



# ***Newsletter***

## ***Summer 2015***



PANIC, PORTALOOS & PRIMUS STOVES  
NOTATION, NOTATION, NOTATION  
DANCING FOR THE DEAD KING  
SO YOU THINK PAPERWORK IS ONEROUS?  
HEATHER & GORSE 30TH ANNIVERSARY  
JMO STATEMENT OF PURPOSE  
WISH ME LUCK AS YOU WAVE ME GOODBYE  
SHEFFIELD CITY MM 40TH ANNIVERSARY

PAUL WHITE'S DIARY  
DANCING IN THE MAY  
MEDUSA 10TH ANNIVERSARY  
GREEN WILLOW SUPPORT HOSPICE  
BEER TASTING FOWL?  
REVIEW: RAG BAG MORRIS DANCES

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## NEWSLETTER COPY DATES

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Contributions for the Autumn edition to the Newsletter Editor by

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**www.morrisfed.org.uk**

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## EDITORIAL

Everyone seems to be having an anniversary - 5th, 10th, 30th, and, of course, the Federation's own 40th Anniversary. If you haven't already booked in for this celebratory event, make it a priority, before 31st July.

It's always sad when a side with a long pedigree has to call it a day, but any active dancers and musicians tend to get recycled regardless into other neighbouring teams. It's most encouraging, however, to welcome new groups, particularly where their member are all young.

When my own side, Winkleigh, was first established 25 years ago, I never expected that we would be celebrating a silver anniversary, or, indeed that the side would become such an important part of my life.

Though joints may start creaking, I'm sure morris dancing keeps us all young at heart.

Colin

### NEWSLETTER

The Newsletter is the quarterly publication of the Morris Federation. The aim is to provide a platform for news, views and announcements relating to the world of traditional dance and associated activities. The Newsletter goes out to each member group and individual member of the Morris Federation. Additional copies can be ordered by group members at an additional cost per copy of £10 for one year's issues. To be a living publication the Newsletter must be read so PLEASE make sure that your copy gets circulated as widely as possible. The on-line version will be available shortly after the printed copies have been distributed.

### MEMBERS' MANUAL

All members of the MF should have a copy of the Members' Manual. This contains a lot of material that members may need to refer to from time to time. If you have misplaced the free copy sent to you when you joined, a replacement (or additional copies) can be purchased from the MF Secretary at the cost of £6.50 (inc. p&p) each. Please make cheques payable to 'The Morris Federation'.

### ADVERTISING

The Morris Federation does not necessarily endorse any product or service advertised in or with the Newsletter. Enclosures, other circulars, and items of advertising relevant to commercial products can be distributed with the Newsletter. A fee is charged to the advertiser for this service. Enquiries concerning any form of advertising through the MF should be addressed to the Newsletter Editor.

### ADVERTISING RATES

	Non-member commercial		MF Member business		Side or Individual event/recruit
	Colour	B&W	Colour	B&W	
Full page (portrait)	£75	£60	£45	£35	£25
Half page (landscape)	£45	£35	£25	£20	£15
Quarter (portrait)	£25	£20	£18	£12	£ 8
Eighth	n/a	£12	n/a	£ 8	£ 5

Limited space for colour adverts available. All adverts will appear on Web edition of Newsletter as well as paper copy. Prices are for art-work ready. Jpg or pdf format preferred for any illustrations. MS Word docs may require some reformatting. Cheques payable to 'The Morris Federation' . Discount for multiple insertions - please enquire. All copy & payment to the Newsletter Editor.

Front cover photograph:  
Printed by:

Rackaback Morris dancing at dawn on 1st May  
Hedgerow Print Ltd, Crediton, Devon. 01363 777595

# THE MORRIS FEDERATION SHOP

For years the Morris Federation has held a supply of goods and publications for sale. These have included publications produced or published by the Federation, PR materials such as badges and stickers, branded clothing and bells. Over the years, others items have come and gone – copies of Bacon's Black book, other notation publications etc.

Since the demise of Steve Adamson who used to run the Morris Ring Shop, Shaun Lambley has taken over and is intending to run the Morris Shop as an independent enterprise. I am assured by the Officers of the Ring that this is also their intention. At the moment, much of the stock is still owned by the Ring, so it will take some time to completely separate. Shaun is doing a good job of getting out and about to lots of events across the 3 Morris Organisations and now carries a very varied stock of Morris related items, including everything which I stock. Since Shaun is running the Morris Shop on a business basis, he needs to cover expenses, so goods include a mark up.

I have been reviewing the stock range that I hold for the Federation. In the future, I intend only to stock our own publications, PR items and bells. These will be available at cost to our members, and also to the general public at a mark up. Part of my reasoning for this is that I get a number of orders and enquiries from the general public who expect me to trade as a shop and get very upset when they are unable to pay by credit card and get next day delivery. We also no longer run frequent regular events (apart from the AGM weekend) so I rely only on postal sales.

*Jenny Everett* Treasurer

## PUBLICATIONS:

Cotswold Glossary: An invaluable reference book	£6.00
Adderbury: (Tim Radford and MF from Blunt m/s)	£7.90
North West Morris: Tt. Owen)	£6.50
Wheatley: Source material, current practice & innovation .	£5.60
Hinton: Traditional and creative Morris by Sue Swift.	£6.10
Abram Circle: Background, complete notation, and music	£5.60
Molly: Dancing into the 21st Century, by Tony Forster	£5.50

**Order form on  
Federation  
website  
or from  
Treasurer**

## BOOKLETS: A5 8 - 20 pages

Warm-up exercises:	£1.80
Raglan Bantamcocks Morris:	£3.20
Twenty Years On, 1975-1996	£1.20
Women and the North West Morris Dance	£1.20
Beginners and Basics: Roy Dommet's ideas on Cotswold.	£1.50
Border Morris: a brief outline	£1.20
A Few Facts About the Morris	£1.30

**All prices  
correct at time  
of printing and  
include p&p  
(UK only)**

**Prices only apply  
to Federation  
members.**

## PROMOTIONAL GOODS:

Stickers: 4" diameter MF name and logo – self-adhesive	£0.9
Leather Badges: 2" diameter. MF name and logo	£1.50
Metal badges: 1" diameter brass, MF name and logo	£2.50

## BELLS:

	25	50	100
3/4"	£11.00	£19.00	£35.00
7/8"	£13.50	£23.50	£44.00
1"	£14.00	£25.00	£47.00
1 1/8"	£15.50	£27.50	£52.00
1 1/4"	£21.50	£40.00	£77.00

Please state brass or nickel plated when ordering bells.

Diameter approx., from outside of rim across the slot.



# 40th Anniversary Merchandise

## CD

The Morris Federation has been given the opportunity to compile a CD of Morris (and related traditions') music, songs and spoken word to celebrate its 40th anniversary. We would like this to represent, as widely as possible, the many and varied traditions performed by our members, past and present.



the many styles of dance performed by member sides displayed on the other (see photos).

## Clothing

If your side has made any good quality recordings that may be suitable, or if you have any ideas or suggestions for tracks that could be included, please contact the Archive Officer, Mike Everett, at [archive@morrisfed.org.uk](mailto:archive@morrisfed.org.uk), giving details of artist(s) and recording company to contact for permission to use the recording under licence. Photos and information, memories or anecdotes may also be needed for the sleeve notes. These can also be sent to [archive@morrisfed.org.uk](mailto:archive@morrisfed.org.uk). P.S. If you have made recordings, please consider providing The Morris Federation archive with a copy.

Many items of clothing with an embroidered 40th anniv. logo are available on-line directly from

[www.snappycrab.co.uk](http://www.snappycrab.co.uk). Items include T-shirts, polo shirts, sweatshirts, hoodies, fleeces and jackets and are available in lots of styles, sizes and colours. Other items such as hats or bags can be embroidered to order. A reversible fleece jacket, a backpack and a close up of the logo are pictured. The reversible jackets are really, really good wind and waterproof jackets. For those who have been in the teaching profession, they are exceedingly good playground duty coats! Visit the snappycrab website to find out more.



## Shopping bags

Shopping bags in 100% undyed, unbleached, 170 gsm cotton; 430 mm by 380 mm with a gusset and long handles are now available. They are just £4 each, including postage (or £3 in person if you catch Mike or Jenny Everett anywhere they are dancing out and at the AGM, if you can wait that long), from Jenny Everett, Morris Federation Treasurer, Willow Cottage, 20 High Street, Sutton on Trent, Newark NG23 6QA. Please make cheques payable to 'The Morris Federation'. The bags are printed with the Morris Federation logo on one side and



***If you are looking to purchase morris related items other than those listed above and opposite, Shaun Lambley has an extensive range at [www.themorrisshop.com](http://www.themorrisshop.com). Contact him also if you are considering having a morris goods stall at a major event you are organising.***

## GUIDELINES FOR SUBMISSION OF ARTICLES

Articles accepted in any text format, e.g. - doc, docx, txt, odt but NOT scanned pdf.

Articles over 1000 words may need to be trimmed. The editor reserves the right to edit! However, I'll contact if major revision needed! For articles about other people or for obituaries, I recommend that appropriate person is sent a draft for comment before submission to me.

I usually acknowledge receipt of copy by email within 2 days. If no response after 7 days please contact me by phone or on [bonnygreen@btinternet.com](mailto:bonnygreen@btinternet.com)

## President's Prologue Melanie Barber

What a great Joint Morris Organisations (JMO) National Day of Dance in Bristol on 18th April – thank you to Rag Morris from Open Morris for organising it. My one disappointment was the number of Morris Federation teams that dropped out, some just a week before. I was able to offer places to teams on the waiting list, but unfortunately some of those had already made other arrangements as a team or individuals, which prevented them joining us. I know there are some circumstances that cannot be helped, but I would ask that, before committing, you make sure you have a strong enough team, and of course, your own musicians. The Morris Federation don't oppose sharing musicians, but we do ask that musicians are in the appropriate kit.

Looking forward, the next JMO National Day of Dance is to be hosting on behalf of The Morris Federation by Minster Strays in York on Saturday 23rd April 2016, so watch out for details.

While I'm on the subject of the JMO, I mentioned in the last Newsletter that we had drafted a Statement of Purpose as opposed to a Constitution. I'm pleased to say that this has now been agreed by all three organisations – The Morris Federation, The Morris Ring, and Open Morris. This will be published to each of our websites, but in the meantime you can read it on page 24. I'd like to draw your attention to the difference between the JMO National Day of Dance, and JMO Regional Days of Dance. The National one is the one that each organisation takes it in turn to host and is backed financially by the JMO. Regional days, on the other hand, can be hosted by any member side, but will be not financially backed by the JMO.

1st May saw me heading south to Hammersmith Morris' Jack in the Green tour, then onto Lewes where they danced with Kettlebridge Clog and Black Dragon Morris. I've only danced with one team that braved dancing at dawn, and haven't as yet persuaded any others, but it was

great checking in on Facebook to see how many teams did dance in the 1st May; and some really impressive sunrise photos.

Now that we're well into our 40th year, and I hope you've managed to contribute to the photo exhibition that will be hosted at Cecil Sharp House, and hopefully other venues across the country. If you haven't, you can still submit photographs to Jerry West, notation@morrisfed.org.uk with subject line *photo for MF40th*. We're especially looking for early photographs of founder teams, and, if they're still dancing, which many are, more recent snapshots. We also have 40th Anniversary merchandise available - if you were at JMO you'll have seen your committee members proudly modelling MF40 cotton bags! Our main celebration will of course be the Federation Day of Dance and AGM in Bath on 26th September, when we hope to see as many teams as possible.

In the meantime, I hope you have a great festival season.

Happy dancing!  
Melanie

### MORRIS MATTERS



The journal of all things related to Morris - tunes, pictures, notation, historical stuff, views, reviews - published twice a year. Contributions always welcomed. Subscribe now to the address shown:

Morris Matters  
27 Nortoft Road  
Chalfont St Peter  
Bucks SL9 0LA

Annual subscription for 2 issues is £6.

**BAGPERSONS AND SECRETARIES** If there is any change in contact person, address, telephone or email please let Fee, our secretary, know as soon as possible. **This is also important for mailing of Newsletter & email broadcasts**

# Panic, Portaloos and Primus Stoves

***Barbara Butler, of Somerset Morris, gives a behind-the scenes account of the first Federation AGM in 1975***

There was a time when I knew every female Morris dancer in the country by name. Then came the time when I could name all the sides, but very shortly I could not even do that, because the whole thing had gone 'viral'!

Back in 1974 the original five sides gathered and formed The Women's Morris Federation. By then the first intimations of female interest in this dance form were already very conspicuous. Bath City Women, Cardiff Ladies Morris, England's Glory, Oxford Ladies Morris and Blackthorn Morris were having a tough time. We had been shunned by the established dance organisations of the day and had literally been banned from performing at officially organised ceilidhs and folk festivals. So banding together for mutual support seemed the obvious thing to do.

Once the basics had been decided i.e. name and remit, Betty Reynolds was unanimously voted in as the figure-head of the new organisation, with Diane Price to assist her with administration. A decision had to be made as to when and where the next gathering should be to have our first AGM. It was agreed that late autumn was the best time, since the students of Bath City Women and Oxford Ladies would be back together after the summer break.

Jeni Sandercott, Sandi Targett and I were on the point of forming Somerset Maids Morris (now Somerset Morris), as a sister side to Bath City, so that dancing could continue when the students were away. Some hurried whispering between us and the rest of Bath City led to the offer that Bath City Women and the new Somerset Maids would jointly host the first AGM at Bath University in October 1975.

The AGM was rather forgotten with all the excitement of launching a new side. Gradually the summer term was moving on and I realised that I had better book the University South Building hall and kitchens for the event. It had been agreed that Bath City Women would

organise the tours for the Saturday Day of Dance and Somerset would organise the food and the camping. The Saturday evening ceilidh would be one of the regular events organised by Bath University Folk Club. I asked Roy Dommatt if he would show some of his films of dancing and run two dance workshops. The AGM itself was to take place after Sunday lunch. The end of the summer term came, and the students left for their industrial placements or went home.

In August a friend at Paulton, just outside Bath, kindly offered to lend us a field for camping and Jeni organised the loan of the Girl Guides camp Portaloos. Thus the accommodation was sorted out.

It was at the start of September when the first blow fell. On checking our booking with the University I was informed that although we could use the kitchen, plates, cutlery, pans etc. we were not allowed to use the cookers. Panic set in as Somerset had planned to cook three different meat/vegetarian dishes on the Thursday evening and then re-heat them at the University on the Saturday evening. All to be served with freshly cooked rice. Also, how were we to serve hot soup as people arrived on Friday evening? Jeni came to the rescue by suggesting primus stoves. Between us we had seven and they were set up in a grand row beside the serviceable, but out of bounds, University ranges.

The second blow came when I phoned one of the Bath City girls to tell her of this dilemma and asked her how the tour organisation was going. She said she didn't know whether anything had been sorted out. A few more phone calls round the side made me realise that everyone had thought someone else was doing the organising and in the end nothing had been done.

Somerset, being a brand new side, had never organised a tour for themselves, let alone for the 74 who had booked for the weekend. With very little money in the kitty we could only afford one coach. Fortunately the side musician, Phill Butler, had a friend at work who was restoring a London double decker bus and he was willing to drive it for us. So two routes were planned and a pub quickly booked for the lunch stop.

The weekend arrived. Those who had booked turned up full of enthusiasm, along with 36 others who had not! Somerset Maids ended up going without their supper and serving smaller portions to cover the catering. Needless to say we had a very late night/early morning trying to prepare as many extra portions for the Saturday night meal as we could.

The day of the tour dawned grey, but everybody was in very high spirits as the coach and the red double decker set off. I was following the coach by car so that I could get back after our lunch stop, at the Red Lion at Paulton, in order to start cooking the evening meal.

It was while we were lighting the primus stoves that it suddenly struck me that we had no butter for the bread for Sunday's ploughman's lunch. It was already gone 5 pm; this was in the days before late opening supermarkets and of course everything was shut on a Sunday. I left the other members of Somerset's cooking detail and drove off in the vague hope of finding somewhere still open. By a stroke of luck I found a tiny village shop on the outskirts of Bath that was shutting up late. So I bought their entire stock of 6 blocks of butter.

The coach tour came back and Betty Reynolds, in true leadership style, came out to help in the primus

stove kitchen. The rice had to be strained, but we could not find any suitable equipment in the cupboards to do this. So with a Morris dancer on each corner of a clean tea towel, Betty poured in the rice for 50 odd people (we had cooked two pans loads). The weight was something we will always remember. How we did not drop the lot was nothing short of a miracle.

Dinner was safely served, but there was still no sign of the double decker bus. We were getting anxious; this was before the advent of mobiles so there was no way to contact them. They turned up almost an hour late. In our innocence regarding the organising of tours, we had neglected to drive the route first and had not factored in a low bridge and the need for a detour; added to which the bus had briefly broken down.

The meal eaten (with only one complaint about small portions) and the ceilidh danced, our thoughts turned to Sunday. Roy showed us some wonderful black and white archive footage. I remember that one of the shots was of the Ilmington side and being very taken by the way the middle couple danced the hey. They started the movement by going backwards. I liked it so much, that as Somerset's Forewoman at the time, I soon introduced it into our Ilmington heys. I wish I could recall the dances that were taught at the instructional but I was in the kitchen

## Trefor Owen

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**Clogs, Rubber shods, Fancy Laces, Badges and bits supplied as always**  
**"Good metal" Clog Irons fitted at the Workshop**

**We make ALL our own Uppers, Rubbers and all our own Wooden Soles using only sustainable, local wood sources.**

**Very few "Tree Miles" are run up in our business.**

**We can now make Clogs with Vegetarian Uppers though the colour range is limited.**

***Sadly we don't make the Nails yet – but I am working on that!***

**BAGPERSON  
SECRETARIES  
SCRIBES**

*You get one copy of  
this Newsletter*

**BUT**

***it is also available  
on-line  
(in full colour)  
at [www.morrisfed.org.uk](http://www.morrisfed.org.uk)***

*Please let your  
members know  
so that everyone  
gets to read the  
Newsletter*



preparing lunch.

I know that at the first AGM Betty was voted in as the first president, with Helen Parsons (Cardiff Ladies) as secretary and archivist, but beyond that my memories of what was discussed are very hazy, exhaustion had set in and the rest, for me, is lost in the mists of time.

Sides attending the first AGM: Bath City Women, Bourne Bumpers, Cardiff Ladies, England's Glory, Magog, (Maids of) Barum, New Esperance, Nottingham, Oxford Ladies, Reading, Somerset Maids Morris, Windsor and (Holdens Goldens) Wolverhampton. Reading and Nottingham were very new and had yet to settle on their names. Barum and Wolverhampton soon became known by the names in brackets.

Programme: Friday night social and soup supper. Saturday morning short dance instructional by Roy Dommett, then massed stand in centre of Bath. Lunch stop at The Red Lion, Paulton. Tours to Bradford upon Avon and Trowbridge. Saturday evening hot meal followed by a ceilidh at Bath University. Sunday morning films (including Bacup, Wishford Magna, Ilmington and the Carnival Morris) and an instructional given by Roy Dommett. Ploughman's Lunch followed by the First Annual General Meeting.

*My thanks to Ros Marshall, Val Parker and Sandi Targett for filling in some of the gaps in my memory or confirming other things half remembered. BAB*

## Coming Events

### OYSTER MORRIS DAY OF DANCE

On Saturday 11th July, Oyster Morris are holding a Day of Dance in Canterbury to celebrate the life of Rhian Owen, founding member and long-time women's foreman. This will be followed in the evening by a charity fund-raising ceilidh in her memory with music by members of the Oyster Ceilidh Band and friends. Further information about the day and tickets can be found on the Oyster Morris website ([oystermorris.org.uk](http://oystermorris.org.uk)) or by phoning Peter and Margaret on 01227 450580.

### SDU LONGSWORD TOURNAMENT

**Saturday 3rd October, Goathland, N. Yorks**

**Hosted by the Goathland Plough Stots**

With dance locations around the picturesque village and the final show case in the village hall, you will have the choice of exhibiting or competing, dancing your own dance or tradition. There will be hard standing for caravans & campers but the space is limited and it will be taken on first come basis, there will be indoor camping in the Reading Room again this is limited for space, B&B available in village

*For further details please contact [john.atkinson@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:john.atkinson@yahoo.co.uk) or [goathlandlongsword@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:goathlandlongsword@yahoo.co.uk) (there will be more information to follow)*

### FEET FIRST MAIN SUMMER EVENTS

June 28th Durham Weekend of Appalachian Dance

July 28th Sheffield Folk Train

Aug 1st The Great Yorkshire Fringe Festival.

Aug 14th- 16th Saltburn Folk Festival



### BEDFORDSHIRE LACE - Final Season

July 7th White Hart Flitton, 8 pm guests of RBS

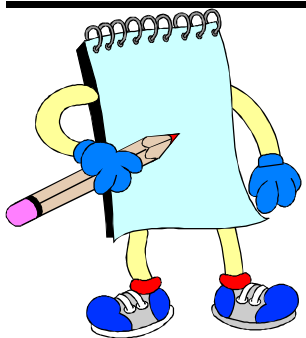
July 23rd Griffin, Toddington Tour 19:45

Sept 20th Standalone Farm Letchworth,  
guests of Letchworth MM

**Sept 26th, Bath, Morris Fed AGM**

***Is there anyone out there in the Morris Federation fraternity who is capable of programming a bespoke complex on-line searchable database - and with the time and inclination to do so?***

***Replies please to the Editor.***



# Notation, Notation, Notation

The work to scan and upload our library of dance notations is progressing, albeit slowly! The various Notation Officers over the past years have maintained an "loan" set of dance notations of various sorts, mostly dating from the

1970s and 1980s. Most of the paper originals were hand typed, some with line drawings to illustrate the figures, so they have simply been scanned as images with no attempt (yet) to recognise the text.

All these dance notations are now available in PDF format at <http://notation.morrisfed.org.uk>, organised by genre (Cotswold, North West, Border, Garland, etc). Library videos (workshops, lectures, etc) can be found by searching for "MFNotation" (all one word) on YouTube. .

## **EDITED TEXT (changed from printed Newsletter)**

We are aware of around 200 silent cine films (many in colour) taken by Roy Dommett in the 1960s, '70s and early '80s which are to be held by the Wessex Film and Sound Archive. We originally thought we would be able to publish these on YouTube for identification and indexing but inadvertently broke an embargo by starting to do so. The films posted have been taken down and we have apologised to Roy.

## **Call for volunteers**

Volunteers wanted to go through the cine films and analyse their contents (e.g. How many teams are shown? Can we identify any of them? Can we identify the location or event being filmed? Is the title an accurate reflection of the contents? Etc.

Even if you can't volunteer, if your team is listed below then it probably appears in one or more of Roy's films. If you think you could take the time to confirm that it is your team on the film or you can help identify other teams shown or even individual dancers from that era then I'd very much like to hear from you! My contact details can be found at the front of this newsletter.

The film titles include the following teams (or maybe traditions/locations?): Abercorn; Abingdon; Adderbury; Adderbury Village; Ascot Under Wychwood; Bacup; Bampton; Barley Morris; Bath City; Bedford; Belas Knap; Bidford; Bollin; Bourne Bumpers; Brackley; Bristol; Broadwood

Corndollies; Brookwood; Broughtton Monchersea (sic, presumably Boughton Monchelsea?); Bucknell Women; Cardiff Womens (sic); Chester; Chingford; Chipping Camden; Clitheroe; Court Square (USA?); Coventry; Derby Crown; Ducklington; England's Glory; Eynsham; Failsworth; Farnborough; Fiddler's Fancy; Fleet; Flowers of May; Frome Valley; Gloucester Old Spot; Gorton; Great Western; Green Oak; Handsworth Sword; Headington Quarry; Herga; High Spenn; Horwich; Ilmington; Jackstraws; John O'Gaunt; Kennet; Kings (sic - is that perhaps Kingsmen or King John's?); Kirtlington; Knots of May; Knutsford; Leyland; Longborough; Long Crendon; Lord Pagets; Maids of Barum; Manchester MM; Manley; Mayflower; Minden Rose; Minden Rose; Mr Hemmings; Nailsworth; North Leigh; Oddington; Old Meg; Oyster Girls; Paradise Islanders; Pinewoods; Plymouth Maids; Poynton Jemmers; Red Petticoats (Ilfracombe); Ringheye; Ring O' Bells; Rivington; Rogue; Saddleworth; Seven Champions; Sheffield.; Sherborne; Shropshire Bedlam; Silurian; South Downs; Stanton Harcourt; South Harting; Stroud; Thames Valley; Thustles Ness (sic, presumably Throstles Nest?); Victory; Waterloo; Westminster; Wheatley; White Horses; Whitethorn; Whitworth; Winchester; Windsor; Winster; Wrigley Head; Yateley; Yorkshire Chandelier.

Films were also taken at the following events at which your team may have appeared: Albert Hall 1965, 1966, 1969; Bampton 1964, 1968, 1969, 1970, 1977, 1980; Great Wishford 1973, 1976, 1981; Guildford Ring Meeting (1976/7?, 1980) Minehead 1968; Sidmouth 1971, 1976, 1979, 1981, 1982, 1983, 1984. If you'd like to take a look and try to identify the teams shown... my contact details can be found at the front of this newsletter.

I could also use some help typing up some documents that are too fragile or too large to scan. Finally I would like to re-typeset many of these documents and turn them into proper webpages for future reference use. Automatic conversion is unreliable (the type is too old and often very cramped) so I am looking for copy typists (perhaps even on a commercial basis) and volunteers. Any suggestions gratefully received. My contact details can be found at the front of this newsletter.

*Jerry West, Notation Officer*

## **USED ITEMS FOR SALE?**

Line ads as spacefillers like this considered. £5 for up to fifteen words.

# ***Wish Me Luck As You Wave Me Goodbye***

## **A tribute to Sally Kirkpatrick of Martha Rhoden's Tuppenny Dish**

I'm Janet May, and for many years I shared the teaching of Martha Rhoden's Tuppenny Dish with Sally Kirkpatrick. We would teach alternate months, and always worked very closely together. When I retired, I started to make regular trips abroad, and the title of this article, "Wish me luck as you wave me goodbye", was the title of emails that Sally would send to me when I was going away. It is a phrase – and a song – that I will associate with her forever. Indeed, it was how we said our last farewell to her in Clun church on a cold November day last year, with a little skip in our step especially for her, at her husband, John's request and inspiration, as we left the Church with her to her final resting place.

Sally Kirkpatrick, nee Turner, was a Shropshire girl from Clun, and was firmly rooted in the beautiful area, never living far away from her original home. I knew her from the age of thirteen, when she joined Martha Rhoden's Tuppenny Dish, (companion team with The Shropshire Bedlams) a shy, earnest girl, who learned the dances easily and moved with energy and grace. As she grew older, her wide generous arm movements in dances were an inspiration for others to follow, which we still try to do.

Sally had a terrific sense of fun, and in her younger days overcame much of her innate shyness at morris parties, where she added to the joie de vivre of these events appearing in the occasional "turn" parodying other teams in the nicest possible, but extremely funny, way. At that time, she had a flat in Bishop's Castle, and when we had visiting teams to dance with us, on occasions she would have whole teams all staying together with her in her flat. (Possibly some of you reading this might remember staying with her in those happy times.)

Sally taught herself to play the melodeon while quite young, and became an extremely reliable musician for the two morris teams. Sally and I played together for many years, and spent



many a happy hour practising when she lived in Bishop's Castle. We would play around with the tunes, and discover the occasional chord to make the tunes even more interesting. Thus, when we were in the centre of Bristol, years ago on a tour with Bristol morris, playing "Blue-eyed Stranger" in the rain, with one of Bristol men holding an umbrella to protect our melodeons, he asked us, "How do you manage to sound like a whole band?" We felt our practising had paid off.

Not only was Sally a terrific dancer and musician, but she started composing tunes for both teams to dance to, and choreographed four lovely dances for Martha Rhoden's Tuppenny Dish. Her dances were a delight to be part of, with beautiful shapes and fast tricky movements to keep us all on our toes. Her first tune, Grafting in the Drencher, was written for a Shropshire Bedlams' dance, and was rather unusual in form, sliding about in an intriguing way, with very interesting chords to play. Sally always played it beautifully, and helped me get through the difficult bits to start with. Seven more tunes followed, several of them with titles incorporating some Shropshire dialect, such as the Dancing Oolert (owl) and Chunnerin' On (gossiping away like nobody's business).

As a tribute to Sally, the current musicians of both teams played all her tunes as an overture for her funeral. As her husband told me, "I don't think anybody realised quite how many tunes Sal had made up for us, and her quietness and modesty wouldn't allow her to bang on about it. And it was glorious!"

We lost this beloved member of our team on 26th November last year. She was taken into hospital and never recovered from a second operation for cancer. This sudden departure came out of the blue for us all, although she had been rather under the weather for some time, and it is a shock we still feel some months later. She is missed dreadfully, not only for her dancing and playing, but just for herself – a calm, mischievous, sympathetic, warm and friendly presence.





## Paul White's Diary

Contact Paul at [pwhite420@btinternet.com](mailto:pwhite420@btinternet.com) and follow him on Twitter @morrisbells or Facebook

### Football versus morris: an insulting comparison

We trundled up the motorway to attend the JMO gathering in Bristol. And I'm so glad we went to the trouble.

Morris is a world away from some gatherings of like-minded folk, isn't it? Let me regale you with the experience. Well, part thereof. For those of a nervous disposition, let me give you advance warning of a potentially rude word coming up. It's in there because it is vital to the story. And anyway, as you will learn, it is not so graphic as at first you might surmise.

Home for the night was a motorhome campsite close to the city centre and right on the bank of the river. Transport into the very heart of Bristol was by way of passenger ferry and it was a great way to get a feel for the modern city. Very impressive. Harry the dog was equally captivated and occupied a prominent position at the sharp end, with ears billowing out in the headwind.

Disembarked, we headed for the pub and enjoyed a choice of lovely local ales. Not a Doom Bar in sight I am glad to report. It's a Cornish ale that is everywhere these days. When I'm away I look forward to the local beery options and here they were a-plenty. Morris dancers everywhere. Many a chat with friends from near and far and we teamed up with Jill and Dave, fellow Turncoaters from home. Together we wandered through streets thronging with cross-dressers, face-painted men and women, people wielding sticks, wearing bells, waving hankies and sporting some excellent headgear. And every one of them happy and peaceful.

We settled for a while on a bench outside the cathedral and watched and whooped as one side after another took to the floor. It was then that a couple of young men appeared and strolled at a pace through the performance. Sour-faced they were and not worried about disrupting someone else's fun. "Wankers," they shouted and lurched on their way to an unknown destination.

Our next morris event was at Bovey Tracey in the heart of Devon, where Grimspound Border Morris organised its annual May thing. We camped on the local football ground's training pitch and I stopped for a few minutes to watch the Bovey men take on their St.. Austell rivals.

Now, I like a good game of footy now and then and it's good to see it au-naturel, as it were, rather than on the telly. The standard of football was good. But the most memorable thing about the game was the foul words and crude insults that flowed from the mouths of the players. All shouted at high volume, so everyone watching could hear as, no doubt, could the townsfolk half a mile away. Then one of the management teams from the dug-out joined in the fun. Their comments went booming across the ground, amplified by the open-fronted shelter they occupied.

You had to admire their enthusiasm to out-do the players in the swearing and blaspheming stakes. And they added hand-gestures to emphasise their superiority. It got so bad that the referee stopped the game and wandered over to have words. They gave him what-for in no uncertain terms before he felt able to let play re-start. I admired him for his brave action for it was a threatening few minutes.

That was enough for me. And in a flash, I was back to the merry centre of Bovey where one local pub was offering a free pint to anyone who brought in two morris dancers in full kit. And as I sat enjoying one of those beers with an as yet fully dressed Jack in the Green for company, my mind wandered back to the two unhappy gents from Bristol. Now I knew why they were so free with their insults. Clearly they were heading for a football match and saw the opportunity of putting in some last-minute shouting practice.

The Collins Concise Dictionary gives two meanings for their chosen insult, one of which is described thus: "A worthless fellow." I need say no more!

And finally. Good things stick in the memory, don't they. And the news that our editor Colin is intending to leave his post put me in mind of the time he came along to our morris weekend in France. We had breakfast in the bar, prepared and served wonderfully by Fan Fan and family. I asked Colin to sing The Nightingale by way of thanks. The room reverberated with joy and Fan Fan was moved to tears. Thanks for that Colin, and everything else.





Pigsty Morris



Widders



Headcorn men



Winkleigh



Headcorn ladies



Glorishears



Ragged & Old

**JMO  
DAY OF  
DANCE  
BRISTOL  
APRIL  
18th**



Cardiff Morris



Sidmouth Steppers



Windsor



Bradinch Millers



# Dancing In The May

## May Morning Capers, Rumburgh Morris.

*Photo by Andy Atterwill*



At 05:00 we met at the Ditchingham village hall, about 2 miles from Bungay, Suffolk.

Processing slowly and quietly towards the Long Barrow, an ancient monument located on the wide open common. The temperature was below freezing (after all, the sun hadn't risen yet!) and the crisp frosty ground resembled the Tundra in Greenland.

05:15. And so to work! First up was Sweet Jenny Jones (Adderbury) just to get the bones moving and the blood pumping. With just our tunics on it felt even colder! The sun made its appearance in spectacular form, the red light glinting on the frosty ground. Swiftly we performed several other dances as the sun climbed orange-red spectacularly through the cold sky, our performance culminating in Old Woman Tossed Up (Long Fieldtown). By then we could just perceive some solar warmth, and we were finally ready for breakfast at the Buttercross café, Bungay. The first mug of hot tea at 06:30 was a lifesaver, returning blue hands, lips and probably feet back into the familiar flesh tones we are used to! Breakfasts were duly served and consumed, and we departed to our various corners of Suffolk for a well earned rest, but very pleased that we welcomed in the May in the traditional way, and gave our thanks to those frozen souls who were waiting on the common to see us dance.

*Dave Pring, deputy Squire, Rumburgh Morris.*

**Wyld Morris**, based in West Dorset, side was born in the autumn of 2010 out of a love of the Morris and the lack of a local side that would accept a woman dancer! Most of the side were novices who had never danced or played for Morris before joining Wyld Morris.

After six months practice we danced Adderbury Shooting on May Day evening 2011 at Bridport Arts Centre - the only dance we had learned. Now, four years on, we have more confidence and about 15 dances under our belt. Since 2012, we have danced at dawn on May Day on the top of Stonebarrow Hill near Golden Cap. This year, after our usual May Day evening dancing on the forecourt of Bridport Arts Centre, we also danced outside a couple of Bridport pubs.

New dancers & musicians are welcome to join us on Wednesday evenings during the winter at Monkton Wyld Court, Charmouth at 7.30 pm. No experience necessary - just enthusiasm For more details see <http://www.bredy.org.uk/wyldmorrisor> or contact Briony Blair 01297 489546 Vince O'Farrell 01308 427851 brionyblair AT hotmail.com Vince O'Farrell 01308 427851 vinceofarrell AT gmail.com



**Rackaback Morris**, from Hull took on the May Day Morning when the local Morris Ring side (Green Ginger Morris Men) retired. So now May Day morning has gone from the swish of hankies to the clash of sticks. The side is barely 5 years old but well-received.





**The 36th Garland Day Monday 4th May 2015 Lewes- with Knots of May and Ditchling Morris (+ 53 children with garlands, Mayor & Mayoress, and Chairman of Lewes District Council & his wife!)**



**Oyster's May Weekend and Whitstable Jack-in-the-Green**

As is now traditional Oyster Morris celebrated the May bank holiday with their annual weekend of dance. This culminates in the Whitstable Jack-in-the-Green procession which this year celebrated its fortieth year having been revived in 1976.

Oyster were joined this special year by Great Western Morris who were the first invited guest side to take part in the procession as the revival took hold.

Saturday morning saw the sides head for the coast at Deal where we danced in the High Street (where the local shops found that colanders were what all Morris men suddenly couldn't manage without) and then outside the pubs on the sea front. Following a hearty lunch it was a short stroll to the end of the pier where we rapidly became the end of the pier show on what was proving to be a very breezy, chilly afternoon. When everyone was thoroughly chilled it was time to head home to hosts for warmth, food and relaxation.

The rain on Sunday morning didn't dispirit us as

we all reconvened in the White Hart in Canterbury ready to dance again. After refreshments, tables were moved to create a small dance area. Oyster women went first with their perfectly-sized 4-man Valentines. Great Western, in typical style, then squeezed two sets up for Bampton side-step leaving Oyster men to be the first to risk dancing with sticks beneath the low ceiling. In the meantime, the much heralded improvement in the weather arrived and we headed into the city to entertain both the locals and the many tourists that invade Canterbury every day.

After the dancing was over for the afternoon, we headed home to change into our costumes for the evening - here's where the colanders were transformed into helmets for the Viking party held in commemoration of King Cnut's invasion of Sandwich in 1015. The Vikings landed, took one look and promptly sailed round the coast to Frome where they found things much more to their liking. During the evening much feasting was done, much ale downed, songs were sung, dances danced, questions asked and games played. Great Western's longship proved the longest in history and Oyster's Beowulf epic was very much reduced.





On May Monday dawn broke to see Whitstable bathed in bright sunshine, the weather we always expect for the May procession. Local Kent sides Maenads, Dead Horse, Broomdashers, Wicked Belly, Boughton Monchelsea, and Creekside Clog joined Oyster and Great Western outside the library to dance before setting off on the first leg of the procession ending up with the single file sea wall challenge at the Horsebridge. Here there was more dancing to entertain the crowds while waiting for the arrival of the Jack-in the-Green, Maid Marion and Robin Hood. They were accompanied by massed ranks of musicians, Boris the bear and the Hooden horse. The whole procession moved on to the Harbour where more dances were performed to entertain the ever growing crowds. The final leg of the procession saw the whole entourage arrive on the terrace at Whitstable Castle where Oyster's Mark Jopling led the singing of the Whitstable May song, followed by a final dance. Fish and chips for lunch and fond farewells followed. We had had an excellent, if exhausting, weekend and we are now looking forward to next year and the 41st Whitstable May procession.

### THREE SHIRES CLOG MAY TOUR

We're still here - our 25th year of dancing! Last time we wrote we were a bit down in the dumps because our team was dwindling as members seemed to be retiring, moving away etc. with monotonous regularity. However we are very pleased to say we are still going strong.

On Sunday 3rd May all nine of us, along with Harthill Morris Men set out in the pouring rain for our annual May Day tour to three venues in South Yorkshire. You can imagine the thoughts running through our minds... Has the rain set in for the day? Is there anywhere under cover to



dance and, to keep the instruments dry? Will we need to dance in capes and umbrellas? It was still raining when we got to Lakeside shopping centre in Doncaster, but by the time we arrived at our dance spot it had almost stopped, the musicians could be under cover in the dry and we dancers could smile begin our first dance. Lo and behold, with the first few chords and the first step up the sun came out! Dancing went well with a small but appreciative audience of shoppers.

After a break for an early lunch, shopping and tea or a pint, we set off for the Trolleybus Museum at Sandtoft. Here we performed "Celebration" for the first time, our new dance, written by our Squire especially for the 25th Anniversary. It went well and we were complimented on our dancing. We enjoyed a ride on a trolley bus before moving to our final venue at the Yorkshire Wildlife Park.

The sun was still shining but the wind was blowing and dark clouds were gathering. Thankfully the weather stayed kind and to the background noise of roaring lions we danced our last few dances. No chance to look round the park as the coach was waiting. Half an hour (we thought) and we should be back in Harthill, where both teams practice. However the driver took us on a most convoluted mystery tour so we were later returning than we expected. (Sat Navs have a lot to answer for...)

Throughout this dancing season we are dancing at various local pubs on Tuesday evenings and at fetes, galas and the local well dressing, culminating in our 25th anniversary day of dance with other teams on September.

If you want to know more about us, visit our website or phone Lesley 01909 770129





# Dancing For The Dead King

Dadlington is a village in Leicestershire with a 13th century church, a pub and a population of around three hundred.

It is usually a quiet and peaceful place, yet on 22nd March this year, a crowd of five thousand people gathered in the streets and on the green, all waiting to be part of a unique piece of history. Anstey Royale Chalfont was lucky enough to be amongst them.

The funeral cortege of Richard III, the King whose bones had been found in a Leicester car park nearly three years earlier, paused in Dadlington for a short service on the way to the re-interment ceremony at Leicester Cathedral. This was because many people now think that the Battle of Bosworth, where Richard died, actually took place at Fenn Lane Farm, very close to Dadlington, and it is known that a number of men who died in the battle are buried around the church. The villagers of Dadlington had decided that, after the procession had passed through, they would hold a community event "involving food, drink, tours of the Church – and dancing". We felt honoured to be asked.

Just before the event Peter, one of our musicians, bought us all white roses which we pinned on our kit to show our allegiance to Richard.

On the day itself an excited group of fourteen dancers and six musicians, plus various family and friends, arrived promptly by midday, before all roads to the village were closed. On the journey there we had seen crowds of people making their way to Dadlington green and many more were already there by the time we arrived. And they kept coming. The people of Dadlington had not expected such numbers and were rather overwhelmed, though more than happy to welcome all who came.

We found ourselves a good vantage point settled down to wait for the cortege, due at 1.15 pm.

At 1.20 pm a murmur from the crowd further up the hill alerted us to the arrival of the cortege.

First two Knights in armour mounted on horses, then the hearse containing King Richard's coffin. Family members followed in another car and walking behind were the Bishop of Leicester and the other clergy who were to take part in the re-interment services. They seemed to pass by so quickly, though we did manage to get a good look. They processed round the green and halted for the service which, though short, was very moving. Then they were gone, on their way to other villages and other crowds of excited spectators.

The sun shone brilliantly throughout the afternoon, unlike on a previous occasion outside the village pub when torrential rain curtailed the perform dance of our 30th Anniversary Dance. We danced for an hour in front of an appreciative audience, alternating with Anker Morris. Our audience was much bigger than usual, though obviously not all the five thousand people who had come to see Richard stayed to watch us dance! After the dancing there was time for refreshments and a look at the little exhibition in the village hall.

It is a rare thing to be invited to dance for royalty, albeit for a king who has been dead for over five hundred years. The discovery of Richard III's bones and their re-interment aroused considerable interest in Leicester. We all agreed it had been a wonderful afternoon and how proud we had felt to take part in this amazing event.



# Medusa 10th Anniversary

Medusa gothic-style morris is celebrating its tenth anniversary this year. Medusa is a small group of female dancers with a mixed band, local to Knaresborough, North Yorkshire. The side was founded by Sally Smith. She was inspired by the style of Wolf's Head and Vixen, whom she had seen at Whitby and this led her to form a new side, which she named Medusa.

Medusa was a beautiful priestess to Athena, goddess of war, and represented beauty, art and philosophy, before she was cursed for her vanity.

Medusa's kit is black with purple accessories and our dances have mostly been written by Sally, with one traditional dance. We use single and double stepping and also incorporate some French elements such as the

bourée and chapeloise. Some of the figures of our dances are inspired by gothic architecture, such as turrets and arches and some by local beauty spots such as Malham and Whitby.

The music we play is both newly-written and traditional and always in a minor key, creating an enigmatic air. We try to evoke an atmosphere of elegance and mystery with our dances and music.

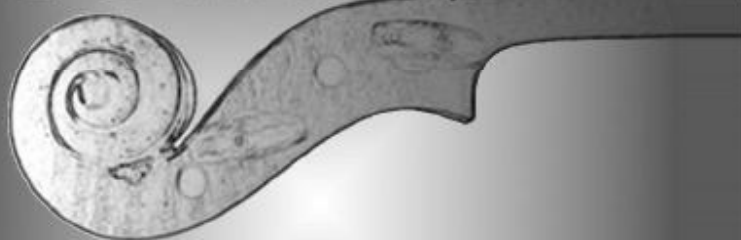


We dance at many local events and festivals, with other local sides and at folk dance clubs in the area. We welcome any new dancers and musicians who wish to join

us. Please ring Sally Smith on 01423-868753.

We look forward to seeing, and dancing with, friends old and new during our tenth anniversary year.

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### WORKSHOPS

03 - 05 July	The Music of James Hill	(Stewart Hardy)
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09 - 11 Oct	Playing for Morris Dance	(Liam Robinson)
23 - 25 Oct	Mixed Instruments	(Stewart Hardy)
06 - 08 Nov	Fiddle Weekend	(Stewart Hardy)
20 - 22 Nov	Play in a Ceilidh Band	(David Oliver)
26 - 28 Feb 2016	Mixed Instruments	(Stewart Hardy)
18 - 20 Mar 2016	Fiddle Weekend	(Stewart Hardy)

The Course diary is at  
<http://jsarts.co.uk/events-diary/>

See website has more details of courses, tutors, & diary dates, prices. Or just give us a ring.

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# So You Think Paperwork Is Onerous?

Little did I think when I became the Bagman for Carn Brea Morris that it would involve applying for permits to dance in public, licences for begging collecting donations, and risk assessments to name but a few. I must admit it came as a bit of a shock.

Then I went out to Cyprus for a week and met up with two of the Cyprus Morris Team from Limassol– Sue and Graham, a delightful couple, like most Morris people. We went to a very nice restaurant for lunch, had a lovely meal, and naturally started talking Morris. They told me about their experience of starting up a Morris team in Cyprus and the hoops they had to jump through.

The first hurdle was that they had to have a minimum of 20 members to be able to set up a team at all. I can think of many teams here who would not be able to meet this criterion, including ours. Needless to say it led to some creative thinking, and they have several supporters on their books who fulfil roles other than dancing. Having achieved the requisite number of 'dancers', they then had to send off copies of all their passports to the police and describe exactly what they planned to do so that they could be vetted to ensure they were a genuine dance group, and did not have undesirable tendencies. Somehow they managed to get approved in spite of this. Graham is their only musician (melodeon - of course), but they also need him to dance, so they have to dance to a recording of him playing.

Now every time they want to dance out they have to apply to the Department for Antiquities – rather appropriate for a Morris team, I thought – for a licence. Consequently they only manage to dance out about a dozen times a year, usually at the invitation of villages when they are holding a festival when of course the village organises all the paperwork. The villagers think it is great that we have traditions in the UK, especially dancing which is very popular on the island and they love the kit, music and bells; quite a change from their traditional dress, bazouki and Zorba's dance, and yes they really do do it. I asked what would happen if a team were to dance out without a permit – they told me you'd probably all

be arrested.

They have never been successful in gaining a permit for Limassol sea front, which would be a wonderful place to dance, and the nearest they got to this was nearby Kolossi Castle. The condition for this was that they would also dance in the amphitheatre at the Roman ruins of the Temple of Apollo on the same day. Doesn't that sound great? Kolossi Castle is renowned for its swarms of giant mosquitoes, and as the amphitheatre is a good walk away from the mosaics that most people want to see so there was no audience and it was 40 degrees in the shade.

But like the rest of us, they love their Morris dancing; practice every Monday morning in a village hall; and have a good social life.

When I was telling some of our Team about the hoops they have to jump through out there, one of them commented that it is similar in America and teams over there find it difficult to get dance permits.

Maybe on-line licence applications and risk assessments and are not so bad after all. Especially now that we have Sally Wearing's fantastic risk assessment template.

*Josie Tapp*  
Bagman Carn Brea Morris

*Perhaps John Bacon could tell us whether The Amazing Headbangers Morris has the same problem in Cyprus over 30 years ago - Editor*

## PHOTOGRAPHS FOR NEWSLETTER

**Photographs and illustrations should be in high resolution .jpg or pdf, though .gif, .png and .tiff files can also be accepted. Any illustration embedded in text should also be sent as separate attachments.**

**Please ensure that you have permission for photographs to be published, particularly if children are included. Credit to photographers will be given if provided.**



# Heather & Gorse 30th Anniversary

Heather and Gorse Clog Dancers, from Combeinteignhead in Devon, celebrated their 30th anniversary with a ceilidh in April. The local village hall, where we practice, was chosen as the venue and once decked out with fresh flowers, blue, yellow and white tablecloths, and many photos from the archives, it was unrecognisable as our usual practice hall. Invitations were sent to all the current and ex members of Heather and Gorse that we could find and to other local Morris Sides that we often dance out with, during the summer months. Heather and Gorse started out as a female North West Morris side and chose the blue, yellow and white combination for their kit as we had very close links with Newton Bushel Morris at the time. During the 30 years several changes have taken place such as a change of kit, members have come and gone and for a while we were a mixed Side. We have danced extensively in the local area, attended festivals, had several trips abroad and supported a range of local charities. Over the years members have left to form new Sides such as Wheal Sophia and Black Bess while others have joined Sides closer to where they live such as Raddon Hill and Green Willow. It was lovely to see many of these ex-members at the ceilidh and particularly pleasing that Black Bess performed a couple of dances. The relatively new side Isambards Gasket Rats also danced in the interval, and one of their members baked us a special anniversary cake! The family celebration was completed by Dawntreader being the ceilidh band with the caller sister to our squire!

And of course Heather and Gorse danced in the interval too. We resurrected a dance we last

performed many years ago called Wedding Reel, which we learnt at the time to dance as a surprise at the wedding of one of our young dancers – her

Mum remarked that she never learnt it properly as it had to be kept secret. But the star dance of the evening was Knutsford, something of a signature dance for Heather and Gorse which has continually been in our repertoire all 30 years! We persuaded many ex members to join in and although many commented that they had long forgotten it, once the music started, their feet remembered what to do! The broad grins on everyone's faces as they took a trip down memory lane was unforgettable! It was a thoroughly wonderful evening.



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## Corner Cottage Crafts

*Jenny Everett  
Willow Cottage, 20, High Street,  
Sutton on Trent, Newark,  
Notts, NG23 6QA  
01636 821672 07931 514510  
jenny.leverett@btinternet.com*



# Beer Tasting Fowl ? (Highly Recommended!)

## Rampant Roosters' 2015 Ale

The Roosters enjoyed last year's winter, Cotswold Ale so much that they decided to hold another one this year. It was on a March evening in the village hall at Betchworth, Surrey. We were well supported by a good number of dancers from Ewell St. Mary Morris Men, Thames Valley Morris Men, Old Shoreham Buccaneers, and also individuals from Invicta Morris, Broadwood Morris Men, Allsorts Morris and other dancing friends. A wonderful evening of dance was had by all.



## Rampant Rooster ... hops, hops, hops

The Roosters have not taken to dancing one-legged! We are celebrating our hoppy Ale which was created by Welton's Brewery in Horsham. On the occasion of the Broadwood Morris Men's Day of Dance in Horsham the brewery launched the Rampant Rooster 5% IPA, and so the Roosters joined the illustrious company of local morris sides who have already been so honoured by Welton's (Broadwood Morris. Ewell St. Mary Morris Men, Magog,

Buckland Shag and Sun Oak Clog).

Our valiant officers summoned up the energy to visit the brewery after a long day of dancing, they gave it their seal of approval and pronounced it "a cracking good beer".



# Green Willow Support Hospice

Green Willow Clog Dancers put their best foot forward for Rowcroft Hospice by raising a brilliant £250.00 for their Hospice @ Home service at their various performances over the course of the year. Green Willow Clog Dancers are a group who do traditional Ladies North West Clog dancing to original tunes played on live instruments.

The photo shows members of the group with their musicians together with Debbi Shotton, Community Fundraising Officer for Rowcroft Hospice collecting the cheque from the group at Dartington Village Hall, where they meet every Thursday. Debbi was treated to a display of their fancy footwork. "The music and dancing are both so upbeat,

you can't help but find yourself tapping your feet along with them!" She added, "Our Hospice at Home service gives patients a choice in where to spend their last days whilst being sure of receiving the very best care available. Being in familiar surroundings can be very comforting for both the patient and their loved ones."



Green Willow Clog Dancers welcome any ladies who would like to come and try Clog Dancing. They practice every Thursday evening in Dartington Village Hall, from 8-10 pm except from May to September, when they perform at outside venues to raise funds for charitable causes such as Rowcroft Hospice.

# Review: Rag Bag Morris Dances

## An Evolving Scottish Border Tradition

In relative isolation from other sides, Rag Bag Morris, a mixed side from Allanton just over the Scottish border, have perhaps less inhibitions about developing their own style of dances, some adapted, but many of their own creation. The publication of this ring-bound book shows, however, that they are willing to share their dances with the wider morris fraternity.

I know from experience that it takes a lot of time, perseverance and patience to transform an idea for a dance into something that actually works for the side in practice, with inevitable tweaking and refinement in the process. Putting the final result on paper in a form which can be easily interpreted by anyone with even basic experience of morris is a skill in itself.

Rag Bag have done a very competent job in committing to print the notation for the eight dances, along with the music.

Although it would take a set of willing volunteers to test out the notation thoroughly, I'm confident that a foreman would be able to work from the detailed descriptions to reproduce the dance pretty much as intended. Undoubtedly, however, variations (subtle or otherwise) are bound to creep in - but that happens anyway with the interpretation of traditional dances!

There are certainly some interesting - and challenging - figures as well as conventional movements. I wonder whether Rag Bag have considered putting video clips on YouTube to supplement the notations in the book.

At £5 (+£1.50 p&p) this publication is excellent value. It is available from their Squire, Charles Poulsen at Allenbank Mill Steading, Allanton, Duns, TD11 3JX, Berwickshire, Scotland. Cheques payable to Rag Bag Morris.

*Colin Andrews*



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# REMINDER: 40th ANNIVERSARY AGM & DAY OF DANCE IS IN BATH ON SATURDAY 26th SEPTEMBER

**Hosted by Mr Wilkins Shilling**

Kingston Parade	Friends Meeting House	Assembly Rooms
Massed stand 10.00	Registration 9.30 AGM 16.30	Ceilidh 'All Blacked Up'
Walking tours 11.00 - 16.00	Refreshments available	19.30 -23.30 Ticket only

Members priority for ceilidh tickets £8 adult £5 children  
Please complete & return booking form (+ cheque for ceilidh) by 31st July

Contacts & more information:

Helen (email: mws\_morris@hotmail.com)  
Sue (email: mws\_agmtreasurer@hotmail.com)  
website: [www.mrwilkinsshilling.org.uk](http://www.mrwilkinsshilling.org.uk)

## The Morris Federation AGM & Mr Wilkins' Shilling Day of Dance 26th September 2015

### \*Booking Form

Name of side:

Style of Dance: Please include a short description of your side and kit.

Contact Name:

Address:

Phone No:

Email address:

Approx. no. of dancers & musicians:

Any particular requirements of your side: e.g. shared musicians with other teams.

Photo of your side:

Please email a recent photo of your side, as a jpeg, to [mws\\_agmtreasurer@hotmail.com](mailto:mws_agmtreasurer@hotmail.com)

Ceilidh tickets:	Adult	@ £8	no. ....	= £ .....
	Child (5 – 16 years)	@ £4	no. ....	= £ .....
			Total	£ .....

(Ceilidh tickets must be booked in advance).

Are you interested in dancing on Sunday, 27th September? Yes ..... No .....

Please return your completed form plus cheque for the full amount of the ceilidh tickets (payable to 'Mr Wilkins' Shilling for MFAGM'.) to:-  
Sue Oldfield, Sunnymead House, Steway Lane, Northend, Batheaston, Bath, BA1 8EH.

If you prefer electronic transactions, please email your form to [mws\\_agmtreasurer@hotmail.com](mailto:mws_agmtreasurer@hotmail.com) and pay by bank transfer – bank details provided on receipt of emailed form.

All bookings will be acknowledged by email.

For further information visit

website: [www.mrwilkinsshilling.org.uk](http://www.mrwilkinsshilling.org.uk)

*Please cut out or copy this form if your side wish to attend the AGM & Day of Dance in Bath on Saturday, 26th September.*

*The form is also available on line through the web sites of the Morris Federation and of Mr Wilkins Shilling*

*Please note it must be returned to Mr Wilkins Shilling, the host side, NOT to the Federation Secretary, by the 31st July.*

*Ceilidh tickets must be booked and paid for in advance.*

*Please contact the host side for advice on accommodation*



# JMO Statement Of Purpose

## The Committee of the Joint Morris Organisations The Morris Federation – The Morris Ring – Open Morris



### Statement of Purpose

The Committee exists to help in the promotion and development of Morris Dancing, and to address issues of common interest.

### Terms of Reference and Definitions

#### 1 – Morris Dancing

Shall mean all styles of dance and allied traditions commonly included under the umbrella term of Morris Dancing; this shall include, but not be limited to:

Cotswold, Border, North West, Molly, Long Sword, Rapper Sword, Step Clogging, Fools, and Beasts, Mummers, and Pace Eggers.

#### 2 – Membership

JMO membership currently means all member clubs from the three national organisations: The Morris Ring, The Morris Federation, and The Open Morris. Other organisations may be admitted subject to a vote in favour by the existing committee members.

#### 3 – The Committee

The Committee shall be made up of no more than three members of each of The Morris Ring, The Morris Federation, and The Open Morris. These will normally be from the elected Officers from the three organisations.

#### 4 – JMO Objectives

- a – To co-operate when addressing issues of common interest
  - b – To promote Morris and allied traditions generally
  - c – To encourage high standards of performance
  - d – To maintain and promote communication between the member organisations
  - e – To negotiate and arrange insurance for the member Sides
  - f – To arrange joint events between the members
  - g – To encourage cross-membership working on projects relating to Morris Dance
- NB. This list is not considered to be exhaustive*

#### 5 – Committee Meetings

- a - The Committee shall meet annually to discuss current matters of interest and future proposals which affect the membership. Additional meetings can be arranged by agreement if urgent or important issues arise.
- b – The Committee meeting shall be held and run by each member organisation in turn. Such members shall host the meeting, and produce the agenda and minutes. The Chair for the meeting shall be drawn from the hosting organisation.
- c – When matters arise for which a vote is required each member of the Committee shall have one vote.
- d – Members of the committee can invite any party to attend who, in the opinion of the committee members, has an interest in the matters to be discussed. Any such attendees shall not, however,



have a vote.

e – The date of the meeting shall be set so as to be mutually convenient.

f – Where appropriate the Committee can agree to ask anyone from the full membership to undertake specific tasks which contribute to the stated purpose of the JMO

## 6 – National Dancing Events

a – Each year one national day of dance shall be held as a JMO event.

b - All financial aspects will be considered and agreed by the appointed or elected treasurers for the three member organisation prior to any arrangements being finalised.

c – The organisation responsible for hosting the Committee Meeting shall also be responsible for arranging and hosting the national day of dance. These arrangements can be delegated to any of that organisation's total membership

d – The liability for any financial losses incurred shall be on a pro-rata basis by the three membership organisations

## 7 – Regional Dancing Events

a – Any Side or Group from any of the total JMO membership can host a dancing event under the name of the JMO at any time. These can be but are not limited to invited guests only, regional events, days of dance, weekend events, instructionals, and workshops.

b – The host Side or group shall be liable for any financial losses incurred

## 8 – Charitable Donations

a – The Side or group which hosts any JMO event can choose a charity to which any monies collected shall be donated.

b – If a charity is nominated, any monies raised as a profit during the event shall be donated to this charity by the host

## 9 – Dissolution

At any time the Committee can be dissolved at the request of any one member subject to giving reasonable notice to all concerned parties. Dissolution of the committee does not preclude cross-organisational working by any of the Morris Ring, Morris Federation, and Open Morris thereafter.

# Donations To Charity From JMO Events

From John Clifford, Publicity Officer of Open Morris:

*Dear All after the deductions for costs Rag Morris have asked that I forward this Certificate to yourselves.*

A great thanks, too, from the Federation committee to all those teams who participated in the JMO Day of Dance in Bristol and made it such a successful event



From  
Steven  
Archer,  
Morris  
Ring  
Treasurer

*Dear All, the BBC has finally cashed our cheque and issued us with this colourful certificate. The JMO Charity account is now empty.*

# Snippets

## CLOGFEST 2015

It's around this time each year when clog dancers start polishing their clogs and brushing up their favourite routines. July 10 – 12 is the weekend when clog dance enthusiasts from all over England, from Cumbria to Surrey, arrive in Skipton, North Yorkshire, to enjoy their annual gathering.

Clogfest is one of very few festivals to feature a clog-dancing horse. Wallop is a shy performer who spends most of the year hiding in the Forest of Bowland in darkest Lancashire. You might persuade him to show off his steps with a supply of Granny Leyland's organic carrots and a pint or two of Assheton's Old Saddleback; if not, you can enjoy his nimble prancing at Clogfest.

Contacts: Paul Hudson 07905 181226  
paul@clogfest.org



## BEDFORDSHIRE LACE

With great regret Bedfordshire Lace have decided that 2015 will be their last season of dancing. They celebrated their 30th anniversary last year. See Coming Events for details of some of their remaining performances.

## NORTHFIELDS MORRIS

This is the new name for Ealing Morris Minors, who received sponsorship from the Federation to help them get going. They have already danced out on several occasions, and have an impressive website at [www.northfieldsmorris.com](http://www.northfieldsmorris.com)

## OLD PALACE CLOG

Not many sides could boast a grade 2 listed building as their new practice venue, Old Palace Clog are now based at Stanley Halls, an Edwardian masterpiece in South Norwood, London.



# Sheffield City MM 40 Years Young

'Once more we stop the roar of the City's traffic to bring you a display of rhythmic grace and athletic precision.....' So goes our traditional opening bark. Yep, the guys in green trousers are 40 years young.

Founded in 1975 by Bob Hazelwood, we sort of sprang from the loins of Sheffield University Morris and Chingford. The original idea was to be a bit mould breaking. We may have broken a couple...

Our original styles of dancing were Bledington and Bob's interpretation of Bampton –hankies flicked high and floated down-and starting on the right foot. Bob left and the high standard he set for Bledington fell into abeyance and we searched around for a new style/tradition. John Newman, the new Foreman, hit on Upton. He took the 2 dances from there and out of that came our own style- Medup.

Medup isn't rocket science (ask Roy Dommett - and he should know) and the stick dances are easily accessible. The hanky variation does take some getting used to. Medup is single step and can be for 4, 6, 8 or 12 dancers. As Upton had set changes in, so do many of the Medup dances. It is ever evolving and variations within the style keep cropping up. Dances have evolved from ideas brought to the team and worked on by the group as a whole. We now have a repertoire of over 30. A dozen of these are Bampton and Upton.

Dances are often started with a song –in homage to our Grenoside Sword neighbours I think. There are set figures with Half rounds and New Style 3 top being unique-we think! The general idea of Medup is lots of movement; figures burst out to return into set for the chorus.

The name Medup ? 'Med up be uz senz! '(Made up by ourselves) is one idea but I prefer the corruption of Midhope - an area north of Sheffield . Midhope is next to Langsett which aptly describes our 8 man or long set dances. The notations for some of the Langsett dances were indeed found in an old oak chest in the drought stricken Langsett





Reservoir in the hot summer of '76.

Ah the green trousers! Look at every other male dance team featured in this publication and you will see blue, white, black-even olive...but not the famous Kelly bright green of Sheffield City. Why green? We used to wear thick needlecord breeches –dark blue –very hot. We looked similar to every other team so with a radical leap we went with one of the other flag colours of the City of Sheffield. So, with bright green trousers and belts, braces ribbons and rosettes in various blues, each dancer or musician is a living flag of our fair city!

We have danced all over the world. Furthest flung was Ecuador. Most of Europe has been covered over the years. Our invites to foreign festivals demanded that we put on a more varied show than just our dancing, so we included some social dancing, singing and musical spots. Later, daughters of the team formed Sciorr, an Irish dancing team which gradually stole the limelight –rightly so- from us.



Our visits abroad included Catalonia and a link between that area and Sheffield was forged. Two Catalan giants -War and Peace- were donated to the City and SCM are still guardians and were the first dancers of these amazing beings. They are danced regularly by an independent group with strong links to SCM.

So what are we doing to celebrate our momentous 40th milestone? June 13th Day of Dance with 20+ teams in Sheffield City Centre and a Ceilidh in the Anglican Cathedral at 7.30pm the same day. Our annual weekend in Derbyshire, will be bursting at the seams with distinguished guest teams. This is a departure from most morris weekends-we walk around the area north of Bakewell, using the Monsal trail to visit villages and pubs.



Finally we have produced a CD of our songs and tunes, (and a monologue) some of them penned by team members.

The forty years have been a huge amount of fun. We continue to be a vibrant dancing, singing and musical group. We take our dancing seriously but ourselves not too seriously.

'By the way, what is the title of your CD!?' I hear you cry. 'All mouth and Green Trousers!' Sort of sums it all up really.

Pete Delamere, Foreman, Sheffield City Morris

PS This article is true-it's all based on fact. And if you want to order any CDs –here's the website: [scmmshop@btinternet.com](mailto:scmmshop@btinternet.com)





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