



# AGM Pack 2025

Version 2 comprises these amendments, shown in blue:

- Item 7.2 Election of Treasurer, pages 29-31: Supplementary statements have been added regarding experience with preparing accounts, as well as setting and managing budgets (in blue). This was requested by a member team.
- Item 11 Presentation and Votes of Thanks: This has been split out into separate sub-sections.
- Item 11.1 EFDSS Gold Badge award to Pauline Woods-Wilson: This will be taken near the start of the meeting, between Items 1 and 2.
- Cover pages: Association of Independent Festivals (AIF) logo removed.

To all the members of The Morris Federation.

These are the papers for the Annual General Meeting of The Morris Federation to be held on

**Saturday 27<sup>th</sup> September 2025, 16:00 sign in for a 16:30 start,**

**at The Perch Brewhouse, 44 Garden Street, Sheffield City Centre, Sheffield S1 4BJ**

**W3W ///storms.city.wages**

**Attend in person or online via Zoom.**

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

w: [www.morrisfed.org.uk](http://www.morrisfed.org.uk)  
e: [secretary@morrisfed.org.uk](mailto:secretary@morrisfed.org.uk)

## IMPORTANT NOTES

1. Each member team may register for a Zoom session to attend the meeting to represent the team (individual members have access in their own right). Each person may represent only 1 member team on 1 Zoom session for the duration of the meeting. Attendance at the Zoom meeting will be counted as 'represented in person' to determine whether the meeting is quorate (requires 15 group members to be represented). We are not planning to record the meeting.
2. Other members of your team (or a different member team) will be able to sit with the representative on the Zoom session but will not be permitted to participate directly. There may also be a live stream on YouTube so that any member of any team may watch the meeting.
3. Questions about the AGM itself, how it will run, the live stream, etc., should be sent to [secretary@morrisfed.org.uk](mailto:secretary@morrisfed.org.uk). We will endeavour to answer all such questions as soon as practicable and no later than 48 hours before the AGM starts. There are no stupid questions - someone else almost certainly has the same query. We will use your questions as the basis for an AGM FAQ which we will make available to all members via our website [www.morrisfed.org.uk/agm](http://www.morrisfed.org.uk/agm)
4. Member contacts will be sent a separate document: 'AGM Voting & Registration 2025' with details of how to register for the meeting, meeting etiquette, how to submit votes in advance, proxy votes, etc.
5. Members are encouraged to vote in advance. Details on how to do so will be included in the 'AGM Voting & Registration 2025' document.
6. The 2 documents – the 'AGM Pack 2025' and the 'AGM Voting & Registration 2025' – will be sent to member contacts by broadcast email, and also made available on the Members area of the website (need to login) at [www.morrisfed.org.uk/members/agm](http://www.morrisfed.org.uk/members/agm)

## VOTING

Unless specified otherwise, Member Teams have 10 votes to be apportioned to reflect the views of the side. Full Individual Members and Honorary Life Members have 1 vote. [Constitution Section 4].

**Member Teams and Individual Members should vote 'in advance' by midnight on Sunday 21<sup>st</sup> September 2025 if they are not planning to attend the AGM (either in person or online) and are encouraged to do so even if planning to attend.** If you are the representative for your team and decide to attend after you have submitted your votes, you may do so and re-cast your votes at the meeting if you wish to change them.

All members are encouraged to vote so that the views of the entire membership are known.

Drew

**Andrew Knight, Secretary, The Morris Federation**

[www.morrisfed.org.uk](http://www.morrisfed.org.uk)

The Morris Federation is a member of:

- English Folk Dance and Song Society (EFDSS)
- One Dance UK



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## 1 INTRODUCTION, ATTENDEES AND APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

These will be recorded at the meeting.

**Item 11.1 EFDSS Gold Badge award to Pauline Woods-Wilson will be taken at this point of the meeting.**

Pauline Woods-Wilson will be presented with an English Folk Dance and Song Society Gold Badge. The citation will be prepared and read by Eliza Russell, and the badge itself presented by Michael Heaney. EFDSS Gold Badges are presented for unique or outstanding contributions to folk music, dance or song and/or exceptional contributions to the Society’s work.

## 2 MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The minutes of the previous AGM on 21<sup>st</sup> September 2024 are available online at <https://www.morrisfed.org.uk/resources/agm/>

### - Accept the minutes of the 2024 AGM

Meeting to vote to accept the minutes of the previous AGM on 21<sup>st</sup> September 2024 as a true and accurate record of the meeting. One vote per individual or group member. One paper copy will be available to the President for any amendments/signing as an accurate record.

## 3 MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES NOT OTHERWISE ON THE AGENDA

None.

## 4 ANNUAL REPORTS

### 4.1 Reports from Elected Officers:

#### a) President

**ROYAL RECOGNITION FOR FEE LOCK.** The big news of the year is that Fee Lock was invited to a Royal Garden Party in May 2025, for her “Outstanding contribution and services to morris dancing and Hastings Traditional Jack in the Green”. We are delighted, and so proud of her. See more in her report as JMO Secretary.

**EFDSS GOLD BADGE.** Well, knock me down with a feather, but I have been awarded a Gold Badge by EFDSS for all those online workshops and talks for the wider morris world (particularly during COVID) and, more recently, the Arts Council funded schools’ project. Of course, it was all down to teamwork - input from those willing to give talks and workshops, those who helped host the Zoom sessions, those who attended, and Sally Wearing for keeping us apprised of the latest COVID guidance.

**50 YEARS ANNIVERSARY.** This year we are celebrating 50 Years of the Morris Federation, founded in 1975, with regional days of dance, which have been well attended, and received media coverage too, including ITV.

**SCHOOLS PROJECT ‘Buzzing Britain’.** We really could do with some more help with writing bids, as my desire is to embed this into a rolling annual programme. Last year we started work on a follow-on bid to Arts Council England, again for up to £30k, to build on the great experiences and resources from the previous project in 2024. Real life simply got in the way, so not much headway was made. We still have many Kit Bags, and online education resources at: [www.morrisfed.org.uk/education/projects/](http://www.morrisfed.org.uk/education/projects/).

**BELLS.** The only UK supplier of quality 2-part bells now only makes to order, and doesn’t hold stock, so we are having more difficulty purchasing sensible quantities. A working group across the JMO met to look at alternatives, and this year we have managed to stick with this supplier. We are monitoring the situation but may have to resort to bells manufactured overseas if supply dries up.

**JOHNNY HASLETT’S MORRIS DANCERS AND ROSE QUEENS (MDRQ) DIGITAL BOOKS.** I have been working on a side project with Duncan Broomhead, to publish digitally the existing 4 volumes of MDRQ, plus the unfinished Volume 5 that Johnny was working on at the time of his death. We hope that they will be made available over the winter.

**JOINT MORRIS ORGANISATIONS.** 2025 is my turn to be Chair of the JMO. At the JMO Annual Meeting we made a few clarifications to the Constitution, being five years since it was adopted, and Michael Stimpson stood down as Insurance Officer after 22 years, being succeeded by Chris Dent. I am also part of the JMO’s EDI group, attended Open Morris’ AGM (online) but missed this year’s Morris Ring’s Annual Representatives meeting (their AGM) at which Emma Melville took over as first female Squire of the Morris Ring.

**GOVERNMENT ENGAGEMENT.** In June 2024 the UK signed up to the 2003 UNESCO Convention for the Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage (ICH), of which our hobby is a part. This summer, the DCMS is setting up Community Support Hubs, to help communities submitting items for the UK’s ‘inventory’ of ‘Living heritage’, initially open for 4 months in Autumn 2025.

**THANK YOU.** Again, massive thanks to the Committee and Co-opted Committee for all their hard work and support, you will find their reports elsewhere in this section.

This year we said “Welcome” to Graham Lee (Mabel Gubbins and Hereburgh) as Archive Officer; James Merryclough (Five Rivers) as Marketing Officer; and Melanie Yates (Knots of May) as Events Officer.

Various people also found that life got in the way of their voluntary work, so sadly we had to say “Goodbye” to Abbi Proctor as Treasurer, James Merryclough as Marketing Officer, and Luke Williams for EDI guidance.

Melanie Yates has stepped down as Events Officer but is happy to help us out on an occasional basis as our wordsmith.

We are truly indebted to Jenny Everett and Andrew Knight for ably taking over the Treasurer role and membership renewals for the last year. We couldn't have operated the organisations without them.

Plus, thanks to our other non-Committee volunteers, Sally Wearing for Health & Safety and First Aid guidance; Alan Courtney and Barry Pitman for photography. Not forgetting my long-suffering partner, Dennis Taylor, without whom I could not spend so much time on MF work.

**Pauline Woods-Wilson, July 2025**

## b) Secretary

This year has shown some challenges with the adoption of work from other roles on the committee. It shows just how supportive and collegiate the committee is that others stand in and help when committee members are under some personal stress.

Most of the contacts from teams to the secretary are calls for help when situations arise and teams have no clear path forward. These incidents usually precipitate an advice sheet or additions to existing sheets and the regular updating of guidance for teams that resides on The Morris Federation website. It is there you will find a wealth of information designed to assist teams with all aspects of following their hobby and being in tune with safe and legal practice as well as information on the running of teams. Please take time to browse the site.

Other outside contacts this year have been for Intangible Cultural Heritage where we are at the forefront of helping the DCMS implement the UNESCO agreement recently ratified by the UK Government, work with the other two morris Organisations in areas of common interest like equality, diversity and Inclusion and implications of legal changes to anti-terror laws affect the gathering together and performing of the Morris. Even if there is no action to be taken, these are things we check in the background to ensure we can advise, enough, if alterations affect us.

I hope I continue to answer questions in a timely manner and with some consideration. The breadth of the replies to questions asked is important so teams can proceed with the enjoyment of the Morris.

**Andrew Knight, July 2025**

## c) Treasurer

I little expected to be back in this seat this year! Our thoughts and best wishes go to Abbi who has had to stand down as Treasurer during the year.

### Membership and renewals

Membership levels have risen slightly this year. To date (27/6/25) we have 520 members (510 in 2024):

- 496 group members
- 10 individuals
- 7 junior
- 3 overseas
- 4 associate

Unfortunately, 5 teams have told us that they have disbanded:

- After Dinner Clog, Herring Gals+, Marisco Morris, Oxblood Molly, Traed y Ddraig Appalachian

We have welcomed new members across all categories since the last report:

- Group members: Alford Morris, Asum Gras Molly, Bath Border Morris, Black Adder Clog, Blackdown Morris, Clandestine Morris, Elemental Border, Forest of Dean Mummers, Goose Feather Morris, Greyhound Morris, Hollington Tipteerers, Jackdaws Molly, Kekezza, Kelham Island, Last Stripe Morris, Mayfly Morris, Molly No Mates, Moonlight Morris, Mother Tucker's Morris, Murky Waters Morris, Ramshackle Morris, Roots Morris, Spirit of Summer Morris, Tewkesbury Mummers, Twisted Rapper, Wallingford Morris, Wulfruna Morris
- Youth members: Bristol Youth Folk, Red Hat Rapper, The Gillow Family
- Overseas members: Limestone Morris
- Associate members: Chanctonbury Ring
- Individual member: Emilie Joy Rowell

#### PR sales

Sales of badges, bags and CDs have been minimal. I expect next year's numbers to be significantly different due to our fabulous 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary badges and our new 50<sup>th</sup> double CD!

#### Bells

Our Keeper of the Bells, Lin Steel, continues doing a great job, fulfilling orders steadily over the year. We have managed to obtain more bells in some finishes and sizes that had run out and are hoping that we can continue to buy more as the metal becomes available.

#### Banking

All accounts are at Lloyds bank, we have a current account, and an instant access savings account. We have not yet managed to change banks but are looking to do so once a new Treasurer is in post.

#### Accounting period

Attached is a copy of the annual accounts for 2024/2025.

Payments exceeded receipts by £13,803.01, considerably down from last year's operating profit of £3482.92. This is due to the inflated receipts last year of the Arts Council grant and a decrease in value of bells receipts.

Should the FedExtra magazine remains as an online circulation then, I propose that membership subscription rates for 2026 remain at £30 for group members, £20 for individual members, £20 for overseas and associate members and £10 for junior members.

#### 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.

#### Reserves & Budget

Reserves have remained set at £13,000.

A designated amount of £22,46.95 has been set aside for Bells. We should bear in mind that any future bell purchases may be subject to minimum order numbers.

#### Accounts inspection

These accounts have been independently verified by John Warner (Royal Preston Morris Dancers) who kindly accepted our request this year.

## MORRIS FEDERATION ACCOUNTS 30/5/24 to 31/3/2025

RECEIPTS	2024/2025	2023/2024
<b>GENERAL</b>		
Subscriptions	£15,520.00	£15,672.31
PRS contribution Morris Ring and Open Morris	£47.84	£63.79
JMO insurance refund		£346.90
CLAPA donations for Johnny Haslett books	£40.20	
<b>TOTAL GENERAL</b>	<b>£15,608.04</b>	<b>£16,083.00</b>
<b>18-39 Workshop</b>		
Booking fees	£580.00	
<b>TOTAL 18-39 workshop</b>	<b>£580.00</b>	<b>£0.00</b>
<b>AGM and Day of Dance 2025</b>		
Sales of 50th anniversary badges over the year	£80.00	
<b>TOTAL AGM 2025</b>	<b>£80.00</b>	
<b>AGM and Day of Dance 2024</b>		
Donation towards accommodation and meals	£2,558.19	
<b>TOTAL AGM 2024</b>	<b>£2,558.19</b>	<b>£0.00</b>
<b>AGM and Day of Dance 2023</b>		
Donation towards accommodation, inc rail refund		£1,238.90
<b>TOTAL AGM 2023</b>	<b>£0.00</b>	<b>£1,238.90</b>
<b>JMO days of Dance 2023</b>		
Bath and Newcastle		£566.25
<b>TOTAL JMO DAYS 2023</b>	<b>£0.00</b>	<b>£566.25</b>
<b>PROMOTIONS &amp; PUBLICATIONS</b>		
Sale of CDs and PR goods (inc p&p)	£235.30	£25.90
<b>TOTAL PR &amp; PUBS</b>	<b>£235.30</b>	<b>£25.90</b>
<b>BELLS</b>		
Sale of bells (inc p&p)	£6,222.41	£18,343.30
<b>TOTAL BELLS</b>	<b>£6,222.41</b>	<b>£18,343.30</b>
<b>SCHOOLS (ARTS COUNCIL ENGLAND) PROJECT</b>		
Arts Council Grant - Details reported separately	£2,846.00	£34,580.14
<b>TOTAL SCHOOLS ACE PROJECT</b>	<b>£2,846.00</b>	<b>£34,580.14</b>
<b>DESIGNATED EDUCATION ACCOUNTS</b>		
CD sales	£99.00	
Donation from Stepback Project	£270.02	
Sales of Rhett Krause Rapper books	£210.00	
<b>TOTAL DESIGNATED EDUCATION ACCOUNTS</b>	<b>£579.02</b>	
<b>BANKING</b>		
Interest on savings account	£201.09	£254.34
<b>TOTAL BANKING</b>	<b>£201.09</b>	<b>£254.34</b>
<b>TOTAL RECEIPTS</b>	<b>£28,910.05</b>	<b>£71,091.83</b>

<b>PAYMENTS</b>	<b>2024/2025</b>	<b>2023/2024</b>
<b>GENERAL</b>		
Subscription refunds	£120.00	£80.00
Printing (inc. renewals)	£214.58	£8.70
Stationery & postage (inc postage of goods/bells)	£629.38	£1,215.57
Travel expenses	£1,865.48	£3,023.50
PRS charge	£335.88	£318.96
EFDSS membership	£92.00	£0.00
AFO/AIF subs	£0.00	£50.00
One Dance subs	£60.00	£60.00
Conference fees and accommodation	£73.98	£961.62
other subs/donations	£0.00	£30.88
Insurance	£6,180.12	£6,211.52
IT expenses	£2,051.52	£2,388.95
H&S premium	£30.00	£133.80
Archive acquisitions	£0.00	£19.39
Preparation of accounts	£0.00	£42.70
Branded merchandise	£49.50	
Paypal charges and interest	£53.81	£397.82
CLAPA donations for Johnny Haslett books	£40.20	
<b>TOTAL GENERAL</b>	<b>£11,796.45</b>	<b>£14,943.41</b>
<b>18-39 Workshop</b>		
Booking refunds	£520.00	
<b>TOTAL 18-39 Workshop</b>	<b>£520.00</b>	
<b>AGM and DAY of DANCE 2025</b>		
AGM committee accommodation	£0.00	
<b>TOTAL AGM and DAY OF DANCE 2025</b>	<b>£0.00</b>	
<b>AGM and Day of Dance 2023</b>		
AGM committee accommodation+tickets		£2,070.95
<b>TOTAL AGM and DAY of DANCE 2023</b>	<b>£0.00</b>	<b>£2,070.95</b>
<b>AGM and day of dance 2024</b>		
AGM committee accommodation+tickets	£6,739.09	£0.00
<b>TOTAL AGM and DAY of DANCE 2024</b>	<b>£6,739.09</b>	<b>£0.00</b>
<b>JMO</b>		
Travel and accommodation	£694.50	£0.00
JMO days of dance		£723.07
Insurance refund error		£188.35
<b>TOTAL JMO</b>	<b>£694.50</b>	<b>£911.42</b>
<b>SCHOOLS (ARTS COUNCIL ENGLAND) PROJECT</b>		
Details reported separately	£10,580.72	£26,799.16
<b>TOTAL SCHOOLS ACE PROJECT</b>	<b>£10,580.72</b>	<b>£26,799.16</b>
<b>DONATIONS &amp; GRANTS</b>		
Doc Rowe digitization project		£1,080.00
Demon Barber DVD project		£35.00

Morris Dance Database (MDDDB) project	£80.00	£80.00
Soundposts project		£1,020.00
Lucy Wright project		£500.00
<b>TOTAL DONATIONS &amp; GRANTS</b>	<b>£80.00</b>	<b>£2,715.00</b>
<b>PROMOTIONS &amp; PUBLICATIONS</b>		
Leather badges	£131.05	£0.00
Metal badges	£1,836.00	£959.91
<b>TOTAL PR &amp; PUBS</b>	<b>£1,967.05</b>	<b>£959.91</b>
<b>BELLS</b>		
Purchase of bell pads for schools' work	£300.00	
Purchase of bells	£10,021.34	£15,224.82
<b>TOTAL BELLS</b>	<b>£10,321.34</b>	<b>£15,224.82</b>
<b>BANKING</b>		
Bank charges	£13.91	
<b>TOTAL BANKING</b>	<b>£13.91</b>	
<b>TOTAL PAYMENTS</b>	<b>£42,713.06</b>	<b>£63,624.67</b>

## COMMITTEE EXPENSES

ORGANISATIONAL							
	stationery	postage	printing	conf fees	ACE	AGM 2024 Accom & hosting	JMO Accom
Secretary	£64.44	£16.85	£181.02	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00
President	£44.90	£35.00	£33.56	£0.00	£295.20	£415.36	£0.00
Notation Officer	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00
Treasurer	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00
Archive Officer	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00
Co-opted committee	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£35.00	£38.89	£2,646.34	£630.00
Member Comms	£3.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£155.75	£0.00	£0.00
Keeper of the Bells	£0.00	£461.19	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00

PERSONAL		
	travel	accommodation
Secretary	£109.32	£0.00
President	£583.40	£38.98
Notation Officer	£0.00	£0.00
Treasurer	£72.40	£0.00
Archive Officer	£0.00	£0.00
Co-opted committee	£741.15	£0.00
Member Comms	£296.21	£0.00
Keeper of the Bells	£63.00	£0.00

## BANKING

Banking 1/4/2025				
	general account	designated education account	designated rapper in schools account	TOTAL
Current Account	£10,909.95	£415.28	£210.00	£11,535.23
Savings Account	£22,460.95			£22,460.95
Paypal Account	£9,575.57			£9,575.57
<b>Total</b>				<b>£43,571.75</b>

## STOCK VALUES

Stock Values 1/4/2025	
Stationery	£0.00
Value of bells (estimated)	£18,571.25
CDs	£212.00
Value of Promotions (estimated)	£3,083.71
Books (American Rapper)	£540.00
Stock held sale or return by Morris Shop	£199.99
<b>Total</b>	<b>£22,606.95</b>

## RESERVES

Reserves 1/4/2025		
	2024/25	2023/24
Undesignated Funds	£20,485.52	£27,333.92
Designated Funds: Education Account	£415.28	£7,780.98
Designated Funds: Rapper in Schools Account	£210.00	£0.00
Designated Funds: Bells	£22,460.95	£22,259.86
<b>Total Funds</b>	<b>£43,571.75</b>	<b>£57,374.76</b>
Ratio of reserves to Annual Operating Expenditure	100%	100%
Reserves	£13,000	£13,000
Membership level	520	503

The Designated Bells fund has been set up to put aside money for purchasing new stocks of bells. It is kept in a savings account.

## DEFICIT/SURPLUS

	2024/2025	2023/2024
Deficit/Surplus	-£13,803.01	£3,482.92
Receipts	£28,910.05	£67,122.59
Payments	£42,713.06	£63,639.67

## BUDGET

Below is the budget for this year with actuals in brackets.

<b>BUDGET 2024/2025 (ACTUAL 2024/2025)</b>			
	<b>Unrestricted account</b>	<b>Arts Council England restricted account</b>	<b>Bells designated account</b>
<b>balance b/f from 2023/2024</b>	£27,274.90	£7,780.00	£22,259.86
<b>Expected income</b>			
Arts Council Grant (restricted)		£1,846.00 ( <i>£1,846.00</i> )	
Subscriptions	£16,000.00 ( <i>£15,520</i> )		
Sale of bells (inc p&p)			£8,000.00 ( <i>£6,222.41</i> )
<b>Total</b>	<b>£43,274.90 (<i>£42,794.90</i>)</b>	<b>£9,626.00 (<i>£9,626.00</i>)</b>	<b>£30,259.86 (<i>£28,482.27</i>)</b>
<b>Expected expenditure</b>			
Operating expenses	£20,700.00 ( <i>£21,731.00</i> )		
GRANTS etc.	£2,000.00 ( <i>£80.00</i> )		
Arts council (phase 2 seed money)	£5,000.00 ( <i>£0.00</i> )		
Arts Council England Project (restricted account)		£11,260.93 ( <i>£10,580.72</i> )	
Contingency (up to 10%)	£2,500.00		
Purchase of bells (designated account)			£22,259.86 ( <i>£10,321.34</i> )
<b>Total</b>	<b>£30,200.00 (<i>£21,811.00</i>)</b>	<b>£11,260.93 (<i>£10,580.72</i>)</b>	<b>£22,259.86 (<i>10,321.34</i>)</b>
<b>Expected balances to c/f to 2025/2026</b>	<b>£13,074.90 (<i>£20,485.52</i>)</b>	<b>-£1,633.95 (<i>£514.28</i>)</b>	<b>£8,000.00 (<i>£22,469.95</i>)</b>

Below is the budget set for 2025/2026:

<b>BUDGET 2025/2026</b>				
	<b>Unrestricted account</b>	<b>Education designated account</b>	<b>Rapper in Schools designated account</b>	<b>Bells designated account</b>
<b>balance b/f from 2024/2025</b>	£20,485.52	£415.28	£210.00	£22,469.95
<b>Expected receipts</b>				
Arts Council Grant (restricted)				
Subscriptions	£16,000.00			
Sale of Rapper books			£60.00	
Sale of bells (inc p&p)				£8,000.00
<b>Total</b>	<b>£36,485.52</b>	<b>£415.28</b>	<b>£270.00</b>	<b>£30,469.95</b>
<b>Expected payments</b>				
Operating expenses	£22,000.00			
GRANTS etc.	£2,000.00			
Contingency (up to 10%)	£2,500.00			
Purchase of bells (designated account)				£10,000.00
<b>Total</b>	<b>£26,500</b>	<b>£0.00</b>	<b>£0.00</b>	<b>£10,000.00</b>
<b>Expected balances to c/f to 2026/2027</b>	<b>£9,985.52</b>	<b>£415.28</b>	<b>£270.00</b>	<b>£20,469.95</b>
Reserves are set at £13,000				

Jenny Everett, July 2025

### - Accept the Treasurer's Report

Note to the meeting: The Treasurer's report needs to be proposed, seconded & accepted here. In summary, the Treasurer proposes to maintain the subscription rates for 2026 at the current level, and the reserves at the current level..

One vote per individual or group member.

## d) Membership Communications Officer

2025 marked my second year as Member Comms Officer – a role I continue to enjoy and embrace fully. The main bulk of my role is to produce and circulate the FedExtra online magazine, and since the 2024 AGM I have gone on to digitally publish two more editions of this digital offering, bringing my current total number of publications produced up to five. At the time of writing, I am currently working on my second offering (Summer 2025) for this calendar year. When circulated it will bring my total of publications produced to six and it is currently looking at being around 40 pages in length.

The FedExtra has continued to undergo some visual changes this year including a new logo and updated, modernised front cover designs with an “inside this edition” column laid over the top. As well as working on design, I have also continued working on accessibility of the publication, captioning all pictures, and making sure I am adhering to minimum font size and suggested style guidelines for maximum ease of readability. The software I currently use is being phased out in 2026, and at present I am researching alternatives which offer the same range of editing tools.

In June I released a pair of surveys, asking the Morris Federation membership their views on the current digital-only offering of FedExtra, to establish whether printed publications would be something our members would like to see again. The feedback received was both broad and interesting, and I thank everyone who took the time to send me their thoughts. The result of these surveys was that, although  $\frac{3}{4}$  of the answering membership said that they were happy with digital-only offerings, there was a group who felt that they would prefer to have a paper copy of the newsletter. Reasons for this included accessibility due to struggles with technology, along with members highlighting that they felt less inclined to sit and read a digital document than they did a physical, paper, one they could hold.

As a result of the surveys, the committee voted in favour of trialling a separate printed FedExtra subscription service for the teams who desire a printed copy. The digital offering will still be free to all, but an additional annual subscription of printed FedExtra will hopefully become available to our members once further investigation into feasibility and prices has been carried out. I am very pleased with the outcome of the surveys and look forward to hopefully bringing printed copies back into the letterboxes of those who desire them, alongside maintaining the digital magazine for the majority. I will report on the outcome once I have more information.

As well as my work on FedExtra, part of my role is to send out broadcast emails to the membership and to our Morris Federation News email mailing list. At the time of writing this, and since the AGM 2024, I have helped write and send 21 email broadcasts on behalf of The Morris Federation using Mailchimp.

I was very proud when I was asked by the committee to design the logo for our 50th anniversary commemorative badges. In five colours, one to match every kit, I took elements of the original Morris Federation logo and gave things a modern twist; adding a bell in place of the 0 in 50, and updating the fonts used for maximum clarity. A hexagonal badge was selected so that they would tessellate seamlessly and allow for a nice display if all five colours are grouped together, and to make them distinguishable from the standard, circular, Morris Federation badges. For me, seeing my own design in physical badge form must be the highlight of the last two years on the job, and made all the hard work worthwhile.

Thank you to everyone who contributed to FedExtra, and an extra special thanks to the members of the Committee who kept me sane when things got tough. I couldn't have done it without you! I am planning on standing again for re-election, and, if successful, I look forward to continuing working as part of a wonderful, supportive team, to bring our members the latest, Morris Fed, news.

**Eliza Russell, July 2025**

## e) Archive Officer

My first year in post has involved a lot of finding out what's where, and who to talk to—including making connections with the Library and Archives director at EFDSS, and attending the Morris Ring Archive Group (MRAG) at their Annual Representatives Meeting (ARM), to discover what else is going on and how we can work together.

I've started to work with the MRAG on a copyright assignment form that both orgs can use. This is important because we not only collect things in the archive, but we also need to be able to reuse and publish them, so we have to make sure that people who donate to the archive give us the rights to work with the things we receive. I also created a retention policy, which sets out what we do or don't accept into the archive, so we can make sure the content is relevant and meaningful to the Fed and our members.

Part of this policy is deciding what we need to keep in physical form, and what we can digitise. When you realise that the physical archive is spread across boxes and files in various present and former archive officers' houses, you realise that the physical format isn't the most usable either by people who want to see what's in the archive, or by those of us who have to Hoover around it. Probably in the coming year I'll start a digitisation project, so look out for calls to volunteer.

**Graham Lee, July 2025**

**Archive** (to end of December 2024) Just before the end of the year, I collected Persephone's archive. Much of the archive is now boxed up and awaiting decisions on what to do with it. Scanning and digitising of archive material continues as time permits. The Bantamcocks Morrismen's MF publication on their Raglan tradition has just been completed as a searchable pdf document for The Morris Federation website.

**Mike Everett July 2025**

## f) Notation Officer

Perhaps unsurprisingly, it's been another quiet year for the Notation officer role, per se. With the, much to be welcomed, increase in the number and quality of online resources, has come a commensurate decline in direct queries for written dance notation. Much of the notation we have is therefore becoming of archival, rather than educational, interest and perhaps needs to be increasingly considered in that light.

It would be exciting and useful, therefore, to encourage all member teams to consider depositing a copy of their current dance notation to provide a snapshot of Morris as it was performed in the first quarter of the second millennium! Or perhaps you could provide good quality videos showing your performances? 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. Please contact me if you would like to participate in such an effort.

Also, please take a look at the excellent work being done by Brian to encourage the production of attractive short-form videos as both as publicity (for Morris as a whole, as well as your team in particular) and as an aid to recruitment.

Please note that thanks to a lot of hard work by Dan, the Notation Library has been migrated to the main website and the old links (to [apps.morrisfed.org.uk](https://apps.morrisfed.org.uk)) have been deprecated. Please update your bookmarks (you have bookmarked the Library, haven't you... 😊).

I am also indebted to Eliza for her courteous persistence in asking me to write articles for FedExtra. If you would like your team or dance to be written up (using material from the Notation Library), please feel free to mail me! If your side folds, or splits, 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).

**Jerry West, July 2025**

## g) Events Officer

Since the last report, the first event was The MF Day of Dance and AGM on Saturday 21<sup>st</sup> September 2024 in Cardiff, brilliantly hosted by Cardiff Morris and friends. Again, it was a whole weekend, including a meet and greet on the Friday evening, a ceilidh and a music session on the Saturday evening, and a dance out on the Sunday. Thank you to all the organisers.

The JMO National Day of Dance was held on Saturday 26<sup>th</sup> April 2025 in Stockport, organised by Adlington Morris men on behalf of the Morris Ring. This event was one of the biggest the JMO has run, with over 50 teams attending. It was also very well supported by Stockport, and the dancing spaces were all first rate. <https://www.morrisfed.org.uk/event/jmo-day-of-dance-2025/>

We decided to celebrate our 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary with some regional Days of Dance in 2025:

- 50<sup>th</sup> Day of Dance – Sat 2<sup>nd</sup> March in Armitage, Staffordshire, hosted By Beggars' Oak Clog: <https://www.morrisfed.org.uk/event/morris-federation-50th-regional-day-of-dance-armitage/>
- 50<sup>th</sup> Day of Dance – Sat 19<sup>th</sup> July in Exmouth, hosted by Grimspound Border Morris, with 38 teams booked: <https://www.morrisfed.org.uk/event/morris-federation-50th-regional-day-of-dance-exmouth/>
- 50<sup>th</sup> Day of Dance – Sat 6<sup>th</sup> September in Stoke on Trent, hosted by Domesday Morris: <https://www.morrisfed.org.uk/event/morris-federation-50th-regional-day-of-dance-stoke-on-trent/>
- 50<sup>th</sup> Day of Dance & AGM – Sat 27<sup>th</sup> September in Sheffield, hosted by Sheffield City Morris, Pecsætan Morris and Five Rivers Morris, with 36 teams booked: <https://www.morrisfed.org.uk/event/morris-federation-day-of-dance-and-agm-2025/>

We ran one online event on "Recruitment Ideas and Experiences", on 24<sup>th</sup> November 2024 (a JMO event) <https://www.morrisfed.org.uk/event/jmo-workshop-recruitment-2024/>

In addition, I have developed an Events Survey designed to gather crucial feedback directly from our members regarding their experiences, preferences, and ideas for future gatherings. We plan to send this out soon.

I have also contributed to Copy Editing and Writing, for various Federation communications related to events, ensuring clarity and consistency in our messaging.

This year, I have started advertising MF events on One Dance UK's Events Listings (<https://www.onedanceuk.org/>).

In summary, my biggest enjoyment has been in being a part of the warm, capable and absolutely interesting internal comms of the Morris Fed. Unfortunately, I need to stand down for personal reasons and wish the new appointee every success in their new role.

**Melanie Yates, July 2025**

## h) Marketing Officer

After planning the communications for the 50th Anniversary, James Merryclough had to stand down from the post for personal reasons.

**Pauline Woods-Wilson, July 2025**

## 4.2 Reports from Co-opted Officers & Advisors:

### a) JMO Secretary

Since we last met, I attended Open Morris' AGM online in November, both in my capacity as JMO secretary and as an Individual Member. The Sue Dyke Award, previously run as a creative competition for young people within Morris, will be rebooted this year as an opportunity for young people to be nominated for recognition, and will remain open to all across the JMO who meet the age criterion of 25 or under, or who are being recognised for their work with those in this age category.

In February, I attended the Joint Morris Organisations' with Jen Cox (Open Morris Chair), Pauline Woods-Wilson and Emma (Em) Melville, the (then) Squire-elect of the Morris Ring. Although she hadn't taken over from Nigel Strudwick (see below), it was really quite momentous to have four women together in these positions.

A couple of weeks later I went to the Annual Representatives' Meeting of the Morris Ring - their AGM - in the now-traditional venue of Oak Farm Hotel in Cannock in Staffordshire: it's quite a beautiful venue on the busy A5 Watling Street, just off the M1, that's next to what seems to be the quietest transport depot in the world as I've never seen any movement there! I attended the South Eastern/South Western area reps' meeting in the morning where we discussed some practical steps to recruitment & retention of dancers, followed by the meeting itself, chaired for the final time by Nigel Strudwick, who had spent the first year of his Squireship beset with a shoulder injury following being knocked off his cycle. However, he was really quite brilliant in ensuring the twentieth anniversary dance-out of the Licensing Act in Trafalgar Square last year went off without a hitch; Peter (Cheesy) Austin stood down as Bagman and was succeeded by Rob Ellis of Thaxted Morris Men. That evening during the Feast Nigel danced out and Em Melville danced in and I'm very pleased to be working with her.

The Equality, Diversity & Inclusivity panel has not had much to do this year for a number of reasons, although we had been asked to provide some guidance to the judging criteria of Dancing England Rapper Tournament (DERT). As it turned out, this was largely in line with what they themselves had drafted.

The All-Party Parliamentary Group on Folk Arts seems to have stalled at government level, although this is not too surprising as new governments generally have primary legislation to deal with - the last time I recall there being significant interest in this was at tail end of the previous Labour government in 2009/10.

Having said that, there has been some interest from the Department of Culture, Media & Sport (DCMS) in implementing examples of Intangible Cultural Heritage for each UK nation (allied to the list held by UNESCO): broadly, their plan is to have various activities and practices registered as Living Heritage, with 'hubs' being instituted by groups to encourage others to define what they do. I had made the point at some of the online meetings that it is the very debate, discussion - disagreements, even - which define Morris in England, rather than a fixed idea of 'what Morris is'. We had hoped to be registered as a 'hub' but as there were only twelve countrywide we didn't manage to get in with the first tranche. Maybe next time?! More information should be made public by the DCMS in the autumn.

On a personal-cum-Morris note, I was astonished to receive an email from the DCMS in February, to say that I had been nominated to attend a Royal Garden party in May (Education & Skills section) in recognition of my work in Morris dancing and Hastings Traditional Jack in the Green. To be honest, I thought it was spam and nearly deleted it unread! However, as my husband suggested it was genuine I filled in all the sections, including whether he or I knew of anything about ourselves which might embarrass the Royal Family ... and sent it back and thought little more of it. Until nearly the end of April when I received a formal invitation along with a list of things we must wear (day dress or trouser suit - hat optional; morning dress or lounge suit with tie) but no medals or insignia. More on the day itself in a piece I'll do for a later edition of *FedExtra!*

My thanks to Heather Leech of Hastings Traditional Jack in the Green; Pauline Woods-Wilson of the Morris Federation; Jen Cox of Open Morris - plus anyone else who spent eighteen months planning this!

**Fee Lock, July 2025**

## **b) IT Administrator**

### **IT Activities from the past year**

No major projects have been completed in the past year.

Various Business-as-Usual IT administrative tasks, such as onboarding/offboarding users and managing licenses, have been completed throughout the year.

There were plans to rework CastRound, the voting software used for the AGM, but availability was not sufficient to complete this work.

### **Projects for the coming year:**

#### **Implementation of a document backup solution**

The Morris Federation uses Microsoft 365 to provide email and document management services. Although Microsoft 365 has functions such as cloud storage and a revision history of documents, these functions are not a replacement for a document backup solution.

Further, document history does not provide protection against deliberate attempts to damage data, such as insider, malware or ransomware attacks. A robust backup solution is the only effective way to ensure data preservation in such circumstances.

Various attempts to find cloud backup solutions have taken place in recent years, but, to be frank, we appeared to be too small a customer for the commercial backup solution providers to show any interest.

In the last year or two, newer backup services have come to the market for which the Morris Federation may be a good fit. An IT Project for the coming year will be to identify, cost and (with the Committee's approval) implement a document backup solution for the Morris Federation's Microsoft 365 subscription.

#### **Collaboration spaces for Morris Federation projects**

The Morris Federation often contributes to projects involving external organisations and individuals. Such project groups often need a space to communicate and author documents.

The Morris Federation Microsoft 365 subscription provides such *collaboration spaces* where groups can work on projects, but the capabilities of these spaces and the technical steps to access them are not widely understood.

An IT project for the coming year will be to define a standard *collaboration space* for use on Morris Federations projects, where the collaboration experience is documented to aid users' access and onboarding.

#### **Replacement for Microsoft Publisher**

Microsoft Publisher is used in the production of the quarterly FedExtra magazine. Unfortunately, Microsoft Publisher will reach End-of-Life in October 2026, meaning a replacement desktop publishing tool needs to be identified and procured.

**Daniel Watford, July 2025**

## c) Communications & IT Officer

**Summary:** Work in previous years had focussed on updates to the IT infrastructure, primarily to support digital marketing for Morris federation sides. The work in 2025 comprised making use of the infrastructural developments to maximise digital marketing activities during our 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary.

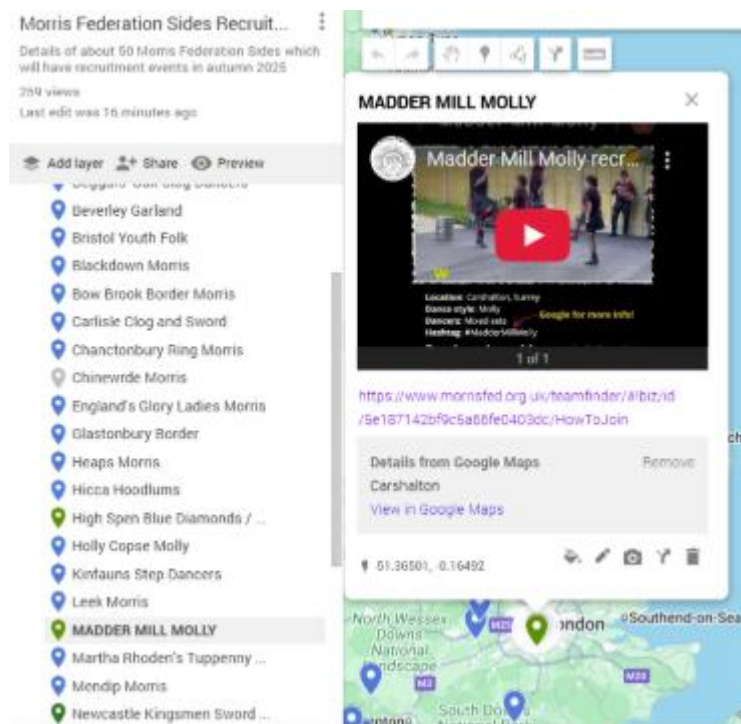
**Weekly Short videos:** Throughout the year a short (30-60 secs) video featuring a Fed sides is posted weekly on the Morris Fed's Facebook, YouTube, Instagram, TikTok and Bluesky accounts (so we can reach people across a range of platforms and observe how they are used – Fb by old people; TikTok by those aged 18-34). The videos can be viewed on the "[50 videos; 50 sides; 50th anniversary](#)" playlist

**Evidence:** The number of followers on the platforms continues to grow, which ensure that video viewing numbers (which conclude with a "Search for #MorrisFedTeamfinder" promotion, aimed at benefiting all sides) grow. At the time of writing (13 Jul 2025) the Madder Mill Molly video has had 15K+ views on Facebook – and has a total viewing time of over 2 days!

**Recruitment videos for autumn 2025:** Based on analysis of the success of the short videos it was realised that the recruitment season starting in autumn 2025 provided a (final?) opportunity to exploit the Federation's 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary for promoting morris and traditional dance generally and support individual side's recruitment activities. We aim to publish 50+ videos which contain a voice-over invited interested viewers to search for the featured side's hashtag to find out how to join the side.

A Google Map showing location of the sides has been created, which includes the recruitment video as well as a link to a 'How To Join' page which is now available on TeamFinder profiles.

The 'How To Join' content appears to be used in AI answers to "How do I Join xxx Morris?" queries. See <https://bit.ly/MF-howtojoin> for examples of how sides are using this page



## Access to Digitised Services

**Third-party Magazines:** We have hosted the [Morris Matters](#) magazine since its launch and [Rattle Up My Boys](#) for 2 years. This year we have enhanced access to the content (all back issues apart from the most recent 2 years) by OCRing back issues, providing searching of the content and also providing citation metadata to issues - try a search for "*Morris Matters 1(1)*" We have also provided hashtags (search for [#MorrisMatter](#) or [#RattleUpMyBoys](#)).

**Recordings of Zoom Talks:** We have released [summaries and a search interface](#) for the majority of video recordings of talks held on Zoom.

**Brian Kelly, July 2025**

## d) Social Media Officer

Since last AGM I created a Morris Fed TikTok account which at the time of writing this has 428 followers. Brian has uploaded his series of videos to celebrate the MF turning 50 on this platform and they are getting hundreds of views. I would like to thank Brian for these brilliant videos as they have been getting lots of well-deserved attention.

I've been scrolling TikTok and finding other morris sides that are on there and reposting their videos when we don't have our own content and these have been getting views in their thousands. On TikTok I've also tried my hand at a popular style of video (for the app) 'a day in the life of' and created 'a day in the life of a morris dancer, festival edition.' I'm not going to lie it didn't turn out how I wished, as it seemed impossible to juggle camping with two small children and dancing, but I'm still pleased with it as an example of what I think other sides should be creating to advertise the fun benefits of being in a morris side!

I did contact a few sides and ask them if they would be happy to film some content for me to stitch together for a video over another festival weekend but unfortunately I didn't have any solid replies, but this may have been a failure on my part for short notice or perhaps they knew they wouldn't have the time to film? So, the question I'm asking myself is, how do we go about posting a wide range of morris content on social media without relying on busy morris sides themselves? Another TikTok video idea I had is to make a series of short educational videos promoting the different style of folk dance to educate the general public that there is more than one style of morris dance.

I've realised that there is a lot of morris activity on Instagram and will explore this more as I know my downfall is I'm personally more comfortable on Facebook, the only thing is with these two platforms is that they just show content to pages that follow you which limits finding the next potential generation of morris dancers unlike TikTok, but they're still great to share information on, which leads me to my next thought... what do our members want to see on our social media accounts? Apart from keeping up to date with Morris Federation news and events what else would our members benefit from? Is sharing team event posters beneficial? (Which I'm happy to do.)

In conclusion, TikTok has been a great hit and I will continue to make content for it, Instagram is a hive of morris activity when you know where to look and I wish to encourage other sides to post content of their sides, not only just dancing but the 'behind the scenes' so to speak and other social occasions to show that morris dancing is much more than just dancing! And lastly to I encourage people to contact me with any suggests for what they would like to see on our social media accounts.

**Lucy Grainger, July 2025**

## e) Keeper of the Bells

You will all be aware of the problems we have had, and are still having, purchasing the bells from the manufacturer.

We were able to get some 1 inch & 1 1/8-inch nickel plate bells recently & also 7/8-inch size bells in both nickel plate & brass so at the moment we have plenty of those.

We have no idea when, or if, we will be able to get the popular 1-inch Brass bells.

The 50th Anniversary of the Morris Federation Badges are selling well but still have a lot of each colour.

We also recently re stocked up on the Leather badges.

New Badges .... Morris For All also available to order.

All Badges, Bells & other Merchandise can be purchased through the Morris Federation Website

### **Lin Steel, July 2025**

## f) Equality, Diversity and Inclusion

Following on from the work of the JMO EDI group on the subject of Morris songs during 2023, the paper "Survey of Morris Teams' Views on the Use of Songs in Public Performance" was published in Morris Matters, volume 44, number 1, in January 2025

Another item brought to the attention of the group was judges' feedback in competitions, particularly DERT. In particular, concern was raised by several separate instances of inappropriate written feedback of a sexist or otherwise derogatory nature over the last few years. A guidance document was drafted by the group and sent to the DERT Steering Committee in March 2025 for circulation amongst the judges for the competition in April. The EDI group plan to liaise with the DERT Steering Committee about the document's reception and impact and to continue to work on drafting guidance that can be made available to judges and organisers of folk dance competitions more generally.

In an effort to make the JMO and individual Morris Organisations' positions on inclusivity clear in the current political climate, as well as to aid in recruitment to the dance form, a pin badge was designed and commissioned by the EDI group with the slogan "Morris For All" over the background of the flag commonly known as the Progress Pride flag. These are due to arrive in early August 2025 and begin being sold by the three organisations at festivals over the summer. Discussions are in progress about a press release and promotional campaign using the design accross online platforms.

The JMO EDI group comprises Liz Scholey (Open), Jen Cox (Open), Paul Redhead (Ring), Matthew Turvey (Ring), Roary Neat (Fed), Pauline Woods-Wilson (Fed) and Fee Lock (JMO).

In addition to the above work with the JMO EDI group, changes were made in December 2024 to the Teamfinder section of the Morris Federation website to use more inclusive and non-gendered language

### **Roary Neat, July 2025**

## g) Special Projects Officers

This year has been especially busy, having taken back up the job of Treasurer pro tem. Many thanks to Drew for dealing with all the membership renewals and keeping up with member queries, plus a host of other bits and bobs that arrived in the Treasurer's inbox.

I have also been a part of the 50th Anniversary AGM and Day of Dance group, and have booked the committee AGM accommodation. (No mean feat to find suitable premises for 21 of us!)

I represented The Morris Federation at the Beggar's Oak Day of Let's Dance at Armitage and at the JMO weekend in Stockport, again finding and booking the committee accommodation.

See also, report under Projects - Arts Council England Grant "Old Dances, New People, New Age".

### **Jenny Everett, July 2025**

I have been a member of the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary AGM and Day of Dance organising group with representatives of Five Rivers Morris, Pecsatan Morris and Sheffield City Morris.

I represented The Morris Federation at the Beggar's Oak Day of Let's Dance at Armitage and at the JMO weekend in Stockport, photographing all the sides as well as dancing there with Maltby Sword Dancers. At DERT in Peterborough I also photographed all the dance sides and I sold a few copies of Rhett Krause's book Rapper Sword Dance In America, which is still available for just £30 with all the money from each sale going to buy rapper swords for The Morris Federation's schools projects.

### **Mike Everett, July 2025**

## **h) Health & Safety Advisor**

A fairly quiet year, I am glad to say, with only a few requests for advice and guidance, on a range of topics including maypole dancing, fire risk assessment and first aid training.

One unusual issue that arose is worth mentioning. A member of the public was slightly injured while willingly participating in a dance. The individual then involved the police, alleging that they had been assaulted. The police took statements from the dancers involved, then informed the team that no further action would be taken. The lesson to be learned from this incident, apart from the obvious importance of taking sensible steps to prevent similar issues happening, is to make a thorough record of any such incidents. As well as being useful in the unlikely event of the police being involved, it would be required by the insurance company if a claim was made.

### **Sally Wearing, July 2025**

## **4.3 Projects - reports from others working on projects or in receipt of funding:**

### **a) Arts Council England Grant "Old Dances, New People, New Age"**

This project aimed to take morris dancing into 18 primary schools in 3 levelling up areas to teach 30 students the basics of morris and encourage them to develop their own creative ideas using local information or other dance forms. Last year I reported on the first 2 areas involved. I am very pleased to report that the experience in the remaining area was just as positive. All the children enjoyed the sessions and we were all treated to an exciting showcase on the school playing fields in the sunshine. Several schools have retained the bags for an extended period, for further work with the children.

Having completed the final reports we applied for the remainder of the grant which has been duly paid. We couldn't have done it without the help of the following people:

Esther Ferry-Kennington, Barry Goodman, Sally Smith, Jenny Everett, Pauline Woods-Wilson and our expert Tutors headed up by Sarah Matthews and Damien Barber.

We have sold one kitbag to a Morris Federation member for use with a youth group, so The Morris Federation now has 17 kitbags each containing hankies, sticks and bells and 6 longsword bags each for a class of 30, available for loan to the membership for school projects.

We are currently in the process of applying for another grant to do it all again, hopefully in 2026.

Finalised accounts are attached below and I hope that you agree that this was a good use of The Morris Federation's money.

<b>ACE project - Old Dances, New dancers, New Age</b>				
	<b>ACTUAL TO 30/5/24</b>	<b>ACTUAL 1/6/24 TO 27/2/25</b>	<b>END OF PROJECT TOTAL</b>	<b>ORIGINAL BUDGET</b>
<b>INCOME</b>				
balance from education account	£469.14	£0.00	£469.14	<i>£469.14</i>
agreed spend from general account	£3,500.00	£0.00	£3,500.00	<i>£3,500.00</i>
Lancashire Encounter	£2,000.00	£0.00	£2,000.00	<i>£1,500.00</i>
Lancashire Encounter (NW Fusion project)	£3,000.00	£0.00	£3,000.00	<i>£0.00</i>
ACE grant (95%)	£25,611.00	£2,846.00	£28,457.00	<i>£28,457.00</i>
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>£34,580.14</b>	<b>£2,846.00</b>	<b>£37,426.14</b>	<b>£33,926.14</b>
<b>EXPENDITURE</b>				
videos	£2,000.00	£0.00	£2,000.00	<i>£1,950.00</i>
Buzzing Britain schools' scheme of work	£2,000.00	£0.00	£2,000.00	<i>£1,250.00</i>
kit bags	£3,331.96	£5.99	£3,337.95	<i>£4,032.00</i>
project leadership, teaching	£16,400.00	£2,916.98	£19,316.98	<i>£19,200.00</i>
teachers' expenses	£67.20	£1,419.45	£1,486.65	<i>£1,425.00</i>
volunteers' expenses	£0.00	£1,096.95	£1,096.95	<i>£1,050.00</i>
showcase schools' transport	£0.00	£2,790.00	£2,790.00	<i>£2,700.00</i>
showcase technicians and artistes	£0.00	£2,250.00	£2,250.00	<i>£0.00</i>
venue hire	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	<i>£600.00</i>
NW Fusion Project	£3,000.00	£0.00	£3,000.00	<i>£0.00</i>
PR and contingency	£0.00	£101.35	£101.35	<i>£1,250.00</i>
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>£26,799.16</b>	<b>£10,580.72</b>	<b>£37,379.88</b>	<b>£33,457.00</b>

**Balance at end of project £46.26.**

#### **EDUCATION FUND**

The balance of the Education fund (including the £46.26 remaining at the end of the project) now stands at £415.28, due to continuing income from CD sales (£99) and a donation from the Step Back foundation (£270.02).

#### **RAPPER IN SCHOOLS FUND**

This is a new designated fund set up to receive funds from the sales of the Rapper Sword Dance in America book, kindly donated by its author Rhett Krause. This fund currently stands at £210.

**Jenny Everett, Special Projects, July 2025**

## b) Book: "You'll never stop it!" The Morris Federation: The First 25 years (1975-1999)

Having completed the text, we have been concentrating on selecting photographs and other illustrations. This stage is nearing completion, and we are working out how to get all the photographs and other materials scanned. We are also discussing with both MF's committee and a designer how to publish the book.

**Sally Wearing, Val Parker & Shirley Dixon, July 2025**

## c) 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary (2000-2025) Book and CD

Progress on the book, The Morris Federation 2000-2025 the second quarter century, has, for various reasons, almost ground to a halt. A few more photographs have been sourced for inclusion. There has been some discussion as to whether we need to produce a printed copy or just to produce an online publication. As always, your views are much appreciated on this and all other morris-related matters.

The CD preparation is complete and is with the record company at the time of writing this report. Hopefully the CD will be launched at the AGM. As with the 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary CD, it will again be a double album with about 90 minutes of total play time. Thank you to all of you who suggested, offered and recorded tracks for inclusion. Extended sleeve notes will be available on The Morris Federation website.

**Mike Everett, July 2025**

## d) Morris Dance Database (Mddb)

Since the Database first went public back in 2018, it has continued to expand and be visited both by members of Morris sides and the general public, with over 10,000 viewings in the last 9 months. There has also been an increasing number of enquiries from the general public, usually about booking a Morris side, and I have always directed the person enquiring to appropriate active sides

As a result of an email circulated to all Federation sides, Sharon Hutchings from Enigma Border Morris has now joined me and webmaster Anahata in administering the Morris Dance Database. She has already produced a new logo for the database and set up a Facebook page. She will be taking on greater responsibility as I adopt a more advisory role.

There are now nearly 1000 active sides listed world-wide, with 761 at the last count in the UK, and over 500 listed as ceased. Very recently, links have been added to the database showing maps of the location of known Morris sides Teams performing Cotswold and/or Border make up nearly two-thirds of the active teams in the UK. This is also reflected in the 4,594 dances listed, with over 2,200 Cotswold dances and half that number of Border dances compared with about 450 North-West and 134 Molly. With Cotswold style dances some 1855 are described as new, with 1132 new Border style dances. Even Northwest and Molly styles have significantly more new dances than traditionally collected. Another recent tweak to the database has enabled a search of dances by 'old' or 'new' tradition, and, within a list of dances in a specific 'old' tradition (e.g. Bledington), the facility to sort dances as old' (originally collected) or 'new' (in the style of). There is the possibility that essentially the same dance may be listed under two or more different names, or that more than one very different choreography may exist for a dance with a specific name and tradition, an example of which recently came to light in a query by Braggarts Morris (USA) about Bledington-style British Grenadiers.

The website has never published dance notation, but many sides do now include a video link to a performance of their dances. It is recommended that sides do make use of the facility on the website to include brief details about where or from whom information about their dance notation (for their own dances particularly) can be found. This would be of great help to anyone researching new dances in the future! Sides generally keep photographic & other documentary records of their activities, and it is important that such archive material is not lost if the team should cease to exist. There is the facility on the database to indicate where team archives are kept - whether in a county records office or elsewhere.

In setting up the database it was hoped that all sides would set up a team editor who would keep the information for their side up to date. Although the number of team editors is slowly growing, it is still less than 50%. of all active sides I would encourage all sides to have a team editor; no great computer skills are needed – just someone who can find their way around a fairly straightforward website and interact accordingly. I would also remind those sides with a Team Editor to check their entry on the database and update accordingly – particularly if there is a change in website or other social media contact.

Once again, I would like to thank the Morris Federation for its continued sponsorship of the Morris Dance Database.

**Colin Andrews, July 2025**

### e) Voices of Morris Project

The initial phase of the Voices of Morris (VoM) project is complete, with interviews completed and digitised resources delivered to the Morris Federation. The next phase, providing access to the resources started in August 2025.

**Brian Kelly, July 2025**

## 5 MOTIONS – None

No Motions have been received.

## 6 DISCUSSION – First Aid Workshops

One discussion item has been received, from: Owain Boorman (Clausentum Morris):

### **Discussion**

To look at the possibility and feasibility for the Morris Federation, or JMO, to host basic First Aid Workshops as either part of an AGM or a Winter Workshop. With sides generally getting older, the likelihood of someone requiring First Aid either at practice or a dance out increases. The more people who are First Aid trained the better.

## 7 ELECTION OF COMMITTEE

(See following pages.)

## 7.1 President

This is a 3-year post starting 1<sup>st</sup> January 2026. This post is currently held by Pauline Woods-Wilson who is willing to stand again. No other nominations have been received.



<b>Committee Post:</b>	<b>President</b>
<b>Name of Nominee:</b>	<b>Pauline Woods-Wilson</b>
<b>Proposed by (Member)*:</b>	<b>Downes-on-Tour Morris</b>
<b>Seconded by (Member)*:</b>	<b>Rivington Morris</b>

Please state what skills, knowledge & experience you have that support your application for this post:

I have been President of the MF for the last 5.5 years, since 1<sup>st</sup> January 2020. During this time, I have drawn on much experience gained from my working days - most recently as Head of IT Project Management at Lancaster University - from provision of information content, to running events, to technical setups, finance and budgeting, management, and project management. This prior experience has come in really useful.

Below are some of my achievements so far - with the support of the Committee of course:

- Information & Guidance - Team Public Liability Insurance documents and older Publications put online, 2 new digital publications, and the old Members Manual updated and put online in a new 'For Teams' area. Increased communication with the membership.
- Events - Ran online workshops and talks to keep the morris community engaged and entertained during the covid lockdowns in 2020-2021. These have run for a few years now. Additional Days of Dance for the JMO 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary in 2023 and the MF 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary in 2025.
- Constitution - Worked with the JMO and brought a vote to our membership on full face black makeup in 2020. Brought in our new constitution in 2023.
- External funding for Youth project - Our first Arts Council England grant delivered teaching morris in 18 primary schools in 2024.
- Networking with other organisations - Developed good working relationships, and well as lasting friendships, across Open Morris, the Morris Ring, and EFDSS.

What I would like to do next is to embed Youth projects into a rolling annual programme.

Please state what other skills, knowledge & experience you can bring to the Committee as a whole:

I love working in a team environment, making a positive difference, and am very much a team player.

My morris 'career' started at the age of 19, and I have been a member of a fine array of teams, starting with Cotswold, moving on to North West, with a dash of Rapper and Border thrown in.

I am supported by my very patient partner, Dennis Taylor, a morris musician, ceilidh band musician and caller, ex-dancer and foreman. Without his support I would not have been able to dedicate so much time to the Morris Federation.

## 7.2 Treasurer

This is a 1-year post starting 1<sup>st</sup> January 2026. This post is currently vacant. Two nominations have been received.

### First Nomination



<b>Committee Post:</b>	<b>Treasurer</b>
<b>Name of Nominee:</b>	<b>Peter Celi-Stamp</b>
<b>Proposed by (Member)*:</b>	<b>Seven Champions Molly Dancers</b>
<b>Seconded by (Member)*:</b>	<b>Steampunk Morris</b>
Please state what skills, knowledge & experience you have that support your application for this post:	
<p>I am an experienced dancer, having danced since I was a child, and have a wide knowledge of Morris Dancing. I have taken on treasurer and other officer roles in Morris sides and other organisations previously and as an Engineer by trade have good maths and spreadsheet skills.</p> <p><a href="#">Supplementary statement regarding experience with preparing accounts, as well as setting and managing budgets:</a></p> <p>I held my first position as Treasurer as a teenager for a town council Youth Forum, which allowed me control (with councillor support and committee authorisation) of the allocated budget for the Youth Forum and sign-off on spending. I went on to become Chairperson for the Forum and successfully provided input and the ‘young-person’s view on major town planning projects for both the local and county councils.</p> <p>Following training as an Engineering Officer in the Merchant Navy I sailed for 10 years organising a team of crew and purchasing spares and tools based on an allocated budget. Moving ashore to start a family, I took post as an Engineering Manager in the leisure and tourism industry where I managed budgets ranging from £10,000 to £300,000 per annum.</p> <p>Moving back to the maritime industry as a Ship’s Superintendent, I oversaw the running of a fleet of 11 ships with a budget of £500,000 per annum per vessel, reporting to board level on vessel updates and budgetary control. Moving to work in the public sector, I managed the technical aspects of a major UK river ferry service, and in my current role working for a charity I hold budget control of a Facilities and Estates of £2.1M. Throughout my career I worked closely with my finance teams to track and sign off budgets, forecasts, and spending reviews.</p>	
Please state what other skills, knowledge & experience you can bring to the Committee as a whole:	
<p>Through my Morris life so far I have danced with, or been involved with, multiple sides performing across most styles of Morris, performing at most of the biggest folk festivals across the country.</p> <p>Outside of my Morris life, I am a Chartered Manager with leadership, managerial, and teamworking skills, and comfortable representing companies, organisations, or in this case the Morris Federation, at events.</p>	

## Second Nomination



<b>Committee Post:</b>	<b>Treasurer</b>
<b>Name of Nominee:</b>	<b>Angela Burgess</b>
<b>Proposed by (Member)*:</b>	<b>Frome Valley Morris</b>
<b>Seconded by (Member)*:</b>	<b>HOBOS Morris</b>

Please state what skills, knowledge & experience you have that support your application for this post:

I am a retired Professional Engineer. Throughout my career, I have worked with maths to solve problems and analyse results using hand calculations, spreadsheets, and computers programs. Over my working life I have used many different systems and databases.

Whilst working, I was a tutor for both GCSE and A-level maths.

I have a good sense of numbers; tend to count everything and prefer number puzzles to word puzzles. I use spreadsheets for many things; from calculations and family budgeting to planning holidays, I have an eye for detail whether that is in a dance or in a spreadsheet.

[Supplementary statement regarding experience with preparing accounts, as well as setting and managing budgets:](#)

[Preparing accounts:](#) I have prepared annual accounts for rental properties since 2002, and as treasurer of Frome Valley Morris prepared the accounts for the AGMs.

[Setting budgets:](#) I have not been responsible for setting overall organisational budgets.

[Managing budgets:](#) With a PhD and as a member of IMechE, the majority of my responsibilities at work were on the technical side, providing the technical benefit part of the "cost/benefit" analysis for the military. However, I did provide estimates for my wide range of projects (sometimes a team of experts was required) and I was responsible for managing my budgets in order to deliver on time and to budget. Later, for a commercial company, I was responsible for developing and managing risk registers for some projects, which included identifying the financial impact should any of the risks occur, and any costs associated with mitigation actions.

[I also manage our home budget.](#)

Please state what other skills, knowledge & experience you can bring to the Committee as a whole:

I have always loved dancing, performing and choreography – during the covid lockdown period I worked with others in the team to create ‘covid safe’ 3 person variants of existing Morris dances. I have danced and performed in various styles over many years. I started Morris dancing when I moved down to Portland over 40 years ago, and have taken on the roles of Treasurer, Foreman, and Squire at various times.

Other activities have included tower and hand bell change ringing – this is where I learnt to watch all participants and keep them (and myself) in the right place at the right time. For many years I was the tower captain in my local tower. We arranged the successful re-hanging of the church bells which included managing the finances and arranging loans from ringers and parishioners.

I am adaptable, and quick to learn. I have undertaken various voluntary roles including parent school governor; member of a local medical ethics committee; lead first aider for my local rugby club; and St John volunteer vaccinator during Covid – all of which required me to quickly grasp and understand new concepts.

### 7.3 Membership Communications Officer

This is a 3-year post starting 1<sup>st</sup> January 2026. This post is currently held by Eliza Russell who is willing to stand again. No other nominations have been received.



<b>Committee Post:</b>	<b>Membership Communications Officer</b>
<b>Name of Nominee:</b>	<b>Eliza Russell</b>
<b>Proposed by (Member)*:</b>	<b>Worthing Larks</b>
<b>Seconded by (Member)*:</b>	<b>Knights of King Ina</b>

**Please state what skills, knowledge & experience you have that support your application for this post:**

- I have been in this role since being elected for a 2-year term at the 2023 Morris Federation AGM, so know my way around the job, how to complete the required tasks, and enjoy doing it!
- I have experience in using Publisher and design software to create eye-catching publications, and before I was Member Comms for the Morris Federation, I ran the advertising side of operations for a local rat rescue.
- I have a BTEC in art and design, am always creating something, and am keen to continue channelling my creative energy into producing eye-catching and interesting editions of FedExtra, having been a fan of the publication for a number of years prior to taking on the editing of it myself.
- I have experience with running and editing websites, as I currently run the website for Worthing Larks, as well as occasionally updating the Morris Federation’s website with the recent web news, am an avid social media user and self-proclaimed technology junkie.
- I grew up with morris dancing and have been involved in various forms of morris since the age of 3. I am now in my 28<sup>th</sup> year of morris, am both Foreman and Squire of Worthing Larks, and currently am a member of four different morris teams.

I believe I have already proven myself to be effective at this role and would very much like to continue carrying it out for another three years!

**Please state what other skills, knowledge & experience you can bring to the Committee as a whole:**

I have worked with the committee now for two years and have very much enjoyed my time as part of the team. I consider myself to be the creative committee member, and have so far designed the 2024 Christmas card, a thank you card, and the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary badges for the Fed since January of 2024. I have an eye for detail and have taken the FedExtra back to a more traditional magazine style format, with an eye-catching colour palette, as well as boosting the length of each edition to 40 pages.

I believe I bring passion and enthusiasm to the Committee. Having been raised with morris since 1997 at the age of 3, I believe I have a unique perspective of the tradition which is, sadly, fairly uncommon within the morris community at present, with many folks turning to folk arts later in life rather than experiencing it from the inside during childhood as I did. I have been involved with morris in various forms, including Cotswold, Border, North West, and jig dancer, as a Squire, a Foreman, Musical coordinator, Webmaster and as a musician (not all at once!) for the last 28 years, and would like to continue giving back to the morris community by putting my love of everything morris to good use. I have been an officer in, and sat on the committee of, two morris sides in my time, and continue to run my local team.

## 7.4 Events Officer

This is a 3-year post starting 1<sup>st</sup> January 2026. This post is currently vacant. One nomination has been received.



<b>Committee Post:</b>	<b>Events Officer</b>
<b>Name of Nominee:</b>	<b>Rob Tidy</b>
<b>Proposed by (Member)*:</b>	<b>Adlington Morris Men</b>
<b>Seconded by (Member)*:</b>	<b>Roots Morris</b>
Please state what skills, knowledge & experience you have that support your application for this post:	
<p>Shortly after accidentally joining Adlington Morris Men in 2019, I quickly took on the role of Bagman and have been organising the side, along with its danceouts, Days of Dance and tours with other sides both locally and further afield since. In 2024, I started Roots Morris – a Cotswold side in Manchester – for whom I currently act in almost every conceivable role, further demonstrating my commitment, stamina, and enthusiasm for organising and growing Morris activity.</p> <p>Most recently, I led the organisation of the JMO Day of Dance 2025 in Stockport – an event involving over 60 sides, local councils, businesses, community groups, and even national media. I also secured a significant amount of external funding to help make it happen. Despite the scale of the task, it was – perversely – great fun. The experience gave me valuable insight into managing large-scale Morris events and working with multiple stakeholders – experience I’d bring directly to the Events Officer role.</p> <p>Outside of Morris, I lead the Maths department in a secondary school: strategic planning, communication, team-working and organisation skills are essential, along with unending patience – characteristics that I hope to bring to the Fed Events Officer role.</p>	
Please state what other skills, knowledge & experience you can bring to the Committee as a whole:	
<p>Morris forms the backbone of my social life – the warmth, humour and generosity of our community continues to amaze me. I’d love to give something back on a national level. Events are a massive part of what Morris is about – they allow us to come together, put on a great show, and engage with our audience.</p> <p>I dance Cotswold with both Adlington and Roots, perform in a number of Mummers plays, and have also dabbled in teaching Northwest to teenagers – seeing them perform in full kit and hold their own with established sides was a proud moment. I’m particularly interested in helping Morris grow its appeal and profile - finding ways to engage new audiences and keep the tradition vibrant and relevant.</p>	

## 7.5 Marketing Officer

This is a 2-year post starting 1<sup>st</sup> January 2026. This post is currently vacant. One nomination has been received.



<b>Committee Post:</b>	<b>Marketing Officer</b>
<b>Name of Nominee:</b>	<b>Helena Painting</b>
<b>Proposed by (Member)*:</b>	<b>Pilgrim Morris</b>
<b>Seconded by (Member)*:</b>	<b>Mabel Gubbins Rapper</b>
Please state what skills, knowledge & experience you have that support your application for this post:	
<p>I bring a broad range of relevant skills and experience, drawn from both my professional life and volunteer experience in the folk world:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>* web development and content creation</li> <li>* managing social media profiles</li> <li>* graphic design and branding</li> <li>* recruitment campaigns</li> <li>* writing communications and reports</li> <li>* data analysis and presentation of findings</li> </ul> <p>These skills are complemented by my commitment and enthusiasm for the morris world. I believe that morris still gets a lot of underserved negative press and am keen to play a role in changing the narrative.</p>	
Please state what other skills, knowledge & experience you can bring to the Committee as a whole:	
<p>In my previous professional life, I have worked across a range of multidisciplinary teams. I am proactive and a good problem solver with a broad range of technical skills.</p>	

## 8 NOMINATIONS: HONORARY LIFE MEMBERSHIP, OR FRIEND, OF THE MF

*Honorary Life Membership is intended for an individual within the Morris Federation community, and gives the same benefits as Individual Membership. Friend is intended for an individual or organisation outside the Morris Federation community. A list of honorary life members and friends may be found at:*

<https://www.morrisfed.org.uk/about/honorary/>.

(See following pages.)

## 8.1 Honorary Life Membership – Melanie Barber



<b>Nomination for:</b>	<b>Honorary Life Membership</b>
<b>Name of Nominee:</b>	<b>Melanie Barber</b>
<b>Proposed by (Member)*:</b>	MF Committee
<b>Seconded by (Member 1)*:</b>	Rivington Morris
<b>Seconded by (Member 2)*:</b>	Silkstone Greens
<b>Seconded by (Member 3)*:</b>	Whip The Cat
<b>Seconded by (Member 4)*:</b>	Martha Rhoden's Tuppenny Dish
<b>Seconded by (Member 5)*:</b>	The Shropshire Bedlams

Melanie Barber was President of the Morris Federation for 6 years (2014-2019).

She brought several years of experience of organising large-scale events (having been an integral member of the committee of Whitby Folk Week and professionally in the Civil Service) to the Federation and was able to see the extensive and broad nature of the make-up of the Federation. She was extremely committed and pro-active, and as a step dancer of several years' standing had an eagle-eyed view of the standards of dance.

During her time in office she:

- was heavily involved during the early criticism of “black-face” morris teams, presenting a calm and respectful face of the Morris Federation throughout. It is no exaggeration to say some of the views expressed at the time were extremely unpleasant and distressing to read.
- was instrumental in getting our technology up to date, with a new website and a new membership system, which cut down the vast amount of repetitive inputting.
- brought about a time-limited tenure for Federation officers, employing her experience of management in acknowledging that candidates would be more willing to volunteer in those circumstances.
- introduced our Sponsorship, Grants and Bursaries policy, making further benefits available to members.
- was passionate about inter-Organisation relations and fostered good relations with the Morris Ring and Open Morris, contributing to the close and easy working relationships which we have today. Her photograph, along with Adam Garland (the then Squire of the Morris Ring), and also with Lord Redesdale, at our 40<sup>th</sup> AGM in Bath, courtesy of Mr Wilkins' Shilling, shows the extent of her commitment to the Federation.
- also found time for specific projects of her own – including a digital project on recording dance SCHEDAR (Safeguarding the Cultural Heritage of Dance through Augmented Reality) and organising a weekend workshop on Mastering Performance.

## 8.2 Honorary Life Membership – Michael Heaney



<b>Nomination for:</b>	<b>Honorary Life Membership</b>
<b>Name of Nominee:</b>	<b>Michael Heaney</b>
<b>Proposed by (Member)*:</b>	MF Committee
<b>Seconded by (Member 1)*:</b>	Eynsham Morris
<b>Seconded by (Member 2)*:</b>	Adlington Morris Men
<b>Seconded by (Member 3)*:</b>	Berkshire Bedlam
<b>Seconded by (Member 4)*:</b>	Jackstraws Morris
<b>Seconded by (Member 5)*:</b>	Sally Wearing

Mike Heaney is perhaps best known to members of the Morris Federation as a musician for Eynsham Morris and for his work on the history of morris dancing and his championing of the Oxford antiquary Percy Manning. Many of you will have seen Mike's online talk for the Morris Federation in April 2023, *More morris than you can shake a stick (or handkerchief) at*.

Mike's interest in morris started after he moved to Oxford in 1970. He joined Oxford City Morris in 1976, having been inspired, as so many were back then, partly after watching a performance by Gloucester Old Spot, at Bampton the previous year.

Knowing he had an academic background, Oxford City asked Mike to "bring the side history up to date". Mike later said "So I started digging and never stopped. In the end, I produced 11 volumes for Oxford City, bringing the history up to 1982. ... I've always been one for digging down to the roots of things, and I'd got the bug [to pursue my research into the morris]." Mike's professional career was spent at the Bodleian Library in Oxford which meant that he was ideally placed to conduct research into the topics that interested him: morris, Slavic languages (his degree subject) and cryptozoology (the study of legendary animals).

Moving to Eynsham in the early 1980s Mike joined the revived village side as a dancer until his knees gave out and has been a musician for them ever since.

Combining his professional and social interests, Mike produced *An introductory bibliography on Morris Dancing* (EFDSS, 1985) the first modern catalogue of published works on morris dancing. There were 173 references, extended to 188 in a 1990 addendum! For those of us interested in the history of the morris, this was an invaluable resource, bringing together for the first time an up to date list of publications likely to be of interest. Of course, this was before the Internet as we now know it, so getting copies of these documents usually involved the mysteries of Inter-Library Loans from the British Library out-store at Boston Spa. Nonetheless, we now knew that the publications existed and could at least try to find them.

At this time, Mike met up with John Forrest, an American academic who had started researching the early morris a few years beforehand. They agreed to collaborate, and the result was the *Annals of Early Morris* (University of Sheffield, 1991) and companion article *Charting Early Morris* in the *Folk Music Journal* (v6 n2, pp. 169-186). The *Annals* attempted to list all original-source references to morris, and all morris-

dancing events, up to the year 1750. It contained 851 such references, dating the earliest at 1458. In the thirty years since then, this number has nearly doubled at least 1,444 and the earliest reference pushed back to 1448!

Forrest published his magnum opus *The History of Morris Dancing 1458 - 1750* (James Clarke & Co, 1999) and it is essential reading for anyone interested in the cultural transmission of morris and its context in England as seen through the contemporary evidence.

Despite a busy day job, Mike kept up a stream of publications on the morris and its history through the 1980s and 1990s, slowing hardly at all on his appointment as Executive Secretary of the Bodleian Library in the 2000s and captaining the winning team (from the Library) on "University Challenge: the Professionals" (quizmaster Jeremy Paxman) in 2006! Mike is still today an active researcher with an enviable publication record.

But it was only on his retirement in 2012 that Mike was able finally to collate and publish his decades of research. His first work was produced in conjunction with his ex-employer: a full Library catalogue of the Percy Manning Collection and the publication of *Percy Manning: The Man Who Collected Oxfordshire* (Archaeopress, 2017). Manning was a Collector (capital-C) who amassed a huge collection of antiquarian and archeological items (now at the Pitt-Rivers and Ashmolean museums in Oxford) in the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries, and who also conducted research into the folklore and customs of his home county, Oxfordshire, including, of course, morris dancing (at Bampton and elsewhere).

In 2018, Mike was instrumental in the organisation of a two-day conference *The Histories of the Morris in Britain*, held at Cecil Sharp House in conjunction with the Historical Dance Society and the EFDSS, with the support of all three Morris Organisations, and edited the subsequent published proceedings, which are freely available online.

But it had always been Mike's intention to complete his own history of the morris and *The Ancient English Morris Dance* (Archaeopress, 2023) is the result. An astonishing 420 pages of superb research, it covers the morris not as transmission through context (as per Forrest) but as evolution through history "to illuminate the role and significance of the dance itself" (ibid, p. xi). The book is in five parts: Emergence (1448-1569); Contention (1570-1659); Fragmentation (1660-1800); Re-emergence (1801-1899); and Revival (1899-present). We cannot hope to either summarise the contents or do the book justice here, we can only say that it too is essential reading for everyone interested in where the dances forms they enjoy so much came from - though perhaps not in one sitting!

The Committee of the Morris Federation would like to recognise Mike not only for his published works, but also for his quiet support in different ways, his willingness to provide advice and to share his knowledge, and along with the seconders listed below propose that the Morris Federation extend to Michael Heaney its Honorary Life Membership.

### 8.3 Friend of the Morris Federation – Eddie Worrall



<b>Nomination for:</b>	<b>Friend of the Morris Federation</b>
<b>Name of Nominee:</b>	<b>Eddie Worrall</b>
<b>Proposed by (Member)*:</b>	MF Committee
<b>Seconded by (Member 1)*:</b>	Westminster Morris Dancers
<b>Seconded by (Member 2)*:</b>	Belles of London City
<b>Seconded by (Member 3)*:</b>	Chinewrde Morris
<b>Seconded by (Member 4)*:</b>	Three's A Crowd
<b>Seconded by (Member 5)*:</b>	Wakefield Morris

Eddie Worrall's thirty-year dancing career has been wholly within the Morris Ring, would not normally qualify for the status of Friend of the Morris Federation. However, his contribution to supporting the Morris Federation and, by extension the Joint Morris Organisations, has been unparalleled, if virtually invisible. For those administrators amongst us, invisible excellence is what we strive for!

He took over the Squireship of the Morris Ring, making an excellent Squire and stood in Pete Simpson's stead when the latter was diagnosed with a life-altering condition requiring immediate and long-lasting treatment. During that time, he built on Peter Halfpenney's squireship, who brought in women musicians, to alter the constitution to remove the gender of Morris Ring sides, thus permitting women to be members. This meant that many sides who felt their allegiance to the Ring could continue untrammelled.

He has proved a determined and committed scrutineer of the Morris Federation accounts: this is an essential job for all organisations, obviously; however, with the cost of such services generally starting at £500, Eddie's willingness to hold us to account - pun not intended! - for a respectable fraction (the cost of a quality bottle of gin) has proved invaluable. He has also been integral to our understanding of changing legal positions relating to Morris dancing and unincorporated organisations, although always careful to avoid being labelled 'advisor' as, he says, he is not in a position to 'advise' us. His ability to make complex legal issues seem clear and unambiguous is remarkable.

He is a man of exceptional wisdom and intelligence, and we are fortunate to have him as our friend.

*He was the Saddleworth Rushcart jockey in 2011 - picture attached, taken by Duncan Broomhead.*

## 9 DATE(S) OF FUTURE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING(S)

The 2026 AGM will take place on Saturday 26<sup>th</sup> September 2026, hosted by Domesday Morris in Stoke on Trent.

## 10 ANY OTHER BUSINESS

This is usually reserved for urgent business that could not be foreseen at the time the papers were sent out.

## 11 PRESENTATIONS AND VOTES OF THANKS

### 11.1 EFDSS Gold Badge – Pauline Woods-Wilson

This will be taken between Items 1 and 2.

### 11.2 Thank you to the host teams and any other presentations

The host teams will be presented with commemorative badges.

## 12 MEETING CLOSE


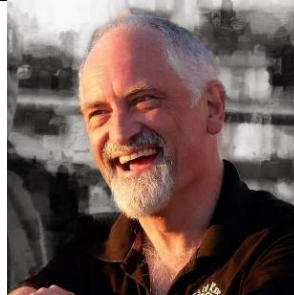

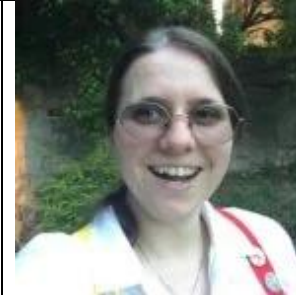




A reminder that the results of votes are embargoed until 20:00, so please don't share anything from the meeting on social media until after then.

The draft minutes will be emailed to member contacts, to be approved at next year's AGM.






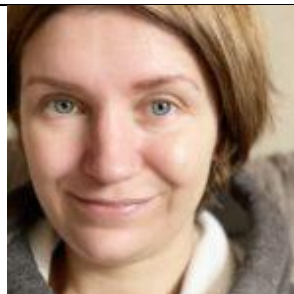
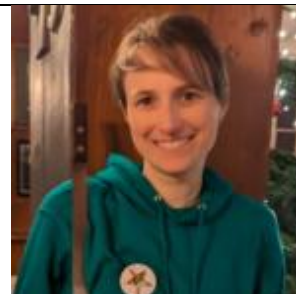

The meeting will be formally closed.

# APPENDIX 1 – WHO’S WHO



## Elected Committee

			
<p><b>Pauline Woods-Wilson</b> President</p>	<p><b>Andrew Knight</b> Secretary</p>	<p><b>Abigail Proctor (was Stephens)</b> Treasurer</p>	<p><b>Eliza Russell</b> Membership Communications</p>
			
<p><b>Jerry West</b> Notation Officer</p>	<p><b>Graham Lee</b> Archive Officer</p>	<p><b>James Merryclough</b> Marketing Officer</p>	<p><b>Melanie Yates</b> Events Officer</p>

## Co-optees

			
<p><b>Fee Lock</b> JMO Secretary</p>	<p><b>Dan Watford</b> IT Administrator</p>	<p><b>Brian Kelly</b> Communications &amp; IT</p>	<p><b>Jenny Everett</b> Special Projects and Treasurer</p>
			
<p><b>Mike Everett</b> Special Projects</p>	<p><b>Lucy Grainger</b> Social Media</p>	<p><b>Roary Neat</b> Equality, Diversity and Inclusion</p>	<p><b>Lin Steel</b> Keeper of the Bells</p>




## Advisors and Key Contacts

			
<p><b>Sally Wearing</b> Health and Safety Advisor</p>	<p><b>Chris Dent</b> JMO Insurance Officer</p>		

## Youth and Education Volunteers

			
<p><b>Esther Ferry-Kennington</b> Youth and Education</p>	<p><b>Barry Goodman</b> Youth and Education</p>	<p><b>Sally Smith</b> Youth and Education</p>	

## Other Volunteers

			
<p><b>Alan Courtney</b> Photography (Dorset Morri'arty)</p>	<p><b>Barry Pitman</b> Photography (@pixelsonapage)</p>	<p><b>Jess Searle</b> AGM support</p>	