



The Morris Federation

THE MORRIS FEDERATION

MINUTES OF THE 46th ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Held on Saturday 25th September 2021 on the Zoom Online Platform from 1605 hours

<https://www.morrisfed.org.uk/agm>

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INTRODUCTION

Pauline Woods-Wilson (President) welcomed everyone, having conducted good housekeeping and explaining that the results of any votes are to be embargoed until 2000 hours, confirmed that the meeting is quorate (there being more than 15 group members). Any technical outages would result in the meeting being adjourned until tomorrow. All speakers to confirm their names and membership designation.

She welcomed Jen Cox, Chair of Open Morris and Charlie Corcoran, East Midlands Area Rep of the Morris Ring. Also in attendance was Phil Gray, to act as teller in addition to the above.

ATTENDEES

Group/Associate/Overseas Members:

Fee Lock (Secretary) read out those teams attending:

Black Diamond	Kirtlington Morris	Rivington Morris
Berkshire Bedlam	Knights of King Ina	Sharp & Blunt
Black Gate Morris	Knowle Morris	Silkstone Greens
Black Horse & Standard NW Morris	Maltby Sword	Somerset Morris
Customs & Exiles	Minster Strays	Stone the Crows
Ditchling Morris	Mortimer's Morris	Temporary Measured
Dr Turberville's Morris	Nonesuch	The Jerusalem Jammers
Enigma Border Morris	North American Morris Dance Organisation	The Outside Capering Crew
G&G Morris	Northgate Rapper	Trentside Holmes Morris
Harlequin Women's Morris	Persephone Women's Morris	Wantsum Morris
Haymarket	Phoenix Morris	Windsor Morris
Isambard's Gasket Rats	Pump House Clog Morris	Wyld Morris
Jackstraws Morris	Rights and Lefts	

Individual Members:

Val Parker, Honorary Member

Morris Federation Committee:

Pauline Woods-Wilson, President, The Morris Federation

Fee Lock, Secretary, The Morris Federation

Jenny Everett, Treasurer, The Morris Federation

Mike Everett, Archive Officer, The Morris Federation

Jerry West, Notation Officer, The Morris Federation

Sam Ross, Newsletter Editor, The Morris Federation

Morris Federation Co-opted Committee:

Dan Watford, IT Administrator, The Morris Federation

Brian Kelly, Communications & IT, The Morris Federation

Invited Guests:

Jen Cox, Chair, Open Morris

Charlie Corcoran, East Midlands Area Rep, The Morris Ring

Michael Stimpson, Insurance Officer (working for all three Morris Organisations)

1 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Fee Lock (Secretary) read out the list of apologies for absence:

Group/Associate/Overseas Members:

Acorn Morris	Ebor Morris	Newburgh Morris
Aldbrickham Clog & Step Dancers	England's Glory	New Esperance Morris
Ansley Morris	Exmoor Border Morris	Pateley Longsword
Armaleggan	Five Rivers Morris	Quayside Cloggies of Poole
Aurora	Grimspound Border Morris	Rampant Rooster Morris Dancers
Babylon	Hastings Traditional Jack in the Green	Red Stags Morris
Beetlecrushers Clog & Step Dance Group	Haughley Hoofers	Richmond Castle Clogs
Betty Lupton's Ladle Laikers	Highside Longsword	Ripon City Morris Dancers
Beverley Garland Dancers	Huginn & Munin	Ripon Spur Rapper
Bideford Phoenix Morris	Kinfauns Step Dancers	Rockhopper Morris
Black Bess Border Morris	Knareborough Mummers	Sarum Morris
Brafont Guizers	Lymm Morris Dancers	Sheffield City Morris
Chinewrde Morris Dancers	Mabel Gubbins	Shrewsbury Morris
Clausentum Morris	Madder Mill Molly	Strictly Clog
Clogarhythm	Milltown Cloggies	Whitethorn Morris
Cockleshell Clog	Mish Mash Morris	Wight Bells
Cricket on the Hearth	Mythago Morris	Wreckers Border Morris
	Nancy Butterfly	

Individual Members:

Sally Wearing, Honorary Member
Alison Dunn
Jane Cunio
Jed Dunn
Nickie Dailly
Sheila Denley
Steve Cunio

2 MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The minutes of the previous meeting on 26th September 2020 were available in the AGM pack and also online at <https://www.morrisfed.org.uk/agm/>. These were taken as read.

Shirley Dixon (Jackstraws) pointed out the following amendments:

Motion 2, p9: Jerry's explanation showing "activate" should be "activities"

Motion 4, p12: should have "Bob" before "Barker"

Motion 6, p18 first para of Melanie Barber: should have "full face paint" instead of "full faint paint".

Michael Stimpson (Phoenix) asked for 'Rickmansworth' to be removed from their name as they are now the only side called this.

Tony Penneck (Customs & Exiles) proposed them as correct otherwise, with Peter Luckin (Ditchling Morris) seconding. 15 sides in favour of acceptance, 0 against, 2 abstentions. Pauline Woods-Wilson (President) signed these as correct with the above amendments.

3 MATTERS ARISING

AGM 2020: Motion 5 referred back to the Committee was: "Members shall not do anything to adversely affect the aims of The Morris Federation or liable to bring The Morris Federation into disrepute." See p14 of those minutes.

Pauline Woods-Wilson (President) reported that the Committee had decided not to pursue this, and that anyone interested in joining a working party to work on a revised Constitution should contact Jerry West (Notation Officer) who will be starting a working party in November.

No other matters arising were mentioned by the meeting.

4 ANNUAL REPORTS

These had been previously circulated and taken as read. They are reproduced as Appendix 1 below.

(a) President

No comments raised. Pauline will run some more events this winter but not so many as 2020; if anyone wants to be involved, they should make contact. There is a wealth of skills & experience in the Morris community.

(b) Secretary

No comments.

(c) Treasurer

Jenny Everett's report needs to be accepted as recommendation of subs for this year to be set at the pre-pandemic amount of £35 pa member side, £22 pa individual, associate & overseas: £10 junior group.

Jenny explained some background information on members' numbers: the discrepancies arise because we always have a number of teams who do not respond to the renewal notice in a timely fashion for one reason or another and we cannot tell what their intentions may be. The situation changes throughout the year as teams realise that they have missed the renewal season. Sometimes they forget and have a gap year!

As of 9th September 2021, the membership list stands at 521 members (up from 2019) These comprise:

491 group members

13 individual members
7 junior members
10 overseas or associate members

12 new members have joined: 7 group members, 2 individual members, 1 junior member, 1 associate member and 1 overseas member.

4 teams have notified us that they have folded. 1 team probably just joined in 2019 to take advantage of member rates for bell purchases and did not renew. 1 team have asked to remain as 'overdue subscription' whilst they discuss their situation. 9 teams have just not responded - this may be an oversight during the pandemic. 2 teams and 1 individual have left because of our stance on full-face black makeup.

Gunther Clasen (G&G Morris) said that Young Miscellany is not a new team, although it was explained that they are new to the Federation. Fee Lock (Secretary) said that there has always been a low-level of movement between the Organisations.

Vote to accept the Treasurer's report including the proposal to set subscription levels at pre-pandemic prices: £35 for Group membership, £22 for Individual, Associate & Overseas, and £10 Junior Group. According to this page, <https://themorring.org/sides/guide-membership> The Morris Ring's subs for full membership is £60 p.a. (less £10 if paid by bank transfer), making it £50 and ours are only £35, the other comparisons being Full £60-£10=£50, Associate £50-£10=£40, Joint £30-£10=£20.

A simple show of hands (via a poll) was conducted showing 21 in favour of Jenny's report, 0 against, 2 abstentions. The report was carried.

(d) Archive Officer

Mike Everett would like to mention Chas Leslie's 'Voices of Morris' project - Chas Leslie is interviewing older Morris dancers for the archive of their memories. Mike would like anyone else interested to get in touch.

(e) Notation Officer

No comments

(f) Newsletter Editor

No comments

This year we have included Reports from our Co-opted Committee. People may be co-opted for up to 12 months at a time, either for short periods or longer projects.

(g) IT Administrator's report

No comments. Pauline thanked Dan Watford for his work.

(h) Communications & IT Officer's report

Brian Kelly showed show a video on a project of how to maintain websites. This is on the 'resources/IT' section of our website: <https://www.morrisfed.org.uk/resources/it/>

(i) Communications Officer's report

Sally Smith could not make the meeting, but Pauline Woods-Wilson (President) drew the meeting's attention to her request for help with putting together some high-quality video resources – if you can help in any way, please contact us.

(j) Health & Safety Advisor's report

No comments.

(k) Project reports

25th Anniversary book – No comments.
50th Anniversary book – No comments.
SCHEDAR – No comments.
MDDB – No comments.

5 MOTIONS

None received. Motions should be received in advance of the AGM (Standing Orders, item 5) – shown on the website <https://www.morrisfed.org.uk/about/constitution/>

6 DISCUSSIONS

Discussions do not form part of the governance process as such but often lead to Motions at future general meetings.

Discussion 1 – about extending the Morris Federation Awards

Jenny Everett (Treasurer) leading.

Jenny has been thinking about this for some time now; there's now a thought that it would be a good idea to expand this and hope to inspire other people to get involved. Those awarded so far:
Honorary Membership, introduced in 1979 and intended for Morris Federation members:

Betty Reynolds (1979)
Bev Lane (1983)
Sue Swift (1991)
Val Parker (1993)
Sally Wearing (1997)
John Bacon (2013)

Friend of the Federation, introduced in 1985 for those external to the Morris Federation

Roy Dommatt CBE (1987)
Tubby Reynolds (1995)
The Rt Hon the Lord Redesdale (2003)

Jerry West (Notation Officer) asked Jenny for specific details, Jenny explained that as Life membership means that, this would be a recognition more than anything. She suggested the following:

John Bacon Award
Public Profile Award
Service Award

Shirley Dixon (Jackstraws) asked if a person would be nominated, or whether they could apply for themselves. Fee Lock (Secretary) pointed out that the rules around the current awards required 1 proposer and 5 seconders, so to follow suit the nomination would need to be quite stringent.

Sue Emmett (Somerset Morris) asked who would decide this? Jenny suggested it would be discussed in committee and then bring to AGM for voting. Val Parker (Honorary Member) said that her then team wrote a citation and proposal.

Fee Lock (Secretary) said that the current honorary members had done sterling work and performed long service. In order for 5 seconders to agree would mean that quite a lot of work had been undertaken by one nominee.

Michael Stimpson (Phoenix Morris) thought this to be too complicated; life membership is enough, although as Jenny Everett (Treasurer) pointed out, these new proposals don't confer life membership. Sue Emmett (Somerset Morris) said that people are likely to be doing these things because they want to rather than for the award, so this would be recognition rather than driving behavioural change. Shirley Dixon (Jackstraws) said she thought this would be a way of publicising what can be done by giving people a public acknowledgement, and hence inspiring other people.

At the end of this discussion, 17 were in favour, 4 against, taking this forward. Pauline Woods-Wilson (President) would like to know if anyone wants to discuss their disagreements – Michael Stimpson (Phoenix) said it is too complicated and as there is life membership, this represents second-class citizen status.

Kate McQuillan (Windsor Morris) asked if this would this continue to grow, and then didn't confer second-class membership, and would there be an intermediate level. Perhaps it ought to be more general and awarded in terms of the service. Jenny Everett (Treasurer) agreed that we could tweak it to be less specific. Gunther Clasen (G&G Morris) wondered whether this would not then be a service award? Fee Lock (Secretary) said that Ann Bacon had wanted John's to reflect work with youth. We will refer this to the committee for thoughts.

Discussion 2 – about Recruitment and Diversity

Mike Everett (Archive Officer) to lead.

Mike wanted to discuss equality; the Equality Act 2010 and the TUC specify that no one will be excluded. Volunteering organisations that he & Jenny are involved with have the specification of it, including Fairness Respect Equality Diversity Inclusion Engagement. He hopes that we all propose and maintain this in our sides. Also, Jack Worth's Morris census shows that female Morris dancers are now slightly in the greater number.

Several sides are not representative of Britain as a whole. However, we tend to attract recruits who broadly fit in with the side as it looks.

Andrew Knight (Knights of King Ina) said that they discussed this and maybe we should focus on a teaching resource for friends and local communities, perhaps a group that might want to form but don't have the resources to do so. A youth liaison officer presenting to universities, perhaps. We need to see people as they are rather than their differences. "Be seen, be good."

Michael Stimpson (Phoenix Morris) thought this to be a Joint Morris Organisations matter as much as Federation issue. The question is 'how' – you have to go out and try to persuade by performing. Riina Lehtoviita (Isambard's Gasket Rats) – she & Gunther Clasen (G&G Morris) have found their way into Morris, she via Beltane in Devon, having seen them. Several sides have formed off the back of them. She and another are twenties/thirties, but the majority in her side are in their fifties. Being visibly attractive and doing workshops at, say Chippenham Folk Festival, works with recruitment. Regarding Covid & vaccinations, there has been concern & discussion raised regarding vaccination status. She has had an enquiry from someone to join who hasn't been vaccinated.

Brian Kelly (Morris Federation IT) said that Dr Fay Hield – got a grant for supporting folk clubs & the folk scene at Sheffield uni.

Andrew Knight (Knights of King Ina) agreed that it should be a JMO venture, and not just a Federation one. 'Safe for others, safe for yourself' is a good watchword regarding vaccination. Fee Lock (Secretary) said that we can't answer specific questions on Covid. Gunther Clasen (G&G Morris) said that diversity is a very good thing – 'go back home' isn't a helpful thing to hear.

From Brian Mander, Brafront Guizers (read out on his behalf):

"I am in agreement with the proposed categories of Morris Fed Awards, and consider it to be a splendid idea - celebrating achievements in different fields but all contributing to the overall development of the Morris.

As regards Recruitment and Diversity, I feel that there is a need to keep recruiting male dancers in order to maintain an equal (or nearly equal) gender balance; the issues of differently-able and BAME recruitment is a harder one, I think. For a side looking to maximise style, proficiency and high-quality dancing, the actual physical ability of members and potential members is crucial. Other sides may have different policies, but it would be difficult to have an overall policy that included diversity of ability as a requirement of recruitment.

While it is always desirable to wish to recruit dancers from the whole of British society, it is a fact that Morris Dancing is seen as part of the English tradition, as other forms of dancing are synonymous with other specific cultures. It is good to welcome BAME dancers to the Morris, but we should not be surprised if many, or indeed, most potential recruits with backgrounds in other cultures choose not to make Morris dancing a priority!"

Mike Everett (Archive Officer), in summing up – he likes youth liaison officer idea and would like to co-opt someone if they're interested. He also thought that taking it to the Joint Morris Organisations to be a good idea, too. And from what Michael Stimpson said, share good practice. He said that often he feels odd as a Scot to be doing an English dance!

Link to Findings of the Morris Census 2020: <https://www.morrisfed.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2021/02/Findings-from-the-2020-Morris-Census-as-at-202012.pdf>

Link to Results of the Morris Census 2014 & 2017: <https://morriscensus.weebly.com/full-set-of-survey-results.html>

7 ELECTION OF COMMITTEE

As per clause 4 of the Constitution, committee members (officers) must stand for re-election every three years (in rotation). Officers can stand again. This year, the officers standing for re-election are the Secretary and Notation Officer. The posts run for 3 years from 1st January 2022 and any incumbent will stand down on 31st December 2024.

(a) Secretary

Fee Lock is standing down after 22 years in the post. There is one nomination, for Andrew Knight.

Election of Andrew Knight to the post of Secretary to start on 1st January 2022 for a period of 3 years. The votes were as follows:

In favour	489.5
Against	16.0
Abstentions	93.5

Andrew Knight was duly elected. Fee Lock (Secretary) said that this allows for a three-month hand-over.

(b) Notation Officer

Jerry West, the incumbent, is willing to stand again in this role.

Election of Jerry West to the post of Notation Officer to start on 1st January 2022 for a period of 3 years. The votes were as follows:

In favour	494.5
Against	4.0
Abstentions	96.5

Jerry West was duly elected.

Note re other posts

For your information on other Committee posts under the 3-year tenure rule introduced in 2018:

- The posts of President and Newsletter Editor will expire on 31st December 2022 so will be elected at the AGM in 2022 (next year).
- The posts of Treasurer and Archive Officer will expire on 31st December 2023 so they will be elected at the AGM in 2023 (following year)
- The posts of Secretary and Notation Officer will expire on 31st December 2024 so they will be elected at the AGM in 2024.

We have 3 co-opted posts which are 1-year posts appointed by the Committee and renewable annually:

Dan Watford of Wantsum Morris in East Kent (The Morris Ring) is co-opted as IT Administrator.

Sally Smith of Silkstone Greens in South Yorkshire is co-opted as Communications Officer, primarily for external communications.

Brian Kelly of Haymarket Rapper and Wyld Morris in Dorset is co-opted as Communications and IT Officer.

Plus, we have retained Sally Wearing as our Advisor on Health & Safety – Sally is an Honorary member and the longest serving President of the Morris Federation (12 years, 1984-1995)

Also, James Merryclough of Five Rivers has helped us with media liaison, and Alan Courtney of Sarum Morris has helped with photography.

As you can see ... there are plenty of opportunities to use your specialist skills to help out.

8 DATE(S) OF FUTURE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING(S)

The dates for future AGMs are:

Saturday 24th September 2022, guests of Black Diamond Mixed Cotswold Morris in Darlington.

Saturday 23rd September 2023, guests of Shropshire Bedlams and Martha Rhoden's Tuppenny Dish, somewhere in Shropshire. This may alter as this isn't the last day in September ...

We are looking for teams to host in 2024 and 2025, so if you would love to host a Day of Dance and AGM, please either let us know now, or please discuss it with your team and email us.

9 ANY OTHER BUSINESS

None raised.

10 PRESENTATIONS AND VOTES OF THANKS

Votes of thanks are owed to:

Fee Lock, who by the end of the year will have been our secretary for a record 22 years.

During her time, she has worked with, trained, and supported 5 presidents: John Bacon, Trefor Owen, Barry Goodman, Melanie Barber and now me (Pauline Woods-Wilson).

During her 22 years she has seen a lot of changes in the MF – some of the technical changes being the introduction of the full colour newsletter, the new membership database, the setup of a Facebook and twitter presence, developments of the web site, and the membership manual going online. She has been a huge supporter of the Joint Morris Organisations and working with other organisations; she was involved with the lobbying for the exemption for morris dancing in the amplified music licensing act; has had many sleepless nights over the use of full-face black make-up and our guidance about it; and still retained her good humour.

Her hallmark has been her carefully considered and reasonable replies that she has made to the press and general public, together with her lively and apposite contributions to committee meetings. Her knowledge will be sorely missed.

We are incredibly grateful for the time she has devoted to the MF. And we are very glad that she is not leaving us entirely, with all that knowledge and experience, so from 1st January will continue to be the JMO Secretary and a co-opted member of the MF Committee.

It's not nearly enough, but a Butterworth Badge will be presented to Fee at a future event when we can be together. We all thank you, Fee.

Plus ...

Special thanks to Sally Wearing, our Health & Safety Advisor, for her ongoing work of interpreting the government guidance for morris and related activities during the Covid-19 pandemic.

Thanks to Sam Ross, our Newsletter Editor, for setting up and running this online meeting.

And finally ... thanks to the extended morris community for being fantastically resourceful and innovative - holding online practices, hosting online events, creating videos and quizzes, and supporting each other to keep our spirits up during the Covid-19 pandemic.

A reminder that the results of votes are embargoed until 2000hrs, so please don't share anything from the meeting on social media until after then.

The draft minutes will be emailed to member contacts.

Pauline Woods-Wilson (President) closed by hoping that all teams will be back to dancing, playing, and performing soon; that we all stay safe, and we hope to see you in person next year. She declared the meeting closed at 1804 hrs.

APPENDIX 1 - ANNUAL REPORTS

(a) President

Looking back at last year's reports, who would have thought that the world would still be in the grip of the Coronavirus Covid-19 pandemic one year later? Our thoughts go out to those who have lost friends and family during this time, and we will miss our morris friends when they are not at the next practice or dance out.

Thanks go to Sally Wearing, our Health & Safety Advisor, who continued to read all the relevant government guidance on Covid-19 at each new release, and then provided helpful advice and updated Risk Assessment templates at each new restriction level.

Over the last year, we continued to issue frequent broadcast emails to keep everyone in touch with any morris and related activities happening online, and hope this was useful to you and a bit of fun.

We then started a series of our own online events 'live' over Zoom to give us something to look forward to during lockdown in the dark days of winter. These events quickly picked up momentum and ran between November and May, gaining an international audience! Many thanks go to everyone who contributed by teaching a workshop, giving a talk, hosting, editing videos, doing a write-up for the web site, and of course to everyone for being there in the audience and donating to charity. It's difficult to select a highlight, but one of the moments that touched me was seeing over 100 people bobbing up and down to music, together. Or together-apart-together, so to speak.

Quite a few festivals had an online element, and teams submitted serious and funny videos for our online viewing pleasure.

The Committee has made a fair start in updating the Member's Manual (in the Members area of the web site) which has a wealth of advice, mostly for new teams. It still needs further work and if you can contribute your advice or specialist knowledge to any sections, then do please let us know.

Again, massive thanks to the Committee for all their hard work and support, and to our co-opted committee: Daniel Watford (Wantsum Morris) our IT Administrator; Brian Kelly (Wyld Morris, ex Newcastle Kingsmen) our Communications and IT Officer with a special interest in archiving of digital resources; and Sally Smith (Silkstone Greens and other teams) our Communications Officer. You will find their reports elsewhere in this section. Thanks are also due to James Merryclough (Five Rivers) for liaison with the Press; Brian Crow (Cardiff) for video editing; Rachel Cole-Wilkin (Belles of London City) for advice on teaching young people; Alan Courtney (Sarum) for photographs; and Roger Kennington for chairing part of the last AGM.

We ought to note that the ban on the use of full face black makeup passed at our last AGM was followed similarly by both the Open Morris and The Morris Ring at their annual meetings.

We are sorry we had to cancel the MF day of dance in 2021 which was to be hosted in Reading by Customs and Exiles North West Morris. Now we are looking forward to our two national in-person events in 2022 – the twice postponed JMO day of dance on Saturday 9th April in Liverpool hosted by the Morris Ring, and the MF day of dance and AGM on Saturday 24th September hosted in Darlington, County Durham, by Black Diamond Mixed Cotswold Morris. Hope to see you there!

Looking ahead to the next year, recruitment and retention will be hot topics for most teams, so please let us know how we can support you. I would also like to start working on what members told me were important when I was elected – teaching morris and related activities in schools; and improving the image of morris in the media. Again, if you would like to be involved, do please contact me.

Pauline Woods-Wilson
August 2021

Online events 'live' on Zoom in 2020-2021

Nov	Hastings Jack in the Green - Talk	Keith Leech, Fee Lock
Nov	Clogmaking - Demo	Simon Brock
Nov-Dec	Cotswold for beginners - 3 Workshops	Andrew Knight, Lin Steel, Tony Warren (KOKI)
Dec	Making rapper swords - Demo	Frank Lee
Dec	How to love tunes you hate! - Workshop	Will Allen
Jan	Clog Stepping for Beginners - 2 Workshops	Georgia Shorrocks, Hadrian Clog
Jan	Online Practices and Zoom Q&A - Chat	Pauline Woods-Wilson
Jan	North West - The Nelson Dance - Workshop	Virginia Crewe (Malkin Morris)
Jan	Goathland Plough Stots - Talk	Keith Thompson, Sally Smith
Jan	Making a Beast - Demo	Geoff Roberts
Jan	Cotswold Bucknell - Workshop	KOKI as above
Jan	Morris from the Archives - Talk	Jameson Wooders
Jan	North West 'Lockdown' dance - Workshop	Hazel Old & Will Pound (Chinewrde)
Feb	Virtual Ceilidh Calling Masterclass	Fee Lock & Martyn Harvey
Feb	Shrewsbury Septimus puppet - Talk	Bev & Ray Langton
Feb	Appalachian Clog - Beginners & Intermediate - 2 Workshops each	Abby Ladin & Sam Bartlett
Feb	Shrewsbury on twitter - Talk	Graydon Radford, Ray Langton
Feb	Cotswold Bledington - Workshop	KOKI as above
Mar	Morris Music a History Taborers Soc - Talk	Stephen Rowley, Andy Richards
Mar	Clog Stepping - Intermediate - 2 Workshops	Melanie Barber & Mike Adamson
Mar	Sussex Bonfires - Talk	Keith & Heather Leech
Mar	Clogs in Britain and Beyond - Talk	Michael L Jackson
Mar	Fiddle playing for Morris - Workshop	Sarah Matthews
Mar	JMO Morris Census - Talk	Jack Worth
Mar	Pipe & Tabor for beginners - Workshop	Andy Richards
Mar-Apr-May	Return to Dancing Fitness - 2 Workshops and 5 Videos	Rhys Boorman
Mar	Kirtlington Morris & Lamb Ale - Talk/Workshop	John Mayo, John Leslie, Bob Dunlop, Paul Davenport, Tim Radford, Nigel Holt, Dillon Browne
Mar	Cotswold Ilmington 2 jigs - Workshop	KOKI as above
Apr	Family Dance - Workshop	Rachel Cole-Wilkin
Apr	Morris revival 1856-1951 - Talk	Matt Simons
Apr	Border solo dance 'Vaccine' - Workshop	Linda & Jay Glanville, Pauline Woods-Wilson
Apr	Good Morning, Lords and Ladies - Talk	Barry & Gill Goodman
Apr	JMO - Music Session	Sarah & Tom Sennett, Emma & Jon Melville, Sel Adamu & Ben Potton, Sarah Matthews & Doug Eunson
Apr	JMO - Bacca Pipes	Rachel Cole-Wilkin
Apr	JMO - North West 'Celebration' - Workshop	John Earnshaw
Apr	JMO - Mrs Marhoff's Clog Routine - Workshop	Toby Bennett
Apr	JMO - Cotswold Oddington - Workshop	Ollie and Matt Simons
Apr	JMO - Massed Dancing	Various
Apr	Adderbury Morris Men - Talk	Keith Norton, Stephen & Verna Wass, Tim Radford, Chris Leslie, Dave Moore, David Gunby
May	Who were the Sword Dancers? - Talk	Andrew Kennedy
May	Morris Dancers and Rose Queens Vol 1 - Talk	Johnny Haslett

(b) Secretary

I normally don't have anything much to report to the membership at the AGM as it's normally been said by the president, on behalf of the committee, or the other officers who do more exciting things than I do. Generally I attend meetings with the other Morris organisations (reported by the president) or other groups (my report is usually sent to the newsletter). This year, with so little having happened, I don't have a great deal to report on independently, other than to mention a couple of things during my tenure that I think are worth recalling:

Steve Heap of the Association of Festival Organisers highlighted a change in legislation that was due in 2003, which would result in Morris dancers needing to apply for a Temporary Event Notice when dancing with more than two performers. This was very cleverly avoided by the late John Bacon during his presidency, in achieving an exemption from the Licensing Act 2003 (now superseded) courtesy of Lord Redesdale and led to the nascent Joint Morris Organisations forming a regular day of dance. It's hard to believe now how little we talked to each other!

It's not possible to reflect on the last few years without mentioning the sea change in attitudes towards face paint, especially the use of full-face black make-up. For the committee in general and for me in particular, it's been six or more years in the making since Fairness, Respect & Equality in Shropshire (FRESH) laid out their claim that in booking Morris Federation sides at a national festival contravened the Equality Act 2010 and could lead to civil or criminal proceedings. Following meetings had by Melanie Barber, the president at the time, this initially led to the guidelines we issued in 2017, suggesting that sides give serious consideration to whether the use of black face paint would be appropriate in each instance, given that we could not legally promise any kind of protection against action as a result of offence taken. That was an extremely difficult time for us all and I was heartened by how seriously our members took the issue.

Naturally, this leads on to the events of last summer, writ large on all our screens as we had no dancing or practising to divert us as the world changed its views on many things, black-face make-up included. As a committee we felt we had an obligation to face this head-on, and as evidenced by the record four and a half-hour long AGM – an absolute record in my time – an issue which we all needed to discuss. I am deeply grateful to the hard work of all of my colleagues, and all members of the Federation (as well as those others who helped behind the scenes) to bring about the changes in the constitution and the subsequent changes in sides' face paint decisions. I hope that those who felt differently and moved on have been able to continue with the amazing hobby – sport – practice – life-affirming essential practice – of Morris dancing.

I've had the immense honour of working with some utterly fabulous people on this committee: to name one would leave the others out; the alternative being a roll-call of some of my favourite people (!). Suffice to say that it's been a brilliant twenty-one years; with the three-year tenure for this post being due now it's sensible for a new person to come along and make it their own. I'm pleased that we've been able to recruit some rather wonderful co-optees: I tend to think of myself as being a bit of a Jill-of-all-trades but it's clear that Sally, Dan, & Brian's expertise far exceeds any of my amateurish tinkering with websites, directories, or press/PR. Pauline is an exceptional person whose attention to detail, persistence, and all-round determination to Make Things Happen made me exceedingly pleased she chose to stand as president, and I don't think we would have been able to provide such a varied – and indeed vast – range of workshops during the year of Covid-19.

As I feel extremely strongly that we should continue pursuing good relations through collaboration and co-operation, with their permission of the committee I'm remaining the Secretary of the Joint Morris Organisations' and a co-opted member of the Federation committee. So I still will see some of you and Morris occasions, and undoubtedly at festivals and ceilidhs. Thank you all for your help and support and friendship over the years, and I wish my successor all the very best.

Fee Lock
Hastings, August 2021

(c) Treasurer

Treasurer Report to AGM 2021

Membership and renewals

Membership levels have dropped slightly this year.

To date (16/4/21) we have 507 members (515 in 2019):

- 478 group members
- 13 individuals
- 7 junior
- 9 overseas/associate

Sadly 1 team has folded – Cononley Morris.

We have 4 new teams, The Britannia Morris, Jigs O'Marlowe, Liberty Hill Northwest Morris, Young Miscellany and 2 new individual members.

The renewals season was easier this year, with no subscriptions needing to be banked, but I had to field a large number of queries.

Sales and publications

Sales of bells were low as everyone had hung up their bellpads for the pandemic. Dance Notation books are now available free of charge to members to download from the website.

Banking

All accounts are at Lloyds bank, we have a current account, and an instant access savings account. Due to the pandemic and the uncertainty of having no income this year, I have not yet re-opened a deposit account.

Accounting period

Attached is a copy of the annual accounts for 2020/2021. Comparison with 2019/2020 accounts should be possible as the accounting periods are in step.

Expenditure exceeded income by £4,677.49 due to the lack of income and the reduction in committee expenses due to lack of travel allowed.

I propose that membership subscription rates remain at pre-covid levels for the coming year.

My thanks go to members who chose to donate money in lieu of subscriptions.

Reserves

Reserves have remained set at £27,000 as this has not been a typical year.

Grants and Sponsorships

No applications for grants or sponsorships were received.

Committee Expenses

A breakdown of the committee expenses for the period has been included. Should any member consider standing for a committee post, we have an expenses policy which pays for accommodation and travel costs incurred.

Other activities

In common with a lot of our members, I am sure, I have spent a lot of the year on Zoom. Committee meetings were held more frequently than usual, together with more frequent Joint Morris Organisations meetings. I also co-hosted many of Pauline's winter lockdown series of zooms. It has been great to see so many members taking advantage of these sessions.

Accounts inspection

These accounts have been independently verified by Eddie Worrall, whom I should like to thank for all his help and advice.

Thank you for all your messages of support and thanks over the year

Jenny Everett

MORRIS FEDERATION ACCOUNTS		
16/4/2020 to 6/4/2021		
INCOME	2020/2021	2019/2020
GENERAL		
Subscriptions (including extra Newsletters)	£316.71	£18,476.50
Newsletter adverts	£0.00	£0.00
PRS contribution Morris Ring and Open Morris	£0.00	£174.57
Payment in error by team		£30.00
Donations	£220.01	
TOTAL GENERAL	£536.72	£18,681.07
AGM 2020		
Band refund	£800.00	
Accommodation refund	£658.25	
TOTAL AGM 2020	£1,458.25	
DONATIONS & GRANTS		
CD sales and donations to designated education account	£0.00	£0.00
TOTAL DONATIONS & GRANTS	£0.00	£0.00
PROMOTIONS & PUBLICATIONS		
Sale of publications and PR goods (inc p&p)	£22.60	£172.50
TOTAL PR & PUBS	£22.60	£172.50
BELLS		
Sale of bells (inc p&p)	£585.66	£12,099.12
TOTAL BELLS	£585.66	£12,099.12
BANKING		
Interest on old Santander deposit account		£16.80
Interest on savings account	£6.81	£1.67
Interest on Deposit Account		£325.47
TOTAL BANKING	£6.81	£343.94
TOTAL INCOME	£2,610.04	£31,296.63

EXPENDITURE	2020/2021	2019/2020
GENERAL		
Subscription refunds	£105.00	£175.00
Printing and postage (newsletter, AGM notices)	£0.00	£5,965.77
Printing (inc. renewals)	£5.25	£10.55
Stationery & postage (inc postage of goods/bells)	£354.02	£806.79
Travel expenses	£226.30	£1,505.00
PRS charge (2 years)	£0.00	£498.75
EFDSS membership	£81.00	£79.00
AFO subs	£90.00	£90.00
Conference fees and accommodation	£0.00	£541.50
Committee meetings room hire	£80.00	£160.00
Insurance	£4,340.82	£4,379.86
IT expenses	£1,389.55	£785.33
H&S premium & thank you	£252.95	£213.00
Archive acquisitions	£73.12	£0.00
AGM Reference books	£31.89	
Preparation of accounts		£13.35
Payment in error by team		£30.00
TOTAL GENERAL	£7,029.90	£15,253.90
AGM and Day of Dance 2019		
AGM committee accommodation		£812.00
AGM badges		£25.30
AGM room hire		£735.00
Candidate expenses		£1,070.25
TOTAL AGM and DAY of DANCE 2019	£0.00	£2,642.55
AGM 2020		
Band booking		£800.00
Zoom charges	£222.97	
AGM committee accommodation	£34.66	£623.59
TOTAL AGM and DAY of DANCE 2020	£257.63	£1,423.59
JMO		
JMO host badges	£0.00	£23.00
TOTAL JMO	£0.00	£23.00
DONATIONS & GRANTS		
Morris Dance database project		£80.00
Malkin Morris (maypole project)		£415.80
Ripon Spur (new team equipment loan)		£272.00
Black Gate Morris (new team equipment loan)		£775.00
TOTAL DONATIONS & GRANTS	£0.00	£1,542.80
PROMOTIONS & PUBLICATIONS		
Publications printing	£0.00	£19.75
TOTAL PR & PUBS	£0.00	£19.75
BELLS		
Purchase of bells		£16,798.80
Bell refunds	£0.00	£245.55
TOTAL BELLS	£0.00	£17,044.35
TOTAL EXPENDITURE	£7,287.53	£37,949.94

COMMITTEE EXPENSES 1/4/20 – 16/4/21

Personal Expenses

travel

Secretary	
President	£226.30
Notation officer	
Treasurer	
Archive officer	
Newsletter editor	
Co-opted IT support	

Organisational expenses

stationery

archive acquisition

IT

mtg room

AGM 2020

H&S thank you

Secretary			£191.98	£80	£222.97	
President					£31.89	£39.95
Treasurer		£3.50		£348.00	£34.66	
Archive officer		£2.80				
Newsletter editor						

Reserves

	2020/2021	2019/2020	2018/2019
Unrestricted funds	£42618.48	£47,263.07	£53,914.22
Designated funds: education account	£373.50	£373.50	£373.50
Designated funds: research account	£350	£350	£350
Total funds	£43,341.98	£47,986.57	£53,637.72
Ratio of reserves to annual operating expenditure	100%	100%	100%
Reserves	27,000	£27,000	£23,084.65
Membership level	507	515	529

BANKING DETAILS

Banking 6/04/2021				
	general account	designated education account	designated research account	TOTAL
Current Account	£10,683.53	£373.50	£350.00	£11,407.03
Savings Account				£31,934.95
Total				£43,341.98

Banking 16/04/2020				
	general account	designated education account	designated research account	TOTAL
Current Account	£15,334.83	£373.50	£350.00	£16,058.33
Savings Account				£31,928.24
Total				£47,986.57

STOCK VALUES

	16/4/21	16/4/20
Stationery	£299.58	£327.87
Value of bells	£17,325.70	£17,823.70
Publications	£543.90	£567.80
Value of Promotions	£330.55	£356.17
Stock held sale or return by Morris Shop	£383.25	£383.25
Total	£18,882.98	£19,458.79

(d) Archive Officer

My thanks go to the membership for your support and re-electing me at last year's AGM to look after your archive for another three years.

Lockdown has provided challenges and opportunities as well as frustration. Committee meetings have been held over Zoom, saving expense and travel time. The President organised lots of activities for the membership and beyond, all held on Zoom and which I was privileged to help with a few.

Digitisation of The Morris Federation's photographic archive has begun and, with the help of a couple of volunteers - Sally Bird and Matt Simons, it is being catalogued and tagged. Currently, this is stored on Microsoft Teams with a longer-term view of linking the archive to the website and making it more easily accessible to members.

While undertaking a review of The Morris Federation library, multiple copies of some items have been found. These will probably be made available and advertised via our Facebook page during the autumn and winter.

I have also been part of a small group with Melanie Barber, former President, and the Treasurer, Jenny Everett, that has started work on producing a book for The Morris Federation's 50th anniversary and covering its history in the 21st century. Other ideas for this anniversary are being considered such as regional days of dance celebrations. Would there be enough interest for another CD compilation?

Remember The Morris Federation is its members so if you have ideas or would like to offer help in any areas, we'd love to hear from you.

Mike Everett
August 2021

(e) Notation Officer

Although this has been the most difficult of years, we have actually increased the amount of material now available both for posterity and to the interested public through the series of "Lockdown Instructionals" and related talks so ably organised by our President, Pauline Woods-Wilson.

In particular, Pauline's insistence that the talks and workshops be recorded and made available on YouTube have ensured that these have been enjoyed not only by the original audience but by (a small, but select, number of) viewers world-wide! Whilst not large numbers by YouTube standards, to see hundreds of people revisit these talks is most gratifying.

There has, unsurprisingly, been very little other activity this year. Teams have had more to worry about than dance notation! My thanks to Albion Fair, and to Malkin Morris, to Barbara Butler, and to all those who provided notation or material for the Lockdown talks (and who are credited elsewhere).

We still welcome dance notation - preferably accompanied by videos and/or mp4 music files - from all teams, either for archive or for publication.

On a final, more sombre note, although it is upsetting to think about, may I ask teams that find themselves unable to restart, for whatever reason, to consider taking the effort to notate or record their dances and offer them to us to archive. It would be nice to think that future generations could look back on what you did and seek inspiration for their own performances.

Finally, on an unrelated topic, I have volunteered to coordinate an effort to update the Federation constitution and wish to construct a working party to put suggestions forward at a future AGM or EGM. If you have relevant expertise, or simply more than average interest(!), and would like to contribute, I would very much like to hear from you.

Jerry West
July 2021

(f) Newsletter Editor

Covid-19 continued to limit FedExtra this year. An entire year with no events, meant that any submissions were kept for a bumper digital edition to be released later this year, reporting on all the things teams did manage to get up to on Zoom and occasionally in person.

One team stood alone in 'flying the flag for morris' for most of 2020 and that was Belles and Broomsticks on Guernsey, who were dancing admirably from July onwards until their second lockdown halted play from January to March. Thanks to John Gillson for the (almost) monthly updates!

Other forms of communication have been keeping our membership up to date though, with the continuation of 'Isolation Update' emails, social media, and website content. With a couple more co-opted committee members, our combined communications should enable us to reach many more members than a printed newsletter can achieve alone, but rest assured that the newsletter will return to both its printed and digital formats and a more regular output as activity in the morris community increases.

As always, please send your submissions - illustrations, photos, poems, articles, research, etc. to newsletter@morrisfed.org.uk. Guidelines for submissions are included in every issue of FedExtra.

I would like to thank everyone who has submitted articles this year, despite the uncertainty and frustration and I look forward to a better year of dancing to come.

Sam Ross
July 2021

Further reports have been submitted by our co-opted members, advisors and others representing us on projects:

(g) IT Administrator

Throughout the last year we have made progress on:

- Simplifying the MF IT infrastructure with a view to reduce the skillset and time required for its administration.
- Improving the rank of the MF in search engine results for queries related to morris dancing.

Website Hosting

The Morris Federation website was hosted on our own private server. Having our own server offered significant flexibility in what we could do with our website, but at a cost of complexity.

The MF was not really benefiting from the flexibility of having our own server and our needs could be met by many hosting companies. To reduce the maintenance effort of running our own server, we moved the website to hosting company, Krystal, in January.

The move has saved an average of 15 minutes of checks and updates per week and around £35 of costs related to operating the website per year. We were also able to cancel a planned server operating system upgrade, saving hours of work.

Website Theme Builder

The Morris Federation website is built on software called WordPress, the look of which is controlled by a theme coded in the PHP programming language. To simplify changing and maintaining the theme, we have switched to a visual page builder tool called Elementor which should reduce the need for programming.

This simplification in altering the look of the MF website has allowed us to resolve some long-standing usability issues more easily when viewed on smaller screen, such as mobile phones, where the menu would cover the content being read. Contributing to the website should now be easier for less technical authors. Any budding web designers out there, please get in touch!

Document Management

The MF has had the benefit of a free Google Workspace subscription for file storage and tools for creating documents, spreadsheets, etc, but we were reaching the storage limits of the free offering.

After reviewing the products available from Google and Microsoft it was decided that the federation would move to Microsoft 365. Microsoft 365 includes online file storage (OneDrive, SharePoint), web-browser versions of Microsoft Office tools (Word, Excel, PowerPoint) and Microsoft Teams.

Use of Microsoft 365 allows guest users to access parts of our document storage area. This facility has already been used within the MF Archive storage area where invited guest users help to organise archive content.

Search Engine Optimisation

There is no way of magically improving rankings in search results. Instead, we need to ensure the site does well in a few key areas:

- Performance: The site must provide timely response to page requests and pages should load in the web browser as quickly as possible.
- Screen size responsiveness: The site must work well on the small screens of mobile devices as well as the large screens of desktop computers.
- Relevant and frequently updated content.
- Meaningful links between pages and from external sites.

Hosting the website with Krystal has delivered a performance boost. Their servers use caching which tends to render web pages faster. They also provide functionality to optimise image sizes, reducing the amount of data needed to be downloaded when displaying a page.

Screen size responsiveness has been improved by switching to the Elementor page builder, along with a few other fixes. Having a website that renders well on mobile devices is expected to give a boost to search rankings.

The quantity of relevant content has increased over lockdown thanks to the various events hosted by the MF.

We still have a long way to go, but we are starting to see improvements.

MailChimp Synchronisation

The MF uses MailChimp to handle bulk email delivery for the Broadcast messages.

For some time, we had trouble automatically updating contact details in the MailChimp audience following changes entered into the membership database, MembershipWorks.

This issue has now been resolved by recognising that the MF has two different audiences for its bulk emails:

- Contacts for members who need to receive information regarding MF business – e.g., AGM notices.
- Individual persons who wish to receive news and event notifications from the MF.

Creating two audiences meant we needed to move to a paid subscription from MailChimp, but meant we can properly clear out and resynchronise the members-contacts audience without impacting the individual-persons audience. The result is that members-contacts are now correct in emails sent to them by the MF.

Daniel Watford – morrisfedit@gmail.com
September 2021

(h) Communications & IT Officer

Brian Kelly, dancer with Haymarket Rapper and Wyld Morris and previously Betty with Newcastle Kingsmen and others, became the Communications and IT volunteer in January 2021.

His main areas of work have been (1) improving quality of links to teams' digital profiles; (2) gaining an understanding of teams' use of digital technologies in order to (3) minimise risks of loss of resources; (4) identify IT governance issues; (5) identify how online services can be used effectively; (6) explore ways of enhancing use of IT for team marketing and communications including (7) providing documentation on effective use of IT.

1. Improve quality of links to teams' digital profiles

Significant numbers of links to team websites, Facebook profiles, YouTube channels, etc were not working. Teams were contacted and changes suggested. As of 1 September 2021 about 95% of the links now work.

2. Gain an understanding of teams' use of digital technologies

The analysis provided the following information: (a) 70% of sides have a website and 73% have a Facebook presence; (b) 21 sides have a dedicated YouTube channel, with four using a personalised URL (e.g. www.youtube.com/c/hookeaglemorris/); (c) 24 sides have a dedicated Instagram account; (d) 46 sides have a dedicated Twitter account and (e) 51 sites have not listed a website or Facebook account.

This evidence helps identify areas in which improvements can be made, including minimising risks of loss of data.

3. Digital preservation: minimising risks of loss of resources

Sides have folded recently for a variety of reasons, and there are dangers that their side's history may be lost. We have documented use of the [Internet Archive's WayBack Machine](#) for retrieval of old versions of websites (including websites which may longer exist) and use of the British Library's UK Web Archive.

4. IT governance

Websites can be lost for a number of technical reasons (e.g. security issues) but non-technical reasons may also be a factor (e.g. loss of an email account which is used to receive notifications of website renewal dates). IT governance issues are particularly relevant for morris sides as roles can change after AGMs; people may leave the side; fall ill; etc. A document on "[Governance of Online Systems](#)" has been published.

5. Using digital technologies for recruitment, marketing and outreach activities

Many sides will be looking to recruit new members, or market themselves. Online service can play an important in supporting such activities. A number of documents are available covering topics such as setting up and managing a Google Business Profile (so your side is easily found for a "[morris side near me](#)" Google search).

Not all sides will have the IT skills, time or interest in maintaining a website or Facebook profile. We have therefore developed the Teamfinder service to allow side to add images, videos & descriptions to their profile ([see example](#)).

6. Explore ways of enhancing use of digital technologies

We are keen on facilitating sharing of best IT practices across the community. We are planning an initial Zoom meeting which will provide an opportunity to receive suggestions on topics and level of interest in further Zoom meetings. We encourage those who have IT stories to share to contribute to a case studies section on the website.

7. IT advice and support

An [IT Advice and Support](#) area of the Morris Federation website has been published (see <https://www.morrisfed.org.uk/resources/IT/>). This provides three main areas (1) **Advisory documents**; (2) **Surveys** and (3) **Case studies**.

Get in touch

If you'd like further information, please email comms-it@morrisfed.org.uk

Brian Kelly
September 2021

(i) Communications Officer

I was co-opted onto the committee to assist in communications especially with the media and the wider world. I personally felt that there was a lot that could be done to improve the public image of the morris in the media and wider world. I know this is not a simple fix having been involved in a Morris Federation think tank in the 90s on the very same subject!

Initial thoughts on Morris in the Media include the objective:

The objective is for the media in England to portray traditional and evolving morris / sword / clog / traditional dance in a positive light. For the Morris Federation to be a place of information and resources where members of the public, enthusiasts, media, journalists etc. can get correct, up-to-date information and advice.

Things achieved this year:

- Engagements with the wider world:
 - The Morris Movie
 - Shakespeare Birthplace Trust
 - Print Publications and Journalists
 - Little Amal, giant puppet project
 - Documentary film makers development
- Editing for the Morris Winter/Spring Workshop videos
- Improving membership of social media platforms/groups/pages
 - Brian Kelly came on board to take over the social media side of things.
- Ideas for the future including
 - Memes (initial work done thanks to Abigail Banfield)
 - Awards (see discussion point)
 - Schools work – there is a lot we can do here including workshops, teaching resources, UK-wide projects and bringing schools together at events/festivals. Time and resources are barriers for this happening immediately.
 - Quality resources for the wider world with introduction to morris and its different traditions.

As with all voluntary organisations, the issue with lots of these great ideas is time and resources (usually costs).

I have created a 4-element marketing plan including the following:

- Information packs
- Improving Equality and Diversity
- Positive Profile Raising
- Spreading the word/New Generations

However, these elements rely heavily on volunteer time.

We definitely need to get some quality video resources in place for those people (children, journalists or general public) that want to find out more and this in turn, affects how the Morris Federation and morris dancing is seen outside the morris world. Many I have seen in places (including BBC Bitesize resources) are cobbled together, often inaccurate and very out of date. Making good quality offerings, as many other things, cost time and money to do.

Sally Smith
August 2021

(j) Health & Safety Advisor

The last year has been extremely busy. The list below provides a rough overview of my activity as H&S Advisor for The Morris Federation:

- writing at least 11 updates for MF's website, covering general issues, practices and performances
- reviewing the government guidance for England repeatedly (i.e. every time it was updated and when I was asked a specific question by a team), for Scotland (twice) and Wales (three times)
- answering about 120 enquiries from teams
- creating and regularly revising template risk assessments for practices and performances, with supporting notes on how to use them
- participating in online meetings, advising MF and JMO officers, reviewing letters to the DCMS, etc.

I am glad to say that, since 19th July, my workload has reduced considerably!

Sally Wearing
September 2021

(k) Projects

25th Anniversary Book (years 1975 to 2000)

We have continued to work on the text for the 25th Anniversary book. It is now almost all written. The next stages will be to edit it and choose the illustrations.

Sally Wearing, September 2021

50th Anniversary Book (years 2000 to 2025)

The Morris Federation's 25-50 years book is starting to take shape. Obviously we haven't reached 50 as yet, but we have been researching and gathering information from 25 years on, which will eventually be available as a hard copy souvenir book with supporting online resources.

Melanie Barber, September 2021

SCHEDAR (Safeguarding our Cultural Heritage of Dance through Augmented Reality)

This is a joint project, lead by the University of Cyprus with partner universities in France and Warwick. The Morris Federation's support provides expert input on traditional Morris dancing and access to our archive. The ultimate outcome will be the ability to experience different styles of traditional dance virtually. After being delayed by the pandemic, the SCHEDAR project finally filmed their first trial at the end of June with myself and Linda Pound from Chinewrde Morris, and Mike Adamson providing the music. They went on to film 4 members of Chinewrde dancing 'Lockdown', written by Hazel Old at the end of July. This is shaping up to be a really interesting project, something that would have been fantastic to have had pre-pandemic to keep us all virtually dancing!

Melanie Barber, September 2021

Morris Dances and Teams Database (MDDB)

The MF contributes towards the running costs of this independent database. All sides are invited to contribute, see: www.morrisdancedatabase.org.uk. In the past year, most sides now have a photograph and at least some of their dance repertoire shown on the database, and many now also have someone registered as a team editor for the side. There is now a facility for a side to include video links, and to show variations to existing dances. A new feature is a record of Cotswold sides known or believed to exist before 1900; a similar record for other forms of morris is planned. Some progress has been made in establishing the provenance of new dances that have been listed as of 'unspecified' tradition or origin but further help from the Morris fraternity would be much appreciated. Also, information from former members about any side that is no longer in existence would be welcome.

Colin Andrews, September 2021