



SQUIRE: Simon Newman,
14 Redacre Road, Sutton Coldfield B73 5DX
Email: squire@themorrisring.org

BAGMAN: Peter Austin, 8 Pease Close, Warwick
Warwickshire, CV34 7BA
Tel: 01926 339351
Email: bagman@themorrisring.org

TREASURER: Clayton Francis
Tel: 0208 3957821
Email: RingTreasurer@themorrisring.org

Newsletter No. 126

April 2022

Page

2	Future Events
3	Squires Massed Dances
4	Bagman's Musings
5	From the Squire
7	Card Readers
11	Positions Vacant
11	Notices
12	An obituary for David Welti (1925-2021)

Future Events

2022

10th-12th June

Thaxted Morris Weekend

Later than usual due to extra bank holiday. All teams within the Morris Ring welcome regardless of gender profile.

15th-17th July

Letchworth Centenary Ring Meeting - FULLY BOOKED

Letchworth Morris, one of the six founder sides of the Morris Ring, are 100 years old in 2022, and are determined that this will be a Meeting to remember.

19th-21st August

Saddleworth Rushcart

More information to follow, but hopefully all will return to whatever Saddleworth MM call normal

16th-18th September

Men of Wight Morris Weekend of Dance

Men of Wight Morris invite any interested sides/individuals to join them for the weekend on the Island. Limited spaces available, priced at £85 per person for the full weekend with half-board. Apply to bagman@menofwight.org.uk for particulars.

Squires Massed Dances 2022

Massed dances are one of the things the Morris Ring can do well, they are made better if we can do them with some uniformity. With this in mind I have added notes to some of them so we are all doing the same thing. If your club has a different interpretation please don't think for one minute I am trying to dictate to you a correct way of doing things, I just want us to put on a good massed dance for the public.

Adderbury: Black Joke
Lads-buncham

Bampton: Rose tree (finish on rounds)
Sidestep (to the tune of either Speed the Plough or the Quaker)

Bledington: Idbury Hill
Young Collins

Brackley: Jockey to the Fair (long version)

Bucknell: Queens Delight

Headington: Constant Billy (Foot up, Cross over, Back to back and finish on Whole hey)

Fieldtown: Valentine
Balance the Straw.

Lichfield: Vandalls (In the chorus show the first time and clash the second except the last time when it is show twice)

Bagman's Musings

Greetings friends! My goodness, how is it we are nearly in May already?

It's been a busy time since the ARM in March. For those who may not be aware by now, the ARM voted to adopt the new constitution and supporting documents with some minor edits. These will be loaded onto the website soon. Again, thanks to everyone who helped form these and hopefully these will help with the smooth running of the Ring up to the centenary and beyond. The ARM also voted Nigel Strudwick of Devil's Dyke Morris Men to be our next squire when Simon steps down next March, so congratulations to Nigel!

The ARM also voted to admit Big Jigs as full members, following several productive years as associate members. A dance-in will be arranged in due course. We also formally received a new set of candlesticks from Joe Oldaker of Anker Morris, which will allow the Percy Sephton candlesticks to be retired to the care of Hartley Morris Men later this year.

Events have been going at full pace since March. I was privileged to be a guest of Devil's Dyke and Letchworth at their respective ales, as ever these were great fun. In the weekend before Easter, the Squire and I went to Liverpool for the JMO day of dance and had a smashing time, more on that below. I've also just got back from a smashing tour with Jockey to Flanders, the first big tour for us since the pandemic which was a real tonic.

Looking ahead, I hope everyone has a good May Day weekend, whatever they are doing, and wish you all the best for the summer. The next newsletter should be out in August.

Cheesy

From the Squire

Joint Morris Organisation's Day of Dance; Liverpool

As Squire of the Morris Ring, I had the great pleasure of attending a fantastically organised day of dance in Liverpool where it was my privilege to meet and introduce the Vice Lord Lieutenant of Merseyside Robert Owen to all of our attendees. Another highlight for me was being able to introduce a number of teams to perform in a showcase of dance during the closing ceremony.



The Squire and Bagman meet the Vice
Lord Lieutenant Mr Robert Owen

I would like to once again thank Tony Foard and David Loughlin for their organisational efforts and hard work over the day as well as the volunteers from Chester City Morris and Southport Swords for stewarding the dance spots. Finally, I would like to thank all the member teams of the Morris Ring for attending and representing the Ring for the occasion.



Photos by Steve Holder;
Squire and Bagman; Saddleworth Morris; Jockey Morris and Earlsdon Morris
Photos by Adrian John: Thaxted Morris Men and White Rose Morris

Card Readers

As many of you are already aware, the officers of the Morris Ring have decided to support our members financially by offering to purchase each team a card reader. Following this announcement, Charlie Corcoran of Leicester Morris has kindly put together some useful information about collecting in an increasingly cashless society which you can read on the following page. Thanks Charlie.

Once you have read Charlie's useful information your team will need to decide which card reader will be the most appropriate for your team if at all.

Once you have purchased your card reader you will need to send an email with the details listed below to Clayton Francis, Treasurer of the Morris Ring via an email who will reimburse you up to the value of £100.

Please email the following details to: treasure@themorrisring.org

1. Name of Team:
2. Name of device purchased:
3. Date of purchase:
4. Cost of purchase:
5. Photograph/copy of receipt/ confirmation of purchase
6. Your team bank details for repayment: account number and sort code.

The Following conditions apply:

- Member teams may only purchase card readers up to a value of £100. If you buy two readers at £50 this is acceptable.
- The Morris Ring is not responsible for any ongoing costs for maintaining machines
- The Morris Ring will accept backdated receipts for card readers already purchased as long they are within the £100 limit and less than 2 years old.

If any member requires further assistance with set up then please don't hesitate to contact either myself or Pete and will be do our best to assist you.

Simon
Squire, The Morris Ring

How to collect when many people are not carrying cash?

There are a number of options being pushed by the various providers. Leicester Morris have tried three of them in this order: Just Giving ¹, Zettle ², SumUp.³ [& Square ⁴].

Warning:

- *All of these require there to be an internet or phone signal so not good in some rural areas of Leicestershire.*
- *All require monies to be paid into a secure bank account – a side account does not appear to be secure enough so all systems need to be linked to a personal account.*

Here is a blend of each provider's sales pitch and our experience.

Charlie Corcoran, Bagman of Leicester Morris Men

Just Giving

This was the first method we tried. Their website is very positive: "JustGiving is the world's most trusted platform for online giving. We help people raise money for the charities and people they care about the most." As most if not all Morris groups are not charities we come under the umbrella of "Raise money for your own personal cause, a person in need, clubs, schools, and communities."

You set up a 'site' and provide the usual identification details, including email address and which bank account the money raised is to be paid into. You need to write a short description / story that makes people want to donate to your cause and add photos and videos to bring your donation page to life.



We created a QR code that we could print on a handout – this takes you to a LMM JustGiving site. *This is an example. You can use it to see how it works but the account is now closed.*

Pros:

- You can share / boost your JustGiving page through WhatsApp and Facebook links
- You can add a QR code link. LMM did this and the collector had these on a handout.
- The manager of the account receives a notification every time a donation is made.
- A full account is available on line for the manager..
- Once a week the cash raised is paid into the designated account

¹ <https://justgiving.com/>

² <https://www.zettle.com/gb/payments>

³ <https://sumup.co.uk/>

⁴ I have seen references to Square (<https://squareup.com/gb/en/payments>) but I have no experience of this system – but from the internet it does look very business orientated.

Cons:

- The cash raised is paid into the designated account “ minus our small charge and the transaction costs” at 1.9% + 20p per donation [e.g. Of £12.50 paid into the LMM account we received £10.63]
- The punter is asked to make a donation to cover JustGiving’s costs. Default is £5 but can be reduced to nil by punter.
- These accounts are time-limited (e.g. six months) but can be renewed or extended.

Zettle**Pros:**

- Initial one-off purchase cost (currently £29.00)
- No monthly fee
- Accepts all payment methods (Chip & Pin; contactless; Google Pay & Apple Pay)

Cons:

- Transaction costs: 1.75% of each transaction
- Needs to be linked to phone or tablet when used.
- Needs iOS 12 or higher / Android 5 or higher
- Needs Zettle app on phone
- Must be linked to phone or tablet to work; Needs 3G or 4G or Wi-Fi * to operate. (* Note – Wi-Fi must be ‘secure’. Most public Wi-Fi links are not).



SumUp card reader

In order to set up the card reader, you need to download the SumUp app onto your chosen mobile phone or tablet. Unlike Zettle, SumUp requires you to input your business details, personal details, and bank details before you can access the app. Then, it has easy to follow instructions on its website to explain how to set up your card reader.

When you use it, select Quick Sale mode and tap in the proposed donation directly into the keypad. Once you press Charge, the SumUp card reader will display the transaction. The punter can choose to pay by contactless, chip and pin, or mobile payment.

Pros:

- Initial one-off purchase cost (£69.00- £99 but look out for offers)
- WiFi and Built-in SIM with free unlimited data. Standalone Mobile phone does not need to be connected.
- Small & self-contained (12cm x12cm x 4.3cm)
- Automatic software updates and fast charging battery
- Supplied with charging cradle, lid and USB-C cable
- Accepts all payment methods (Chip & Pin; contactless; Google Pay & Apple Pay)
- No paperwork, no contract
- Usually the money will appear in your account within 2 - 3 working days.
- The manager of the account receives can access statements of donations via their website

Cons:

- Transaction costs: 1.69% of each transaction
- Needs SumUp app on phone to set up.

Positions Vacant

Auditor for Morris Ring Accounts

Tony Tomlin has decided to step back from this role, so we are looking for someone with the relevant experience to take over auditing our accounts. Any interested parties should contact Clayton at treasurer@themorrisring.org

Editor of the Morris Ring Circular

Tony Foard has taken the decision to pass the reins on to someone else after the next edition. Any interested parties should contact bagman@themorrisring.org

Notices

Contact the bagman for particulars

- **The Red Lion Morris of Dessertines, France** have hung up their sticks and have a side set of leg pads with bells for sale to raise money for their chosen charity. Cancer Support France. These bells are mostly as new Covid struck just as they were commissioned. We have 9 sets for sale originally costing nearly £30 a set we are looking for offers between £100 and £150 for the lot. Does anyone know of a side wishing to purchase such items. They are red white and blue leather with silver bells.
- **Jill Turnbull** - My husband Gael Turnbull, who died in 2004, was a keen Border Morris Dancer. I'm nearly 86 and I'm trying to clear out the masses of stuff I have accumulated over the years. One thing which brings back happy memories is Gael's Border Morris hat - a trilby decorated with all sorts of items.

An Obituary for DAVID WELTI (1925-2021)



David Welti, who was Squire of the Morris Ring from 1976 to 1978, died on Tuesday, 31 August 2021. His funeral was in Ullapool, on Tuesday, 14 September, with an interment on Wednesday, 15 September.

David was presumably born in Chalfont St. Peter, where his father was vicar, and his birth was thus registered in 1925 in Amersham, Buckinghamshire - a later birthday party for his 75th birthday was held on 15 October 2000, and this suggests that he was nearly 96 years old.

He was the only son of the Reverend Charles Henry Welti, sometime of the Royal Army Chaplains' Department and Mrs. Welti, formerly Miss Fearnhead. They moved around various parishes including Chalfont St. Peter in 1926, by 1955 at Redmile, near Grantham, and then Bledlow, in Buckinghamshire.

He '... took a degree in both chemistry and the arts at Oxford, and passed with honours'. This apparent double degree is no doubt because the *Grantham News* reporter did not realise that a chemistry degree at Oxford University was a Bachelor of Arts degree. David came to Bedford to work as a research chemist for Messrs Lever Brothers laboratories, later Unilever, apparently becoming an expert on ice-cream. In Bedford, David Welti played cricket, as a 'newcomer' from 1953, and then became an active member and sometime Squire of Bedford Morris Men from the early 1950s to the later 1980s.

He married Pamela Lesley McDonald-Kemp of Goldington, Bedford on 5 March 1955, in Bedford. She was a ballet mistress at a Bedfordshire school of dancing. His father conducted the ceremony at Goldington church. They had two sons, Brian in 1958, and Stephen in 1961.

He later married again, with Anna and after his retirement, they later moved to Ullapool, Scotland.

On 10 July 1976, he attended the Greensleeves Ring Meeting at Chipperfield as Squire Elect, and then on the weekend 10-12 September 1976, he danced in as Squire of the Morris Ring at East Surrey Morris Men's 50th anniversary Guildford Ring Meeting, following on from Morris Sunderland, who was sometime also a member of Bedford Morris Men.

In March 1977, he took an Instructional at Cecil Sharp House in the afternoon, with Bedford Morris Men assisting and giving a display at the Ceilidh in the evening.

During his time as Squire he was much involved with the revision of the Constitution, the form of the Advisory Council, and the apportionment of Sides to Regions. He was also involved with the resignation of Chingford Morris Men and policy concerning the EFDSS and the conduct of Ring Meetings. He danced out as Squire, and Ivor Alsop danced in, at the Ludlow Ring Meeting in early September 1978.

He was also a member of the EFDSS National Executive Committee in the early 1980s, and was most concerned with the security of the Vaughan Williams Memorial Library during a period of financial uncertainty for the Society.

His scrapbooks and photograph albums include photographs from 1949 to 1957, and copies of press cuttings etc. from about 1970 to 1987, and have been copied where appropriate. Two scrapbooks relating to his time as Squire of the Ring were copied for both the Bedford Morris archives and the Ring Archive. His papers as Ring Squire are currently being catalogued and will go to the Morris Ring Archive in due course.

Martin (Shag) Graetz, of Pinewoods Morris Men in the USA wrote *'I owe a great deal to David Welti. I think I first met him at one of the Ring meetings in September, 1975, shortly after I came to England for a Sabbatical-type year researching the Morris. At the Chipperfield weekend that year, we talked more about my plans, and he invited me to come to practice regularly with the Bedford Men. For the next eight months, I benefitted both from experiencing his instruction, and from watching how he did it. He could see the side as a whole, while also observing individual dancers with a fine eye for detail. When I started teaching the following year, I consciously used his methods (except for the famous referee's whistle - which, to be fair, he seldom used with Bedford).*

David was also a gracious host. He put me up overnight on my weekly visits, and introduced me to the best fish-and-chip shop in the county, just a short walk from his house. He also took me to my first (and to date, only) Rugby match, between Bedford and, I think, Coventry. Bedford won, of course.'

Written by John Frearson, Past Bagman

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

On-line Links:



The main MR website with millions of pages stuffed to the gunnels with all you need to know about the MR: <https://www.themorrisring.org/>

The Morris Ring Google Group (MRGG). Private Forum for debate or announcements. <https://groups.google.com/group/the-morris-ring>

Contact the Morris Ring Bagman to register to use.

Morris Ring Facebook site: <https://www.facebook.com/TheMorrisRing>

Morris Ring Twitter: <https://twitter.com/TheMorrisRing>

Call for Contributions

Any items of urgent Morris-related news, please send to me at bagman@themorrisring.org for inclusion in the next Newsletter. Less time-dependent updates and 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.

Charlie Corcoran, the Keeper of the Morris Ring Log Book, is keen to receive stories about Ring events, both the formal and the quirky (Charliecorcoran7@ntlworld.com).

