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Newsletter No.75

October 2011

The highlights of Newsletter No. 75 include:	Page
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With this Newsletter Bagmen will receive:

- Morris Ring Membership Renewal /Subscription information
- Guidelines regarding the JMO Public Liability Insurance Policy
- JMP Personal Accident Application Form
- Nomination Forms for MR Officers
- MR Jigs Instructional Application Form
- 2012 Meeting Application Form

Bagman's Musings

Please accept my apologies for the delayed distribution of this Newsletter - originally because of a lack of content but more recently due to a variety of other pressures on my time. In the interim I have tried to keep people up-to-date via emails and the Google Group site.

Of key importance now are the arrangements for the ARM, including booking accommodation and candidates for the various posts due for election, and Subs Renewal. This information has been circulated electronically to ensure notice deadlines have been met. *(6 months' notice of the date of the ARM and 3 months for nominations for Officers and Elected Members of the Advisory Council, proposed alterations to the Constitution and formal resolutions for discussion at the ARM.)*

Also previously available electronically has been the annual subs renewal information but with this Newsletter Bagmen will receive the annual Subs Renewal form and an up-date on the Joint Morris Organisation (JMO) - Insurance, issued by Michael Stimpson on behalf of our insurers Towergate Mardon.

Since the late Newsletter I have been lucky enough to represent the Morris Ring at the Morris Federation AGM

Unfortunately the annual **The Morris Ring Musicians' Weekend** planned for November with new hosts and a new venue had to be postponed. It is hoped that this popular, informative and enjoyable weekend will be rescheduled. Cromford Venture Centre, in the heart of the Derbyshire Peak District, with Ripley Morris Men as hosts promised to be a grand weekend. Watch this space for information about new date.

An Advisory Council Meeting was held on the Sunday of the annual **18-30s Weekend**. This year they had 40+ attendees and having spent the Friday evening practicing an appropriate repertoire delighted the crowds in Oxford on

Saturday and Sunday. Very reminiscent of the reports of some of the early meetings of the Morris Ring recorded in the Log Books.

The **Advisory Council Meeting** meeting itself was very productive with all but one of the Area Reps in attendance. the only down side was the poor catering at lunchtime - when the pub clearly let down our hosts Ichnield Way MM

A real highlight was the **Fools and Beasts Unconvention** Oct 28th -30th, hosted by Kennet Men. Although I have been a beastly member of the Order for many years sadly I have not been able to attend more than half a dozen Unconventions but I was delighted to have attended this one. The opportunity to renew many old acquaintances, and mourn the absence of others, was great as was making new ones from across all three Morris Organisations. There is little doubt that a Fool or Beast can greatly add to the enjoyment of the general public witnessing the Morris. In addition on Sunday morning Roy Dommett, who has made a staggering contribution to the preservation and development of the Morris, regaled us with words of wisdom about the philosophy and practicalities of being 'Morris Characters' based on his many years of experience.

ARM

**10th - 12th February 2012 Venue: Mount St Mary College,
College Road, Spinkhill, Sheffield, Yorkshire S21 3YL**





Mount St Mary's College is conveniently situated for access from all over the country in a small Derbyshire village, about 5 minutes from J 30, M1. It is set in picturesque grounds. It has a long history dating back to 1620, with the present site

occupied since the early 1840s. The accommodation has been recently modernised and is in one to four bed rooms, most are en suite and where they are not there are 4 showers and toilets to 10 rooms. Bed linen provided.

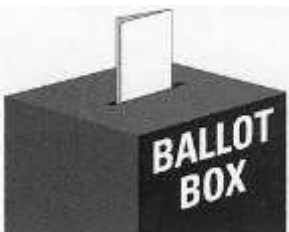
The meeting is to be hosted by Harthill MM. All booking / accommodation enquiries direct to Alan Cox - Bagman for the ARM a.g.cox@sheffield.ac.uk

There are various booking options:

- | | |
|--------------------------------------|------------|
| 1. Whole weekend. | £79.00 |
| 2. Sat morning to Sun morning. | £65.30 |
| 3. Saturday only - including feast | £40.00 |
| 4. Saturday only - excluding feast | £15 50 |
| 5. ARM meeting only. No refreshments | No charge. |

Workshops at ARM Weekend: Details of these to follow.

Elections As I reminded everyone in the last Newsletter, at our 2012 ARM we will be electing a new Squire and a new Treasurer. Peter's term of office will be over and Eddie has intimated that he does not wish to stand for re-election.



For both posts the Constitution requires a biographical statement⁽¹⁾ (250 word max.) and photograph of the candidate, and a supporting statement⁽²⁾ of no more than 250 words, to be submitted by the nominating club.

⁽¹⁾ The nature and content of this Pen portrait / Short Biographical sketch is up to the individual candidate. They usually contain some general information about the candidate's life and Morris history' and it has been suggested that it

would be helpful if candidates were to give some indication as to their general philosophy regarding the Morris and more particularly the Morris Ring.

⁽²⁾ The supporting statement should be submitted on the club's headed paper. Any additional supporting statements received from other sources will not be published.

Area Reps It was obvious from the replies to Brian Tasker's questionnaire whilst he was Squire (summary published in April 2010) that there is a degree of confusion as to exactly what the role of the Area Reps might be. Our Constitution states that they and other members of the Advisory Council exist "to advise and assist the Squire and the other elected officers to further the objects of the Morris Ring" but it does not spell out how they are to glean the information from the sides they represent to enable them to fulfil this function. Whilst he was Squire, Gerald Willey produced a list of suggestions and at the request of Peter Halfpenney, Robin Springett, SW & W Area Rep, refined these for consideration by the Squire.

This is not intended to be read as a 'Job Description', more a set of guidelines to inform both sides and potential candidates for the role. Each area, and every candidate, is different and will require and have to offer different challenges and skills.

- Set up and maintain telephone and email contact with all sides in the area.
- Obtain a programme of events from all sides in the area for reference and to know what is going on.
- Relay to other sides in the area, and also to the Morris Ring Officers any interesting developments, successes, awards, funding, opportunities, deaths, etc., in the area
- Visit as many sides in the area as possible to make contacts and exchange views.
- Encourage associate sides in the area to progress to full membership.
- Promote inter-relationships between all sides in the area, including members of the Morris Federation and the Open Morris, e.g. act as a catalyst to arrange/organise instructionals and days of dance.

- Act as the “eyes and ears” of the Squire and provide a link between the sides and the Morris Ring officers.
- Attend the ARM and present a report of activities in the area during the past twelve months.
- Attend meetings of the Advisory Council.
- Seek maximum coverage in the media of any noteworthy event by any side in the area.
- Offer all possible assistance to sides experiencing a crisis of numbers.

Who is your Area Rep:

- **North West** David Loughlin (2014)
- **Northern** Alister Hutchinson (2012)
- **North East** Brian Pollard Nothing to report (2013)
- **West Midlands** Pete Simpson (2014)



Peter Simpson

I have been a Morris dancer for about 15 years but have been associated with the folk scene since the '70s, being introduced to the Morris via a folk club. It was Jockey MM that talked me into dancing and now they can't get rid of me. I 'kissed the fish' last year and joined the Original Welsh Border. Recently I have also discovered the joys of a rapper. I took on the roll as Area Rep for the west midlands about 2 years ago.

- **North Midlands** Vacancy
- **Eastern** Mike Stevens (2013)
- **South West and Wales** Robin Springett (2014)

- **South Midlands** Roger Comley (2012)



Roger Comley Having been an Area Rep for the past 11 years, and since Gerald Willey was Squire official Squire's Fool, I been seen across my area and indeed the world in my blue and yellow quartered jester's costume - with the adornment of rosemary and foolish behaviour. I am a member of Letchworth MM; Whitchurch MM; Mendip Morris Men and Traveling Morris as well as being a

Scallop Dancer. I have achieved a vast amount of pleasure from visiting the sides in my area and beyond than thank everyone for their wonderful hospitality.

- **South East** Fred Hands (2013)

Areas whose Reps term of office expires this year:

- **Northern** Alister Hutchinson (2012)
- **South Midlands** Roger Comley (2012)
- **North Midlands** Vacancy

Morris Ring Youth Fund This ring-fenced tranche of monies was inspired by Brian Tasker whilst he was Squire of the Morris Ring and generous support from our membership has led to an accumulation to date of some £800. The primary intention of his initiative was to make available some financial support to help kick-start newly formed 'youth' sides. Unfortunately no payments have been made as neither of the applications received matched the criteria set down.

The Officers are keen to put this fund to good use but feel that the definition of purpose has proved too restrictive. Taking advice from the Advisory Council, we have decided to broaden applications for funding to include any projects where the emphasis is on encouraging younger people to join existing Morris Ring sides. The subs renewal form will include an opportunity to

contribute to the fund and sides are encouraged to come forward with qualifying recruitment projects which will make good use of the present fund and future contributions.

All applications will be assessed by the MR Officers whose decision will be final.

EFDSS Cecil Sharp House

www.efdss.org | 020 7485 2206 | facebook.com/EFDSS | @TheEFDSS

November 2011

Sat 12 Nov, 2pm

Centenary Day and National Gathering



An afternoon and evening of events in the style of the traditional EFDSS National Gatherings, to celebrate the Centenary of the English Folk Dance Society.

- The day starts with the AGM at 11am at which Jim Coleman will be presented with his Gold Badge.
- The afternoon, from 2 to 5pm, will include a presentation of folk dance music recordings from the archives by Mike Wilson-Jones, a talk on the history of the English Folk Dance Society from Derek Schofield, and a series of reminiscences and discussion from a panel of distinguished EFDSS members.
- The National Gathering in the evening, from 6.30pm in Kennedy Hall, will be a continuous programme of social dancing interspersed with displays of Cotswold and North West Morris, longsword, rapper, traditional clog and Appalachian dance with guest appearances by Eliza Carthy, Alistair Anderson, John Kirkpatrick and Jim Coleman. Music will be provided by David Fleming-Williams and friends. Dance sides include Stone Monkey Rapper, Firestone Appalachian Youth Dance Team, Kettle Bridge Clogs, Handsworth Longsword, Hammersmith Morris and Camden Clog.

December 2011

Thurs 1 Dec, 7.30pm A Feast of Songs and Wassails

Featuring Cecil Sharp House Community Choir with choir leader Sally Davies and guests. A festive concert of beautiful, funny, gutsy, haunting and joyful a cappella arrangements of traditional songs from the British Isles and other parts of the world, sung in glorious harmony.

Sun 18 Dec, 7-11pm A Ceremony of Carols and Customs

Enjoy a festive ceremony of carols and customs hosted by Bonny Sartin, with music and dance performances from Headington Quarry Morris Men, Hoddesdon Crownsmen Sword Dancers, Cecil Sharp House Community Choir - and you the audience! There will be plenty of traditional English carols for you to sing.

Morris Kit: Research "I am a dancer with New Esperance and Queen's Oak Morris. As part of my degree I am hoping to undertake an investigation into Morris costume. I am hoping to include information on what sides wear today. If you are a *Border, Cotswold* or *Northwest* side. Or a side that performs a variety of styles but includes at least one of the above please can you help me.

- Can you send a clear **picture** (preferably side owned without any copyright complications) of your current kit.
- Can you write down the key **reasons** why the kit was chosen i.e. local tradition, colour choice, availability, side preference, tradition etc
- Can you submit pictures of **previous kit** along with **dates** of when that Kit was worn and any **reasons** why that kit was changed.

Please can you send this information by e-mail before the **end of December.**

If you have any personal research into Morris costume history or know of someone who has I would love to hear from you.

I am hoping to catalogue this information and present a copy to the Morris federation so there is an easily accessible resource for anyone who might be interested in the future. **Chloe.e.metcalfe@gmail.com** Chloe Metcalfe BA(hons)

Adelaide Meeting of the Morris Ring. Adelaide Morris Men would like to host a meeting under the auspices of the Morris Ring in Australia sometime in 2013. They write "Obviously Australia has summer at the opposite end of the year to England, so we could possibly make a date during the English winter. Australian summer is rather hot though, so it might be good to look at late March, early April". Watch this space!

Mike James Squire - AMM

MORRIS RING PUBLICATIONS

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Circular No 62 is now online at:

http://www.themorrisring.org/thecircular/images/Circular_62.pdf

☺ **Andrew Bullen** and
619 E. 111th St. Chicago, IL. 60628
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Mac McCoig Co-editors of the Morris Dancer
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01785 851052
mac.mccoig@btinternet.com

We welcome two new Co-Editors of The Morris Dancer. Two co-editors have been appointed by Peter Halfpenney: Andrew Bullen of Chicago ("I first encountered Morris dancing as an incoming first year student at the University of Chicago in 1981. I became intrigued with it, and have been an active dancer for more than 30 years") and Mac McCoig of Uttoxeter Heart of Oak Morris Men

Both candidates bring a wealth of experience and expertise to the post. A UK based Editor will find it easier to collect hard copy material, make physical contact with contributors and mail out the finished article while it will be interesting to have an overseas slant on the production. To maximise all these

assets and thereby get a fresh look to the Morris Dancer we are delighted that Andy and Mac have agreed to work together as co-editors.

Fools and Beasts Unconvention Oct 28th -30th, hosted by Kennet Men. Visit their web site for a full report and advanced notice of next year's event.

<http://www.foolsandbeasts.org.uk/>

A cutting from the Reading Post November 2nd 2011

Watch out! There's a fox in Friar Street!

FOOLS and horses were creating havoc in Reading town centre on Saturday.

There was also a fox in Friar Street, a rat in Broad Street and a unicorn in Union Street – but it was only folk dance fun.

Morris dancers are always accompanied by a fool and an animal and they came from far and wide to Bracknell for their annual convention at the weekend.

The fools and animals came from Yorkshire, Cornwall and even the Netherlands. And having travelled miles to get together, they couldn't resist trips to Reading and Henley for a little more horseplay.

Reading's Kennet Morris Men

will be dancing in the New Year at the Calleva Arms, Silchester, at noon on Sunday, January 1.

Morris sides are always looking for new members – anyone interested should contact Chris Hutchinson on 01252 875510.



FOX ON THE RUN: Leicester Morris Men's fox with an admirer



HORSEPLAY: John Edwards rides Knotty, above, while, left, Plymouth Morris Men's rat has a close encounter and Henning from Holland meets a shopper



London 2012 Details of the Cultural Olympiad are available from their all singing and little dancing web site.

<http://www.london2012.com/cultural-olympiad>.



Despite our best efforts it would appear that the only



opportunity for Morris to be involved will be along the route of the Olympic Torch. The London Games organisers, Locog, have set out the 1,018 places the torch will pass through when it is carried around the UK from 19 May to 27 July 2012. On the last day of the 70-day relay it will travel down the River Thames to Olympic Park for the opening ceremony. During the 10-week relay, the torch will be carried by 8,000 torchbearers and will travel about 8,000 miles. Locog say the torch will come within 10 miles of 95% of the population - so can the

Morris get into some of the photos? We need all sides across the land to try!

Follow this link to see where the torch will be near your side:

<http://www.london2012.com/games/olympic-torch-relay/where-is-the-olympic-flame-going/>

Wanted: A youngish sword dance side, preferably youngish, to perform at a festival and possibly other events in Qatar for a period of 5 days in February 2012. This is a preliminary enquiry and somewhat vague at present. As I understand it this is an all-expenses paid trip, the only additional cost would be an optional excursion into the desert.

Dave..

White Horse Morris Men I have to again report the loss of a side to the Ring. This time there is not demise of an associate, but the sad loss of a long standing Ring side. I refer to White Horse Morris Men who were formed in the winter of 1950/51 and were originally based in the Warminster, Wiltshire area. In 1951 they attended their first ring meeting at Oxford and



were admitted to the Morris Ring. Over the years

White Horse Morris Men developed a reputation as an excellent dance side offering dances from a range of mainly Cotswold traditions. They have toured extensively in the United Kingdom, for example to the Isle of Wight, Cheshire, Devon and Oxfordshire as well as in Europe, notably to France and Germany. They have had a hand in the formation of several other sides, Chalice and Mendip spring to mind. Over recent years numbers have fluctuated and the age of the side has increased so in September 2011 they was decided to make the side mixed, with the mixed dances concentrating on mainly Border Dances, but also providing the opportunity to carry on the long tradition of Cotswold Dances, usually with an all male side. Their numbers are now flourishing and the style and energy that has always characterised White Horse has been maintained for the continuance of Morris Dancing in the Vale of The White Horse.



pictures by www.dominicparkesphotography.co.uk '

Grand Union Morris For the past twelve months members of Grand Union Morris have been scanning, stitching, cropping, formatting & finally uploading their scrapbooks from 1976 (the year they were founded) to when they compiled their last scrapbook in 1993. Roger Rowe has put together some webby bits that allows visitors to browse them all, by selecting a book and then turning the pages. "Although the old typewritten commentaries are initially too small to read, you can zoom in on most web browsers to a readable font (the instructions are on the webpage)." The link is <http://www.grandunionmorris.org/sbdisp.html>

Besides lots of pictures of *Grand Union*, other sides make an occasional appearance and for interest, Roger has listed them below, along with the scrapbook they appear in.

Bodger Mummers: 1985-86;
Boughton Monchelsea: 1983-84
Brighton 1991
Clitheroe 1985-86
Country Fare: 1985-86;
Cuckoo's Nest 1991
Derby Crown 1976-82; 1983-84
East Saxon Sword 1989
Faithful City 1988;
Flowers of May 1976-82; 1987;
1988
Grand Union Rapper 1983-84; 1987;
1988
Herga 1976-82 1992-93
Jack Straws 1976-82; 1990
Loose Women 1989
Mayflower 1989

Nancy Cousins 1989
Pump House: 1988; 1990
Lord Pagets 1976-82; 1983-84;
1985-86; 1987; 1988; 1990
Rogue 1983-84; 1991
Rose & Castle 1976-82; 1988; 1990
Saddleworth 1990 1991
Seven Champions: 1985-86; 1990;
1991
Silurian 1991
Thames Valley 1990
Tracle Eaters 1991
Whitethorn: 1985-86; 1987; 1991
Windsor 1976-82
Wrigley Head 1991
Yateley: 1988; 1989

Roger Rowe *Grand Union Morris*

Beer Mats Several sides have produced Beer Mats as a publicity / recruitment strategy. If you have done so please will you let me have an example and details of your supplier and costs so that I can spread the word. You might like to let Steve BfB have a few for the Morris Shop - he can sell them to tegeestologists!

Sad losses

John Maher long-time member of and Horse for Bristol MM as well as the Morris Ring Webmaster and Overseas Bagman. The huge attendance of members of the whole Morris community at his cremation and afterwards at The Dovecote, Long Ashton illustrate the high esteem in which he was held. John saw no divisions within the Morris.

Peter Thomas, dancer with [White Horse Morris Men for some years](#), former squire of East Kent Morris Men and lately of Headcorn Morris, died on the afternoon of Sunday 16 October in the Ashford Pilgrim's Hospice. He is finally at peace and out of pain after a twelve year battle with colon cancer. For the last three years he has been in almost constant pain or discomfort, but has stayed strong, courageous and dignified throughout, encouraging others to face the fear and get themselves checked out. A cousin described him as a gentleman and a gentle man.

Norris 'Win' Winstone of Kemps Men of Norwich. Win had turned 98 in March. "A measure of the man was his infinite patience and his conviction that people are full of kindness when given the chance to show it. A measure of the regard in which he was held were the scores of dancers and musicians that travelled across the country to Norwich to join in his 95th birthday celebrations in 2008 - an event that totally overwhelmed him and the topic of frequent conversations since."

Paul Taverner & Peter Mayne Kemps Men of Norwich

Schedule One of the Licensing Act 2003. The UK Government is undertaking a consultation exercise to possibly deregulate many of the activities covered by the Licensing Act 2003 in England and Wales. Currently Schedule One of the Licensing Act 2003 - exempts Morris dancing. (The document is 42 pages long and can be obtained from DCMS.) A couple of sections apply to us in the Morris world:

- Folk plays are currently regulated by the Act, whereas morris dancing is exempt. This is an opportunity for mummers and guisers, etc to influence the politicians to obtain exemption for folk plays too. Mumming is currently seen as drama - and as such really requires a licence even though it is very often performed as part of a Morris performance.
- Where sides use amplified instruments strictly speaking they currently require a licence. Our exemption clearly states un-amplified music.

When the Bill and Act was going through Parliament we hit a brick wall with regard to Mumming and small scale amplification of instruments so this Consultation period (up to 3/12) gives us the opportunity to say our piece - and perhaps change something.

Another young Squire: Lewis Ffitch hits the headlines Standon have had a number of younger members in recent years but then they go off to University!

Village News

Lewis takes brother's crown as youngest squire

STANDON: The village Morris side has appointed its youngest ever squire.

Lewis Ffitch, of Coldsfoot Road, Ware, was elected squire of the Standon Morris Men at the side's annual meeting, and will have responsibility for deciding the structure of the side and what dances are performed.

At 17 years and 7 months, Lewis takes the title from his brother Eddy, who was the former squire and was nearly 18 upon his appointment.

Lewis said: "I'm looking forward to the duties involved and hope I can do as good a job as Eddy.

"This year is an important year for Standon as we are very low



in numbers. We have tried lots of ways to get new members but with not much success, so we are now changing the kit to

something a bit more modern." Currently, the side has just seven permanent dancers and three musicians, with each

KEEPING IT IN THE FAMILY: Eddy Ffitch, far left, and his brother Lewis, who has taken his mantle as the youngest squire of Standon Morris Men (5)

dance needing six participants.

Foreman Derek Wisbey said: "Unless we recruit some new members, there is every chance that shortly we will not have enough men to continue.

"We have been ever present at Standon's May Day Celebrations and it would be a great shame if we could no longer be part of this marvellous event."

Practice in Standon Village Hall takes place from 8.15pm to 10pm on most Thursday evenings from October.

For more information, call Bob Ffitch on 0777 246 3024.

Morris 18-30 Weekend 2012

MORRIS 18-30
GREAT YORKSHIRE '12

Dates to be confirmed - for pictures of 2011 in Oxford visit their website:

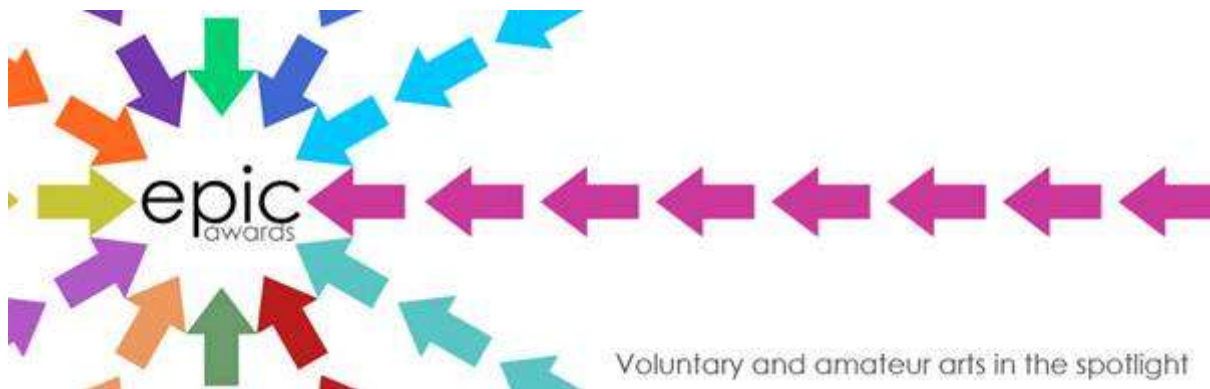
<http://www.morris1830.org.uk>



Bath International Mummers Unconvention

Nov 17th -20th 2011

"Rattle Up My Boys". The fourth and last issue of Series 18 of this the longsword magazine has just been published. It contains articles about: Papa Stour, Orion Longsword, Flamborough, the 2010 Dancing America Rapper Tournament, the White Boys dance from the Isle of Man and the Maltby Phoenix sword dancers. Jeff Lawson (North British, Sallyport and Goathland Ploughstots), has taken over the editorship from Andrew Kennedy. He can be contacted on jeff@north-british.co.uk Brian Tasker



EPIC AWARDS ANNOUNCE PRIZE PACKAGES

The prizes and sponsors for the 2011 Epic Awards have been announced. The package of prizes include:

- £125 cash for each winner
- Annual membership of Arts Development UK (worth £165) for each winner
- GreatArt gift vouchers worth £250 for each winner

- GreatArt gift vouchers worth £100 for each runner-up
- National publicity for the winners and an invitation to a prestigious winners' reception
- Plus training and mentoring

The prizes reflect the unique aim of the Epic Awards to place voluntary and amateur arts firmly in the spotlight by increasing recognition of the high-quality work taking place. The Epic Awards are open to voluntary and amateur art and craft groups demonstrating excellence in some or all of the following areas: engagement, partnerships, innovation and creativity. Entries have already been coming in from a range of groups from around the UK and Republic of Ireland.

Groups can keep up with Epic Awards news and benefit from advice by subscribing to the regular Epic Tips postings on the Epic Awards blog: <http://blog.epicawards.co.uk/>

Mary Lowe, England Coordinator of Voluntary Arts England and architect of the Epic Awards, comments:

“The Epic Awards 2011 are a perfect opportunity to showcase the excellent and innovative work being carried out in amateur arts and crafts groups across the UK and Republic of Ireland. One of the biggest benefits of winning an Epic Award is achieving national acclaim and recognition, and being able to attend a high-profile awards ceremony. Groups will also hugely benefit from the prize package of materials, support and training to enable them to go from strength to strength.”

Entries for this year are now open and they close on 11th November 2011, with the winners invited to a prestigious reception in early 2012. A full list of prizes is available at www.epicawards.co.uk

☺ **Jigs Instructional** 20th -22nd January 2012 Sutton Bonington

Other meetings under the auspices of the Morris Ring 2012 and beyond

25th- 27th May

331st Cotswold Olimpicks Meeting

Cost £85 250 max

Come to Chipping Campden in the Olympic year to celebrate the roots of the Olympic movement, a true people's games.

2012 sees the 400th running of Dover's Games, also known as the 'Cotswold

Olimpicks'. Dover's Games were referred to in the British Olympic Committee's bid to host the games as the "*first stirring of Britain's Olympic beginnings*". The games will be held on 1st June 2012.

The meeting will follow the traditional format -

- informal on Friday evening, giving visitors the opportunity to enjoy the delights of the town
- tours in the Cotswolds on Saturday (all tours will include at least one traditional village), followed by a massed display in Chipping Campden and a feast
- Sunday - procession through the town to Parish Church of St James (a Wool Church) and a further massed display, followed by lunch and a fond farewell

The meeting is based at the town's academy school. We are offering indoor camping there and outdoor camping (tents, motorhomes, and caravans) at a local site which backs on to the school field. Showers are available at the school. For those who like a real bed, there are plenty of B&B's close at hand. We can accommodate approximately 250, including female musicians.

The Morris Shop is booked to attend - bring plenty of cash.

Bagman for the meeting: Steve Felton Shakespeare MM & Ilmington MM
01789778047 (home), 07811 747055 (mobile) 01789 455811 (office)

8th - 10th June

332nd Thaxted Meeting

Cost £69 All male meeting Up to 200

After the biggest and best of our 'centenary' meeting, where over 400 Morris men attended, doubling our usual number, we revert to our standard 'classic' tried and tested meeting on which all other meetings have been modelled. This will be the 79th meeting we have hosted.

The Parochial Church Council needs to raise £200,000 by the end of 2011 to repair the North Aisle roof of Thaxted Parish Church. Because of the close ties that exist between Thaxted Church and the Morris many sides have made contributions towards this appeal. If you would like to join them please send it to send it to the MR Treasurer Eddie Worrall

The meeting starts on the Friday evening with sessions in all of the Thaxted pubs and informal dancing at The Star. After leisurely tours of some splendid village pubs in the outstanding North Essex countryside during the day on Saturday we then reach the main event of the weekend. This consists of the two processions that meet in Town Street followed by two massed shows of massed and show dances with a feast in the interval. This culminates in the Horn Dance, the climax, in front of an appreciative audience of several hundred people.



Indoor and outdoor accommodation will be based in and around the school. Cost for the whole weekend will be in the region of £69 but men can attend as day men, as individuals or sides, and choose not to have meals if they wish thus reducing the cost. There is a reduction for under 16s. Alternatively B&B may be obtained at The Swan in Thaxted, or at The Farmers Arms, Monk Street, one mile outside Thaxted. There is also a Travelodge at nearby Great Dunmow.

13th -15th July

333rd Letchworth Centenary Morris Meeting

Cost £66 Female musicians welcome 100 max

"Join Letchworth Morris as they celebrate 90 years of dancing in the North Herts area. Based in Cottered, coach tours will visit Letchworth's unique and stylish town centre, as well as exploring delightfully rural North Hertfordshire villages. The Saturday will commence with a short instructional, and there will be ample opportunity for dancing after the formal Feast. Sunday will conclude with a church service, displays and lunch in the picturesque village of Ashwell. There will be indoor camping in the hall, and outdoor camping 200 yards away, with hot showers at both locations. Cost £66 for the full weekend with reductions for part attendance, and £10 reduction on the weekend price for under 18s".

31 Aug - 2 Sept.

334th Hartley 60th Anniversary Morris Meeting

Cost £65 Female musicians welcome 250 max

What better way to spend the first weekend of September than in the glorious county of Kent. The Hartley Morris Men invite you to join them in celebrating



their 60th anniversary and seeing out the seeing out the incumbent Squire of the Morris Ring and welcoming in the new.

We are an 'all male' side but extend a welcome to every member of the Morris Ring to join us in our 'adopted' village of Wrotham for this special occasion.

Indoor and outdoor camping plus full facilities for up to 250 will be provided at a local school, together with wholesome meals provided by a professional caterer.

Local ales, dispensed from hop strewn barrels, will be available at the accommodation site for no additional charge although informal music, dance and song at local hostelries will be encouraged on Friday and Saturday evenings.

On Saturday our guests will be taken to attractive locations including National Trust properties, a steam railway, historic towns and of course village pubs. The tours will be tailored to suit all traditions bringing the diversity of the Morris to the community

Sunday morning we intend to arrange some interesting workshops followed by the massed display which will be held in the grounds of nearby Tonbridge Castle. There will not be a formal Church Service but participants may join the congregation at one the local churches.

We currently estimate the cost of the weekend to be in the region of £65 with discounts for those unable to join us for the full weekend. Applications from either complete sides or individuals are welcomed as we are very happy to make up suitable composite sides if required.

The meeting website is at www.hartleyringmeeting.org where more information will be posted as it becomes available.

2013

- ? March ARM Hosted by Whitchurch (TBC)
- TBC March / April 335th Adelaide MM
- 31st May - 2nd June 336th Thaxted Morris Meeting
- 21st - 23rd June 337th Dolphin Morris Men 
- 5th - 7th July 338th Martlet Sword & Morris Men (60th Anniv)

2014 80th Anniversary of Foundation of the Morris Ring

- March ARM Hosted by TBA
- TBC Thaxted Morris Meeting

2015

- March ARM Hosted by TBA
- TBC Thaxted Morris Meeting



On-line Links:

<http://www.themorrisring.org/> The main MR website with pages stuffed to the gunnels with all you need to know about the MR. No registration required to access - the site is open for the world to visit.

<http://groups.google.com/group/the-morris-ring?hl=en&pli=1> The Morris Ring Google Group (MRGG). Still open for messages but files section is now closed. Forum for debate or announcements. Private site; Contact Morris Ring Bagman to register to use.

<https://sites.google.com/site/morrisring/?pli=1> Morris Ring Clubs Website. Private site, register to use. (Likely to replace the MRGG in time.) Files can be posted here so you can access Newsletters, circulars etc. as well as current affairs, events calendar & *What's On* news.

<http://www.facebook.com/pages/The-Morris-Ring/158759257502840> Morris Ring Facebook site: Managed by Ollie King.
oliver.king11@btinternet.com

MORRIS SHOP RAMBLINGS: Stephen 'BfB' Adamson

Morris is fun!

Charlie

Bagman of the Morris Ring



the MORRIS RING
founded 1934