



The Morris Federation

THE MORRIS FEDERATION

MINUTES OF THE 47th ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Held on Saturday 24th September 2022

**in person in Central Hall, Dolphin Centre, Darlington
and on the Zoom Platform**

<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 20:00, confirmed that the meeting is quorate (there being more than 15 group members). Any technical outages would result in the in-person meeting to decide whether to continue or adjourn until another time. All speakers to confirm their names and membership designation.

She welcomed Jen Cox, Chair of Open Morris and Conor Smith, Magazine Editor of Open Morris in person with Darren Nugent, North Area Rep and member of the Advisory Council of the Morris Ring on Zoom. Jen Cox and Conor Smith were acting as tellers for voting, both in the room and on Zoom.

The Committee were invited to introduce themselves to those on zoom and assembled in the room which they did.

ATTENDEES

Group Members:

Andrew Knight (Secretary) read out those teams attending in person:

In the room were

Amble Sword
Beverley Garland
Black Diamond
Black Gate
Blacksheep North Dales Morris
Dr Turberville's Morris
Goathland Ploughstots
Harlequin North West Morris
Hong Kong Morris
IME
Jackstraws Morris
Knights of King Ina
Knowle Morris
Mabel Gubbins
Maltby Sword
Mersey Morris Men

Minster Strays
Mockbeggar Morris
New Esperance
Richmond Castle Clog
Ripley Green Garters
Rockhopper Morris
Trentside Holmes Morris
Windsor Morris
Yorkshire Chandelier

On Zoom were

Chiltern Hundreds
Customs and Exiles
Jerusalem Jammers
Malkin Morris
Mersey Morris Men
Pump House Clog
Red Stags
Rights and Lefts
The Outside Capering Crew

Individual Members:

Nickie Dailly
Jason Hill
Val Parker, Honorary Member
Sue Swift, Honorary Member
Sally Wearing, Honorary Member

Morris Federation Committee:

Pauline Woods-Wilson, President, The Morris Federation
Andrew Knight, 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 – on Zoom

Morris Federation Co-opted Committee:

Dan Watford, IT Administrator, The Morris Federation
Abigail Banfield, Social Media, The Morris Federation - on Zoom
Fee Lock, JMO Secretary, The Morris Federation
Sally Smith, Communications officer - apologized
Brian Kelly Communications IT - apologized

Invited Guests:

Jen Cox, Chair, Open Morris
Conor Smith, Magazine Editor, Open Morris
Darren Nugent, Morris Ring, North Area Representative - on Zoom
Chas Leslie – Voices of Morris Project - on Zoom

1 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Group Members:

Acorn Morris
Aldbrickham Clog and Step Dancers
Ansley Morris
Aurora
Barfront Guizers
Beetlecrushers Clog and Step dance
Berkshire Bedlam
Betty Lupton's Ladle Laikers
Bideford Phoenix Morris
Black Bess Border Morris
Border Reivers Morris
Carlisle Sword and Clog
Chinewrde
Clogarhythm
Cricket on the Hearth
Ebor Morris
Five Rivers Morris
Frome Valley Morris
Furness Morris
Garston Gallopers
Haughley Hoofers
Hexham
Highside Longsword
Hornbeam
Knaresborough Mummings
Leven Sword
Lymm Morris Dancers
Mendip Morris

Mish Mash
Mortimer's Morris
Mythago Morris
Nancy Butterfly
Persephone Morris
Phoenix
Pigsty
Ripon City Morris Dancers
Ripon Spur Rapper
Rivington Morris
Sarum Morris
Sharp & Blunt
Sheffield City Morris
Shrewsbury
Somerset Morris
Stone The Crows
Strictly Clog
The Flag and Bone Gang
Treacle Eater Clog
Tyler's Men
Westminster Morris Dancers
Whitethorn Morris
Wreckers Border Morris
Wyld Morris

Individual Members:

Alison Dunn
Frederick Forster
Jane Cunio

2 MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

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

Nick Appleyard (Black Diamond) proposed them as correct, with Helen Appleyard (Goathland Ploughstots) seconding. These were approved without amendment. Pauline Woods-Wilson (President) signed these as correct.

3 MATTERS ARISING

Constitution - The revised Constitution is due to be heard by EGM on Saturday 3rd Dec 2022 on the Zoom Platform. If you are interested in joining a working party to work on a revised Constitution, please contact Jerry West.

Morris Federation Awards – No comments.

Recruitment and Diversity – No comments.

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.

(b) Secretary

No comments.

(c) Treasurer

The report was presented as in the AGM pack with the rationale underlying the alterations to subscription levels and travelling mileage.

There were No Questions or Comments from the room or on Zoom

A simple vote by show of hands to accept the Treasurer's report which would include the proposal to lower the subscription levels at pre-pandemic prices: from £35 to £30 for Group membership, from £22 to £20 for Individual, Associate & Overseas membership, and remain at £10 for Junior Group membership.

The recommendation to increase mileage expenses from 25p/mile to 30p/mile was contained in the report.

A simple show of hands and via a poll, was conducted showing 38 in favour of Jenny's report including the alteration to Subs amounts, 0 against, 0 abstentions. The report was carried thus setting next year's subscription level.

(d) Archive Officer

No Comments.

(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.

(h) Communications & IT Officer's report

No comments.

Pauline reminded everyone that Brian Kelly asks that all teams please check and update your Teamfinder profile - this raises the online visibility of your team and all MF teams too. He suggests you add a rich description (say 0.5 - 1 page of A4 text) including team name, location (town, county), what you dance - and a description about the team, plus a hashtag.

(i) Communications Officer's report

No comments.

Pauline drew attention to Sally Smith's comment that making quality resources takes time and money – and in particular her request for help with writing funding bids – if you can help us write funding bids, do please contact us.

(j) Social Media Officer's report

No comments.

(k) JMO Secretary's report

No comments.

(l) Health & Safety Advisor's report

Sally Wearing made the meeting aware that she is in the process of providing another update re COVID-19 which will be published online when ready.

(m) Project reports

- 25th Anniversary book
- 50th Anniversary book
- SCHEDAR
- MDDB
- Voices of Morris – Note that Chas Leslie is interviewing people from many Morris traditions – not just Cotswold – and is looking to recruit interviewers, for which training will be given.
- Malkin's Maypole

No further comments.

5 MOTIONS

Pauline passed the chair to Mike Everett as she is the proposer of the only motion.

Pauline (as the proposer): To summarize: Honorary Life Membership is intended for an individual who has assisted the MF in an exceptional way. Currently individuals have to be proposed by a member and seconded by 5 members. Honorary Life Membership was awarded several times in the early years, and it now appears to have fallen into disuse. My proposal is for the current method of awarding Honorary Life Membership to still stand, but that IN ADDITION it is offered automatically to those holding elected officer roles for 5 or more years, because this qualifies as exceptional service.

The original proposed text is as follows

“Upon standing down from office, elected Committee Officers who have served 5 years or more (either consecutively or in separate terms) will be offered Honorary Life Membership by the Committee, which must be accepted by the individual to take effect.”

Black Gate Morris – confirmed seconding the motion.

An amendment was received to this motion from Sally Wearing to alter the text as follows.

“Upon standing down from office, elected Committee Officers who have served 5 years or more (either consecutively or in separate terms), and who have in the opinion of the Committee consistently upheld the Aims of the Federation and performed their role fittingly, will be offered Honorary Life Membership by the Committee, which offer must be accepted by the individual for it to take effect.”

Sally Wearing was asked to speak on the rationale behind the amendment and explained that as the proposal stood the committee would have taken the Standing Orders into possible conflict with the Constitution (regarding committee discretion about membership renewal), and that the new wording added the discretionary option without altering the fundamental idea of the motion

The proposer and seconder were in agreement to accept this amendment as it did not substantially alter the proposal.

Before the vote was taken Chris Hall (Hong Kong) asked whether advance votes would be included in the vote on the amended motion and had it confirmed that they would not be included. The new vote would be from those online and in the room.

The amended version was voted upon.

For the motion 345 votes; Against 12 votes; with 1 abstention – **the motion was carried.**

It was agreed that Mike should retain the chair until after the election for President was concluded

[Post-meeting note: When discussing in committee this was found to be unworkable in practice; the committee are reviewing this motion and an alternative will be brought to the EGM in December 2022.]

6 DISCUSSIONS

No discussion items were notified by the deadline.

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 President and Newsletter Officer. This year the role has been increased to include electronic communications such as Broadcast emails and the role has been renamed “Membership Communications Officer” to reflect the widening of the remit of the post. The posts run for 3 years from 1st January 2023 and any incumbent will stand down on 31st December 2025.

(a) Election of President

The vote for the (re) Election of Pauline Woods-Wilson to the post of President to start on 1st January 2023 for a period of 3 years was conducted.

The Tellers confirmed the votes as: For 802; against 1.5; and abstaining 75.5

Pauline is duly elected as President for a term of 3 years.

The Chair was returned to Pauline.

(b) Membership Communications Officer

Sam Ross, Newsletter Editor, is standing down this year, and the post has been changed to that of Membership Communications Officer. One Nomination has been received - Jess Searle.

The Vote for the Election of Jess Searle to the post of Membership Communications Officer to start on 1st January 2023 for a period of 3 years.

The Tellers confirmed the votes as: For 794; Against 0; and Abstaining 85

Jess Searle is duly elected as Membership Communications Officer for a term of 3 years.

Note re other posts

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

- The posts of Treasurer and Archive Officer will expire on 31st December 2023 so they will be elected at the next year's AGM (in 2023). IMPORTANTLY: Both Jenny Everett and Mike Everett are planning to stand down next year, so do please think about whether you would be interested in taking on either of those roles.
- The posts of Secretary and Notation Officer will expire on 31st December 2024 so they will be elected at the AGM in 2024.

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

The dates for future AGMs (including a Day of Dance) are:

- (a) Saturday 30th September 2023, guests of Shropshire Bedlams and Martha Rhoden's Tuppenny Dish, Bishop's Castle in Shropshire.
- (b) We are looking for teams to host in 2024 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. The date will be 28th September 2024.
- (c) In 2025, potentially guests of Sharp and Blunt, Adderbury and Adderbury Village Morris in Adderbury.

Diane Moody (New Esperance) made comment about roving microphones being needed and the acoustics of the hall – suggested that this advice be added to the info to hosts pack. *[Post-meeting note: added to AGM Hosts Guide: <https://www.morrisfed.org.uk/for-teams/agm-host-guide/>*

9 ANY OTHER BUSINESS

Pauline informed the meeting about the JMO planning 7 regional Days of Dance in September/October next year, to mark 20 years since the first JMO Day of Dance in Trafalgar Square to celebrate the exemption for Morris dancing in the Licensing Act 2003

If you or your team would like to help out, do please let us know as we are in the process of setting up the organising committees.

The venues were read out:

- North East – Newcastle
- North West – Chester
- Midlands – Derby
- South West – Bristol / Bath
- South East – Norwich
- South – Southampton
- Finale – London – Pauline made note of the difficulty of being back in Trafalgar Square.

10 PRESENTATIONS AND VOTES OF THANKS

Special thanks go to Sally Wearing, our Health & Safety Advisor, for her work of Covid-19 guidance. For the second year running.

Pauline presented individual Butterworth Badges to 3 people who have given much of their time and energy to The Morris Federation. These bespoke badges have on them the person's name, their post, and the years served.

Carried over from 2020, we would like to present a Butterworth badge to Mike Adamson for serving as our IT Administrator for 3 years, from 2018 to 2020 inclusive. Unfortunately, he could not attend so Pauline will present him his badge at a Rivington Morris practice and take a photo to prove it.

Carried over from 2021, Pauline presented a Butterworth badge to Fee Lock for serving as our Secretary for 22 years, from 2000-2021 inclusive. Fee received a huge round of applause.

Pauline was unable to present a Butterworth badge to Sam Ross as she could not attend in person. An in-person presentation will be arranged at a later date. Sam receives the badge for serving as our Newsletter Editor for 7 years, from 2016-2022 inclusive. During this time, Sam launched the new-look 'FedExtra' magazine turning the members magazine into a more modern, appealing, engaging, and professional-looking publication. Her technical skills were also put to good use behind the scenes as she helped implement the Membership Database, and spent a lot of time on both the look-and-feel, and content, of the new-look Web Site. In the past 3 years she has also run our online AGMs, with online voting for the first time, and now this hybrid meeting. We will be sad to see her go.

Next, Pauline gave team Butterworth Badges to Black Diamond Mixed Cotswold Morris for running this Day of Dance, AGM, Ceilidh and more dancing tomorrow, and making us feel so welcome. Nick Appleyard accepted these on behalf of the team.

We have also received some thanks for one of our member teams.

Andrew Knight (Secretary) read out the email - "I wanted to pass on our thanks to the team at the Fed for everything they have done over the past couple of years to keep everything going during a most difficult and challenging time. The information disseminated by the Fed has been incredibly useful, and the online talks have been very enjoyable and informative. Thank you all so much for the tremendous effort you have put in to keep the spirit alive. With much appreciation and best wishes, Karen Lawrinson, Stone the Crows"

There being no further business, Pauline thanks those present at the in-person meeting, attending on zoom or watching online, and for sending in your votes.

A reminder that the results of votes are embargoed until 20:00.

The draft minutes will be emailed to member contacts.

The meeting was declared closed at 17:44 hours

APPENDIX 1 - ANNUAL REPORTS 2022

Reports from Elected Committee:

a) President

Over Autumn-Winter 2021 through to Spring 2022 there was still a lot of caution about Covid, and a fair amount of disruption to outdoor and indoor events, with some events again going online. However, by Summer it felt like everything was getting back to near 'normal'.

Thanks again to Sally Wearing, our Health & Safety Advisor, who continued to read all the relevant government guidance on Covid-19 and provided helpful advice, her last update being in early February.

During November to March we again ran a series of online events 'live' over Zoom, although much fewer than the first year. The talks were still popular, but we scaled back on dance workshops, as most teams were, thankfully, back to their regular practices.

Although we didn't issue a 'FedExtra' magazine, we continued to issue the 'FedCast' broadcast emails to keep everyone in touch with any morris and related news and events. We are sad that Sam Ross, our Newsletter Editor, is standing down, as she made a massive improvement to the magazine during her tenure, as well as helping with the membership database, the web site, and running the online AGMs.

You may have noticed that our social media presence has improved, as a very welcome volunteer, Abigail Banfield (Ditchling), agreed to be co-opted onto the Committee as Social Media Officer.

During the pandemic, some teams have had mixed fortunes; some teams have struggled to retain members, whereas a few teams have managed to find new recruits despite the circumstances – hats off to them!

The (twice postponed) JMO Day of Dance on Saturday 9th April in Liverpool, hosted by the Morris Ring, was very well attended, and all those involved just looked so happy to be back dancing again. We look forward to the MF Day of Dance and AGM on Saturday 24th September in Darlington, County Durham, hosted by Black Diamond Mixed Cotswold Morris.

The co-operation between the three morris organisations continues to strengthen, and I attended the Morris Ring's Annual Representatives meeting (their AGM) as a guest, along with our Secretary and the Chair of Open Morris. This was the last in-person morris event I attended before lockdown in 2020, and the first of 2022!

A subset of the Committee made a small start on creating a bid for an Arts Council grant for getting youth involved in morris and related activities, and this is something we would like to gain more experience of over the coming year. We are mostly hampered by a lack of time to spend on it. Barry Goodman (an ex-President) has agreed to help, and if you would also like to contribute, do please contact me, we do need people with both the time, and the expertise.

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 web site and archiving of digital resources; Sally Smith (Silkstone Greens and other teams) our Communications Officer; and Abigail Banfield (Ditchling) our Social Media Officer. You will find their reports elsewhere in this section. Thanks are also due to Jess Searle (KOKI & Mendip) for video editing and Alan Courtney (Sarum) for photographs, and of course all those who ran talks and workshops.

My three-year elected term is almost up (I started in January 2020). Looking back on the two and a half – really quite unusual - years, during the pandemic my priority has been to keep the morris community connected via the online events and communications such as the FedCast emails. In addition, the AGM information has gone online, the Members Manual guidance for teams has been overhauled and put online also (although there is always more to do), the web site has more ‘news’, the YouTube account has more content, more communications have happened via social media, and we’ve engaged more with externals. It’s been a busy time.

I am happy to stand again for another 3-year term, during which we should do more externally facing communications - with youth engagement and the image of morris in the media. Of course, we are here to serve our members, so we need your input on what our priorities should be, and we need your help to achieve those goals.

Wishing you all the best for the coming year.

Pauline Woods-Wilson, August 2022

List of MF online events ‘live’ on Zoom, Winter 2021-22

Nov	“Considering Morris Dance Costumes as English National Dress” - Talk	Chloe Middleton-Metcalf
Nov	Whitby Toesday Hornpipe Clog Routine- Beginners & Intermediates - 2 Workshops	Melanie Barber & Mike Adamson
Nov	Ducklington Jig - Nutting Girl - KOKI - Workshop	Andrew Knight, Lin Steel, Tony Warren (KOKI)
Nov	“A History of Mumming” - Talk	Stephen Rowley
Dec	“Coconut Dancing – more than just a Lancashire tradition” - Talk	Peter Bearon
Dec	“Morris Dolls in the Museum of British Folklore” - Talk	Simon Costin
Dec	“Straw Bear - 40 Years of Straw & String” - Talk & music	Brian Kell & Douglas Kell
Jan	“Traditional Treasures” calendar customs - Talk & music	Barry & Gill Goodman
Jan	Fieldtown Jig - Ladies' Pleasure - Workshop	Owain Boorman & Rimini Dick-Carr
Feb	“Custom & Creativity: the chicken and egg of folk performance histories” - Talk	Peter Harrop
Feb	“Teaching tips for Foremen” - Talk/workshop	Emma Wooders
Mar	“Sticks, Hankies, Baldricks & Bells - Dances of Catalunya” - Talk	Stephen Rowley
Apr	“Getting to the Top of Google (and other IT Issues)” - Talk/workshop	Brian Kelly

b) Secretary

My thanks Fee for making the transition smooth and the help given when asked after passing the role over.

For the most part you will read those things that have happened and the actions in progress in the reports by the other officers. However here are a few things that have come directly to me to deal with.

Advice on how to deal with conflicts within a team, have been received. In general, your constitution should inform you about how you will deal with these situations so everyone can feel that the process and resolution are fairly applied. If your constitution does not inform you then please consider discussing it in your team and decide on your process, this can be a standing order or a constitution item, its designed to help you rather than be in your way. I hope you never need it!

We get a number of requests from groups looking for a side or team to dance both in the UK and internationally, whether these are research, festivals, event organisers or cries for help when a side has had to withdraw late notice - these are directed to Teamfinder so the sides in the relevant area can be contacted directly; you may have received these. Please be sure to fill out your Teamfinder profile with as much information as you can to help with these and any other enquirers; it also assists people looking to join you via online searches. Brian Kelly has written support documents to help with this!

Advice on child performers and the needs a team has when children and vulnerable adults are involved in a team. This is an area where care must be taken. Safeguarding and advice on this is nearing completion for publication soon.

Some enquiries do already have resources in the Members area – please remember to check there before emailing!

Advice sheets covering the main areas of enquiry and ongoing review of the Members Manual are in progress.

I have attended JMO meetings (online), meetings with the EFDSS in regard to education and safeguarding resources; the Morris Ring ARM all as representative of The Morris Federation.

I'll admit it has been a steep learning curve and would like to thank all on the committee for their advice and support. I'm looking forward to continuing the work into next year!

Andrew Knight, August 2022

c) Treasurer

Membership and renewals

Membership levels have dropped slightly again this year.

To date (11/6/22) we have 501 members (507 in 2020):

478 group members

13 individuals

3 juniors

7 overseas/associate

Sadly 19 teams have folded, disbanded/aren't dancing out:

Baldock Early Evening Rapper, Black Hart, Common Morris, Deorfrith, Heather & Gorse, Kickin' Alice, Newcastle Cloggies, North Star Rapper and Clog, Orchard Morris Project, Pateley Longsword, Sompting Village Morris Minors, Spiral Dancers Maypole Team, Staines Morris, Step on Board Appalachian, The Gurkhas, Three Shires, Tradmad Rapper, Wicked Soles, Wild Weald Women.

This seems like a long list, but considering the 2-year hiatus of the pandemic it was perhaps to be expected. Especially in the case of the junior teams who may now be seniors!

7 teams have failed to contact me about renewing, so their membership has lapsed, and 2 teams are yet to pay although they wish to remain members.

Since my last report, we have 10 new members:

Cousin Jack Morris, Hells Bells, Mendip Morris, Mersey Morris, Southdown Mummers, Spriggan, Tap Roots, The Widders, Tower Ravens. Some of these have rejoined after a lapse of membership.

Publications and PR sales

Sales of badges and CDs have been steady. Publications are now available to download, free to members, so that has made life easier as they used to be print on demand.

Bells

Sales of bells have been brisk, as people have dusted off their kit.

I am now out of stock of 7/8" and 1 1/8" bells in brass. The sole manufacturer is unable to fulfil new orders for less than 30,000 bells. This is due to the minimum order of sheet metal available to purchase. They also quoted a 3-fold increase in future prices. With the committee's sanction, I purchased all available finished stock from them. This means that I have a good supply of other sizes of brass bells and all sizes of nickel-plated ones. Looking to the immediate future, I am investigating other sources for the out-of-stock sizes.

Banking

All accounts are at Lloyds bank, we have a current account, and an instant access savings account. Now that interest rates are rising, I shall investigate re-opening a deposit account.

Accounting period

Attached is a copy of the annual accounts for 2021/2022. Accounts for 2020/2021 are included for comparison.

Income exceeded expenditure by £1,649.31. The reduction in committee expenses (due to online meetings) and non-production of a physical newsletter have contributed to this profit. However, this figure would have been £12,796.79 had I not made a large bell purchase.

Because of this, I propose that membership subscription rates for 2023 be reduced to £30 for group members (was £35), £20 for individual members (was £22), £20 for overseas and associate members (was £22) and remain at £10 for junior members.

Reserves

Reserves have been set at £21,000 as our expenses have reduced.

Grants and Sponsorships

Grants were made to the Morris Dance Database project towards web expenses and to a new member team, Wantsum Women, towards kit which will remain the property of The Morris Federation.

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.

With reference to the increasing cost of fuel, I recommend that travel expenses be raised from 25p a mile to 30p a mile.

Other activities

Committee meetings have been fewer than last year and all online. The online Joint Morris Organisations meetings continue to be frequent and interesting. I am also working on the 50th anniversary book project and am part of the team working on getting more morris into youth settings.

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, July 2022

MORRIS FEDERATION ACCOUNTS 6/4/2021 to 6/4/2022		
INCOME	2021/2022	2020/2021
GENERAL		
Subscriptions (including extra Newsletters)	£17,429.69	£316.71
Newsletter adverts	£0.00	£0.00
PRS contribution Morris Ring and Open Morris	£143.93	£0.00
Donations		£220.01
TOTAL GENERAL	£17,573.62	£536.72
AGM 2020		
refund band costs		£800.00
refund accommodation		£658.25
TOTAL AGM 2020		£1,458.25
DONATIONS & GRANTS		
CD sales and donations to designated education account	£71.24	£0.00
Donations from zoom sessions	£70.72	
TOTAL DONATIONS & GRANTS	£141.96	£0.00
PROMOTIONS & PUBLICATIONS		
Sale of publications and PR goods (inc p&p)	£50.84	£22.60
TOTAL PR & PUBS	£50.84	£22.60
BELLS		
Sale of bells (inc p&p)	£3,776.30	£585.66
TOTAL BELLS	£3,776.30	£585.66
BANKING		
Interest on savings account	£2.54	£6.81
TOTAL BANKING	£2.54	£6.81
TOTAL INCOME	£21,545.26	£2,610.04

EXPENDITURE	2021/2022	2020/2021
GENERAL		
Subscription refunds	£105.00	£105.00
Printing and postage (newsletter, AGM notices)	£0.00	£0.00
Printing (inc. renewals)	£6.53	£5.25
Stationery & postage (inc postage of goods/bells)	£507.96	£354.02
Travel expenses	£177.00	£226.30
PRS charge (2 years)	£411.46	£0.00
EFDSS membership	£84.00	£81.00
AFO subs	£90.00	£90.00
other subs	£3.50	
Conference fees and accommodation	£54.00	£0.00
Committee meetings room hire	£0.00	£80.00
Insurance	£4,424.86	£4,340.82
IT expenses	£1,546.14	£1,389.55
Health and Safety	£198.80	£252.95
Archive acquisitions	£0.00	£73.12
AGM Reference books	£0.00	£31.89
Preparation of accounts	£31.50	£0.00
paypal charges & interest	£29.42	
TOTAL GENERAL	£7,670.17	£7,029.90
AGM 2020		
Zoom charges		£222.97
AGM committee accommodation		£34.66
TOTAL AGM 2020	£0.00	£257.63
AGM 2021		
zoom charges	£55.30	
TOTAL AGM 2021	£55.30	£0.00
AGM and Day of Dance 2022		
AGM committee accommodation	£610.00	
TOTAL AGM and day of dance 2022	£610.00	
JMO		
JMO host badges	£0.00	
TOTAL JMO	£0.00	£0.00
DONATIONS & GRANTS		
Morris Dance database project	£160.00	
Wantsum Women	£252.00	
TOTAL DONATIONS & GRANTS	£412.00	£0.00
PROMOTIONS & PUBLICATIONS		
Publications printing	£1.00	£0.00
TOTAL PR & PUBS	£1.00	£0.00
BELLS		
Purchase of bells	£11,147.48	£0.00
TOTAL BELLS	£11,147.48	£0.00
TOTAL EXPENDITURE	£19,895.95	£7,287.53

COMMITTEE EXPENSES 1/4/21 – 16/4/22

Personal Expenses

	travel
secretary	£73.00
president	£71.00
notation officer	
treasurer	
archive officer	
newsletter editor	
co-optees	£33.00

Organisational expenses

	stationery	postage	printing	publications printing	subscriptions	conf fees	AGM 2021	AGM 2022	accounts presentn
secretary	£24.00	£90.37				£32.00	£55.30		
president		£4.69			£25.00	£22.00			
notation officer	£157.50								
treasurer		£177.65	£6.53					£610.00	
archive officer				£1.00					£31.50
newsletter editor									
co-optees									

Reserves			
	2021/2022	2020/2021	2019/2020
Unrestricted funds	£43,68.47	£42,618.48	£47,263.07
Designated funds: education account	£444.74	£373.50	£373.50
Designated funds: research account	£350.00	£350.00	£350.00
Total funds	£44,466.21	£43,341.98	£47,986.57
Ratio of reserves to annual operating expenditure	100%	100%	100%
Reserves	£21,000	£27,000	£27,000
Membership level	501	507	515

BANKING DETAILS

Banking 16/04/2022				
	general account	designated education account	designated research account	TOTAL
Current Account	£21,733.98	£444.74	£350.00	£22,528.72
Savings Account				£21,937.49
Total				£44,466.21

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

STOCK VALUES

	23/3/22	16/4/21
Stationery	£187.59	£299.58
Value of bells	£25,682.05	£17,325.70
Publications	£465.95	£543.90
Value of Promotions	£286.07	£330.55
Stock held sale or return by Morris Shop	£383.25	£383.25
Total	£27,004.91	£18,882.98

d) Archive Officer

The coming year will be my third since being re-elected for a three-year stint and my 20th as Archive Officer of The Morris Federation. It will also be my final year as I do not intend to stand for re-election next year. It is a privilege to serve our members, managing and maintaining the archive and library, both in a physical and increasingly digital form, and supporting research activities as well as many other jobs and activities that come along.

As we've emerged from lockdowns, dancing and festivals have slowed down the digitising of the archive, but it continues.

The archive and library are always grateful for new material and this. Please consider what you and your dance side are doing with your own archive and history and perhaps donate a copy.

Among this year's additions to the archive was a donation from Paul Davenport who has given all his dance research notes, consisting of 2 volumes on Yorkshire Dances, 1 volume on Cotswold dances, 1 volume on Dances from other counties, 1 volume of research notes for his book *Under the Rose*, a few photos and a couple of leaflets.

A major project which has continued all year has been the Voice of Morris oral history project led by Chas Leslie. I am sure Chas would appreciate even more help with this. Perhaps there could be several parallel surveys? Would anybody like to start a similar project to interview Northwest morris dancers, sword dancers, mummers, border morris dancers, molly dancers, etc?

I continue to work with Melanie Barber, former President, and the Treasurer, Jenny Everett, to produce a book for The Morris Federation's 50th anniversary, covering its history in the 21st century.

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.

I am also a member of the working party involved in the preparation of the Morris Federation 50th anniversary book and online resource. We managed a few Zoom meetings and one face-to-face meeting during the last year. We now have a basic outline of content and each have a particular area to be working on. Hopefully, more progress will be made when we can meet together more often.

Mike Everett, July 2022

e) Notation Officer

Perhaps unsurprisingly, it's been a relatively quiet year for Notation. With the, much to be welcomed, increase in the number and quality of online resources has come a commensurate decline in "face-to-face" (well, email) queries for dance notation or workshops.

I have received information from two sides who have folded over the past two years which I have passed to the Archive Officer. If your side folds, or if you just want to save a "snapshot" of your dance repertoire for posterity, please consider donating your notation (in written or video form) and/or side history to the Archive and, if you want, to the Notation Library (i.e. to be publicly accessible).

Regrettably, work pressures have kept me away from Federation business for much of the last five months. I am, however, pleased to report that Dan has moved the Notation Library onto the main Morris Federation website (thanks, Dan!) and this will go live once it has received some TLC to make it more accessible.

We also have a YouTube channel, originally to hold various workshop videos transferred from VHS(!), but now also storing the various online talks and instructionals so ably organized by Pauline and others to see us all through lockdown over the past two years. If you want to make videos available either to support (or replace) the notation of a dance, we would welcome that. We can't and won't hold every Morris video ever made, but we are interested in constructing a curated list of performances to showcase Morris, past and present.

Whilst on the subject of Morris past, may I draw your attention to two books likely to be 'must buys' for anyone interested in the history and evolution of the "North-West" style of Morris ... Derek Schofield's *All Step-Up: The history of Manley Morris Dancers*, available from www.derekschofield.com and Richard Nelson's forthcoming book whose working title is *Carnivals, Contests and Coronations*, a history of "North-West Morris" and "Carnival Morris" (and their relationship and evolution) in Cheshire. Of this, one reviewer said "from a Morris Federation view, I think you need to know is whether [this book] adds to the knowledge of Morris dancing in the North West. The answer to that is a resounding yes... Johnny Haslett's books for West Lancashire finish in 1929. Richard takes this forward to WW2. Richard's area of study is to the south of Johnny's and he shows that different things seem to have been happening. Richard catalogues the period when one style of Morris dancing is gradually turning into the competitive carnival style." In addition to the usual suspects (you know who you are...) anyone fascinated by Lucy Wright's articles¹, exhibition² and talks on the Carnival Morris should find Richard's book provides invaluable context and historical detail.

I do not believe that Richard's book contains any dance notation, but Derek's book has chapters on the dance figures and music, so I get to mention these rather than the Archive Officer!

Finally, as a Committee member rather than specifically the Notation Officer, I have been working with others on revising the Morris Federation's Constitution, which is covered elsewhere.

Jerry West, August 2022

f) Newsletter Editor

The way that The Morris Federation communicates with its membership has undoubtedly changed for the better over the past two years, thanks to the persistence and hard work of our President Pauline Woods-Wilson with the support of the committee.

As a result, our members are kept up to date with regular emails, social media and website content, and an expanding group of people working with the committee as co-optees and occasional volunteers means that our combined communications output is reaching more members than ever before.

Due to personal commitments, I have been unable to focus on the return to production of a regular newsletter this year and I no longer feel able to give the time needed for producing a product of the quality everyone has come to expect. So, at this point of change and renewal, I feel that it is time for someone different to take the helm under the new position of 'Membership Communications Officer'.

I have enjoyed my time as Newsletter Editor over the past seven years, updating the newsletter to full colour and a new format, and sharing news of the activities of our members over that time. I'm certain that in new and capable hands this will only go from strength to strength, so please continue to send us your stories and details of your activities and the new team will carry on spreading the joy of morris in ever more creative and engaging ways.

Sam Ross, July 2022

Reports from Co-opted Committee & Advisors:

g) IT Administrator

Over the last year, IT Administration has focused on the following activities:

1. Migration of email services to Microsoft 365 from Google Workspace.
2. Rebuilding the Notation Library as part of the Morris Federation Website.
3. Resolve issues with PLI certificate generation.

Migration of email to Microsoft 365

For many years the Morris Federation benefited from a free Google Workspace subscription provided for early adopter of Google's services.

On the 26th January Google announced that this free subscription would be discontinued and that all users would need to upgrade to a paid subscription if they wanted to continue using the service. Since the Morris Federation already had a Microsoft 365 subscription intended for file storage, the decision was made to also make use of the email services included in that subscription.

Over the subsequent months, various technical changes and data migration processes took place, resulting in all committee members transitioning to Microsoft 365 for email.

Rebuilding the Notation Library

The intention to rebuild the Notation Library has existed for a while, but a shift in priorities was brought about with the move away from Google Workspace. Many of the files that make up the Notation Library are stored in Google Workspace and may not be available once our subscription to the service terminates.

Various technical solutions were sought to automatically move the Notation Library to either Microsoft 365 or the MF website, but all were deficient in some way.

The eventual solution was to manually copy the Notation Library files to the website and build website pages to represent the Notation Library index. There is still work to do on these index pages to remove the out-of-date links to files stored in Google Workspace.

This new, experimental, version of the Notation Library is accessible at

<https://www.morrisfed.org.uk/notation-library/>

PLI Certificate Generation

The Morris Federation makes use of bespoke software built in to the website to generate Public Liability Insurance (PLI) certificates for its members. Earlier this year we hit an incompatibility with our membership management software, MembershipWorks.

The issue only affected a few members and took quite some time to debug and devise a workaround for those members. Once the problem was understood it was reported to MembershipWorks who released a fix about 2 weeks later.

When it comes to downloading next year's certificate, please report anything that doesn't seem right.

Daniel Watford, August 2022

h) Communications & IT Officer

The work of Brian Kelly, Comms & IT volunteer has covered:

- Carrying out surveys to provide evidence on how online services are used by MF sides
- Documenting best practices in use of online services
- Encouraging sharing of best practices by publishing case studies
- Identifying new approaches in use of IT for marketing, recruitment and raising the visibility of morris.

Note the best practices case studies and evidence-based surveys are freely available at <http://morrisfed.org.uk/resources/it>

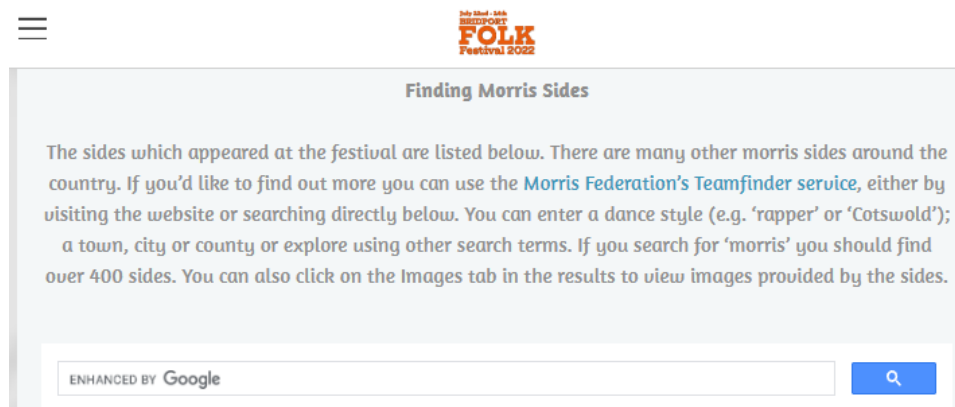
Surveys of Use of Online Services

Following surveys of MF sides' websites, we found that information held on the majority of websites is not easily found using Google (i.e. typically not one the first few pages of search results) due to most websites being small and having few links to the websites (and in a small number of cases, misconfigured websites).

However, we did find that the Morris Federation website is very 'Google-friendly' (it has a high 'Google page rank'). We have encouraged sides to exploit this by providing descriptions (and annotated photos and videos) on their Teamfinder profile.

We are now encouraging all sides to provide complete descriptions of their sides. In order that sides can see how this works the Google search interface at <https://bit.ly/mf-teamfinder-2022> can be used to search across team profiles.

Once the majority of sides have updated their profile we will be in a position to promote morris sides more effectively, including inviting folk festivals and simple organisations to embed a search interface on their websites. Imagine the benefits: folk festivals have a richer website and folkies who visit the website can find out about performing sides.



Use of Video to Promote Morris Sides

We have experimented with a number of ways of making use of video to promote morris sides.

- Morris Fed sides who were due to appear at the Bridport Folk Festival were featured in a video published on the festival website before the event and videos taken at the festival were published after the event (see <https://www.bridportfolkfestival.com/morris-clog-and-rapper.html>).
- A document on "[Use of Short Form Videos by Morris Sides](#)" describes the potential of short form videos (Less than a minute long) for promoting the morris 'brand' and helping people find morris sides through a targeted 'call to action' and how TikTok has been used to experiment with this idea. The key scenes from the video (which includes video dance clips and lasts for 25 seconds) are shown below.



- The importance of use of channels which target local communities and non-dance groups is highlighted in the document (you won't find many morris newbies on a How Many Morris Dancers ... Facebook group!)

Building a Community of People with IT Interest and Expertise

To date there have been 17 advisory documents, 7 case studies and 12 surveys published on the [IT Resources: Advice and Support](#) section of the Morris Federation website.

We have encouraged sides with IT expertise to share their experiences in IT case studies and [we have published case studies](#) with most of the case studies focussing on developments to the side's website but also use of Facebook.

In addition to sharing case studies we would also like to hear if there is interest in an online forum to discuss IT areas. We ran a MF Zoom workshop on "[Getting to the Top of Google \(and Other IT Issues\)](#)" which provided an opportunity for participants to listen to a talk and, more importantly, discuss the issues and challenges. We would welcome feedback on levels of interest in a "*IT issues for the Morris and related dance community*" and, if there is interest, in best ways in which such an online forum could be held. A Facebook group would not be appropriate for the many non-Facebook users, so we may be talking about a mailing list – or perhaps an initial Zoom meeting in which we could discuss which technology to use.

Get in touch with me at – Brian Kelly, Email: comms-it@morrisfed.org.uk

Brian Kelly, August 2022

i) **Communications Officer**

Things achieved this year:

New Generations survey

In order to see where we can develop young people's participation in Morris and Sword dancing we needed to find out where we are now. The online survey had a good response of over 70 teams/individuals. Key findings from the survey were:

- Stuff is happening all over the country via individuals and teams working with schools and youth groups.
- There are some keen and experienced people who could help others.
- There is a spread of styles being taught.
- People are experiencing similar barriers such as knowledge of insurance and DBS checks.
- There was a feeling that a network could be good.

So, from this, I set up the **New Generations Facebook Group** as an initial starting point to bring people together. Similar things work well in grass roots rugby where people can ask for advice and make links. It's not a massive group at the moment but this will grow over time.

I also came up with a couple of larger project ideas: **kits bags** and **mass maypole** which are currently in development stages.

I was also part of discussions with EFDSS for folk teaching development and safeguarding which are also in development.

Due to my lack of availability of my own volunteering time, I am pleased that Barry Goodman is now on board to move all things schools and young people along a bit.

Something we did find though, is that even when we have engaged with the outside world who are keen to have morris involvement in their projects, we can't find teams who are available. This may be down to distance, event, team availability but quite often lack of availability due to people's work. Which means, cost is then a factor for getting in professional dancers/teachers.

Video project

Lots of groundwork has been done both in funding bid ideas and volunteer engagement to try and make a set of high-quality morris video resources.

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.

I have had development discussions with 2 volunteers to help with this but this is still ongoing. Major resources need funding to make this happen as there will be costs involved. If anyone out there is good and keen to write funding bids then do get in touch!

Great Ideas and Bids

We've been working with Lancashire Encounter on the seeds of a number of great things that can happen, but time after time, it's time that's the barrier.

I am full of good ideas but I can't make them happen on my own and quite often can't make them happen without funding. If we want things to be professional and quality – which is needed to compete in today's world - then this costs.

Engagements with the wider world

As an organisation, we are getting better at engaging with others. This year, we have engaged with many people, not all have produced anything, some have, some haven't but we have engaged and we are seen as a place to go for all things morris.

Engagements have included: Shakespeare Birthplace Trust (I helped them with the content of the assembly PowerPoint for schools and plenty of activity ideas), Print Publications and Journalists, Chats/engagements with enquiries where previously we may not have engaged, Amal puppet (not fruitful).

Online Events

I have been involved in the editing for the Morris Winter/Spring Workshop videos. These events really took off during lockdown but also outgrew the volunteer capacity we have to run them.

New Recruitment

Abigail Banfield, Brian Kelly and Barry Goodman have all come forward this year to help with areas and projects so that is really good news.

Issues to consider for the next 12 months

- What can we realistically do with very few volunteer hours and the general downwards trend in volunteering? I have seen this across the board in my various involvements with festival, grass roots rugby and community projects. See attached extract showing volunteering down 40% across the board with 25-34 year olds dropping by 50%.

Here's an extract from a recent Third Sector article. Find the full article here:

<https://www.thirdsector.co.uk/total-number-formal-volunteering-hours-down-40-per-cent-last-year-figures-show/volunteering/article/1789898#:~:text=Today's%20figures%20also%20show%20that,slightly%20from%20148%20to%20144.>

Total number of formal volunteering hours down by 40 per cent last year, figures show

15 June 2022 by [Russell Hargrave](#)

The total number of hours provided by volunteers in England fell by 40 per cent during the Covid-19 crisis, latest government figures show.

Data for the year to the end of March 2021, when the country spent several months under national lockdown in response to the pandemic, shows that volunteers worked a total of 0.7bn hours, down from 1.2bn hours in 2019/20.

The information was [published today](#) by the Department for Digital, Culture, Media and Sport as part of the Community Life Survey, and covers formal volunteering opportunities through clubs, organisations and other charities in England.

Previous research found that levels of informal volunteering, which is defined as “giving unpaid help to individuals who are not a relative”, [rose during the pandemic](#).

Today's figures also show that the average number of hours 65- to 74-year-olds spent volunteering in 2020/21 held up despite the pandemic, falling slightly from 148 to 144.

By comparison, the average number of hours volunteered by 25- to 34 year-olds fell by 50 per cent, from 108 to 54, while volunteers over 75 worked an average of 71 hours, down from 105.

Sally Smith, August 2022

j) Social Media Officer

It's an exciting time for the Morris Federation on social media. Though people are getting back to a new kind of normal, the upside of the pandemic having pushed people online is that many more sides are seeming to harness the power of documenting their dances on social media, and using the various platforms to publicise upcoming stands. This report gives an overview of the social media accounts from **August 2021-July 2022**.

The Morris Federation's channels (Facebook, Twitter, and now Instagram) are looking healthy overall, with the focus being on supporting members through retweeting, commenting, sharing, and informing sides of resources available to them.

In terms of figures, it seems to be that the channels get more views once the dancing out season starts, which makes absolute sense – once May Day celebrations hit, the world is ready to get involved with all things Morris, and we can see the effect of that in a year-on-year increase in engagement from May to September. Thanks to a large increase this year in content volume on Twitter (going from around 2 tweets per month to around 13 per month), we've seen the impressions^[i] on Twitter go from a monthly total of 602 in August 2021 to 3,484 in July 2022. (see chart^[ii] for illustration of our year's figures and how tweeting more means more impressions).

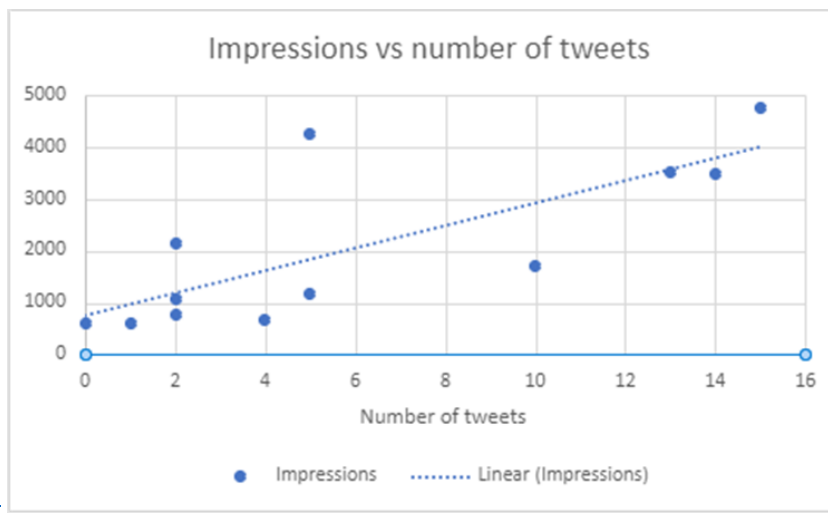
Over this period, we saw 38,782 accounts reached on Facebook, which is about the same as the previous period (Aug2020-July2021). We also saw our subscriber count grow by 133 new followers on Facebook, and 66 new followers on Twitter. Instagram is not comparable to previous year, as it was only launched in April 2022. It will continue to grow throughout the coming months, and looks promising in terms of engagement, and fulfilling the need to keep up with the ever-changing world of social media.

On Facebook, the best performing post was [this post](#) on stress awareness, and how Morris Dancing can be a great stress buster. It reached 8,727 accounts, had 139 reactions, was shared 22 times, and led to 51 clicks of the Morris Fed Team Finder. We will continue to tap into any relevant awareness days.

Other best performing posts include promoting talks, and sharing relevant news articles. Though we will continue to promote these essential communications, new formats have also been put in place this year. This includes 'Throwback Thursday' images, like [this post](#) of one of the oldest pictures in the archive from Lytham Club Day in 1902, which performed better than 66% of our normal posts on Facebook, receiving 21 reactions.

On a personal note, I have really enjoyed supporting the Morris Federation on social media, and look forward to really building an engaged and buzzing community online to support the work of the committee, and the activities of all sides.

[ii](#) Impressions: Impressions are the **number of times your content is displayed**, no matter if it was clicked or not. It can also count the same person twice or more if they have seen it multiple times. Impression count is not the same as reach, which you can think of as the number of **unique people** who see your content. In a perfect world, every one of your followers would see every piece of content you posted.



[iii](#)

Abigail Banfield, August 2022

k) JMO Secretary

MF co-optee to the Joint Morris Organisations.

Having spent a lot of time trying to support the concept of shared working between the Morris organisations, I wanted to continue in some way after stepping down from the post of Morris Federation secretary. I was very pleased that the other committee members, and those in the Morris Ring & Open Morris, welcomed my wish to expand the role of the secretary of the Joint Morris Organisations, as well as being a co-opted member on the Morris Federation committee.

With the Morris world opening up gradually during 2022 I was able to help steward the JMO National Day of Dance in Liverpool as well as keep my end up as a some-time member of the Knights of King Ina jig side, managing to dance reasonably well (in my own, not-so-humble opinion) to the mellifluous notes of Janet's piccolo.

In JMO and MF committee meetings I hope I'm able to continue supporting the President, Squire & Chair using the accumulated knowledge of the fabulous time had as secretary of the Federation.

Fee Lock, July 2022

l) Health & Safety Advisor

The first part of the year was as busy as the proceeding period, but everything quietened down when the government relaxed the Covid requirements. My activity as MF's H&S Advisor during the last year included:

- writing four updates for MF's website, covering general issues, practices and performances
- reviewing government guidance repeatedly (i.e., every time it was updated and when I was asked a specific question)
- answering ten enquiries from teams and individuals
- revising the Covid template risk assessments for practices and performances, plus the supporting notes on how to use them.

This was all before the end of February 2022. The last six months has been blissfully quiet!

Sally Wearing, August 2022

Reports from others working on projects or in receipt of funding:

m) Projects

(i) "The First 25 Years" Book - History of the Morris Federation 1975-2000

The text is now written and we are now arranging for it to be proofread. We are making progress with identifying and selecting the illustrations

Sally Wearing, August 2022

(ii) 50th Anniversary Book (years 2000 to 2025)

From Archive Officer's report: I am also a member of the working party involved in the preparation of the Morris Federation 50th anniversary book and online resource. We managed a few Zoom meetings and one face-to-face meeting during the last year. We now have a basic outline of content and each have a particular area to be working on. Hopefully, more progress will be made when we can meet together more often.

Mike Everett, August 2022

(iii) 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 project is now closed and I'm awaiting a final report.

Melanie Barber, August 2022

(iv) Morris Dance Database (MDDDB)

See: www.morrisdancedatabase.org.uk

I would like to express my thanks to the Morris Federation for continuing to sponsor the Morris Dance Database, which a valuable and easily accessible resource for anyone interested in any aspect of Morris dancing and related forms of traditional dance display. There are currently just under 1000 active teams listed world-wide, and a further 400 that have hung up their bells. The database lists over 4000 dances, about a half of which are Cotswold style, a further 1000 Border Style, and the rest include North-West, Molly, Stave, Longsword, Rapper & Percussive dances.

In order to be an on-going current record of Morris activity ideally every side should register to edit their own entry and repertoire. At the moment there is scope for many more sides to manage their own data, and in particular for more sides to list the dances they currently perform. There are still a significant proportion of dances listed where the origin is unspecified. Any assistance in establishing the provenance of these dances would be most welcome.

A recent new facility enables a side to give details about any seasonal customs in which they are actively involved, such as mumming, wassailing, rushcarts, etc.

Shortly to be added (and hopefully available by the time this report is published) will be an archive facility for sides and a notation link for dances. Teams generally build up a collection of photographs, videos, press reports and artefacts over the years, and if a side ceases to operate there is a danger that such important material could be lost. The archive facility will allow a team – if it so wishes – to give relevant information. The policy of not publishing notation of dances on the database will continue, recognising that some sides are very protective of their own dances. However, if the notation of a dance is available, the notation facility will enable appropriate links to be shown.

Queries, comments and suggestions regarding the database are always welcome.

Colin Andrews, MDDDB Administrator, July 2022

(v) Voices of Morris

Since the project started in June 2021, it has expanded both in the number of interviews and in the number of people involved.

The Interviews

As of the end of July 2022 the archive consists of 19 completed interviews and further 6 interviews have been recorded and are currently being transcribed and summarised. Another four or five interviews are in the process of being arranged and may have been recorded by the end of September. A fine achievement given that the original aim was to complete 10 or 12 interviews per year.

The interviewees, both dancers and musicians, are drawn from all three Morris associations and cover all styles of Morris, including Molly. The topics covered in each interview vary according to the experience and interest of the interviewee, the range of topics include:

- The development of Women's and mixed teams.
- The debate about the use of Black face-paint.
- What makes "Good Morris"?
- Playing for Morris dances.
- Side histories.
- How people first got involved in Morris dancing.
- Differing approaches/attitudes to dancing and performance

- Experiences of festivals
- The social dynamics

I have also started interviewing remotely, using Zoom, which gives more flexibility, having experimented to overcome some of the technical issues. In the coming year I hope to add the first overseas (i.e., non-UK) interview.

The Volunteers

In June a call was put out through the Morris Federation for volunteers to help with the project, particularly the transcribing which is quite a time-consuming process. As a result, I now have a team of 6 or 7 volunteers around the country to help with the transcribing and writing the summaries and one, based in the North West, who is also interviewing.

Publicity & Using the Archive

Beth Neill, editor of *Morris Matters* has been very supportive of the project and an article introducing the project was included in the January 2022 issue which stimulated some interest. At the moment two further articles are planned for *Morris Matters*, both drawing on some of the issues raised and illustrating these with quotations from the interviews. The first of these will address the idea that there are “Fun Sides” and “Good Sides”, focusing on what people enjoy about Morris dancing. The second will consider what actually makes a side a “Good Side”.

As a result of the call for volunteers in the MF Bulletin, an article also appeared on the TradFolk.co website creating further interest and an enquiry from a freelance podcaster/journalist involved in the folk scene about using the archive for a possible podcast.

In closing I would like to thank the Morris Federation for its support for this project and all those who have participated so far.

Chas Leslie, July 2022

(vi) Maypole Funded by the MF for Malkin Morris

The Morris Federation generously provided funding for a maypole for Malkin Morris in February 2020 with aims to raise the profile of traditional dance and the Morris Federation, encourage fitness in children and adults, teach skills of maypole dancing to all ages, research local historical and current maypole dancing, produce a supporting local booklet and have fun!

With few chances to start 2022-21(Covid) the maypole featured in a “Lone Dancer” production 1st May, 2020 and another video <https://www.facebook.com/686357454/videos/10156841920212455/> The maypole was used in practices and displays, at a basic level, in Malkin practices and pubs, workshops at a Heritage Centre and in primary schools, village events, Platinum Jubilee events, school fairs, with estimated 150 children, 30 non-Malkin adults in a total of 10 sessions plus Malkin.

Wins

Malkin has a team of dancers, trained teachers and musicians who can lead maypole workshops

Anecdotal information about local, traditional maypole dancing for our research, included as we left one school, clutching a small broomstick maypole, a mum who shouted out “Ooh we made one of those when I was little.” She was very embarrassed, but we were delighted - instant validation of what we had told the children about local traditions of dancing round maypoles in the back streets

It is popular locally. Research of local May songs accidentally unearthed a range of material sung by children, often demonstrating links between areas. The maypole itself excites interest - people want to have a go. The maypole we purchased is an excellent design from Educational Aids, fits in the back of an estate car, can be erected by one person, and the whole is amazingly stable.

Better if...

Follow guidelines in the two books quoted at the end. Untangling ribbons can be a nightmare: if things go wrong, stop immediately - it only gets worse. It always takes longer than you think to learn most complex dances. Start simply, with lots of in and out type movements and Barber's Pole, make a performance, and celebrate it. Get people to watch a performance. Leave ribbons secured where there are children about- ribbons are irresistible. Ask for maypole information on your area town facebook sites - a lot emerges from this.

The future

More work with community groups (WI were interested, also Guides/Brownies) and schools and we seek more. Libraries are interested and have space for maypole dancing. After-school maypole clubs might prove useful and fun to children and Malkin, giving both the opportunity to develop skills and dances. Thank you for the opportunity, Morris Federation.

Bibliography

"Dancing Maypole" 1999, Jewitt, Diana Campbell, revised edition 2004, Cambridge University Press.

"The Maypole Manual" 2014, Ruff, Mike and Read, Jenny, Spinning Path Music.

Virginia Crewe, Malkin Morris, August 2022