



## The Newsletter - No. 31 – December 2003

### *Greetings,*

The Season's Greeting from all the Officers. The Squire's message is on Page 3

We must congratulate all who participated, officially or as audience or supporters, in the Trafalgar Square "Celebration". After the "victory", *Patrick Harries*, Squire of **Wessex**, a Side who were affected early in the saga wrote "Wessex have always been pleased to be associated with a modicum of mayhem and are delighted to have been - at least in part and unintentionally - responsible for highlighting the potential disaster of the Bill. My personal congratulations to the negotiators and thanks for their efforts on behalf of us all!"

His thanks to the Morris Organisations' negotiating team is typical of the grateful and appreciative response from many Sides in the Morris Ring. We must appreciate that there is still work to do, especially for musicians and singers who are not associated with Morris and similar events – and with drafting of Guidance Notes, and with their implementation. As soon as matters become clearer, it is hoped that Guidance Notes for Morris Sides and their potential hosts, will be produced. As this goes to press the Queen's Speech threatens further action on "Street and other Collections" – prepare for another skirmish!!

We are sorry to hear that Associates, **Gallus Morris** has officially folded. Part of a note from *Norman Peacock* is included in the News Section. Various other Associates are no longer active or have joined other Organisations – please refer to the **Amendments** pages.

Also enclosed with this mailing are:

- **Amendments** to the Directory, a long list this time. The latest "working draft" of the Directory is always available by email.
- **Application Form** for the **ARM 2004**.
- If not already sent direct, a copy of your Side's **Insurance Document**. Keep this safe - the Treasurer will probably charge you to issue a duplicate!!

*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

### **Ken Adams [Traditional Bampton]**

**Ken Adams** of **Traditional Bampton Morris Dancers** died recently. His funeral was on 2<sup>nd</sup> October at Black Bourton Church.

[Details: *Nick Locke*, Trad. Bampton]

### **Byron Daniel(s) [Blackheath] - A Tribute**

Byron was once described in a national newspaper as “an itinerant Welsh poet, bricklayer and Morris dancer”, although apparently he hated the article in which this appeared. To this can be added; tree impersonator, mallet dancer, ballet dancer and above all guiding hand and icon of Blackheath Morris Men.

The Foot and Death Morris were formed at Goldsmiths College in New Cross, S.E. London. Byron played a major part in the team becoming Blackheath Morris Men and moving into “the real world” where he tried to attract “artisans and workers” into the team, he often pretended dismay on discovering that a new member was “educated” or “a professional”.

His face has appeared on two team T shirts, in one case a photo montage designed by Bill (William) Dudley catching him with a pint and a roll-up and one of his favourite sayings “fair play yeoh” (this design also features on the Team posters), the other an instantly recognisable cartoon on a shirt celebrating the Team’s 21ish anniversary. He also has a verse to himself in a Blackheath Song featuring another well known saying, “just one more pint yeoh” and he lives on in a dance which begins with a loud yeoh and in a curious kick while sticking in Adderbury known as a Byron.

There are many stories about Byron including why the team changed to black trousers (don’t ask), the mystery of the “missing” lung, the pint of mixed red and white wine in a non beer selling wine bar, all of which continue to provide the team with fond recollections.

Byron also danced (or fooled) with many other teams and played his part in the seventies Morris dancing revival in the SE of England. He was also a founder member of Tylers Men. His notebook contained details of every dance he’d seen in the early days and a few more besides. He was known by teams throughout the country who always asked after him, not only of Blackheath Morris Men but other local teams. As a member of one of these teams said, “I have met many people throughout the country whilst dancing; many of those knew Byron or knew of him. There are not many of us who can claim that”.

Always faded jacket wearing, always drunk and always swearing, fair dos yeoh always declaring; we’ll miss Byron Daniels.

[From: *Douglas Adams*, **Blackheath** – an illustrated version is at <http://www.blackheathmorris.com/Byron.html>]

### **Roger Venables [Green Man]**

**Roger Venables**, musician for **Green Man**, and brother of the late Past Squire, **John Venables**, died on 22<sup>nd</sup> November 2003, as a result of a car crash. His funeral was on Friday 5<sup>th</sup> December 2003 at Boston Crematorium, Lincolnshire.

[Information: *Jim Pennels*, Bagman, **Green Man**]

**Denise Fox** -- We are all saddened to learn of the death of *Denise Fox*, beloved wife of Past Squire, *Daniel Fox* [Thaxted]. She died peacefully on 25<sup>th</sup> November 2003. She had struggled bravely against cancer for some time, remaining cheerful throughout her therapy. All our thoughts are with Daniel and his family at this time. The funeral was on 8<sup>th</sup> December 2003 at Thaxted Parish Church.

### **A MESSAGE FROM THE SQUIRE**

Gentlemen,

May I start by wishing you and your families a very Happy Christmas and Prosperous New Year. Let us all hope that in 2004 the world will be a more peaceful place. If you are out dancing or mumming over the Christmas, may the skies be clear and the audience generous.

My thanks to all the sides who supported the Trafalgar Square event - a great success. There is a view that similar show cases should be held in the North and West.

We are beginning to put together a new Ring brochure, hopefully ready for the ARM. I would like to see you all there!! I am also working on a leaflet that all Sides can have to give to the public re: recruiting, and promoting our traditions. I would like to have your ideas/ views please.

I look forward to meeting many of you at the Ales and Feasts .

Wassail,

**Cliff Marchant.**

### **A MESSAGE OF THANKS FROM ADAM GARLAND**

“Gentlemen,

“Since my wife died of cancer at the beginning of July I have received a fantastic amount of cards and good will messages from a lot of my friends in the Morris family and to send each a personal reply is unfortunately not possible.

“I would just like to say a very big thank you to all of you for these kind thoughts and words. I know we all talk about the Fellowship of the Morris but it is at times like this when the full meaning of the phrase is made apparent. It has made the past five months a lot more bearable.

“Thank you, *Adam Garland*”

## INSTRUCTIONALS

**Jigs Instructional – 2004.** The hall at Sutton Bonnington has been booked again for **16<sup>th</sup> - 18<sup>th</sup> January 2004.** An **Application Form** was enclosed with the last Newsletter.

### **ARM 2004.**

As already announced, the **2004** ARM will be hosted by **Mossley** [with support from **Saddleworth**] and will be held at Mossley from **12<sup>th</sup> – 14<sup>th</sup> March 2004.** The cost of the business part of the Meeting will be met from Morris Ring funds. This means that the remaining “social” part of the weekend will be proportionately less expensive.

The **ARM Bagman (Mossley)** is **Roy Blick**, 77, Springfield Road, Droylsden, Manchester M43 7RD. Tel: 0161 2923794 Email: **RoyBlick@lineone.net.** An Application Form is enclosed with this Newsletter.

The Bagman must have received any Formal Nominations, Motions & Resolutions by **12<sup>th</sup> December 2003.**

**ARM 2005. Harthill** have now confirmed that they will be able to host the ARM in 2005. thank you Harthill.

## RING MEETINGS – 2004

The **Uttoxeter** Meeting was oversubscribed at the official first closing date. Successful applicants have been advised. It was hoped to expand the meeting slightly, but this proved impossible. The **Dolphin** Meeting was also over-subscribed once the on-time, but unsuccessful, Uttoxeter first choice Sides had been re-allocated to their second choices.

Hopefully, by the time this Newsletter reaches you, you will have already heard of your success or otherwise. If you have not please Email the Bagman.

There is still space at **Thaxted** – and both **Whitchurch** [2<sup>nd</sup> – 4<sup>th</sup> July] and **Hartley** [11<sup>th</sup> – 13<sup>th</sup> June] have offered to try to fit in any unsuccessful Sides at their week-ends of dance. Contact them direct please.

## OTHER EVENTS

“**Tommo’s Tours**” announces that there is to be a **4<sup>th</sup> Cotswold Tour** on **Saturday 8<sup>th</sup> May 2004.** Visits to Badby, Oddington, Lower Swell and Minster Lovell are proposed. Details from **David Thompson** at **thompson\_capers@tesco.net.**

## MEDIA

Martin Vander Weyer reviewed “Backroom Boys”, in the Telegraph “.. Here we meet **Roy Dommatt**, a designer of Polaris missiles and a keen Morris dancer who looks more like Falstaff than Dr Strangelove ....”.

An excellent photograph of **Offley** dancing Lichfield at St Mary's, Hitchin, Medieval Fair, in the October edition of "SEERound", the magazine of the Diocese of St. Albans.

Further to the brief item on **Rutland** provided Morris volunteers for a new Bollywood film. **Steve** (Ask for my Autograph) **Tunnickliff** wrote on MDDL: - "The film company had actually got a side more local to High Wycombe lined up, but when they changed the shooting schedule they had to drop out and there was a panic to find a side. The chap who had phoned round was a bit bemused when the team that turned up seemed to consist of several people they had spoken to: I think they possibly now believe that there are only a few Morris dancers but that we just change hats and call ourselves something else. What a stupid idea! Anyway, the film is "Bride and Prejudice" (honestly!) and the Morris bit, which is a sort of cod Bampton Highland Mary (chosen because there is lots of movement by everyone) with maypole dancers thrown in (don't ask), is part of a dream sequence wherein the heroin, played by Miss World 1994, imagines a typical English scene - hence Morris dancers and maypole, plus various characters who look as if they've been plucked from Ealing comedies and Miss Marple stories. The leading man is some Kiwi who is a rising star. As a result of all this, with some justification, Rutland now consider themselves Miss World's dream Men. Well she smiled at me! And the director lady, who did Bend It Like Beckham, said "When you're ready, Steve" to cue the music. It was a jolly day out."

## ANNIVERSARIES

**White Rose** Anniversary Weekend "Dancing in the streets - Morris style". From an article by Andrew Hurst in the Huddersfield Daily Examiner on 25<sup>th</sup> September 2003 – and another on the 29<sup>th</sup> September 2003.

"A Huddersfield - based Morris dancing club is celebrating its 50th anniversary with dances across the town." - "**White Rose** Morris Men - now based at Marsh Liberal Club - has invited other Morris dancing teams from across the country to join them in the celebrations. The roving event will be held this Saturday with teams of dancers performing in Huddersfield and Holmfirth town centres and across the Holme and Colne Valleys. White Rose Morris Men spokesman **David Barstow** said: "We have teams joining us from South Wales, Cambridgeshire, Derbyshire, Lancashire, Rutland, Northumberland, East Suffolk and Shropshire." "It will be a fantastic day - one to remember." ... and

"Huddersfield Morris dancers toured towns and villages across Kirklees to celebrate their 50th anniversary." "White Rose Morris Men, based at Marsh Liberal Club, marked their anniversary this weekend by holding a series of dances with other UK Morris dancing teams. About 200 dancers from Wales, Cambridgeshire, Derbyshire, Lancashire, Suffolk, Shropshire, Rutland and Northumberland descended on Huddersfield and camped out in Bradley Woods. On Saturday, six coaches took White Rose Morris Men and their visitors to locations all over Kirklees, where they performed their dance routines with bells, sticks and colourful costumes. The coaches visited St George's Square in Huddersfield, Holmfirth village centre, nearby Deanhouse, Stockmoor, Cawthorne, Burnlee and Denby Dale. They also performed in Golcar, Slaithwaite, Saddleworth, Marsden and Halifax. On Saturday the White Rose Morris Men celebrated their anniversary by holding a 1950s style evening at their Bradley Woods campsite. On Sunday traditional games were held at the site."

**Martin Cove** of **Milton** advises that they celebrate their 21st Anniversary next June

## NEWS

**Norman Hopson**, of **Long Man**, provides an update as they continued “Hopping Through Midsummer and into Autumn”. “We continued our Silver Hop at the Cricketer’s Arms, Berwick on 4<sup>th</sup> June, as guests of **Chanctonbury Ring** who are celebrating their “Golden Anniversary”.

Over the following weekend we travelled to Germany to the wine producing village of Klüsserath, which is situated on the Mosel. The Winzertanzen Gruppe Klüsserath organise a bi-annual “Internationales Trachtentreffen” in the village to market the wines of the “Klüsserather Bruderschaft”. For this trip we tried to spread the Harveys name by taking a polypin of “Long Man Pale Ale” to educate a small corner of Europe on the qualities of English beer.

On Saturday 14<sup>th</sup> we travelled through Mid Sussex, meeting at The Plough, Plumpton Green and dancing for the recently installed tenants and a couple of my friends. Moving northwards to The Heath in Haywards Heath and then onto a busy White Hart in the High Street at Crawley. Our lunch stop was in Turners Hill at The Red Lion. For the afternoon we were due over the border in Kent at The Fountain in Cowden, but “due to unforeseen circumstances” it was closed when we arrived, oh well we’ll have to reschedule. So an early arrival at The Dorset Arms in Withyham was met with closed doors, so the advance party carried on to Jarvis Brook near Crowborough. The Wheatsheaf was open so they played “Toad in the Hole” until the rest of us arrived with the tour rearranged. We danced for a small but appreciative audience. The final stand now being The Dorset Arms we backtracked to Withyham. A hot day and an eventful tour.

For our “Midsummer Walking Tour of Lewes” on the 19<sup>th</sup> June, the ladies of Fleet Morris joined us, taking in two more Harvey locals – The John Harvey Tavern, the closest house to the Brewery and The Swan in Southover before the locals ventured out for their evening tippie.

On the last Friday in June, we headed east to The Seven Stars in Robertsbridge, where Sussex Spinning Jenny joined us, then along to Burwash to The Rose and Crown where we reached our collection target of £1000, so what we collect for the rest of the Hop, fourteen more pubs to go, is a bonus. Friday July 11<sup>th</sup> we visited the Halfway House, Isfield; The Alma in Uckfield where we entertained a good crowd and then onto The Blackboys Inn at Blackboys - the collection for the evening was just under £100.

The following weekend was another sojourn across the Channel, this time we visited Gournay en Bray, a small town in the Normandie region of France, for The Feté St Claire as guests of Hailsham Twinning Association.

Our next pub on the Hoppers trail was The Royal Oak, Tabard Street, Southwark for a rainy Friday lunchtime session where we collected pennies short of £80.

On Summer Bank Holiday Monday, we visited The Golden Cross Inn, a family run public house with a Holiday Caravan Park to the side. The collection now stands in excess of £1200.

With our extended programme Long Man had to dance out through September into October. On the 21<sup>st</sup> September we met up with **Kennet** at The Nags Head in Sunningdale, and danced for an appreciative audience out for a Sunday lunchtime pint. We then returned to Sussex and danced at an overhauled Constant Service in Brighton during halftime of a Premier League football match featuring Manchester United. On the last Saturday in September, a small, but perfectly formed band roamed the Kent and Surrey borders, and collected over £100 at three pubs. Starting in Maidstone at The Pilot, moving westward along the A25 to The Bricklayers Arms in Chipstead near Sevenoaks and finishing the day in Redhill at The Garland. Just under £1400 with three stands to go - £1500 beckons!

Long Man MM Squire, **Stuart Walker** says, “If you are ever in Redhill, do visit The Garland - it has a wonderful atmosphere and great hosts!”

On the first Saturday in October Harveys Brewery sees its devotees eagerly await the advent of their ‘Old Ale’, a dark seasonal drink brewed from October to May. Reminiscent of the mild ales produced during the early part of this century. Long Man lead the celebrations and are always joined by **Chanctonbury Ring**, Brighton MM and Knots of May. To complete the Hop we also danced at The Dorset Arms in Lewes and to a small crowd and the new tenants of the recently refurbished Foresters Arms in East Hoathly. The collection from these last three stands pushed our total for the “Harvey Hop” to just over £1500 which we will pass on to St Wilfrid’s Hospice.

A very big thank you to everybody who helped us raise 150% of our initial target, to Harveys Brewery, their tenants and their customers and fellow Hoppers. Good health to all.”

Space-edited from last Newsletter, **Anker** met up with new Associate Side **Yelvertoft** at the Alexandra Arms in Rugby on 3<sup>rd</sup> September, for an evening of dance and conviviality. Amongst those providing music for Yelvertoft, **Michael Smith**, formerly of **Mayflower** and an original **Roding Valley** Man back in the 1970s.

A Report on the **Winchester** Ring Meeting [w/e 5<sup>th</sup> – 7<sup>th</sup> September 2003] was included in the Circular that accompanied the last Newsletter. Another excellent event.

The Memorial Service for Past Squire, **Colin Fleming** [**Westminster**] took place at Thaxted on 20<sup>th</sup> September 2003.

A busy Morris day on 20<sup>th</sup> September, with three Days of Dance hosted respectively by: **Southport Swords; Jockey** and **Yateley**.

The latest **18 – 30 week-end** was held on 27<sup>th</sup> September. A report is awaited. The same date saw Peterborough's Day of Dance – it is reported that the dance spot on the floating jetty was rather safer this year – as a boat was moored to said pontoon, hence stabilising it somewhat!!

The 4<sup>th</sup> October was **Bedford's** Day of dance. Honoured by both Ring Squire and Treasurer, and Sides from **East Surrey** and **Coventry**, as well as representatives from **Jockey**. A gentle perambulation around Bedford. featuring the Beer Festival and finishing at the Wellington Arms. Tea was taken in the local Wetherspoons – the alcoholic Long Island Iced Tea being a favourite of some!!! The feast was, as usual, excellent – and lubricated with “Palomino” an ale from the Old Stables Brewery in Sandy, a new endeavour [just down the road from the Bagman's residence!!! Some ridiculously energetic dances were then danced on overfilled stomachs!!! An indecently cholesterol rich breakfast was provided in the morning!

The following week-end had its usual clash of events: the Bagman visited **Anker's** Day of Dance and Feast; the Squire was at **Rutland** – in the guise of a **North Wood** Man; and the Treasurer was at **Harthill** – or was it **Barnsley**?

The Bagman was guest at **Yelvertoft's** first Feast and ladies night on 1<sup>st</sup> November. Certainly the meal at their local pub far surpassed any normal pub fayre. An excellent sing around followed, with almost every member of the side producing a “party piece”. Even the Ring Bagman was induced to lead two songs – the host Side not being aware that he was incapable of such – [but they did provide the words!!!].

We are pleased to hear that **Norman Peacock** [who had he not moved to Scotland in the late 1950s, would have become a Ring Bagman][*I must consider that – Ed*] remains well, and is in touch via the various Ring publications. He writes of **Gallus** “I've been paying a subscription for the Gallus Morris for many years but I think the time has come for me to admit that the club has not really existed for at least 10 years. In that time I've had quite a few enquiries and have been able to direct men to the Clydeside Rapper and I am glad to continue to take any enquiries from the Glasgow area. I see that my name has been restored to the Roll of Honour (?) in the Directory as the Bagman who never made it so my address is still available if anyone likes to look hard enough. Even if by chance a whole side of men suddenly appeared in Glasgow I doubt that I am physically fit enough to take much part with them, let alone teach them. I have however managed to go to the **Leeds** annual week-end over the late bank holiday and on both the **Travelling Morrice** tours this year (I couldn't miss the first tour the T.M. had made in Scotland – despite the midges).”

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For administrative convenience Associates, **Lordsmere Longsword** are now incorporated into **Saddleworth**, who will now dance the Lordsmere Longsword dance once each year. Any separate Lordsmere Men being en-joined into Saddleworth.

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## TRAFALGAR SQUARE

A collation of reports and thoughts from the celebrations on 2<sup>nd</sup> November:

**Pete Thomas, East Kent** wrote “I suspect that most of the television crews will have decided one of two things when the starting time came around. 1:- Those people won't be stupid enough to be dancing in this! 2:- We should have got the underwater camera back from yesterdays swimming! Nice to see Hammersmith start on the dot of 11am come hell or high water, especially the latter. I'm surprised that **Royal Liberty's** scaffold poles didn't go rusty.”

There was a photo feature in the Financial Times. The full caption read: "Dancing for joy: Morris Men, more often spotted in villages than central London, perform in Trafalgar Square yesterday to celebrate winning exemption from the 2003 Licensing Act, which requires public dancing to be restricted by licence". The picture featured **Kennet**.

Jenny Howard [Fool, with Bedfordshire Lace, a Federation side] wrote on MDDL. “Well, that was a jolly good do! It was triffic to see such a huge variety of Morris in one place, and most of it pretty good too. It was particularly good to see so many sides I don't normally have the chance to - I think I've seen more men's NW today than in the whole of the last 10 years put together - and to meet so many other Fools as well (many thanks to **Roger Comley** of **Letchworth** who made a point of introducing me). And then there were all the old friends from all over - it was beginning to feel a bit like “This Is Your Morris Life”, meeting people from former sides I'd danced with, people I'd met at workshops years ago, people I keep bumping into at dos like Straw Bear, members and former members of other local sides and people I'd met at their Days of Dance ... not to mention the other mddlheads. And since the organisers had thoughtfully provided handouts, we knew exactly what to say to all the members of the public who wanted to know what it was ... though the bloke who wanted to know what the connection was between Morris dancing and crop circles had me baffled, I must say. I don't think anyone who approached me (except one former pub landlady) had known about the Licensing Act, and they were all astonished and horrified to hear of our narrow escape and the conditions other performers are still going to have to live with. So - unless media reaction proves otherwise - well worth doing and a lot of fun. Can we do it again, sometime? Only without the horizontal rain?”

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**Vancouver** entertained Remembrance Day celebrants at their usual drinking hole, the Billy Bishop Legion, with, to quote **Graham Baldwin** “Our usual dazzling display of Welsh Border mayhem, as we have done for the last 10 years or so. (Does it qualify as a "tradition" yet, I wonder?)”

From **Norman Anderson, Harthill**, who as well as confirming 4<sup>th</sup> – 6<sup>th</sup> March at Harthill for the 2005 ARM [6 month notice or what!!!] writes “Just a quickie as an aside. We have got four new members. Bit like the 97 bus, you wait for ages and then four come along together!! One is an experienced dancer, but had no Morris experience. The local vicar has joined us. Is this another Father Ken in the making?? Two of our groupies have started. One, bless him, is 64 and apparently enjoying not only the dancing but the apres dancing. And his mate. He has never played an instrument in his life & cannot read music. So I said I would teach him if he agreed to learn. He has been with us 3 weeks. He understands the basics of the language of the dots. He has almost got Bluebells of Scotland (right hand only) on the accordion. Most of all he is so keen to learn. Brill or what? One of our local schools has a class to learn the dance and the head teacher wants to expand it to cover a wider range of age groups. Three of our men are sorting that out! Its all happening up here.



So, our new bagman Neil and myself are working hard to make 2004 a year of excellence in the Morris. We have a good "management team" in the club & attendance has been very good so far. Tomorrow we start rehearsals of the South Yorkshire carols after practice in the Beehive pub in Harthill. This culminates in a concert in the pub just before Christmas. Whilst not strictly a Morris event, all the musicians, bar one, are in the team as is the "songmaster". The carols are sung to a lot of the traditional Methodist, Baptist and Sally Army tunes."

Cardiff Ale was held on 21<sup>st</sup> November. Also attending representatives from Ring Sides **Chalice; Isca; Sweyn's Ey; West Somerset** and **White Hart** [in great strength], as well as Lassington Oak, Cardiff Ladies, Carreg Las, a mixed Border side from West Wales, and the Ring Bagman. Three excellent curries and trimmings were followed by desserts and cheese – all washed down by four excellent Ales. The raffle had some 40 prizes – albeit some of the more intriguing packages proved to contain a variety of vegetables - the Ring Bagman looks forward to baking his two large potatoes!! There was also a selection of song and dance.

The **Musicians' Instructional** was hosted by Mendip on the weekend, 21<sup>st</sup> - 23<sup>rd</sup> November 2003. Under the capable management of **Clive Du'Mont**, a good and educational time was had by all. A television was provided suitable patriotic support for the activities in Sydney after **Sydney's** dancing at the Rugby stadium. It was hardly used so keen were our musicians!!

On Tuesday 25<sup>th</sup> November 2003, **Coton** danced for the HRH Prince of Wales when he visited the Dyke's End pub in Reach [near Cambridge] to unveil a plaque celebrating the village's victory in a battle to save their local pub. Because it was a working weekday, a number of other Sides were represented as members of Coton including: **Bedford, Devil's Dyke, Cambridge** and **The King's Morris**. As well as sampling the ales, Coton danced to entertain the waiting crowd. HRH then watched a dance and shook hands with, and talked to, the dancers. The Ring Bagman – having found the obligatory black waistcoat in a charity shop – missed out as he was taking the photographs. Hopefully one will be suitable for the Circular!!!

The Yorkshire / Sheffield Pub Carols might not be Morris, but tradition they certainly are. Various Morris persons were observed when Past Squire, **Bert Cleaver** hosted a house party to celebrate his Birthday and facilitated the visiting these events. Members of **Barnsley, Bedford, Chalice, East Surrey, Greensleeves, Handsworth Sword, Harthill, Leicester** and **Wath** were observed on various occasions at the end of November.

**Shakespeare** in the form of the Shakespeare Mummings were observed near the start of their season in two excellent pubs in Alcester on 2<sup>nd</sup> December. A good time was had by cast and crowd!! **Alan Whitbread**, Captain of Mummings wrote "We had a good evening last night, we also got **John Frearson**, Bagman of the Ring, who turned up on spec, to play King George (which he did with connotations to King George Johnny Wilkinson slaying the Dragons of OZ, leading to the singing of *Swing Low Sweet Chariot!*)"

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## AVAILABLES AND FOR SALES

**Alan Dandy** [Stafford] is selling some of his "Tankards in various English woods and pewter" these are now available from stock! Details on request from Alan at T: 01952 810334; Mob: 07745 171 389; Email: alan.dandy@blueyonder.co.uk

**Antlers:** A nice pair available (still on a piece of skull and mounted on a board), well proportioned and not too big (five points each side) and might contribute to a nice Morris beast. Donation to a children's charity or local hospice, for gift of these antlers. Contact: **Ann Tanner** [**John o'Gaunt**] on email: a.tanner@ucsm.ac.uk or Tel: 01524 384680.

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## **AND FINALLY .....**

The *Treasurer* was interested to receive an enquiry from Mr. Yuka Ishiguro in Japan after his visit to the website “I am interested in accessories, especially rings. I am looking for a ring to give to my sister on her birthday. I would like to know about rings which you are selling at your store. Please send me a catalogue of rings and prices and any other information. Thank you in advance for your co-operation. I look forward to hearing from you.” To quote Steve – “Even I could not make this up. At first I thought that it was a wind-up. After close scrutiny of the air mail envelope I now believe it to be genuine. If it does turn out to be a wind-up by some b\*\*\*\*\*d on holiday in Japan, I will eventually buy him/her a pint.....and you know how often that happens!!” We have sent him a copy of the Ring Booklet for his troubles.

And from Clive Walker on MDDL commenting on the need for a English Haka for the Rugby – “I have always felt that the sight of Messrs Johnson, Kay, Dallaglio, Thompson, Hill and of course Leonard, doing the Upton stick dance would strike fear into the hearts of those chanting Maoris. The sooner the better I say.”

## **CONCLUSION**

Please to keep the News flowing and report any changes for the Directory. The next Newsletter should be produced in January, and include the ARM Draft Agenda; Details of Candidates for Squire and the voting paper; and any Motions etc. The mailing should also include the Morris Dancer.

## ***Wassail***

John Frearson,  
Bagman, The Morris Ring