

Newsletter Winter 2009



**QUESTION TIME WITH MIKE BOSTON
ADDERBURY HONOURS JANET HEATLEY BLUNT
FROLICKING FOXES ALIVE AND KICKING
LOOSE WOMEN BACK FROM THE BRINK
CAN WE COME IN – A DEBATE IN THE MAKING?**



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NEWSLETTER COPY DATE

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IMPORTANT INFORMATION

To all Secretaries, Squires, Bag people, etc.

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 PLEASE make sure that your copy gets circulated as widely as possible.

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.

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EDITORIAL

So that's it then my last edition now complete and wrapped up. Good to see that Colin Andrews is already getting into the task with his piece featuring Mike Boston of Great Western Morris. Next year is the 40th anniversary for Great Western as a side and it's wonderful to see a side that is proving the doomsayers wrong with a healthy number of younger dancers carrying the tradition forward.

The brief report on "Dinosaurs Not Allowed" in this edition mentions the efforts of Great Western in interacting with the crowd. Which is a vital part of the performance. With a slight tautology my mantra for performance is "Inform, entertain and educate". If the crowd leave a performance entertained but not knowing what they have been watching or who was performing, then on several levels the performance has failed.

I believe that the more people know of the history and traditions of their own country the more likely they are to support and even participate in them. This summer I attended several events where the general consensus seemed to be that the day was an opportunity for a cosy chat and a beer rather than a chance to reach out to the audience. A couple of times I watched in amazement as groups of dancers stood, blocking the view of the audience. Which was bad enough, but worse was the fact that they were deep in conversation rather than watching the performing side. If we can't be bothered why should the crowd?

Doug

Printing
Next Issue
Front Cover Photograph

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Shropshire Bedlam at Shrewsbury FF 2009
Photo Credit : The editor strikes - one last time!

President's Prologue

As the incoming President of the Morris Federation (I officially take up the position on 1st January 2010), I'm delighted to have been given the opportunity to write the Prologue to this edition of this Morris Federation Newsletter.

For those of you who don't know me, let me provide a little background: I've been a member of Redbornstoke Morris of Ampthill since 1977, during which time I've been Squire (twice), Foreman, Bagman/Secretary and Musical Director. I was a member of the Outside Capering Crew for five years, as a musician, and I also play for Rockhopper Morris. My wife, Gill, is a founder member of Bedfordshire Lace and I have acted as their musician on many occasions as well. Outside the Morris I am a singer, musician, songwriter, MC and dance caller, and a member of EFDSS and Folk Arts England.

When I started Morris dancing, the emphasis was largely on taking dances from the tradition, whether Cotswold, North-West, Longsword, Rapper, Border or whatever, and reproducing them as faithfully as possible, but with due regard for differences of interpretation and style within each team. From there, we have seen Morris steadily growing over the years into the immensely diverse, creative cornucopia of choreography that can be seen at Morris Weekends, Days of Dance, Festivals and even outside your local pub, all over the country.

Over the past thirty years we have seen the development of Cotswold styles, by adding to and adapting "traditional" dances and creating completely new dance traditions; innovation in North-West dancing, also including new dances, styles and music; a huge

increase in the popularity of Sword Dancing; the resurgence of Molly Dancing and an explosion of interest in Border Morris. Teams from within the Morris Federation, and from the other Morris Organisations, have "pushed the envelope" with regard to what Morris Dancing, in all its forms, can achieve in terms of style, skill and spectacle, while there are plenty of good young dancers performing high-class Morris (as seen in the recent "Dinosaurs Not Allowed" event in Weymouth).

I believe that the Morris Federation has an important role in maintaining and supporting the continued interest and innovation in this increasingly living tradition that we all enjoy so much. To that end, there are two "projects" I would like to pursue during my time as President.

The first is the gathering-together of expertise, experience and strategies being used by individuals and teams in all the Morris Organisations to attract and nurture young dancers, from Primary-school age upwards. By sharing good, successful practice in this area, it should be possible for more teams to attract and enthuse even more young people in the customs, traditions and folk arts of Britain.

The second is the strengthening of the Federation's mentoring scheme, so that sides can have advice from experienced dancers on matters of performance, music and so on. The "critical friend" offers an objective view of a team's dancing which is difficult to achieve from within and can, in some cases, be quite revelatory!

Of course, there are plenty of other issues to get involved in, among them the ever-present PEL, the prospect of Olympic glory in 2012, realistic rates for TV performances, the disappearance of arena stages at some festivals and the attempted hijacking of traditional customs by the BNP.

I look forward to working with the MF committee, the membership of the Federation, and the other Morris Organisations to continue the growth of the Morris in all its diversity and to make sure that the positive image of the Morris that we all share is projected to the world at large. I also look forward to meeting as many teams as I can at festivals and other events during the dancing season, including, of course, the Joint Morris Organisations' Day of Dance, which is being organised by the MF on Saturday 17th April 2010 at Bury St. Edmunds, and the AGM on Saturday 25th September.

Finally, I'd like to thank Trefor for all that he's done over the past six years while he has been President. I only hope that I'll be able to offer the same level of commitment to the Morris Federation that he has shown, but that is certainly my intention. As Trefor's in-box becomes emptier and mine (already) a lot fuller, I wish him a relaxing "retirement" and an assurance that I'll do my very best to carry on the good work!

Barry Goodman
Federation President

COMMITTEE NEWS



NEWSLETTER – Doug Bradshaw

Is it really five years since I took on the role of editor? That's five years of reporting the trials and

tribulations (for some) of the licensing act. Then the debate on the format of the AGM; now resolved at least for the immediate future. And then there's been the 2012 Olympics, the hi-jacking of tradition in the name of far right political ambitions, debates on standards and discussions on the survival of traditional dance. Oh and of course tips and hints on trips or "What we did on our holidays" and some fascinating "Questions" features. So plenty to go at then?

But this is the final edition of my tenure in the editors seat and next year Colin Andrews will have taken up the reins. You can get a flavour of what's to come from the two items contributed by Colin in this issue. So best of luck Colin, hope you enjoy the job as much as I did and that as ever our readers will keep filling the pages with news views and opinions.

OTHER COMMITTEE NEWS

The rest of the committee seems to have gone quiet so just to keep you up to speed here's the current state of play. Jenny (Treasurer) and Mike (Archives) are already hard at work on the JMO DoD in Bury St. Edmunds. Fee (Secretary) will be working away on the Hastings Jack in the Green event and Rhiannon (Notation) is writing up a job description of her role that will have people slaving at the leash to take on her task when she stands down next year.

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Images Identified

Hi Doug

I hope you are well.

No doubt you will be inundated with information from lots of people but, just in case you are not, here is some feedback to Chas Leslie's article "Who Owns Your Image?".

The unidentified morris dancer is Dick Berry from Leyland Morris Dancers. This photograph appears on page 14 of the book "Will it be fine do you think? - The story of Leyland's Morris Dancers" and is described as a studio portrait c. 1903. I imagine a black and white photograph has been hand tinted with colours not normally associated with Leyland. Some years ago I did send a copy of this postcard to Roy Smith of Leyland Morris Dancers to see what his reaction might be, but I seem to recall that he was not unduly concerned. I'm sure he will correct me if I am mistaken!

I think Ripon City Morris Dancers were photographed in Reeth on 21st May 1983 as part of Richmondshire Festival. The team in the background of the postcard is Richmondshire Street House Morris Dancers who organised this tour. There was another guest team - Chorlton Morris. At the time we were not asked for any details by the photographer and the team was surprised when the postcard first appeared in the shops. I recall that the team contacted Colin Baxter expressing disappointment that the team was not identified, but the response, I believe, was rather dismissive.

All the best

Chas Marshall

Anyone for cards?

Doug,

Just read latest MF newsletter, great!

Had to reply to two things. The postcard of Ripon City Morris Dancers was produced around 1984 and also on the back of a playing card as (I think) the 7 of diamonds! We wrote to the photographer to see if he would at least acknowledge us, if my memory serves me, he wrote back from his villa in the south of France to say we could have the postcard at a special rate provided we ordered a thousand!

Regarding the tapestry, Highside Longsword, one of my other teams appears on the Kirkby Malzeard tapestry that hangs in the Mechanic's Institute.

Cheers,

Ted Dodsworth - Captain, Ripon City Morris Dancers



LETTERS TO THE EDITOR – E-MAILS TO THE EDITOR - LETTERS TO THE EDITOR – E-MAILS TO THE EDITOR

Maybe a CD for summer?

Dear Mr Bradshaw

On Saturday 1st May 2010 we will be launching the CD of Garry (Feast Of Fiddles fiddler) & Rose Blakeley's "Ceremony Of May" which I'm sure would be of interest to the members of The Morris Federation

We will have regular updated news of the project on our website at www.myspace.com/theceremonyofmay. The website also contains some sample audio tracks

I wondered if, through your Newsletter it might be possible to mention the project as we are looking to sell the CD at a reduced offer price for orders of 10 or more

Yours Sincerely

PETE FYFE for the Ceremony Of May

The Mystery of the Odd Clog.

Doug

You will see by the below that you have helped the dispersal of some items from Hungerford Clog Morris in the past - one of our ex members has moved now to North Devon and wondered if anyone would be interested in second-hand clogs. There are 3 or 4 pairs, with leather treads, not irons, and there is a pack of spare treads in the box she has given me. I think one pair may be size 8 and the others look to be 5 or 6.

I don't like to throw them away so thought I would come to you first.

Joanna Stevens

Eds Note: 3 or 4 pairs? I just had to ask if it was a numeracy problem or what. This was the reply.

Doug

Sorry, wrote in haste and then went away! On closer inspection there are 3 1/2 pairs!!! I really don't remember the one legged dancer but anyway, we'll say 3 pairs: 1 size 8, 1 size (looks like 5) and 1 pair (looks like 6).

Joanna

International Folkfest, Murfreesboro, TN USA

Dear folklore friends,

We are seeking to find a team of Morris and/or sword dancers to come to represent the UK in our June 13-20, 2010 International Folkfest. Please read more about us at [_www.mboro-international-folkfest.org_](http://www.mboro-international-folkfest.org) (<http://www.mboro-international-folkfest.org>) and if interested, let me know.

Sincerely,

Steve Cates, Director

1216 E. Main Street

Murfreesboro, TN 37130

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR – E-MAILS TO THE EDITOR - LETTERS TO THE EDITOR – E-MAILS TO THE EDITOR

STITCHED IN TIME -2



The piece in the last issue on the Horbury tapestry produced a quick response from Rose Hudson :



BRIGGATE



LEEDS

"Hi Doug,

Reading your article on the Horbury Tapestry in the Autumn Newsletter, did you know that Leeds has a sixteen piece tapestry, done for the Millennium? On the "Community Spirit" panel you can see both Leeds Morris and Briggate Morris quite clearly.

I first saw the tapestry in the Armouries, but it's now housed in the Library - last time I saw it, it was in a rather dingy, narrow corridor, not showing it at it's best!

Hope you enjoy your "retirement" from the editorship - no doubt we'll still see you around a lot!

*Cheers,
Rose (Persephone)"*

Looking at the picture I spotted Briggate and Leeds Morris easily enough. And for a moment thought I could see Persephone in the distinctive yellow but then decided the turbans probably indicated an Indian waiter grouping. But then I spotted what looked like another morris team – anyone out there recognise the kit? I really don't get out enough to be able to spot this one, in fact there may be other dance teams in there. So lets hear from you if you can identify the mystery morris.



MYSTERY MORRIS

Doug Bradshaw

REMEMBERING KEN

In November 2008 Wakefield Morris lost one of their longest serving dancers, Ken Martin after a battle with kidney cancer. The teams dance out on Boxing Day was dedicated to Ken and the days collection of over £180 went to the Wakefield Hospice where Ken had been cared for in his final days.

But throughout the 2009 dancing season one member of the side chose another way to remember Ken. Malcolm Hudson decided that at every dance out he would keep a record of each dance he performed and put away a pound for each dance. Then at the end of the

season he would donate the total raised to the hospice.

With the last dance out of the season completed Malcolm totted up the number of dances he'd done and came up with a total of 196. As Team squire, and Malcolm's



MALCOLM

wife, Anne pointed out "That goes to show how many dances our men are expected to do!". So thanks to Malcolm's efforts Wakefield Hospice has received a donation of £200 in memory of a great friend and a terrific dancer.

MORRIS IS VERY MUCH ALIVE AND KICKING!



Following recent press coverage speculating about the demise of Morris, I thought your readers would be interested in hearing about the after school club that I have been running for the past four years. I am a Teaching Assistant at Woodingdean Primary School near Brighton and a dancer with Cuckoo's Nest

Women's Morris. The club was started as the result of a Morris workshop I did with Year 2. The children were so enthused by the dances that I decided to give up my time to 'spread the joy of Morris'.

We started with a handful of junior children learning Cotswold Morris dances just for fun. However word soon spread about what was happening at our school and we were invited to dance at a dance festival for local schools. We were an instant hit and four years on that handful of children has become an amazing 47 young dancers!

We are called Frolicking Foxes and the children range in age from 7 to 11. Over the past four years we have danced at local fetes and carnivals and on stage at the Brighton Dome. The Frolicking foxes also danced with Brighton Morris Men and Cuckoo's Nest on May Morning this year when the two sides performed in the school playground. As the club has grown so too has the need for assistance. 47 stick wielding, hanky waving children is a somewhat frightening sight but I am ably assisted by Sheila and David Smith, also morris dancers, without whom the club wouldn't be what it is today.

So it would seem that Morris is far from on its way out....Morris, The Next Generation is out there alive and very much kicking.

Annette Turk



WE ARE THE LOOSE WOMEN, WE'RE FROM KENT



The Loose Women had a massive shake up of the team earlier in this year, we came close to folding yet managed to bounce back (quite literally). We have since been able to recruit new and returning members and have had an excellent year dancing at several festivals and local stands. At our recent AGM the team felt they wanted to thank other morris teams nation-wide who have supported them throughout this year and share their air of celebration with the Morris Federation and other Morris teams who thought they were down and out. At the Tenterden Festival in October several members of the team were congratulated on still being together and actively dancing as the rumour was rife that we had split up. I don't know why but there always seem to be rumours following us around.

The team has been around for 26 years (give or take a year) and although it has retained much of its original ethos and dare I say 'charm' it has been ever

changing. We've had our fair share of disagreements, splits and splinter team formation (you all know who you are). We still have one original member, Lanie Cobb (nee Newton) whom I'm sure many of you know and love. She has danced with the team as both girl and woman and still manages to make practices and stands, despite now living miles away and running a sister team, The Loose Cannons based in Portsmouth.

I (Ellen Slater) have personally been involved in the team for 6 years and have heard many stories from previous years and festivals, which have now passed into LW folklore! I feel privileged that I am still involved in the creation of new LW stories. Having witnessed and been involved in the latest trauma and reincarnation and having spoken to many other teams on the subject, I have come to the conclusion that such events are common place, inevitable and ultimately positive within a Morris side. It is with this knowledge that we now rise, resplendent

from the ashes (as always trying to avoid getting blacking on our white, virginal cotton tops).

We currently have members from all walks of life and from the many ages of woman. A couple of us have started our own daughters dancing which the audience love. The girls are guaranteed a great response every time and are often singled out for praise. They usually deserve it though as their brains are fresh and alert and they take to the dancing like a morris dancer takes to beer. Being able to train up the next generation to keep the traditions alive is an absolute advantage to having women in Morris dancing as far as I'm concerned. I point this out to anyone who will dare to argue the toss about whether women should be permitted to dance (thankfully such people are few and far between).

At the other end of the scale, although we can't yet beat the Saffron Maids' record (as featured in the autumn edition of the newsletter) I and other members of Loose Women hope to still be dancing strong when we're 81 and beyond! It keeps one fit and mentally active.

I appreciated Dave John's take on maintaining standards within Morris dancing (Living in the Past, also in the Autumn edition of the newsletter). We also admire and aspire to quality teams such as Dog Rose and Witchmen. Within the Loose Women we do take standards seriously but at the same time try to be sensitive to new members needs and abilities. Anyone can attend one of our practice sessions and have a go, no matter what their ability, experience, size or age (sorry guys you have to be a woman though we invite men to join our band). What one needs in order to join us is a commitment to practice regularly in order to perfect the dances and be able to dance confidently. We try not to put pressure on new dancers to 'dance out' and if they want to they can wear an 'L' plate but it's not a rule of thumb.

As aforementioned we are all different and as a result we all have different

styles and needs within the team. Some of us have kids, some don't, some are gregarious and happy go lucky, some are more taciturn and precise. As a team we like to allow for these differing styles and lifestyles, they add to our dynamic, make us more colourful and generally help to increase our joie de vivre. This is reflected in our current kit. As we are so many and diverse now it was agreed at the AGM that we all wear purple footwear of some description rather than the same style that does not suit all feet. By the same token length of sleeves is optional as blue goose bumped skin is not always thought of as attractive especially on Boxing Day! We will still be wearing purple skirts and rainbow tatters.

We have danced out with a vengeance this year and hope to keep up the pace next year. We are also planning our own day of dance 'Let Loose' in deepest, darkest Kent to which we will be sending our invites out soon. We will enjoy the consolidation of the practice season then roll on May 1st! If you want to make contact with the Loose Women for any reason our website address is www.loosewomen.org.uk or become our fan on facebook!

Ellen Slater

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.

QUESTION TIME WITH MIKE BOSTON



Mike Boston, Exeter born and bred, has been the fool of that city's high energy, high capering Great Western Morris for many years. Colin Andrews caught up with him in his home in Crediton.

I have always regarded you and GWM as inseparable. Were you a founder member?

No, the side started in 1969 and celebrates their 40th year dancing out in 2010. Originally as the Courage Morris Men, in the vain hope of getting sponsorship from the brewery of that name who owned the Jolly Porter pub where they practised. I joined them in 1975 after I moved to back to Devon to take up a teaching post at South Molton Community College. Since then I have, at various times been Squire, Bagman, Foreman and mostly Fool. Never Treasurer!

So what first aroused your interest in taking up Morris dancing?

I'd been interested in folk music since my school days in Exeter, first at The Mill, then at the Jolly Porter and then as a student in London and Leicester, where I was involved in organising folk clubs. I moved to Norwich in 1973, and since I couldn't sing or play, a good friend Alex Atterson, insisted that I'd better take up morris dancing and introduced me to the foreman and squire of Kemp's Men. They were a brilliant bunch of men, very much a typical 1950's revival Cotswold side.

But they were fiercely independent, welcoming, open minded, mostly teachers and would have nothing to do with the Ring. They were really supportive and had a wonderful ensemble approach to teaching and

bringing on beginners. They gave me the confidence to think that morris teams could encompass a variety of styles. Unfortunately I had only one dancing season in the eighteen months I was with them - but two of practice!

Have you ever tried any other form of Morris ?

Great Western are essentially a Cotswold side, and I believe we have quite a reputation for our 'distinctive' interpretation of the Fieldtown and Bampton traditions. Again huge thanks are due to Roy Dommett for his encouragement and teaching. I'm not sure we would be where we are today had it not been for Roy. We've developed some new dances in these styles over the years, but never gone along the route of inventing a whole new tradition, like some sides. Following some workshops in the late 70's / early 80's with Roy Dommett, we began to include a few border dances in our repertoire to perform in public in the winter. We've also danced rapper sword, and got involved with mumming.

What gives you the greatest pleasure in your dancing?

It's the whole chemistry of GWM really – the team spirit, the exchange of ideas, sometimes quite bizarre, the interaction with the audience, the rows. It's always the Squire who has the final say, however, in what we do. A good example was in 2005 at Towersey. We were due to perform at the headline Sunday evening ceilidh spot. When we heard at 6.40 that England had regained the Ashes, our carefully rehearsed conventional display went out the window, and we adopted a cricketing theme in celebration, dancing with twelve quickly prepared cardboard cricket bats and added a few cricket based embellishments to the set. No time for a rehearsal.

How would you answer those who may criticise playing too much to the audience?

Audience involvement is a very important part of the Great Western experience, and it's certainly a key factor in my personal enjoyment of Morris. In whatever we do, though, we always aim for a high standard of dancing. My greatest dislike, and something I'd gladly see abolished from public display is what I call the 'Twelve Foot Wall Syndrome'. That's where a side dances with total disregard for their audience, so that even if they were cut off from view by a twelve foot wall erected between them and the audience, it wouldn't make the slightest difference to the performance. For this reason, I'm not fond of being a Morris spectator. On tours for example, I find it difficult to comprehend how any side can ignore interaction with the audience. Even in the formal setting of a festival or theatre stage it's still possible to establish a rapport with the audience.

Are there any particular events that stand out as a high spots in your Morris career?

In 35 years of involvement with Morris, there have been many memorable and inspiring occasions, such as dancing in the Arena at Sidmouth or performing in the Opera House in Brno, in the Czech Republic or Brooklyn Heights in New York which included a surreal and highly enjoyable encounter with a New York cop. We have visited South-West France and Brittany on several occasions. Near to home we have two wonderful local and bizarre places to 'dance'; Haytor Rocks and Postbridge, on the iron age clapper bridge. Both bonkers places really. Being filmed dancing inside the bar at the Drewe Arms, Drewsteignton (height about 6 foot, OK for me but the rest of them ...). A wonderful lunchtime at the Zetland in Warwick- Thank you Sally. I suppose the weirdest place was dancing, at the invitation and instigation of Roy Dommett in the Roman amphitheatre at Caleva Atrebatum – Silchester. Nobody there, just us and Roy. Completely surreal! Brilliant acoustics though. But I suppose you can't talk about high spots

without mentioning the occasions when we performed on stilts.

How did that come about?

We were inspired by a French group who danced on stilts at Sidmouth festival in 1987. So in 1988, being Great Western, we were keen to experiment, and over the next few years performed morris, rapper and a mummers play on stilts. It was strange, perhaps, that at both Derby and Sidmouth Festivals, the lights failed just as I was about to do a backward somersault on stilts. In some ways the low spot of my dancing years was also down to the stilts, from the time I fell from them and broke my wrist, elbow and shoulder on the surface of a Kent car park. I remember waking up in hospital wondering whether I was in heaven or hell when I saw Chris Rose, still in his 7 Champions Molly kit, clumping down the ward in his hobnail boots. I would have loved a video camera!



What advice would you give to any newly formed dance team?

Bit presumptuous really to give advice but I suppose I'd say – and this applies to some existing sides –enjoy your dancing and be seen to enjoy your dancing. Smile! To achieve a good standard of dancing keep to one or two traditions in the first instance, watch and learn as much as possible from other sides. Don't be afraid to pick their brains, and don't be too precious or uptight about the dancing. It is, after all, only Morris, and if you're not

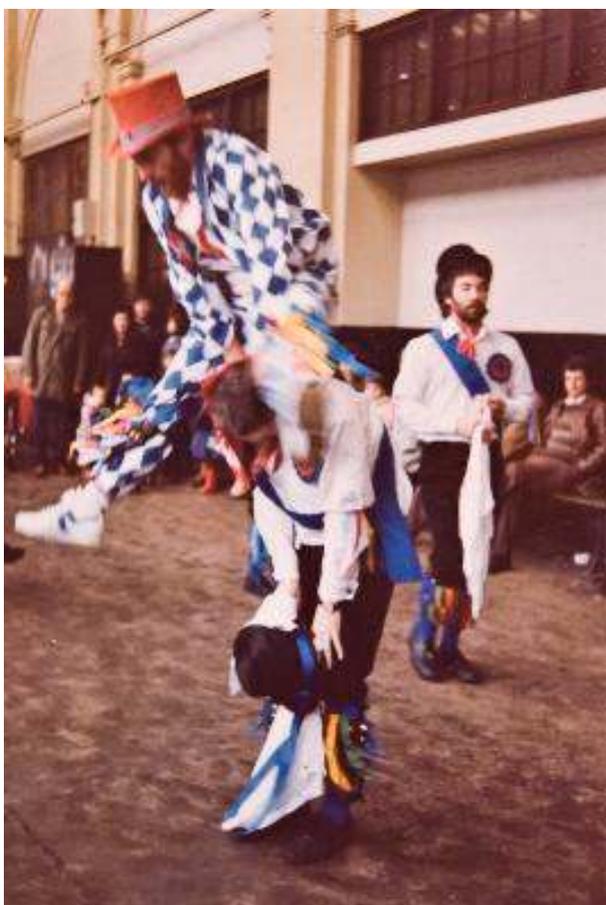
getting pleasure out of doing it, why do it at all?

Having said that it is good to have those occasional 'spots' where you feel a bit nervous. Secondly I would say don't have a fool or 'animal' unless you really know why you want them and have people who enjoy the role. Don't have a fool just because you think you ought to and then expect some poor sod to emulate what you think a fool should be.

Is there one aspect of Morris you would fight to keep above all others?

Fight is perhaps too strong a word, but I feel it is very important to retain the diversity in the Morris. Although there are some styles of which I'm personally not keen, I would strongly encourage sides to develop a style with which they feel comfortable, in order to retain interest and enthusiasm, particularly amongst younger people.

Some of Great Western Morris Men, like yourself, have been dancing for very many years. Have you got any youngsters taking an interest?



Some of my most enjoyable shows with Great Western have been for children. And, yes, we currently have eleven members under the age of 21. The dancing recruits are usually sons – and even two grandsons – of GW dancers, but not all. We have two daughters playing for us. On top of that we have two of our daughters who have taken up Morris, Jenny Hubbard with local team Glory of the West, and my daughter Miryam dances with New Esperance and Hawksword. My other daughter Nina is fighting to overcome knee injuries which keep her from dancing but she is heavily involved in the organisation of the Great Western Ceilidhs and the Blackmore bar at Sidmouth.

Now you are retired what other interest will fill your time?

I've been retired for just over a year, and in some ways I'm still adjusting to a different lifestyle. I maintain a nominal involvement with education through consultancy work for the Teachers' Development Agency and two examination boards. I try to keep fit, through swimming, cycling, pilates, la rueda –a form of salsa – and have recently started doing volunteer work for the RSPB – very early days on this one. I've been involved for a long time with local theatre, and I've taken part in a number of productions here in Crediton. Usually manage to play the village idiot – can't think why! Folk music, Morris, and organising ceilidhs remain my main interest. My involvement with the ceilidh side of Sidmouth festival will be diminishing but I am hoping to continue with the very successful bars we run at the Blackmore dance tent and will be helping with licensing admin. Add in being part of the team organising Great Western's 40th Birthday weekend and I don't think I will get bored.

Thanks very much for your time. Here's to many more years dancing!

Note : Mikes thoughts were passed on to Colin Andrews our incoming Newsletter Editor.

DERTY Rap!



Hello Everyone,

It is time to think seriously about the DERTY Rap!, Junior/Youth rapper tournament to be held in Derby on April 10th 2010, the last Saturday of the Easter holiday for many schools.

We have considered all the comments you offered earlier in the year and balanced these against the constraints of venue/numbers, H&S etc. which we have to abide by. We have made the following decisions:

- The junior rapper competition 2010 will take place on Saturday April 10th 2010
- There will be two age levels equating to primary school and secondary school. This is for school based teams. For other teams, where there are 3 or more of age twelve or older they go in the upper age group. In teams with 3 or less of age twelve or younger, they go in the lower age group.
- The competition will take place on the stage of the Guildhall in Derby between 10.30 and mid-day.
- There will be an entry charge for teams AND a charge for accompanying supporters, of any age.
- Exit time for ALL Junior/Youth competitors and supporters will be 4pm.
- All competitors MUST have their own public liability insurance and it is sensible to include this with personal accident insurance.
- We will have to see any 'unknown' junior/youth teams wanting to compete in the senior competition.

At present, we would like to know the level of interest, say by 23rd November.

We think that applications for junior/youth sections should be finalised by February 14th; this will give instructors time to get their sides up to an appropriate standard before committing to a competition.

Additional information:

We are unable to provide accommodation, either on the Friday or on the Saturday nights.

There are plenty of eating places close by the event venue.

If anyone has questions about this, please contact me, peter@killingback.co.uk or 07870 430391 or Jason Gallop, jason.gallop@btinternet.com.

If you know of anyone who has a side and who is not aware of this event and who might be interested please pass the details on.

Many thanks for your co-operation.

*Peter Killingback, Bagman, Stone MonkeySword
with Jason Gallop, co-ordinators for DERTY Rap!*

Editors Note: Always a delight to see positive actions by folk doing their bit to keep trad dancing alive. Damn the PC brigade who think competition is a dirty word, full steam ahead for the competition!

Sheringham Crab and Lobster Festival 21-23 May 2010

You are invited to The Sheringham Crab and Lobster Festival, May 2010 part of a joint marketing of Sheringham and Cromer an unrivalled combination of North Norfolk's premiere seaside towns. Promoted by the two town councils, and including major sponsorship, the Lobster Pub is organising various events to celebrate the heritage of the Crab and Lobster industry in Norfolk.

Saturday 22nd May 2010 we would like to invite as many Morris dancing sides as possible to dance in the main high street and in the pub garden. Light refreshments and food will be provided for all dancers. Also if you would like to dance on Sunday, we have various slots available throughout the day for dancing in the high street.

We hope you will be able to attend and look forward to hearing from you. The draft programme for the weekend is:

Friday

8pm Official Launch, Start of The Lobster Real Ale Beer Festival themed around Crabs and Lobsters. 20 Real Ales, 7 Ciders, BBQ. Beer Festival will run all weekend.

Saturday

10 am onwards Main garden – Children's entertainer, Bouncy Castle, Morris Dancing.

11am Crab boat exhibition, live crab boats on display with fishermen net making, crab and lobster dressing. Outside BBQ with cooking demonstration. Meet a selection of retired fishermen. Watch them dress crabs and lobsters.

12.30-3pm Lunch – Crab and lobster dishes plus main menu. Morris Dancing, sides from in and around Norfolk.

7pm 'til late Main Marquee and onstage – Music festival hosted by the Lobster Pub featuring The Sheringham Shantymen, their guests and friends throughout the evening.

Sunday

10am-4pm Hosted by the Lobster – Classic Car Festival

11am 'til close, The Lobster Beer festival.

11.30am Main marquee – Cooking demonstrations – Crab and lobster dressing.

12noon Morris Dancing – Main Garden

12-3pm Stables restaurant Modellers world in miniature – Exhibition of trains, railway and models

3pm Music in the marquee, hosted by Red Oktober.

Kind Regards

Graham Deans

Pub and Restaurant Owner

The Lobster Pub 13 The High Street, Sheringham, Norfolk, NR26 8JP.

Contact Graham Deans : phone- 01263 822716

Email – enquiries@the-lobster.com

Website – www.the-lobster.com

DOES YOUR PRODUCT, SERVICE, EVENT OR MERCHANDISE NEED CUSTOMERS

Why not advertise in the Newsletter?

Full pages £50 – Half page £25 – Quarters £15 and Eighths £8

Contact newsletter@morrisfed.org.uk

Holly Copse Molly

May we introduce ourselves? We are Holly Copse Molly from Bournemouth. We have been formed for about a year, after two members of Ouse Washes Molly came to Bournemouth to give a workshop weekend. The weekend was a success with many people, dancers and musicians coming along to 'try molly out'. From that a hard core of dancers decided to form a side and after a winter of practice we were ready to dance out in the spring, along with a small, but perfectly formed band!

We dance a mixture of dances learnt from other sides at workshops and festivals, and some written by ourselves, the same applies to the music.

Why Holly Copse? The area where we practice adjoins the village of Holdenhurst and the land on which we dance has, for centuries, been part of the Parish of Holdenhurst, a subsidiary of the Manor of Christchurch. In the Domesday Book of 1086 'Holeest- held by the King' was a thriving agricultural community with its own Hall, Chapel, Fisheries and Mill, bigger in size and population than Christchurch.

Holeest meant 'Holly Copse'. Later becoming Holehurst and then Holdenhurst. Molly? Well you all know what that is.- a style of dancing originating in East Anglia, imagine Morris dancing without the bells, sticks and hankies, add in lots of shouting, attitude and bright clothes and that's Molly.

Representing an ancient agricultural community united with robust, stomping dance, that's us.....

Our colours are black, yellow and cerise, (bit like a liquorice allsort!) each dancer chooses their own outfit within the colours, and the band wear mainly black with a splash of the colour. Most of the dancers are experienced, having danced with other local morris, clog or Appalachian sides, although, now we are back into 'winter training' we have

attracted a few beginners, and, like all sides, we could still do with younger male and female members. We have a core of eight 'girls' and two 'boy' dancers! The band consists of accordion, fiddle, flute and tenor banjo with occasional percussion.



THE TEAM
IN GLORIOUS COLOUR (at mfnewsletter.info)

During the summer we danced at numerous local pubs, (nothing unusual there then!), as well as Chippenham festival, Wimborne festival and Bournemouth University's Freshers Fair- there's a snippet of us on You Tube, look on the BU site. For next summer we hope to do much of the same, we are looking for something other than a pub car park though! We're dancing at a village community day and there's talk of a Fish Fair and to dance on home ground for Holdenhurst would be good too.

So, look out for us next season, and we welcome any new dancers or experienced musicians at our Thursday evening practises in Bournemouth.



THE BAND - IN GLORIOUS MONO

Contact Chris
07989 242 588
or email
wessexmolly@hotmail.com

*Holly Copse
Molly !!!*

PEL – THE MUSICAL!

Those who hoped or possibly feared that the topic of the PEL and its impact on many areas of popular entertainment might take a back seat when the new editor takes over may want to look away now. Colin (Andrews) has dug out for your delight and delectation a plangent ditty he was inspired to write when the PEL was still a gleam in a bureaucrat's eye.

THE LAWS THEY ARE A-CHANGING

Words ; Dec. 2002 Colin Andrews Dec.2002

Tune: Bob Dylan: The Times They Are A-Changing - Bob Dylan)

Come all you folk singers throughout the land
Dancers, musicians who play in a band
Take note your activities soon could be banned
If unlicensed performance intending
New regulations gone way out of hand
In a Bill that needs amending

**** Updated line below*

The fine it is set, the penalty's cast
It's in the new law but the law is an ass
That song in the bar, well, it might be your last
And six months in jail you'll be spending
Or thousands of pounds if the bill it is passed
For the Bill it needs amending

All mothers and fathers with kids at a school
Sing carols at Christmas and tidings of Yule
That nativity play could be breaking the rule
And criminal charges pending
Bureaucracy gone mad yet we'll pay for it all
This Bill it needs amending

People of England please heed the call
In church, school and pub and community hall
Or soon you will have no live music at all
Traditional customs all ending
Red tape & taxes imposed by Whitehall
This Bill does need amending!

Come good honest citizens take up your pen
Write to your M.P. and tell Number Ten
That the Minister for Culture should go think again
Our traditions he should be defending!
Let's play music free so let's say it again
This Bill does need amending!

**** Take note your activities may already be banned*

Adderbury Honours the Work of Janet Heatley Blunt



On Sunday 27th September 2009 the two Adderbury Morris teams attended the unveiling ceremony of a blue plaque honouring the work Janet Heatley Blunt.

Between 1907 and 1931 she made a remarkable collection of songs, carols and Morris dances in Adderbury. She was able to note down 125 songs from 46 different singers living in the village and surrounding parishes. Indeed people in the village remembered as children hiding under the open window and listening to the old men singing with Miss Blunt playing the piano and writing down the songs and tunes.



Adderbury Morris

Janet Blunt's housemaid was Winnie Wyatt, who had worked for her since she was 13 years old. When Miss Blunt died most of her songbooks and manuscripts were heaped into a number of cardboard boxes and put out for the bonfire! Luckily Winnie Wyatt knew how important the songs and dances were, saved them and sent them off to the English Folk Dance and Song Society. Many of you will be aware that these manuscripts are now available on line for everyone to see.

At the unveiling two hundred villagers and invited guests attended the ceremony

that included dance displays by both of the Adderbury team

Although the two teams have danced together over the years this was the first time that the spectators were given back to back examples of the differences between the two Adderbury dance traditions. The Adderbury Morris Men performed their interpretation of Sweet Jenny Jones which was collected and recorded by Cecil Sharp and the Adderbury Village Morris Men performed the same dance but in the interpretation of Janet Blunt. This is one of the most noticeably different dances between the two traditions, in their repertoires, mainly as the Sharp version was collected as a 3/4 dance to that of Miss Blunt's version of 6/8. Both performances were well received and it was an important opportunity to show how different the two teams actually are in terms of dancing styles, speed and dance figures.



Adderbury Village Morris

Malcolm Taylor OBE unveiled the plaque and speeches were made by Malcolm Taylor, Dr Kate Tiller Deputy Lieutenant and Chairperson of the Oxfordshire Blue Plaque board, Bryan Sheppard a founding revivalist from the 1970's team and Edd Frost the current Adderbury Village Morris Men Squire.

The guests and villagers were then invited into Le Hall Place garden, (the former home of Miss Blunt), where they were treated to more dancing and refreshments. A good afternoon was had by all.

Keith Norton

IT WAS TWENTY YEARS AGO TODAY..

That the World Wide Web came into existence. Or at least it was according to the morning news as I enjoyed a lie in, one of the benefits of my "time rich" lifestyle. Which reminded me that a while back foraging in the storeroom at the practice hall I had come across some old Federation Newsletters. The earliest I have is from spring 1991 and a read through shows just how much the world has changed.



The front cover featured a line drawing of a NW dancer who just might be outgoing President Trefor Owen. And inside the first plea from the editor was that sides pass the newsletter along – no change there then!

In the Presidents Prologue Sally Wearing touched on the departure of Technical Officer Sue Swift from the Federation committee after 9 years in the role. Although standing down Sue was lined up to be a co-opted member of the committee involved with publications, the archive and the Dance Conference. Sally welcomed new Technical Officer Jane Shaw and noted that she had already survived two committee meetings. One of which was a marathon weekend event!

Secretary Val Parker's piece featured the AGM in some detail. The submission of motions, nominations etc. But also a suggestion that to ease planning difficulties the AGM host and location should be chosen some two or three years in advance. My how this has changed over the years. Only with the adoption of a new format for the AGM are we getting a reasonable number of offers to host the event.

Val also touched on committee changes as she was standing down mainly to the heavy workload of being secretary and newsletter editor. In fact she suggests that a separate post of newsletter editor might be an idea.

The following pages cover an invitation from a Latvian dance troupe received by Betty Luptons. Then a report on a trip to Normandy by Sompting Morris and a request for takes for a one week residential course with the National Youth Folklore Troupe. There's an item on how "Mad Jack's Morris" found their name authored by Peter Boswell before the committee officers return.

On page 9 we get a run down of happenings from Events Officer Steve Cunio. These were a an Open Morris sponsored Fools and Beasts weekend, a NW workshop hosted by Hungerford Morris, Holdens Goldens had sun a beginners Cotswold session whilst Jackstraws Morris had hosted a jigs workshop. For the more cerebral Lynne Downes and Chas Marshall offered a report on the second "NW Roots" event where speakers from Horwich Prize Medal, Poynton Jemmers and Manchester Morris Men had discussed the modern revival.

Treasurer Sue Lawrence gave a breakdown of the cost for the 1990 AGM hosted by Clydeside Rapper. The Federation had supported the event with subsidised coaches using profits from previous AGMs and also worked hard to keep the cost down to £25 a head. The result was that 182 people had attended of whom 88 used the coach facility.

Publicity Officer Lynne Farr covers the 1991 charity day which was to be July 6th in aid of the Parkinsons Disease Association. In what I assume is a typo the collection of nearly £2,000 for the British Sports Association for the Disabled is credited to 1991, it must have been 1990 surely? Bell prices for 1991 show a 1" bell at 19p or £18.50 for one hundred. So today's price of £39 per hundred is pretty reasonable I guess.

Then new Technical Office Jane Shaw comes up the mark to report on archives, early photographs and sampler videos. Which leaves me still wondering what a technical officer did. Was this a post now covered by the present archives and notation officers? And what happened to the sampler videos? Are they now in the archives?

Nearly at the end and we get an advert from an accordion player in search of a side in the Bicester area. For the foot sore there is a technical advert offering "Footfriends" the nostrum sure for shock injuries to ankle, knee and hip, foot odours, sweaty feet and relationship problems. No actually I made the last one up but you get the flavour or not if you're using "Footfriends" of course.



Then a quick word search and a hint that some reaction from the readers would be nice and its over to the back page to a wacky team photo of the committee. And that was the newsletter of spring 1991.

So what's new on 2009? Well now the team reports and features come with web site details and of course the Federation's own web site is a central hub for information. In 1991 I would guess that 80% plus of the contents was generated by the committee members whilst today it's probably less than 10%. Back in 1991 the Federation had a charity day – what happened to that? Could the idea be revived to form part of the JMO Day of Dance concept? Or maybe just a Federation sponsored idea as before?

The posts of Publicity Officer, Technical Officer and Events Officer have now disappeared from the committee but in their place we have Notation Officer, Archive Officer, Web Site Editor and Newsletter Editor. And that fledgling co-

opted role taken on by Sue Swift now finds co-opted bodies covering the Licensing Bill and the Dommet Collection.

The AGM with accommodation and masses of dancers attending has become the one-day event with a dance element, which is now attracting offers of hosting for future years again. Workshops continue but come from team led initiatives and whatever happened to the Dance Conferences? Answers to these and other queries above to the editor.

IT'S A QUESTION OF KIT

There must be teams out there who are finding kit replacements or kitting out new dancers tricky. My own side for example favours collar detached white shirts as part of the men's kit. Twenty years ago these could be had for pennies in the charity shops. Then they became "vintage" clothing and the price rocketed. Now they are a rarity unless you want to nip into Leeds and buy brand new from outfitters supplying the legal profession. Which when you realise why lawyers charge so much for their services!

Then the top hats so favoured by many. Full of character and often other things the hats are the signature of many sides rig. I guess that in the hand me down clothing world of Victorian and possibly Edwardian England such items were if not abundant at least available, but what of today? In recent years my own side has had a long search to find a "proper" cricket cap for the men.

Maybe the solution is to modify the rig to suit modern times. If cricket whites go the way of "proper" caps will Cotswold sides take to the multi coloured hues of the modern cricket field? I'm guessing that border and molly sides where uniformity of kit is not so apparent may not have any difficulties over kit supply.

But if you do have a problem finding an item of kit, a piece of equipment or even just a supply of ribbons or braids why not try asking the Federation team? We might have an answer.

CAN WE COME IN?

A simple question but one with a complex and convoluted answer if it applies to joining the Morris Federation. The debate started when the Sheffield City Giants mailed our President asking if it would be possible for them to come under wing of the Federation. This was following the demise of the British Isles Guild of Giants (BIGG) *{Ed Note What a great acronym!}*. They had the insurance aspect covered under their own arrangements, they just wanted a forum that covered the sort of activities that appeal to Giants.

Passing the request to the committee the question became basically what grade of membership would apply, assuming an acceptance. The Federation has four grades of membership, Full, Overseas, Individual and Honorary. But a critical condition lies not in the grading but in clause 6 of the constitution, which states that "the Federation will maintain valid and adequate insurance for all member sides".

So the question was would the insurers provide cover for the Giants as a side? Based on previous experience the answer to this was no. In passing it is perhaps worth noting that currently our insurers also refuse to provide cover for Fluffy/Carnival Morris troupes and that some time ago the membership category of "Overseas Member" was effectively removed for reasons of insurance cover.

At this point some one suggested that a member of the Giants could apply for individual membership and thus get involved in the workings and net-workings of the Federation. This was going well until an informed source suggested that individual members would need to be covered for public liability insurance purposes. Which created a brick wall until the informed source re-read the constitution and came back with a view that on consideration individual members were not automatically covered by the public liability insurance.

So problem solved then. Well not really since at no point did anyone raise the issue of just what type of group or indeed individual met the criteria for Federation membership. Those who attended the 2006 AGM in Sheffield will remember the heated debate when it was proposed that "Morris dancing or any dancing of a similar nature" be used in the constitution.

Once it was so simple. To be in the Federation you danced the morris and were part of a womens side. "Morris" was a self-defining term so why would it need definition? Of course sword dancers were acceptable and as time passed so were mixed sides and even all-male sides. I seem to recall being at an AGM where after much discussion it was agreed that Mummers could become part of the Federation.

And now in the 21st Century things may be getting more involved. Teams that started out being "Morris" are evolving into "Other" or "Goth" and presumably are still insurable. But Carnival Morris sides with roots reaching back to the 1930's cannot join the Federation because they are not acceptable to our insurers.

The debate is open. Do we need to define who can join the Federation? Should the issue of insurance be central to the acceptance of any grade of membership? Should we adopt a policy of inviting members to join as the Morris Ring does? The Federation offers great value for both public liability and personal insurance and is fortunate to have a knowledgeable broker in a key role. But is it logical that public liability cover is inclusive, and conditional, for full group membership whilst personal insurance is optional and additional to a basic subscription?

The death of Morris in twenty years has been predicted. Should the tradition bearers of dance be opening their ranks to all street, or pub or village green entertainers? Or should we keep the tradition pure? And who should make the choice? Readers the floor is yours.

JACK invites YOU
to a weekend of Dance, Music and Song
Morris Dancers, Giants, Musicians come
and be part of the biggest and best
celebration to welcome in the summer



HASTINGS TRADITIONAL
JACK IN THE GREEN 2010

Friday 30th April - Monday 3rd May

Contact Fee Lock, the secretary at
feelock@btopenworld.com or on 01424 436052

www.hastingsjack.co.uk



NORTH WEST WORKSHOP - 1

Tæppa's Tump North West Morris dancers are holding a dance workshop on Sunday 7th February 2010, and would like to invite teams or individuals to join us. Dancers from other traditions and musicians are also very welcome.

The cost will be £5.00 each, bring your own packed lunch, and we will supply tea and coffee. Unfortunately no alcohol is permitted on the premises. But don't let this put you off attending, you can always visit the pub afterwards!!!

Venue: Loddon Hall, Loddon Hall Road, Twyford, Reading, Berkshire, RG10 9JA

The programme of the day is: -

- 10.00 Arrive for tea, coffee and biscuits
- 10.30 Workshop 1 Tæppa's Tump Morris - NW dance
- 12.00 Lunch & musical play around (musicians willing!!!)
- 1.00 Visiting teams to showcase a dance each
- 1.30 Workshop 2 BasingClog Morris - NW dance
- 3.00 Tea, coffee and cakes
- 3.30 Finish

Notations and music will be supplied at the end of the workshops. Casual dress, kit and clogs not required, but please bring sticks and slings if you have them.

Visit our website www.taeppastump.freemove.co.uk, or contact Viv at vg.rushton@tesco.net for more information.

NORTH WEST WORKSHOP - 2

Ripley Green Garters North West Morris will host a day on Saturday 6th March 2010 in Swanwick, Derbyshire 10am to 4pm

Food and drinks provided (tea/coffee/squash and a hot lunch) cost around £10 per person (hopefully less once we have an idea of attendees!?)

Garters plan to teach one of our own dances created from using figures of several dances. And hopefully a dance master from the renowned Wakefield Morris will give us instructions for another dance.

More details available in the New Year please contact

Stella Roddis, 43 North End, Wirksworth, Matlock, Derbyshire, DE4 4FG

Telephone 01629 822380

or email; stella.roddis@btopenworld.com

KIT QUERY

This went to our treasurer.

"We are very short of bobbins for dancing these days – we seem to be attracting a few new people!!

Do you have any contacts for purchasing bobbins?

Bud Gilling

Chesterfield Garland "

Bud then answered his own question!

"Have now got a source for bobbins if this helps anyone else.

Strutts Mill at Belper in Derbyshire. Their gift shop has bobbins with thick wooden middles costing £1 each.

Also, Cromford Mill in Derbyshire. Their gift shop has bobbins with thin middles and they are £3.25 each.

Bud Gilling

Chesterfield Garland Dancers"

GOING LIKE THE CLAPPERS



Or at least that was what your heart was doing when you saw the local beauty spot Great Western planned to dance at on a tour of Dartmoor. This came back to mind when I read Mike Boston's interview in this edition. So a quick trip to the photo albums and after a nostalgic wallow I dug out some examples of what good company and possibly good cider can do to dance teams. I can't remember what year this was but I seem to have a full head of hair so it's definitely from the last century, possibly early last century.

The two steppers look to be from Glory of the West and from the blue legs of the musician he's either from Great Western or it's just very cold. Obviously Windsor morris could not pass up the chance to get involved and put up six dancers, two musicians and a fool. Careful inspection shows that lurking on the bank is either an over dressed lifeguard, unlikely given Great Westerns somewhat cavalier approach to Health and Safety, or possibly a passer-by planning to claim salvage rights if anyone falls in.

Wakefield not to be outdone have then fielded a set of eight dancers a caller and of course the musician, thereby topping Windsor's effort by one. Note that the musician, Tony Bacon, has wisely positioned himself out of reach of any flying dancers but close enough to the action to avoid any complaints from dancers about not hearing the music.

Obviously given their status as home team Great Western has then, unusually for them, gone ever so slightly over the top. My count gives at least nineteen on the bridge though from the look of the photo at bottom left there was a possibility that this would be reduced by two. However, as far as I recall the two elevated bodies were returned safely to earth, or rather granite and were only dampened by the gentle rain. I believe gentle rain is classified as a good day on Dartmoor.

Doug Bradshaw

DINOSAURS NOT ALLOWED

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This was the first youth Morris / traditional English dance event put on under the auspices of the Joint Morris Organisations and it showed that we do have enough young dancers to put on a really good show. There were representatives from Ashley's Rise, Babylon, Green Shoots, Bishopstone Primary School, Steps in Time, Silver Flame and Great Western.

All the sides worked well together. Ashley's Rise taught Babylon some dances and Babylon taught Ashley's Rise a dance. Great Western did an excellent job at leading audience/team participation dancing and I know that Ashley's Rise are looking at Cotswold with renewed interest and probably aren't the only ones. Some of the young dancers had not seen Cotswold or Rapper before. Excellent teamwork all round and huge amounts of learning must have happened.

We will be there again next year, so if you know of any young dancers or musicians in the area who would like to be involved then do ask them to get in touch.

Kim Woodward

Leader Ashley's Rise Junior Morris
Open Morris Area Rep for the SouthWest

Editors Note: For those of us not in the SouthWest this event was held in Weymouth on the same weekend as the Federation AGM. Little is known of its arrangements or outcomes the usually trusty web being strangely silent on the topic. Possibly the organisers regard the rest of the world as dinosaurs.

Independent Safeguarding Authority

Kevin Taylor the Federation website editor has read through the legislation relating to the ISA and came up with the following observations.

Further relevant sections, from Schedule 4 of the Act:

1

(1) An activity is a regulated activity relating to children if—

- (a) it is mentioned in paragraph 2(1), and
- (b) it is carried out frequently by the same person or the period condition is satisfied.

And

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2

(1) The activities referred to in paragraph 1(1) are—

- (a) any form of teaching, training or instruction of children, unless the teaching, training or instruction is merely incidental to teaching, training or instruction of persons who are not children;
- (b) any form of care for or supervision of children, unless the care or supervision is merely incidental to care for or supervision of persons who are not children;
- (c) any form of advice or guidance provided wholly or mainly for children, if the advice or guidance relates to their physical, emotional or educational well-being;
- (d) any form of treatment or therapy provided for a child;
- (e) moderating a public electronic interactive communication service which is likely to be used wholly or mainly by children;
- (f) driving a vehicle which is being used only for the purpose of conveying children and any person supervising or caring for the children pursuant to arrangements made in prescribed circumstances.

For morris sides in general,

2(d) does not apply.

2(e) does not apply.

2(f) does not apply.

Unless you are teaching a mainly junior side,

2(a) does not apply

2(b) does not apply

2(c) "wholly or mainly" does not apply.

Kevin

Calendar

Stella Roddis, 43 North End, Wirksworth, Matlock,
Derbyshire, DE4 4FG
Telephone 01629 822380
or email; stella.roddis@btopenworld.com

December

26th Wakefield Morris at the Kings Arms Heath
Common from 12:30pm

2010

January

1st Taeppas Tump Lunchtime pub display 1.30pm
The Mayflower, Penn Road Hazlemere HP15 7NE

February

7th Taeppas Tump NW workshop - Loddon Hall,
Loddon Hall Road, Twyford, Reading, Berkshire,
RG10 9JA. Cost £5.00 per head
Visit our website
www.taepastump.freemove.co.uk, or contact Viv
at vg.rushton@tesco.net for more information

March

6th Ripley Green Garters North West Morris
workshop, Swanwick, Derbyshire 10am to 4pm
Food and drinks provided (tea/coffee/squash and
a hot lunch) cost around £10 per person
Garters plan to teach one of our own dances and
a dance master from the renowned Wakefield
Morris will give us instructions for another dance.
More details available in the New Year please
contact

April

9th-11th DERT (Dancing England Rapper
Tournament) Derby

www.dert2010.co.uk for more details.

17th JMO Day of Dance in Bury St. Edmunds

30th Hasting Jack in the Green opens.

May

1st- 3rd Hastings Jack in the Green Contact
feelock@btopenworld.com or on 01424 436052

1st-3rd Rochester Sweeps Festival

22nd-23rd Sheringham Crab and Lobster Festival
Contact Graham Deans : phone- 01263 822716
Email – enquiries@the-lobster.com
Website – www.the-lobster.com

July

30th 31st Sidmouth Folkweek begins

August

1st-6th Sidmouth Folkweek continues

September

25th Morris Federation AGM

Joint Morris Organisation Day of Dance 2010

The **Joint Morris Organisations** (The Morris Federation, The Morris Ring and Open Morris) will be holding their national **Day of Dance in Bury St Edmunds on Saturday 17th April 2010**. This will be a spectacular, entertaining event with several hundred dancers and musicians performing around the town. This will be a celebration of our national dances and a great opportunity to show off the best of the best in traditional dance with a real chance to show the public that traditional dance is alive and well and fun.



The Joint Morris Organisations represent more than 750 dance sides in the UK with about 15,000 dancers and musicians. The JMO Day of Dance began in 2003 to celebrate the exemption that morris dancing obtained in the Licensing Act 2003 and has previously been held in London, Newcastle, Birmingham and Nottingham. This will be the first visit to the East of England and the first occasion that it will be held away from a large metropolitan city.

Places for Morris Federation sides are limited and are offered on a first-come, first-served basis. If your side is interested in coming along please contact Fee Lock, Secretary of The Morris Federation by emailing sec@morrisfed.org.uk or telephone 01424 436052. Book early to avoid disappointment as we expect to fill the Morris Federation's quota of places.

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 + £1.75 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 + £1.75 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 + £1.75 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 + £1.75 UK, £3.50 OVERSEAS (p&p)

Hinton: Traditional and creative Morris by Sue Swift.

£4.00 + £1.75 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 + £1.75 UK, £3.50 OVERSEAS (p&p)

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

£3.50 + £1.75 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 (Temporarily out of stock)

Twenty Years On, 1975-1996

£1.25

Women and the North West Morris Dance

£0.90

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

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

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

£1.25

Border Morris: a brief outline

£0.90

A Few Facts About the Morris

£1.00

BELLS

Brass	Members			Non-members		
	25	50	100	25	50	100
¾"	£9.00	£16.00	£32.00	£10.00	£18.00	£35.50
⅞"	£9.00	£17.00	£33.00	£10.00	£19.00	£36.50
1"	£11.00	£20.00	£39.00	£12.50	£22.00	£43.00
1⅛"	£12.00	£23.00	£45.00	£13.50	£25.50	£49.50
1¼"	£16.00	£32.00	£62.00	£18.00	£35.50	£68.50
Nickel						
¾"	£9.00	£16.00	£32.00	£10.00	£18.00	£35.50
⅞"	£9.00	£17.00	£33.00	£10.00	£19.00	£36.50
1"	£11.00	£20.00	£39.00	£12.50	£22.00	£43.00
1⅛"	£12.00	£23.00	£45.00	£13.50	£25.50	£50.00
1¼"	£16.00	£32.00	£62.00	£18.00	£35.50	£68.50

Bell prices include postage and packing.

PROMOTIONAL GOODS:

Sweatshirts & T-Shirts: may be available on request – please telephone or email for details.

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

Compact Discs:

The Magic of Morris - Double CD £15.00 p&p £1.00

Prices are correct at time of printing.
Order form on the Federation web site or from the treasurer.