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Newsletter No. 115

September 2019

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Future Events

2019

25th – 27th October **Fools and Beasts Unconvention, London**

2020

17th – 19th January **Morris Ring Jigs Instructional**

14th March **Annual Representatives' Meeting**

Oak Farm Hotel, Hatherton, Staffs.

18th April **JMO Day of Dance, Liverpool, organised by Mersey MM**

30th – 31st May **Thaxted Morris Weekend**

31st July – 2nd August **St Albans Ring Meeting (362)**

22nd – 23rd August **Saddleworth Rushcart Ring Meeting (363)**

5th – 6th September **Plymouth Morris Mayflower Morris Muster Marine Ring Meeting (364)**

Plymouth's 50th Anniversary coincides with the 400th anniversary of Mayflower.

Squire's Massed Dances for 2020

Massed dances are one of the things the Morris Ring can do well, they are made better if we can do them with some uniformity. With this in mind I have added notes to some of them so we are all doing the same thing. If your club has a different interpretation please don't think for one minute I am trying to dictate to you a correct way of doing things, I just want us to put on a good massed dance for the public.

Adderbury: - Black Joke

Bampton: - Rose tree (finish on rounds)

Bledington: - Idbury Hill, Young Collins.

Brackley: - Jockey to the Fair (long version, Jockey MM take note)

Bucknell: - Queens Delight.

Headington: - Constant Billy (Foot up, Cross over, Back to back and finish on Whole hey)

Fieldtown: - The Valentine, Balance the Straw.

Lichfield: - Vandalls (In the chorus show the first time and clash the second except the last time when it is show twice).

Morris Ring ARM, Oak Farm Hotel, Hatherton, 14th March 2020

The ARM will be at its now customary location of Oak Farm Hotel, Hatherton (Watling St, Cannock WS11 1SB). Application forms for attending are located at the end of this document. Please be prompt in applying as places for accommodation are limited.

Elections

At the 2020 ARM we shall be electing a new Squire of the Morris Ring and several Area Representatives are due for triennial election/re-election.

For the post of Squire, the Constitution requires the following:

1. A biographical statement, 250 words maximum, ideally with some general information about the candidate's history and general philosophy regarding Morris in general and the Ring in particular.
2. A photograph of the candidate.
3. A supporting statement of 250 words maximum, submitted by the nominating club on their headed paper or from their Bagman's email address. Any additional supporting documentation will not be published.

The above documentation must be submitted to the Bagman of the Morris Ring before 30th November 2019. This is also the date for all proposed alterations to the Constitution, motions and formal resolutions to be discussed at the ARM (all submissions to the Bagman please).

Area Representatives (year of re-election in brackets)

East Midlands, Charlie Corcoran (2021)

South Midlands, Roger Comley (2021)

Northern, Jono Millward (2021)

North West, David Loughlin (2020)

North East, Brian Pollard (2019)

West Midlands, Mark Carter (2020)

Eastern, Nigel Strudwick (2019)

South Wales and West, Paul Reece (2020)

South East, Fred Hands (2021)

All Representatives due for re-election have indicated that they are willing to continue.

Subscription Renewal 2020 Changes

Dear Bagman/Treasurer,

It's that time of year again to get your subscription renewals for all categories of membership. There are some major changes this year for the process of doing so.

Side Information

All sides have had their login details for the MR online data as part of the MR website. Please check that this is accurate and reflects any changes that have occurred following the usual round of AGM's. If you haven't logged in yet then you may have to re-register your details.

Subscriptions

The pricing structure is unchanged with the following benefits.

However, we have taken the decision to only give a discount for early payment i.e before November 30th if made by bank transfer. This reflects the fact that doing so is easy and straightforward from all banks and the inconvenience that cheques now hold. If your side account doesn't do electronic transfer, then organise it within your side and do an internal transfer/payment. *Bank sort code 40-41-44, account number 3127 6018.*

As before, ALL discounted fees are for payments made by November 30th. Please give your side name as the reference when doing so.

If you normally give a donation to the Youth or the Archive fund can you send me an email outlining how you wish to have the additional monies allocated.

| <u>Membership</u> | <u>Benefits</u> | <u>Annual Fee</u> | <u>Discounted Fee</u> |
|--------------------------|---|--------------------------|------------------------------|
| Full | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Public liability insurance with an indemnity of £10,000,000.• Performing Rights Society (P.R.S.) cover.• 2 x copies of each periodical Morris Circular publication.• Electronic copy of the periodical Morris Ring Bagman's newsletter.• Electronic copy of the annual Morris Dancer journal (under review).• The right to attend the Annual Representatives Meeting, submit motions & | £50 | £40 |

| | | | |
|-----------|--|-----|-----|
| | <p>propositions, discuss and vote on all appropriate matters.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Attend and participate in various Morris Ring meetings and instructionals throughout the year. • Listing in the Morris Ring Directory (e) and on the website Find a Side page • The camaraderie of your fellow Morris Ring member. | | |
| Associate | <p>Same as Full except:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1 x copy of each periodical Morris Circular publication. • The right to attend the Annual Representatives Meeting and participate in debates but not to submit motions or vote. | £40 | £30 |
| Joint | <p>Difference to Associate</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No insurance cover | £30 | £20 |

Insurance cover confirmation

Once I have received subscription renewal payment and confirmed within the online system then you will be able to download your insurance cover confirmation at will.

I hope you all have had great summer's dancing and may that continue next year.

Regards

Clayton

Clayton Francis
Treasurer
Tel: 07847 895716

A proposed change to the Constitution of the Morris Ring

In discussions surrounding the funding of Archive projects or general Arts and Educational projects via Grant applications, it has become clear the Constitution as it stands does not meet certain external criteria. This is not a deficiency in the current Constitution. Merely the fact that an external body such as the National Lottery has certain requirements that we have not had to consider to date.

The central issue is that our Constitution should prohibit personal gain by the Officers and members of the Morris Ring. Also that if the Morris Ring were to be dissolved, that the money would not be distributed to Officers or members. These are fairly obvious requirements to prevent fraud in the use of Grant funds awarded.

In order to allow the Morris Ring to pursue such funding opportunities, 2 additional clauses are suggested to add to the 'General' section of the Constitution.

The Squire and the Officers wish to make clear that the proposed changes will not affect the expenses policy of the Morris Ring. This has expressly excluded personal gain for many years and the proposed changes will not affect or inhibit the work of the Officers in carrying out their duties.

They also wish to place on record that there is no intention to dissolve the Morris Ring. Such an issue is purely a matter for the membership and both the financial position and future of our Organisation is strong.

The proposed clauses are set out below for the information of the member clubs and these will be brought forward for a formal vote at our ARM in March 2020 at the request of the Squire.

NEW PROPOSED CLAUSES

- A. All funds or assets of the Morris Ring shall be used only for the furtherance of its objectives and no such funds or assets shall be transferred to the Officers or member clubs of the Morris Ring for their personal use
- B. On the dissolution of the Morris Ring none of its funds or assets shall be transferred to its Officers or member clubs for their personal use and shall only be transferred to a charitable or not-for-profit organisation having the same or similar objectives as the Morris Ring and an equivalent prohibition on personal use of funds or assets once transferred

Ed Worrall

Chair of the Advisory Council

Morris Ring Jigs Instructional

The 2020 Jigs Instructional & Cotswold Morris Workshop takes place over the weekend of 17-19th January in Sutton Bonington, under the direction of Geoff Jerram, Past Squire of the Morris Ring.

This is a great opportunity to immerse yourself in the rich and rewarding world of solo and double Cotswold Morris jigs, whether you're a practised veteran wishing to indulge in a serious technical examination of the genre or an up-and-coming enthusiast keen to extend your performance options. And even inexperienced dancers will gain hugely from working on basic presentation techniques with some of the Morris Ring's very best teachers and musicians.

Priority bookings are being accepted from Morris Ring sides until **1st October**. Over half the available places are already spoken for, so ACT NOW to secure yours. Save money - there are cashback incentives for first timers and discounts for multiple bookings from the same side.

See the Morris Ring website for details or email Tony Foard: jigsinstructional@themorrisring.org.

To gain maximum benefit from the weekend, you ought to be a Cotswold dancer already in kit with your team and with a performance repertoire of at least a handful of dances. However, the tuition and support is such that, from that level right up to expert, everyone will learn, participate throughout and sweat profusely!

It all takes place over the weekend of **17-19th January** in Sutton Bonington (LE12 5NJ), and we offer comfy indoor camping, all meals from Friday supper to Sunday lunch, Saturday evening Feast (ale included), a near-by pub for relaxed and tuneful conviviality; plus, of course, all the Jigs you can eat for the amazing price of **£55 (£40 for u19s)**. Come with a club colleague and we'll knock £5 off your fee; bring two and you'll be a tenner better off! And the even better news is that first/second timers can claim back £10/£5, courtesy of the Morris Ring Treasurer, after the weekend.

From the Chair of the Morris Ring Archive Group

Surveys, surveys everywhere, and nor a result in sight

Apologies to Samuel Coleridge Taylor for parodying this line from his Rime, but you know how it is. A survey is announced, responses are made and sometimes the outcome is published – sometimes it isn't.

The Morris Ring Archive Group at the ARM in 2018 discussed carrying out a survey into Morris Ring Sides' approach to their history and archive. We hatched a cunning plan. We would approach a number of Sides with which we, as a group, had close connections. We devised a number of questions and tested them with our friends as a prelude, if successful, of widening the scope.

Seventeen Sides were approached and all agreed to participate. The questions were:

- 1 Does your side have scrapbooks
- 2 Does your side have photograph albums?
- 3 Does your side have video?
- 4 Does your side have other archival material?
- 5 Have any of these records been digitised?
- 6 Have any of these records been deposited in a public repository, such as local library, local studies centre, county record office or archive centre?
- 7 Do you hold the records/archives of any other Morris sides, e.g. sides that have disbanded?

It will be no surprise that all Sides have scrapbooks or logbooks, most Sides have photograph albums and have digitised all or part of their material. Fewer Sides have video or other archive material. Four Sides had made deposits in local record offices or libraries and the same number had details of disbanded Sides.

That's the easy bit. What else did we discover? It is a truism that each Side's archive is unique. With a move from paper based systems to digital there are different hazards to be faced. This, from an archival point of view poses some big questions.

- A What if the archive holder's house burns down or is flooded?
- B What if the archive holder's PC had a hard drive failure and there isn't a backup?
- C What if the only films of a Side's performances are on YouTube or similar and are deleted?

And then there is this:

If any / all of the Morris Side's archives were lost, would it matter?

Our view, which is supported by the Squire and Officers of the Morris Ring, is yes it would.

The Morris Ring Archive Group will conduct another, wider survey building on its test to see if the results confirm what we know, and to see what scope exists for offering guidance and advice to Sides on securing their material.

MORRIS DANCE DATABASE UPDATE

www.morrisdancedatabase.org.uk

The morris dance database, officially set up early in 2018 and now sponsored both by the Federation and the Ring, aims to bring together in one place a comprehensive point of reference for all morris sides and all the dances they perform. Notation is not published but it is intended to add a facility to direct enquiries to the appropriate website, published source or side - or indicate that notation is withheld if a club so wishes.

Now that the dancing season is practically over, I would respectfully ask sides to look at the database, the side's own details, and be willing to add or amend data as appropriate. It is usually quite straightforward but in the event of any hiccups, uncertainties or even general comments and suggestions just use the email contact provided. The database is an on-going dynamic project but will become more successful in achieving its aim if more sides are prepared to contribute. Currently some details of repertoire are listed for approximately 75% of morris sides – a significant increase over the past twelve months. However the scheme can only be fully effective if all sides are prepared to participate.

Details to be entered can be sent to myself (at bonnygreencolin@gmail.com), the webmaster (see Contacts on home page of the website) or, preferably, sides can add and edit their own data, and thus keep the information up to date.

I have been asked on various occasions about the purpose and rationale of this website. When Cecil Sharp began his quest, in the early years of the 20th Century, to record what remained of the morris dancing traditions in this country, it was evident that some dances had been lost from the memory of those informants that he, Mary Neal and other collectors managed to track down, not to mention others that may have existed but were lost without trace. For several decades the repertoire of morris sides was largely based on the dances that had been collected.

Since the 1970's, however, there has been an explosion in the number of morris sides in the country and further afield. Some have been short-lived, others have survived for many years before hanging up their bells, and all the while new sides spring up. Many sides have developed their own dances, based on existing 'traditions' or in a new style, and it is probable that in the vast majority of cases, there are written records of these new dances, either made public through a website or within the side's archives. To preserve these dances for posterity, there is a facility within the Morris Ring and The Morris Federation – and probably Open Morris as well – for notation of dances to be deposited for safe keeping.

It would be good to think that all sides will make use of this facility – ideally while still active, or else on their demise. However, for anyone wishing merely to find out what dances are being performed and by whom, or for further research into any aspect of dances now in existence under the broad title of morris, searching official records or contacting individual clubs would be very time consuming. The prime aim of the morris dance database is, as stated earlier, to provide an initial comprehensive point of reference for 'all things morris'.

The basic structure is in place and there is the facility to expand to include reference to variations of dances by different sides, published sources, photographs, videos, and sound recordings. Currently being developed is a tune search facility. I hope that as the project develops, my role will be more of an observer and monitor, with much of the data being added and edited by representatives of individual sides. Both the Ring and the Federation have a nominated person with general editorial access to the website. Colin Andrews Bonny Green, Morchard Bishop, Crediton, EX17 6PG Winkleigh Morris (Federation), Exeter Morris Men (Ring).

Morris Ring Publications

Anthony Foard: Editor of the Morris Circular
33 Cunningham Drive, Bromborough, Wirral, CHESHIRE. CH63 0JX
Mobile Tel: 01513344566
thecircular@themorrisring.org

Mac McCoig Editor of the Morris Dancer
8 Redhills, Eccleshall, Staffordshire ST21 6JW
Tel: 01785 851052
mac.mccoig@btinternet.com

On-line Links:



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

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

The Morris Ring Google Group (MRGG). Private Forum for debate or announcements.

<https://groups.google.com/group/the-morris-ring>

Contact the Morris Ring Bagman to register to use.

Morris Ring Facebook site: <https://www.facebook.com/TheMorrisRing>

Morris Ring Twitter: <https://twitter.com/TheMorrisRing>

The Morris Shop *“the Bells and Whistles”*

<http://www.themorrisshop.com/>

Call for Contributions

Any items of urgent Morris-related news, please send to me at bagman@themorrisring.org for inclusion in the next Newsletter. Less time-dependent updates and 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).



ARM Application Form 2020

Name of Side:

Contact Name:

Names of other attendees:

...../.....

Email: Tel No:

Address:

..... Postcode:

| | | |
|---|-------------------|--------|
| Friday Night accommodation & Saturday Breakfast | No@ £ 27.50 | £ |
| Camper van | No@ £ 15 | £ |
| Saturday ARM to Sunday morning including coffee, lunch, tea and Sat night accommodation & Sunday breakfast (U16-half price) | No@ £ 77.50 | £ |
| Saturday Breakfast (for campers/vans & early arrivals) | No@ £ 8.50 | £ |
| Saturday ARM - including feast (No accommodation) | No@ £50 | £ |
| Saturday ARM* - excluding feast (Morning Coffee / Lunch / Afternoon Tea) | No@ £27.50 | £ |
| Feast only | No@ £37.50 | £ |
| ARM only - no meals | No.....@ Free | £ 0.00 |
| Sunday Breakfast (for campers/vans) | No@ £ 8.50 | £ |
| TOTAL (pay by cheque/BACS) – delete as necessary | | £ . |

There are 20 twin bedded rooms and 5 double bedded rooms. Book early to get a twin room!

Please specify number of non-alcohol drinkers Please specify how many require vegetarian meals.....

Please indicate if disabled access is required Yes / No

Please fill in this form, (even if only attending the afternoon meeting) and post it or email it.

Cheques made payable to: **Stafford Morris Men (Misdemeanours)**

BACS details are 60-22-09. A/c 64513165. (Put your name/club as reference)

Peter Copley, 5, Woodleighton Grove, Uttoxeter, Staffs., ST14 8BX

drpetercopley@gmail.com

01889 567962 or 07949 309043