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The Newsletter No.50 June 2007

PRIVATE & CONFIDENTIAL

Hello,

Well, it's not really but it has been suggested that I ought to use this heading to encourage a few more people to read the Newsletters. In fact this Newsletter contains no salacious gossip (because no one has sent me any) only stuff that we Officers of the Morris Ring feel should be shared with all members of Morris Ring sides.

First my apologies for the late arrival of this Newsletter and thanks to all those of you who shared horror stories about hernia ops. I am pleased to report that mine went well but that working at a computer in the couple of weeks before and after was difficult - hence the need for the apology.

Since the last Newsletter we have had the ARM, the JMO event in Brum, Thaxted Ring Meeting and lots of other Morris events besides. A few of the items in this edition may be 'old news' but I include them because they are important - the information about the Morris Ring group Site is an example. I draw particular attention to this as I am no-longer going to clog your email accounts with the electronic version of this Newsletter. I will instead email it to the Group Site. All Bagman (and others who have signed on) will receive notification that the Newsletter is available. I hope that each Bagman will email it on you those members of your side who have email. Don't worry - I will still be posting out a printed copy for hand distribution to UK-based sides and any individuals whose subscription entitles them to receive them.

[Further details of publication subscriptions for individuals are available from Steve (BfB) - contact info above.]

Welcome to Adelaide Morris Men the latest Morris Ring Associate side. The Adelaide Morris Men as the name implies is an all male morris team. They dance mostly dances from the Cotswold region of England and also from time to time dance what are loosely called Border dances, a mixture of dances originating from the more Northern areas of England and dances they have written themselves in the same style. Visit <http://amm.morris.org.au> for more information and pictures.

Resignation from the Morris Ring: Cardiff Morris

Morris Ring Group Site. http://www.themorrisring.org/google_group/

John Maher, the Morris Ring Webmaster, Overseas Bagman has set up a Group Site as another means of internal Morris Ring communication. All Member and Associate Side Bagmen, Ring Officers, and others by request are now signed up to the Ring Group. *This Newsletter is available via this site.* John has provided some simplified instructions onto the web site along with a reminder that all communications with the Squire, Bagman and Treasurer and other individuals should be via individual emails and not via this Group.

To Steve (BFB)'s delight this system is free, and there is no limit to the number or size of posts. For the tekkies amongst you it is apparently run on the ancient, well tried and tested, Usenet principles, which go back to 1981.

John Maher has intimated that he *could* manage this but there is an opportunity for someone else to get involved. Could it be **YOU?** Apparently (!) management is easy, so that, for example, changes of Bagman and email address could be done by the Bagmen themselves.

Other news from John: Using the Internet Archive for storing video and other material. See: <http://www.themorrisring.org/video/>

A message from Paul Reece. Squire of the Morris Ring

THE SPRING OFFENSIVE AND THE WAY AHEAD

The opening months of 2007 has been exceedingly busy, challenging and productive with much effort being expelled on trying to streamline our work, improve communications and the means to develop and improve recruitment, particularly amongst the young and to take a more proactive role in PR in order to promote what we are about. These issues are not unique to the Morris Ring and many were taken forward from our ARM in Leicester to the Joint Morris Organisations AGM which we hosted, again in Leicester.

The Keynote Session: PR, Youth Recruitment and Funding by Steve Rowley

The ARM was preceded with a dynamic and enthusiastic keynote taster session on PR, Youth Recruitment and Funding by Steve Rowley of Gloucestershire Morris Men, Rose Moresk and Cultural Pathways. Steve is very experienced at working with Morris sides and organisations to promote the Morris and Youth sides in this country and Australia.

Steve's work with the Bal de Basque in Spain where the older dancers are facilitators for the development, recruitment and promotion of young dancers, so that they can perform and have ownership of the tradition was truly inspiring. Here a tradition was turned around from something that looked as if it might die into something that is now alive and flourishing and going from strength to strength. It gave us a positive example of a strategy that has worked and a possible model for the way ahead that we could follow.

Duncan Broomhead showed us some excellent professionally produced Morris advertising and recruitment material that Adlington Morris had used successfully and Jonathan Cole spoke of the recruitment successes of Jockey Morris Men through taking the Morris to the people by putting on a course of Morris dancing at a local Evening Class Centre instead of expecting recruits to come to your practice. Members of 18-30 made a very significant contribution to these and the follow up discussions and possible directions.

As an experiment, starting at 9am and lasting an hour and a half, this session was a well attended, highly informative and very successful and productive. It was followed-up at the area meetings that followed and much of the thrust of the arguments and discussion both formal and informal throughout the day and evening.

On the first anniversary of Nibs Matthews death and watching the total lunar eclipse between bouts of dancing and singing after the feast, to which the full contribution of 18-30 was much applauded and appreciated, our shared howls of delight accompanying the eclipse was an indicator that the omens for the Morris are auspicious.

Steve is available to advise, answer questions that individuals or groups may have on any of these issues and do follow up sessions or whole day workshops, nationally or regionally. Contact any of the Officers for details.

VAN Conference Paul attended the VAN Conference on the Olympics in April. From it he reports that: "The Cultural Olympiad in this country will start on 24th August 2008 to coincide with the handover ceremony in Beijing. A UK-wide festival will start then in the build up to the games and will continue beyond 2012 as a legacy of the games. Eight Regional Olympic Officers are supposed to be in post by the end of this July and most local authorities have already an assigned officer who may be able to give support to your training and recruitment for your Morris projects towards this long term event on a local, regional or national basis involving yourselves or a group of sides"

Torch routes, long distance Morris, and a focus on ports are some of the ideas that may form a starting point for Morris involvement to complement the showcase Morris events being planned between now and 2012 by the Joint Morris Organisations. If you have ideas or plans to use this to put the Morris on the map and engage youngsters let us hear about them

Paul Reece Squire of The Morris Ring

Caper West And beyond. Many of you will be aware of the successful Caper West project to train up youngsters to dance the Morris with a view to the 2012 Olympics and our long term future. The Great Caper is an attempt to roll out this programme across the country moving first to the southern counties. Help with this project is requested and needs the support of the Morris Ring for the benefit of Morris as a whole - all our futures depends upon the promotion of the wider Morris and recruitment.

Below is the programme. Please consider might this benefit your side or area sides and what skills you may be able to offer and put into the melting pot for the common good of the Morris?

Juniors Sat 22nd Sept, Bristol and
Sat 3rd Nov Christchurch, Dorset.
10am -4pm £5 Bring packed lunch.

Dance share, team building, presentation skills. A chance for young people who are already dancing, and newcomers to come together, share what they know and develop their skills.

Adults Creating the Leaders, The Future of Morris.

Aimed at those already working with young people to give them a chance to see the different types of dance, have a go at some of them and hopefully take their new found enthusiasm back to their groups and try Morris with them.

If you as a side or as an individual would like to get involved and assist with the Great Caper national project contact Kim or Paul directly on 0117 940-1566
Further details for the entire above see: www.thegreatcaper.co.uk

Key Points from the ARM 2007 [Full details will be found in the Minutes.]

Following questions raised at the 2006 ARM this 'statement' from the Morris Ring Officers was accepted:

"Associate Membership subject to the scrutiny of the Morris Ring elected officers, is open to male performing Morris (incl. sword, rapper, molly, mumming etc) sides, who we wish to encourage to attend Morris Ring events and eventually aspire to full membership. Their attendance at A.R.Ms is also to be encouraged. However, it remains that voting on Morris Ring matters is for Morris Ring members only. Associates attendance at Morris Ring functions is conditional on the fact that, as a male organisation, we can only accept male attendees. The only exceptions are some musicians workshops and instructionals where we are encouraging a wider attendance. The parameters and flexibility remain at the discretion of the host organising body and the Morris Ring elected officers and conditions may apply due to the rules of hiring particular venues. Associate Members receive our publications, currently the Morris Newsletter and the Morris Circular and UK members our Joint Morris Organisation public liability Insurance. "

National Memorial Arboretum It was agreed that due to a lack of substantial support this project should be dropped.

Squire's Report Many of the points raised in this report have been covered in Paul's article above. He firmly stressed his desire for us to look to the future rather than dwell exclusively on the past. We exist to support our members but need to change. 2012 must be our Target and we need to go on the offensive.

Bagman's Report. The following were commented upon:

- Newsletters Format & distribution - problems with Bagmen passing information on.
- Handbook - Up-dated with far fewer addresses of companies etc. as not endorsed by users. [Available by email or post upon request only]
- Directory / Contacts - A hard copy was provided for those attending the ARM to illustrate the problems involved with producing and distributing printed lists. [Instantly available to Bagmen by email or post upon request only]
- Reminder that there are Briefing Documents available from Morris Ring Bagman on: Child Protection; Hosting ARMs; Hosting Ring Meetings; Hosting Instructionals; Risk Assessments & Constitutions
- Ring Meeting Drop-outs. If your side applies to attend a Ring Meeting, accepts the places allocated and then backs out because you have a better offer that

seriously embarrassed the Host sides and usually means that they run at a loss as well preventing other sides from filling those places. This has happened several times in past two years [One side of 15 men backed out in March!]. To help limit damage as from 2008 with the tacit approval of the ARM we will be asking for non-returnable deposits far earlier.]

- Major public thanks to the majority of side Bagmen who do an excellent job and keep the members of their Side informed about what is going on in the outside Morris world. Thanks also to Paul & Steve and for the numerous invitations to Feasts and events

6. **Treasurer's Report** (See full minutes for more detail)

- Accounts etc. fully audited and all found to be in order.
- Report of changes to Banking Process - separate Morris Ring; Morris Shop and Archive accounts.
- Subscriptions: pay for running costs; mailing, publications, insurance: our core activities. Currently there are only four or five sides not paid up
- Publications- now a heading in own right - and not lost as part of Officers' Expenses.
- Insurance. Thanks to **Michael Stimpson** who reported / answered questions
- Officers Expenses have been greatly reduced. Distinction now being drawn between 'essential Morris Ring Business' and social events. Expenses for the former are paid for by the Morris Ring whilst expenses incurred for other invitations have to be met from the 'host side'.
- Morris Shop:
 - 2005 Lots of Dead stock was written off
 - Profits from the shop have purchased / funded:
 - catering equipment (Available for 'hire')
 - high viz vests;
 - desk top publishing package for production of the Circular
 - refurbishment of the Squire's Staff.

7. **Archival Reports.** (See Full minutes)

8. **Publication Officer's Report**

Editor of Morris Circular Harry Stevenson (Report read by Geoff Jarram)

Circulation list up-to-date; clubs receiving copies subscribed for; relationship with printer good and the copy dates for April/May delivery is 31st March. Aug/Sept delivery is 31st July and Nov/Dec delivery 31st Oct.

Advertisements are now considered for inclusion but editor will keep number / balance right. Thanks to all contributors - the readers response show that it is worth the effort. Suggested appointing a 'reporter' for each specific club event - for both own achieves and wider publication. Request that Area Reps might pass the request / suggestion on to those clubs not represented at ARM.

Editor Morris Dancer

Vacant

9. Overseas Bagman's / Webmaster's Reports.

John's comprehensive report covered these areas:

- Overseas business:
- Web Business. Principle issue the Morris Ring Google Group.

10. Election of Bagman.

Charlie Corcoran returned un-opposed.

11. Election / Ratification of Area Representatives.

Those due for re-election were ratified unopposed.

Area Rep.: East	(2007) Graham Cox
Area Rep.: North East	(2007) Brian Pollard
Area Rep.: South East	(2007) Fred Hands

12. Area Representatives' Reports. (See full minutes)

13. Future Programme.

The usual requests were made for hosts to volunteer.

15. Date and Venue of Next Meeting.

Waddard agreed to host the ARM in 2008. Exact date to be confirmed.

The Meeting of the Morris Ring Advisory Council followed the ARM.

Joint Morris Organisations Biannual Showcase BIRMINGHAM 14.04.07

I was at this event with Red Leicester and it was wonderful to see the results of the months of work Steve Fiddler, his Jockey Morris Men in conjunction with Green Man and others who assisted with the hosting of the event on behalf of the Morris Ring.

Thanks also to Birmingham City Council who made available all their central squares and pedestrian areas for us to perform, all within traffic-free five minute walk of each other. The emphasis was on Youth and the Promotion and Future of the Morris. All traditions within the Morris were represented: from Border to Rapper; Longsword to Cotswold; North-West to Molly; and Fooling to Mumming.

"On behalf of Traditional Bampton Morris Dancers, a huge thank you to the organisers of today's event in Brum. We had a smashing day in the city and thoroughly appreciate all the hard work that went into organising such a major

operation. We danced in some brilliant venues, saw some magnificent dancing from others and I particularly enjoyed dancing in the museum. So good of the City Council and their officers to make us so very welcome. I think we will all remember today for a very long time .Thanks to all responsible.

Paul Bagman , TBMD

There are many reports and dozens of photos of the event on individual sides Web Sites. If you have such material please send copies to our archivists.

A cloud: the theft. One extremely unfortunate event took some of the gloss off the JMO event in Brum. As many of you know in the hectic bustle of the crowds at the Centenary Square area a wallet containing a considerable amount of money and cheques was stolen from the Morris Shop. It's disappearance was noticed within minutes (between 14.00-14.15 hrs) and the local police, Steelhouse Lane Station, were informed, crime number issued, etc. Steve reported that they were very helpful and understanding. CCTV was being looked into.

Steve has been able to identify all issuers of the cheques stolen to get the stopped and replacements written. Thanks to those sides and individuals for your speedy help with this.

Jim Catterall Thaxted MM musician and Ring Musicians' Instructional tutor died in the early hours of Monday 4th June. More can and will be written about Jim following his death on the Monday after the Thaxted Ring Meeting when he was out on tour but unable to take his usual place in the Horn Dance. I



include these quotations as a snap-shot of his influence upon the music of Morris over many years:

" Whilst he was the life and soul of practices, he was in fact a self effacing man. Jim always appeared to convey the impression that providing the best possible music for Morris was a far higher purpose than gaining recognition for doing so."

"Jim could work a spell over the most mundane melody and make it sound truly glorious; only by listening to him might it have been possible to glean some of his magic, but this is now gone forever. "

"I was at the last Ring Musicians Instructional held

at Thaxted. A wonderful time, super food, drink and companionship, and very special help from Jim. I will never forget it all."

"If he paid you a compliment, it was praise indeed. Jim didn't mince his words."

John Maher has created a collage of photos of Jim on the Morris Ring web site: <http://www.themorrisring.org>

Pete Hicks 1940 - 2007 Wadard MM. Pete was founder member of Wadard Morris Men in 1977 and their first Squire. Pete was a former member of Hartley Morris men, he was also a fine musician and singer, He was a member of 1970's Folk Band, Crayfolk, and more recently Skinners Rats and Slattery, His music and humour will be sadly missed by all who knew him.

Fred Hands Squire Wadard MM.

Fred Pinckney Died Friday 13th April 2007 after a heart attack. He was 79. Fred, neither a dancer nor musician, was an active, loyal and valuable member of Standon Morris Men for many years, retiring several years ago. An unmistakable figure in his smock, with tankard and stick in hand, Fred was always there on Thursday nights, Ring Meetings and other Morris events where he could be seen conversing amiably with spectators and collecting for the Morris.

Derek Wisbey, Standon Morris Men



SCOUTS CENTENARY 2007

Norris Winstone who is 93 and still performing with Kemp's Men of Norwich was first brought into Morris dancing at a Birkenhead Scout Jamboree in 1927. Following the Icknield Way Morris Men initiative it was suggested that other scout troops might be keen to commemorate their centenary by learning some Morris to impress their international colleagues. If you or your side did get in involved with your local troop please send a report and photographs to Harry for the Circular. We really do want to emphasise the involvement of youth!

Is 80 years the current record for active participation? Let me know. Charlie

Cambridge Morris Men Robert Saunders is approaching his century in August and John Jenner and his Cambridge MM friends are wondering whether he will be the first morris or traditional man to do so since Joseph Kester a Hardwick Molly was 100 in 1947. (See Russell Wortley memorial book). Robert has been a member of the CMM since 1930 and was at the Ring discussion meeting in April 1934 when it was decided that Walter (who was asleep) should be proposed as the first Bagman, but if he declined when he woke up then Robert would do the job.

John Jenner Bagman Cambridge Morris Men

DANCE BILL Seen in AI (Arts Industry) magazine, issue 180, 9 March 2007: "MP Meg Hillier has introduced a 10 minute rule Bill calling for regulation of teaching at the growing number of dance classes in the UK. The move is backed by Dance UK and heralds the creation of an all party parliamentary dance group (committee) which aims to raise the profile of dance."

The fact that a parliamentary dance group is being set up to promote dance is interesting. The fact that our input into the Licensing legislation was accepted may indicate that parliament is prepared to listen to the "dancer in the street".

David Jackson Bagman The King's Morris

EFDSS is 75. The EFDSS marked its 75th anniversary on 11th June with the presentation of 75 special 'Anniversary Awards'. These were presented by Society Chairman, Mike Norris, to individuals nominated by EFDSS activists and members for enthusing others to participate in folk music, dance or song, for making a significant contribution to research, for being an outstanding teacher or performer, or for giving outstanding service to the EFDSS. The evening was attended by over 200 people including the EFDSS's President, Ursula Vaughan Williams, widow of the composer.

The Headington Quarry Morris Men danced to honour the award made to their musician John Graham, and London's Greensleeves Morris similarly danced for their musician, Bert Cleaver. Derek Schofield (Manley Morris Dancers); David Stephens (Hop Hoodening Bagman & Archivist); David Blick (Forest of Dean); Roy Smith (Leyland) and John Graham (Headington Quarry) also received awards. Other members of Ring sides who were nominated but who are unable to collect their awards that evening include Paul Plumb, Paul Setford and Sean Goddard from Chanctonbury Ring.

EFDSS Chairman Mike Norris commented:

'This was a perfect opportunity to recognise the contributions of just a selection of the thousands of performers, organisers and activists who help promote folk music and dance throughout the country.'

'English Dance & Song' Summer 2007 issue

The Summer 2007 issue of English Dance & Song magazine has just been published. This issue has a focus on the music, song and dance of Dorset as well as features on new EFDSS publications.

The Thomas Hardy family tune books are re-examined by Dave Townsend in an article 'One Rattling Randy After Another, and there is Dave's arrangement of the tune 'The Triumph' (listen to it on <http://eds.efdss.org>).

The new EFDSS tune book and accompanying CD, Hardcore English, are previewed, sadly alongside Ian Russell's tribute to their compiler, Barry Callaghan who died very recently.

Plus there's the usual news, reviews and a preview of the summer festivals. For further information about English Dance & Song magazine, contact the editor, Derek Schofield, on eds.editor@efdss.org

Ben Dauncey and The Next Foot Up You will be pleased to know that Guinness World Records have acknowledged Ben's dance as an official Record, and he has the certificate to prove it. He is officially credited with The Longest Morris Dance In Seven Days, for completing a total distance of 146 miles 294 yards from Tunbridge Wells to Snowhill [Worcestershire].

The record was actually acknowledged way back in January, but G.W.R. sent the certificate to the wrong address, and it only found its way to Ben more or less by accident.

Belchamp Morris reported the sad loss during May 2007 of Howard Bond, long time musician (Tuba). Although very busy with his other musical commitments in recent years he still turned out for them from time to time and will be sadly missed.

Clive Hopkins Bagman - Belchamp Morris Men

Small Ads

Steve Parker (Greensleeves MM etc....) has moved. His new address is:
The Maybush, Newbridge, Nr Standlake. Oxon OX29 7QD 01865 300624
"Family-run riverside pub & restaurant"

Phil Howard. Clogs & Leatherwork www.nw-clogs.co.uk

Ickniel Way Lads at their Feast February 2007



Dert 2007 This year's hosts were Whip the Cat Rapper from Nottingham. They staged a very professional event for the twenty eight competing teams. The Premier Class was dominated by the "big four", with Stone Monkey coming top followed by Newcastle Kingsmen, Black Swan and Sallyport. The Open Class was won by another Black Swan team. The runners up were Northgate followed by the Dorset Buttons. The Traditional Class, by which is meant a collected dance from early in the 20th century, was reinstated this year and was won convincingly by Sallyport with a superb performance of the Swalwell dance. Three Morris Ring sides took part: Bristol, Southport and Hoddesdon Crownsmen.

Next year's competition will be held **7th-9th March 2008 in Liverpool** and will be hosted by Southport. It is many years since a Morris Ring side hosted the event and they want to encourage Cotswold sides who also dance rapper to take off their bells and take part. This year was the first time that Bristol had entered and they had a great time, learned a lot from the experience and are keen to come again. <http://www.dert2007.org.uk> for photos

Brian Tasker White Star / North British Sword etc.

2007 SDU Longsword Tournament will be held in Derby on October 13th 2007 and will feature some of the Old Trophies from past Whitby competitions, the Snark Trophy and a newly awarded EFDSS cup for youth teams.

"There is a trophy for 'Morris dancers who dance Longsword as an extra' That's a bit of a difference eh. It's like a handicap race where the poor kid in his dad's size 10 plimmies gets a head start.... The real dancers have to try and catch up!"

Further information from pcheat@btinternet.com

Phil Heaton

International Sword Spectacular The Fifth International Sword Spectacular Festival will be held in Yorkshire on the 23rd-26th May, 2008. The aim of the weekend is quite simple - to bring together the biggest and most varied collection of sword dancers ever seen. The organisers will welcome both individuals and teams. Further information from:

Andrew Kennedy Em ;Andrew@north-british.co.uk
or Stuart Higson em: Stuart.Higson@virgin.net

Dancers at cutting edge Perthshire Advertiser June 1 2007

PERTH Museum and Art Gallery played host to some very interesting visitors as part of a Scottish tour. The North British Sword Team dance a variety of real and reconstructed linked-sword dances from Papa Stour, Elgin, the Isle of Man and the north of England.

These traditional dances are a familiar feature in British folklore. They are quite unlike the Highland sword dance which involves intricate stepping between the blades of two crossed swords on the floor.

"The aim of our trip is to dance in all the places that have a Scottish Lowland Sword Dance connection, namely Edinburgh, Buckhaven, Elgin, and Perth," said team member Andrew Kennedy.

The team is currently working on a dance which is consistent with records of the performance by the Glover Incorporation of Perth to welcome Charles I to the city in 1633, the year of his coronation.

Brian Tasker: North British Sword Team

Bells - the future? There have been lots of rumours about Bells - and not simply the new book that Steve (BfB is stocking in the Morris Shop). Since time immemorial (well a long time anyway) we have got our traditional 2 piece bells from Pressed Metal Products. We (The Morris Ring) used to tag our orders onto the backs of contracts destined for the U.S. of A. During this time, bell

manufacturing was a large part of PMP's business. Alas, these girt orders have long since ceased to be and it is calculated that 'Bells' now account for only 1% of PMPs business. This means that we are now the primary customers for these bells. In an attempt to secure future supplies Steve (BfB) facilitated a collective '*Bells R us*' which includes The Morris Ring, The Morris Federation, Kress Drums, Folk Sales, Pete Grassby & The Music Room. We hope that are successful.

TREASURER'S RAMBLINGS.

There is not a great deal to report on this occasion. I have no intention of duplicating the Treasurer's report, as presented at the ARM. All the relevant details can be gleamed from the meetings minutes.

Morris Ring Subscriptions 2006-07: My thanks to all of those that proved so efficient in ensuring your Morris sides' continuous public liability insurance cover that remains directly linked with your compliant Morris Ring membership and/or association.

Help! Do you know anything about or heard anything of :

- a) Mid Winter Mummers (Assoc, last heard of 2003)
- b) Ferrette Morris Men (Assoc, last heard of 2004)

I am now struggling to make contact with both of these lapsed Associate sides that I have not heard from for a few years. I have already tried all known telephone numbers, snail mail and email address. If contact is not made with these sides prior to the notification deadline date for the 2008 ARM, formal application will be made to the membership for their removal from the books. All possible lines of enquiry are, so far, exhausted - unless you know different!!

The Morris Shop:

I have no doubt that you have already ingested the news of my embarrassing temporary lapse resulting in the theft that took place during the Joint Morris Organisation event in Birmingham. Now that we have the three dedicated bank accounts in place (General, Morris Shop & Archive), I can assure you that this in no way affects the Morris Ring general funds. We have now discussed how we can ensure that such an experience is never allowed to repeat itself and appropriate measures are now in place. It will not be very long before I have made up the short-fall by attending additional events with your Morris Shop. One of these bonus events is Broadstairs Folk Week (9th -19th August 2007).

This is as well as Abbots Bromley (10th Sept. 2007) and Bromyard Folk Festival 14th -16th Sept. 2007).

The Newsletter Morris Shop centre pull-out features recently acquired Morris merchandise for your consideration and delight. Unfortunately, the limited space has, on this occasion, caused me to hold over other items until the next issue. These include:

- a) Red/white spotted neckerchiefs (£2.00 each)
- b) CD: Cobbled together (£10.00).
- c) Bk: Nick Barber's English Choice (£11.95)
- d) Bk: John Kirkpatrick's English Choice (£12.95)
- e) Bk: The History of Morris Dancing 1458-1750 by John Forrest (£20.00)

As always, you are my eyes and ears for Morris related items and merchandise. If you know of or discover something that we do not yet know about, please tell me about it.

Regards, Steve Adamson
Morris Ring Treasurer.

Morris 18-30 There are several references to this group - this is what they say they are:

"Morris 18-30 recently enjoyed their 5th year - a great success on the Isle of Wight. At the weekend, the biggest problem faced by the group was acknowledged - lack of leadership and the ability to communicate the aims of the group outside of the group. To this end, Ben Robinson (of Packington Morris Men) was appointed spokesman. Ben's first task was to gather a group of interested individuals from Morris 18-30 attendees (the Steering Group), and the first job of this group was to create a clear idea of what "Morris 18-30" is all about, to this end, the following mission statement was written.

"Morris 18-30 provides a network for young Morris Men. Its primary activity is to organise an annual weekend, hosted by a Morris Ring side, to which all young Morris Men are invited. Morris 18-30 also seeks to represent the views of all young Morris Men.

The aim is to encourage a group of energetic young men who whilst representing their own local teams, can dance together to push the Morris Ring into the future"

Ebor have very generously 'volunteered' to host us this year, so we will be in sunny, nay temperate, York this year, 12-14th October. www.morris1830.org

Morris 18-30 would also like it to be known that, despite various vicious rumours that have been circulating of late, there is no pineapple.

Dan Corcoran Bagman Morris 18-30

A very British Hugh Seen in Time 2 (The Times) 30th April 2007

"The noted stuttering posh thespian Hugh Grant has been arrested and subsequently bailed for an incident on the doorstep of his Chelsea home. Accosted by a vexatious paparazzo, Grant allegedly threw a Tupperware container of baked beans at him. Is this the most English thing that's ever happened?

I'm struggling to think of anything that could be more redolent of Blighty. Judi Dench, cornered outside Waitrose, spraying Earl Grey over a fractious Morris dancer? Ned Sherrin lobbing a pikelet at a viscount in Tate Britain? Darcey Bussell bombarding a steam-train enthusiast with Werthers? We have reached some manner of apogee."

Submitted by Gordon Ridgewell

This marks the welcome return of The Ridgewell Files. Look out for more in future Newsletters.

Fi Glover and the Saturday Live Some of you might have heard Fi Gover's mocking reference to the Morris in a recent Saturday Live on BBC Radio 4. Lots of people apparently complained and Steve Clarke of The Morris Men of Little Egypt received this apology:

"I hang my head in shame Stephen and it is no exaggeration to say that I have been full of remorse all week for chortling - and encouraging others to chortle - at your pastime. I send you sincere apologies and promise it won't happen again.

Sorry. Feel free to ridicule me on any website of your choosing.

Best wishes though fi "

With acknowledgements to MDDL

Morris Movie Magic - the Mystery of the (Morris) Ring?

An appeal on behalf of the Morris Ring ...

Hey! Do you enjoy your Morris? How many others of your age do you know who enjoy the Morris too? If you're over fifty, the answer's going to be "Lots and lots and LOTS!!" If you're younger, then it will be somewhat fewer until, as we climb down the age range you'll be answering, "Not that many, really".

So what can we, or more importantly, what can YOU do about it? Everyone involved with the Morris knows that it is great fun and at the same time it enriches us with a sense of history and cultural identity that's all but unique in England, and that if we don't do something about it could all too easily become more of a quirky minority pastime than the vibrant expression of spectacular English celebration and camaraderie that we know and enjoy today.

So, we need more younger members and that's where YOU come in. What about if we, the members of the Morris Ring, were to produce some natty recruitment videos? Sounds more naff than natty? So let's call it something else. What we call it doesn't matter though; it's what we'll do to make people look closer at the Morris that'll swell the ranks.

Here's the idea ...

We're starting up a dedicated Google Group where anyone interested in contributing can ask to sign up. We can use that Group to share ideas and offers to do things. Most of what we do will have to be done long-distance, so this is as good a way as any (unless you have a better idea?).

We need some talented people to pull this off. We'll need chaps with ideas - and especially a sense of humour; those who can make up stories; and chaps who can draw. Animations are probably best to start with. We'll also need voice artists; and musicians; ... and maybe even some dancers! We'll need smart computer geeks - we've a couple of these lined up already from the 18-30 bunch but there's no reason why we can't have hundreds of 'em if they're out there and willing. And the other thing that we will need is patience, perseverance and plenty of pluck.

There are some pretty nifty technologies out there these days, like Flash, that lots of youngsters are using all on their own to make up some pretty good short film clips, so we should be able to pull something pretty stunning together from amongst us if we're willing to try.

The hard bit is going to be getting together some good angles or stories. Amongst the things we need to think about is what messages will "sell" the Morris and how will they appeal to the sort of people we want to get interested in the Morris. We're not just talking about young lads here, either. There's no reason why we can't have more than one strand running in parallel, aimed at different age groups. Another "difficult" aspect is going to be finding ways of getting our masterpieces out to where they'll be seen and noticed, and not just buried in some obscure website that no-one's going to look at. So we'll also need someone who's into viral marketing, maybe.

But if we can learn to dance the Morris we can do anything, *can't we?!* To make this work we'll need a bit of organisation. Anyone interested in joining in will have to give some commitment to it, or it'll all fall apart - but don't worry, you won't have to sign your life away. We'll also need some rules and protocols to make sure that whatever gets produced and publicised in the name of the Morris Ring **is** suitable, authorised and protects the integrity of the Morris Ring.

We can work out the details later on. What we're looking for to start with are individuals who have ideas and want to give it a go. So, could that be YOU? Email Clive Du'Mont, at cdumont@blueyonder.co.uk and he'll add you to the list and let you know what's happening. Don't forget to let him know what you think you can bring to the project. To whet your creative appetite have a look at these brilliant examples of what can be done ...

http://www.squezy.fsnet.co.uk/spiers_boden/pricklevid.swf

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/dna/filmnetwork/A9653213>

(Don't forget to switch your sound on!)

IMPORTANT: Youngsters are very much wanted for this, but we have to be mindful of the law and good practice. A parent or guardian must give permission for anyone under 18 to take part and all emails must be copied to their personal (i.e. the parents') email address. Clive will also write to them separately to confirm their permission and add them to the Google Group.

Thanks to Clive Du'Mont

Workshops

Lichfield: Green Man Morrismen (NOT Greensleeves MM as mistakenly stated in Newsletter 47) have volunteered to host a Lichfield Workshop in Autumn 2007. Details later.

Musicians' Instructional. The Musicians' Instructional planned for this Autumn will carry on. Information will be publicised when details have been confirmed.

Jigs Workshop The Sutton Bonington venue is provisionally booked for 18th - 20th 2008.
Geoff Jarram

Banbury Hobby Horse Festival All fools and beasts welcome 6th -8th July at Banbury. Free camping avail in St Mary's School field. Feast Ceilidh Saturday night at Banbury Town Hall. Loads of fun! For more details, visit www.hobbyhorsefestival.co.uk.

Bledington Workshop Notice to sides in the sunny south to let you know that Winchester Morris Men will be running a workshop on the Bledington tradition on 6th October 2007 at Soberton. Full details on the FASH website.

Albert Wilkins Bagman Winchester MM

Fools and Beasts Unconvention 19th-21st October 2007 at Seavington, nr Yeovil. Hosted by Wyvern Jubilee. Workshops, displays, dancing and drinking!! Note: This event is open to Morris Ring; Morris Federation and Open Morris members.

- Friday night arrival.. 6.00 p.m. onwards. Light supper available. Ale & music
 - "Music" tent which will allow for those late nighters to play without upsetting the cocoa and early night brigade.
 - Saturday tour by coach centred around Glastonbury and Street. (Venues with lots of shops/pubs/etc so a captive audience!)
 - Support from Wyvern Morris plus, hopefully, a couple of other local teams
 - Individuals to make own lunch arrangements. Allowing time for those who wish to wander around the local sights or simply to have a break.
 - Saturday Evening: Feast
 - Sunday Morning: Workshops; Discussions; etc. Finish approx 2.00p.m
- ➔ Application forms from Robert Chisman, e-mail triggertrotter1@aol.com cost just £40 pp. .It would be helpful if Fools & Animals could make their intentions to attend known ASAP.

SADDLEWORTH SUNSHINE? 33rd Annual Saddleworth Rushcart :25th - 26th August (Bank Holiday weekend)

It's getting to that time of year when we focus on the 'Cart and the fact that rush cutting is even closer (volunteers anyone?!). As always we look forward to welcoming old friends and new Rushcart recruits to the Saddleworth Rushcart weekend, the original and the best!

Although we have a strong list of attendees this year, if your side is at a loose end and would like to take part, or if you would like to attend as a rep, it's not too late. Simply e-mail or call for further details.

Any reps attending will have the chance to dance, as scratch sides will be operating at the weekend, you will not miss out. Also musicians are welcome to join the ever growing 'Rushcart' band.

If you can't make it this year, but would like to come in 2008, let Eddie know.

01457 829349 rushcart@edward88.wanadoo.co.uk

Eddie Worrall Saddleworth Morris Men

Tonbridge (Geoff Metcalf) Ring Meeting Vacancies

31 August - 2 September 2007

There are still spaces available at this Morris Ring meeting.

There will be three tours on the Saturday, two of which will be coach tours and one will be a train and walking tour. During the day we will be visiting splendid Kentish pubs, National Trust properties and other local attractions. The train tour will include a trip on a steam railway. After the feast we will hit the town and dance and sing at various recommended local pubs.

On the Sunday morning we are offering a selection of workshops covering rapper, longsword and Cotswold jigs. There will also be a musician's workshop. These will be followed by a procession along Tonbridge High Street and a massed display on Tonbridge Castle lawn. Those not inclined to join a workshop may prefer a leisurely stroll around the grounds of Tonbridge Castle. There will not be a formal church service but details of services in local churches will be available.

The price for the whole weekend is £56 or £28 for the Saturday only. The price includes free beer from an award winning local brewer which will be available throughout the weekend at the meeting's venue.

There is a web site for the meeting at: <http://www.tonbridge-ring.org.uk>

or e mail bagman@tonbridge-ring.org.uk

Brian Tasker On behalf of Organising Committee

Morris dancing and the Elizabethan settlers in America

This appeared in the Society of Antiquaries newsletter:

Morris dancing has featured in *Salon* on several occasions recently, but how many of its fans are aware that it was one of the very earliest of English exports to America? When Sir Humphrey Gilbert set sail to lay claim to Newfoundland in 1583, the crew included 'Morris dancers, Hobby horse, and many like conceits to delight the Savage people'. This insight comes from *A New World: England's first view of America*, a compellingly readable new book by our Fellow **Kim Sloan** published to accompany the forthcoming British Museum exhibition of the same name (which opened on 15th March).

Whether the 'Savages' were impressed is open to doubt: six of the exhibition's seventy watercolour depictions of the New World painted by John White after his voyages to Virginia (now North Carolina) in the 1580s can be seen on the British Museum <http://www.thebritishmuseum.ac.uk/aneworld/> >

Mike Wilson-Jones Bagman Westminster Morris

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Copy Date: The last date for articles etc. for the next edition of the Morris Circular is 31st July 2007. All copy to Harry Stevenson at the above address.

"Morris Dancer". As we have not been overwhelmed by the number of people eagerly seeking to edit this title it has been decided that it will become an occasional publication that will be used as a vehicle for the Archive group as and when appropriate. There is a niche for specialist and academic reports, papers and comments that do not fit happily either into this Newsletter or into the Morris Circular. The Squire is currently consulting with the interested parties to agree a strategy, assess the possible demand/readership, likely contributors, size of the publication, costs and funding etc.

Harry and I will willingly pass on articles or information to the Archive group for their consideration and their contact information is available in the Directory and on the Morris Ring excel contact list.

CONCLUSION

Cam Valley MM were again due to be dancing at the Glastonbury Festival This year. Mud again. I look forward to seeing the pictures.

Are Morris Ring communications and publications reaching you? Could all those sides Bagmen and contacts, area reps advertisers and others who have recently changed contact details please inform the me ASAP so that the details can be updated and information and publications reach their intended target. If the info is arriving, but you are just sitting on it, you are not assisting us or the members of your side.

I have to share recruitment poster I include at the end of this Newsletter - thanks Green Man it is wonderful.

Charlie

Bagman of the Morris Ring

Future Dates:

2007

2 nd - 4 th March	ARM Hosted By Leicester Morrismen
14 th April	'3 orgs.' event. Birmingham
1 st - 3 rd June	309 Thaxted 'John Bull' Morris Ring Meeting
29 th June - 1 st July	310 Ripley 25 th Anniversary Morris Ring Meeting
20 th - 22 nd July	311 Stafford 50 th Anniversary Morris Ring Meeting
31 st Aug - 2 nd Sept.	312 Tunbridge 'Geoff Metcalf' Morris Ring Meeting

2008

7 th - 9 th March (?)	ARM - Hosted By Waddard MM (Dates to be confirmed)
30 th May ~ 1 st June	313 75 th Anniv. Thaxted Morris Ring Meeting
4 th - 6 th July	314 Whitchurch MM 60 th Anniversary Morris Ring Meeting
11 th -13 th July	315 Mersey MM 80 th Anniversary Morris Ring Meeting
25 th - 27 th July	316 Long Man MM
5 th - 7 th Sept.	317 Dartington MM 40 th Anniversary Morris Ring Meeting

2009 *THE MORRIS RING'S 75th ANNIVERSARY*

6 th - 8 th March (?)	ARM Hosted By TBA
? April	'3 orgs.' event
29 th May ~ 31 st May	318 Thaxted Morris Ring Meeting
TBA	319 Harthill Morris Ring Meeting
24 th - 26 th July	320 Exeter Morris Ring Meeting
TBA September	321 Bathampton MM 75 th Anniversary Morris Ring Meeting

2010

5 th - 7 th March (?)	ARM Hosted by TBA
4 th June ~ 6 th June	Thaxted Morris Ring Meeting

2011

4 th - 6 th March (?)	ARM Hosted By TBA
3 rd June ~ 5 th June	Thaxted "Centenary" Morris Ring Meeting
TBA.....	Bristol 60 th Anniv. Morris Ring Meeting

2012

3 rd - 5 th March (?)	ARM Hosted by TBA
25 th - 27 th May	Chipping Campden Cotswold Olympic Morris Ring Meeting
1 st June ~ 3 rd June	Thaxted Morris Ring Meeting
27 th -29 th July	Hartley 60 th Anniv. Morris Ring Meeting



HOW TO BECOME A SILVER STAR MEMBER of the League of Ovaltineys



HERE'S
THE WAY
TO DO IT!



① First—the way to get a Silver Star Badge is to tell three friends about the League of Ovaltineys and get them to join. Tell them how much fun it is—and about the book and badge they get.



② Tell them how much 'Ovaltine' does to make them sturdy and strong—and ask each one of them to give you one of the paper discs from the inside of the top of a tin of 'Ovaltine.' (That's 3 discs altogether—one from each new member.)



③ Then fill in the pink form enclosed with this leaflet and post it together with the 3 paper discs which your three friends have given you. (Be sure to print names and addresses plainly.)



④ Then, in a few days, the postman will bring you your Silver Star Badge. And just about the same time he'll deliver the regular member's badge and official handbook of the League to your three friends too.



⑤ Then you'll be an extra special member of the League of Ovaltineys—a full-fledged Silver Star member with a wonderful Silver Star badge (genuine silver plated), that only a Silver Star member can wear.

It's Easy and Lots of Fun

—Start Asking your Friends To-day

To become a Silver Star member is as simple as A.B.C., because everyone wants to join The League of Ovaltineys when they hear how much fun it is—and about the badge and the book they get.

Tell them to give you the paper disc from a tin of 'Ovaltine' straight away—and tell them about 'Ovaltine' and how wonderful it tastes. Ask them to tell their mothers how good 'Ovaltine' is—how it builds boys and girls up if they're nervous and poorly; how it makes them want to eat more and helps them to grow strong and sturdy and gives them lots of energy for work and play.

So make up you mind now to be one of the first
in your school to get the Silver Star Badge.