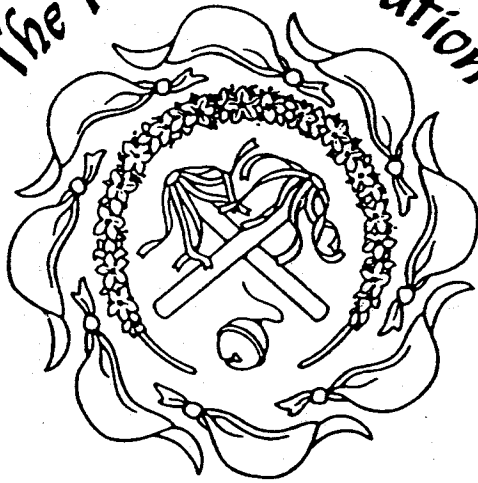
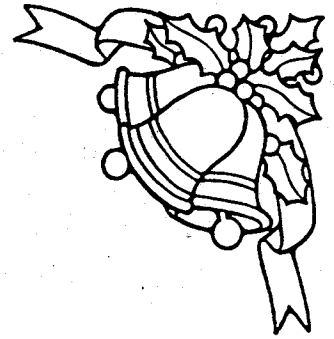
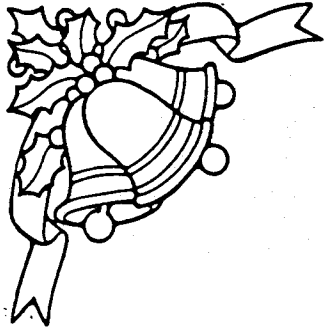


The Morris Federation

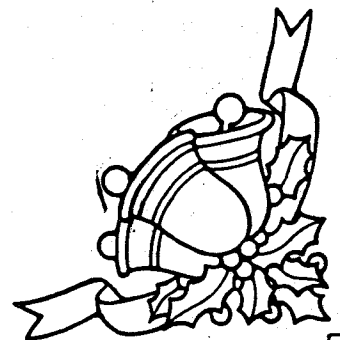
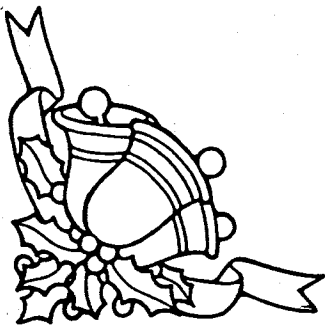


NEWSLETTER



Winter

1993

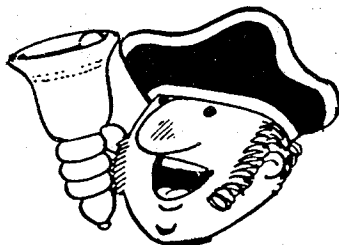


TO ALL BAG(WOMEN), SECRETARIES AND SUCHLIKE

One of the common complaints we get from the average morris dancer in the street is that they know nothing about the Federation and what it is doing. Some don't even know if their side belongs. This usually turns out to be because the person in their club who received the MF communication doesn't pass any of it on.

PLEASE, PLEASE, PLEASE don't be guilty of this. There is no excuse now that we have included a **SUMMARY SHEET**. You can photocopy this and distribute it to all your members. This can save you the time and hassle of verbally telling everyone what is in the Newsletter. However it is not a substitute for handing the Newsletter around or making it available during practice.

Remember **DON'T KEEP THE INFORMATION TO YOURSELF.**



MEMBERS' MANUAL

All members of the Federation should have a copy of the MF Members' Manual. This contains a lot of material that members may need to refer to from time to time. If you have misplaced the free copy sent to you when you joined, a replacement (or additional copies) can be purchased from the MF Secretary at the cost of £3.50 (+ 50p p&p) each.

Cheques payable to The Morris Federation, please.

ADVERTIZING

The Morris Federation will distribute enclosures with the Newsletter or other circulars and items of advertizing relevant to commercial products. A fee is charged to the advertizer for this service. However, this should not be taken to mean that The Morris Federation necessarily endorses the product.

Enquiries concerning any form of advertizing through the Morris Federation should be addresses to the MF Publicity Officer.



CONTENTS

PRESIDENT'S PROLOGUE	2
EDITORIAL	3
FINANCE	3
GENERAL	4
NOTICEBOARD	6
DIARY	8
TECHNICAL	10
MORRIS ARCHIVE GROUP	11
SIDE ISSUES	12
PUBLICITY	13
EVENTS	14
MAY DAY PROTEST	15

ENCLOSURES

Summary Sheet
MF Directory
Diary Fixtures Form
Morris Conference - Booking Form
Publication List
Goods List

COPY DATE for Spring Newsletter - 1st February 1994

Copyright © The Morris Federation 1993. All rights reserved

Newsletter compiled and edited by the Morris Federation Publicity Officer:
Ann Mason 51 Lily Road, Walthamstow, London E17 8HY

President's Prologue

Sally Wearing

Welcome to the Winter Newsletter. Since the last one, the AGM weekend has come and gone. Many thanks to Ripley Green Garters for organising such a great weekend. Somehow they managed to arrange for some of the best weather we have ever had at an AGM, with clear skies and bright sunshine for the massed stand. Not only was the weather good, but so was the dancing - very enjoyable.

It was also pleasing to see such a good turnout for the meeting itself. The discussion on the EFDSS Training Programme was valuable. It's difficult to get feedback from MF members, so the AGM can be a useful way of hearing the views of at least some of the membership.

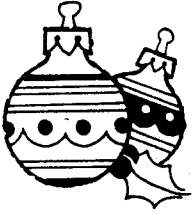
After the AGM, the next big Morris event was the rally for the Campaign for the Preservation of May Day in London on October 23rd (more details of which are elsewhere in this Newsletter). If you weren't there, bad luck, you missed the chance to join hundreds of Morris dancers processing down Whitehall and around Parliament Square, accompanied by dozens of police and photographers.

For me, the highlight was going into Downing Street to deliver the petition to number 10. Can you imagine for assorted Morris Dancers, a young May Queen and a bush (well - a Jack in the Green) posing on the doorstep of number 10 for a battery of photographers? And later the Fabulous Fez Heads performing a sand dance on the plinth of Nelson's Column?

The rest of the weekend, after the rally, was taken up with a committee meeting. Late on the Saturday night Ann Mason and I took a taxi back to her house. Ann had her bells in her bag, which jingled as she got in the car. This started a conversation about Morris with the taxi driver. Within a few minutes we had discovered that he used to dance with Bath City Morris. In fact he (Steve Naylor) remembered me from when I danced with Bath. An odd end to a most agreeable day.

Merry Christmas.





Editorial

Seasons greetings. A compact Newsletter this quarter, with a world exclusive - a photograph of Morris dancers, a Jack in the Green and May Queen outside number 10 Downing Street presenting the Protect May Day petition.

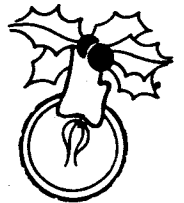
I can't get away from Morris dancers, even on holiday. I went to York for a short break, and, what did I see on walking into the Tourist Office - a poster advertising an "Annual Festival of Traditional Dance" taking place on that day !

Also in this Newsletter, an article about the Morris Archive Group from Sue Swift and a reminder about subscriptions, due by the time you read this. Also please send in your information on money raised for charity with your renewal.

A new annual feature - a list of traditional dance events throughout the year as we are often asked when these are.

A happy new year to you all.

Financial Services



Sue Lawrence

IT'S RENEWAL TIME AGAIN'

Your MF membership and hence your liability insurance run out on December 31st and will only continue without a break if I have received your registration form and subscription before that date. Group membership has been held at £22.00 for the third and probably final year and you'd pay much more than that for insurance alone if you had to arrange your own. As it is you get not only the insurance but also four wonderfully interesting Newsletters, invitations to workshops, the opportunity to buy books, bells or T-shirts and you can seek information from the archive.

GROUP PERSONAL ACCIDENT INSURANCE

The application forms went out with the membership forms a few weeks ago - if you haven't received your package please 'phone me and ask for another lot.

The GPA is quite separate from membership - you can join the scheme or not as you wish; but if you decide to join you must declare the total number of dancers, fools and musicians in your group. January 20th is the deadline for the GPA form - late applications cannot be accepted.

NOTES:

1. Please do not send your forms to me by registered post - it is practically impossible for me to collect them from the post office.
2. I will send out renewal confirmations to group members - if you are worried about your forms getting to me then look out for this and ring me if you haven't had it after 21 days.



Beth Neill

Secretary's scribblings (well, if Sally can have a President's prologue I ought to match it).

This marks the approach of my completing one year in office. There haven't been too many panic calls to Val, more as a result of her very good groundwork in handing on the post than anything else. It's been an interesting, not exactly exhilarating year; I'm starting to notice silly trends like, why do most of the phone calls come on a Monday evening? Is it that people don't get round to it all weekend and then have a sudden burst of panic/enthusiasm?

I've been very impressed at the way so many teams let me know promptly of their change of

officers. So much so that I think this issue will have a bumper address amendments list!

Now the AGM is over, I'll be working on the minor changes needed in the Members Manual and once that's done I'll be able to send the full version to those of you who joined most recently and have had to wait for them. Remember that if you have lost your team copy, then, as mentioned at the front of each Newsletter, you can get another one for £4 (inc. postage).

I am sorry to say we didn't quite reach the 300 mark for the number of teams in MF by the end of the year! Nearly, though.

AGM REPORT



The AGM was held on Sunday 26th September, so well attended that we almost overwhelmed the hospitality of Ripley Green Garters - it wasn't just the hot air, it was the number of people in the room! Representatives from 28 teams were there, together with several individuals and observers from Open Morris and the Morris Ring. The business of amending the Standing Orders to deal with the event of a tie when voting on officers has been resolved by giving the

President the invidious privilege of having the casting vote.

We said formal thank yous to Val Parker for all her years as Secretary by awarding her honorary membership of MF. It was reassuring to see her sitting there in the meeting just in case I forgot what came next! Another part of the meeting went very smoothly: in her absence the Treasurer's report was read out by the President, who

gamedly offered to field questions on it, but no-one took her up on it. For those of you who weren't there, the major item of interest was that we are keeping the subs at the 1993 level.

There were also reports from those officers who are also members of the various satellite groups, namely the Morris Publicity Group, the Morris Archive Group, the Dance Conference and the Joint Organisations. You may wonder how some of them manage to find time for any actual morris dancing - I certainly do!

Most of the meeting was taken up with a lively discussion over a proposal emanating from EFDSS which suggests that there should

be some sort of accreditation or assessment scheme for folk dance skills, and the preliminary details suggest that morris could be included. Our concerns are therefore a) whether this is a good idea, particularly if "standards" are being set (and by whom?) - and b) irrespective of whether it is a good idea or not, if they are going ahead with it, as they seem to be doing (pilot schemes on clog and social dance have been run at festivals this year), should MF - and the other morris organisations - get involved? The consensus seemed to be that we didn't think it was an attractive idea but we should make our views known and offer to get involved if in this way a better scheme will be devised.



Val Parker, MF Secretary for 15 years received life membership of the Federation at the 1993 AGM. Below is her letter of thanks.

16 Evans Grove, St.Albans, Herts. AL4 9PJ (0727) 835635

10th November 1993

Dear Morris Federation,

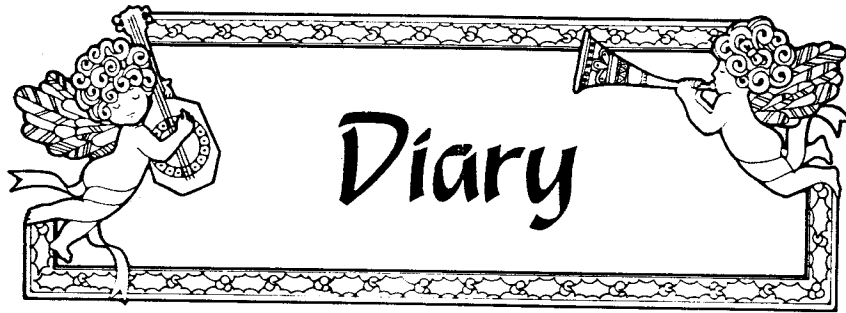
Following all the kind words that were said about me at this last AGM, I thought I had better write to say thank you for electing me an Honorary Life Member.

I found it quite hard to recognise myself from the speech Sally made when recommending me for this undoubted honour. I suppose 15 years does sound like a long stint, but it didn't seem like it at the time. As with anything else in life, one tends do things a step at a time, and it's only when looking back that one realises the length of the dance, as it were!

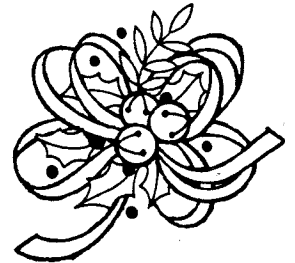
As an erstwhile, rather than a practising, morris dancer, I'm not sure what my future role will turn out to be; but at least I shall be kept in touch, with (free!) Newsletters regularly arriving through my letterbox.

Yours for Life,

Val Parker



Diary



- 3 - 5 Hartshead Morris - Christmas Weekend of Dance
 Owswick Morris - Grassington, with Burnsall Morris
- 8 Magog - "Maypoles to Mistletoe" - Tunbridge Wells
- 11 Ripon City Morris Dancers - Masham Victorian Day
- Hertfordshire Holly - Display for 'Homefarm Trust' Charity, Brookfield Centre, Cheshunt, Herts. - with guests
- 13 - 15 Magog - "Maypoles to Mistletoe" - The Hawth, Crawley
- Boxing Day
- Invicta Morris - The Royal Oak, Shoreham with Tonbridge Morris and 7 Mummers
- Chingford Morrismen - Boxing Day Tour - 12:00, The Angel, Sun St. Waltham Abbey. 12:45, Waltham Abbey Market Square. 1:30, The Duke of Wellington, High Beach.
- Taeppa's Tump - Belgian Arms, Holyport (tbc)
- Frog Island Morris - Black Lion, Southfleet
- Knockhundred Shuttles - Elstead Inn, Elstead Marsh, Midhurst, 12:00
- Three Shires Clog - The Bluebell and the Beehive, Harthill, Sheffield, with Harthill Morris Men



Jackstraws - The Crown, Badshot Lea, Farnham, Surrey, 12:15

New Year's Day

Knockhundred Shuttles - The Crown, Midhurst, 12:00

TRADITIONAL EVENTS - 1994

As the diary in this issue of the Newsletter is only one page, we decided to list some other events that you might be interested in. Some of these are traditional, some are not but might become so one day. If you decide to go to one of these events, particularly the traditional ones, please respect feelings of the people who are taking part. Many of these events mean a lot to the participants, and although they may welcome spectators, those spectators are not the primary reason for the event.

- January 7-9 Whittlesea Straw Bear - Cambridgeshire
- April 2 (Easter Saturday) - Britannia Coconut Dancers - Bacup, Lancashire
30 -
- May 2 Mayday Festival, Hastings
Rochester Sweeps Festival, Kent
30 (Spring Bank Holiday)
Morris Dancing and Garlands - Bampton, Oxfordshire
Morris Dancing - Headington Quarry, Oxfordshire
- June 4 Lamb Ale - Kirtlington, Oxfordshire
25 Morris Dancing - Abram, Lancashire
Wakes Saturday and Morris Dancing - Tideswell, Derbyshire
Election of the Mayor of Ock Street and Morris Dancing - Abingdon, Oxfordshire
- July 2 Wakes Saturday and Morris Dancing - Winster, Derbyshire
- September 12 Horn Dance - Abbots Bromley, Staffordshire
- December 26 (Boxing Day)
Sword Dancers - Handsworth, Sheffield, Yorkshire
Sword Dancers - Grenoside, Sheffield, Yorkshire
Sword Dancers - Flamborough, Humberside
Mummers - Church Crookham, Hampshire
Paper Boys - Marshfield, Avon
Mummers - Headington Quarry, Oxfordshire

Technical Services

Jane Shaw

We're back to business after the summer, and have had some good meetings this quarter:

NOTATION GROUP

If we carry on like this, we'll need to find larger premises. This time, the number attending went up to nine, with two newcomers. These were Gordon Francis (he dances with Rushton Morris, near Taunton), who has volunteered to do a book of Bledington notation, and Andy Anderson, who is working on Border, initially with an Information Series book, which is now in draft form. Although we still have no publication dates, work is progressing on all fronts, so we should produce a lot in the next year or two.

ARCHIVE GROUP

Is anyone interested in doing some indexing for us? No previous experience is necessarily required (I didn't have any!), as we have both professional archivists and enthusiastic amateurs in the group. The work is important because we really need an index of what we have - it would make the Technical Officer's job much easier when members want information on specific topics. We could do with people to help with the work - please phone or write to me for more information.

MAG

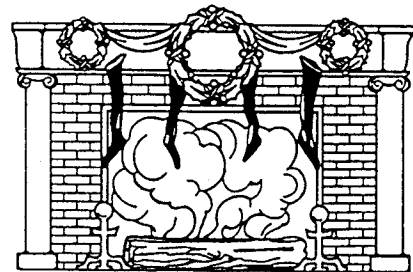
The Morris Archive Group met again in October, and we now have a volunteer to produce a tailor-made database for indexing morris material. Certainly, from our own point of view, it would be good to have the index on computer.

VIDEOS, VIDEOS, VIDEOS

The Morris Federation now has an Archive of nearly 100 Morris videos. Almost half of these are MF workshops. There are also videos of the dancing at all of the AGMs since 1985. The rest of the tapes include individual teams' events and days of dance, plus Morris dancers and competitions at Sidmouth Folk Festival.

Copies of any of the tapes for which MF holds the copyright (eg. workshops and AGMs) are available for sale. They cost £8.00 per tape (including p and p), and can be obtained from Sally (address and 'phone number on back cover).

Plus - please help us build up the archive. We want to increase the number of Sides included, so if you have any good videos of your team or of others - send us a copy. We would also like any examples of Morris shown on TV. So make your contribution to a valuable record of Morris Dancing.



MORRIS ARCHIVE GROUP (MAG)

Sue Swift

The idea for this Group arose in 1990 when members of the relatively new Morris Federation Archive Group found themselves struggling in the depths of developing an indexing system for the MF Archive. The list of keywords was a major problem; for example, was an opinionated letter on mixed Morris listed under OPINIONS - MIXED MORRIS or MIXED MORRIS - OPINIONS (we chose the latter) and thus it seemed reasonable to have ORIGINS - STICKS but not ORIGINS - OF MORRIS (that needed to be HISTORY). The discussions over the use of REVIVAL as a term were among those that were quite lengthy. It seemed a good idea to get together with some other people involved in indexing Morris material and pick their brains.

So in October 1991 MAG held its first meeting at the Vaughan Williams Memorial Library (home of the most extensive collection of Morris material), attended by representatives of all spheres and different aspects of Morris and associated activities. MAG has continued to meet every six months and now has a set of clearly defined aims and objectives which are summarised as follows:

- a. To facilitate research and collection of traditional dance and related customs
- b. To facilitate the safe collection and deposit of archive material relevant to traditional dance and related customs
- c. To move towards a standardisation of procedures for cataloguing and indexing archive material relevant to traditional dance and related customs
by:
 - i. Agreeing on a common thesaurus of keywords from which members may select
 - ii. Agreeing on a common field structure for cataloguing purposes from which members may select
 - iii. Ensuring that members are kept up-to-date with the contents and indexing of individual collections
- d. To act as a forum for interchange of information relevant to the archiving of traditional dance and related customs
- e. To publicise and publish material relevant to the aims of the Group

MAG members are currently working on a number of projects including:

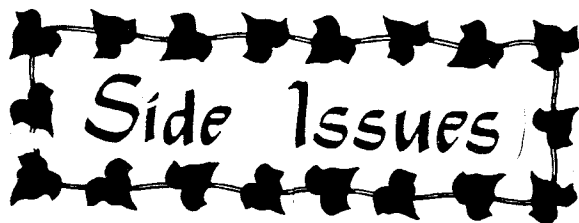
- Guidelines for team archiving
- Guidelines for making bequests to the VWM Library
- Encouraging an update of *The Folk Lore Research Register*
- Computerising the Morris indexes
- Standardising the field names for cataloguing
- Standardising the keywords for indexing

We have looked in detail at the content and indexing of one archival collection at each meeting. During the course of our meetings attention has been drawn to the extensive review of the English Arts Funding System and the future role of the arts, which has recently been published as a document entitled *A creative future - the way forward for the arts, crafts and media in England*. The document includes a section on folk and traditional arts, and another section on archives; the value of both is stressed and the need for more funding and support highlighted. Although the subject may seem dry to some, the document is well worth reading and can be obtained from HMSO booksellers.

Essentially MAG is acting as a group under which the diverse and separate archives and collections can be drawn together in such a way that the exchange of information is possible and accessibility to it improved. In doing this MAG is also acting as a focus for information and the interest of others.

For further information about the activities of the Group please contact:

Sue Swift, 61 Uplands Road, Oadby, Leics. LE2 4NT TEL: 0533 712587



MORRIS DANCERS - SECOND CLASS CITIZENS?

Ruth Dodsworth

It has become increasingly obvious to me that Morris Dancers are treated differently from other performers. This is particularly true when it comes to Folk Festivals. Not all festival organisers are guilty of all the points that I mention, but I am sure that you have sufficient experience to attribute some if not all of them to specific events.

Perhaps it is because we are not professional performers, but then not all fee-commanding performers are, that we are treated different. Like other booked acts, we are asked to make a commitment months in advance, in order to appear on the publicity material. When it arrives, if we are mentioned by name, the spelling is often wrong, or we come under the entry "and lots of Morris Dance Sides" at the bottom of the poster, just after the Punch and Judy.

It is virtually unheard of for a Morris team to get a fee; usually we get festival tickets in lieu (entry to events is subject to space being available - paying ticket holders getting priority) and on one occasion we have been asked to pay for our ticket. Admittedly this was at a reduced cost, but as you are performing you are unable to go to all the events anyway.

We are generally asked to collect for the festival funds. This we do as a matter of course, but I don't see the fee paid-artists going round with a collecting tin.

We have a programme of dance displays organised for us, often without prior consultation. We are asked to adhere to the designated times and venues and we do our best. But why should we dance outside the toilets and next to the wheelie bins? This is not my idea of an ideal dance spot either for the performer or the general public. Do we complain? Not usually!

We entertain the public and try to give of our best performance. We have practised in order to attain certain standards. We are well turned out in a colourful and tidy kit. We spend money in the town, pubs and at the festival stalls. I would suggest that we are a great asset to any festival and yet we allow ourselves to be brow-beaten en masse because we do what the festival organisers say. Why should we be treated like this? It is time to be proud of what we do and gain some respect.

Perhaps it could be a project for the joint organisations of the Morris Federation, the Morris Ring and Open Morris to produce a "Morris Charter". This would give guidelines for anyone organising

a festival to improve conditions for Morris performers as a whole. It could outline basic amenities that they should provide.

Toilet facilities - surely there is some recognised ratio of people to toilets. How many times have you had to queue in order to use a toilet that won't flush or is blocked?

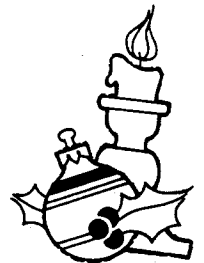
Showers - not always available at festival camp sites but very necessary when dancing over a period of several days.

Car Parking - central to the dance spots. Particularly important when considering musicians carrying instruments and dancers carrying items of kit - sticks, garlands etc. (on one particular day of dance we were given directions to a specific car park. On arrival we were asked to pay a parking fee of £6.20. The local team had parked in an alternative car park for £1.80!)

I am sure that if we pooled our experiences, we could easily devise a "Charter", to help those organisers who need some guidance in Morris management and also for the sake of ourselves.

EDITOR'S COMMENT:

So, what do other Sides think? Have you had similar experiences or is your Side assertive and articulate? One idea would be to inform the organisers before the event in writing, of your expectations; you then have grounds for complaint if things are not to your liking. Many organisers would probably welcome some guidance on matters such as dance surface. You could also consider not returning to events that you have been unhappy dancing at. If Sides are interested, the Federation could produce a leaflet for you to send with booking forms highlighting some of these issues. Please send me your comments.



Ann Mason

MORRIS PUBLICATION GROUP

This is going great guns and we now have a pilot video ready to send out to schools.

Those of you who have expressed interest in the Group will be contacted in the near future as your names have been passed on to Carolyn Robson, EFDSS Education Officer.

MONEY FOR CHARITY 1994

Last year it was suggested that we find out how much Federation Sides had raised for charity in 1992; the grand total was £25,500.

This year we are doing the same and you will now have received the questionnaire with your MF subscription notice. Please complete the form and return it with your subscription to Sue Lawrence, Treasurer.

IDIOTS GUIDE TO BOOKING A MORRIS SIDE

The item under 'Side Issues' is about the problems encountered when dancing out as a booked Side at festivals and other events. The suggestion is for there to be a Morris Charter. Rather than this it may be a good idea for the Federation to produce a leaflet for Sides to send or plagiarize and forward with booking enquiries and/or confirmations - if you are that organised! The idea would be to include information about such burning issues as: suitable dance surfaces; changing facilities; payment; refreshments; duration and frequency

of performance. What do Sides think? Does this smack too much of nannying or are you quite capable of looking after yourselves?? If you want a Morris Charter you could try 10 Downing Street - they have in-depth expertise in this area!!!!

CHARITY COLLECTION REGULATIONS

These have been delayed by the Government. We will let you know as soon as there are any developments.



Steve Cunio



GENERAL

I must apologise to anyone who has been trying to get in touch with me, or has been waiting for information from me. Recently, life has been even more hectic than usual. Little things like work, and even Morris dancing have taken up more time than they usually do. However, both seem to be settling down a bit now, and I have finally bought an answering machine, so I should be a little easier to get hold of.

AGMS

1993

Thank you Ripley Green Garters and particularly Pauline Arnold. This was one of the best-organised AGMs that I have been to. Usually there are several occasions during the weekend when somebody says to me 'You're the Events Officer -- you decide -- it's your responsibility'. That did not happen once this time, which means that everything must have

been going according to plan. They even organised the weather.

1994

This is a little more tricky. At the time of writing, early November, I have no offers to host next year's AGM weekend. I will be doing some chasing around to try to persuade people to help in the meantime, but if you think you might be able to assist, PLEASE get in touch.

FORTHCOMING WORKSHOPS

Roy Dommet's Advanced Cotswold Weekend in Wantage

You should have received a booking form for this with your subscription renewal notice. I know that this is an expensive weekend, but it is very good value for money. The forms have to be in very early in the new year, so if you have not sent yours back now is the time to do so.

Longsword

I am very pleased to announce that Trevor Stone has agreed to lead a Longsword workshop for us. Trevor is one of the country's leading experts in this, somewhat neglected, form of traditional dance. We intend to arrange the day so that whether you have tried no Longsword before, or have done a reasonable amount, you will get something out of it. The venue is likely to be Wigan, but I am still sorting this out (see my introduction for excuses). The date and further details will be on the enclosed booking form.

Molly Plus

Somebody suggested a Molly dance workshop last year. They also said to make it about the traditional Molly dances, not 'Seven Champions'. So, I have asked Dave Dye, from Seven Champions, to do a day on the 'Original Molly'. He said no. Because it would be far too boring to spend a whole day looking at them. What he suggested, and what we are going to do, is a half day on Molly, followed by a look at the Broom Dance and the Bacca Pipes Jig. I have asked Sue Swift to teach Bacca Pipes and Dave will do

the rest. This should make for an interesting and worthwhile day. The venue will probably be in the Reading area. Again, full details will be on the booking form.

North West Leaders and Musicians

At the last North West Leaders weekend, a problem common to many sides seemed to be communications between the Leader or Foreman and the Musician or Band. So, we will make this one of the main strands of this weekend workshop. As well as joint sessions there will be separate sessions on teaching the dances, and managing the team, for the leaders; and on choosing tunes, speeds, styles and so on for the musicians. Unfortunately, the venue I wanted to use is not available, so I am frantically looking for another one. The latest bet is in Wigan, very close to the venue for the Longsword. Again full details will be on the booking form.

Workshop planning meeting

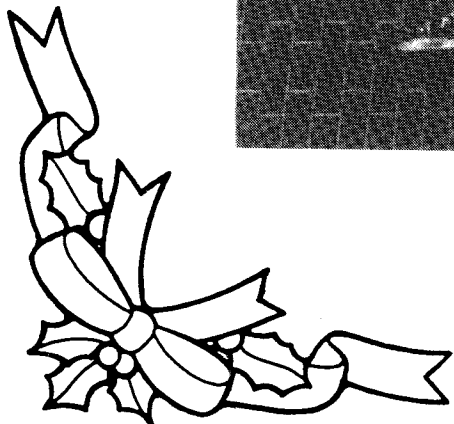
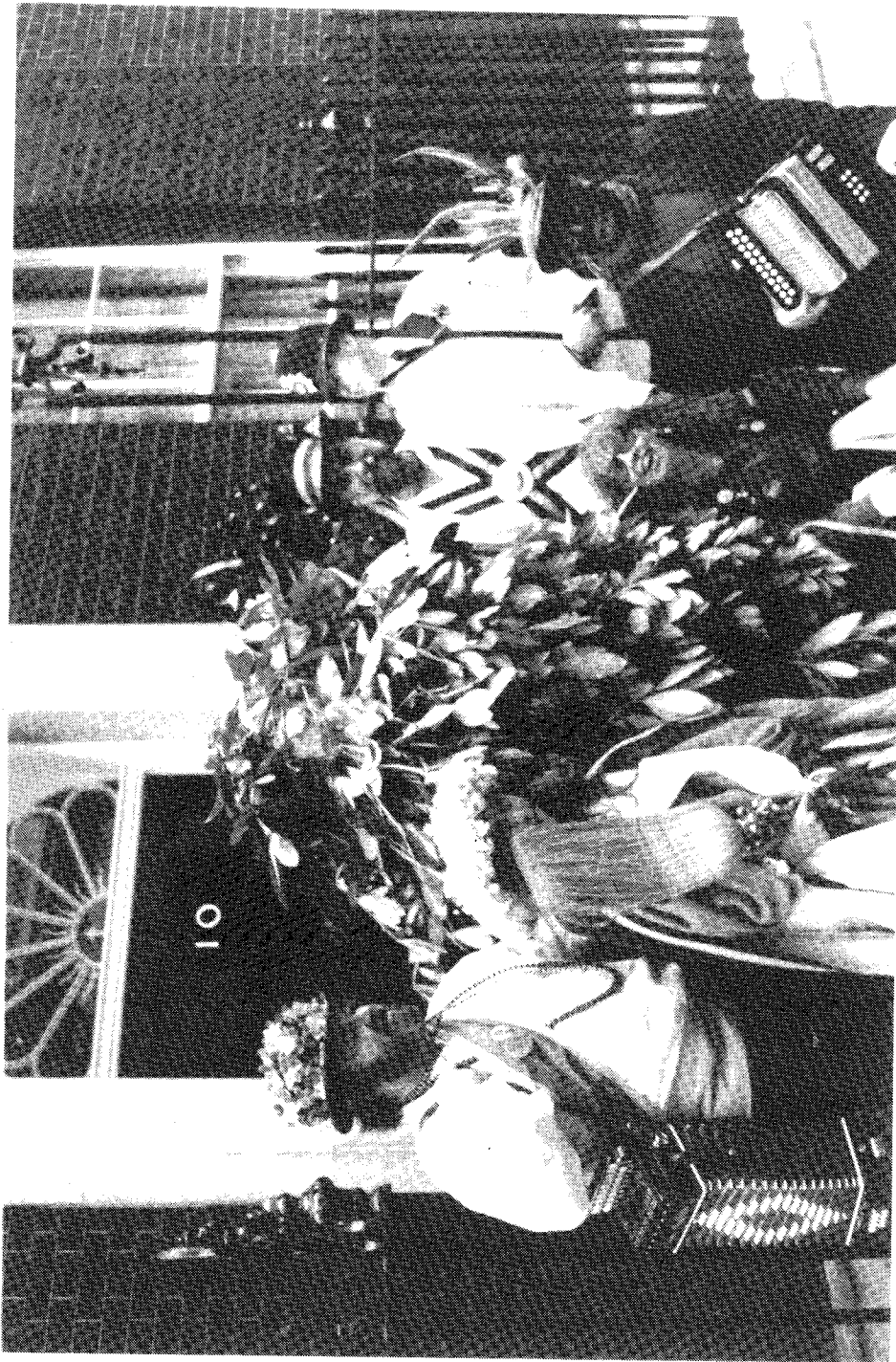
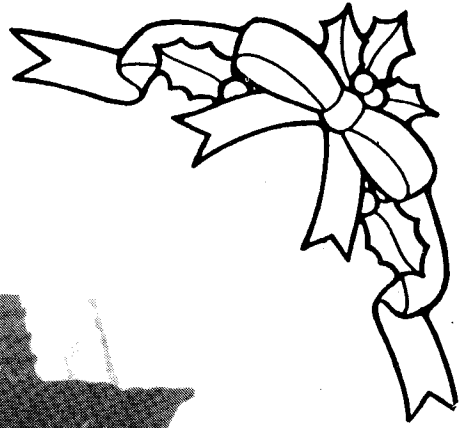
I would like to remind everyone that there will be another Workshop planning meeting early in the New Year. If you wish to have any input to this, please get in touch. (Otherwise you will end up with a set of workshops that I want to go to again!)



MAY DAY PROTEST MARCH, 23RD OCTOBER 1993

Keith Leech and Gordon Newton

Through the pages of the MF Newsletter we would like to thank all the teams who turned up for the great May Day demonstration. We estimate that there were between 500 and 700 dancers present, representing 52 teams and 19 counties. Petitions still come in (Morris dancers never were the best-organised people!), and are being forwarded to 10 Downing Street. Over 7,000 signatures were collected. At the time of writing there has still been no announcement - but "government sources" lead us to believe that May Day should be reprieved. If this happens it will be because of the efforts of the Morris and we should congratulate ourselves on making a bit of history! Thanks again to all, see you in Rochester/Hastings!



Jane Shaw

It brought back memories for me, gathering in Trafalgar Square for a demo; I hadn't done this since student days twenty odd years ago.

As we were due for a weekend committee meeting in October, we felt it would be a good idea to arrange it for 23rd/24th October, in London, so we could go on the march as well. By the time we got to Trafalgar Square, a fair number of people had already gathered, and there was some dancing going on. We were impressed to see how far some people had travelled to be there: Persephone, Fylde Coast and Winkleigh all deserve special mention.

We eventually set off, with as many as could dancing or playing, down Whitehall. In fact, when we got to Parliament Square, the procession stretched all the way round the square. We proved popular with bystanders, even those molested by the Jack-in-the-Green. Having gone all the way round Parliament Square, we came back down Whitehall to the end of Downing Street, where some dancing took place outside the gate, while Keith Leech and the Jack-in-the-Green, with hand-picked associates, went to present the petition at No. 10. As one of the associates, Sally is now proud to say she has stood on the steps of 10 Downing Street in the company of a large bush.

As I said, those watching found us fascinating: a German coach driver very happily accepted a fallen twig from the Jack-in-the-Green (Autumn must be a problem for them).

Having sorted out timings with the police (some wanted us out of Whitehall at 12.05, others didn't want us back in Trafalgar Square until 12.30), we finally got into the Square for a further dance display, including Boughton Fezheads' sand dance on the plinth of Nelson's Column. The unveiling of a statue of a horse outside the National Gallery caused a small diversion: on closer inspection, we found a plaque explaining it was an show there before being moved elsewhere in the capital. Unfortunately, the plaque was placed in such a way that we found we were all more closely inspecting the least attractive end of the horse, but never mind.

We dispersed from there into the nearest pub, where a lively session involving musicians from Loose Women and their friends (like me) soon got under way. Sadly, because we needed to get the committee meeting going, we couldn't accompany the remaining dancers on a trip down Carnaby Street.

All in all, it was a very enjoyable day. At a rough count, about 50 sides were represented (including officials from OM as well as the Federation), giving about 300-400 people overall.

In spite of interviews being taken by the Mail on Sunday, we combed all the Sunday papers and found nothing about it at all, but a good impression was made on those who saw us.

As a footnote, late on Saturday, after the day's committee session and an overdose of pizza, Ann and Sally got a taxi from Sue's in Highams Park back to Walthamstow. The driver noticed Ann's bells, and she explained. He asked if the Earls of Essex were still in existence? Eventually, he admitted to being Steve Naylor, ex-Bath City. That team get everywhere.



THE MORRIS FEDERATION 1993



1 2 3 4 5 6

1 PRESIDENT
Sally Wearing

69 Mickleton Road
Earlsdon
Coventry
West Midlands CV5 6PP
TEL: (Coventry) 0203 712548

2 SECRETARY
Beth Neill

36 Foxbury Road
Bromley
Kent BR1 4DQ
TEL: (London) 081 460 0623

3 TECHNICAL OFFICER
Jane Shaw

21 Cavendish Court
Hermes Plase
Ilchester
Yrovil, Somerset BA22 8JU
TEL: (Yeovil) 0935 841241

4 EVENTS OFFICER
Steve Cunio

230 Nel Pan Lane
Leigh
Lancs. WN7 5LA
TEL: (Wigan) 0942 683 484

5 PUBLICITY OFFICER
Ann Mason

51 Lily Road
Walthamstow
London E17 8HY
TEL: (London) 081 558 2547

6 TREASURER
Sue Lawrence

29 Lyndhurst Road
Highams Park
London E4 9JQ
TEL: (London) 081 527 2865