



The Newsletter - No. 35 – October 2004

Greetings,

Hopefully the Summer break [if you had one] has been good for you all – and that the forthcoming practice season is useful. There are a number of Instructionals to think about – and selection of next year's Ring Meetings. Please be prompt with your applications.

There is important information from the Treasurer about Insurance – and subscriptions. We have been able to raise the cover to £10 Million as from 25th January next year.

There is also important information on the Licensing situation. Please do check with your local Council to find how they are interpreting the Law – and take appropriate action to ensure Morris and similar activities remain uninterrupted.

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

- **Amendments** to the 2004 Directory,
- **Subscription Form** – sent your payments **before 30th November to avoid surcharge.**
- **Personal Accident Insurance Form** – send as per form – **NOT** to the Treasurer.
- Information and **Application Form** for **Ring Meetings 2005.**
- **Application Form** for the **Musicians' Instructional 2004.**
- **Application Form** for the **Jigs Instructional 2005**
- **Application Form** for the **Fools' and Animals' Un-convention.** N.B. Please note this Un-convention is open to **all** members of the other two Morris Organisations. [This was notified late – most potential attendees should have been advised by Email]
- Your copy/copies of the **Morris Circular.**
- For the **Advisory Council**, the **Minutes** of their most recent meeting.

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

John Seaborn

John Seaborn, Squire of **St Albans**, died on Tuesday 7th September after several weeks in hospital. John had a great passion for the Morris and was always very active and enthusiastic within the club, both as a dancer and musician. He was Squire or Bagman of St Albans on various occasions. John will be sadly missed. [Information: **Trevor Adams**, Bagman, **St. Albans**]

Bill Cleaver

Bill Cleaver, sole surviving founder member of **Coventry** has died at the age of nearly 88. Members of both **Coventry** and **Jockey** (with whom he was also associated) danced at his funeral. **Bill Cleaver** started dancing the Morris in the late 1920s as part of a scout troupe, which, as they grew up, became **Coventry Men's Morris and Sword Club** in 1931. Bill was certainly dancing again in the late 1940s (there is a picture of him at the **Bedford Ring Meeting** of 1950) and got the Morris in Coventry back together again in around 1950 as well as building up contacts with the **Jockey** side in Birmingham. By the 1970s he was the side's main musician playing a 3-row Hohner melodeon in the old style, as well the mouth organ on occasion for sword dances. He retired from **Coventry** on his 78th birthday in 1994, but kept in contact with the side. [Information from: **Martin Trewinnard**, **Coventry**]

TREASURER'S RAMBLINGS

Another dancing season over and now it's that wonderful time of year again. Yes it's subscriptions and insurance. This year sees big changes in both the Personal Accident and Public Liability policy.

Optional Personal Accident Insurance.

As reported in previous Morris Ring publications, the pending Financial Services Act 2005 bars me from collecting or handling this premium. The attached renewal/application form has been provided by our insurance broker, Mr Michael Stimpson. Please ensure that the completed form and appropriate payment is returned to him and not me. You are required to provide the individual participants full name and age. Please refrain from using 'nick' names or aliases as this could invalidate the required cover. Please make your cheque payable to 'Michael Stimpson & Associates'. Every thing is still very much the same except for the fact that the paperwork it is NOT returned to me.

Third Party Public Liability Insurance.

This policy continues to run under the name of 'The Morris Organisation' which consists of The Morris Ring, The Morris Federation and The Open Morris. The premium for this cover is included in your annual subscription. Over the last 3-4 years, the standard level of indemnity has been £5m. There has been a recent trend for some local authorities and organisational bodies to ask for, or even demand, a greater level of cover. With effect from 25th January 2005 this cover will be increased to £10m. This doubling of the indemnity will cost 'The Morris Organisation' membership an additional 40p per side. I am of the opinion that this enhancement represents what is commonly known as ~ a girt bar'gin.

This increased level of cover and subsequent slightly larger premium is not significant enough to cause me to seek any increase in your annual subscription. This amount can easily be absorbed in the every day running of the Morris Ring's annual turnover. I am fully aware that this totally contradicts the current rumour that the Treasurer has no heart.

The above stated bargain price is due to two principle factors:

- a) The Morris Ring, Morris Federation & Open Morris having the one policy document.
- b) Our insurance broker is one of us.....a Morris man. If the number of hours that it takes to manage these two policies were put into the hands of an 'outsider', our costs would be twice the current level.

2004 - 2005 Annual Subscription.

This remains the same as last year (that's my big heart working again). The basic rate is :

FULL MEMBERSHIP	pre 30/11/04	£45.00	thereafter	£55.00
ASSOCIATE MEMBERSHIP	pre 30/11/04	£35.00	thereafter	£45.00

This level of subscription can vary depending on the number of publications you require. This is all explained on the subscription form.

The prompt receipt of your completed form and subscription payment will ensure that you receive your public liability insurance document with the next Bagman's mailing. This document is no longer displayed in the Morris Ring Directory and has been replaced with the 'Advice Regarding Insurance'.

The Morris Shop.

This continues to flourish as we strive endlessly to supply 'All things Morris to all Morris folk'. The most recent additions are:

- a) Heavy gauge pewter (1 pt) tankard with brass lid, handle and rim base. Only £38.00
 - b) Heavy gauge pewter 1½ pint tankard (this requires a gullible landlord). Only £48.00
- Both tankards are an example of the superb craftsmanship of Carl Longshaw (Birmingham).
- c) Tea/Coffee mugs stating 10 things you didn't know about Morris Dancers and/or Melodeon Players. £3.00 each or £5.00 any pair.

These are in addition to the ever growing selection of Books, CD's, cassette tapes, bells, hankies, socks etc, etc, etc. Why not pay a visit to www.TheMorrisRing.org and see the above items for yourself.. At the home page, just click on **sales**.....I dare you !!

My heartiest thanks to all the individuals that have assisted me with the Morris Shop throughout the year. A big nepotistic thank you goes to **Dave Arrowsmith**, a fellow **Jockey Man**, for the brilliant display stand that advertises the new Morris Booklet.

Ah! Yes, that reminds me. The new **Morris Tradition booklet** is still available to you at only 70p each for orders of 100 or more. This is an excellent means of informing your public of what we are about and perchance to make a bob or two for yourselves. This item is far too heavy to post and therefore is available for collection from either John Frearson (Bagman – in Rugby or Sandy), Bob Cross (Squire), Cliff Marchant (immediate past Squire) or myself. Or better still, why not contact any of us and arrange to meet at one of our many Morris gatherings throughout the year. This offer only stands for as long as stocks last (I don't believe I just said that).

Morris Bells

I am now able to report on the future supply of Morris bells. The alternative suppliers in Nuremberg have been tried, tested and subsequently discarded. Fortunately for us it was the CDSS (Country Dance & Song Society) in the USA that discovered this fact to their cost. We are now back in the hands of Pressed Metal Products in Birmingham who have decided to continue manufacturing. I have recently received the 2004 catalogue together with the inevitable list of price increases. Pressed Metal Products have also imposed further conditions for trade purchasers. These include a new minimum order and an increased threshold of £1,000

Code	Description	Prices per hundred	
		1999-03	2004-05
C221	7/8" Brassed	£25.00 +8%	£27.00
C222	1" Brassed	£27.00 +11%	£30.00
C223	1 1/8" Brassed	£33.00 +9%	£36.00
C224	1 1/4" Brassed	N/A	£39.00
C225	1 3/8" Brassed	Discontinued	Line
N/A	2 1/2" Brassed		Each £1.50

before qualifying for 5% bulk order discount. The displayed prices are inclusive of this trade discount. Because the 1 3/8" bell has been discontinued we have substituted this with the next best thing, the 1 1/4" bell.

The price increase, at an average of 10%, is not the best news in the Morris world, but at least we still have a supplier that is prepared to produce the goods. All interested parties continue to scour the globe for alternative bell manufacturers. Life would be too easy if we were to switch to the cheaper one piece bell. But as we all know, the price reflects the quality. If you have any suggestions, please get in touch.

Steve Adamson BFB, Treasurer.

RING MEETINGS – 2005

An Application Form for Ring Meetings for next year is enclosed with this mailing. Details are given on the form, but in summary the following are on offer. Remember to respond by the 7th November to the Ring Bagman, for consideration in the initial allocation.

20 th - 22 nd May	HELMOND 70th ANNIV. RING MEETING
3 rd - 5 th June	THAXTED RING MEETING
17 th - 19 th June	DURHAM RAMS 40th ANNIV. RING MEETING
22 nd - 24 th July	LONG MAN RING MEETING
29 th - 31 st July	ST. ALBANS 75th ANNIV. RING MEETING

INSTRUCTIONALS

18 – 30s Morris Weekend. This is being hosted by **Leicester** in Leicester from **15th – 17th October 2004**. Details and further information can be obtained from **Nick Simons** (01455 285018) NickSimonsBA@aol.com or **Ben Allsop** (0116 2612744) benallsop26@yahoo.co.uk. Please pass the information on to the younger members of your Sides. The cost is only £25 – or £20 for the un-waged. Sensibly, Sides might sponsor their younger members for this event. [An application form is also available as a pdf from the Bagman or from **Charlie Corcoran** of Leicester].

Fools and Beast – 2004. The Fools and Beasts Un-convention are holding an open week-end of instruction and foolery, hosted by **Plymouth** in Plymouth - **22nd - 24th October 2004**. An **Application Form** is enclosed with this Newsletter.

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 Chris Harris one-day Workshop, entitled “**Tom Foolery**” and dealing with Fools, Betsys and Animals, is now scheduled [as per the Email update] for 9th April, at Bristol University.

TOM FOOLERY:

Weekend MORRIS course with CHRIS HARRIS

A special weekend course with the irrepressible Chris Harris will run at University of Bristol's Drama Department, as part of their Lifelong Learning programme of practical short courses open to the public.

A weekend to find your fool! Explore the Fools, Beasts and Betsy's of Morris Dancing with motley expert Chris Harris. A chance to develop your own style and find the special ingredients that inspire laughter. Working with masks, motley and hobby horses to unleash your outrageousness and locate the fool in you.

Saturday 9th April (10am- 5pm) & Sunday 10th April (10am-4pm) 2005. Cost: £55

Places must be booked in advance - for BOOKINGS ring: Isobel Pierce on 0117 954 5471

For **further information** about the Lifelong Learning programme of over 50 practical short courses in Drama and Film visit the website at www.bris.ac.uk/drama/lifelearn or ring **0117 954 5471** or email: drama-lifelearn@bristol.ac.uk for a free brochure

DERT 2005 - The **2005 Dancing England Rapper Tournament** will be held in Preston (Lancashire) on the weekend **4th - 6th March 2005**. The weekend will include workshops and informal events, and the Rapper competition, which will occupy most of Saturday. This will include dancing in the pubs of central Preston as well as outdoors at the Flagmarket, and a display at which there will be a chance to see all participating teams. There are typically about two dozen Rapper teams at DERT, and whilst most choose to compete, some come simply to exhibit and to mix with other dancers. Prizes will be awarded for dancing, playing, and Tommying/Bettying. Indoor camping and a late bar will be available on Friday and Saturday nights. The price will be announced soon, and there will shortly be a website for the event. Meanwhile, if you would like more information then contact **Andrew Kennedy** [88, Liverpool Road, Penwortham, Lancashire. PR1 0HT Tel: 01772 741503 andrew@north-british.co.uk] or **Jeff Lawson** [110, Park Road, Chorley, Lancashire PR7 1QY Tel: 01257 249686 jeff.lawson@btinternet.com].

BOXING DAY 2004

With Christmas and St. Stevens Day both being on the weekend, this means different traditions celebrate variously on Boxing Day / St. Stephen's Day [the Day after Christmas Day] and Boxing Day / the Bank Holiday [on the Monday]. The Treasurer has been doing some research – and for those who like to get to events after Christmas, here is a listing of events on the Sunday and Monday after Christmas day. For those who are normally involved with traditional events on the Day after Christmas [like the Bagman], this will be the chance to visit **Handsworth** and **Grenoside!!!** Whether they will be dashing down to Sompting or **Bedford** on the Sunday is a different matter!!!

- 26.12.04 **Sunday ~ Barnsley Longsword**, Annual Boxing Day [To be confirmed]
- 26.12.04 **Sunday ~ Redcar Longsword**
- 26.12.04 **Sunday ~ Chanctonbury Ring**, Day of Dance, Sompting.
- 26.12.04 **Sunday ~ Bedford**, Boar's Head Ceremony.
- 27.12.04 **Monday ~ Handsworth Long Sword.**
- 27.12.04 **Monday ~ Grenoside Long Sword.**

STICKS

In following up a reference on MDDL, a source of sticks has come to light. **Tony Morton** of **Greenwich** does "volunteer conservation work for Essex Wildlife Trust in one of their woodland nature reserves, coppicing trees in the time honoured way to produce wood for a range of products, and benefiting the wildlife at the same time. I would be delighted to be mentioned in the Directory. The Morris sticks are usually made from Hazel, sometimes Ash, depending what we happen to come across in the wood. Our standard stick for Greenwich is 35 inches long and the right diameter to get a firm grip, with the bark shaved off, but if you have your own favourite format we can probably meet that. Our price is one pound (£) per stick, whatever size. The money goes to Essex Wildlife Trust for their nature conservation work. The main problem is delivery, we would need to see how we could find a workable arrangement to pass them on, but we have contacts in South East London, and West Essex who can pass sticks on. Delivery dates would also depend on whether we have any sticks in hand or have to go and cut more, and of course the main season for cutting is in the Winter." All enquiries to: Tony Morton at tonyinthewood@greenwichmorrismen.com

MEDIA

Richard Smith [Bristol] noted on MDDL "... Nice to see **Forest of Dean** and **Lassington Oak** featured on 'Gardener's World' on Friday night [6 August], dancing on top of May Hill on May Day".

"Dear **Bob [Cross]**, You just appeared on BBC TV Points West. Excellent, though I'm not sure about shaking a leg on that ladder! ." [From an Email from **Brian Marks, Dartington**]

IMPORTANT - UPDATE ON LICENCING – from John Bacon, Morris Federation

Guess What...the Licensing Act again!

As you all must be aware, Morris dancing and dancing of a similar nature is exempt under the 2003 Licensing Act. However the Act has not yet been enacted because this cannot happen until:-

- 1 - The Statutory Guidelines have been written.
- 2 - The Statutory Guidelines have been approved by Parliament.
- 3 - The Statutory Guidelines have been published.
- 4 - Local Authorities have studied the Act and Statutory Guidelines.
- 5 - Local Authorities have written their own Guidelines and published a licensing policy statement that sets out how they will deliver and interpret the Licensing Act reforms.

The approval and publishing of the Statutory Guidelines by Parliament was achieved on 7th July 2004. The three Morris Organisations lobbied the DCMS in an attempt to get the words “Morris”, “Mumming”, “sessions”, and “other folk plays” into the draft Guidelines, but though much of the language was changed, these terms do not appear – and you really have to use your own interpretation as to what they mean. The current timetable for the reform, for all of the above is as follows;

- During the six months from July 2004, local authorities in England and Wales will prepare their Statement of Licensing Policy. This should include how they will interpret and operate the Act and Statutory Guidelines in the context of the new entertainment licensing regime.
- At the end of the six months new licences become available on the 'first appointed day' now estimated to be February 2005.
- This is the beginning of a nine-month Transition Period. New licences granted during this time will be dormant.
- At the end of the Transition Period (the 'second appointed day') the new licences take effect and the old regime finally ceases. This is currently estimated to be November 2005.

What do we do now? It is not too late to get involved now with your local authority if you want to make the best of the new entertainment licensing regime. Although it may be late 2005 before new licences take effect, over the next few months local authorities will be preparing their Statements of Licensing Policy. This involves local consultation. We can and should be a part of this process. This is particularly important for those of us who organise and promote our own gigs. Find out who is leading the policy consultation and get involved - so that you can influence them in their development of their statements - and try to persuade them to include a set of words into their policies similar to that below. These have been prepared by Jazz Services, Southwark Street, London.

Live music, dance, theatre etc

(Morris and similar is exempt but live theatre such as Mumming, sessions and other folk plays are not)
 “This authority recognises its duties under Article 15 of the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights to take progressive measures to ensure that everyone can participate in the cultural life of the community and enjoy the arts. Artistic freedom of expression is a fundamental right, and this authority is bound by s.3 of the Human Rights Act 1998 to read and give effect to all legislation, including licensing legislation, so far as possible compatibly with the right to freedom of expression. This authority will take all this into account when considering the licensing of live music, dance and theatre. Where the Licensing Act 2003 is open to interpretation which may be more or less restrictive for these activities, the authority will fully explain the reasons for its interpretation of the Act. In such cases, and particularly where licence conditions are proposed, the authority will set out in detail where, how and why it believes subsisting safety, noise, crime or disorder legislation, is inadequate such that licensing is, or licence conditions are, not only necessary, but a reasonable and proportionate means to address the risks arising from the entertainment. The authority, in accordance with the Licensing Guidance document, will also monitor the impact on regulated entertainment, in particular live music and dancing, of the licensing provisions. Where it is found that such entertainment is being deterred, it will review its policy with a view to reversing that trend.”

NEWS

The **Travelling Morrice** celebrated their 80th anniversary with their 130th Tour in Kent. They met up with **East Kent** during their tour.

Kennet visit Ferrette - *Chris Hutchinson* reports that “Between the 18th and 23rd June, **Kennet**, their wives and friends, visited the newly formed **Ferrette Morris Men**. Kennet are based in Reading. Ferrette take their name from the small Alsace village of Ferrette, not far from Basel. The Ferrette side includes a number of men who have formerly danced with Ring and other sides in the UK - *Peter Sandbach* (**Kennet**), *Mark Howes* (Gibbet, Lagabag) and *John Hare* (**Thames Valley**). During the weekend the men danced in Switzerland, Germany and France.”

“It was a good idea to take wives and friends with us as one Kennet man left his breeches behind. Luckily his wife had a suitably coloured pair that fitted him! At half past twelve one night there was a small earthquake. The more mature members of the party who were upstairs in bed in the hotel trying to get some sleep noticed it. The younger members of the side who were downstairs in the bar performing "Kenny the Kangaroo - garoo - garoo", falling through the stage and trying to keep everyone awake, failed to notice it. The earthquake was independently witnessed by even more mature members of the party who had left town to stay in a gite in order to avoid the noise.

A carp is the emblem of the village of Ferrette and the French side have had an impressively large golden carp. It sits on the wearer's shoulders like a mini submarine but is very friendly and never fails to get on well with children.

Kennet have always regarded Monks' March from Sherborne as their smallest dance and have tried to perform it in almost every confined space known to man. At the French village of Eguisheim it seems likely that they became the side to have successfully performed the dance in a wine press. Regrettably an attempt to do it in a nearby disused well failed.”

Paul Montague of **Yateley** writes that they “were only two weeks into May this year when they had already lost two dancers with broken bones sustained at dance venues! First *Tom Brady* broke a bone in his foot dancing at Crowthorne May Fete and then *John Brightwell* broke his ankle at a joint evening with **Winchester**. Since then three other members of the side have dropped out with injuries so honouring commitments has been difficult and is the main reason why they failed to attend the **Moulton** Village Festival.

Despite injuries, 12 **Yateley** Men, “including two of the walking wounded, still attended the excellent weekend organised by **Utrecht** in June where other guests were **Colchester**, **Mersey** and **Helmond**. Having struggled to attract all male sides to a number of their recent Days of Dance, last year's AGM decided to run all male days on a biennial basis from now on. So the 29th annual Day of Dance to be held on Saturday 18th September is mixed and has attracted a total of 12 sides including **White Horse** and **Thames Valley**. Three coach tours will visit such varied places as the Camberley Street Festival, Hogs Back Brewery, Milestones Museum, Basingstoke and the RHS Gardens at Wisley before converging on Yateley for a massed display which will include Longsword, garland and north-west, to be followed by an Ale in the evening. [A fuller report on the day is given on a later page of this Newsletter – Ed.]. Yateley are hopeful that male sides will be as supportive next year at their 30th Day of Dance!”

UTTOXETER RING MEETING - From a “*member of the general public*” via the Ring website. “Congratulations on the 300th meeting of The Morris Ring. We were having a quite drink at the Swan Inn, Fradley Junction, last Saturday when the 'Brewers & Cathedrals' section of dancers arrived to perform. It was so enjoyable that we determined to attend the Abbots Bromley meeting the next day. On Sunday we were up early and drove the 25 miles to Abbots Bromley arriving at 9.30am. We watched the procession, attended the church service and watched the dancing to the end. During the dancing I spoke to your archivist, who was recording the event, about the 'Ring' and took many photos. My wife and I would like to thank you and the 'Ring' for making the day such a happy one.”

Standon celebrated their 50th Anniversary with a splendid week-end from 23rd – 25th July. The Squire and Bagman of the Morris Ring were both in attendance. There was dancing in Standon High Street to celebrate the Anniversary. The Saturday Tour then visited some unexpectedly beautiful Essex countryside – and pubs to match. There was a mass show in the afternoon in Saffron Walden Market Square [with an excellent Market!!]. The quality of the Feast [Pate; Chicken in Honey and Brandy Sauce; Strawberries and Cream; Cheese; and Coffee] at Albury Village Hall matched the rest of the day. Various founder members of the Side were present – including **Gordon Ridgewell** [purveyor of Newspaper cuttings to the Morris Ring!!]. Gordon turned out in his original Standon kit – and danced a Fool's Jig at the last afternoon spot, the Catherine Wheel at Albury. [This has disproved the rumour that Gordon Ridgewell was a figment of Eddie Dunmore's editorial imagination!!!!] On Sunday there was a very well attended show in Ware, and a final lunchspot at the award winning Lordship Arms at Benington [near Stevenage].

Coventry and **Ilmington** met up at the Stag's Head at Wellesbourne, to dance with a visiting Side from Berkeley, California. It was a chance to see a very different set of Morris Dances from the developing tradition of the USA. A very good evening was had by all.

The “**Artic Ale**” in Helsinki - 30th July - 2nd August 2004. **Keith MacDonald** reports “Six men from **Chanctonbury Ring**, joined by **Tony** from **East Surrey**, travelled north to Finland for the Artic Ale 2004 hosted by the Helsinki Morrisers.

“Chanctonbury Ring have had a contact with the Helsinki Morrisers for several years; the mother of one of their members was in a home in Henfield where we dance each Christmas, and he has been pestering us to visit Helsinki for some time! The Artic Ale was held to celebrate 25 years of Eken Morris from Stockholm and 10 years of Morris in Helsinki. We were joined by men from the Chippenham Town Morris as well as ladies from Mr Wilkin's Shilling and England's Glory. The two Artic sides are both mixed; Eken Morris seems to be 100% Swedes whereas Helsinki Morrisers are an eclectic mix of Finns and ex-pats of various nationalities. Our journey via Ryan Air to Tampere gave us plenty of opportunity to count the trees and lakes on the two hour coach ride into Helsinki. I think we lost count after 190,000, and that was just from the right-hand side of the coach. Saturday was spent on the traditional coach tours, but Finnish shopping centres are quite different to English ones. We were made welcome with some traditional English weather - heavy rain! The two tours met in the afternoon in Helsinki centre for some massed displays in the famous Senate Square, where the sun came through for a while. The Square was full of British and American tourists from visiting cruise ships but the locals seemed to enjoy our display too. Saturday evening was spent at a Sausage, Sauna and Swim party at a lakeside cottage an hour or so out of Helsinki. We have photo's of the ex-Squire of the Ring enjoying the sauna, available for a small fee. We enjoyed a visit on the Sunday to the Seurasaaari Open Air Museum on a small island just outside Helsinki. The museum has a collection of historic buildings from all over Finland in an idyllic setting, and we put on a good dance display in the arena area. The Helsinki Morrisers laid on a sumptuous feast on Sunday evening with reindeer (well it looked like rain, dear) followed by some Finnish folk dancing and a free-for-all ceilidh. The weekend finished on the Monday morning with a dance workshop where the visiting sides each presented a dance for the others to learn. We all had a most enjoyable weekend and our thanks go to Helsinki Morrisers for organising the event.”

Brian Marks, Bagman, **Dartington** writes “We have just returned from our fourth Isles of Scilly Tour. This time we raised £1081.44 for the Royal Marsden Cancer Campaign. There are some nice pictures on the website.”

Anker held their traditional evening out with **Jockey** at the Church End Brewery on 27th August. **Coventry** were also in attendance. As tradition demands, the Ring Bagman appeared to check that they were being provided with ales of sufficient quality!!! He was also observed to dance Highland Mary, Oddington with Anker, without collapsing – it is suggested that this implies a recovery from his recent problems!!!

Paul [Monty] Montague, Yateley reports “We have just enjoyed a superb 29th Day of Dance when we were joined by nine mixed, men’s and women’s sides. This was the first time that we ventured into a mixed gender day & judging from the support of both local sides and those from, as far afield as Brighton & Huntingdon, it will not be our last. The Squire of the Ring, **Bob Cross**, as well as the President of the Federation, were in attendance for, at least, part of the day and the Area Rep for the South Midlands, **Roger Comley**, lasted the pace right to the end of the superb evening ale. Three coach tours converged back in Yateley to process, after tea, to the varied main show that included both Cotswold, North -West, Sussex Garland & Sword dances in the evening sunshine. Yateley were indebted to the standard of performance of Fenstanton, Insword, Jackstraws, Knots of May, Mayflower Morris and Windsor Morris as well as their stalwart friends from **Thames Valley**. Yateley wait with baited breath to see if invites to their 30th Day of Dance, which will be all male, receive such good support from Ring Sides. We hope so!”

AND FINALLY

A sequence of light hearted [we hope!!!] comment and banter, abstracted from MDDL.

“Not having a go at Molly and Border teams especially (Gods know there are enough execrable Cotswold teams about as well) but I have noticed something of an inverse relationship in border and molly teams between the amount of time spent putting together the kit / make-up / props and the amount of time spent learning the ****ing dances. Not a general rule but a (sadly) good rule of thumb, I find”. [Darrell Hurtt]

“..... but equally there are many sides who seem to think that all you need is a black / green / blue / purple / whatever painted face, some sort of bizarre raggy costume, lots of shouting, and no skill in dancing ” [Dave Hunt]

“..... frequently Border is danced by people who cannot be bothered to learn how to dance Cotswold (with some notable exceptions of course!..)” [Keith Leech]

“Which, in turn, of course, is danced by those of insufficient ability or zeal to dance the Rapper.” [Alan Green]

“ and I'm officially declining the opportunity to escalate to North-West. Those who do it need no reminder, while those who don't need never know.” [Kevin R. Taylor]

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.

The next Newsletter should be produced in November/December [ish!!].

Wassail

John Frearson,
Bagman, The Morris Ring