sercombe (2014)

"I was not so much elected in to the post of South West Area Rep., at last year's ARM, as pushed in to the job, (somewhat reluctantly by the then incumbent Squire of the Ring Robin Springett) the elected Rep., Jed..., (can't remember his last name) from Wyvern Jubilee, had failed to make an appearance, not just at this particular ARM, but also previous advisory council meetings, and so as the squire (who was a little exasperated by this time, with his lack of commitment) said and I quote "we will have to have bloody Sercombe, as the rep. after all."

It has been a quiet year in post, apart from the Ring Meeting hosted by my own side Dartington, in the picturesque town of Dartmouth, I was, along with most of the team involved with the planning committee for the event, and I, along with two other men organised and hosted a tour on the day. For those that attended the meeting we as a side did our utmost to make our guests stay in Devon, an enjoyable one, culminating in a massed display in the town of Dartmouth on the Sunday, in glorious sunshine (which we had been blessed throughout the weekend with) and witnessing the incumbent Squire Robin Springett, dance out, and the elected Squire Adam Garland, dance in. A lot of hard work had gone into the organisation of the weekend, (as many of you will know that have been involved in running a Ring Meeting) by the whole team, and many fretful hours spent worrying about if we would have a venue at a very later stage in the planning, but all came right on the night, as they say.

In October, on the Saturday before the Advisory Council Meeting to be held in Leicester, I was called up by the host of a BBC Gloucestershire radio programme, in my capacity as Area Rep. for the south west, to give a comment on air the following day, Sunday, on the controversy surrounding the picture of our glorious leader, PM, call me Dave Cameron, being pictured on the front of one of the Red Topped tabloid's posing for a picture with a blacked up Boarder Morris side, asking if this was an appropriate thing a Prime Minister should be doing in these days of political correctness, they were seeking for a controversial comment from the Ring. They wanted me to go on the show live, the following day, I explained that I would be travelling to Leicester in the morning, but he could contact me on my cell phone, he was not keen as is often there is a loss of signal, so we compromised and we pre-recorded the piece to be broadcast on his show.

Though I say it myself, I was a modicum of restraint (those that know me will be surprised at this, an opportunity to have a rant at the

government of the day on live radio, a heaven sent opportunity, but I was representing the Morris Ring so restraint was called for) and I quashed all aspects of controversy (racial or otherwise) surrounding this thorny issue, explaining that the teams on the Border regions of England and Wales, for centuries or more, have been blacking up to conceal their identity, when out dancing, who have ostensibly been begging for money, and somewhat looked down upon by landlords, landowners, and employers alike, as a disgraceful way to carry on. There have never been any racial connotations with Morris sides blacking up, and never would be. I went on to explain that it was a time honoured folk tradition, and always would be in parts of the country.

I caught the broadcast on the BBC iPlayer the following day, and though it had been edited, and not broadcast in the correct sequence that we held the conversation in, I must say that it was a balanced and fair piece of broadcasting, and the Ring would have been proud of their Area Rep., for once.

In my other duties I have been asked for the Display Boards, (that reside with Past Squire of the Ring Robin Springett) by the Chalice Morris Men and as I go to press they have not been collected or asked to be forwarded on to them, I am still waiting Bob.

g. **South Midlands** Roger Comley (2015)

Thanks are due to all the sides who have celebrated their local customs and traditional events by inviting others to celebrate with them as participants, guests or audience. The events are sometimes not easy to understand until explained and by using the media and hand-outs available before and on the day we can recall the event and hopefully give encouragement to others to seek out their own local 'lost' custom to celebrate. Who knows how many old Plough Monday or other events are just waiting to be researched and resurrected?

Keep looking and when you find one, be prepared for the "doubters and scoffers" who can be educated by giving them something happy to think about.

P.S. The Squire of the MR has been seen performing the *Manx Scallop Dance* and three sides have told me what to do with my euphonium!

Roger additionally spoke about Letchworth's involvement with the World Scout Jamboree and made reference to Mike Ruff's "Morris Hey". He also reported on the success of Letchworth's Monthly Morris Musicians Instructionals.

h. **South East**

Cliff Marchant (2016)

I have tried to contact all sides in my area by email asking how they are doing etc. and received 11 out of 26 replies.

Age is the most worrying factor for most sides, although Longman have a `strong` side of all ages. A couple of sides are sharing practise facilities with Morris Federation sides to reduce costs and there are sides, for example Waddard, who are really struggling to keep going and not always able to get 6 men dancing out.

Chanctonbury Ring, who are celebrating 40 years of dancing the North West tradition this year, have a core of 12 dancers and 4 musicians (Cotswold and NW). Chanctonbury Ring joined with King John MM to form a combined side to attend the 40th Rushcart last year, thankfully we share the same dances.

We (Chanctonbury Ring) have a joint stand each year with Brighton Morris who are an all-male Morris Federation side, who always have at least two sets up and sometimes three. They manage to get men to join from the universities in the town, (Sussex, Brighton) something for the Ring to think about?

I have yet to have a side contact me as their Rep and at the very enjoyable Winchester feast some men did not even know there was an Area Rep. One wonders if we are really needed.

Peter Halfpenney (Past Squire (2010-12) of the MR) referred to the MR website with regards to recruitment and asked that the various support materials / ideas be made available via the "For Sides" area, and urged sides to "share their success".

- 13.** Ratification of Perth Morris as members of the Morris Ring.
This appeared on the Agenda in error - as the minutes of the 2014 ARM recorded:

Perth Morris Men, Redcliffe, Western Australia

Web address: <http://perthmorrismen.org/>

Dance Styles Cotswold & Border

Application supported by: Thaxted MM and Foresters MM

Robin Springett and Roy Page (Thaxted) both spoke in support of Perth's application to become full overseas members of the Morris Ring

All voted in favour.

14. Discussion item 1: The organisation of future Morris Ring ARMs

John Whelan proposed that due to the problems encountered in getting a side to volunteer to host the ARM that a group of 'retirees' form an ad hoc group to take on the organisation of future ARMs in an appropriate central location. Costs could be held down doing our own catering - following the example set by the annual Jigs Weekend.

Paul Reece (Past Squire (2006-08) of the MR) suggested that the ARM should be passed round the different areas - and added to the role of the Area Reps.

The problem of travel; distances was pointed out. Tim Sercombe (Past Squire (1996-1998) of MR) reminded the meeting that the ARMs used to be held at Cecil Sharp House frequently linked to the National Gathering. Others commented that London was expensive; it could be a Day Event and that there was no need for a Feast.

Adam Garland explained that the 'short' weekend used this year (2015) had elicited comments that supported both points of view - Day and Full-weekend. Barry Care (Past Squire (1982-84) & Treasurer (1977-82) of the MR) spoke about the history of the ARM including the point that it had originally been expanded to a full weekend event as a day had been deemed to be too short and thus business rushed - and that we had now gone full circle. He suggested that we alternate for a couple of years depending upon what potential host sides offered.

Pete Simpson (WM Area Rep) pointed out that for a variety of reasons lots of sides were not capable / able / willing to be hosts. He spoke positively of the venue we were in as although more expensive it was comfortable and the venue did much of the organising. There was an additional potential of a local complimentary venue a near-by offering "village hall" format for the Friday evening to facilitate networking for those who wanted it.

The majority of the meeting seemed happy to accept this suggestion:

Oak Farm Hotel, Watling Street, Hatherton with the alternative for the Friday evening.

Discussion item 2: The Committee of the Joint Morris Organisations: proposed Statement of Purpose

- It was felt that JMO Regional Dancing Events needed to be 'special'
- John Jenner (Cambridge MM) proposed that the list of what is Morris Dancing, although it says that it is not an exclusive list, should contain clear reference to Mummers.
- Pete Simpson (WM Area Rep) said that to be considered to be a JMO event there would need to have sides for each of the three orgs and that the Birmingham St George's Day would qualify as a 'local JMO' event.

15. Future Programme.

a. Morris Ring Meetings 2014 and beyond. (Bagman)

15. Future Events:

2015

Sat 18th April **JMO National Day of Dance** in Bristol

Hosted by Rag Morris of Open Morris

8th - 10th May **344 Helmond 80th Anniversary Ring Meeting**

29th-31st May **345 Thaxted Morris Meeting**

For more information contact iandbanderson@btinternet.com

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

23rd - 25th October Fools and Beasts Unconvention Venue TBC

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**

a. Instructionals

Geoff Jerram (Past Squire (1986-88) of the MR) asked for sides (including Morris Federation and Open Morris sides) around the regions to act as hosts for the Jigs Instructionals.

Malcolm Frier (Ripley MM) asked for the same for the Musicians Weekend - but added the need for a side to dance to the musicians.

Robert Chisman (Illustrious Order of Fools and Beasts) also put out a plea for host sides - including dancers upon whom the Fools and Beasts can practice.

16. Date and Venue of next ARM. **To be confirmed**

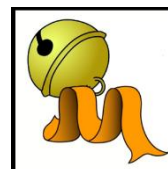
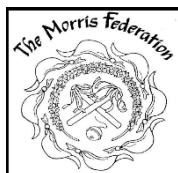
17. A.O.B There was none.



Appendix 2:

The Committee of the Joint Morris Organisations

The Morris Ring – The Morris Federation – The Open Morris



Draft 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, Fools, and Beasts.

2 – Membership

JMO membership currently means 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

Shall be made up of no more than three members of each of The Morris Ring, The Morris Federation, and The Open Morris.

4 – JMO Objectives

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

NB. This list is not considered to be exhaustive

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 loss 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 loss 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.