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Newsletter No. 98 ARM Special

January 2016

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Morris Ring 2016 Annual Reps' Meeting Saturday 5th March

Just a few weeks to go, and still not too late to apply. The venue is Oak Farm Hotel, Watling Street, Hatherton, Cannock, Staffs WS11 1SB (one minute from M6 junction 12). Please send application forms to the Bagman for the ARM, Mac McCoig. The application form is included as Appendix 1 of this Newsletter.

There are a number of agenda items which may affect the running of Ring events, or of the Ring itself. It is important that as many sides and viewpoints are represented, so the ARM can be genuinely representative of the Morris Ring as a whole, so please try to send a rep. To encourage the voice of young morris, any under-18s are half price if they wish to attend.

If your side is unable to be represented, please send apologies to bagman@themorrisring.org.

Programme for the day

10:00 – 11:00	Arrival and coffee
11:00 – 12:30	Area meetings
12:30 – 14:00	Lunch
14:00 – 15:30	ARM
15:30 – 16:00	Tea and coffee
16:00 – 17:00	Workshop: Redding Moreys

Redding Moreys will give a brief history of morris dancing in England, with a demonstration and workshop to learn a morris dance as it would have been done in the 16th Century.

16:00 –	Advisory Council meeting
17:00 – 18:30	Informal dancing
19:00 -	Feast (in kit)

Informal singing and dancing to follow; Redding Moreys will perform a couple more 16th Century morris dances.

00:30 -	Bar closes
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Agenda for the ARM 2016

1) Attendees and Apologies

2) Minutes from ARM 2015

Minutes of the 2015 ARM were circulated with Newsletter 95, July 2015; copies will not be available for perusal at the Meeting.

Proposer -

Secunder –

3) Matters Arising

4) Squire's Report –

Adam Garland

The Morris Ring is the oldest organisation of its kind in the Country, it has a history, and celebrates Morris with ceremony and colour. The Morris Ring was formed over eighty years ago to uphold certain principles.

- The performance of quality Morris Dancing,
- Remembering the history of the dance,
- Promoting Morris for the future.
- Allowing all members to dance together to share dances and develop the quality of the dance

Over eighty years later we find ourselves at a difficult junction: societal changes have created stresses which are continually there on the periphery but the initial principles hold true and are still hugely valid.

The social set-up of this country has changed and equality rules and regulations mean we would now be unable to form the Morris Ring as it was 80 years ago.

In 2011, the Ring membership voted overwhelmingly in favour of a constitutional change making the Ring a collection of clubs who have;

1) Male Dancers, and

2) Male and/or Female Musicians

That is what the constitution says the Morris Ring *is* and therefore this is the base line from which we now consider the future.

Throughout my first year as Squire I have been to many wonderful events, danced with a huge number of great people, and chatted with many more. A while ago I asked members for thoughts and comments on the Morris Ring; where we stand, how it is viewed, whether anything is wrong, and where we go in the future.

The comments I have received cover a number of aspects;

- 1) Age related health and joint issues making dancing some traditions more difficult
- 2) Sides struggle for numbers which hinders weekly practice nights or dancing at events
- 3) Sides find it very difficult to recruit new and younger dancers

These concerns have led to Sides talking about disbanding, discussing their future and what they need to do for the Side to survive, and how the Ring should support the clubs more.

Further, there have also been issues raised concerning The Ring being;

- 1) Introverted and should be more outward thinking,
- 2) Just an 'Old Boys Club', especially at the ARM,
- 3) Entrenched in its opinions
- 4) Un-inclusive and unwelcoming towards new faces, and our Female members.

All of this has led to Sides considering leaving the Ring: indeed, the Ring has lost a number of clubs this year who have all quoted the lack of inclusion as the driving factor.

As part of my nomination information I said I had three priorities:

- 1) To look at recruitment and the longevity of the Ring,
- 2) To build a more positive relationship with the other Organisations through the JMO, and
- 3) To concentrate on the performance of good quality dancing.

Work on numbers 2 and 3 is continuing and moving forward. I would ask members to be continually aware of the quality of their dance performance; look at your dance from the point of view of the audience: do you put on a good show?

The JMO now has a Statement of Purpose and I feel the relationship between the three organisations is closer than ever; an excellent position to be in.

For number 1, I am in the process of looking at recruitment methods and would thank all those of you who have been kind enough to provide me with advice and information; I will be publishing my findings before my tenure ends.

However, in asking for your opinions as stated above, it brought to light the comments already noted above. These comments have provided the Ring with a huge opportunity to look closely at its performance and reconsider where we are going.

In this regard I have some questions for the membership to consider during the Area Meetings:

- 1) The financial aspects of running a Ring Meeting

We are in the process of refreshing the guidance on how to run a Ring Meeting and would ask you all to think about;

- Should the cost of the Morris Shop attending a Ring Meeting be treated in the same way as that of the Officers?
- Should the cost of Ring Officers (and shopkeeper) attending a Ring Meeting be met by the Ring directly, or should the attendance cost be charged to the Meeting?
- Should the host club be asked to pay full price for attending their meetings bearing in mind the efforts put into arranging the meeting?

The findings of these area discussions will be fed back to the main meeting by the Area Reps and taken forward to the Advisory Council for further discussion. The refreshed guidance will be released to the membership in due course.

2) The issue of Ring Meetings and Hosted meetings

- Bearing in mind the above statements about i) What the Morris Ring *is*; male dancers and male/female musicians, and ii) The society and legislation in which we perform, should the Morris Ring support Hosted Meetings, i.e. meetings which preclude certain members on the basis of gender?

I am advised that the items for discussion are procedural and not constitutional changes, i.e. the aspect of financial reporting, and the removal of hosted meetings will not change the wording of the constitution. As such no full vote is required.

However, I am conscious that the Ring officers should not try to dictate to the members; I wanted to gauge the members' opinion on these matters prior to any final decisions being taken. Again, the results of the discussions at the ARM will be taken to the Advisory Council Meeting for a final decision.

5) Bagman's Report –

Jon Melville

Firstly, I would like to thank all those who have welcomed and supported me in transition to this role, not least Charlie, who interrupted his celebrations at handing over the job to offer advice and support on several occasions. A hard act to follow, his first advice was to find my replacement as soon as possible! Please bear with me as I work through all the year's jobs for the first time.

I have been invited to a number of feasts, days of dance and weekend events I might not otherwise have gone to and enjoyed meeting new sides and forming new friendships. The level of commitment and dedication shown across the country within the Morris to organising and running such events is both impressive and humbling.

The bulk of the Bagman's role is communication. An awful lot of email (and a lot of awful email) arrives in the Bagman's inbox. Pete de Courcy expertly tunes the spam filter when I am getting too many offers of surgical enhancements or from ladies who wish to "love me long time." There are still many enquiries to deal with, some from people who think they can book the Morris Ring for an event, but many from members of the public with genuine interest in the history and structure of the Morris, or pursuing familial connections. There is more love for England's traditions than the Press would have us believe.

Communication with the membership is mainly through the Google Group and via the Bagman's Newsletter. Please ensure that all changes of officers and contact details are notified to myself and/or the Treasurer as soon as they take place. The Google Group is very useful for rapid communication and I would ask that every side should have someone who is receiving these updates. You don't need a Google account, just contact me.

The Newsletter is proving very expensive to print and post, averaging over £160 per issue. While I am happy to continue to print and post out to those members without email, I am proposing that for all sides with email contact, I only send the electronic copies. Bagmen can then circulate within the side either by email or by printing their own copies. This will avert the need for an increase in subscription costs in the near future.

Finally, it is good to see the JMO going from strength to strength. I have been invited to a number of non-Ring and mixed-organisation events, including the Morris Federation 40th anniversary celebrations, and been made most welcome. The enthusiasm for Morris in general has truly overtaken petty wrangling and internecine strife, and we are going forward with one voice representing the Morris world.

6) Treasurer's Report –

Steven Archer

Once again the focus of this report has to be Shaun's dedicated shop keeping. This year he has appeared at no less than 20 events throughout the country, covering our hosted meetings, JMO days, both the Morris Ring ARM and the Fed AGM, DERT and numerous ales and festivals. Shaun has now established the Morris Shop as a service to all the Morris community and is welcomed by our JMO partners. This has been a great achievement, quietly done through many hours of dedicated effort; thank you Shaun from all of us.

To expand our product range we have taken on the distribution of Mike Ruff's Morris Hey Instructional pack and we plan to promote it to schools during the coming year. This product fits well with our aim of promoting and supporting Morris youth initiatives. The shop financial figures will be reported at the ARM after the stock take and audit.

The Youth Fund was again put to good use with three young dancers workshops run during the year. Although the Sussex schools festival did not run in 2015 it will be happening in 2016 and the Morris Ring will be supporting this event with the help of Long Man Morris Men.

The Archive fund has also seen some action as Chris Wildridge has now made progress with our archive in the Essex record office, persuading them to take the next steps to catalogue and index the material. Following the death of Roy Dommett, Chris is working with Jerry West of the Fed and the EFDSS to ensure that this valuable archive is transferred to Cecil Sharp House and organised for eventual public access. This will be a substantial task for which EFDSS may well require the help of knowledgeable volunteers. It is pleasing to see that co-operation between the various interested organisations is good and all parties appear to share the same objective.

Unfortunately membership has followed last year's trend and although we have gained a new North West Associate side, Wrigley Head, we have lost six sides at the time of reporting. Three sides have folded due to lack of numbers but the other three have joined or retained membership of one of the other JMOs.

With both subscriptions and collections down it looks as though general income will be £2,000 lower than last year. Fortunately some costs were also lower. Although we made an operating deficit this year (subject to audit) our reserves are sufficiently strong that once again I have no plans to propose a subscription increase.

There will be a further report to the ARM after the accounts have been approved by the Auditor.

7) Chair of the Advisory Council's Report – Robin Springett

The Advisory Council met on Sunday 1 November 2015, with the Immediate Past Squire of the Ring in the chair. The Squire sought advice on a number of issues and lively discussion followed. The Squire was apprised of the views and the meeting closed at 3:00.

8) Archive Report –

Chris Wildridge – Archive

Chairman	Chris Wildridge
Morris Ring Archivist & Keeper of Paper Archive	Geoff Douglas
Keeper of the Mumming Archive	Ron Shuttleworth
Keeper of the Photograph Archive	Duncan Broomhead
Keeper of the sword dance archive	Vacant
Keeper of the sound archive	Andy Padmore
New Dance Collator	Lester Bailey
Scrapbook Keeper	Cliff Marchant
Logbook Keeper	Charlie Corcoran

Introduction

The year 2015 has been relatively quiet in some areas, more active in others. Individual reports from Duncan Broomhead and Ron Shuttleworth on the Photographic and Mumming Archives accompany this report.

Significant progress was made in relation to the cataloguing of the Archive at Chelmsford. An issue relating to the Access database developed by Chris Metherell and others has been resolved. Enquiries to the Chairman were few. Fuller details are given below.

Activities

In March 2015 the proposals by the staff at Essex Record Office for the cataloguing structure of the Morris Ring Archive were accepted by the ARM. Whilst I would claim that it is a significant step forward, of itself it does not mean that action by the staff in Chelmsford is imminent.

At the ARM over the weekend of 6th – 7th March 2015, specifically in discussion with Charlie Corcoran and Steven Archer the issue arose of the management of a digital archive for the Morris Ring. Today almost all the documentation utilised by Officers is in electronic formats whether that takes the form of minutes, reports, financial statements and, of course, emails, etc. No mechanisms exist at the time of writing to archive this material though one comment did refer to data protection in relation to emails. Whilst I am no expert on data protection legislation what I would say is ‘beware the health and safety syndrome’. In other words, do not blame inaction or reaction on something which is not to blame for either.

Following on from that discussion I issued a draft document on digital archive practice with a limited circulation. That draft received some criticism and some support, as was to be expected. One suggestion was that the MR website constituted an electronic archive. I pursued this with Peter de Courcy and Martin Jones of Natty Web Development, the web site editor and developer respectively. Both were of great assistance. Martin was extremely helpful and his view sent to me in an email of 14th May 2015 follows:

“The Morris Ring website is set up, like most public-facing websites, to be a repository for public consumption. To consider it a suitable home for any kind of archived material would go beyond its stated purpose. I think the safest way to consider it is as a place to put copies of original material that exists in some other form. This other form should be considered the 'master' copy and it is this that should be considered for any suitable archiving policy. Placing material on a public-facing website is inherently unsecure. No matter what protection we put in place, there is always the risk that it is hackable by any human or non-human agent. Thus it should contain only information that we are happy for the general public to see, as is the case at the moment.”

More work is required on this topic in 2016 – 17. I will be preparing a further discussion paper with an intended wider circulation. Following that I will prepare a report for the Squire.

Additions to the Archive

Just prior to the compilation of this report Chris Metherell, my predecessor contacted me. As a result of discussions between Chris and Phil Heaton of the Sword Dance Union, he acquired eight or nine boxes of material formerly held by Ivor Allsop which are of significance to the Morris Ring. He proposed delivering the material to the Essex Record Office at Chelmsford and by the date of the ARM this material will have been deposited there.

Enquiries

There were relatively few enquiries received by me as Chairman. One, from a university based researcher, raised some difficulties related to a document in the archive at Chelmsford. The database compiled by Chris Metherell to the archive refers to the document:

"TUNES TAKEN FROM M.S. OF J. WINTER 1833 (STANTON CHURCH DOCUMENTS) (Housed in bank safe deposit) Loaned for a very limited period to R.G. Marriott; photographed on black and white 35 mm film, and later transcribed (in selected form) by him. Prints are an incomplete attempt to print negatives by Geoffrey Mendham." This material is held by the Morris Ring."

Having resolved the use of the database with the assistance of John Lewis of the Morris Federation, it has been possible to search the database. While the database confirms the existence of the item, it does not indicate [for whatever reason] the location in a specific box of the 65 in the archive. The item is, to all intents and purposes, lost until catalogued, or found by chance.

I was approached by a publisher to compile an illustrated history of Morris dancing comprising text and between 150 – 200 photographs. I have discussed this with Duncan Broomhead and a notable historian of Morris on the basis that they take the matter forward as a personal project.

Roy Dommett's Memorial Service 21st November 2015

I attended Roy Dommett's Memorial Service at Fleet on behalf of the Morris Ring. I was able to introduce the Treasurer, Steven Archer, to Laura Smythe, the Director of Libraries at EFDSS. Roy Dommett has donated his archive of traditional material to EFDSS. It is important that the Morris organisations, including the Morris Ring, work in close conjunction with EFDSS not only in relation to the Dommett Papers, but on other issues relating to traditional dance, its organisation, retrieval and availability to all interested parties. After the Service I had useful conversations on future cooperation with Laura Smythe, Mike Heaney, Jerry West and John Lewis, the latter two of the Morris Federation.

Morris Ring Photographic Archive Report 2015/2016

The Photographic Archive continues to be very active and keeps me busy. During the past year I have dealt with 46 different enquiries, some were easy to resolve, others were more difficult, often involving dozens of e-mails and associated research before they could be resolved. The most complicated related to some footage of the Over Peover Morris Dancers from Cheshire, filmed in 1938 and 1939. It took over 100 e-mails, numerous phone calls and visits to sort out but we got there in the end and I was able to upload this valuable archive footage onto YouTube.

For an archive to be effective it has to be able to supply information as well as archive it, this continues to be the aim the Morris Ring Photographic Archive. During the past year I have supplied photographs to the Morris Federation for an exhibition at Cecil Sharp House

celebrating the 40th Anniversary of the Federation, I was also able to supply Ed Worrall with nearly 100 archive photographs of Rushcarts. In addition I have provided numerous photographs and dealt with enquiries for information about them to morris sides, students, other collectors and archives.

There has also been a steady stream of new photographs and information being donated to the archive but I would like to mention three significant donations. Manchester Morris Men have donated a digital copy of their archive which included notes on dances from over 140 locations, mostly in the North West of England plus over 100 archive photographs. John Frearson has donated in excess of 2000 of his own photographs, the biggest single donation by any individual. Leyland Morris Men continue to be the most regular contributor to the archive; they have supplied photographs, cuttings and memorabilia covering every year from 1985 to 2015. All in all, it has been a very productive year.

Duncan Broomhead
Keeper of the Morris Ring Photographic Archive

Mumming archive report

Preparing the Paper Collection for transfer to its final home at Sheffield University took a lot longer than anticipated, but it was finally collected in July. There has been a delay in getting it properly housed and available for public access, whilst new mobile shelving is installed. However, it is currently being unpacked and placed on their secure shelves. Public access is on track for early in the New Year.

Since then I have occupied myself by digitising the first eleven Series, 1987-2002, of the LongSword Magazine *Rattle Up My Boys* and logging the details into a spreadsheet started by Jeff Lawson. The full set is now available.

I continue to develop, expand and service the Digital Collection.

Ron Shuttleworth

Cliff Marchant – Scrap Book

The scrap books are in safe keeping, but appear to be a redundant item now and should sit with the Archive.

Charlie Corcoran – Log Book

As previously reported the first eight books of the Log Book have been digitised and these volumes were handed over for storage in Essex, at the last ARM. When time permits I plan to get the rest digitised but more recent volumes are a mass of separate sheets and a degree of sorting is required. I need to point out:

- Over the years there has been a degree of confusion as some 'minutes of meetings' are included within the 'Log' while others are recorded in separate Minute Books.
- The Log Book is easily confused with the separate Scrapbook. The logbook is a record of important events in the management, operation, and event of the Morris Ring. It can only contain reports, information and anecdotes about the various meetings if I receive them even if I am there as I cannot be everywhere! This is not simply up to the Host side – attendees can also pass 'stuff' on.

9) Publications Officers' Reports – Tony Foard - Ring Circular

The *Morris Ring Circular* is published in both electronic and conventionally printed formats, and I aim to produce up to three issues a year (although caring for a close family member in decline through the latter part of 2015 affected my schedule last year).

I repeat here the guidelines by which articles are included (or referred onwards).

The *MRC* focuses on recent events in the Morris Ring community, seeking to celebrate, in words and pictures, the activities of member sides by (*inter alia*):

- reporting their recent involvement in local, national and international events;
- featuring their important anniversaries;
- publishing original commentary on matters of immediate interest;
- reflecting upon the lives and accomplishments of memorable individuals.

There is no prejudice against brief items; one liners are as welcome in the *MRC* as multi-page chronicles, as are verse and pictures. If it meets the criteria, send it in!

Some degree of overlap with content in the *Morris Ring Newsletter* (popularly known as the *Bagman's Newsletter*) does manifest itself from time to time; perhaps the rather fuzzy semantic distinction between *Newsletter* and *Circular* is to blame. This is rarely of any moment, except, perhaps, to our purist brethren. My apologies to them, and be assured that Jon Melville and I will make every effort to avoid mutual trespass. Your assistance in ensuring that time-sensitive advance notices or other administrative items are sent direct to the Morris Ring Bagman and that articles/pictures conforming to the guidelines above are despatched to the *MRC* is always appreciated.

In the same fashion I work ever more closely with Mac McCoig, Editor of the *Morris Dancer*, to lessen the chances of articles being placed in an inappropriate publication. (If you're not sure to which publication you should send your item, be assured that the three editors will liaise to identify the appropriate outlet for your talents.)

All contributions to the *Morris Ring Circular* are gleefully received, so please don't hesitate to submit an article (however succinct) or image for inclusion. Thank you.

Mac McCoig – The Morris Dancer

Sadly 2015 was a poor year for The Morris Dancer with insufficient material to produce a copy. However, 2016 looks like this ill fortune may change, with an issue (Volume 5, Number 3) out between this report and the ARM, with another one, and possibly two planned later this year.

Publication depends, of course, on people sending me their articles, notes and research and I am always more than pleased to hear your ideas and to read your work. I will help you develop your ideas and also assist you to write up or edit your notes if you wish me to.

The Morris Dancer will publish material which increases our general or specific understanding of our dance traditions loosely grouped under the name 'Morris'. I will also be keen to look at associated traditions such as plough, mumming, straw bear, pace egging, wassailing and other associated customs.

Peter De Courcy – Web Editor

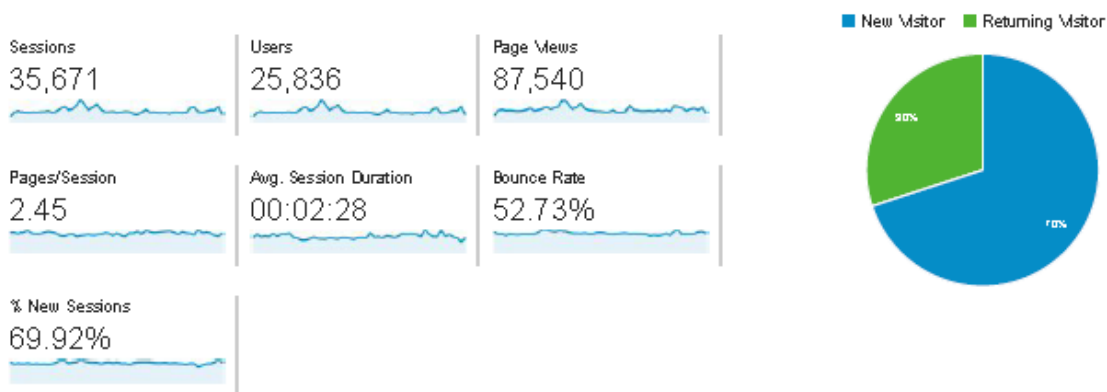
Web Editor's Report - 2015

Although still impressive exposure, regrettably a less successful year for the website statistically. Our user rate actually fell by 18% and the number of sessions has decreased by 20% since 2014. I have continued the policy of "gentle change", by improving pages, some layouts and navigation, publishing relevant news and keeping the content up to date. Perhaps we should be considering further improvements?

The Morris Matters news summary added 180 media entries with Saddleworth taking the prize for most "googlable" media coverage (15 pieces) followed by Grimsby and Ewell St Mary. Other side's publicity officers may want to consult them ... Traditional Events pages continue to be updated regularly, usually a couple of weeks before each of "the seasons". Those sides without up to date websites will be missed unless you let me know about your "Traditional" event. (Pause for a lengthy debate on the definition?) These are accessible from the front page as is our "Find A Side" service. Keeping that up-to-date seems to be working well and standard e-mail feedback to side contacts enabling them to check and approve any changes made appears to be appreciated.

As always, the very few technical issues outside our control were quickly solved by Martin Jones of Natty Web Development (and Dartington Morris); my thanks again to him for making my job so painless. My target of making updates within 48 hours of receiving them, holidays and weekends of dance permitting, has been maintained by and large.

The following metrics give an idea of the impressive reach of our pages for the calendar year 2015.



Country	Sessions	% Sessions
1. United Kingdom	28,194	79.04%
2. United States	2,834	7.94%
3. Australia	691	1.66%
4. Canada	322	0.90%
5. Germany	272	0.76%
6. Russia	228	0.64%
7. Brazil	225	0.63%
8. Netherlands	220	0.62%
9. (not set)	215	0.60%
10. France	202	0.57%

(Bounce rate is a measure of the effectiveness of a website in encouraging visitors to continue with their visit. It is expressed as a percentage and represents the proportion of visits that end on the first page of the website that the visitor sees, so roughly half of our visitors went on to explore further.)

As I write every year, we're keen to have a lively, fresh and informative site that is a first port of call for anyone with an interest in Morris - but news, in our opinion, must be newsworthy and not just for the sake of it. So if your side has items or photos you believe are of national (or even international) interest, or a traditional annual event worthy of inclusion in our seasonal calendar, please, please let me know at webeditor@themorrisring.org.

I continue responsibility for the content of our Facebook page. Using Facebook and Google searches I am able to make or share many relevant posts but appeal again for people to post their side's stuff directly. We have a pretty good audience for you with 777 people liking and regularly following our page (I suppose we shouldn't be surprised that 73% of them are male – but that's a 1% decrease on last year).

Although I removed the "no discussions here" plea as this does not appear to have encouraged much participation, so no harm done. The page description reads: "A place for members or fans of The Morris Ring to keep up to date with the latest goings on and to share our love of traditional morris dancing." Do have a look.

These are the 2015 “Your Fans” metrics.

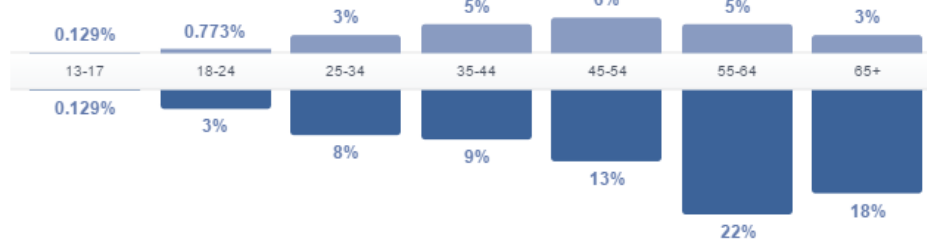
The people who like your Page

Women

■ 24%
Your Fans

Men

■ 73%
Your Fans



Country	Your Fans	City	Your Fans	Language	Your Fans
United Kingdom	665	London, England	56	English (UK)	578
United States of America	42	Birmingham, England	19	English (US)	171
Australia	16	Nottingham, England	17	Dutch	11
Netherlands	9	Bristol, England	15	Danish	3
Canada	5	Portsmouth, England	13	Japanese	3
France	5	Gloucester, England	12	English (Pirate)	2
New Zealand	4	Huddersfield, England	11	French (France)	2
Belgium	4	Norwich, England	10	German	2
Denmark	4	Southampton, England	10	Spanish	1
Japan	3	Northampton, England	10	Italian	1

(I continue to worry about our missing 3% with no gender – perhaps Beasts?)

10) Overseas Bagman’s Report –

Nigel Strudwick

1. Role of Overseas Bagman

I have stated several times that the Overseas Bagman is a position looking for a role. With this in mind, Adam and I have been in contact several times. He suggested that I make a push to co-ordinate the collection of information on foreign festivals, sides who have travelled, and their experience of things abroad, so that I can build up a small database of this information.

2. Foreign tour data

I have thus been keeping a list of what festivals come to my attention. Other than those about which information can be obtained from CIOFF and EAFF, I have made a few notes but there is not a lot. Sides who do a lot of travelling seem to belong to these. I remember that my own side, Devil’s Dyke, joined CIOFF for a few years before concluding it was not worth it!

I sent out a round-robin email in September to Ring sides asking if they would share their overseas data, contacts and experience. I waited until the summer was over, but I think I had no more than a handful of responses, all of which were very useful. Given that we know that a lot of sides do make a foreign trip from time to time, I feel the usual Morris/human apathy to such enquiries has kicked in. I will continue to compile this list, and will ask again at the ARM, but I am less than optimistic.

3. Co-operation via JMO?

When I was attempting to obtain information from sides as above, one idea which occurred to me was whether the other organisations do anything comparable for foreign clubs. I have emailed both the Open and the Fed. Neither organisation has a foreign functionary and no way of collecting data.

I would propose to the Squire and the Ring that the issue of collecting data be raised at a future meeting of the JMO with a view to co-operating on a list of sides who have foreign experience that they might be able to share. Given the level of Ring response as noted above, I hold out no great hopes, but it seems an area where all Morris teams should share what they know.

4. Notes on overseas sides

These are presently eight in number, Helier, Utrecht, Helmond, Silkeborg, Adelaide, Perth, Pinewoods, Vancouver. In 2015, Perth and Adelaide were both over here, as were Utrecht and Silkeborg. I caught all but Adelaide at the Thaxted Meeting, and was particularly delighted to be there to help welcome Perth into the Ring. I have heard nothing from Helier, but I know that Vancouver are doing OK.

As an addition to my original report, I attach a copy of Vancouver's Squire's 2014–2015 report to his side. I think it is very useful to have this, and I pass it on for your information. My thanks to Graham Baldwin for permitting me to share this.

5. More overseas sides?

The suggestion was made in the past that we should try and encourage more foreign sides to join, and I raised this in an earlier report. Unless they want to maintain a specific connection with the Old Country, there is no real advantage to a foreign men's team joining, with the major benefit, that of insurance, not applying. I think I raised the idea of a special membership rate for foreign sides, but as I recall that did not meet with approval. I am still prepared to dig out other men's sides, and indeed I know a few, but it is debatable whether it is worth the effort, for them and for us?

6. Overseas meetings

Rumours had reached me of some big event being planned by Ring and non-Ring sides Down Under. On Boxing Day, when I was watching Letchworth, I met a man from Adelaide MM who was over visiting family. He indicated that early thinking was taking place for a movable Morris event, perhaps in 2017, which might involve events widely spread out, but at the moment it hadn't progressed beyond an idea. However, it might be of interest to sides or individuals who might be interesting in exploring Australia and New Zealand.

11) Elections –

Squire of the Ring for 2016-2018

Eddie Worrall, Saddleworth Morris Men (proposed Jockey Morris Men)

Personal statement:

"I started Morris dancing in the mid-1990's when I joined a Cotswold side, Green Oak Morris Men, my home town team in Doncaster.

Following a work move to Manchester, I joined Saddleworth Morris Men in 2000 and have danced with them since. I have been the team's Treasurer, Rushcart Secretary (twice) with responsibility for organising our Rushcart weekend and am now Squire of the side. I also served as Treasurer of the Morris Ring during the period 2009-2012, taking over from Steve Adamson (BFB) who was a valuable source of help and advice. I currently am a member of the Morris Ring Advisory Council and act as Morris Ring Auditor.

A major change in the Morris world in my time has been the emergence of the JMO with greater communication and co-operation between the 3 Morris Organisations. The Morris Ring has played a full part in this. Working together across the Morris world on areas of common concern has brought significant benefits to all. I believe it will continue to do so and would work for that.

Issues such as recruitment or sides folding remain as pressing as ever and initiatives already in place need to be supported and developed. There are no quick answers but despair is not an option we can accept.

Whatever else, we must remember we dance Morris because we enjoy it!"



Area Reps

Area Representatives (year of re-election in brackets)

North Midlands, Ben Robinson (2018)

West Midlands, Peter Simpson (2017)

South Midlands, Roger Comley (2018)

Eastern, Mike Stevens (2016)

Northern, Paul Cross (2018)

South Wales and West, Tim Sercombe (2017)

North West, David Loughlin (2017)

South East, Cliff Marchant (2018)

North East, Brian Pollard (2016)

Mike Stevens has decided not to stand again; Nigel Strudwick of Devil's Dyke Morris Men has been nominated for the position:

Nigel Strudwick has been a member of Devil's Dyke MM since 1992. He has been their Bagman in 1996-1999 and 2010-2011, and Squire in 2003-2006 and again in 2015. He was a strong advocate of DDMM finally applying for full membership of the Ring.

An Egyptologist by profession, at universities and museums, he has many publications to his credit. Other interests apart from Egypt and the Morris are wine, railways and blues music.

12) Area Representatives' Reports – Dave Loughlin (NW)

A mixed year for the North West but overall encouraging.

North British Sword have eleven dancers and three musicians. They recruited two dancers last year, one in his twenties and one in his thirties. This year they will be spending Easter dancing in Prague, and later doing the Saddleworth Rushcart and the Sowerby Bridge 40th anniversary rushbearing.

Last year their greatest achievement was being part of Jeff Lawson's 60 pubs in 60 hours birthday rapper tour, along with Medlock Rapper and Sallyport Swords, dancing in Oldham and Rochdale (Friday), Manchester (Saturday), and Littleborough (Sunday) taking in the Littleborough Rushcart.

Adlington Morris Men have 15 members which includes 3 musicians. After not dancing for 20 years they have a returning dancer who is now 65, so there is a life when you retire they are struggling if one or two cannot make it out with the side.

Southport Swords only have 10 dancers and 3 musicians but one of the musicians is also a dancer. When they dance out they are a good team, but if some dance out of position it means they can make mistakes (their words not mine).

In 2015 the team had 34 invitations to dance but only managed to dance at 10 of them and did not put a team out in the summer. They danced at the Forest of Dean weekend 13th June and the next time they danced out was 17th October, this is due to half of the team being retired and taking long holidays and also have to look after grandchildren. They did gain a musician, but he is also in a band so most weekends he is not able to play for them, and he is retired too.

Royal Preston Morris Dancers are struggling even with 19 members, 4 of which are musicians. With people unavailable at the last minute they will not cancel a booking but adapt some dances for a six-man set, which they don't like, but they never pull out of an event if it is at all possible to perform. They have acquired a new member joining in September who is 28 and fortunately no one has actually left, but one member has retired and lives in the North-East with a part-time arrangement.

They are currently putting together their 2016 programme and anticipate having a similar number of bookings as in the previous few years-12/14 approximately during the spring/summer/early autumn. The annual events which are longstanding such as The Grange-over-Sands Edwardian Festival in June and in the same month they hold the Longest Day Dance-Out with numerous Teams attending. The Grange booking this year will be their 22nd visit out of the 23 they have held.

"John O'Gaunt" are still going through a lean time at present with only five available dancers, this means that for the time being they are unable to field a side to dance out. However they are still be arranging their annual Good Friday Tour of South Lakeland. The tour itself is likely to be fully booked by the regular guest sides but there is no reason why other sides should not join them for the final dance spot at The Malt Shovel at Warton near Carnforth. They live in hope of attracting new members If anyone interested please contact the bagman.

Mersey Morris Men do appear to be growing, with a regular turnout of 16 to 20 dancers and 6 musicians to practice, bookings and pub meets. This year they have 4 new dancers, one forty and the other 3 in their thirties. Foreman sends out his 'blog' after each of their practice night for everyone to remember what they did and to inform those who didn't go just what they missed.

2015 saw Chapel-en-le-Frith Morris Men celebrate the 40th Anniversary of their founding and they made a tour of their favourite spots in the Peak District followed by an evening social. Four of the founder members (still dancing) were present together with a further dancer who has danced with the side for 39 years. A total of 199 years' service and still going strong! The Annual Buxton Day of Dance on was a great success as usual with 20 sides dancing out at various spots in Buxton. The Buxton Day of Dance is to be held during the Buxton Festival this year on 23 July.

They have 20 active members at present, but allowing for men with the ailments of age creeping on and work commitments, they can usually count on 12 -14 men dancing out at each venue during the summer. There are 5 musicians, all of whom dance too. One of the musicians joined about 2 years ago and in recent times they have gained 3 new members; one experienced dancer and two new to Morris dancing.

Leyland Morris Men are static in numbers at 5 musicians and 11 aging dancers or should that be aching dancers. Despite numbers they had a busy and varied 2015 entertaining residents at 3 care homes, workshops at 2 schools and running sessions for two groups of disabled youngsters which they always find very rewarding when you see the enjoyment they get from it. The bulk of their events were summer fetes and similar. They see 2016 as much the same as there are no prospective members on the horizon. The majority of the side turn out regularly to practice and they always turn out a good side to dance.

"Wrigley Head Morris" are now newly recruited members of "The Ring" some of the dancers and whole of John O'Gaunt musicians have joined them. So may I give you an official warm welcome and hope you enjoy more of your Morris dancing as part of the Morris Ring.

Thelwall Morris Men had a full programme of 30 events in 2015, but their main issue was injuries, with half the team carrying some form of injury during the season. Never the less they have 14 men and 2 musicians. Only one member has left with 2 new joining, one is 60-70 and the other 70-80. Their programme for 2016 is likely to be restricted to the time to train up the new young members.

Saddleworth Morris Men have around 40 members in the side, of which 3 are musicians only. They had 3 new members dance in at Easter 2015, 2 in their 40's and one in his 20's. Another new dancer is currently training up at the moment who is in his 30's, who should be dancing in at Easter. No one has left the side in the last 12 months. At their practice nights there are usually 20-25 every week through the year.

The notable tours in 2015 were Rushcart (of course) this was a hosted meeting of the Morris Ring for the 2nd time. The side has now decided to continue the weekend as a Hosted Meeting in future years. They also danced at a CIOFF festival in Pilsen Czech Republic, in June which was also part of the City's official celebrations as 2015 European City of Culture. In 2016 the side is due to dance at the JMO day of Dance in York and Warwick Folk Festival among others and of course Rushcart on the 19th to 21st of August the weekend before the August Bank Holiday.

2016 sees Ed Worrall as Squire Elect for the Morris Ring and he will be dancing in at East Suffolk's Meeting in September.

Chester City Morris Men have just lost one of their most treasured dancers, Phil Stafford, who didn't recover after an accident at work. A true gent he will be missed greatly, reliable friend to us all, he was one of the founders of the side.

Chester practicing hard for their St George's Weekend 22nd to 24th April in Chester and the Chester folk Festival.

Paul Cross (N)

Report not available

Brian Pollard (NE)

Benfieldside

We have had a very pleasing and productive year. Pub tours went very well during the summer and we were able, with the fine support of Durham Rams, to dance at a number of fetes and fairs. The highlights of the year were a super weekend in the Netherlands at Helmond's ring meeting and a very wet evening dance out with Adelaide Morris along with the Rams, Richmond on Swale, Hexham and Hexhamshire Lasses. Later in the year our Christmas pub tour raised a good sum for charity and, of course, more recently our now traditional processing the plough on Plough Sunday in Durham.

Membership has surprisingly increased from "have we a side for practice" to a healthy 20+ including two under tens. This not as a result of an active recruitment policy but rather through word of mouth at music sessions and dance outs and a general tide of interest in Morris and all things traditional!

Durham Rams – Bob Ward, Bagman.

There's not a lot to say about the Rams this year as most of our dance outs have been with Benfieldside. The two that were organised by ourselves were Sedgefield Mediaeval Fayre and Wolsingham Church Garden Party both of which were highly successful thanks to the number of Benfieldside men who helped us on those occasions. The other news of note is that our own rapper practices have been much more productive this year as we have had a regular musician and we have enjoyed the company of up to four Benfieldside men learning the dance which will hopefully bear fruit in the months to come.

Monkseaton Morris Men – Andy Morris, Bagman

It was a busy year for Monkseaton as we celebrated our 60th anniversary with a number of events. The year started in our now traditional way dancing outside The Ship Inn in Monkseaton on the 1st January with a huge crowd and a massive collection. We attended Westminster's day of dance in May and had a fantastic day dancing in the capital with the usual excellent hosts. In June we organised a small weekend of dance in May which was attended by Saddleworth and Redcar. The weather was pretty kind to us and we managed to drink the local pubs dry with a little help from our friends. We had a trip across to France Sabotee Sancerroise's festival in Sancerre in August and they made the return trip to us over the August bank holiday when we were joined by Westminster Morris Men for another great weekend of public dance shows and social dances.

The sun shone bright and much wine was consumed.

Roll on the next 60 years!

Redcar Sword – Brian Pearce, Captain.

Another year when we have failed to attract any new members despite advertising as wide as possible and even venturing into the realms of Facebook! Being low in numbers (there are only ten of us, one of whom lives in Liverpool) made it very difficult to raise a team for most of the invitations that we received. We did eventually accept one to attend Monkseaton Morris Men's 60th anniversary weekend in June. October saw us once again triumphant at the Sword Dance Union's longsword tournament held at Goathland, which we followed with an appearance later in the month at the Hartlepool Folk Festival.

The year was rounded off with our 49th Boxing Day performance, at Greatham near Hartlepool, of the dance and play from the village. A goodly crowd turned out to watch despite the rather inclement weather!

In December we also had to report the sad passing of two old members, Ben Green and Malcolm Walker.

Pete Simpson (W Mids)

Well that's the 42nd Original Welsh Border Tour done and the dancing year draws to a close. This year we were joined by Squire and the Bagman of the Morris Ring, who both kissed the fish, and most welcome they were. Despite some showers a good day was had by all.

Unfortunately I have not been able to get out as much as I would have liked or was planning to, even having to miss Bromyard Folk Festival for the first time in 10 years, a big event for many local clubs & some from farther afield. However my spies have been reporting back &

it would seem most clubs have been as busy as they wish to be. Putting on fine shows for all who wish to indulge.

I have noticed there are a couple of issues on the horizon. Some clubs seem to have a problem getting members to commit to dates & events making it difficult for organisers & Bagmen. I have identified 4 clubs in the West Midlands whose futures are not secure. They are aware of their problems and have been trying to recruit but with no luck. This is not the case for all clubs, though. Several have been successful, attracting new members in small but significant numbers. Shakespeare MM have been trying hard with some interesting developments and success. Hopefully we will all have something positive to learn from their efforts. One thing I have noticed is the people recruited are often in their 30s & 40s. It's great to get the young involved but maybe we should be looking more at that age group?

The dance year is not quite finished and I hope to be joining Green Man on Boxing Day & start the New Year by joining Alvechurch MM on the 1st of January. Let's hope it is the start of an active & positive year in the West Midlands.

Ben Robinson (N Mids)

On a personal level it's been a little quiet for Packington this year, but far less so for the rest of the region.

The highlight of which could easily have been the Anker Morris ring meeting to celebrate 40 years of the side. The weekend was a great success and saw two tours visiting the villages and breweries of Warwickshire.

This year also saw the revival of the popular Cotswold Tour, hosted by Ripley Morris Men. Over the years there have been several trips covering most of the Morris villages we all know. This year, joined my men from Lincoln & Micklebarrow and Packington, Ripley visited Ilmington, Longborough, Bledington and Adderbury. A fabulous day was had by all, and we all look forward to this event recurring into the future.

I began this year with the pleasure of joining the Hinckley Bullockers. This fabulous Leicestershire traditional dance is only seen in early January in the villages around Hinckley as the raddled men process from village to village with the plough in tow. As ever the tour proved very popular and drew large crowds where ever they went and despite forecasts to the contrary the rain held off all day!

Leicester Morris have also reported an excellent year, despite a very wet start to 2016 (see broolly dancing videos online!). At Leicester's feast in February, a youth workshop is being planned. This will bring under 18s from across the region and further afield to Leicester to meet each other and hopefully return to their sides enthused about the future of Morris and their role in it. They may even have some new skills to demonstrate back home. These sort of events (happening across the country) are a great way to keep younger dancers dancing, and hopefully will be a route to Morris 18-30; all of which is designed to promote and strengthen each of the participants home sides, giving them energy for our great tradition and a network of friends through the clubs of the Morris Ring.

Roger Comley (S Mids)

Having written this during the winter of 2015/16 many sides go into hibernation and practice during this season, a great time for visiting the sides at the Ales and Feasts, such as Headington Quarry, Woodside, Whitchurch, Kennet and travel to Ripley and Leicester or Mendip and Letchworth, all good stuff! So good to sleep over and enjoy lovely music into the night from your sleeping bag.

St Albans men have displayed at the Abbey and worked with Mike Ruff for promotion of good morris and instructional material now available through the Morris Shop.

Some sides have given school and youth organisation displays and helped by showing new and traditional morris for them to try with follow-up instruction. Letchworth gave the Hertfordshire Scouts contingent a package to practice and display at the World Jamboree in the Far East with our music on CD to take.

Westminster Day of Dance in the capital was well attended last May and showed how to organise a fine event once again. Whitchurch MM gave a good display for a French twin town visit in May.

Many sides enjoy travel and dance away from home and Whitchurch were hosted by Furness Morris in Cumbria for a weekend. Leeds men also host an excellent May weekend in the Yorkshire Dales before Thaxted Ring Meeting in June.

Letchworth will be hosting a JMO event in Letchworth Garden City the weekend after Thaxted in June.

Mike Stevens (E)

I surveyed all 14 Member and 6 Associate sides in the area. Ten replied and their responses are summarised separately. I want to deal with the underlying trends revealed in these responses and in my conversations with individuals.

1. Pretty obviously, sides with a greater number (>20) of regular and committed members feel most confident in their future. Sides with 10 dancers or fewer find the lack of numbers can significantly curtail their activities. Sides with 12-15 members can be very active but can also know they are susceptible to attrition through illness, relocation and infirmity.
2. A few sides have youthful (18-30) or younger (<18) dancers. The under 18s quickly grow up and may move away to Uni or for work. The consequence is that even those sides that have been successful in recruiting and retaining youngsters can very soon be without them. I can think of five examples in the East. On the other hand I know that five of those of University age went on to dance with their University side or with another side in their new locality.

3. Musicians: there are several sides that are partially or totally dependent on female musicians. These sides welcome the recent changes to the Morris Ring constitution but sometimes express regret that female musicians have not been universally welcomed to all meetings of the Morris Ring.
4. Recent years have seen several sides in the East find themselves so short of male dancers that they have either ceased to exist or resigned from the Morris Ring to continue as a mixed team. Others may be very close to this. I very much regret that the Morris Ring has been able to do nothing for these sides except to wish them a successful future as members of another national organisation. In 2010 there were 18 member sides and 8 associates. There are now 14 member sides and 6 associates (one associate having progressed to full membership). So we have lost five out of eighteen member sides. This is not a good trend.
5. The project to engage with young dancers in the East is an important development that deserves to be adopted in other areas (and indeed has already been adopted by Leicester MM). The benefits of encouraging participation by youngsters can be seen in Thaxted MM who now have 6 under-eighteens and have recruited several fathers who are in the 18-30 age-group. We all need to talk to Thaxted about how they have achieved this.
6. Contact with schools is minimal, with almost no one able to recommend a school to receive a Morris Hey! pack. It would seem that school teachers are no longer Morris dancers, or else the ones that are want to keep that part of their life entirely separate.
7. I don't claim this to be my own personal view but more than one correspondent suggested that very soon a single national Morris organisation would suffice to represent all the varied Morris interests and to protect divergent views within it. (Is this the elephant in the room?).

To conclude, I would point out that whilst some of these observations might appear to represent lone voices, they should not be ignored. They are "straws in the wind", need to be taken seriously and acted upon, for they are harbingers of our future.

2015 Morris Sides in the East - survey Result

Replies from:-	6 member, 4 associate sides
Usual practice night	Monday 2, Tues 2, Wed 3, Thurs , Fri 1,
Usual dance out evening	Mon 1, Tues 2, Wed 4, Thurs 1, 1 seasonal events only
No. of members (range)	14-31
No. of regular dancers in 2015 (range)	9-31
No. of regular musicians	2-5 (but one seasonal side with 14)
Frequency of dance out – Summer? / Winter?	(summer) 8 sides danced weekly, 1 fortnightly, several occasionally in winter
No. of evening dance-outs (range) and how successful?	4-18, (plus events), successful socially, subject to numbers

Approx collections value - average/total	£15-65 per event. Total up to £450 in season
No. of paid bookings	Sides reported from 1-10 paid bookings
Range of fees achieved	£20 - £250 per each
Events hosted ?	4 sides hosted 1-3 events each
Other events attended	All attended other's hosted events on 1- 6 occasions
Have you had problems getting a side out? –reasons?	4 sides with 10 or fewer regulars had problems of availability
(How) are you recruiting?	Visiting cards, beer mats, local ads, talk to attendees at fetes, 3 are not actively recruiting
No. of new men joined? (2014 + 2015)	Those actively recruiting got 7 new men +3 returnees, but Thaxted achieved 10 new dancers without a recruitment drive
How many 18-30s in your side?	14 in 5 sides, of which Thaxted have 8
How many under 18s?	10 in 4 sides, of which Thaxted have 6
Members lost?	8 lost in 3 sides, plus some 18-30s to Uni
Your assessment of the season	Good to excellent, some “splendid”, but “hard” for smaller sides
Your assessment of the mood of the side	Almost all positive, buoyant, upbeat and confident
Any neighbouring sides you have a close relationship with? – Male only? Female?, Mixed?	All had local/historic relationships, most included mixed or female sides amongst their number.
Do you know a school or youth group that might make good use of the Morris Hey! pack?	Response “No” from all. Peterborough is pursuing one possible and Colchester intends to hold a copy as a resource.
How many have attended the Jigs workshop?	7 men and lads from 3 sides
Is that a good format for workshops?	1 thinks it is, No other opinions offered
Would you like to have a dance workshop for your side – what tradition?	1 side expressed interest, but no tradition suggested
Your experience with organising a Ring Meeting	3 sides report experience (1 being Thaxted)
Have you attended a Ring Meeting where female musicians were welcome?	3 have attended such a meeting
How well do think that is working?	Mixed positive and negative, with concern expressed that female musicians are not yet welcome at all Morris Ring meetings. Some bagmen “ducked” this issue.
Are there strong feelings in your side pro/anti female musicians? How many on each side?	Some bagmen did not elaborate. Several expressed exasperation that this is still an issue within the Morris Ring One comment – “accept change”.
Any other (helpful) comments?	Support expressed for the youth project, suggesting invitations to the Federation and Open, and to target youth groups such as Scouts, Guides, etc. Perception from an Associate side that the Morris Ring is anti

	female dancers Surely a single national Morris organisation would suffice?
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Cliff Marchant (SE)

All quiet on the Southeastern front, met with Winchester, Victory, Longman, King Johns, Martlets, Hartley MM and Ravensbourne. They all had a busy dancing season and with new men joining some of them. As you are aware the Hartley Ring Meeting was enjoyable, the inclusion of sides from the Federation on the Sunday I believe was a success. I have not been asked for the use of the display boards other than the Ring meeting , on the downside I understand Waddard MM are very low on numbers. Chanctonbury MM had a full summer programme, the North West side celebrated 40years of dance with a walking tour of Tunbridge Wells and a feast back in Lewes at the Harvey's brewery pub. The Cotswold side have a 'workshop' in January, the NWest side have had two instructionals open to all, it looks like they will be forming a mixed side independent of but under the influence of Chancs, having seen sides like Custom and Exiles who put on a very good performance ,hopefully they may get one or two men to join Chanctonbury. I will be contacting and hopefully visiting Kent sides in the new year.

Tim Sercombe (SW & W)

2015 has been a quiet year in the south west, I have had one request from Steve Parker of Headington Quarry/Chalice, to publicise a Morris Church service to be held in the Cotswolds. I suggested to Steve, that he should contact the Bagman to post the date and venue of the event in the Bagman's news letter, as it would reach a wider audience.

I have given two interviews to local papers regarding local Morris events, and just this past week (early February) I gave an interview to a lady from the Cotswolds who was writing an article for This Britain magazine, she wanted some back ground into the history of the Morris.

I have been out and about during the summer of 2015, and met many local sides, especially those that were at the Sidmouth Festival on the Sunday dancing on the seafront.

No side has had a need to contact me during the past year, so I can only assume that all is ticking over well here in my area.

13) Discussion Item 1 – Ring Meeting Finances

Feedback from Area Meetings:

1. Should the Morris Shop costs be treated in the same way as the Officers' costs?
2. Should the full cost of the Ring Officers attending a Ring Meeting be met by the Ring?

3. That the Advisory Council be asked to examine the pricing of Ring Meetings, and make recommendations as they see fit, with special reference to the contribution made by the Host Club, and the issue of subsidies.

14) Discussion Item 2 – Ring Meeting Proposal to Remove ‘Hosted Meetings’

Feedback from Area Meetings:

4. Squire’s proposal for making future Ring Meetings fully inclusive

15) Future Events Diary

2016

23 rd April	JMO day of dance, York
3 rd – 5 th June	Thaxted Morris Meeting
11 th June	Letchworth regional JMO day of dance
8 th – 10 th July	Greensleeves MM 90th Anniversary Meeting
15 th – 17 th July	East Surrey MM 90th Anniversary Meeting
20 th – 21 st August	Saddleworth Rushcart Meeting
2 nd – 4 th September	East Suffolk Meeting
28 th – 30 th October	Fools and Beasts Unconvention

2017

March	ARM Hosted by TBA
2 nd – 4 th June	Thaxted Morris Meeting
9 th – 11 th June	Hartley 65th Anniversary Meeting (details TBA)
28 th – 30 th July	Ravensbourne Meeting (details TBA)

16) Date and Venue of Next ARM

17) AOB

17.1) Morris hymns

Ron Straughan (Durham Rams) wrote three hymns and a carol to Morris tunes; these are to be made available via the Ring website for all hosts of Morris events which incorporate a church service to consider for inclusion.

17.2) JMO National Day of Dance 2017

The Ring is to host the 2017 JMO National day; volunteers to the Ring Bagman urgently, please, ideally before 18th March.

Any additional items of other business to be submitted to the Ring Bagman before 1st March 2016 by email to bagman@themorrisring.org



Appendix 1 : The Morris Ring – Annual Representatives’ Meeting Sat 5th March 2016

Name of Side:

Contact Name:

Names of other attendees:

...../.....

Email: Tel No:

Address:

..... Postcode:

Saturday: Workshops: No of men: _____

Saturday ARM - finish Sunday morning incl. Sat night accommodation & Sunday breakfast (£25 per person in shared twin room)	No of men.....@ £ 67	£
Saturday Breakfast (for campers* & early arrivals)	No of men.....@ £ 7.50	£
Saturday ARM - including feast (No accommodation)	No of men.....@ £42	£
Saturday ARM* - excluding feast (Morning Coffee / Lunch / Afternoon Tea)	No of men.....@ £25	£
Feast only	No of men.....@ £30	£
ARM only - no meals	No of men.....@ Free	£ 0.00
Sunday Breakfast (for campers*)	No of men.....@ £ 7.50	£
TOTAL		£ .

* There is very limited camping available (for which there will be a small charge). It is essential to book in advance through Mac McCoig. There may also be the possibility of local indoor camping in the village hall in Church Easton; please notify Mac McCoig if you wish him to pursue this option.

Please specify number of non-alcohol drinkers

Please specify how many require vegetarian meals.....

Please indicate if disabled access is required Yes / No

Please print this form, fill it in and post it (with a cheque for the requisite amount) made payable to "**Uttoxeter Morris Men to**":

Mac McCoig, 8 Redhills, Eccleshall, Staffs. ST21 6JW