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## Newsletter No. 132

October 2023

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## **Future Events 2023**

*All events listed correct at time of publication. Please check the events page on the Morris Ring website or email [bagman@themorrisring.org](mailto:bagman@themorrisring.org) for latest information*

27<sup>th</sup> – 29<sup>th</sup> Oct

### **The Illustrious Order of Fools and Beasts Unconvention 2023**

*Open to all budding or experienced Fools, Beasts and Morris Characters from any team from the Ring, Open or Federation, or independent. A truly JMO event. This year Chanctonbury Ring Morris Men are hosting the Unconvention as part of their big anniversary and it will be based in and around Brighton. Our base will be Henfield Cricket Club, Brighton Road, Henfield, West Sussex BN5 9RP. Form available at <https://themorrisring.org/event/2023/oct/illustrious-order-fools-and-beasts-unconvention-2023>*

## **2024**

2<sup>nd</sup> March

### **Annual Representatives Meeting**

*Back to Cannock we go! Featuring election of the next squire and any other business that can be identified. Booking form available on website as PDF, if Word version required please email [bagman@themorrisring.org](mailto:bagman@themorrisring.org). If possible please complete form electronically, and failing that please make physical copies legible for the sake Dr Copley's sanity.*

27<sup>th</sup> April

### **Cambridge Morris Men, Centenary Spring Day of Dance**

*Placeholder, details to be published asap. Booking enquiries to [cambridge1924@gmail.com](mailto:cambridge1924@gmail.com)*

28<sup>th</sup> Sept

### **Peterborough Morris Day of Dance**

*Currently a placeholder, hoping to finalise details soon.*

## Squire's Musings

My latest Musings are really more a report on what's been going on since the last one than anything else. I hope that my thoughts on performance and the like in the last Musings were useful and helpful to sides over the summer.

In terms of events done in my role as Squire, the classic dancing season was relatively quiet. My own dancing was not helped by a car driver who failed to see me on my bike, and I ended up with a broken collarbone, although it could have been much worse. I've not let the fact I couldn't dance stop me going out in public, however, and I was able to go to Westminster Morris' Day of Dance in May, and inspect the interesting places they dance (including Trafalgar Square) and an excellent selection of London pubs.

Thaxted Morris Weekend was early in June, and I was asked by Thaxted to officiate at events. They were again very fortunate with the weather. The tours on the Saturday went well, and the dancing at the evening display was extremely good; it is very pleasing when sides march on very formally and clearly are making a real effort to show the best Morris they can to the large audience. The feast was fun, I met the new vicar, and there was the annual almost mysterious spectacle of Thaxted performing the Horn Dance in the dark. I stayed for the Sunday for I think the first time and enjoyed leading the procession from the Guildhall up to the church.

My side, Devil's Dyke MM, have been good friends with White Rose MM up in Huddersfield for many years, and in 2023 they celebrated their 70th birthday and so I went to that event. It was a great tour, and I was impressed at the excellent relations that White Rose have with their local teams, and what good friends they all are, regardless of what organisation they belong to, or where they come from, and the coming together of very different teams has become a theme of Autumn (see further below).

By the time of Saddleworth Rushcart, I was mostly dancing again. Rushcart was the only Ring Meeting this year, so the Bagman, Treasurer and I were up there in force, to see an excellent cross-section of sides. It was great to see the Knights of King Ina, from the Morris Federation, dancing for us and putting on excellent displays of jigs. It was also great to have Pauline Woods-Wilson, Morris Fed President, on the stangs with me. There was some rain both days, but the weather could have been so much worse.

Rutland MM lost two of their senior members towards the end of this summer. My own side has long connections with RMM and I knew both quite well, so I made two trips up to the area in just over a week. Derek Pace's funeral was on 12 September and Mike Harnett's on the 20th. Mike was responsible for starting RMM in the 1970s and Derek was an original member. Funerals are inevitably sad occasions, but they do give us a chance to catch up.

I went to the Whitchurch Day of Dance and Feast on 14 October and was made most welcome. It was good to see both Ring and Fed sides there, and I was able to spend time with all of them on the tour, including an excellent visit to the Tring Brewery – isn't it funny how Morris sides never seem to have a problem organising the proverbial booze-up in a brewery? Many thanks to Whitchurch. I learned a lot about them and their history in the Morris from preparing myself to say a few informal words: Lionel Bacon was of course with them when working on the Black Book, and I

hadn't realised that the Musicians' Instructional was held for many years in the venue they use for practice and events, Wilstone Village Hall. This year marked their 75th anniversary, and it's good to see them numerous and active. There was also another important anniversary being celebrated, that of Mike Chandler's 70 years in the Morris, having started at the age of 16! Despite his recent stroke, Mike was playing away during the day, and it was great to get to chat to him and hear his stories. He was Ring Squire in my first year of Morris.

I've had to spend more time on JMO business this year than on the Ring. There are two reasons for this: 2023 was the Ring's turn to chair the JMO, and of course there have been the series of DoDs to celebrate 20 years since the exemption of Morris from the requirements of the 2003 Licensing Act. Events took place in Belper, Norwich, Chester, Newcastle and Bath, and the finale happened on 21 October in Trafalgar Square in London. I think I will report more on JMO matters, including these, in my next Musings or the next Newsletter – but suffice to say they have been very well organised and have been enjoyed by dancers and audience alike. The good links between the three organisations and between different sides in the local areas have been a great example for us all to follow.

Lastly, in this newsletter you will find more detailed information about the Trust Registration Service (TRS). I mentioned this briefly in my last Musings, and it is something that sides with bank accounts – most of you I assume – just cannot ignore. Eddie Worrall has written a document explaining how it works and what you should do. Please read this: **IT IS IMPORTANT.**

And one more thing—I've enjoyed meeting lots of sides this summer, but I still don't know all of you. If you'd like me to come to an event of yours, just send me an email and I'll let you know how my diary is looking!

Take care everyone

Nigel



**Various representatives from the 3 Morris Orgs and the JMO in the company of Lord Redesdale and Ann Bacon, wife of the late John Bacon, in Trafalgar Square during JMO Anniversary day of dance, 21<sup>st</sup> October 2023**

## Bagman's Reveries

Well where did the summer go? In the 3 months since I last put a newsletter together it feels like my feet have barely touched the ground, and I'm not talking about dancing either!

In parallel with our Squire's wanderings, I've covered a decent chunk of the country and also been to Flanders with Jockey. It's been fun without a doubt, but it is always nice to get home after a big event and get a proper night's sleep on a real mattress. What can I say, I'm clearly going soft! A highlight in September was my attendance at the Morris Federation AGM in Bishop's Castle, Shropshire. In recent years a representative of the Ring has been along to this event when possible, but being asked to perform a jig for those present on the Sunday of the weekend by Pauline, President of the Fed, was an unexpected but welcome honour. This was the first time a serving officer of the Ring had danced at the event in such a capacity, and for me symbolises how far our two organisations have come in the last 20 years. I was pleased to perform 'Lumps of Plum Pudding' Bledington, hopefully maintaining some vestige of honour for the Ring despite my shoelace coming untied mid-dance!

I've been really encouraged during my summer wanderings by the number of teams out and about in a variety of locations. As devastating as the lockdown years were for all of us, it is reassuring to see Morris as a whole is back on the streets and showing itself to be both alive and kicking.

Couple of reminders going into the winter months;

Many sides will have already had or will shortly be having AGM's. I strongly encourage all clubs to make sure that their side details on the Ring website are updated after elections, so that the right people receive communications from us. It is also worth checking your spam folders on a regular basis, as I am aware that many email providers appear to be automatically sending mass emails to spam, which is understandable but also unhelpful for us.

Looking further ahead, the ARM is less than 6 months away now, so please see the entry below with regard to booking a place and also elections that will be taking place. If you have not attended before I would encourage you to join us, even if it's just for the Saturday day time, as it's an opportunity to meet representatives of other teams that you may not meet elsewhere and also a chance to meet your officers, and either tell us we're doing a great job or give us feedback on where we can do better (try and be gentle if possible, we're only human!).

As mentioned previously, the Ring turns 90 years old next year. We have a couple of Ring meetings lined up, but we are looking for additional ideas to mark this milestone so please get thinking caps on and let us know if there's something you'd like to see. It may also be of interest to enthusiasts of Morris history that December 2024 will mark 125 years since Cecil Sharp first saw Headington Quarry on a Boxing Day which, for many of us, changed the course of history.

2025 will be the Ring's turn to host the JMO day of dance, so we are looking for a host team to take this on. You will have the support of the Ring officers and the wider JMO so if you fancy having a go, please contact me.

Cheesy

## **Morris Ring ARM, Oak Farm Hotel, Hatherton, 2nd March 2024**

Notice is hereby given that the ARM will be at its customary location of Oak Farm Hotel, Hatherton (Watling St, Cannock WS11 1SB). Application forms for attending are located overleaf or via the Morris Ring website. At the request of Dr Copley, please email [bagman@themorrisring.org](mailto:bagman@themorrisring.org) if an MS Word version of the form is needed, as he wishes most fervently to not have to decipher people's attempts at filling in PDF forms. Please be prompt in applying as places for accommodation are limited.

## **Elections**

At the 2024 ARM we shall be electing a new Squire of the Morris Ring, and some Area Representatives are due for triennial election/re-election.

For the post of Squire, the Constitution requires the following:

1. A biographical statement, 250 words maximum, ideally with some general information about the candidate's history and general philosophy regarding Morris in general and the Ring in particular.
2. A photograph of the candidate.
3. A supporting statement of 250 words maximum, submitted by the nominating club on their headed paper or from their Bagman's email address. Any additional supporting documentation will not be published.

The Bagman of The Morris Ring requests that all prospective candidates submit the above articles no later than 22<sup>nd</sup> December 2023 via [bagman@themorrisring.org](mailto:bagman@themorrisring.org).

## **Motions for the Agenda**

Motions must be submitted to the bagman no later than February 23<sup>rd</sup> 2024.

## The Morris Ring – Annual Representatives’ Meeting Sat 2nd March 2024

Name of Side: .....

Contact Name: .....

Names of other attendees: ...../.....

Email: ..... Tel No: .....

Address: .....

..... Postcode: .....

Friday Night accommodation & Saturday Breakfast	No .....@ £ 34.50	£
Camper van (Inc a breakfast)	No .....@ £ 15.50	£
Saturday ARM to Sunday morning including coffee, lunch, tea, Feast and Sat night accommodation & Sunday breakfast (U16 –half price)	No .....@ £ 95.00	£
Saturday Breakfast (for early arrivals)	No .....@ £ 10.00	£
Saturday ARM - including feast (+ 2 beers) (No accommodation)	No .....@ £60.50	£
Saturday ARM* - excluding feast (Morning Coffee / Lunch / Afternoon Tea)	No .....@ £34.50	£
Feast only	No .....@ £42.00	£
ARM only - no meals	No.....@ Free	£ 0.00
Extra Breakfast (if required)	No .....@ £ 10.00	£
TOTAL (pay by BACS)		£ .

There are 20 twin bedded rooms and 5 double bedded rooms. Book early to get a twin room!

The above accommodation is based on double occupancy. Single occupancy is offered at an extra £17.50 per night. Triple rooms can also be offered. Both of these are not guaranteed to be available subject to demand.

Please specify any dietary requirements.....

Please indicate if disabled access is required Yes / No

Please fill in this form, *(even if only attending the afternoon meeting)* and post it or email it

BACS details are 60-22-09. A/c 64513165. *(Put your name/club as reference)*

Account Name: Stafford Morris Men (Misdemeanours)

**Peter Copley, 5, Woodleighton Grove, Uttoxeter, Staffs., ST14 8BX**

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

**01889 567962 or 07949 309043**

## **Letter from the Treasurer**

### **Subscription Renewal 2023-24**

Dear Bagman/Treasurer,

It's that time of year again to get your subscription renewals for all categories of membership.

#### **Side Information**

All sides have had their login details for the MR online data as part of the MR website initiative. Please check that this is accurate and reflects any changes that have occurred following the usual round of AGM's. If you haven't logged in yet then you may have to re-register your details.

#### **Bank Account**

If you have any standing orders or regular payments set up for the Morris Ring you will need to update your records as we have changed our bank details last year to the following;

Bank	<b>NatWest</b>
Sortcode	<b>60-06-14</b>
Account	<b>35382066</b>

#### **Subscriptions**

The pricing structure is unchanged with the following benefits.

**However, we have taken the decision to only give a discount for early payment i.e before November 30th if made by bank transfer.** This reflects the fact that doing so is easy and straightforward for all banks and reflects the inconvenience that cheques now hold. If your side account doesn't do an electronic transfer, then organise it within your side and do an internal transfer/payment.

As before, ALL discounted fees are for payments made by November 30th. Please give your side's name as the reference when doing so.

If you normally give a donation to the Youth or the Archive fund can you send me an email outlining how you wish to have the additional monies allocated?



Membership	Benefits	Annual Fee	Discounted Fee
<b>Full</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Public liability insurance with an indemnity of £10,000,000.</li> <li>Performing Rights Society (P.R.S.) cover.</li> <li>2 x copies of each periodical Morris Circular publication.</li> <li>Electronic copy of the periodical Morris Ring Bagman's newsletter.</li> <li>Electronic copy of the annual Morris Dancer journal (under review).</li> <li>The right to attend the Annual Representatives Meeting, submit motions &amp; propositions, discuss and vote on all appropriate matters.</li> <li>Attend and participate in various Morris Ring meetings and instructionals throughout the year.</li> <li>Listing in the Morris Ring Directory (e) and on the website Find a Side page</li> <li>The camaraderie of your fellow Morris Ring members.</li> </ul>	£60	£50
<b>Associate</b>	Same as Full except: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1 x copy of each periodical Morris Circular publication.</li> <li>The right to attend the Annual Representatives Meeting and participate in debates but not to submit motions or vote.</li> </ul>	£50	£40
<b>Joint</b>	Same as Associate except: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>No insurance cover is provided</li> </ul>	£40	£30

#### **Insurance cover confirmation**

Once I have received the subscription renewal payment and confirmed it within the online system then you will be able to download your insurance cover confirmation document at will.

I hope you all have had great summers dancing and may that continue next year.

Regards

Clayton Francis, Treasurer

Tel: 07847 895716

### **Trust registration service and the Morris – cover note from the Squire**

I wanted to write a short intro to this document, which is a paper written by Eddie Worrall originally in his role as legal advisor to the JMO. This document has now been seen by all MR officers and the Advisory Council.

You will all be aware that there have been a number of changes in banking practices as a result of legislation intended to crack down on the practice of money laundering that can be used to hide illegal income from a range of criminal activities. As with so many criminal goings-on, finding ways to detect and deal with it tends to create more bureaucratic hoops through which everyone has to jump.

These changes now affect bank accounts in which are kept the funds that belong to various unincorporated groups, and Eddie realised very early on that this is going to affect voluntary groups and of course the Morris. It means that every club with a bank account is going to have to register with the Trust Registration Service (TRS), the running of which the government has devolved to HMRC. Unfortunately ignoring this registration requirement is not an option; although fines for non-compliance are theoretically available, it seems that the light-touch approach is being preferred at the moment.

It is important that everyone reads this document ASAP. I realise the mention of HMRC is likely to raise the hairs on the neck, but I understand the TRS is not linked to HMRC's other functions. One early misconception that might rise, from Eddie's experience, is to think mistakenly that as Morris sides are (usually) not charities, we are not subject to the TRS. This is wrong, and we are very much subject to it.

It shouldn't take too much time if you follow the instructions. If you have any queries, please refer them to the Ring Bagman in the first instance. If we find that particular queries are common, we shall create a "Frequently Asked Questions" document to help everyone.

**Just remember, this has to be done, and ignoring this registration requirement is not an option.**

Nigel Strudwick

## **HMRC reporting requirements re: Trust arrangements in Morris clubs**

### **Introduction**

The Money Laundering, Terrorist Financing and Transfer of Funds (Information on the Payer) Regulations 2017 (as amended in 2020) apply throughout the UK. Link below for the relevant part of the regulations for those that like reading legislation in their spare time:-

<https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukxi/2017/692/regulation/45>

These regulations are to combat money laundering, by creating a record of who is entitled to assets held in trusts.

Under these rules, express trusts are required to register with HMRC's Trust registration service (TRS), even if they do not have any tax liability.

The kind of Trusts that are caught by these registration rules is extensive. It includes what are known as 'Bare Trusts', essentially someone holding money on behalf of someone else, even if there is no formal written Trust document.

Most if not all Morris sides, will hold a Bank account, and possibly other assets such as land, although this will be rarer. Those assets will be held by nominated people (in the case of a Bank account the people named on the account) on behalf of the membership of the club.

These arrangements are Bare Trusts and are caught by the requirement to register on TRS. This affects any club with a Bank account or other assets. Ownership of land by a club presents more complex issues and professional advice may be required. Action is required now.

### **Why is HMRC/UK Government interested in Morris club Bank accounts when we aren't money laundering?!**

They aren't bothered, or at least not directly.

What they are bothered about (among other kinds of Trust structures) are Bare Trusts, where money is held by one person, but actually belongs to someone else.

Most if not all Morris Clubs are 'unincorporated associations', meaning simply a group of people that come together to do something, maybe with a Constitution, club officers etc. If the group is not a limited company (or for these purposes a Charity), then it is not a separate legal entity in itself. It acts and holds assets through its officers/Bank account holders etc. This creates the Bare Trust mentioned.

Unfortunately, this is exactly the kind of arrangement the rules are designed to catch, not so much because of Morris sides, community groups, sports clubs etc, but because of others using the same kind of legal arrangements for perhaps less legitimate purposes.

We have simply been caught in the net alongside many other similar types of groups.

### **Problems arising from the requirement to register on TRS**

The requirement to register became live in September 2022, although HMRC are not enforcing penalties unless Trustees refuse to register once made aware of their obligations. There will be many non-compliant Trust structures in the UK at present where people do not know about TRS and this is recognised by the Government.

That said, penalties for non-compliance are fines on Trustees of up to £5,000 for failing to register, or up to £5,000 for failing to update the TRS system when there are changes (e.g. a change the account holders at the Bank).

Alongside the requirement to register on TRS, there are now further obligations on others who interact with registerable Trusts. These affect 'Relevant Persons' who are people or companies who work professionally for a Trust and who themselves are subject to Money Laundering reporting obligations.

Relevant persons who are instructed to act for a registerable Trust, must first check the Trust is registered and that the TRS register is correct and up to date. They also have an ongoing obligation to check this on existing professional engagements.

For Morris sides, the most likely category of Relevant Person they will engage with is their own Bank.

If there is an existing professional relationship, then if TRS compliance cannot be confirmed, the Relevant Person has to notify HMRC who would then contact the Trustees requiring compliance, with fines to follow if not. Until it is resolved, no work could be done by the Relevant Person.

This could mean for a Bank that they suspend a Morris side's account. If no TRS compliance is then completed, an account could be closed permanently.

It is just a matter of time before this happens to someone.

### **What should we do?**

Firstly, take this seriously. It may seem a little bewildering that Morris clubs are getting wrapped up in Trust law and anti-Money laundering regulations, but this is real and has already happened.

Clubs will over time have a varying experience of this issue, depending who they are dealing with. Some Banks will not be chasing this issue up as yet, some will take longer than others to do so. However, as they need to check TRS registration as an ongoing obligation, this will start to crop up.

As the penalty regime is fairly relaxed at present, sides should not, hopefully, have any problems with that. The regime will get tougher however and HMRC will issue fines more widely as time goes on.

The rest of this document looks at the practicalities of registering on the TRS system, and the information it requires. Work through that, identify what you need to complete it, and then go through the process.

It is possible to appoint a professional agent such as an Accountant or Solicitor to complete this for the club. If you have one dancing with you, give them this document to read at your next practice and give them the bad news. However, TRS has been designed for Trustees to deal with registration directly, so if you follow the steps in this guide you should be fine.

The follow up to that, is to ensure the TRS system is kept up to date. As Bank account holders change in your club, make sure the TRS system is updated too. Trying to keep account holder changes to a minimum will help keep that burden manageable.

### **Final points**

These notes are not intended as legal advice and should not be relied on as such. This is a practical summary of information held at HMRC regarding TRS, as it applies to majority of Morris clubs who operate a Bank account, to assist in dealing with reporting obligations under the TRS system.

If your club has more complex arrangements, such as formal Trust deeds, ownership of land or other valuable assets, or operate as a limited company or charity, you should take specific legal advice on your reporting requirements and not rely on these notes.

Good luck!

Ed Worrall

JMO Committee member

Past Squire and Treasurer of the Morris Ring

## **Dealing with registration on TRS**

### **1. Initial steps**

HMRC administer the TRS system.

This is the link for Trustees to use to access TRS and deal with registration of a Bare Trust:-

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/register-a-trust-as-a-trustee>

At the bottom of the page on the link, click on the green “Register now” button. Part of the registration process will require the lead trustee (see section 2 below) to set up a Government Gateway (GG) user ID and password.

This GG account is not the same account as the trustee may have for their personal or business tax affairs. The trustee must select “Organisation” as the type of GG user id required.

### **2. Who does the TRS system want information about?**

The TRS system is designed with formal Trusts in mind. It asks for information on certain key people who would be involved in a Trust, which don't fit easily with a Bare Trust arising over e.g. a Bank account in a Morris club.

However, it will be necessary to identify the relevant people as best you can. The following are suggestions on how to deal with this

- **Settlor** – this is a person who creates a Trust. For a Morris club, this could be the person who originally opened the Bank account or provided the funds. However it is unlikely this person will be known or could be identified with certainty. If that is the case, then the best information on who originated the account will need to be input or simply use a nominated ‘place holder’ person in the club to satisfy the TRS system.
- **Lead Trustee** – This is the person who will be nominated on the TRS system to be the main point of contact for HMRC. This will be one of the Bank account holders. You will need to decide who this will be.
- **Trustees** – This would be all of the other Bank account holders nominated on the account
- **Beneficiaries** – These are the people for whom Trust assets are held. This would be the members of the Morris club, but it is not necessary to include details of all the club's members individually. Instead a ‘class of beneficiary’ option should be used e.g. ‘The members of [insert club's name as per the Bank account]’

- Other key people – The TRS system will also ask if there are ‘Protectors’ or other significant people involved with the Bare Trust. Unless there is a formal Trust deed for a club appointing such people, the answer to this will be ‘No’.

### **3. What else do you need to complete the TRS information?**

Once the Lead Trustee has obtained their organisation Government Gateway account and started to register the following questions will arise:-

- Is the Trust already been registered online? The answer will be no
- Does the trust have a Unique Taxpayer Reference (UTR)? This will be No (unless the Morris club is registered with HMRC to submit annual tax returns)
- Are you registering an express trust? The answer will be yes.
- Does the trust have any tax liability from 6 April xxxx to 5 April yyyy? The answer will usually be no (unless the Morris club actually is paying tax)
- Has the trust had any UK tax liability in the last four tax years? The answer will usually be No (unless the Morris Club actually is paying tax)
- The name of the Trust – Use the Morris club’s name
- Date the Trust was created – This will be the date the Bank account was originally opened, or the best information you have for this
- Details of any UK land purchased – This will almost certainly be no
- Is the Trust registered on another country’s Trust register – The answer will be no
- Are the Trustees based in the UK – Answer as appropriate
- Settlor – This will be a living settlor at the time of the Trusts creation. Deceased Settlers are only relevant for Trust created in someone’s Will. You will need their full name, date of birth, date of death (if relevant), last known country of residence, last known country of nationality, whether they have mental capacity at the point of registering on TRS (‘not known is an option’). You will be asked if there is any further Settlers to give details for, answer this as appropriate.
- Lead Trustee details – You will need their full name, date of birth, National Insurance number, telephone number, country of residence, country of nationality. Ignore questions regarding the Lead Trustee being an ‘Organisation’. For these purposes, they are not.
- Other Trustees details – You will need their full name, date of birth, country of residence, country of nationality, whether they have mental capacity at the time of registration on the TRS system (‘not known is an option’)
- Beneficiary details - a ‘class of beneficiary’ option should be used e.g. ‘The members of [insert club’s name as per the Bank account]’
- Does the Trust own or have a controlling interest in a company based outside the EU, Norway, Iceland or Liechtenstein – The answer will be no (or if the club does, can I join please)

Once all of this is done, you can save a draft to check. You will need to submit the draft within 28 days or you will have to re-enter the data.

Once submitted, you will get a confirmation screen. Print this and keep a copy. HMRC will then write a letter to the Lead Trustee confirming registration and issuing the URN (or Unique Reference Number) for the Trust. This is vital information for any further updates needed to the TRS system in the future. Keep this safe.

TRS registration is now complete. The Lead Trustee can log into the TRS via the Government Gateway account and download proof of registration if required by a 3rd party, such as your Bank.

#### Future updates to the TRS

Any changes to the registered details must be made within 90 days on the TRS system. Failure to do so can incur the same fines as mentioned above for failing to register i.e. up to £5,000.

The lead Trustee would normally take responsibility for updating the TRS system. They would need to use the same GG account they set up originally when registering the Trust. Below is a link to HMRC's advice page on the kind of updates you may need to make, and how to do so:-

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/manage-your-trusts-registration-service#updating-your-trusts-details>

## **Notices**

### **Insurance**

After discussions with the JMO, it is intended to make Personal Accident Insurance (PAI) standard within the policy every side receives every year as part of their membership from next year. This will mean teams won't have to fill out the separate form listing members who wish to have PAI, and make administering the whole process easier. The age limit for this is 80, so hopefully most will be covered by this change. The treasurer advises that subs will not need to increase as a result of this change, so please look out for the change when we issue next year's insurance certificates.

### **Hats**

In 2013 Letchworth Morris Men changed their kit, and straw hats gave way to black bowlers. These straw hats are surplus and available to any interested parties, email [alan@creamer.me.uk](mailto:alan@creamer.me.uk) for further details.



### **Ripley Morris Annual Ale Feast**

On the 27th January 2024, Ripley Morris will be holding their annual Ale Feast at Riddings Village Hall, Alfreton. This will be an OPEN EVENT. Please come in kit if you are a member of a side.

The evening will include a two course meal and quality beers supplied by a local brewery. Fine wines and ciders will also be available alongside soft drinks. The village boasts three pubs within short walking distance of the hall. There will be overnight on site indoor camping and room for some camper vans outside.

We are aiming to greatly reduce the cost from last year and will send a formal invite shortly with all necessary details. Hope to see lots of you next year. Contact [ripleymorris@hotmail.com](mailto:ripleymorris@hotmail.com) to register interest.

### **Doc Rowe Documentary**

New film project from makers of Way Of The Morris, Rob Curry & Tim Plester (member of Adderbury Village Morris Men)

Doc Rowe has been documenting the folk traditions of the British Isles since the mid-1960s, and has built up a vast collection of irreplaceable audiovisual material spanning 60 years. Rob Curry and Tim Plester (the co-directors of THE BALLAD OF SHIRLEY COLLINS and WAY OF THE MORRIS) began making a film about Doc during lockdown, the primary impetus of which was to ensure that the archive was preserved for posterity.

We want to feature as much of Doc's incredible footage as we can in the film, but, in the spirit of 'being the change we want to see', we want to play a role in permanently securing Doc's legacy. Rather than just digitise the bits we need, we are therefore launching this crowdfund to (hopefully, with your help) create a



permanent digital archive of all the material related to folk traditions that is currently languishing on film stock and old video formats in Doc's hallowed archive in Whitby. The resultant digital copy will then be housed in the Vaughan Williams Memorial Library, and will allow Doc to share the material with the communities that preserve these customs, and eventually the general public.

Since launching last week, we're already at over 45% funded thanks to an incredible outpouring of support. This means we have already met the threshold to digitise Doc's incredible film archives of seasonal customs from the 60s and 70s - and in celebration, we were able to share Doc's earliest footage of Ring side Abingdon Morris and the electing of the 'mock mayor' of Ock Street. This is an example of the gorgeous 8mm footage he shot in the 1970s: <https://www.facebook.com/reel/879310430074663>

Our next milestone is to reach £17,000 funded - and if we reach that, we'll be able to commit to digitising Doc's brilliant VHS footage from the 80s and 90s.

Can you help us spread the word? Please share the campaign link with your side, your friends, and anyone who understands how important these irreplaceable archives are.

<https://www.crowdfunder.co.uk/p/docrowe>

### **Potty Festival 6th & 7th July 2024**

The Sheringham Potty Morris and Folk Festival takes place in the first week of July every year (pandemics permitting!). The 2024 event on 6th and 7th July will be the 31st festival, and will feature up to 44 Morris sides. All traditions are welcome, the only restriction being the number of dance spots in the town. The festival starts with a procession on the Saturday (when the streets are closed to traffic) followed by dance spots throughout the day and culminating with massed dancing. Camping arrangements are currently being finalised but will be offered at a very advantageous rate; sides are encouraged to consider extending their stay to take advantage of the low rate and have an extended stay.

Booking opens on the website at <https://pottymfestival.com/contact/> on 1st November and places for sides are available on a strictly first-come-first-served basis.

Further details at <https://www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=100070183060626> and <https://pottymfestival.com/>

## **Morris Ring Publications**

**Matt Simons** Editor of the Morris Dancer  
[matt.j.simons@icloud.com](mailto:matt.j.simons@icloud.com)

### **On-line Links:**



The main MR website with lots 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](mailto:bagman@themorrisring.org) for inclusion in the next Newsletter. Less time-dependent updates and longer pieces will be saved for the Circular.

If you have any photographs, you can send them to Duncan Broomhead, the Morris Ring Photo Archivist ([duncan.broomhead@btinternet.com](mailto: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](mailto:Charliecorcoran7@ntlworld.com)).

the MORRIS RING  
founded 1934