



The Newsletter - No. 23 – April 2002

Greetings,

Congratulations to *Cliff Marchant* on his election as the next Squire of the Morris Ring. He will dance in and take over from *Gerald Willey* at the **Bristol** Ring Meeting, before officiating as Squire at the **Hartley** Ring Meeting. He will also be attending the other three preceding Ring Meetings – hopefully, many Sides will be able to meet him during the summer season.

We are very pleased to welcome **Adderbury Village, Chipping Campden, Ilmington and Winster** as Full Members of the Morris Ring.

We are pleased that, following surgery, *Walter Abson*, the first Ring Bagman, has made a rapid recovery – and indeed he had threatened to be present at the ARM! He was missed!!

Please note the Ring Treasurer's new address; his telephone and Email numbers remain as before. We wish him well in his new abode – but unfortunately, the local kids have already removed two of his car windows.

Also enclosed with this mailing are:

- A **Summary** of this Newsletter – as the last page of the Newsletter.
- A new **Directory for 2002 - 2003**.
- Some **Amendments** to the Directory [some already incorporated, but for information].
- A summary letter re: the Morris Ring **Third Party Insurance** is included in the Directory [Page 36] – **Some important notes are included herein** [see **Page 4**].
- Your copy/copies of the **Morris Circular** [if not already sent separately].

Remember: Unless you pass on the content of this Newsletter to the Men in your Side, the information stops with you. A summary is included on the last sheet.

E-mailed versions of these Newsletters are available on request [ideally as an attached Word document; please order and specify by Email].

IN MEMORIAM

Norman Morrey. It is with great regret that we pass on the news of the death of Norman Morrey, dancer and fool for **Chipping Campden** for over 50 years. It is understood that Norman had been in hospital at Cheltenham since Sunday 3rd February, and subsequently passed away on the evening of Saturday 9th February. Our thoughts are with his wife Mary and his three children - including Stephen and Adrian, both dancers with Campden (Adrian has two sons who also dance). Letters of condolence may be sent to Mary at: - 'Broad Entry', Lower High Street, Chipping Campden, Gloucestershire.

The funeral was on Friday 15th February. There was a very large attendance in Chipping Campden church. The Morris Ring was represented by the Squire, Gerald Willey.

[Information from **Paul Bryan, Chipping Campden** and **Ilmington**; also **Gerald Willey**]

ELECTION FOR SQUIRE – 2002

Congratulations to **Cliff Marchant [Chanctonbury Ring]** who was elected as the next Squire of the Morris Ring at the ARM.

Commiserations [and it was a very close run race] to both **Bob Cross** and **Bob Pierce**.

Bob Pierce writes “I would like to thank **Boars Head** and **Benfieldside**, and all others who voted for me in the recent election for Squire of the Ring. I'm disappointed that we were unsuccessful, however, I'm sure you will join with me in giving Cliff your full support during his term in Office. I would also like to express my commiseration to **Bob Cross**, whom I'm sure will fulfil his potential and be a future Squire. Wishing you all a good season and may the sun always shine.”

NORTH-WEST AREA REPRESENTATIVE

The new North-West Representative is **Duncan Broomhead [Adlington]**. This was a close run race with a draw finally decided by the “casting vote” of a late arriving Side. Fortunately [or unfortunately etc] a further Side arriving even later was too late to vote – but if they had been on time, it might have meant tossing a coin – never a satisfactory way to decide an election!!.

The various other “acting” representatives were confirmed in post – see listing in the Directory.

FORTHCOMING EVENTS

An **18 – 30 Morris Group** [based on a core of “younger” Men from **Icknield Way**] are planning a low cost Morris dance day in Oxford over the weekend **14th – 16th June 2002**. The largely electronic organisation is under the capable fingers of **Ben Higgs** Tel: 01865 427382 Email: **ben@icknieldwaymorrismen.org** . Please advise your energetic and more youthful Men of this chance to get together free of the “old wrinklies”.

INSTRUCTIONALS - Forthcoming Instructionals include: -

Longborough and Adderbury Instructional with *Jack Brown* and hosted by **Stafford**, **27th – 29th September 2002**. An Application Form was enclosed with the last Newsletter.

As mentioned in the last Newsletter, the **Fools and Animals** are set to convene in Polperro, Cornwall from **11th – 13th October 2002**. The hosts will be a joint **Plymouth** and **Trigg** team. As advised, an overseas trip was “too local”. An application form should appear in the next Newsletter – but please note the date.

“Highlights” of **Bucknell, Brackley, Badby and Hinton**, with *John Burke*, **King John's** will be on **8th – 10th November 2002**. It will be at Lockerley Village Hall (north of Romsey).

John Burke notes “I intend that the material will include highlights of Badby, Brackley, Hinton and Bucknell. I don't purport to do a "definitive" version of any of these, but the emphasis will be in doing them and drawing out the contrasts and concordances between them. An Application Form should be with the next Newsletter – but note the date.

ARM 2003.

At the ARM, it was confirmed that **Isca** will host the **ARM** in **2003**. The dates will be **7th – 9th March 2003**. The venue will be Trellech, near Monmouth. The Lion Pub, the old and new schools, the village hall and the church are all in close proximity. Isca will be promoting “... local beers and food, so expect a wide range of good Welsh products”.

Ideally, in **2004**, the ARM venue should move North – are any Northern Sides interested? – Please contact the Ring Bagman.

FORTHCOMING EVENTS - RING MEETINGS – 2002

Late applications can still be considered by **Hartley**. Indeed, they would be delighted to have a couple more Sides. Sides may apply, even if they are already attending another Meeting. Sides wishing to apply should do so **immediately**.

30th Aug - 1st Sept HARTLEY. Contacts below:-

Hartley Morris Men	Terry Heaslip	Terry@heaslip.fsnet.co.uk	01622 871167
[Ring Meeting Bagman] **	15, Henham Gardens, East Peckham, Tonbridge, Kent TN12 5PD		
Hartley Morris Men	Tony Tomlin	Hartlymen@aol.com	01622 685960
[Bagman]	139, Farleigh Hill, Tovil, Maidstone, Kent ME15 6RQ		

**** Please note the NEW BAGMAN for the Hartley Meeting**

A SPACE FILLER! - SONGS

The Mudcat Cafe (digital tradition music database) has songs at <http://www.mudcat.org/>. It may also be worth looking for Morris songs at: <http://mrm.trunkles.net/morrissongs.html> .

OTHER EVENTS

DETT [Dancing England Rapper Tournament] – Sheffield – 12th – 14th April 2002.

The Gate to Southwell Tour – 15th June 2002. A “traditional” event revived by **Dolphin**. This year their charity is the Nottingham Hospice. [They raised several hundred pounds in 2001]. Details on www.dolphin-morris.co.uk . The 'Gate' is open to part and full sides, men and women, young and old, and all traditions.

“In 1980 whilst researching into Morris Dancing in Nottingham, **Bob Hine** of **Dolphin** discovered that Morris dancers were paid to take the Nottingham borough's contribution to Southwell Minster. The original text refers to the 'ale which they drank at all times'. The tradition was revived with many sides dancing, processing and walking from Nottingham to Southwell, some 23 miles by the old roads. Sides attending are from all traditions including Cotswold, North-West, and Rapper sword, with female and mixed sides as well. (Last year 20 sides and 170 dancers made it!).

Today, although many do walk and process the whole way, the majority of sides spend time with dancers and are bussed from pub to pub. The whole thing ends with a procession into Southwell followed by a short service. Then to the Bramley Apple where local breweries in previous years have donated free beer. Buses take everyone back to Nottingham in the early evening.”

If you are interested in attending or want to know more, contact **Chris Gigg** on 0115 9232181, or e-mail chris@gigg22.freemove.co.uk .

Banbury Hobby Horse Festival. 29th – 30th June 2002. See <http://hobbyhorsefest.has.it>

International Traditional Drama Conference. 19th – 21st July 2002, Halifax Hall of Residence, Sheffield University. Details from Eddie Cass. Tel: 0161 881 8640 [or see details on http://www.folkplay.info/TD_Conf_2002.htm].

Gloucester International Pipe and Tabor Festival, 27th - 29th September 2002. Contact **Stephen Rowley** [Gloucestershire] who is the Festival Director [Tel: 01453 763181]

INSURANCE – INSURANCE – INSURANCE – INSURANCE - INSURANCE

The Morris Ring Insurance is now provided by Royal and Sun Alliance through Broker Michael Stimpson and Associates. Although, they do not provide a summary letter for the Directory, we have found a way of dealing with most of your enquiries. See Page 36 of the Directory. The Treasurer [and the Bagman in his absence] can issue an individual “Certificate of Third Party Liability Insurance” in your Side’s name should you so require.

NOTE: If you have an incident that may result in a claim, **do not admit liability** – or the existence of Insurance!! Just provide your details; take any claimant’s details; record what happened; and note potential witnesses [just as you would for a car accident] and **contact the Treasurer immediately** [or the Bagman in his absence].

OVERSEAS COVER: The Insurance does not cover Sides visiting USA or Canada; the rest of the world is covered. If visiting North America, contact the Treasurer for excess charges.

The Policy now also has some measure of cover for serious incidents involving your own team members, where no other cover exists. This is complex, and individual members should preferably be covered by their own Household and/or Personal [or other] Liability and/or Accident Insurance.

ARCHIVAL MATTERS

At the ARM, *Les Chittleborough* [Isca] produced the log / album of the **London Rodney** side – for the period from its formation in 1952 until the mid 1960s. It is held by *Vic Steel* who was a member of the Side and now is associated with Isca. It has been loaned to the Morris Ring so that copies can be made.

THE MEDIA

Those who are visitors to **Saddleworth** will know the Church Inn. It featured in a recent press article. Various Men took issue with the Editor regarding the section of the review, which stated “... The locals are drawn from the nearby villages and the busy pub is host to many different groups, including the church bell-ringers and Morris men. Although I usually dislike Morris dancers (there is something pathetic about a grown man celebrating our pagan heritage by banging sticks and skipping about like Andy Pandy), I have made an exception in the case of the Church Inn. The dippy entertainment offered here - the Rush Cart Festival, gurning (face pulling) and Morris men - seems quite normal in this spooky corner of Britain.” No doubt, Saddleworth will gently stomp the reporter in due course.

So keen were **Thaxted** that the problems with *Eddie Dunmore*'s scanner should be brought to the world, that one of their number submitted the following mis-scanned typos from the latest “Morris Dancer” to the BBC for “The News Quiz”. It was broadcast on Friday 14th March “*Noel and Chambers now discovered that the old broom dance was still performed at Harvest rime and on other festive occasions at the Carpenter’s Anus in Newbiggin Street*” Past Squire *Daniel Fox* Emailed Eddie to advise him that the “Morris Dancer” should now be advertised “As featured on BBC Radio 4's The News Quiz”. Eddie replied of the un-named submitter “I'm saving up for a contract on him”.

NEWS

Just too late for the last edition, *Chris Mason* of **Stourvale Mummings** reported that they collected over £1200 during their pre-Christmas Mumming season [and more than £20,000 has been collected to date for Children's charities]. Well done Sirs.

A review of the excellent Jigs Instructional Weekend should be in the next Circular.

Woodside Feast was on Friday 25th January. A good turnout on a torrentially wet evening, with the Ring Squire and Bagman also in evidence. Sides were present from: - **Aldbury, Grand Union, Letchworth, Mayflower, Towersey** and **Yateley** and representatives from **Anker** and **Stafford**. A fine meal, plus Tring Brewery's, “Side Pocket (for a Toad)” [3.6%]. Plenty of dance, and an Adderbury “Postman's Knock” in its many variations!!!

Two feasts on 26th January at **Ripley** and **Uttoxeter**. **Uttoxeter** News is awaited. The Ring was represented by *Steve Adamson*, Ring Treasurer. Sides expected included **Bathampton, Boar's Head, Chester, Claro Sword, Green Man, Jockey, Lichfield** and **Stafford**.

The **Ripley** Feast was well attended. The principle guests were the Mayors of Amber Valley and Ripley; the Ring Squire and Bagman; and *Chris Canner*, who danced with Ripley some 43 years ago [and still seemed a young man] and sported a **Derby** baldrick.

Sides present at Ripley, in whole or part, included: **Anker, Chanctonbury Ring, Coventry, Harthill, Icknield Way, Isca, Kennet, Leicester, Letchworth, Lincoln and Micklebarrow, Paragon Pit, Man Friday, Rose and Castle, Rutland, Saddleworth, Shakespeare and St. Albans.**

“The menu card was illustrated with a child’s eye view of past Ripley Squire, *John Butler*, on May Day 2001. The Feast included Tomato Soup; Lancashire Hot Pot; Ginger Sponge and Custard. The beers were all from the local Leadmill Brewery – eight different barrels being available [including two specials] – space precludes a full listing – all were excellent [and the brewery price list suggested that they will be popular for that reason also!!!]

“Various speeches and presentations followed, and songs from Kennet, Ripley and Rose and Castle; later *Graham Lyndon-Jones* [St. Albans] played a brief solo on a base cirtle. Ripley performed their own eight man dance.

“At a late hour cheese and biscuits were served, and Ripley sang their farewell anthem “Rolling home”. The “traditional “after hours session” followed in the George with much singing – Rose and Castle being much in evidence. In the morning, a light breakfast was served in the hall kitchen, followed by a hot breakfast served “by the wonderful Lillian” at the Amber Valley Sports and Social Club”.

A choice of events again on Saturday 2nd February. During the day **Icknield Way** visited **Yateley** to provide an excellent instructional on their speciality, the dances from Stanton Harcourt. Two Instructional sessions were separated by lunch and a fine music and song session in the pub next door. That evening, a choice of Feasts at **Winchester** and **Leicester**.

Winchester Feast was held on 2nd March. “The cuisine selected by Winchester for their annual Feast this year was from North India – and, as usual, an exceptional selection of dishes was produced by one of the best catering [and capering] teams in the Morris. A few barrels of Cheriton "Pots Ale", and later Cheriton "Best" [4.2%] quenched any trace of over-spicing!!! Sides attending included: **Bourne River; Dartington; East Surrey; King John’s; Saddleworth; and Victory**, together with various representatives, and the Ring Squire and Bagman. After the repast, Past Squire, *Richard Hankinson* [**Saddleworth**], proposed the loyal Toast - the Duke of Lancaster. *Keith Francis* [**Silurian**] proposed the Immortal Memory, remembering also those who collected from the Welsh Borders, and *Lionel Bacon*, who was a Winchester man. *Geoff Jerram*, Past Squire and the present Squire of Winchester, welcomed the guests and introduced the top-table. The guests included Martin Roberts, the Brewer for the Cheriton Brewhouse, whose beers were refreshing the company. Philip Lloyd, an old friend of Lionel Bacon, then said a few words and presented the Winchester Side with an fine glass bowl, engraved by himself and depicting the Winchester Men. Among other notable items was the dancing in of two “new” men: first, *Mike Austen*, better known as the South East Representative, working in the Winchester area and now their “oldest novice”; then, somewhat younger, *Michael Burke*, joining his father, *John Burke*, as a fully fledged member of the Side.”

The Ring Treasurer, a number of Past Squires and a host of Sides attended the **Leicester** Feast. No report has come to hand – other than that an excellent night was had by all, the catering as usual was excellent, and that “ ... the memory fades!!”

Peter Milne, Squire of **Stevenage Sword** reports “... but I've been carnivalling in northern Europe since Feb 1st and only just recovered ... ! Three days at Rocca Grimalda with the local Lachera and Stevenage Sword - two days touring local farms and dancing in exchange for food & drink and one day of public carnival. Then on to south Germany (Walldürn) where the partying starts on the 6th with a couple of all night mega-dances just to warm up, then carnival proper for three days in Walldürn and several other local towns. All in fancy dress, the design depending on your hometown with moderate feasting and drinking. This happens all over southern Germany I'm told by German friends, who all say theirs is THE best. So, the weather's grey, cold and wet but a little schnapps and some dancing soon warms you up.” [A full Report is expected in the next Circular].

Kennet Ale/Feast was held on 16th February. “Sides present or represented included **Bedford** [Ring Bagman]; **Bourne River**; **Chanctonbury Ring** [an aspiring Squire]; **Cup Hill**; **Icknield Way**; **Man Friday**; **Ripley**; **Shakespeare** [including the Ring Squire]; **Victory**; **Winchester** [including Past Squire *Geoff Jerram*] and **Yateley**. On arrival apéritifs [pickled eggs and peanuts] were served. Dancing then preceded the Feast, which included a selection of chillies [from volcanic, through to wimp], baked potatoes and garlic bread, followed by cheese and nuts. This was all tempered by a selection of seven excellent ales from the local Brakespeare, Triple fff and West Berkshire Breweries. Cup Hill – true to form – produced the Cup Hill Diner, complete with serving staff: a waiter in dickie-bow and a mini-skirted blond “waitress”. After a song from each Side, more dancing followed until midnight when some retired and others partook of more cheese and passed a seemingly limitless quantity of Port in the required direction. Notable turns included William and Nancy danced to Beethoven’s Ninth; Yateley [and the Bagman] showing that they had remembered some of their Instructional, by joining Icknield Way to provide two sets dancing Stanton Harcourt and three “younger” and fitter members of Icknield Way, dancing a three man Fools’ Jig complete with extra spins and a Rapper style summersault.”

Several Ring Sides or representatives were at the joint New St George and Bay City Revellers ale on 23rd February, including: **Anstey**; **Bedford**; **Broadstone**; **Dolphin**; **Mickelbarrow and Lincoln**; **Rutland**; and **Standon**. “This “Insomniacs Ball” started at 7.30 pm and dancing finished at 3.20 am with a brief pause for food with lubrication from a choice of five excellent beers from local brewers Brewsters. In total, some 71 dances were danced [not counting when different traditions were danced simultaneously which would boost the total]. Singing finished at 6.30 am!! Excellent dancing on a sprung floor – what a difference a decent floor makes to the punishment that ankles take!!!” [Info from *Phil Preen*, *Anstey*; *Steve Tunnicliff*, *Rutland*/NSG; and the *Ring Bagman*]

Banchory were among sides on the Morris Tour associated with the 52nd IVFDF in St. Andrews, as were waifs and strays from **Icknield Way**. A representative from Banchory said “It was one of their biggest Scottish Morris tours of recent years ... “

Mike Palmer, Bagman of **East Suffolk** sent news of their weekend visit [1st - 4th March] to Venice. This followed successful visits to Berlin (in 2000) and Prague (in 2001). Full details of the trip, under visit Squire, *Des Herring*, will be revealed in the next Morris Circular.

The Morris Ring ARM [1st – 3rd March] was most ably hosted by **Stafford**. It was held near Newport in Shropshire, in the splendid new Moreton Millennium Centre. “Such a small world it is, that Past Squire *Daniel Fox*’s brother is the vicar of the Parish!!! Catering was all in-house: - *Jack Brown* provided the Friday night stew; Past Squire *Bert Cleaver* arranged the breakfasts [with kedgeree on Sunday] and Past Squire *Geoff Jerram* and his **Winchester** crew catered for the Feast – and a very fine Feast it was [see below]. The business sessions were conducted in the normal mixture of earnest debate and good humour. These will be reported elsewhere [the Minutes should accompany the next Newsletter]. The Squire’s call for the owner of “A Haemorrhage Green” car, was later translated as “An M Reg Green” car.

“A good representation meant some 100 Men sat down for the Feast. The menu: Crostini alle Olive; Mushroom and Lima Bean Soup; Marinated Salmon; Chicken and Tarragon Rosti; Staffordshire Yeomonry Pie; Cheese; Fruit; Coffee. The Feast [and other meals and business] were accompanied by a selection of real Ales from local Breweries. Woods of Shropshire [Well Hung 4.4%; Parish 4.0% and Shropshire Lad 4.5%]; Spinning Dog [Dewisant (St. David) 4.5%] and Paradise Brewery [Shunter’s Ale 4.0% and Marlbury Mild 3.6%].

“*David Thompson* [Area Representative] proposed the Loyal Toast. The newly chosen Squire Elect, *Cliff Marchant*, said a few words on Cecil Sharp before proposing the Immortal Memory. *John Edwards*, Squire of Stafford welcomed the guests and *Gerald Willey*, Ring Squire replied. The Guests included John Woods of the Paradise Brewery, who found a fellow brewer in the **Saddleworth** team – and then revealed that having mentioned his destination, he had been told by his family that his father had been a Morris dancer with Flowery Field near Hyde in Cheshire – and he was given – and brought with him, photographs to prove it. Another Morris source has been discovered!!”

Following the excellent ARM, **Alan Dandy** wrote “ ... we've had quite a few E'mails suggesting it was a good do. Think I was living on adrenaline for last few hours as after it I just flaked out. One villager rushed over as I was taking the ARM signs down to ask what it stood for. It had been bugging him all weekend and the only thing he could come up with was Army Route March - he was relieved to hear! Apparently the Hall people were very happy and the Playgroup leaders said they packed up so tidy, especially non-playgroup stuff, they've never had so much room in the store!” Well done **Stafford** and Alan.

Coincident with the ARM weekend, were **Aldbury Ale** on Friday 1st March and **Devil's Dyke Ale** on the 2nd March.

The following weekend [8th - 10th March], the Morris Federation hosted a weekend at Wantage, to carry on the series of Workshops formerly hosted by Roy Dommett. The Bagman “represented” the Morris Ring, in a “personal capacity”, and apart from some excellent [and exhausting] dance sessions, was able to meet Morris dance enthusiasts with a range of different views on dance developments in the broader Morris scene. Roy Dommett, attended and led one session – on Basque Hoop dances, and Tim Radford, who revived the Adderbury Side some 25 years ago, taught some more recent dances developed at Adderbury, as well as the current Kirtlington repertoire. Border, Molly, Ampthill, and dances in 5/4 time were also on the menu - possibly not for sensitive “purists”, but a superbly organised weekend. Morris, or what you will, dance enthusiasts, keep an eye out for the next event promised in Autumn 2003.

The **Lichfield Ale** was held on Saturday 16th March. There was a very good attendance, and though few full Sides attended, there were a great many part Sides and representatives, some of whom had travelled considerable distances. These included:- **Bedford** [the Bagman]; **Chanctonbury Ring**; **Chapel-en-le-Frith**; **Coventry**; **Dartington**; **Ebor**; **Faithful City**; **Harthill**; **Jockey**; **John o'Gaunt**; **Letchworth**; **Man Friday**; **Plymouth**; **Ripley**; **Shakespeare** [the Squire]; **Stafford**; **Sweyne's Ey** and **Uttoxeter**. The traditional vegetable curry was served and four beers – two from Lichfield Brewery and two from the Burton Old Cottage brewery [the Old Cottage Stout [4.7%] and the Oak Ale [4.0%] were particularly good!!].

The next Saturday [23rd March] there was again a choice of events. **Letchworth** ran a day instructional on “Dances for Ales” – those frequently danced dances that most of us have never learned properly. The event included a Feast [and a Brewery visit on Sunday]. [The Bagman did not manage to make this one – but had a weekend off visiting three other microbreweries in East Anglia!!]. The Bagman also regrets missing two other Feasts that evening, hosted by **Icknield Way** and **Shakespeare**. The Squire and the Treasurer were at the latter; the Squire reporting that 73 Men attended.

As this goes to press there is an flurry of Easter activity. **John o'Gaunt** and **Saddleworth** both had their Traditional Tours on Good Friday. The Bagman found the latter at the Crosskeys and the Church Inn, by Saddleworth Church at the end of their day. Earlier, a number of men from Sides various were spotted out watching the Midgeley and Heptonstall Pace Egg Plays in the Weaver's Square in Heptonstall village [definitely something to be seen!!]. On Easter Saturday, the **Britannia Coco-nut Dancers** were out in Bacup. The day was warm and ideal for dancing [the Nutters recalled the visit by the Squire last year – he apparently had taken “refreshing rain” – they preferred Bagman's weather!!!]. **Doug Adams** noted that **Blackheath** were due out on Easter Monday to maintain their tradition of Easter Lifting, down in the Greenwich area.

SNIPPETS

27th February as well as being the Bagman's birthday was, so **Steve Rowley** [Gloucestershire] related on MDDL, “ ... the 200th anniversary of the birth of Charles Wheatstone - inventor of the concertina. He was born at Barnwood Manor in Gloucester and lived in Southgate street until moving to London when he was four years old. The invention of the concertina was an early development in his illustrious career. As a young man he was very interested in music and had his compositions published. Most people know the name Wheatstone from the Wheatstone Bridge. A device he developed from his work on the measurement of electricity. Sir Charles also made significant discoveries and inventions in other fields, especially optics (including binocular vision and stereoscopy). Beyond the concertina, his most important invention was the first practical electric telegraph. This technology quickly became established and soon linked people around the world. Wheatstone was himself an enthusiastic user of the telegraph and would communicate regularly with scientists in other countries. An expert in languages he translated and published scientific papers to and from English. He wanted to establish a free flow of information between scientists in different countries. Today the internationalisation of science, and the invention of the electric telegraph are recognised as his greatest contributions to society, they are also the foundations of the internet! Morris content coming up.... The original concertina was a parlour instrument using the 'English' fingering system. The later development of a diatonic Anglo-German or 'Anglo' fingering system proved very popular for dance music. During the C19th the traditional Morris instrument - Pipe & Tabor - was in decline, being replaced by the fiddle and the Anglo Concertina.”

Robert Price of **Leeds** noted that anagrams of “Leeds Morris Men” include - Elder Misnomers - Immersed Loners - Modernism Reels - but his favourite is - Merriness Models.

From **Gordon Ridgewell**, “A must for a Ring Bagman” “Time for a Pint: a watch invented at Bristol University uses satellite positioning to provide a step-by-step guide to the nearest pub.” [Sunday Mirror, 27th January 2002].

Steve Tunnicliff (**Rutland**) noted a headline in the Observer on Easter Sunday [News p.19] - "Morris jeered at NUT summit"

Apparently, World Dance Day is on 29th April 2002.

IN CONCLUSION

As ever, please to keep the News [Gossip and Scandal] flowing in and, as usual, report any changes for the Directory [which is available at any time, in its latest form, by Email].

As you receive this the next dancing season will be almost upon us. I trust it will be blessed with rather better weather than last year. However, keep the news flowing.

The next Newsletter will probably be produced in June/July. It should include the next Edition of the Morris Circular; also Booking Forms for the “Fools and Animals” weekend and the Bucknell and Badby Instructional; and the Minutes of the ARM and the Advisory Council.

Wassail

John Frearson,
Bagman, The Morris Ring

The Newsletter - No. 23 - April 2002 - Summary

Ask your Bagman to show you / provide a copy of the full Newsletter.

IN MEMORIAM - Norman Morrey. Dancer and fool for **Chipping Campden** for over 50 years. The funeral was on Friday 15th February.

ELECTION FOR SQUIRE – 2002 - Congratulations to Cliff Marchant [**Chanctonbury**] who is the next Squire of the Morris Ring. Commiserations to **Bob Cross** and **Bob Pierce**.

NORTH-WEST AREA REP - The new Rep is **Duncan Broomhead** [**Adlington**].

FORTHCOMING EVENTS - 18 – 30 Morris Group - Morris dance day in Oxford 14th – 16th June 2002. **INSTRUCTIONALS** - **Longborough and Adderbury** with **Jack Brown** at **Stafford**, 27th – 29th September 2002. The **Fools and Animals** in Polperro, 11th – 13th October 2002; hosts: **Plymouth** and **Trigg**. “Highlights” of **Bucknell, Brackley, Badby and Hinton**, at Romsey, with **John Burke, King John's**, 8th – 10th November 2002.

ARM 2003. Isca host the **ARM** in **2003.** 7th – 9th **March 2003.** Trellech, nr. Monmouth.

RING MEETINGS – 2002 - Late applications available at **Hartley** - **30th Aug - 1st Sept**

OTHER EVENTS - DERT [Dancing England Rapper Tournament], Sheffield, 12th – 14th April 2002. **Gate to Southwell** Tour – 15th June 2002, hosts Dolphin in Nottingham. **Banbury Hobby Horse Festival.** 29th – 30th June 2002. **International Traditional Drama Conference,** 19th – 21st July 2002, Sheffield University. **Gloucester International Pipe and Tabor Festival,** 27th - 29th September 2002.

INSURANCE – An update on the Morris Ring Insurance scheme.

ARCHIVAL MATTERS - The log / album of the **London Rodney** side – for 1952 until the mid 1960s has been loaned to the Morris Ring so that copies can be made.

THE MEDIA – Saddleworth “ ... something pathetic about a grown man ... skipping about like Andy Pandy ... ” - and **Thaxted** submit “Morris Dancer” typos to BBC “The News Quiz”.

NEWS - Stourvale Mummers collect £1200 [more than £20,000 to date for Children’s charities]. **Icknield Way** ran an instructional for **Yateley**; **Stevenage Sword** in Europe; **Banchory** were on Tour with the 52nd IVFDF in St. Andrews; **East Suffolk** visited Venice. Reports on the social side of the **ARM** and on the Morris Federation workshop weekend at Wantage; Easter activities: **John o’Gaunt** and **Saddleworth** on Good Friday, the **Britannia Coco-nut Dancers** in Bacup on Easter Saturday and **Blackheath** on Easter Monday.

Feasts and Ales at Woodside; Ripley; Uttoxeter; Winchester; Leicester; Kennet; Aldbury; Devil’s Dyke; Lichfield; Letchworth; Icknield Way and Shakespeare.

Sides getting a mention: Aldbury; Anker; Anstey; Bathampton; Bedford; Boar’s Head; Broadstone; Bourne River; Chanctonbury Ring; Chapel-en-le-Frith; Chester; Claro Sword; Coventry; Cup Hill; Dartington; Derby; Dolphin; East Surrey; Ebor; Faithful City; Grand Union; Green Man; Harthill; Icknield Way; Isca; Jockey; John o’Gaunt; Kennet; King John’s; Leicester; Letchworth; Lichfield; Man Friday; Mayflower; Lincoln and Mickelbarrow; Plymouth; Ripley; Rose and Castle; Rutland; Saddleworth; Shakespeare; Silurian; Stafford; St. Albans; Standon; Sweyne’s Ey; Towersey; Uttoxeter; Victory; Winchester; Yateley.

SNIPPETS – The 200th anniversary of the birth of Charles Wheatstone, inventor of the concertina. - Leeds anagrams! - “A must for a Ring Bagman” - A headline in the Observer “Morris jeered at NUT summit” - and World Dance Day is 29th April 2002.

Wassail

John Frearson, Bagman, The Morris Ring