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Newsletter No. 99

April 2016

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Squire Elect, Eddie Worrall, of Saddleworth Morris Men

Future Events

2016

23rd April **JMO day of dance, York**

Hosted by the Minster Strays, details continually updated on the Minster Strays website.

3rd – 5th June **Thaxted Morris Meeting**

11th June **Letchworth regional JMO day of dance**

Day of dance open to sides from all Morris organisations. Applications directly to Letchworth Bagman Andrew Harper on harperandrew937@gmail.com.

8th – 10th July **Ring Meeting no. 350: Greensleeves MM 90th Anniversary Meeting**

Based in Chipperfield village, near Hemel Hempstead. For more information contact baqman@greensleevesmorris.org.uk or look on the Greensleeves website.

15th – 17th July **Ring Meeting no. 351: East Surrey MM 90th Anniversary Meeting**

Based in and around Tadworth and Walton on the Hill, at an independent school with excellent facilities, provisional cost £60-70. Still places for one or two sides if you are quick! The weekend will include a tour of the Surrey Hills Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty and beers from Tillingbourne. Contact Bagman Clayton Francis on claytonf2210@gmail.com.

20th – 21st August **Ring Meeting no.352: Saddleworth Rushcart Meeting**

2nd – 4th September **Ring Meeting no. 353: East Suffolk Meeting**

Based in and around Framlingham. Squire Elect Eddie Worrall will be dancing in to office at this meeting. There may be a few places left. Contact mike.garland1@btinternet.com.

10th September **Dartington JMO regional day of dance**

In and around Totnes. Details on the Dartington MM website and applications to bagman@dartingtonmorrismen.org.uk.

28th – 30th October **Fools and Beasts Unconvention**

Hosted by Wyvern Jubilee.

2017

4th March **ARM Hosted by TBA**

2nd – 4th June **Thaxted Morris Meeting**

9th – 11th June **Ring Meeting no. 354: Hartley 65th Anniversary Meeting** (details TBA)

28th – 30th July **Ring Meeting no. 355: Ravensbourne Meeting** (details TBA)

18th August – 4th September **Australian Morris Ring National Ale**

See separate article on the next page.

26th – 27th August **Ring Meeting no. 356: Saddleworth Rushcart Meeting**

Australian Morris Ring National Ale 2017

18 August 2017 – 4 September 2017.

The Australian Morris Ring in conjunction with the annual National Ale is organising a tour to commence in Adelaide, travel to Melbourne, and then concluding in the Australian national capital, Canberra.

We would like to invite your side to visit Australia to take part in our 2017 National Ale and Tour. The Australian Morris Ring is the representative organisation of all Australian morris teams. Membership is not defined by gender.

The Tour will include three of Australia's most interesting cities with travel and dancing in the "bush" in between. We boast many great wineries and a reasonably new real ale / craft beer culture. We anticipate the usual exchange of dances, songs, and culture; with dance workshops, singing and music sessions (subject to interest and sobriety). Family groups are very welcome.

We are flexible – choose which bits you want to do if for any reason you do not wish to participate in the entire event. We will have separate costing for each of the cities and the travel components. So "mix and match" as you wish.

Preliminary Itinerary

Friday 18 August	Adelaide, South Australia	Visiting breweries, wineries and the beautiful city of Adelaide
Saturday 19 August		
Sunday 20 August		
Monday 21 August		
Tuesday 22 August	Travel	Travel between Adelaide and Melbourne, stopping at landmarks, historical sites and excellent drinking spots on the way.
Wednesday 23 August		
Thursday 24 August		
Friday 25 August	Melbourne, Victoria	A weekend in the lush bushland north of Melbourne
Saturday 26 August		
Sunday 27 August		
Monday 28 August		
Tuesday 29 August	Travel	Travel between Melbourne and Canberra
Friday 1 September	Canberra, Australian Capital Territory	Visit the scenic beauty and experience the political and cultural excitement of the Australian capital.
Saturday 2 September		
Sunday 3 September		
Monday 4 September		

We will offer all accommodation, transport and most meals for the duration of your stay. We will be able to provide you with a ballpark costing per head very soon, once we have a better idea of how many people to expect. **Please let us know if you have any interest in attending** and we will keep you informed of all details. Let us know if you have any questions!

AMRtour2017@gmail.com

Morris Ring ARM, 5th March 2016, a brief summary

Elections

Eddie Worrall was ratified as Squire Elect and will dance into office at the East Suffolk Ring Meeting in September.

Mike Stevens stood down as Eastern Area Rep and has been replaced by Nigel Strudwick of Devil's Dyke MM.

From the Squire

On the strength of the comments provided to me in writing and verbally, the ARM feedback and the Advisory Council's advice, I have made the decision to remove the confusion of 'hosted meetings' and make all weekends of dance fully inclusive.

With immediate effect, all weekends of dance put forward for official Ring support: the grant, and the official meeting number, will henceforth be open to all members of all member clubs and will once again officially be called Ring Meetings.

Further, it has been agreed that the Bagman of the Ring should once again be responsible for accepting expressions of interest in attending weekends of dance and in liaison with the host club arranging the guest list. Having regard to the fact that this year's meetings are already being arranged this will commence at the beginning of 2017. Further details of this process will be forthcoming in the Bagman's Summer newsletter.

I said at the ARM that I was still working on an updated version of the recruitment document currently on the Ring website. Whilst there will be the 'list of things to try', I do have it in mind over the last 6 months of my tenure to look into other perhaps more concrete things we could do. All suggestions are gratefully received and whilst time and finances may preclude some items, everything is worth looking at.

The Morris Ring is evolving and I trust we can all move forward with this and the closer working relationships currently enjoyed through the Joint Morris Organisations and enjoy our dancing for many years to come.

Adam Garland

From the Bagman

Due to the excessive cost of printing and postage, from this moment no paper copies of the Bagman's Newsletter will be sent out, except where no email address is available for a side, with the exception of copies to personal subscribers.

Please also consider having at least one member of the side as a member of the Morris Ring Google Group. You do not need a Google account for this. Just email bagman@themorrisring.org for an invitation to join the Group. Hopefully we can revive it as a means of rapid and effective communication to clubs.

The responsibility for arranging attendance at Ring Meetings in future falls back to the Bagman for the 2017 meetings onwards. I do not plan this to be a draconian or bureaucratic process and will be discussing with host clubs over the summer; more details to follow before booking opens.

There was a great deal of discussion regarding Ring Meetings at the ARM. Despite that, I would encourage any side to consider hosting a Ring Meeting in future. The financial arrangements (see below) may appear incomprehensible and daunting, but a translation is available for non-accountants on request.

Jon Melville

From the Treasurer

Ring Meeting agreed principles for finances following the 2016 ARM

Ring Meetings are expected to be self financing and shall budget to break even (allowing a reasonable contingency) excluding collections.

The MR officers and the MR shop shall pay the appropriate price for attending the meeting, the funds for which shall come from the MR General fund and shop account respectively.

The prices charged to attendees shall be equitable, reflecting the costs incurred by the attendee. For example Day men using only limited facilities should be charged less than those attending the full event. No special status or discount shall be afforded to the host side in this respect. Price discounts may however be given to Youth and certain individuals who perform key tasks for which the meeting would otherwise have to incur a cost eg catering or transport.

A budget shall be prepared in advance of the meeting in a format provided by the Treasurer providing details of the costs, guaranteed income including grants and the pricing scheme. The cost budget and pricing scheme shall be agreed with the Treasurer ahead of the meeting.

Where appropriate and whilst reserves permit a grant will be made available to each major meeting.

Good provision shall be made to collect from the audience during the meeting and that collection shall normally be donated to the MR

The host side shall be responsible for handling all the income and expenditure and any contracts required for the meeting. Funds shall be transacted through the club's bank account and the club shall ensure that it has a sufficient cash buffer to meet the necessary cash flow. Should this not be the case then the MR may make funds available by agreement with the Treasurer.

Following the meeting a final account of the meeting shall be provided to the MR Treasurer. Should the final account vary from the budget by a small amount then the collected donation to the MR may be adjusted appropriately by agreement. Should the variation be significant closer examination of the reasons will be required.

If there is a significant surplus due to some fortuitous event then a refund to attendees is appropriate.

If there turns out to be a significant deficit then the MR will support the host side as far as is reasonable. Should the deficit arise from unforeseeable circumstances such as bad weather, fire or the failure of a key supplier then MR support will be given. Should the deficit arise from the negligence of the hosts then it is unlikely that the MR will see financial support and a reasonable use of members' funds. It is therefore important that any host side is confident that it has the skills and resources necessary to host a RM.

Steven Archer

Sadly Missed

Chris Mason, Bourne River Morris Men, Stourvale Mummers and musician for various other teams in his locale.

Arthur Cartwright, a member of Jockey Morris Men from their foundation in 1949, he was practicing four days before his passing.

Kay Reynolds, Cambridge MM and the Travelling Morrice.

John Kelly, Wadard Morris Men, after a long battle with cancer.

John Monson, London Pride, passed away in kit, ready to be driven to a show.

Andy Fieldhouse, formerly Boars Head Morris Men.

Clive Ibbotson, the original Harthill Morris fool, pictured right with the Queen.



Roy Eccles, King John's Morris Men, formerly of Furness MM and Devil's Dyke MM.

Geoff Thompson, Packington Morris Men, Pinewoods Morris Men and One Day Wonders.

A correction

In Newsletter 97, in the Sadly Missed entry for Vic Godrich, I stated that Vic may have been the only morris man to have won a BAFTA. Ron Smedley (Beaux of London City and Bow Street Rapper) has pointed out that he won one in both 1975 and 2002. The two worked together for a number of years on Grange Hill.

Centenary of the deaths of Butterworth, Tiddy, Lucas and Wilkinson of Sharp's original display team

The Banks of Green Willow.'

A tribute to the four members of the 'Demonstration Team' and founder members of the EFDS who were killed in France in the summer of 1916.

'I wish you all luck in America and hope that by the time you come back the end of this business (WW1) will be in sight and a reformed and reinvigorated nation will take to Folk dancing and singing with transports of enthusiasm.'

So wrote Reginald Tiddy to Cecil Sharp in January 1916. He was killed in action six months later.

'I read the awful news of poor Tiddy's death. Now that he, Butterworth, Lucas and Wilkinson have gone I seem to have lost all my pillars.' CJ Sharp.

Fool's Gambit morris have devised a tribute to the four founder members of the EFDS (who were also members of the dance 'demonstration team'), killed in France in 1916 and of women like Daisy Caroline Dakin who did such gallant and pioneering work in the rehabilitation of British and Commonwealth soldiers through the use of music and dance. The project takes its name from George Butterworth's final piece for orchestra which is regarded as the 'anthem for the missing.'

Both he and another of the four, George Jerrard Wilkinson have no known grave.

Fool's Gambit Morris are developing a 45 minute performance using the music, songs and dances of the period as well as arranging their own original material. Rehearsals began last Autumn and are now well advanced. See Fool's Gambit Morris - Homepage

They are hoping to have a public 'dress- rehearsal' in Sheffield on Sat June 4th, prior to our tour of France July 21st - July 25th, 2016.

Performances in France:

Thurs July 21st, 16.30hrs, RJE Tiddy's graveside, British Military Cemetery, Laventie.

Fri, July 22nd, International Memorial, Notre Dame de Lorette, the only place where all four men are listed.

Sat, July 23rd, Butterworth Farm, Butterworth trench and No-Man's land, Pozieres.

Evening performance, Son et Lumiere, Pozieres.

Sun, July 24th, CWGC commemoration, Thiepval memorial to the missing. 12noon.

Afternoon performance at Les Galets in memory of GJ Wilkinson.

Mon, July 25th, Mametz and Hidden Wood, in memory of PD Lucas.

Performances in the UK:

Sheffield Launch, Sat June 4th.

Tiddy Hall, Ascott - under - Wychwood, Sat Aug 6th, 7.30pm.

This is prior to the departure on Mon Aug 8th of a party of 44 from the village who will be at Mr Tiddy's graveside on the 10th, the 100th anniversary of his death.

Cecil Sharp House, Sun November 20th.

We will be joined by Folkinmotion, a group of wheelchair users.

<http://www.folkinmotion.co.uk/>

Their director Dr Ju Gosling is recruiting wheelchair veterans from recent conflicts to commemorate the work of women like DC Dakin, who did such remarkable work in France from 1917.

It was her story that inspired our principal sponsor Lee Hallam to become involved in the project. See 'sponsor' on FG's website.

For more information, contact Joe Dunn of Fool's Gambit on 0114 2460463

And in Other News ...

Morris Church Service

Steve Parker (Gloucestershire MM, Dolphin MM etc.) is arranging a morris church service in Bibury, Oxfordshire for Sunday 31st July 2016. It is intended that the entire service will be run by morris men, with dancing thereafter. If you are wishing to participate, please contact Steve on 01285 740226 slparker@fsmail.net

Historical Dance Workshops

The Historical Dance Society (formerly the Dolmetsch Historical Dance Society) are hosting a series of workshops around the country to teach historical dance, mainly from the Tudor and Regency periods, and to teach the music for them, with a view to expanding the number of events where you can perform historical dances. Currently already arranged are workshops at Winterton Church, north of Scunthorpe on:

Workshops for dancers: Sundays 9, 16 and 30 October 2.30 - 4.30pm

Workshop for musicians: Sunday 20 November 2.30 - 4.30pm (initially, no requirement for historically authentic instruments – bring your Stratocaster!)

For expressions of interest and to register for updates on workshops in other regions, please contact Peter Barnard peter.barnard@me.com

The Historical Dance Society 2017 Conference

The Historical Dance Society will be hosting a conference themed around Histories of the Morris in Britain at Cecil Sharp House on the weekend of 24 and 25 March 2017. The intention is for the conference to combine research and practice (to avoid it being a “dry” academic event), on topics such as sources, history, costume, teaching, music, archives and development of the morris, encompassing all forms of morris dance. There will be an evening dance on the Saturday which will attract those attending the conference and beyond.

If you would like to contribute to this event, perhaps through a paper or a workshop, please contact Peter Barnard on peter.barnard@me.com . There will be more information forthcoming in due course.

Shanties, Short and Sharp






Shanties have more in common with the Morris than simply being sung in pub sessions after the dancing. Cecil Sharp was an important collector of shanties, chiefly those from John Short. The words and music of the 56 shanties he got from this Watchet shantyman are collected in ‘A Sailor’s Life’ by Tom Brown, which also provides background on Short’s career and his encounters with Sharp. Roy Fenton has a few copies of the book available, and will be pleased to supply them to shanty-singing Ring members for a modest £10 including postage. Contact Roy Fenton, 18 Durrington Avenue, London SW20 8NT, or at record@rfenton.co.uk

Morris Ring Display Boards

Are you making full use of this asset?

If you have any opportunity to make use of one of the five sets we possess please contact your Area Rep or the Ring Bagman.

If you want to use them, even if a set is not currently in your area, arrangements can be made to get a set to you.

<p><i>the morris ring</i> <i>the morris ring</i> <i>the morris ring</i></p>		
<p>The Morris Ring</p> <p>The Morris Ring is an organisation for men's clubs. Every year our members can be seen dancing out during the summer, either on their own or in the company of dancers from other clubs who have been invited along to share a day or a weekend of dance. We hold a number of special meetings of the Morris Ring each year at which clubs from all over the country come together to dance. The most important of these is the annual meeting in early June in Thaxted in Essex, the town where the Morris Ring was founded in 1934.</p> <p>You can find out more about the Morris Ring by visiting our web site at:</p> <p>www.themorrisring.org</p> <p>On our home page there are links which will enable you to find the Morris clubs in your area.</p> 	<p>Morris Dancing</p> <p>Morris dances are the national folk dances of England and have a recorded history going back six hundred years. In this display you will see examples of the various styles of dance which have developed over the centuries and which are performed today in all parts of the country. Why do we do it? That is an easy question to answer. It is because we enjoy it and for the fun and friendship which comes with being a member of a Morris dancing club.</p> 	<p>A Potted History</p> <p>Over the centuries the popularity of Morris dancing has waxed and waned but by the latter part of the 19th century dancing had died out in many parts of the country. By great good fortune in 1899 there was a chance encounter between Headington Quarry Morris Men in Oxford and Cecil Sharp, a professional musician. Following this meeting, Sharp devoted the rest of his life to the collection of English folk songs and dances. As a result of his work and the work of others who were inspired by him, there was a great revival of interest in our folk traditions in the 20th century and especially in the 1960s and 1970s.</p> 
<p>Fools and Animals</p> <p>Often the dancers are accompanied by a fool, whose job is to engage the audience with humorous banter and ensure that they are paying attention to the dance. Many clubs have made an animal head which is mounted on a pole and attached to a cloak. One of the dancers entertains the audience by going among them underneath the cloak and snapping the animal's jaws together.</p> 	<p>Regional Styles of Morris Dancing</p> <p>Most people are familiar with the Cotswold style of dance which comes from the counties of the West Midlands and which is characterised by the use of sticks and handkerchiefs. Other styles of dance have evolved in other parts of the country. There are sword dances from the North and the rapper, or shortsword dances from the North East. In the North West there are the processional dances, which are often performed in clogs. The Border style comes from the counties bordering Wales and there are the Molly dancers from East Anglia. Mummers' plays come from all parts of the country.</p>	<p>Looking to the Future</p> <p>There are probably more people Morris dancing today than at any time in the past and our clubs are always keen to recruit new members. Many Clubs are involved in teaching young people to dance through programmes with schools, the Scout organisation and other youth groups.</p> 
<p>The Joint Morris Organisation</p> <p>The Morris Ring is one of three organisations representing Morris dance clubs. The other two are the Morris Federation and the Open Morris. Once a year we all get together for a combined day of dance to celebrate the Morris as a dance for everyone, irrespective of age or gender.</p>		<p>How about you ?</p> <p>Would you like to try Morris dancing to see if it does for you what it does for us? Many clubs hold special sessions for potential members to come along and try it out. Find your local clubs by following the links on our web site and go along and meet the dancers. Before long you too could be a Morris dancer!</p>
<p>founded 1934 www.the-morris-ring.org founded 1934</p>		

This is what the complete set of three banners looks like.

Morris Ring Publications

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On-line Links:



The main MR website with millions of pages stuffed to the gunnels with all you need to know about the MR:

<http://www.themorrisring.org/>

Follow the latest media reports concerning Morris Matters at <http://www.themorrisring.org/article/morris-matters>

The Morris Ring Google Group (MRGG). Private Forum for debate or announcements. <http://groups.google.com/group/the-morris-ring?hl=en&pli=1>

Contact the Morris Ring Bagman to register to use.

Morris Ring Facebook site: <http://www.facebook.com/pages/The-Morris-Ring/158759257502840>

Morris Ring Twitter: <http://twitter.com/#!/TheMorrisRing>

The Morris Shop *"the Bells and Whistles"*

<http://www.themorrisshop.com/store/index.php?route=common/home>

Call for Contributions

Any items of Morris-related news, please send to me at bagman@themorrisring.org for inclusion in the next Newsletter. Longer pieces to Tony Foard, please, for the Circular.

If you have any photographs, you can send them to Duncan Broomhead, the Morris Ring Photo Archivist (duncan.broomhead@btinternet.com) and any articles, ideally accompanied with photographs, can be submitted to Tony Foard, the Editor of the Morris Ring Circular, details above.

Charlie Corcoran, the Keeper of the Morris Ring Log Book, is keen to receive stories about Ring events, both the formal and the quirky (Charliecorcoran7@ntlworld.com).

