



The Newsletter - No. 34 – July 2004

Greetings,

The season is well under way and **Dolphin** arranged a wonderful weekend with superb weather for their Ring Meeting.

The new **Brochure** is available, and hopefully all Sides have seen the sample copy. Stocks are held by the Squire, Squire Elect, Bagman and Treasurer. They are in boxes of 270 [not 150 as we expected!!]. However, the discount price of 70p per copy still applies to orders of 100 or more. Otherwise 80p per copy. Please let the Treasurer know your requirements, and you can collect them from him or any of the Officers [as listed in the Treasurer's Ramblings within]. They will also be available at Ring Meetings, or wherever The Morris Shop may set up. It is a good value general information publication when re-sold at £1.00 / copy – or more as you wish!!

My apologies for missing what I have heard was a splendid **Thaxted** – the first Ring Meeting that I have missed in my time as Bagman. I had a week off in hospital!! At least I now know what was inhibiting my breathing and general dance capability. It seems I had been collecting blood-clots on the lung!! When I had to have a rest after walking across the pub, before ordering a beer, it seemed sensible to seek advice!!!

Also enclosed with this mailing [or collated with the Newsletter] are:

- **Amendments** to the new Directory,
- The **Report** on “**The Future of the Morris**” – your comments are requested.
- **Minutes** of the **ARM** with various attachments.
- An **Appeal** leaflet from **Thaxted Church** – see note from *Daniel Fox* herein.

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].

FROM DANIEL FOX – PAST SQUIRE

“*Daniel Fox* and his family would like to thank all their friends in the Morris for their messages of support following the death of Denise. Daniel was especially grateful, and he knows Denise would have been pleased, that The Morris Ring was represented at her funeral by The Squire, The Bagman and The Treasurer. Daniel looks forward to seeing his many friends in The Morris.”

TREASURER’S RAMBLINGS - July 2004

How do you answer that repetitive question, “Where does Morris Dancing come from?” or “What is it all about?” There is now one simple answer to all such enquiries from those performance-admiring members of the public. “Would you care to purchase one of our booklets for only £?, this tells you all about it.”

They are printed in colour on good quality paper in A5 size; the 25 pages are liberally illustrated with photographs and provide a broad description of the Morris: Revival & History, different styles of Morris & Sword, Mumming, Morris Music, Fools & Beasts, and a brief bibliography. This publication is an excellent tool for informing the public of who we are and what we are about.

The booklets are now available to all Morris sides at a special bulk order price of 80p each for orders of 1-99 and 70p each for orders of 100+. The price you retail them at is entirely up to you. I find that it sells to the public very easily and conveniently at £1.00.

For bulk purchases please see me at any appropriate Morris event (mail order is too expensive). We also have stocks available for collection from:

- a) Steve Adamson (Treasurer), Bradford, West Yorkshire.
- b) Bob Cross (just about Squire!), Weston-super-Mare, Somerset.
- c) Cliff Marchant (just about Past Squire!), Brighton, East Sussex.
- d) John Frearson (Bagman), Sandy, Bedford, or Rugby, Warwickshire.

PERSONAL ACCIDENT INSURANCE (Optional)

Further changes are on the way. You have already been informed that I am no longer allowed to offer any advice or answer queries relating to ‘The Morris Organisation’ public liability or personal accident insurance policies. This is solely because I am not an authorised insurance broker or agent. If I was to provide any such information, there is a possibility that it could jeopardise the legitimacy of any pending or future claim.

In anticipation of the impending Financial Services Act 2005, we also have to adjust the way that the personal accident insurance policy is managed. All Morris Ring member sides will receive a copy of “The Morris Organisations” (optional) Personal Accident insurance application form with the annual subscription demand in the Bagman’s October Newsletter. The completed form, listing all the individuals’ names/addresses, and enclosing the correct premium payment will have to be sent direct to our insurance broker, Mr Michael Stimpson. All will become clear when you receive the application form.

In summary, this means that the only real change is that you will now be required to send all details and premiums direct to him and NOT me. It is anticipated that the premium will remain at £1.50 per person.

All of the above applies to sides wishing to renew or initiate participation in this optional personal accident policy.

PUBLIC LIABILITY INSURANCE.

None of the afore mentioned changes affect our public liability insurance policy cover. The premiums for this continue to be paid as part of your annual subscription. Don't forget that the insurance document is no longer published in the Morris Ring Directory. This is now supplied direct to your directory-listed representative with the last mailing of the year.

ANNUAL SUBSCRIPTIONS

This will be covered in more detail in the appropriate October mailing. The rates, conditions and deadline remain the same as in previous years. Don't forget that late payment after 30th November not only incurs an additional payment of £10, but also invalidates any public liability cover for your side until such payment is received.

THE MORRIS SHOP

At the AGM I made a general appeal for more material on traditions other than Cotswold. This has resulted in us now stocking:

Book A4 (landscape, comb bound) : *The Story of the Flamborough Longsword Dance* ~ by Richard Traves and Trevor Stone. An excellent potted history of the Flamborough Sword Dance from its earliest known listings to the current day. £6.00

Book A5: *Rattle up, my boys* ~ by Trevor Stone. The story of Longsword Dancing – A Yorkshire tradition. £4.00

We have also recently acquired:

CD £12.00 *Changeling* performed by 'Crucible' who are Jess Arrowsmith, Helena Reynolds, Richard Arrowsmith & Gavin Davenport. All four members of Crucible also play with other bands; Richard, Jess & Gavin with Heckety and Helena with Jabadaw. This is musicianship at its best and some wonderful arrangements. Can you guess which two members of Crucible are Jockey Morris Men?

CD £12.00 *Great Grandson of Morris On* by various artists and produced by Ashley Hutchins. In my opinion, a marked improvement on its immediate predecessor.

CD (coming soon) *Sheepskins*. John Kirkpatrick. First released as a Squeezer cassette in 1988. Morris Dance music from Shropshire, the repertoire of the Shropshire Bedlams and Martha Rhoden's Tuppenny Dish. Solo performances on bass, baritone and treble anglo concertinas plus one-row and two-row melodeons. £12.00

CD (coming soon) *Plain Capers*. John Kirkpatrick. First released on Free Reed 1976. Traditional Cotswold Morris tunes played by an acoustic band featuring Martin Carthy, Martin Brinsford, Fi Fraser and Sue Harris. £12.00

If you know of anything that might be suitable for stocking on the Morris Shop shelves, please get in touch. All traditions considered, but I am particularly looking for more material on Mumming, Sword, Rapper, North West and Border Morris. YOU are my eyes and ears.

Steve Adamson BFB, Treasurer, The Morris Ring

THE BELLS – a post-script from the Treasurer.

You may well be aware that there has recently been a substantial amount of consternation regarding the future supply of our two-piece (Morris) bells. This uncertainty has now prevailed for over a year. I have only just heard that our current suppliers in Birmingham have now decided to continue manufacturing the bells. It comes as no surprise to learn that this excellent news is sadly accompanied by a considerable increase in price.

Over the past 12 months we have been working with the CDSS (Country Dance & Song Society, USA) in an attempt to locate an alternative supplier. I believe that we may now have found one in Nürnberg. All I have to do is determine which would prove to be the better value. The facts that have to be weighed up are: the Birmingham supplier's price increase against the transport costs, bank charges and exchange rate to Euros when dealing with Nürnberg.

Our stocks are OK for this year, but I will most certainly have to consider all of the above in time for a re-stock at the beginning of next year. Whichever route we take, I am certain that we will not be able to avoid an increase in the price of our bells. However, there is always the option of the cheaper one-piece bell. I do not want to even think of this due to the fact that these are absolutely %*>£@\$? #\$\$% .

I will hopefully have this all sorted out in time for the next newsletter. Steve Adamson BFB

THAXTED CHURCH RESTORATION APPEAL

From *Daniel Fox*, Past Squire. "Thaxted is seen by many in The Morris Ring as its spiritual home and Thaxted is happy to welcome The Morris Ring every year. Thaxted Church has played an important part in both the revival of the Morris and the formation of The Morris Ring. The building itself has seen many important Morris occasions over the years.

"The building is now in need of urgent repairs especially to the roof and the stone work. The latest estimate indicates that over the next few years £1,000,000 will be needed. It is expected that English Heritage will make a substantial grant. The balance needs to be raised from donations.

"Enclosed with this mailing is a leaflet from Thaxted Church Trust, giving more information. Please would sides consider making a donation from their bag to the Thaxted Church Trust.

"On behalf of Thaxted Church, thank you." Daniel Fox

INSTRUCTIONALS

Jigs Instructional – 2005. The dates for your diaries - **14th - 16th January 2005.** An Application Form will be available nearer the date. Details and information from the indefatigable **Bert Cleaver.**

ARM 2005.

Harthill are hosting the ARM in 2005, from **4th – 6th March 2005.** **Chalice** have offered to host the ARM in 2006. If any other Sides wish to bid / offer to host then, or a later year, please advise the Bagman.

OTHER EVENTS

The Pipe and Tabor Festival – 9th - 11th July 2004, was advertised in the last Newsletter. Hopefully there will be a report for the next Newsletter. It has a NEW website www.pipeandtabor.org. **Gloucestershire** and **Lassington Oak** will be there.

Chris Harris, whom many will have seen in his show “Kemp's Jig” is contemplating running a day workshop on “**Fools, Betsy's and Animals**” – next year – possibly 16th or 23rd April, at Bristol University. When more is known, it will be passed on, by Email in the first instance..

MEDIA

My apologies that the Treasurer's tune had disappeared from www.morris-open.de by the time the Newsletter was circulated!!!

ATTITUDES etc

The two following two items should provoke thought.

The UP Side : - From Jenny Howard on MDDL, “We all get so blasé about Morris sometimes – we do it week in, week out, half (all?) our mates are Morris dancers, for some of us so are the spouse and even the kids: but I had a colleague rush up to me at work yesterday thrilled to bits, because SHE'D SEEN MORRIS DANCERS!!! (caps and exclamation marks hers). Just in a little village she was passing through, "probably only practising, because they'd got no audience", the sun going down on a beautiful evening, oh, it had made her day - such an English sight! She was quite overcome: no mention of perfectly straight lines or everyone on the same foot, no mention of nicely pressed trousers, not even any mention of happy smiling faces: she'd Seen Morris Dancers and that was enough. So bear in mind, when even the man and his dog haven't shown up and you're out there dancing to an audience of two crows, an earwig and some passing cars, that you might still, just maybe, be making someone's day and giving them an experience they can't wait to tell someone about. Doesn't that give you a little glow?” A little research, and it transpired that said dancers were in Egleton, **Rutland**. Well done lads, you made someone's day. Need we say more?

The DOWN Side : - A comment from an MDDL subscriber:- “Following the flurry of correspondence on the MDDL about the Ring's supposed 'policy on / attitude to women', I have been astonished by the tenor of chats I've had with fellow list members and others out on the street. It seems amazingly widespread to hold the Ring and its 'policies' responsible for the negative (but never the positive!) behaviour of its member teams, and of individual men belonging to those teams, in a way which would be unthinkable in relation to either of the other two organisations. It seems many believe that the Ring sides who taught or encouraged the early women's revival sides were somehow 'renegades' and that an all-male organisation must necessarily be a misogynist one. The trouble is, many non-Ring sides never meet a Ring one - to know it, at least - and so the old myths of the 70s just persist and get recycled and reinforced by every negative incident. "Ring = Woman-haters" is, honestly, the automatic association that a huge number of Morris people make: often, it's the only thing they 'know' about it. I don't suppose much of this gets back to you chaps, because I hope people aren't usually saying it to your faces; but I wonder if you shouldn't think seriously about publishing some kind of statement on the Ring website to correct this impression? It would help those of us who prefer to make the louts, boors (and indeed bores) of all parties responsible for their own words and actions if there was some official statement of policy (or non-policy) publicly available that we could point to.”

Well that should provide a little something for the new Squire to make a start on!!!

NEWS

DERT - Vince Rutland noted that mention of **Sallyport** had been omitted from the piece on DERT – “... they did very well - 3rd overall and their musician was 2nd overall. The standard was very high, as usual - it's a massive event”. He commented that “The Morris Ring does not give it the attention it deserves”. Apologies indeed, but organisers and participating Members should please ensure that “The Morris Ring” is informed – “it” depends upon you, the Members, to let “it” know what is happening!!

Tony Ashley provides a correction “Contrary to what you have been told, the **One Day’s Wonder Travelling Morris** are very much alive, kicking and travelling as we only went out one day a year the Ring subscription was genuinely more than we could afford. We were offered a cheaper alternative form of insurance from one of our members, which we accepted. This year’s itinerary for our 17th successive tour on Saturday 8th May 2004 included Oundle, Woodnewton, Helpston, Stamford, the Nene Valley Railway and Ashton. The Tradition was Bampton as interpreted by **Martyn Thomas** of **Lassington Oak**. The Tour was organised by **Steve Bignall** of **Northampton** and **Rose and Castle**. Membership continues to be drawn from a wide area. **Geoff Thompson** (**Pinewoods, Handsworth Sword** and **Packington**) made his fifth transatlantic trip to join us!”

Vince Rutland suggested that little if any information had been circulated about the **International Sword Spectacular Festival** in Whitby in late May. In fact the Squire, **Cliff Marchant**, attended and the Morris Ring support the event through insurance.. Vince Rutland reports “On the Friday morning there were displays by 10 local schools sword teams (plus 3 high school teams from the USA and various others joining in!) and then there were about 40 sword teams from 7 countries taking part over the weekend. The following Ring sides were taking part: **Castleford Longsword, Coventry Mummers, Goathland Plough Stots** (adults & junior teams), **North British, Redcar Swords, Sallyport Swords, Southport Swords, and Stevenage Swords.**”

Peter Milne, Squire of **Stevenage Sword** also sent a Report “Stevenage Sword and some 30 UK sword teams and 10 foreign groups had an enjoyable weekend at the fourth **International Sword Spectacular** in **Whitby** over the spring bank-holiday weekend, despite a downpour throughout the Sunday morning procession. Stevenage gained the accolade of 'Awesome cool!' from some of the US junior dancers from Great Meadows, Massachusetts. The Great Meadows 'Rapper Academy' turned out three excellent teams (a few photos at <http://tinyurl.com/33sm3> and <http://tinyurl.com/3b5cs>). Stevenage ran an impromptu workshop after breakfast one morning to exchange interesting figures; 'Slightly Green' had the 'cool' to dance THREE of the figures we'd shown them in their main display dance in the evening! - How many months did it take us to get them right? Shall we give up now? - No! We're 'Awesome cool' so must be good for a few more years! Other notable groups included Bagnasco Bal do Sabre, a 30-strong group from a small village (pop 1500N Italy, with an amazing dance/play linked back to the Moorish (Morris?) occupation of Piedmont. (pictures at <http://tinyurl.com/36nyq>)).”

Richard Smith, Bristol reported on MDDL: “Bristol were invited to dance at **Bampton** this year [31st May] (thanks guys - we had a great time), and my wife accompanied me. Although she has seen me dancing with Bristol and the **Forest of Dean** for nearly twenty years, and seen many other sides on tour and at festivals, it was only yesterday that she commented on the distinctiveness of the steps of **Bampton, Adderbury** and **Eynsham**, and how different they were from the way Bristol dance some of the same dances. I guess that is the advantage of a single-tradition side, even though we go to some lengths to avoid a single aggregate "Bristol" style.”

Gloucestershire took part in a festival of Bal de Bastoners - Catalan Morris dancers in Spain! **Steve Rowley** provided a report on the visit on the MDDL:

“GMM are now mostly recovered from their escapades in Catalunya as guests of the Co-ordination de Bal de Bastons at their annual Festival. This is like a BIG ring meeting for Catalan Morris Dancing. 52 sides, involving over 1500 dancers and musicians.

“Bal de Bastons has many similarities to Morris. It is danced in whites, with bell pads and ribbons. The formation is in sets of 6 or 8, and they dance figures often the same as Cotswold, to tunes played on the pipe and tabor. The word 'Baston' means stick, or baton. They carry two each. The traditional dances (they claim a heritage back to 1190) look rather similar to Sherborne Constant Billy, with the difference that they clash throughout all the figures, not just the Distinctive Figures.

“The Festival started at 4pm and involved two processions and a massed dance, followed by a special dinner in the open air for us and 3000 of our new friends. We were very popular, although some English sides have done exchanges with Catalan sides, we were the first team to be invited to the big Festa, and most of the local dancers were surprised to find that the English do Bal de Bastons as well.

“After dinner and speeches we then took off to a bar in town to escape the pop band 'Entertainment. We drank, danced, played and sang before retiring at 2am. The pop band continued to play 'Yellow River' in Spanish outside my hotel until 5am.

“On Sunday we took part in a stage performance at the Forum of the Cultures in Barcelona, Spain's answer to the Millennium Dome. Then we rounded off the trip by dancing up La Ramblas.

“Photographic evidence of our indiscretions can be found on the website www.glosmorrison.org. If you would like to find out more about the Bal de Bastons and it's non-stick (does that mean Teflon?) relative Bal de Cascabells, there will be two talks and workshops by visiting Catalan exponents at the International Pipe and Tabor Festival in Stroud.”

Alan Dandy and **Peter Copley** of **Stafford** confirmed that they had performed at the annual County Show in Stafford on 2nd June. “A record 70,000 visitors were expected. As well as Stafford showing Morris, there were displays by the Royal Artillery's Flying Gunners motorcycle team, a tug o' war, the Highland Band of the Scottish Division, show jumping, fox hound parades, and dog shows!” “We were performing in the country (or was it trivial?) pursuit area in between the ferrets, fly fishermen and gun dogs. Two days dancing in the heat with varying numbers of men for the shows as they came and went - from 5 to 9 men. This necessitated 4 man Adderbury and the like, but we survived. On each of two days we did 4 x 20 minute shows (paid!) as well as a freebie for Radio Stoke (for publicity). Notable was the Gwatkins cider as sampled by most of the Men.”

[Edited from Alan Dandy and Peter Copley's reports and the local paper's web-site]

Thaxted Ring Meeting was somewhat larger than for a few years, there being only two other Ring Meetings this year. Hopefully an illustrated report will be included in the Circular.

Chris Deuchar, also on MDDL, reported on the “Gate to Southwell” on Saturday 12th June: “The weather was not too hot, nor too cold, and about 275 dancers from Yorkshire down to the south of England had a wonderful meander down the Trent valley...” The Gate to Southwell is one of the oldest known Morris traditions (at least back to 1530)...” More can be found at <http://www.nottingham.ac.uk/~pdzdw/dolphinweb/AboutEmids/Gate.htm>

Hartley celebrated their 70th Anniversary of their foundation as the **Stansted** Morris with a Weekend of Dance on 12th – 13th June. “The main venue was the St George's Hall, Wrotham, and there was a pub session in the Rose & Crown in the village on the Friday night. Two Tours, named for the breweries they visited as their first stops, set out on a fine Saturday morning. The Goacher's Tour with **St Albans** and **Kennet**, and the Larkin's Tour: **Victory**, **Wessex** and **Woodchurch**. Some excellent pubs were visited during the day – as well as the Kent Museum of Kent Life – and a mass show was given at the Swan at West Peckham, also a brewery in its own right. After the tours there was an excellent Feast, and on Sunday a tour to Ightham Mote and the 25th Wrotham Festival of Steam and Transport, was followed by a final Mass Show outside Wrotham Church. An excellent weekend. A Report and photographs should be in the Circular.”

The Ancient Ceremony of Electing and Chairing the Mayor of Ock Street, took place at **Abingdon** on 19th June. The candidates for Mayor were *Leslie Argyle*; *Roger Cox*; *Rod James*, and *Stuart Jackson*. Stuart Jackson was re-elected Mayor with a convincing majority. Guest Sides were **Handsworth Sword** and **Icknield Way**, and a folk group from Belgium.

Milton celebrated their 21st Anniversary with a Day of Dance on 26th June.

BATHAMPTON CELEBRATE 70 YEARS OF CONTINUOUS DANCING

From *Adrian Wedgwood*, **Uttoxeter Heart of Oak**, 'Celebrating Uttoxeter 2004'

"Were she alive today Mrs Charlotte Oakey, headmistress of Bathampton School, would probably have been amazed to see her team of boys that she started in 1934 have grown into a Morris club that opened their 70th anniversary celebrations with a 'Wheatley On' in Corsham of four sides in **Bathampton** kit accompanied by a veritable orchestra of talented musicians.

"Organised with consummate skill by bagman *Idris Roker*, the 70th. Anniversary celebrations on 2nd – 4th July 2004 drew together nearly forty Bathampton men and their partners for a coach tour to Saturday dancing spots in Corsham, Lacock, Bradford on Avon and Bath Abbey together a poignant appearance at Bathampton School Fete.

"The weekend began in true Bathampton style the previous evening at Bath's 'Park Tavern' when what was planned as a quiet meeting of old friends escalated into a full-blow dancing session forcing the landlord to move us into a bigger room and close his doors at 9 p.m. to prevent overcrowding by tourists clamouring to be in on the action. Very early the following day, rapidly shedding the after effects of the previous evening, *John Salmon* and *Dave Lee* were interviewed live on BBC Radio Bristol.

"Saturday evening saw fifty-five sitting down to a celebration dinner in the lofty platform halls of the former Green Park Station in Bath. *John Sturgess*, a Bathampton Man since 1974, read greetings and other messages from men who were unable to attend. *Bill Holt*, who joined the club in 1968 and at aged 83 danced at every spot on the celebration tour, making him 'probably the oldest Morris dancer in the World', provided the Grace before an excellent meal.

"The Toasts provided an opportunity for representing both ends of the Clubs membership spectrum. *Roy Phillips*, who joined in 1955, proposed the toast to Mrs Oakey; *Fred Goater* a 1940's recruit, reminded us of 'absent friends' and *Alan Greer* of 1997 vintage proposed the traditional toast to the Immortal Memory of Cecil Sharp.

"Scenes from the past were highlighted by *Peter Cooper* (joined 1964), *John Helsdon* (53 years service and still dancing) regaled us with modern-day memories and present-Squire *John Laver* (1994) gave a glimpse into a bright and confident future.

"Other highlights of the evening included 'putting up' the bride from an adjacent hen party of Marilyn Monroe look-alikes, the induction of two new members; *Gavin Bayfield* and *Richard Eamer* and a noisy rendition (with skull-splitting actions) of McNamara's band lead by *John Sturgess*.

"All men present received a 70th Anniversary commemorative enamel badge that'll be worn on the baldrick.

"Sunday morning saw us repenting our sins at a celebratory service in Bathampton Parish Church where we danced afterwards to entertain the congregation and canal-side visitors before repairing to lunch at Bathampton Mill. Here the Management surprised us with a 'birthday' cake and the full 'party' package including balloons and party poppers. Afterwards we surprised ourselves and bemused Sunday lunchers by mustering enough energy for a final dance display.

"As a now 'distant' member it was a privilege and great delight to be a guest at a magnificent celebration of seventy years of achievements epitomised by the skilful dancing, superb hospitality and friendship of all those men who dance 'The Bathampton Way'."

Mendip [together with Squire Elect *Bob Cross*] have just made a trip to the Netherlands. A report is awaited!!!

THE GREEN OAK BBQ – a report from the Treasurer, BFB

“Every first weekend in July normally sees **Green Oak**’s annual bash at Pickburn & Brodsworth Village Hall near Doncaster. Alas, this year was not to be as compulsory work is currently being carried out to prevent the ceilings and roof from falling in. This event is always timed so that ‘as many as will’ can join GOMM on the Sunday morning at the Hooton Pagnell Victorian Fair. In the face of this impending disaster, **Mike** (Musician) and Sue **Morley** decided to save the weekend by rescheduling their annual GOMM garden barbecue.

“I must first of all thank **Martin** & Ailsa **Johnson** for providing both **John Crowther (Boar’s Head)** and myself with beds for the night. No prizes for guessing who volunteered as the evenings wobble proof driver. After dumping our kit we then boarded the BFB charabang to Mike’s place.

“The evening’s entertainment started by the men proving exactly why Barbie’s are a man thing. After a considerable amount of trial, error and an occasional oath, things went very well and the male pride and honour was satisfied. After the food came the music, singing and a little dancing interspersed by a pint or two, or three, or four etc. It was at this time that Mike preceded most of his tunes with those now immortalised words, “Sorry, I’m pi**ed”.

“The morning after the night before, started with a hearty breakfast and then off to the Hooton Pagnell Victorian Fair. All the way I was getting flash backs of Trafalgar Square. Yes, it was persisting again. Like true die hard Morris Men, the first dance spot went ahead surrounded by an enthusiastic crowd of umbrella wielding onlookers. A short time later the brass band decided to give up and then packed up without even blowing a note.

“Then, just to prove that this was the Trafalgar Square experience all over again, the sun came out and stayed. The stalls appeared from under their plastic sheeting, as did the folk from under their umbrellas. Due to the Brass Band’s premature departure the organisers then had a considerable hole in their program. The Green Oak lads were called upon to grace the event with an additional performance. The decision to do this was largely influenced by a sizeable contribution to Little Willy’s collecting bucket.

“My heartiest congratulations to Green Oak for a very successful weekend. It is events like this that prove my theory that sometimes the spontaneous ones are amongst the best.”

AND FINALLY

“**JOCKEY BANNED AT SOUTHWELL**” This interesting headline grabbed attention in the “Sporting Life” – especially when it seems that “Eamon Dehdashti was banned for four days for using his whip with excessive force on **Morris Dancing** at Southwell”.

CONCLUSION

Please to keep the News flowing and report any changes for the Directory. Ensure your event is advertised and/or reported by sending in a flyer or Report by Email. Editing takes less time than copy-typing, and the present pressures on my time will restrict time input on production of the Newsletter.

The next Newsletter should be produced in August. The mailing should also include the next edition of the Morris Circular.

Wassail

John Frearson,
Bagman, The Morris Ring