

Newsletter Summer 2005



ST. GEORGES DAY – George goes Geordie.

MAYDAY – Morris and a Marriage.

MORESK – A Rose by any Other Name?



Morris Federation Committee

Useful Contact Details

President

Trefor Owen
48 Mount Road
CANTERBURY
Kent
CT1 1YE
01227-452107
pres@morrised.org.uk



Events Officer

Jean Smith
30 Ingleside Road
NORTH SHIELDS
Tyne and Wear
NE29 9PB
0191-259 1349
events@morrised.org.uk



Secretary

Fee Lock
28 Fairstone Close
HASTINGS
TN35 5EZ
01424-436052
sec@morrised.org.uk



Newsletter Editor

Doug Bradshaw
8 School Yard
Horbury
WAKEFIELD
WF4 6LU
01924-278750
newsletter@morrised.org.uk



Treasurer

Rachel Pinkney
15 High Street
Standon
WARE
Herts.
SG11 1LA
01920-821694
treasurer@morrised.org.uk



Web Site Editor

Kevin Taylor
webeditor@morrised.org.uk
www.morrised.org.uk



Archive Officer

Mike Everett
Corner Cottage
2 Lower Street
Sproughton
IPSWICH
IP8 3AA
archive@morrised.org.uk



To contact all email-able Federation members:

broadcast@morrised.org.uk

To notify us of a change of contact details:

contacts@morrised.org.uk

Co-opted members:

John Bacon – Licensing Bill
JandABacon@aol.com

Notation Officer

Rhiannon Owen
48 Mount Road
CANTERBURY
Kent
CT1 1YE
01227-452107
notation@morrised.org.uk



Adrian Williams – Dommett Collection and Wantage
Adrian-williams@beeb.net

www.morrised.org.uk

IMPORTANT INFORMATION

To all Secretaries, Squires, Bag people, etc.

NEWSLETTER

Newsletter – odd sort of compound word really. “News” has that connotation of information that is new and dynamic or for the less cerebral, possibly just gossip. “Letter” something personal to the recipient. So “Newsletter” could be taken to mean new information and gossip for the recipient alone. Except the recipient is the TEAM not the individual. So PLEASE PASS THE NEWSLETTER AROUND. Set a quiz on the contents as part of practice nights – award prizes to the winners, and medals to anyone who can explain the licensing act, just PLEASE PLEASE SPREAD THE WORD!

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 MF will distribute enclosures with the Newsletter, or other circulars, and items of advertising relevant to commercial products. A fee is charged to the advertiser for this service. However, this should not be taken to mean that The Morris Federation necessarily endorses the product. Enquiries concerning any form of advertising through the MF should be addressed to the Newsletter Editor.

CONTENTS

Useful Contacts	2
President's Prologue	4
Committee News	6
Letters to Editor	8
Sidmouth Blooming?	9
Morris at Altitude	10
Whitstable Mayday	11
Mayday Miscellany	12
Andy Hamilton Award	13
St. Georges Day	14
Pictures Galore	16
Book and CD	18
Maltby Phoenix Shine	19
Mockbeggar Morris	20
Rose Moresk	22
Sidmouth – Alive!	24
Abbots Bromley When?	26
Dates and Dances	27
Calendar	28
Festivals	30
Shop	32

EDITORIAL

Well summer is a coming in and here's the latest edition of the Newsletter to provide some light reading. The article on recreating the "Moresk" from a work of learned study will provide much food for thought I'm sure. Can the idea of the pagan origins of Morris finally be laid to rest? Is the re-creation of a 500-year-old dance a valuable contribution to the world of traditional dance? Will Rose Moresk be the first in a flowering of look a-like enthusiasts?

Then there is the item on the Maltby Phoenix Dancers. Young, energetic and female this team has taken the accolade of winners of the Open Class at DERT. At the Moor and Coast Festival in Whitby a couple of years ago I saw this team in action and they were wonderful to watch. I'm guessing that some of that team were in the side that triumphed at DERT and their principle of learning from the past whilst moving the boundaries forward have been proved correct. Congratulations.

I'm sure these items will stir the hackles of some of our readers. Traditionalists and modernisers will line up to support their corner and argue their cases. Long may they do so and long may dancers show that the discussions are interesting whilst the performance is everything.

Doug

Printing

Next Issue

Front Cover Photograph

Outline Print Service Ltd, Colne, Lancashire

Autumn 2005

Flag and Bone Gang – Baltic Mill –Gateshead

President's Prologue

The president having been otherwise engaged with medical matters at the end of May the editor has taken it upon himself to supply some thoughts musings and general details of the stuff that the president has been dealing with over the last three months. This will I hope not be a regular occurrence and that that normal service will be resumed when Trefor is back to his usual rude good health.

Subject: Blacking up

Hi Trefor,

I have come across an article in the Daily Telegraph printed on Friday. As a member of a Border side that "blacks up", I wondered if we should make other sides aware of this possible legal case and if so could it be broadcast via the federation.

We are often asked why we black up. We provide two responses, both based on begging and the need to disguise ourselves.

I would be interested to know if there is a definitive reason that could be cited if seriously challenged.

Yours

Graham Kennett - Foreman Powderkegs
Whaley Bridge, Derbyshire

News has gotten around pretty quickly and this is not the 1st time this has come up. a couple of years ago Carlisle Men who black up for Border got refused a booking at a council event when a local complained. Made National newspapers then too.

Official line is: It is a form of disguise and just one of various forms, from rag masks (Marshfield Paper Boys mummers) to veils (Flag and Bone Gang). It is to hide identity only and nothing beyond, and was used to make begging easier where the more affluent people in a locality might have recognised the destitute work force (this is especially relevant to Border as a Winter Tradition).

Do not get embroiled in any deep discussions and never get drawn into any political argument that could inflame matters, but

maintain the tradition. Feel free to pass any one onto me if it helps.

Trefor

Member of Seven Champions who black up, Flag and Bone Gang who wear veils and Boris the Bear (Whitstable Jack in the Green) who blacks up. (See *Below – Ed*)



And this was the reply to a discussion about an enquiry from a "Fluffy" Morris side who had applied to join the Federation. This had sparked some controversy about the categorisation of Fluffy as Morris

I am going to say this calmly.

Fluffy Morris is a genuine form derived from N West Morris. It is embedded in the Culture of Lancashire, Cheshire, Westmorland and a number of other NW counties. It is hypocritical to deride it just because it does not conform to a "Standard", Male, Cotswold perspective of what Morris is. Stepping down from the Hobby Horse, Michael is, as much as anyone else, entitled to an opinion of what Morris is or isn't. He can also decide whether the Fluffy/Carnival teams can come under the interpretation of normal Morris activity of the insurance policy (already decided a No).

My 1st contact with any Morris was at the age of 6, watching a Fluffy side in Newton-Le-Willows, Lancs. My cousin was dancing. In 1977 I went and researched this same dance, sort of collected it but also found its history. A traditional NW dance of a defunct team, now performed by Fluffy sides and by many NW

sides I have passed it onto, it is also in my book of notation.

My upbringing in Dance was deeply northern, and I am happy with fluffy sides calling themselves Morris. Just What is the problem??

Trefor, speaking personally and not as President of the Federation.

As President I have followed a route that as the insurance won't accept Fluffy as real there is no point in them joining any of the three organisations. In ANY other situation I would welcome such teams into the Fed should it remain under my presidency.

Editors Note: The reference to insurance comes because the insurers have taken a view that the involvement of younger people (in Fluffy teams) somehow raises the risk factor. The result is a large increase in premiums and a matching reduction in the maximum liability cover.

This obviously affects any of our existing member sides who have under 18's involved. Discussions on this continue.

And finally no edition of the Newsletter would be complete without some item on the PEL legislation now being bought into force. This was a letter sent to all sides some time ago. I hope you have all replied!

To all Members

The 2003 Licensing Act provides exemption to Morris dancing and dancing of a similar nature, but we unfortunately were unable to gain a similar exemption for our other activities such as mumming, and other folk plays, sessions in pubs after a performance even though many believe that music and song are part of the performance. You may have talked to your own Licensing Officer who was sympathetic but unfortunately the law is the law and we need to monitor the situation. We need therefore to obtain as much information as possible with regard to our other activities that may be at risk and are asking you to provide the following information as soon as possible please.

We are particularly interested in the traditional – but not strictly Morris dancing and dancing of a similar nature that you may also do - these may not be covered by our Licensing exemption.

Can you therefore provide the following information and tell us about mumming, folk

plays, music sessions, singing, skipping, apple howling, wassailing and anything else that may be marginal including small scale amplification during a performance.

Your team;

Morris and dancing of a similar nature

- How many days/shows do you do or go out each year.

- How many times a year do you use amplification

Mumming

- again how many days or performances each year

Other activities

- please list if possible - these may be the ones at risk

A similar questionnaire has gone to all Ring and Open sides and when all the questionnaires have been returned they will be collated and the answers provided to any teams that ask for them

With this information it is hoped that we shall be in a better position to start lobbying in the right quarters.

Many thanks – Trefor Owen

Bells and Drums
Maker of "Gurt Mint" bodhrans

1) Bell pads (pair) standard model, 20 bells each
size: 240mm x 180mm (9 1/2" x 6") £ 31.45
black, brown or other colours
Standard model with 20 bells £ 28.95
With ribbon 50c per pair £ 3

2) Lattice cut £ 29.95
3) Goth Spikey £ 34.95
4) Parallel cut £ 29.95
5) Childrens model £ 16.95

Or your own design!

Drum rope tensioned £ 165
420mm x 320mm or 17" x 13"

Base Drum rope tensioned £ 249
540mm x 330mm or 21" x 13"
Colours: natural, black, green, red

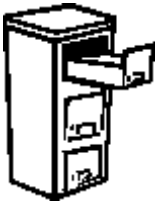
Drum Bags, from £ 34.95
padded, water resistant

Other dimensions for rope-tensioned drums can be made to your specifications. Repairs and Re-skinning undertaken.

Bell Bands short/long £ 5.85 - 7.85
Bonking Stick £ 9.95

Bells 7/8", 1" and 1 1/4" available

KRESS DRUMS
Gerhard Kress
maker of drums and bell-pads
5 Meycliffe Park, Ashley Down, Bristol, BS6 5JH
Tel./Fax: 44 (0) 117-954 2351
Email: gerhard@gurtmint.co.uk
Website: www.gurtmint.co.uk



Archive Activity

The Morris Federation archive is no longer gathering dust. The builders have left (well, almost) and the archive is emerging from under the brick dust, ready to be re-housed in new surroundings. This gives me the opportunity to try and sort it all into a more accessible and user-friendly system so that when you ask me to find information or to borrow something, I'll be able to meet your requests more quickly and easily.

A few new items have been donated to the archive, mostly photos from the late 1970s and 1980s. My thanks for these go to Jenny Everett, Kevin Taylor and, especially, to Sue Jenkinson for the first batch of her photo albums and her dance notations for Betty Lupton's Ladle Laikers.

Talking of photos, it was planned to put together a photo-CD of the St. George's Day celebration in Newcastle and Gateshead. So if you were there and have photos of the dancing, please send me copies, preferably digital but I can scan and return any ordinary photographs. My thanks to Jean Smith, Darrel Woods, Wendy Williamson and John Bacon for their contributions so far.

And, staying with St. George's Day, it took me 31 hours of travelling with 1 coach trip, 1 ferry crossing, 2 flights, 2 train journeys, 1 tube journey, 1 taxi journey and more than 300 miles of driving to get to Gateshead for dance practice on the Friday night. Can anyone beat that? And then when I got there I had to learn to dance in a new position before dancing out with Addison Rapper & Clog on the Saturday morning!

Ah, well, back to reality and those dusty tomes and fading pictures ...

Mike Everett

COMMITTEE NEWS

FINANCE – Rachel

Insurance Certificates

Please, please could sides be more careful about where and who has their Public Liability Insurance certificate. In recent weeks I have had three requests for duplicate copies. The original either being mislaid, not received or previous the secretary not passing it on.

Shop Sale

We are discontinuing the line of T-shirts and sweatshirts as most teams now have their own logo for their team.

I still have a few in stock and they are now being offered at £3.50 per T-shirt and £7.50 per sweatshirt. Sizes and colours are limited so there can be no guarantee that you will get what you might order!

Rising costs.

The cost of producing the Newsletter now equals, or for a bumper issue actually exceeds, the cost charged to the subscribers. So with effect from the Spring issue of 2006 the cost for subscribers will have to rise to £12. This increased cost will also affect those teams who take additional copies.

NOTATION – Rhiannon

No news is good news? All quiet on the notation front? (Ed)

NEWSLETTER – Doug

Serendipity?

Following on from the "Socks Appeal" letter in the last issue I picked up this snippet from our treasurer. A chap from Raddon Morris contacted Rachel some time ago saying he was interested in buying socks and had been speaking to Steve Adamson of the Ring who sells them, which are apparently good value. Knowing how Morris men need a good supply he and Rachel wondered if it was worth mentioning it in our Newsletter. Could this be the end of Emma's scratchy socks? Keep reading folks?

It pays to advertise

And in this issue we have a couple of letters, or to be more exact e-mail items, on the subject of tatters and where to find them. Is there a need for an information bank on where kit can be sourced? Is your team in need of an elusive item that you just cannot track down? The Federation and the Newsletter may be just the answer you're looking for. Or maybe you know a source of some rare material or service that you might like to share. And if your supplier would like to put an advert in the Newsletter and get access to the avid readership out there we are always willing to take coin of the realm for advertising!

Gateshead

Before the green pen pedants get to work I own up to a fit of alliterative aberration on the front cover. I know "Geordie" applies to a fairly tight area of the Northeast, and I'm pretty sure that Gateshead might be an exclusion zone. However I'll probably get berated by all and sundry for the next few months anyway. How does the Editors creed run? "If you're not upsetting anyone you're not doing the job right".

EVENTS – Jean

I would be interested in hearing from all sides who danced out on May Day or ST George's Day. It would be interesting to compile a list/map of where dancing is taking place.

The invitation below arrived from the Morris Ring and the application form is included as an insert (Ed)

Fools and Animals Unconvention, Cromford, Matlock

Hosted by Ripley Morris Men
21st -23rd October 2005

On behalf of the Morris Ring, I, as National Convener of Fools and Animals, would like to invite your Fool and Beast, Betsy or any other Character associated with your Morris Side, to the 2005 Unconvention..

As last year, the invite to the Unconvention has been extended to all Fools and Beasts from all the Morris organisations - The Morris Ring, The Open Morris and the Morris Federation.

The Unconvention will take place at Cromford, near Matlock, Derbyshire and will be hosted by Ripley Morris Men. Accommodation will be Indoor Camping at the Outdoor Leisure Centre, (er, work that one out!) Apparently, it is next to a decent pub!

There will be various Workshops over the

weekend, details to be arranged; and the tour on Saturday is around Matlock via Public Transport.

The cost? Approx £40 per person. Please book your place by filling out and submitting the attached form, as soon as possible, because numbers are limited.

Please send remittance to Robert Chisman. Cheques payable to "The United Union of Fools and Beasts". Closing date for applications 30th September 2005. I will be happy to answer any queries by phone or e-mail.

Yours, Robert Chisman

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.

Advertise in the Federation Newsletter

An advert in the Newsletter goes out to over 400 sides and if only ten people in each side read the issue that's 4,000 readers. Would your service, product or event benefit from that? Think about it!

Rates:

Full A4 page - £50.00
Half Page - £25.00
Quarter Page - £15.00
Eighth Page - £8.00

DEEPER – FASTER – HIGHER – WETTER!!!!

Dear Doug,

Good Luck and Best Wishes to Ruth Dillon and her trip to the Andes.



However, I don't think that will give her the record for Morris at the highest level. I think it was in the 80's as I recall, Bollin Morris of Altrincham in Cheshire set the records. The Highest, as they danced in the aisle of a Boeing 707 at 26,000 ft. flying to America. The Lowest, as they danced in the lowest level of the Blue John Mines in Castleton, Derbyshire. The fastest as they danced on board an Inter-city 125 going full bore between Manchester and London. Probably Wrigley Head from Failsworth would claim the wettest for dancing on board a moving Canal Narrowboat.

Seems like a dance on a Tokaido or a solo jig on a space shuttle may be needed to break two of these. Or how about 'Staying in line and Upright' on a Pendolino. It's the sort of thing Richard Branson might go for as a publicity gimmick.

Cheers.

Denis Clarke. Rivington Musician.

COMIC RELIEF

Once again Fleet Morris supported this biennial event. Adorned in suitable attire, we did a sponsored dance tour of the six pubs, village social club and café-bar of the village of Yateley in Hampshire collecting money from the local clientele. Together with sponsorship money, we raised a staggering £489. A big thank you goes to everyone who took part, the people of Yateley, and those who sponsored us. It will be a challenge to improve on this amount in 2007.

Judith Sparkes

Bagman

Fleet Morris

TATTERS – The following e-mailed responses to a plea for sources.

I know that it could be expensive to buy enough ribbon to cover a jacket if you were to buy it by the yard, retail. I understand that some ribbon manufacturers will sell a dustbin bag full of mixed off cuts and end of rolls at about £40.

duncan.broomhead@BTOPENWORLD.COM

Toye Kenning and Spencer are ribbon manufacturers of Bedworth [near Coventry] they have big bags of multi-coloured medal ribbon, often free! More details contact Pete Grassby 02476336740

Sunshine and smiles

Dave Hunt

SIDMOUTH BLOOMING?

Come Dancing with HERBACEOUS BORDER At Sidmouth and Elsewhere

This is an invitation from Herbaceous Border to anyone who would like to do even more dancing (or playing).

Herbaceous Border started up seven or eight years ago and has been dancing every evening on the Esplanade at Sidmouth during the festival ever since. We're going to be there again this year and anyone is welcome to join in with us. All the dances are taught on the spot, so it doesn't matter if you've never danced Border before. Musicians are equally welcome.

We aim to be outside the York and Faulkner between 6.00pm and 7.00pm every evening of Sidmouth FolkWeek (starting Sunday 31st July) – in kit if you have it, but don't worry if you haven't. We've got some other plans for Sidmouth too, but these aren't quite finalised.



This year, partly because of the initial uncertainty about Sidmouth, we're meeting up and dancing at other festivals too – once again, everyone is welcome. We've had lots of people stop by to have a dance – often people who have never danced before and who wouldn't dream of going to a 'proper' workshop.

One comment was 'I've been around the folk-scene and the morris for 30 years and have always loved it – but I've never danced before. It was just brilliant to have a go.'

For further details about Herbaceous Border at Sidmouth - and to go on our emailing list so you hear what other festivals we'll be at - ring Sue White on 01237 451261 or email sue@suewhite5.wanadoo.co.uk or ring/text Kurt Sauter on 07949 612145

Editors Note – For more details on Sidmouth see pages 24 - 25

Hobgoblin's 14th Catalogue is here!

The long awaited 14th Hobgoblin Music catalogue is now available. The catalogue includes photos of hundreds of musical instruments, spares and books, with descriptions, prices, a wealth of advice on choosing an instrument, and lots of helpful information.

The very first Hobgoblin catalogue was published in 1978, and since then, each new edition has been keenly awaited by a huge and loyal customer base. For the fourteenth edition, the catalogue has returned to a handy A5 size, and is currently being mailed out to thousands of folk music lovers across the country. The catalogue is available from all Hobgoblin shops, from the Hobgoblin festival stand throughout the summer, and by post (call 0845 130 9500 or email catalogues@hobgoblin.co.uk).

MORRIS AT ALTITUDE



At camp site

Dear Sir, (*no need to be so formal Ruth!- Ed*)

You may remember that I wrote to you last Autumn and my letter was included in your magazine. I stated that, as a member of Glorishears of Brummagem, I would dance a jig at Machu Picchu after walking the Inca Trail for four days and I wondered whether I would be the only person to have ever done this. Well, my charity trip for Action Aid to Peru is now over and I completed the trek and I did do a jig, Nelson's Praise, at Machu Picchu about 8.30am on Wednesday 11th May 2005 much to the surprise and enjoyment of everyone. The Peruvian porters and guides had never seen anything like it before. I also did a dance at the highest of our campsites along the way at 3,600 metres above sea level. Can anyone top this? I have attached the photographs as

proof. It is customary to leave gifts for the porters who helped on the trek and T-shirts are always welcome and indeed I saw many different T-shirts paraded on the route. Well, I left my Glorishears of Brummagem shirt so there is now a Peruvian porter wearing a Morris dancing T-shirt! How about that for advertising!



Still smiling

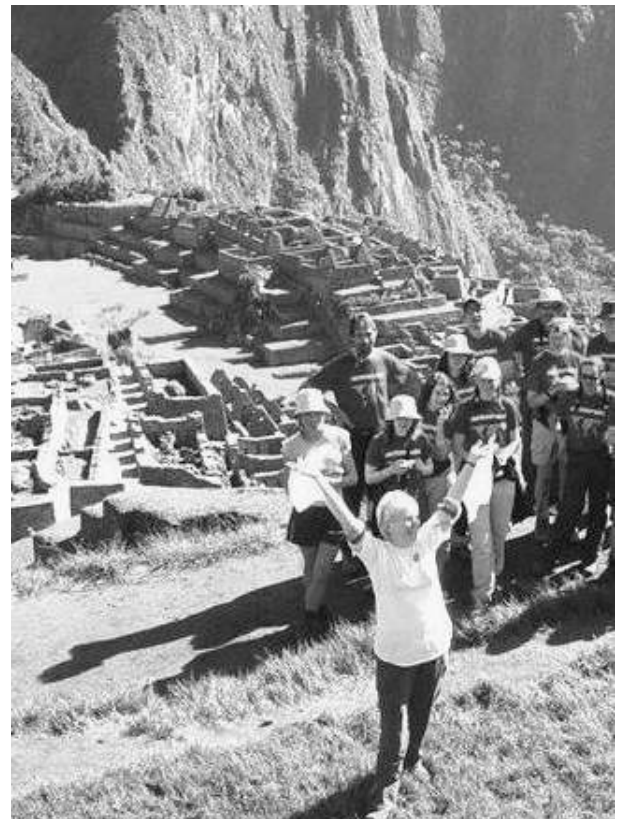
If you require any more details then please e-mail me:

glorishearsbrumm@hotmail.com

and do look at our website to find out more about my morris dancing side **glorishears.co.uk**

Thank you so much in anticipation,

Yours faithfully,
Ruth Dillon
May 23rd 2005



The big finish!

Jack-in-the-Green - 30 years of the Whitstable May Day celebrations

Some years ago the Morris Federation ran a one day session in which Doc Rowe did an illustrated talk on Calendar Customs. Imagine my surprise when I saw myself dancing on screen. It was in video taken of the Whitstable Jack-in-the-Green procession. You may not have realised that Whitstable has a Jack-in-the-Green. It does and it is in Doc Rowe's archive because it represents a revived local tradition that is in the keeping of one family.

It all started in 1975 when Dixie Fletcher and Fiddler's Dram from the Whitstable Folk Club went to a folk festival in London. The festival was very badly organised and they decided that they could organise something much better themselves. They picked May Day for the event because they were heavily into folk traditions. The venue was the buildings and lovely gardens of Whitstable Castle.

It was a gratifying success and when, after the event, they met with Wallace Harvey the local town historian he regaled them with tales of how May Day was celebrated at the turn of the nineteenth century. There was a parade, mainly of children, through the streets of Whitstable ending with dancing around a maypole. They were led by Robin Hood and Maid Marion and a figure known as Jack-in-the-Green, "taller than an ordinary man and made of wood shavings and greenery". As they danced through the town the children sang a chant of which Mr Harvey remembered some fragments.



The tradition ended around 1912, allegedly because the Jack was set alight and the man inside burned to death. Undaunted, Dixie and her fellow organisers decided to revive the tradition. John Jones and Cathy Le Surf cobbled together a May Day song from the bits that Mr Harvey remembered and chunks borrowed from other songs with a similar theme. In the second year the Jack with Maid

Marion and Robin Hood accompanied by the new local Morris side processed through the streets of Whitstable, ending at the Castle where the human participants danced around a traditional maypole.

Thirty years on the Jack, Maid Marion and Robin Hood still process through the streets of Whitstable on the May Day Bank Holiday, now accompanied by a number of extra characters, a band containing a remarkable number of folk super-stars and followed by many Morris dancers. All because of the enthusiasm of Dixie Fletcher.

The Jack-in-the-Green procession is the culmination of a long weekend of dancing for Oyster Morris and guest teams. This year the guests were Great Western and Glory of the West who first came to Whitstable in 1979. We had a truly wonderful time.

On Saturday there was a coach tour of sea-side resorts with plenty of time to soak up the sun and atmosphere of Broadstairs, ending with an excellent ceilidh. On Sunday we did a walking tour of Canterbury with the most generous and tasty pub lunch buffet that I have ever known. In the evening there was a party with the theme 1976. A hugely nostalgic time was had by many with old photos to look at, old friends to talk with, entertaining spots, dancing, songs and tunes.

Monday dawned with heavy rain falling. But it almost never rains on the Jack and true to form the early rain gave way to glorious sunshine. Many of the participants from the early years returned for this very special day. At one o'clock sharp the sound of the Whitstable May Day tune was heard, shivers ran down spines and the Jack and characters appeared around a corner to pass through the files of assembled dancers to the head of the procession. Never had so many people danced through the crowded streets of Whitstable to squash themselves together on the lawn of the castle. Once more Cathy Le Surf led the singing of the Whitstable May Day song; a hugely emotional experience. Fond farewells were said and there was not a dry eye in the house.

Rhiannon Owen



MAYDAY MICELLANY

Wreckers Morris



Wreckers Morris celebrated May morning in its now traditional way (two years running!) by dancing to the rising sun within the Hurlers stone circle on Bodmin Moor. And this year, the sun really did shine. The sky was illuminated with shafts of sunlight breaking dramatically through the clouds as the side danced and a fairly large crowd looked on.

The crowd was made up of some startled passers by, intrigued by the crowd of stick-wielding men and women dressed in the black and gold colours of Cornwall and, with bells

jangling, wending their way across the moor to the circle.

And numbers were swelled by friends and relatives of two members whose marriage was celebrated along with Wreckers in the first light of day. Brian McCauley and Pat Hull staged a hand-fast ceremony within a circle of Wreckers, within a circle of stone.

The magical moment over, the whole party trooped a couple of hundred yards along the road to the Cheesewring pub which opened specially for the occasion and served breakfast to all.

Much celebrating and story telling followed and Wreckers then made their way to Ilfracombe in north Devon for the Jack in the Green celebrations on the bank holiday Monday.



Paul White - More about Wreckers at www.wreckersmorris.com

Dronm Fleur de Lys Morris.

We celebrated May Day this year as guests of Pilgrim Morris. They dance at St Martha's, the highest hill in Guildford. A hill where there is no vehicular access. It's about a mile walk to the summit, on sand, and at 5a.m., quite intimidating, especially when you've had at the most two hours sleep - well, with most of the side staying together overnight, what can you expect. We were encouraged by the sounds of a piper playing in the old churchyard on the top of the hill - how do they get the coffins up there - and Pilgrim and Fleur de Lys greeted the dawn in time honoured fashion. Well, not quite, since Fleur de Lys always celebrate a new May Day with champagne (Cava, really, but at £5.25 who's checking) while we dance, hankies in one hand, glass in the other, which we feel is the true spirit of Morris dancing.

At 7 p.m., exhilarated and spurred on by about 30 spectators - dog walkers, horse riders - do they get up this early every day - we repaired to our local hostelry for a long leisurely breakfast and a toast to May day - the beginning of another year of Morris. Long may it continue.

Jean Telford

Woad Works – Andy Hamilton Award 2005



Andy Hamilton loved Morris Dancing and playing the music for it. A member of Woad Works for many years, he was also an 'occasional member' of many other sides. He was also frequently to be found in Music Sessions at many festivals and always encouraged others to make music. He was particularly keen to encourage young people to take part. He last danced and played in the procession at the Rochester Sweeps Festival on May 6th 2002 when, despite being seriously ill he joined Woad Works from the bottom of Castle Hill to the Two Brewers.

He died on June 8th 2002.

In his memory Woad Works established an award for "A Young Morris Musician" which is presented during the Sweeps Festival each May. The best way to describe the concept behind the award is neatly put by Woad Works themselves. "There are no formal criteria for the award other than remembering how on many occasions Andy would turn up at a dance spot full of enthusiasm to tell us that we really needed to go along to watch a particular youngster who was playing with a side somewhere in the

festival. So the criteria for the award is really the young musician who Andy would have told us we needed to go and watch and listen to."

The first award in 2003 went to Catherine Hazell a fiddler playing for Young Miscellany.

In 2004 the award went to a young drummer from Walton Harry Elliot.

The 2005 award went again to a drummer, Billy Hatton-Price of the Witchmen (pictured right). This year the award included a CD of Morris music donated by Talking Elephant Records which features a picture of Andy on the insert sleeve.

Coming up to ten years of age Billy is with the Witchmen "Because Mom & Dad & our friends are and we go to lots of festivals". As well as playing the drum with the band Billy is into longsword, ceilidh dancing, circus skills and "trying it on".



St George's Day Dance Out. - Joint Organisations - Newcastle upon Tyne and Gateshead

Jean Smith – Federation Events Officer

The first question to be answered was “Are Newcastle United playing at home?” Fortunately for us, the answer was no. After that it was easy. (Well, almost!)

Newcastle and Gateshead were happy to support the project. The quayside at Gateshead boasts two new arts sites, the converted Baltic Flour warehouse, which now hosts art exhibitions and the Sage, a brand new concert venue. Newcastle has many possible dance spots, so I elected to use some indoor spots and some outdoors in an effort to ensure there was some dancing even if the weather was terrible. As it happens, we were lucky, it did not rain. In fact, the sun shone for some of the time though that didn't make much difference for those dancers at the Gate, a very cold and windswept corner!

The dancing was well received by members of the public who showed a great deal of interest and were enthusiastic about the fact that we were performing English traditions. “Do it again next year.” they said.

The logistics were tricky, trying to give every side the opportunity to dance inside the Sage meant sides had to leave Newcastle City Centre and walk to the quayside and over the River Tyne. However, it was accomplished without too much difficulty and feedback was positive. There was a massed dance at the Baltic for those sides on the Gateshead site for the last hour and it was a fitting end to the day. It was suggested to me that a massed dance would have been interesting for the dancers and I agree. Something to remember should I ever find myself in that position again.

Most of the business of the day was communicated through email. Technology is a wonderful thing. However, another learning point was that some of my more important messages with dance programmes attached did not reach their destination (email addresses within large educational establishments.) Something to think about, how to ensure everyone receives important information. Did someone say post it?

My thanks go to all the sides who took part but particularly to Federation committee members who travelled the country to be there. Also especially to Pam and Stella who were the only two volunteers to offer their time to marshal. Many, many thanks.

Comments received about the day.

Heighington School (Efdss)

“We had a super time in Newcastle yesterday. Thanks for excellent organisation.”

Ripon City

On behalf of Ripon City Morris Dancers many thanks to you and your fellow organisers and marshals for a great day. We all thoroughly enjoyed the day!

Betty Luptons

Thanks to you too Jean and all the cheerful marshals. Betty Lupton's had a great time.

Chris Pentney (The Sage)

Many thanks to you – it was a magnificent showing of very varied sides and styles. There have been many positive comments from people here – including our General Director who was showing round an influential American Arts Conference boss who was also impressed. We'll definitely be up for doing something similar again – so do bear us in mind.



Still smiling Jean! Or is this just blessed relief



Belfagan

Just a quick message to say we had a very enjoyable day. Super places to dance, new friends made and workshop organised for next winter. Congratulations on a well-organised day it must have given you sleepless nights!

Jean's comment: "Not quite sleepless nights but a lot of work. It was good to see Newcastle City and its inhabitants rise to the occasion despite the National Front march that took place at short notice on the same day."

Ednie Wilson, Creativity Development Manager, Gateshead Council

On Saturday 24th April I took part in the MF Day of Dance with my own team Short Circuit Rapper and on a very personal note I would like to thank the organisers of the day of dance and for their choice of hosting the event in Newcastle / Gateshead.

It was well run and expertly stewarded and although one or two lacked some local knowledge, everyone was friendly and happy to talk to the audiences and promote the dance teams.



Professionally, I know how much effort and dedication goes into organising these sorts of events, every body should be rightly proud of their success.

I work from Gateshead Visitor Centre near the Sage Gateshead, and on the day we received some very pleasing comments given to us by visitors.

- *That it was marvellous to see something English and positive and celebratory happening on St. Georges Day.*

- *We were asked if it would happen again and where other similar events were taking place.*

- *Visitors 'loved' to find the Sage Gateshead building animated with traditional dance and music throughout the day and felt it enhanced the visitor experience to the area.*

Gateshead Council's Arts Development Team looks forward to supporting similar events in the future.

Joint Ventures

The St.Georges event was planned as a joint venture by the Morris Federation, The Morris Ring and Open Morris. On the day twenty-six sides danced out in Gateshead and Newcastle. Of these thirteen were members of the Morris Federation, seven were Ring sides and four from Open Morris. The missing two sides? These were sides whose affiliation is to EFDSS.

And Elsewhere

Anyone remember the idea of promoting St. Georges Day more widely as put forward in the last Newsletter? The Hook Eagle team from Hampshire sent in a collection of news cuttings and photographs showing just what can be achieved if you try. Watch the Newsletter for more on this subject

NEWSLETTER CONTRIBUTIONS

Please send any contributions for the Summer Newsletter to the Newsletter editor by

Sunday 21st August 2005

ST. GEORGES DAY ON TYNESIDE – THE ALBUM



Hexamshire Morris



Heighington Primary



Short Circuit



Locos in Motion



Hmm – which sides this?



Betty Luptons Laidle Laikers



Give us the cash or I'll set the big guy on you!



The Jet Set



Hexamshire Lasses



.....without who.



Ashleys Rise

BOOK REVIEW

MAGIC SPRING – Richard Lewis

Despairing of the fact that his English traditional roots seem non-existent, journalist Richard Lewis set off on a three-year discovery to unearth them. He begins by following a strange, bearded Morris man to the Whittlesey Straw Bear Festival, spends an unusual evening with the Coventry Mummers and ends up camping in Simon Pipe's garden for the Banbury Hobby Horse weekend. He does not shy away from involvement and, having suffered the embarrassment of singing Cliff Richard's "Living Doll" at a sing-a-round, he becomes a proficient melodeon player, takes lessons on the hurdy gurdy and joins Greensleeves Morris. He is very sympathetic to us Morris dancers with our odd ways and pokes fun in an endearing and respectful manner. His observations are accurate and witty, his writing reminiscent of Dave Gorman or Tony Hawks.

He does not limit himself to the Morris, but also Wassails in Somerset, "gurns" at Egremont Crab Fair, drinks with CAMRA, meets up with the Fire Societies of Lewes and with a magic circle of druids in the Forest of Dean. He has done his research well, familiarising himself with customs as they are now but also giving an informative picture of the history, and some of the myths, of origin.

We really rate this book and think that it gives credit to the Morris – and it's really fun recognising some familiar characters! It is written by a young outsider who has entered "our world" with an open mind. We think that this is something that the Morris world has been crying out for - it highlights that English traditions are still alive and removes the label of weirdness and mystique that we're frequently forced to wear.

Hardback edition published April 2005 available from Amazon for £10.49

Unabridged audio edition published July 2005 available from Soundings Ltd 0191 2534155 or

www.isis-publishing.co.uk

Large print edition published November 2005 available from Isis Publishing Ltd 0800 731 5637

Emma Cumberland (Jabberwocky North West Morris)

Ben Higgs (Icknield Way Morris Men and numerous others!)

NOW AVAILABLE FROM THE MORRIS SHOP

CD

THE MAGIC OF MORRIS (£15.00 + £1 p&p, Double CD)

After much time, effort and shedding of blood, the ultimate compilation of Morris music is here at last. This double CD brings you the musicians and dancers of The Morris Federation, The Open Morris and The Morris Ring.



I believe that we are all aware the both William Kimber and Fr Kenneth Loveless MBE are phenomenal icons within the Morris world. However, I have always found that listening to their various recordings in bouts of 45 minutes at a time, more than a little hard work. Then we thought of 'why not mix the old with the new'. This resulted in 51 tracks on 'The Magic of Morris' with an eight page colour booklet.

The artists are: Albion Morris Men, Ashley Hutchings, Black Pig Border Morris, Chris Leslie, Crucible, Cry Havoc, Fr Kenneth Loveless MBE, Grand Union Morris Men, Jake Walker, James Melville, Jim Catterall, Jockey Morris Men, Morris On Band, Moulton Morris Men, Silurian Border Morris Men, West Hill Morris, White Rose Morris Men, and William Kimber.

I am absolutely delighted with the end product and it is hoped that this will be the first of a series. We'll just have to wait and see.

Steve Adamson BFB,

Telephone 01274 773830

[Sadamsnbf@blueyonder.co.uk](mailto:Sadamsonbfb@blueyonder.co.uk)

PHOENIX ASCENDANT

Maltby Phoenix Sword Dancers came, saw and conquered. The youngsters from Maltby Comprehensive School little expected to be international champions when they signed up for the innovative Generations Project three years ago.

In summary, the project involved learning and performing traditional sword dances and then teaching them to youngsters in the feeder primary schools. The accompanying music, some understanding of the traditions around the dancing and our folk heritage, were all part of the package. Hopefully - the rubric suggested - these youngsters would pass on the skills to yet another generation in the future.

South Riding Folk Network activists were enlisted to help with the teaching. It rapidly became clear that not only were the girls - for at this point it was mainly girls who were involved - excellent teachers in the primary school setting, but were becoming formidable performers in their own right, particularly in the Rapper or short sword style of dancing.



A dance was constructed, practised and performed on a number of occasions, receiving warm approval. Some wag suggested they were good enough to enter the Dancing England Rapper Tournament, (DERT) the national championships for this type of dancing.

Sheffield based Rapper team, Triskele Sword, were enlisted to facilitate the teams' entry and act as chaperone at the 2004 competition held in Bath. At this first attempt, Maltby Phoenix Sword Dancers (The fiery bird appears on the school crest) came 6th out of 14 entries in the open class - a very creditable performance against a mainly adult field.

The team learned a lot from watching the established experts perform, and came home with ideas and aspirations. A more sophisticated dance was constructed and hard practice polished it into a formidable piece of terpsichorean art! DERT 2005 was held in the City of Preston on the weekend of the 4th - 6th March. The girls danced with distinction throughout the day. The news filtering back to competition HQ, indicated that they were making a big impression on all who saw them. In the evening, at the end of the showcase dances, the tension was unbearable as the results were announced. Jubilation is the only possible description of the mood as the team learned they were Best Youth Team AND they had won the Open Class.

It gets better.....euphoria was the order of the day when they were awarded the prestigious Steve Marris Trophy for the highest scoring team of the whole competition.

Against all the odds, against all the traditional and premier class entries, against a formidable American presence, Maltby Phoenix had swept the board.

Above all, Rapper is a team activity, and without their superb musician and a bold and inventive Tommy, they might not have pulled it off! Thanks must also be extended to supportive parents and a most supportive school. Also to Paul Davenport, Head of Music and architect of the Generations Project and especially to Sue Coe of Ryburn 3 Step who stepped in as 'manager' and team confidante for the weekend.

What of the future? Some of the team will be leaving school this year and so it will be a different Phoenix that enters the fray in 2006. The future, however, is bright. Several of the groups first taught in the feeder primary schools, are now year 7's and practising hard for DERT 2007. The Long Sword dancing continues to flourish with inventive new figures and groupings and a team of boys is now regularly practising Rapper - a very welcome breakthrough. It is confidently expected that dancing will continue at Maltby for generations to come!



Ron & Jenny Day (Triskele Sword)s

MOCKBEGGAR MORRIS DAY OF DANCE – SATURDAY 9 APRIL 2005

T
e
a
m



The idea for a day of dance was first mooted during the dreary winter months when we were enthusiastically learning new dances and polishing up old favourites. It would be a day to look forward to, but what date should we pick? Early April seemed a good idea, after all nothing much happens after Easter. It was the day of the Grand National but the racecourse at Aintree

T
a
l
k

is the other side of Liverpool. So the date was set and a group of four members valiantly took on the organisation of the event. Invitations were sent to neighbouring Morris sides – we tried to choose a variety of styles to make it more interesting for the audience. Singleton Cloggers are from the village of Singleton, four miles north of Blackpool and dance North West Morris. The Earl of Stamford are a mixed team of Cotswold Morris dancers based in Moore near Warrington. Mersey Morris Men are from the Wirral and Liverpool and dance Cotswold Morris, Molly Dances and they also have a team of Rapper Sword Dancers. The Argameles Clog Team dance North West and so do we, the ladies of Mockbeggar Morris.

Our organisers worked hard contacting officials to ask permission to dance and putting together a programme for the day. Our last practice evening arrived and there were anxious whispers about the threatening bad weather and what to wear under our dresses to save us from hypothermia. We ran through the dances that our squire, Jean Stapledon and foreman, Pat Moulden had selected for us and hoped that we would give a good performance on the day.

On the morning the teams met at Seacombe Ferry Terminal at Wallasey. Unfortunately the Argameles Clog Team had to drop out at the last minute due to illness. We bravely started the dancing outside with each side taking a turn. "It's surprising how quickly you warm up," one dancer was heard to remark. After one round our squire, Jean obtained permission for us to dance inside the building and we moved gratefully into the warm to continue the dancing.

The first change to our schedule came when it was decided to catch an early ferry down to our next dance spot at Woodside, Birkenhead, because there would be more room there to dance inside. As we headed down the ramp to the pontoon we realised for the first time that the River Mersey was looking very choppy. In fact there were loud grinding noises coming from the pontoon. "It is useful the way the floor comes up to meet you," said Bernard Cromarty from The Earl of Stamford, and of BBC GMR 'Folk Scene' fame. "It saves all the effort."

As the boat, the Royal Daffodil, approached the dock the fenders hit the wall rather sharply and the wood panels started to splinter. Getting on the boat was no mean feat as the gangplank was bucking and some of us were told to wait until the swell subsided. Despite concerns about seasickness we managed the short trip upriver and trooped into the terminal at Woodside to the accompanying sound of Morris bells. We found a splendid area to dance the ideal size for one side and overlooked by a balcony for the spectators. The atmosphere really livened up with several rounds of dances and with hot drinks from the cafeteria. Cameras were clicking on every corner and compliments were exchanged between Morris sides.

All too soon Linda called us all together to board the boat to cross the Mersey for Liverpool. Here we hit our first snag of the day – the boat that we had been on was damaged and we would have to wait for the next one. Our packed lunches were waiting for us in Liverpool and nothing could be done to get them to us while we waited. What else could we do but go back and dance some more?

When we finally boarded the ferry it was slightly alarming to note that it was the Royal Daffodil. Do Mersey Ferries call all their boats by the same name, I wonder? The journey passed quickly to the music of Bernard Cromarty's accordion and we soon arrived at the Pier Head.

The weather had changed slightly to blustery rain, a chance to demonstrate my new umbrella guaranteed not to turn inside out. It was nearly two o'clock when we reached the caterer's car, laden with our packed lunches. We didn't even think to find somewhere to sit down but ate our butties ravenously. By this time some of the party were feeling the need for alcohol so we headed for the Pumphouse Inn which served excellent drinks, both hot and cold. Mersey Morris Men found enough room in the bar to dance a four-man dance, which caused some interest from the smartly dressed clientele.

Meanwhile our squire, Jean had found a sheltered spot called the Anchor Courtyard. No wind there, a very attractive area for dancing and for the audience who paused to watch for a while. It was the birthday of one of our members so we embarrassed Chris by singing 'Happy Birthday' before we started dancing 'Reddish', which Chris leads.



Singleton Cloggers at the Albert Dock



Earl of Stamford, Albert Dock

As we drew the dancing to a close the sun was just forcing its way through the clouds. We trudged back to the ferry, passing the pool in the Albert Dock, where, in a windy corner one of the ladies of The Earl of Stamford lost her hat. All was not lost as it was fished out of the water with a Morris stick. Morris sticks do have more than one use after all! A weary group made their way back onto the ferry – the river was much calmer now - but there was one more hitch. To round the day off we were to have cruised to the mouth of the Mersey but there was a rail strike and Mersey Ferries had cut the cruise in order to run the ferry every half-hour. I think we were all so tired by this time that it really didn't matter.

Back at Seacombe we said our goodbyes with promises to meet at future events.

Still buoyed with our success we think we may make the Mockbeggar Day of Dance an annual event. We were made to feel very welcome at all the venues and the only restriction was that we could not dance on the ferry. As things turned out we could only be grateful for that decision.

Gina Siddons

Moresk – The Budding of New Rose



Rose Moresk made its debut last summer at Shaftesbury and the Stroud Pipe and Tabor Festival, and a good number of people saw our Sidmouth performances. The shows were well attended, the workshops over-subscribed and to our astonishment, they even had to turn people away from the talk. There is clearly some curiosity about what we are, and why we are doing it.

Most Morris dancers are familiar with the ‘lost in the mists of time immoral’ and ‘ancient pagan fertility dance’ theories of the origins of Morris. Like me you may have felt a little uncomfortable as you stood in front of a crowd and proclaimed one of these explanations to the public. So I was very pleased in 2000 to hear Professor John Forrest give a rather different explanation at the launch of his book ‘The Early History of Morris Dancing’.

Through his research, Prof. Forrest has shown that Moresk, the earliest form of Morris in this country, for which there is evidence, was a Royal court entertainment in C15th. Over the years, as more sophisticated acts or newer fashions superseded Moresk, it dropped from Royal favour and slid down the social scale to become street entertainment. As yet there is no evidence for the pagan fertility theory, which was probably a C19th scholastic construction.

Bingo! I thought, no more will I have to spiel the old pagan fertility line again, but three years later I was still hearing it every time I saw a Morris side dance. Did anybody read Professor Forrest’s book? Not many perhaps, after all it was written by an academic, and it treated the material in a very structured and logical manner. Not the normal light reading for us Morris Dancers.

A pity, because my experience from a professional marketing and PR perspective indicated that the ancient paganism angle might be part of the Morris PR problem. It might be part of the reason why the press, the establishment and the general public find it difficult to hold Morris in high esteem as a valued part of English culture.

In autumn 2003 a few like-minded folks gathered in a village hall just outside Reading with a mission to put the record straight and turn the historical record of early Morris into something more accessible. We wanted to make something to reach a larger audience, something that even Morris dancers would understand without ever having to read a big book that does not have many pictures.

So began an extraordinary journey. Moresk is not well documented. John Forrest helped us pull out the known snippets of information - descriptions, prints, carvings, inventories of costumes, and accounts showing the cost of silk, bells and spangles, but, there is no ‘black book’ of C15th Moresk – or is there?

Andy Richards, who has experience in early dance as well as being a Morris dancer (and an excellent Taborer), did a lot of research on the Gresley manuscript. This is a recently re-discovered document that appears to be the aide memoir of one Johnes Banyes, possibly a dancing master from a Derbyshire country estate around 1500. There is nothing in the manuscript that says ‘This contains Moresk choreography’, indeed it has been interpreted by other groups in an early Italian dance style (mainly by dance groups interested in early Italian dance). However, there are aspects of the manuscript that we can relate to other descriptions of Moresk.

The Gresley Manuscript may or may not contain Moresk, but it could do. Either way, it’s great value to us is in providing a quite detailed dance vocabulary of the period including figures and tunes. Onto this framework we can overlay the elements of Moresk from other sources of the period.

An interpretation of a C15th manuscript, a pile of old images and various disparate descriptions was a good starting point in theory, but the reality of standing in a village hall with a bunch of talented dancers was daunting. It was soon clear that we had to forget all about Morris as we know it today. There are a couple of similarities – they appear to have had a double step and a single step at that time, and a ‘rake’ that might be interpreted as movement similar to a galley, but the rest is different.

The first dance we attempted was ‘Prenes a Gard’, a lepeing and torneing dance, short and simple on paper, and very hard in practice. It took us some weeks to feel we were getting anywhere. The biggest challenge was remembering the sequence whilst dancing. Unlike contemporary Morris there are few repetitive figures.

The dance is constantly changing shape, without repeating anything, and every 'figure' is a fresh experience. It felt like dancing with someone else's legs.

Despite the difficulties there were glimpses of something new (or very old, if you see what I mean). Suddenly we would see that 'those dancers in that part of the dance, look just like the dancers in this iconography'. With a glimmering of confidence we tackled another dance, Pernes en Gre, a dart and target dance (short spears and shields). This is our attempt at the heraldic combat dances of English Moresk. It is another fast moving, energetic dance. This time requiring a high degree of trust, as the spears fly around our heads.



Ly Bens Distonys was our next dance – a tough four-man grappling dance. Followed by another three-man lepeing dance, Temperans. All four of these dances are performed by men, trying their hardest to gain the favour of the 'Lady'. The Lady grants her favour by presenting a rose to the dancer who lepes highest, or fights most vigorously, or just exudes the most testosterone. In C15th there was highly potent symbolism inherent in the presentation of a Rose.

It took about 9 months to get four dances to a point where we could show them, and our presentations of the summer 2004 were very much 'work in progress', but we were pleased with the progress. A reflection of the commitment and graft of the dancers. These dances are short, but demanding.

Our performances also include Talbott, a Jester's Jig, devised in 2003 by Andy Richards and Simon Pipe, and largely based upon iconography.

Today, we are feeling much more comfortable with the form of the dance. We are busy training new, young recruits, and working harder on the style of dance. We are looking more closely at the descriptions and iconography, and have been greatly helped in this by one of the new members, Barbara Segal, a professional dancer who specialises in early dance.

We are also working on the context of the dance, presenting other elements of the court entertainment performed with the Moresk at the time.

The team now consists of about 20 people, including two taborers, and two professional historians. We recognise that we still have a long way to go. We do need more fit, agile and committed dancers. We really need a costumier interested in researching the period. We would like to find someone who knows about swordplay of the period, and someone who is willing and capable of somersaulting backwards over the point of a sword – perhaps a gymnast, a contortionist, or an illusionist?

We have some confidence that Rose Moresk reflects 'English Moresk' c1500, given the evidence that has come to light so far. We are actively involved in research here and abroad. The 'abroad' element is significant. There are strong indications that Moresk was imported from the continent. There is certainly a lot more evidence of it in the early C15th in Europe than in England. In that early period it appears to have been a very cosmopolitan and exotic dance form, involving dancers from Africa, the Middle East and Asia. These were professional dancers possibly touring the Royal Courts of Europe. By 1500 the Moresk appears to have adopted more national identity in the countries where it continued, keeping the characteristic dance style, but using local dancers and costumes.

Rose Moresk practices monthly on Sundays, and occasionally on Wednesday evenings too, in the Berkshire/North Hampshire area. If you think you have something to offer us as dancer, or in a slightly less dangerous role (like musician, researcher, maker, treasurer, communications, PR, bookings) we would be pleased to hear from you.

In 2005 we are keen to dance at some Morris events, especially those in interesting period locations, and we have a key objective to dance before a wide public at historic venues, events and re-enactments. Our workshop manual and CD is now available via the newly refurbished web-site www.rosemoresk.com and we look forward to meeting more MF dancers during the year.

Stephen Rowley steve@artension.com

It's Official! Sidmouth Folkweek is alive and well!



When the organisers of the Sidmouth International Folk Festival dropped out after the 2004 event, the future looked bleak for the Sidmouth Festival. However out of darkness comes light, and a new group of organisers have stepped in to put together a great new festival for 2005. The new festival, now entitled Sidmouth Folkweek, has an ever growing line up, including Bellowhead, Whapweasel, Jacqui McShee & John Renbourn, Last Night's Fun, Show of Hands, Battlefield Band, Kathryn Tickell Band, The Reinhardt Project, Harvey Andrews, Black Umfolosi 5, Little Johnny England, Tickled Pink and a vast number of others.

Gordon Newton, organiser of the Rochester Sweeps Festival, is putting on the main show in an 800 seater marquee at the Ham - the "Ham Arena Marquee", and many other individuals and groups are putting in a lot of time and effort to organise this mammoth project around the town. Additional outside funding has come from the Sidmouth Town Council, who have funded the "Young Sidmouth" event at Blackmore Gardens, and Hobgoblin Music, who have organised and funded the afternoon events at the Ham Arena Marquee, and supported the festival with mailouts and advertising. Other major venues at Sidmouth Folkweek 2005 are the Bedford Hotel, and the Manor Pavilion in Sidmouth, and the Late Night Extra in Salcombe Regis.

As well as a fantastic array of concerts, ceilidhs, late night extras, workshops, etc, there will be a great deal of activity in the town. Morris dancers will abound, and there will be sessions going on in all the pubs, and along the sea front. Camping is readily available – the Bulverton and Salcombe Regis campsites are now taking bookings, though they are filling up fast.

The Hobgoblin Stage!

Hobgoblin Music are putting on afternoon events (ceilidhs and concerts) on the Hobgoblin Stage at the Ham Arena Marquee throughout the festival. Hobgoblin have arranged the following acts: Jacqui McShee & John Renbourn, "Pentangle co-founders, the legendary acoustic guitarist John Renbourn and Jacqui McShee, singer of some of the most beautiful versions of British traditional songs in a rare concert together"; Last Night's Fun "The most exciting and entertaining Irish music band in England"; Reinhardt Project "Three outstanding Gypsy-Jazz guitar virtuosos, Lulo, Mike and Sascha Reinhardt follow in the footsteps of the great Django"; Whapweasel "The best new dance band I've heard in at least a decade"; Harvey Andrews "With 40 years on the road and over 50 television appearances, Songwriter Harvey Andrews has played at all the major festivals in Britain, Europe and North America, and he always gets invited back."; Richard Durrant "Best known for his lively and entertaining guitar concerts Durrant has won devoted fans throughout Europe - his sheer virtuosity and uncategorisable repertoire earning him a unique place in the world of the guitar; Blackthorn Band Five piece Blackthorn bring their melodic and multi-instrumental brand of traditional music and song to Sidmouth for the first time in 2005. "A commendable musical collective" fROOTS; All Jigged Out "Exciting Celtic jazz funk 5 piece AJO were BBC Radio 2 Young Folk Awards finalists in 1999"; ThingumaJig! One of the most popular Ceilidh Bands in the South East of England with foot tapping music, dances and songs from Scotland, England, Ireland and America, played on a fascinating variety of instruments."Even if you are among the two-left-feet crowd, you'll enjoy the energy and superb musicianship"; Steve Turner "Steve Turner is a highly regarded musician and fine singer, renowned for his uniquely individual English concertina accompaniments and interpretation of many types of songs, he also plays tenor banjo and mandolin."; and Rocas "Upbeat celtic dance tunes from this exciting new band formed by members of Beltaine".

Pete McClelland at Hobgoblin says "We are doing everything we can to support Sidmouth Folk Week, and ensure its future, and we are very happy to be able to participate in the organisation and promotion of the festival."

Tickets are on sale. Programmes are available

Tickets will be available for each individual event, and most can be booked in advance. All events at the Ham Arena Marquee, and most events elsewhere will have tickets on the door as well, so less organised people can easily enjoy the music without pre-booking! Tickets for afternoon events range between £7.00 and £12.00. You can also buy a season ticket for the Ham Arena Marquee, which replaces the old Knowle Arena as the main festival stage, for £135. This ticket covers all afternoon and evening events at the Ham, including workshops and the Hobgoblin Stage.

All advance tickets are available by calling Sidmouth Tourist

Information Centre on 01395 578627 and in addition for Hobgoblin Stage tickets you can also call Hobgoblin Music on 0845 130 9500.

Concessions: Youth tickets (for under 18s) are all half price. Members of the Sidmouth Folkweek 2005 Supporters Club will get priority bookings, and concessions on ticket prices. It costs 20 GBP to join, see www.sidmouthfolkweek.co.uk/supporters.html for more information.

A completely free colour programme of events, with a booking form, will be easily available in advance. You will find the programme being distributed at festivals and in shops, and if you send a stamped, addressed A5 envelope to Tourist Information, Ham Lane, Sidmouth, EX10 8XR, you can have one sent to you! You can also call the Tourist Information Office to book tickets on 01395 578627

The official website for the Sidmouth Folk Week is www.sidmouthfolkweek.co.uk

Support The Festival!

The festival is a great venture for the organisers, and its success depends on the folk-loving public taking part and supporting the festival. The Sidmouth Folk Festival has taken place during the first week in August, under many different organisers, and in various forms, for the last 50 years. It is a huge and valuable part of the UK's folk music scene, and success for Sidmouth Folk Week in 2005 will guarantee the festival

 <p>hobgoblin music www.hobgoblin.com</p>											
<p>Melodeon experts Hobgoblin Music have been selling folk instruments for over 25 years. Our shops always have a great range of new and second hand instruments in stock so come along to one of our branches - we may have just what you're looking for!</p> <p><i>Pick up or call for your free copy of our full colour catalogue, brand new in 2005</i></p>											
<p>MAIL ORDER - + 44 (0) 845 130 9500 Post: P.O. Box 2522, Henfield, BN5 9SN www.hobgoblin.com - post@hobgoblin.co.uk Subscribe to our email newsletter by sending an email to maillist@hobgoblin.co.uk</p>											
<p>VISIT ONE OF OUR NINE UK SHOPS</p> <table border="0"> <tr> <td>BIRMINGHAM 0121 772 7780</td> <td>LEEDS 0113 245 3311</td> <td>MILTON KEYNES 01908 217217</td> </tr> <tr> <td>BRISTOL 0117 929 0902</td> <td>LONDON 020 7323 9040</td> <td>NOTTINGHAM 0115 911 9440</td> </tr> <tr> <td>CRAWLEY 01293 515858</td> <td>MANCHESTER 0161 273 1000</td> <td>WADEBRIDGE 01208 812230</td> </tr> </table>			BIRMINGHAM 0121 772 7780	LEEDS 0113 245 3311	MILTON KEYNES 01908 217217	BRISTOL 0117 929 0902	LONDON 020 7323 9040	NOTTINGHAM 0115 911 9440	CRAWLEY 01293 515858	MANCHESTER 0161 273 1000	WADEBRIDGE 01208 812230
BIRMINGHAM 0121 772 7780	LEEDS 0113 245 3311	MILTON KEYNES 01908 217217									
BRISTOL 0117 929 0902	LONDON 020 7323 9040	NOTTINGHAM 0115 911 9440									
CRAWLEY 01293 515858	MANCHESTER 0161 273 1000	WADEBRIDGE 01208 812230									
<p>SCARLATTI Scarlatti make a range of budget melodeons and accordions that offer excellent value for money - perfect for learning on!</p>											
<p>DELICIA The quality of the Delicia melodeons is excellent, and their reeds have such a good reputation that other well known brands use them too.</p>											
<p>SERENELLINI Serenellini make beautifully finished melodeons for us in Italy in a similar style to instruments sold by Saltarelle. A powerful sound and excellent value.</p>											
<p>CASTAGNARI A universal favourite, the Castagnari range is ever expanding. Attention is paid to every detail, you simply can't buy a better melodeon at any price.</p>											
<p>Sponsoring Sidmouth Folkweek 2005: The Hobgoblin Stage: Every afternoon at the Ham Arena Marquee at the Sidmouth Folkweek. Whapweasel, Last Night's Fun, John Renbourn & Jacqui McShee, and much more! Call 0845 130 9500 for your free Hobgoblin catalogue, and/or free Sidmouth Folkweek 2005 Programme!</p>											

STICK TO THE FORMULA – HEDINGHAM FAIR CALENDAR GETS IT WRONG



Every Wakes Monday, dancers and watchers gather to follow the Horn Dancers in Abbots Bromley, Staffordshire. This year's tour of village, outlying farms and Blithfield Hall, home of their patron, Lady Bagot takes place on

Monday September 12th, not September 5th as listed in this year's Calendar of Traditional Customs – a mistake that Hedingham Fair is very keen to publicise. Who'd make a customs calendar? It's a bit more complicated than the Roundabouts of Redditch and not half as titivating as the WI. Customs change their dates too – there's a Christmas cycle, an Easter cycle lasting anything up to three months between Shrove Tuesday and Trinity. Some customs are not celebrated every year, others are community celebrations and their dates shift to suit local needs. In Abbots Bromley, **Wakes Monday is calculated as the first Monday after the first Sunday after September 4th**. Simple innit? But what happens when September 4th is a Sunday – why take advice of course.

And there my lord and members of the jury is the rub. First advice said Sept 5th and the calendar went to press. Then questions were asked and things changed. Bingo – a high profile louse-up. It's sackcloth and ashes time for HF. "We will do everything we can to ensure people know. Everyone who bought a Calendar by Mail Order will get a personal letter. It'll be like a product recall", says Colin Cater. More importantly, please come to Abbots Bromley and see the dance. It's the oldest ceremonial dance in England, dating from C13. You'll need to be there at 8 a.m. to see the Horns, painted either black or white carried from St Nicholas' Church to be danced and paraded for twelve hours interspersed with many a merrie jest and libation. The dance is very ancient with the horns' antiquity carbon dated to 1065. The dance, has two movements - a serpentine figure-of-eight

used to process between locations and a 'set' dance in which the white antlers stand opposed to the black and the retinue of Fool and Hobby Horse stand opposite Maid Marion and Cross-Bow. There's also a bit of a village fair all day at the Buttercross and local Morris teams come in the evening to welcome the Horn Dancers back after a very long day, before the Horns are returned to the Church for another year. Everybody should go at least once – it's part of what England is about. **But please go on the right day, September 12th**, the first Monday after the first Sunday **after** September 4th.

Editors Note:

The Morris Ring magazine for March carries a similarly themed item on the true date for Boxing Day. Is it always the 26th December? Or is it the first working day after the 26th as the "box" was the gift to tradesmen or employees? And if it is the first working day then what do we do now that the first working day after St. Stephens day is a Bank Holiday?

Form an orderly queue to start the discussions on this subject and we might get a definitive answer by the next time the 26th December falls on a Sunday. Meanwhile I shall continue to dance out on the 26th December since that's when the general public expects to see us!

TRADITION

A quarterly publication featuring British traditions & customs; music, song & dance; folklore, myth & legend; traditional ways of life; interviews; CD reviews; traditional diary and more.

Single issues £2.00 (plus 40p postage)
Subscription £9.50 (includes postage)

Also available online:

www.traditionmagazine.com

Cheques payable to Paul Salmon

Send to:

**9 Burwash, Witnesham, Ipswich, Suffolk
IP6 9EL**

Tradition sponsors

THE SUFFOLK FOLK FESTIVAL

Cornwall Festival of Dance

Sally Hamlyn, Wreckers bag, is also the main organiser of the Cornwall Festival of Dance which takes place at the Royal Cornwall Show (9, 10 & 11 June), at Wadebridge.

There are more than 140 dancers and musicians taking part over the three days.

Ginsters – nationally famous pastie and sandwich makers – are the main sponsors and will keep the performers fed for three days.

Skinkers of Truro are providing beer and Hobgoblin Music are also supporting the event.

If you want to know more and fancy taking part next year, visit the web site at www.cornwalldancefest.co.uk

The festival is a celebration of, mainly, traditional dance, not just morris and aims to promote dance in Cornwall as well as introducing different styles and sides from outside the county.

Paul White

Raddon Hill Weekend Plans

Raddon Hill Clog Morris have organised a Midsummer Weekend of Morris Dancing over the weekend of 24th to 26th June 2005.

Based in the beautiful South Hams of Devon, the weekend will be based in the coastal village of Stoke Fleming, an erstwhile fishing and smuggling village. As well as the hosts, invitations have been accepted by Wreckers Border, Carnkie Cloggers and Lodestone Border, with the Cotswold balance being filled by Exeter Morris and Sarum Morris.

A welcoming barbecue will be held at the campsite on the Friday evening 24th June with a session of music and song, or you can just enjoy a relaxing pint of beer from our sponsors O'Hanlon's Brewery, who are based at Whimble in East Devon.

On the Saturday two double decker buses will leave the site to take us to dance at Kingsbridge, Totnes and the Cider Press Centre at Dartington. On the Saturday evening we have booked a traditional jazz band, City Steam, to entertain us, giving us all a chance to relax in the beautiful modern village hall provided with funding from the Heritage Lottery, a change from the more usual ceilidh.

On Sunday 26th, everyone will dance together in the Royal Avenue Gardens, Dartmouth from 10.30 to 12.30 (morris time!) before embarking on a River Dart cruise on this most beautiful of estuaries upstream as far as Greenway Ferry, the former home of crime writer Agatha Christie. It will then be time to say our reluctant goodbyes to all of our friends, old and new.

David Hopkins
Social & Publicity Secretary
Raddon Hill Clog Morris

Channel Islands Festival Of Flowers

A day out with a difference is the intention of Raddon Hill Clog Morris, who are based in the village of Ide on the outskirts of Exeter in Devon.

On 11th June this year, 29 of us will catch the early morning catamaran "Condor" from Weymouth to go to Guernsey to take part in the island's "Battle of Flowers" festival.

In what promises to be a long day, we'll be taking part part in the procession and dance at various sites on the island. We'll then catch the evening ferry back to Weymouth.

The idea came from a casual conversation with the Guernsey side of "Belles and Broomsticks" at last year's Sidmouth Folk Festival.

Raddon Hill dance in the north west style, and from a few years ago, when it looked like we would fold, we managed to entice a few new members and now we manage up to 20 dancers and 10 musicians on our Tuesday evening practices at Ide Village Hall.

If you want to know more our website is www.geocities.com/raddonhill

David Hopkins
Social & Publicity Secretary
Raddon Hill Clog Morris

Headcorn Morris Visitors

Headcorn Morris have travelled widely in Europe and even ventured over the pond to Boston Mass. but this time, they're going to be welcoming a dancing group from Spanish Basque country who were their hosts in Bilbao during May last year.

The timing of the visit has enabled Headcorn and their guests to join in with the Maidstone River Festival at the end of July and of course they'll all be doing their usual street entertaining at various locations in the area over the weekend.

The Basque group are called Itxas Argia and anybody who watches them will be amazed at the similarity to our own Cotswold style; morris and folk-music buffs will even detect similarities when they hear some of their tunes as well.

A highlight for Headcorn and any other sides who are interested will be the workshops which are planned for Lenham Village Hall on Sunday 31st July where each group can learn something of the other's tradition. Any individuals or groups who wish to participate in this or who would like some more information about this exciting weekend event can contact headcorn.morris@gayner.co.uk

Calendar



June

Fri 3rd

Rampant Rooster Morris -8.00pm with Ditchling Morris

Sat 4th

Wakefield Morris at Richmod Morris Day of Dance

Mon 6th

Wakefield Morris at The Greyhound Saxton Yorks

Tue 7th

Rampant Rooster Morris 8.00pm The Crown, Capel with Broadwood Morris Men

Fri 10th-12th

Sarum Morris - Wimborne Folk Festival 3 days of folk music and Morris dancing at Wimborne, Dorset

Sat 11th

Amounderness Ladies - Grange Over Sands Edwardian Festival 10.00am

Wakefield Morris – Horbury Street Fayre

Shrewsbury Morris Hodnet Hall Gardens, nr. Market Drayton 12.30-2.15pm

Raddon Hill Clog Morris Guernsey “Battle of Flowers” festival.

Sun 12th

Rampant Rooster Morris Charity Bike Ride, Skimmington Castle

Wakefield Morris – Horbury Street Fayre

Tue 14th

Rampant Rooster Morris 8.00pm Dog and Duck, Kingsfold

Fri 17th

Sarum Morris - Hook & Glove, Farley

Fri 17th-19th -

Maybe Morris Weekend of Dance

Sat 18th/19th Rampant Rooster Morris -Maybe Morris Weekend

Sat 18th

Amounderness Ladies Lichfield (possibly)

Mon 20th

Wakefield Morris at The Chequers Ledsham – Yorks.

Tue 21st

Rampant Rooster Morris -8.00pm Charity Cricket Match, Farmhouse, Langshott

Fri 24th-26th

Raddon Hill Clog Morris Midsummer Weekend of Dance

Sarum Morris - Raddon Hill weekend

Sat 25th

Amounderness Ladies Southport with Argameles NW Clog

Tue 28th

Rampant Rooster Morris -8.00pm The Crown, Westcott with Fleur de Lys

July

If you've got a weekend to spare, and enjoy Cotswold dancing, then please come to Scarborough Fayre Scragenz Friday 29 - Sunday 31 July; £5 for indoor camping & breakfasts

Please contact Shirley Doyle: 01723 862842 or Wendy Bostock: wbostock@mistral.co.uk for more details

Fri 1st

Sarum Morris - The Anvil, Pimperne

Fri 1st-Sun 3rd

Wakefield Morris Weekend of dance.

Sat 2nd

Christchurch Festival Day of Dance

Shrewsbury Morris Montgomery Street Fair pm

Mon 4th

Wakefield Morris at The Kings Arms Heath Common, Wakefield.

Tue 5th

Rampant Rooster Morris -8.00pm The Volunteer, Abinger Hammer, RH5 6PR

Fri 8th-Sun 10th

Wakefield Morris at Lytham St Annes with Fylde Coast

Rampant Rooster Morris –Weekend Ditchling Morris

Sat 9th -10th

SARUM MORRIS ANNUAL TOUR Sarum Morris with guest sides dancing In Salisbury, Avebury and Stonehenge .

Sat 9th –

Amounderness Ladies Lytham/Fairhaven Lake St. Annes Carnival with Fylde Coast Cloggers

Tue 12th

Rampant Rooster Morris -8.00pm The Plough, Coldharbour with Stane Street

Fri 15th

Sarum Morris - Black Horse, West Tytherley

Rampant Rooster Morris -8.00pm The Parrot, Forest Green

Mon 18th

Wakefield Morris at The Anglers Retreat Winterset – Yorks.

Tue 19th

Rampant Rooster Morris - 8.00pm Jolly Farmer, Worplesdon and Royal Oak, Wood Street Village with Yately Morris Men

Fri 22nd

Sarum Morris -Sheaf of Arrows, Cranborne

Fri 22nd – Sun 24th

Wakefield Morris at Warwick Folk Festival

Sat 23rd

Sarum Morris - Ducklington day of dance

Fri 29 - Sun 31

Scragenz Morris Scarborough Fayre

Fri 29th

Sarum Morris - Horseshoe, Ebbesbourne Wake

Sat 30th-Fri 5th Aug

Sidmouth Folk Festival

Sun 31st

Sarum Morris - Sidmouth

Headcorn Morris Workshops at Lenham Village Hall with the Basque group Itxas Argia

August**Tue 2nd**

Rampant Rooster Morris -8.00pm The Prince of Wales, Westcott

Fri 5th

Sarum Morris - Cuckoo, Hamptworth

Sat 6th – Tue 9th 00.1

Wakefield Morris at Broadstairs Folk Festival

Fri 12th

Rampant Rooster Morris -8.00pm The Six Bells, Newdigate

Tue 16th

Rampant Rooster Morris -8.00pm The Old House at Home, Dorking

Sat 20th – Fri 26th

Whitby Folk week

Fri 26th

Rampant Rooster Morris - 8.00pm Stephen Langton, Friday Street

Tue 30th

Rampant Rooster Morris -8.00pm The Farmhouse, Langshot

September**Fri 2nd.**

Sarum Morris - King John, Tollard Royal

2nd – 4th

Rampant Rooster Morris –Weekend Faversham Hop Festival, Kent

Fri 9th-11th.

Sarum Morris - Swanage Folk Festival.

Sat 10th

Shrewsbury Morris Ellesmere Boat Festival

Thu 15th – Sun 18th

Otley Folk Festival

Sat 24th

Sarum Morris - Folk All Around Chipping Norton.

Fri 23rd – Sun 25th

Morris Federation AGM hosted by Mad Jacks Morris in Hastings

October**Sat 8th**

Shrewsbury Morris Ceilidh at Sundorne School, Shrewsbury with All Blacked Up & Baz Parkes. Details 01939 233977

21st -23rd

Fools and Animals Unconvention, Cromford, Matlock

Hosted by Ripley Morris Men

Sat 22nd

City Clickers Workshop Bristol

November**Sun 6th**

Rampant Rooster Morris -12.30pm Brockham Green with Sompting

December**Sat 10th**

Shrewsbury Morris White Christmas Ceilidh at Sundorne School Shrewsbury. With Pump Action. Details 01939 233977

Boxing Day

Rampant Rooster Morris -12.30pm Mummers Play, Brockham

January 2006**New Years Day**

Rampant Rooster Morris -Mummers Play, Skimmington Castle

Thu 5th

Rampant Rooster Morris -Wassail, Skimmington Castle



**Morris Federation
AGM 2005**

**Hurry! Discount tickets available only
till the end of June**

Hosted by Mad Jacks Morris
in conjunction with
Oojah Kappivvy
and Hannahs Cat

It will be held on the
23rd, 24th, 25th
September 2005
In Hastings
East Sussex




More info to follow.....

Contact: email. terryhewitt900@hotmail.com
post. 157 Pinders Road, Hastings, TN35 5PW
phone. 01424 424335

Festivals – More Points of View

From Michael Kermode

As both a festival organiser and a clog/morris team member I thought I could add to the debate on dancing at festivals.

Furness Tradition festival (Ulverston, Lake District, July 15-17) prides itself on looking after dance sides. We offer weekend tickets, concessions for family, food and indoor camping, all free. We provide boards where essential. If dance sides do an evening performance or a workshop we pay them. Yet we still have problems hearing back from sides.

Food, dancing space and accommodation all need booking ahead. Also giving out weekend tickets has an effect on numbers of tickets we can sell.

We want to support dance sides, and love having them in Ulverston, but we need commitment from them in good time.

And from Alan Curtis a member of, but not speaking for Dr Turberville's Morris

It seems to me, as a Morris dancer, that in general festivals do not treat us very fairly. However, I have to acknowledge that there are a wide variety of festivals ranging from very small, volunteer run events with tiny budgets to huge events which are capable of making someone (?) sizeable sums in profits....

Why do we go as a side to festivals? Well there are several reasons, but perhaps the top few on my list are the opportunity to dance to a reasonably large, appreciative audience (compared with the normal midweek evening dance out at a pub), and the chance to meet and watch other sides. The chance to go to a good quality workshop, concert or ceilidh as well is a plus.

What do we bring to the festivals? Well, speaking mainly of festivals that are based in small towns rather than large arenas, I would say our contribution is partly free entertainment and partly fund raising through going around with the collecting pot, but mainly free publicity. Free street entertainment always seems to be a welcome addition to any small - town event, and on a surprisingly large number of occasions the locals have no idea that there is a festival on until they see us dancing and ask us why we are doing it.

So what about the cost? In return for the advantages I noted above, we think it is reasonable to pay our own expenses, just as though we had arranged to dance in the town centre on any other day. However, there is a difference - on such a day we would expect to pass the collecting pot and recover some of our

costs that way. At a festival, any collection always goes to the organising committee. When you take into account the advertising we are doing, it would be reasonable to expect something in return from the organisers, so how about free tickets? All too often these days, we find that free tickets are not available to dancers (let alone partners, who may well be essential as supporters / load bearers / transport managers...). So we have to shell out for tickets in addition to our costs for attending.

Some festivals offer half price tickets, which is better than nothing, but what about the logistics? Very often (i.e. nearly always) the dancing programme is such that it is impossible to attend any of the festival daytime events - so the workshops and afternoon concerts are out of the question. So perhaps we get to an evening concert or ceilidh, assuming that we have the energy to get cleaned up, showered and changed after a day's dancing. Perhaps there's a chance of joining in one of the free pub sessions at lunchtime, but that's not worth a half price ticket!

Surely no other group of performers would be expected to turn up and pay for the privilege! While I'm not claiming that morris dancing is likely to be a major draw, generating a large income for the festival in the way that some concert bands would be, I do believe that we provide a net benefit to the organisers and I think we should start charging a reasonable fee. (I leave the question of deciding what is reasonable to another discussion!)

I should point out that this is not intended as a criticism of any of the festival dancing organisers I have dealt with in recent years; very often they are caught in the middle with a very difficult job to do; but I would like to address my annoyance to the organising committees who seem to think that Morris can be had as a free resource, or even another source of ticket income.

The NUT
The essential magazine for rapper dancers
Subscribe Now . . .
Learn to read later !!

- Three issues per year.
Jan/Feb - May/June - Sept/Oct - plus a DERT Special
- By post to subscribers.
- **Subscription for 2004: £5**

Send your name, address and contact details to the editor,
Ron Day
24 Chapel Street, Mosborough,
Sheffield,
S20 5BT
0114 2470099 or email ronaldday@btinternet.com
Cheques should be made payable to 'DERT 2002'

News, gossip and information about rapper dancing and dancers from around the UK and abroad.



City Clickers
in association with
The Morris Federation
present a day of

Clog Dance Workshops

where: **Bristol**
when: **October 22nd 2005**

We will offer three workshops:

Beginners: Pat Tracey's Old Lancashire Heel and Toe steps taught by Kathryn Tattersall and Pat Tracey (tbc)

Intermediate: A fun class! Alex Boydell steps adapted by Simon Harmer to fit to 'Alexander's Ragtime Band' – taught by Simon

Challenging: Northumberland and Durham Hornpipe steps. An exhibition routine from the repertoire of Ivy Sands. Taught by Chris Metherell.

Price: to be confirmed

For further information:

email: city_clickers@hotmail.com

write: send sae to
City Clickers c/o 51 Bishop Road,
Bishopston BRISTOL BS7 8LS



<http://www.city-clickers.org.uk>

MORRIS FEDERATION SHOP

PUBLICATIONS:

Cotswold Glossary: An invaluable reference book including definitions of steps and figures found in two or more traditions; a cross-reference to all Cotswold traditions and types; terms used by different authors for the same movements; Morris musicianship and much more.

£4.00 + £1.25 UK, £3.50 OVERSEAS (p&p)

Adderbury: Produced jointly by Tim Radford and The Morris Federation, this book contains the history of the tradition, copies of original notation from the Blunt manuscript and modern notation with easy-to-follow diagrams for 13 stick and 13 hanky dances. Includes photographs and music.

£4.50 + £1.25 UK, £3.50 OVERSEAS (p&p)

North West Morris: This book contains notations, illustrated with figures and diagrams for ten of the best North West Morris dances, originally researched by Trefor Owen.

£4.00 + £1.25 UK, £3.50 OVERSEAS (p&p)

Wheatley: Wheatley is a very pleasing tradition to dance and yet one of the most straightforward. This book was produced from a complete review of source material and includes current practice and innovation.

£3.25 + £1.25 UK, £3.50 OVERSEAS (p&p)

Hinton: Traditional and creative Morris by Sue Swift.

£4.00 + £1.25 UK, £3.50 OVERSEAS (p&p)

Abram Circle: Provides background, complete notation, pictures and music for the Abram Circle dance. The dance originates from the North West but has a different structure to most North West dances.

£3.00 + £1.25 UK, £3.50 OVERSEAS (p&p)

Molly: Dancing into the Twenty First Century, by Tony Forster

£3.50 + £1.25 UK, £3.50 OVERSEAS (p&p)

BOOKLETS: A series of A5 sized booklets with between 8 and 20 pages

Warm-up exercises: Clear diagrams and careful explanation of exercises designed to prepare dancers and reduce the risk of injury.

£0.90

Publicity tips: Hints on promoting your team, attracting new members, etc.

£0.90

Raglan Bantamcocks Morris: characteristics of the tradition, notation and some music

£1.25 + £0.50 UK, £1.00 OVERSEAS (p&p)

Women and the North West Morris Dance

£0.90

Beginners and Basics: Roy Dommet's ideas on the basics of Cotswold. Essential reading for leaders and foremen.

£1.25

Twenty Years On, 1975-1996

£1.25

Border Morris: a brief outline

£0.90

Few Facts About the Morris

£1.00

NB: For bells all prices include 1st class postage

BELLS:

Size/qty	25	50	100
1 1/4"	£13.84	£27.07	#N/A
1 1/8"	£8.81	£17.36	£34.46
1"	£7.18	£14.20	£28.11
7/8"	£6.39	£12.43	£24.59
3/4"	£6.15	£11.98	£23.71

PROMOTIONAL GOODS:

Sweatshirts: Sizes – S. M. L. XL. Colours – black, navy, raspberry, yellow, jade, white, royal blue

Round Neck: £11.00, Button: (black and navy, small only) **SALE £7.50** No choice of colour (Was £12.50)

T-Shirts: Sizes – S. M. L. XL. Colours – black, navy, red, yellow, green, white, royal blue

SALE £3.50 No choice of colour (Was £5.50)

(Please give 2nd and 3rd colour choice for clothing)

Stickers: 4" diameter bearing MF name and logo – self-adhesive for music cases, files, etc.

£0.50

Leather Badges: 2" in diameter bearing MF name and logo (Black and colour on natural background or Gold on black background)

£1.25

Leather Key Rings: 2" in diameter bearing MF name and logo on natural background

£1.25

Most booklets and promotional goods include postage.

Prices are correct at time of printing.

Please complete enclosed order form.