



NEWSLETTER

Spring

1996

Important Information

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.



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Newsletter compiled and edited by the Morris Federation Publicity Officer:

Ann Mason 51 Lily Road, Walthamstow, London E17 8HY

Presidents Prologue

Janet Dowling

Hello!

The first of January came as predicted. My fellow travellers in Dartmoor greeted the New Year, and then toasted my new role as President of the Morris Federation. I wonder sometimes what I have let myself in for.

Sally has now stepped down, but when we met to do the hand over there seemed to be a lot of things to pick up on. When I came away from our meeting I had a list of twenty seven items, that were either "need to know now" or "respond to now". I was not quite sure what she had in mind when she said that she could tell me "about the rest, later". The rest ?!?!?

All that this is leading up to is to acknowledge that there is more going on in the Federation than most people are aware of, and that things like the Newsletter, workshops, insurance, membership, technical advice, archives, as well as the administration and public relations side all take up time that is given freely by the current Committee. And it takes a lot of time! In addition there are a number of working groups looking at particular issues which include other people as well. All of them with a commitment to furthering the Morris.

And it is the future of the Morris that we need to look to. The Millennium is only four years away - what will the Morris be like in the 21st Century? Forms for the Age Analysis are still coming in (by end Feb please for those who have not filled them in yet!) - by the next Newsletter we will have some information about our age spread and the nature of members' concerns. But perhaps it is more about the image of the Morris - the debate about paganism and the roots of the Morris continues.

Do members of the Morris Federation want to address the future of the Morris ? The Millennium would be a good time to give a good positive public profile to the Morris - how would we go about that ? Please write or phone me with your views on whether the Federation should take some time to consider this.

And as for the 21st Century - the Morris Federation goes on the Internet - see the article by Kevin Taylor. What do you want to see on the Federation's Web pages?

Finally - the Committee is not just some "small clique that beaver away in dark corners" but it is about keeping in touch with all the membership. So if you are having an event - day of dance, feast, workshop etc - please invite myself and/or other Committee members and we'll be pleased to come along.

Best wishes

Editorial

Welcome to 1996. I spent new year on Dartmoor with friends, including our new President - lots of food and drink and log fires - wonderful.

It has come to our notice that a few of you are sending identical, or near identical contributions to more than one newsletter or magazine, to be precise *Morris Federation Newsletter*, *Morris Matters*, *English Dance and Song*, *The Morris Dancer*. Please don't do this. All these publications are always looking for material and it is inevitable that we will publish most of what we are sent. In the commercial world it is standard practice not to publish material sent to more than one publication, therefore, please write a different letter to each of us and tell us that you have sent something to another publication.

We have gone electronic with a page on the Internet. It seems a page is about 1 megabyte so there is plenty of space on it.

NOTICEBOARD ADDITION

The Gate to Southwell takes place on 8th June, a day of dance based around a traditional 12th century event. Dancing takes place in villages between Nottingham and

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It is with great sadness that we heard of the death of Dave Roberts on Sunday 25th February. Dave was well known in the Folk and Morris worlds as both a musician and dancer. At various times he was involved with Mad Jack's Morris, Earls of Essex Morris Men, ATZ, Blowzabella and Bandjax.

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Janet Dowling is now our new President. Janet survived her first Committee meeting which included seven hours of meeting and driving to and from Yeovil. It is amazing the amount of work we get through in the time available.

This is my last year as Publicity Officer and information about the post is elsewhere in the Newsletter - Are you interested in being the next MF Publicity Officer?

If we haven't included your contribution this time it is because we have run out of space and held it over until the Summer issue. Thanks for all the contributions.

Also included in this Newsletter is a questionnaire for you to complete (it even has return postage). We have updated the shop price lists. Also a final reminder about the Morris Conference for which a booking form is enclosed.

Southwell finishing with a massed procession in Southwell. If you are interested contact: Bob Hine, 27 Hollytree Close, Hoton, Nr. Loughborough, Leics. LE12 5SE TEL: 01509-880635.

Financial Services

Rachel Pinkney

Thank you for sending your remittances and forms correctly. If you are one of the few who didn't complete them please do so immediately as you will not be covered by the public indemnity insurance until you do so.

Price lists for the shop are enclosed with this Newsletter, hopefully all the items will be in stock by then and I apologise for any inconvenience caused by some items having been out of stock for quite a while.

General

Beth Neill

ADDRESS LIST

By now most members have returned their registration forms and data have been entered onto the (I hope!) enclosed directory. **Please, please, please** check the entry for your team - let me know now rather than sending a polite (or not so polite) message at the end of the year that your phone number was wrong.

I seem to have said this before, but again it would be really helpful if the person who is nominated as main correspondent has a phone. If you don't want to get phone calls about potential bookings for your team, maybe someone else should take on the role! Folks rarely write in the first instance to ask if you're available. I end up feeling a bit silly when I get enquiries for teams in a certain area - or worse still for a specific team - and find that the directory has a blank space there.

BACK COPIES OF NEWSLETTER

We have had a lot of new member teams and I have realised that there are back copies of several issues of the Newsletter. If any newer members are interested in having some old issues to see what has been going on, get in touch and I'll see what's there. Probably the year before you joined is the one for which we have no back issues ..but let's see!

THING YOU FILL IN ON THE REGISTRATION FORM AND WHY WE WANT THEM!

Details of practices

Although it says at the top that if these aren't filled in it is assumed that you don't want to be included in the county table (I inherited the form and haven't changed it much), I have this sneaky feeling that some people don't turn the form over. Especially if they gave details last year. Or some people give half the details - maybe they don't go to practice very often! So, where there are data from previous years, I've used them. Again, if they're wrong let me know.

Internet / e-mail contacts

Again the replies ranged from "what's e-mail?" to "watch this space" - but the overall picture was that about a third of the member teams had someone in the side who had an e-mail address. When you find time to log onto the Internet you should find the MF page - and there should be details elsewhere in this Newsletter about it.

Charities collected for

This is collated annually and reported in the Publicity section of the Newsletter.

Technical Services

Jane Shaw

I've had a busy quarter this time. We've had Archive Group and Notation Group meetings, and I've been spending Federation money on books for the archive.

ARCHIVE GROUP

The Archive Group did not have a particularly successful meeting on 25th November in Fleet. It is possible that in fact we just need to get down to the nitty gritty of the indexing now, and the meetings are largely superfluous, but we can't do without them until we have our computer system at least. We are intending to buy the UNESCO package: in fact, Ann already has access to it, and is going to try entering some of our records on to it to see how it looks in practice. There is also the system being produced for the Morris Archive Group, but there is a long way to go on that, and we don't want to wait until then to start getting computerised.

NOTATION GROUP

The Notation Group, on the other hand, had what I felt was a much better meeting at Coventry on 3rd December. We are getting ever closer to publishing something (yes, I know I keep saying that!).

NEW PUBLICATIONS

We have also decided to set up a new range of publications (for want of a better word). These will be collections of notation, articles and so on, which will be available on request from the shop. I will draw up a list as soon as I can, so that everybody knows what's available. Many of the initial items will come from the ever-busy word processor of Roy

Dommett. We could do with people to proofread and tidy up publications before release: if anyone would be prepared to help with this, please get in touch with me. Also, we can still do with more people to help with illustrations and computer-produced music - any offers?

OTHER NEWS

The mention of computer-produced music reminds me that I have at last completed an ancient action from the Committee meetings and obtained from Gary O'Mahoney a tape of the music for Bantam Cocks' Raglan dances. It is a fascinating tape, as Gary has put a lot of detail about the dances and their history as well as the tunes on. And just to finish things off, Steve Mansfield from Chorlton Green has put the music into written form for me. He has also produced written music from the dance we did at the last border workshop in Towcester: a tune written by Paul Malyon. If anyone who was at the workshop wants a copy of it, contact me.

ADDITIONS TO THE ARCHIVE

There is a second-hand book dealer not that far away from me who deals mainly in folklore publications. His latest catalogue showed several items which the Archive would benefit from, so I paid him a visit, coming back with a large box containing:

The anthropology of dances by Anya Peterson Royce

Custom and myth by Andrew Lang

The traditional dance by Violet Alford and Rodney Gallop

Sword dance tunes books I, II and III by Cecil Sharp

Rinkaghyn vannin [dances of Mann] by Mona Douglas

Clog dancing made easy by Henry Tucker

West country friendly societies by Margaret Fuller

The dance by Cecil Sharp and A P Oppe

Sword dances of northern England by Cecil Sharp (first edn)

Added to that, we have acquired all the Terry Pratchett Discworld novels which include Morris dancing, *Concerning Clogs* by Bob Dobson, Jan Elliott's thesis, *The relationship between music and dance in Cotswold Morris performance* and *The barefoot book of rhymes around the year* by Marc Vyvyan-Jones, which I am reviewing later.

All this means that there is even less space in my bedroom than there was before.

STEP DANCE GROUP

Jenny Slade's repeat of my questionnaire has brought some more responses in the last couple of weeks only, so we have not had a chance to analyse them properly. This will be done, and action will be taken accordingly; by and large people would like us to run workshops and step swaps. Although one team at least thought that this was already being covered. Anyway, we will probably do something before too long.

BOOK REVIEWS

BORDER MORRIS: A BRIEF OUTLINE BY ANDY ANDERSON

Gail Duff

Any publication which informs Morris dancers what they are doing and why is always good news, whatever the tradition, and this latest booklet in the Federation's Information Series is doubly good, firstly because it is well written, concise and superbly informative, and secondly, there being such little written

information about Border Morris, it is a publication that is badly needed.

In only eight pages Andy has managed to cram in information about the collected material, descriptions of the original teams, the dances, the music and the style and the sixties and seventies revival. Not only this, but he points you in the right direction towards finding your own material and, most important, tells you how to use it.

On reading it, I was reminded just how far Border Morris has come over the last twenty five years. Looking at the quality and availability of the collected material and the fact that Cecil Sharp and other collectors regarded the tradition as degenerate and not worth bothering with, those people involved with preserving the collected dances and devising new ones have worked seeming miracles.

The likes of John Kirkpatrick and the late Dave Jones first brought Border Morris to our notice, dancing it in those early revival days with so much courage and skill. Teams such as the Shropshire Bedlams, Silurian Morris, Old Wonder, Not for Joes, the Paradise Islanders and the Ironmen impressed people wherever they went. What was this style that was so wild, yet so powerful and controlled? One look and some of us were bowled over on the spot. Border Morris went to our hearts, our heads and our basic dancing instincts.

Take something good and everyone wants to copy it, but straight copies are never as good as something that you have worked on yourself. These original teams went back to source, took the twelve or so collected dances and then used them as a springboard to enable them to work out their own dances and styles. This is what everyone should be doing and this is exactly what Andy's booklet is inviting us to do. It is taking us beyond the 'let's do a bit of Border like the team we saw at Sidmouth', to 'let's work out some Border-style dances that suit our own side, using traditional material and at the same time maintaining the original feel'.

The book also dispels the myth that Border is in some way easier than other traditions and in dancing it you can get away with less precision. Border, with its simple basic steps, must be precise. You can't get away with anything else. Take a simple dance and perform it powerfully, convincingly and well and it will be every bit as good as, if not better than, 'the one with the complicated chorus that nobody can ever get right'. This has always been the case, in the nineteenth century, Border was mainly performed in order to collect money when jobs were in short supply. Anyone not up to scratch literally let the side down, and anyone turning up late or with the wrong kit was heavily fined. Perhaps we should do that today!

I would recommend this book not just to Squires and Foremen or the historians in the side, but to every Border dancer. People dance the Morris for very different reasons. Some people do it because they love the whole Morris tradition, the music and the dances; but also, youngsters see it as an escape from their parents, wives and husbands from their respective spouses; lonely people do it for company; some see it as a crazy way to keep fit. There are all sorts of other reasons. I have seen a lot of these people come and go over the years and some have been very good dancers; but it is usually the ones who develop a feel for the music, a love of the tradition, a greater knowledge of the Morris in general who stay the longest and eventually pass their skills onto newcomers. If you know what you are doing and why, if you can have a hand in a living tradition, which is what Border Morris has essentially become, there is more likelihood of your becoming a valuable member of a team and eventually the Morris world.

Well done, Andy. There should be at least one copy for every Border side on the lists and preferably one for every side member.

ANDERSON, Andy *Border Morris: a brief outline. (Information Series)* London: Morris Federation, 1995.

THE BAREFOOT BOOK OF RHYMES AROUND THE YEAR BY MARC VYVYAN-JONES

I was recently offered a review copy of this book, and it has luckily turned up in time for me to review it for this Newsletter, but unluckily not in time for me to recommend it as a Christmas present.

For those who don't know Marc, he's often to be seen with Rag Morris from Bristol, and has already produced another book which we have in the archive, "Maurice".

This new book, which has wonderful jolly illustrations, is a description of customs through the year, together with puzzles and "things to do". It includes songs, carols, poems, new and traditional, and I spent several happy hours reading it. It may be intended for kids, but I don't care.

Naturally enough, Rag Morris feature in a picture or two, but it was also nice to see the Federation's new Friend, Tubby Reynolds, playing his pipe and tabor for Sherborne.

It's a lovely book and you can spend ages looking at the details of the illustrations and keep on finding new things there. Not having any children of my own, I will still buy myself a copy, and my great-nephew will probably benefit from it, as will friends' children.

It's a lovely introduction to British customs for children, beautifully produced, and I thoroughly recommend it.

VYVYAN-JONES, Marc *The barefoot book of rhymes around the year.* Bristol: Barefoot Books, 1995. ISBN: 1898000778

Diary

MAY

- 1 Dancing at dawn (approximately 5:30) amongst many others...
- Newcastle Kingsmen Sword Dancers - Newcastle Town Moor (for approximately the 46th time!)
- St Clement's Clogs - Windmill Hill, Gravesend, Kent
- Sompting Village Morris - Shoreham
- Treacle Eater Clog - Ham Hill, near Yeovil, Somerset
- 3-6 Mad Jack's Morris - Hastings Traditional Jack in the Green, with Jack in the Green Procession on the 6th
- 4 Kemp's Men of Norwich - Day of Dance and Ceilidh to celebrate their 40th year.
- 11-12 Rivington Morris - Holmfirth Festival
- 31 - Kirtlington Lamb Ale Morris Festival, Kirtlington, Oxfordshire.

JUNE 2

Treacle Eater Clog - Weekend of dance - Yeovil - with guest teams

JULY

- 5-7 Kemp's Men of Norwich - "Kemp's Kamp and Kapers" Beer, seaside and history tours in Norwich and Norfolk
- 15 St Clement's Clogs, Kent Korkers and Pork Scratchings - Evening of dance at "The Watt Tyler", Dartford, Kent - with guest Morris teams, Scottish pipers and Irish set dancers

AUGUST

17-23 Rivington Morris - Whitby Festival

SEPTEMBER

- 28 St Clement's Clogs - 10th Anniversary day of dance, Meopham, with ceilidh in the evening

Noticeboard

QUESTIONNAIRE ON TRADITIONAL DANCE AND THEATRE GROUPS

Enclosed with this Newsletter is a questionnaire that we have agreed to distribute for Tom Brown who is currently doing a PhD (at the City University's Department of Arts Policy and Management) on traditional dance & theatre groups - including Morris, mumming, sword and calendar customs. Tom has been involved in the revival of customs, as a singer and caller for thirty years he was involved with the re-introduction of the Combe Martin Hobby-horse custom and the North Devon Mummers - as well as working for the EFDSS and the Folklore Society at various times. The front page of the questionnaire explains what it's about - please complete it, fold it up, seal it down and put it in the post (it's already got a stamp on it). The Federation will have access to the statistics and data from the research, and we may be able to put the results in future newsletters.

SOCIAL SURVEY ON THE MORRIS

Volunteers are needed for a social survey of Morris dancers for a dissertation by Jill McMahon a member of Briggate Morris. Please contact:

Jill McMahon, 31 Lancastre Ave, Kirkstall, Leeds LS5 3EA

TEL: 0113 2741571

CLOG WORKSHOP

Welsh Stepping workshop led by Ann Smith of Beetlecruisers. Saturday 14th April organised by Hips and Haws (Chippenham, Wiltshire). Please contact:

TEL: Jan Field 01249-657128

EXPERIENCED MUSICIAN NEEDED

Merrydowners Morris are looking for a backup musician. They have a regular musician but would welcome another musician to help them out when he is not available. Practices are on Sundays in Harrow, North West London. Please contact:

Barry Simper, 85 The Avenue, Pinner, Middx HA5 5BW,

TEL: 0181-868-5378

KESTEVEN MORRIS 20TH ANNIVERSARY

Kesteven are 20 years old this year and are going to celebrate with their usual style and panache. To aid the celebrations they wish to contact all former members of the side. If you are a former member of Kesteven or know anyone who is. Please contact:

Dave Smith, 30 Malvern Close, Sleaford, Lincs. NG34 7RA

TEL: 01529-305162

TENERDEN FOLK DAY

27th-28th July, in Kent, Part of a weekend to celebrate the opening of the Ashford International Train Terminal. Free entry into the beer festival in exchange for dancing in and around Ashford. For more information contact:

Tenterden Folk Day Trust, c/o Folk Spots, 15, Repron Manor Road, Ashford, Kent, TN23 3HA

TEL: 01233 626805

Events

Steve Cunio

AGM

Usually, in the Spring Newsletter, I use up most of my space urging you to come to the annual general meeting. Unfortunately, despite the best efforts of all concerned, we have only just found a venue for this year's weekend.

The AGM weekend has become more of a problem in recent years. Finding people who are willing and able to host seems to get more difficult. At this rate we will have to change the format of the event before very long. This leads me to ask what sort of event the Federation as a whole actually wants. I intend to bring this up as a discussion topic at the AGM. If you have any views please let me know, whether you come to the AGM weekends or not.

I would like to thank Taepa's Tump, and particularly their secretary Maggi Bradley, for the work they done have in the last few

weeks, trying to find a venue. Their enthusiasm has been about the only thing keeping this search going at times. As most of my Federation time has been taken up with the AGM recently, there is nothing to report concerning workshops. The next Newsletter will have details of the events planned for next Autumn and Winter. If you want to be involved, or have any suggestions, please get in touch.

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We have found an AGM weekend venue!

After much searching, including trying just about every school in Berkshire, Taepa's Tump have come up with the goods. This year's Morris Federation Weekend of Dance and Annual General Meeting will be held in the historic town of Windsor. Full details will be sent to you shortly - but until then, keep the weekend of 27-29th September free.

Criminal Justice Act

Janet Dowling

We have had an enquiry about the Criminal Justice Act. Apparently there is a section in the Act that refers to "the playing of a continuous beat" and "dancing in public place" which was drafted to be applied to all night raves, but which some members have interpreted as possibly being applicable to Morris Dancing on the street.

I have consulted with my colleagues in my local Police Service. They advise me that the that portion of the Act is intended to deal with all night raves and which will give the police power to intervene in the public interest. It is not intended to be applied to Morris dancing or similar entertainment in the street which is likely to be of a short term nature and for which existing legislation would be applied if there was any cause for concern by the police. If there is any doubt ask for police permission to dance beforehand - which many teams already do.

I would also remind members that the consultation with the Home Office regarding the Charities Act and the implications for Morris Teams has led to the official acknowledgement of Morris Dancing as a Tradition in this country that government would not want to restrict through legislation.

Publicity

Ann Mason

Events and actions are beginning to move again on the publicity front. This is my last year as Publicity Officer as I have decided to stand down at the end of the year. Information on what the job involves is elsewhere in this Newsletter.

INTERNET

A new departure for us is that we now have a page on the internet. Our address is: <http://ourworld.compuserve.com/homepages/KevinRTaylor> This facility has been donated to the Federation by Kevin Taylor, which is why the address includes his name rather than the Federation's. Items from the Newsletter will go on each quarter together with diary, workshop information and goods for sale. More information is elsewhere in this Newsletter.

MF LEAFLET

Several years ago the Federation produced a leaflet that included information about the origins of the Morris and the Morris Federation. This was A4 folded in three with the back page leaflet blank for your sides information. The idea was that sides had access to a well produced leaflet containing basic information about the Morris that could be augmented with local information. The production of a new leaflet has been a saga of mislaid photos and text and it is now several years since it was available. As we have only had a handful of requests for this we want to know if there is a demand for such a leaflet. Please contact me with your views.

THE MEDIA

Sometimes Morris hits the headlines and local and/or national media contact a side local to them rather than one of the three Morris organisations. If this happens to you and you don't feel you are informed enough to talk to the media you can pass them onto me or the President. We are always happy to talk to the media and spread the work about Morris and try and get them to publish accurate information about us.

MORRIS PUBLICATION GROUP

This group has finally had a meeting after over a years break and six attempts to set up a meeting. The group has raised about £2,000 from the appeal to Morris sides - a very disappointing response. There is a promise of a further £2,500 from the Sainsbury Foundation - if we raise adequate funds ourselves. We have also received £1,000 from Bass Breweries who help fund initiatives supported by members of their staff (a Morris dancer is on their staff).

The group has decided that we must produce a video and the cost of this is still about £20,000 and we discussed ways of raising this amount. One suggestion was that individuals or sides might be interested in loaning the project money with the money and a small amount of interest returned at the end of a set period. Spelthorne Productions (who are producing the video) offered to invest in the project. Would you or your side be interested in investing in this project, if you are or want more information please contact me.

MONEY RAISED FOR CHARITY

The grand total for 1995 was £22,472 with a few teams still to report. Many of you just say you give a proportion each year to local charities, not yet decided, or don't give anything because you are such a small team. Others say the amount raised was in conjunction with other teams - we assume only one of you has recorded it on the forms!

Here are a few snippets - Mandrake Morris got £500 sponsorship to go to Romania to represent England. Fidlers Fancy did a sponsored mile of dancing (the sponsored pub crawls are to numerous too list), Wickham Morris managed to raise £1400 to share between Macmillan Nurses and local Scout & Guide huts, Wild Hunt (with Croydon Folk Club) raised £1783 towards multiple

schlerosis. Favourite charities were Macmillan Nurses, local hospitals, Children in need, cancer and leukaemia research, air ambulances

MORRIS MATTERS

I have been asked by the editor of *Morris Matters* to explain the difference between us and them. We are a newsletter and as such welcome short items, news and views, diary contributions. *Morris Matters* is bi-annual and is devoted to longer articles, discussions about possible esoteric aspects of the Morris, new developments etc. We will try to publish the contents of each issue in the Newsletter to whet your appetite. Please see the advert below for further information. Why don't you or your side subscribe?

MORRIS MATTERS

Would you like to read articles about subjects like: prizes and winners at the John Gasson Memorial Jig contest; Morris from Scratch; Padstow May Day; what really goes on at a Roy Dommett weekend; performance workshops; "no such thing as clog morris"; Ascott under Wychwood history; behaviour at Morris workshops etc.....?

Then subscribe to Morris Matters - a magazine to cater for everyone interested in Morris. It costs £5 a year for two issues within EC countries (£7 outside these areas). Volume 15, number 1 is now available.

Send your subscription to Beth Neill, 36 Foxbury Road, Bromley, Kent BR1 4DQ.

(The sharp-eyed among you will notice that, yes, I'm the Federation Secretary too - January is a busy month!)

It is there for you to read and write about anything to do with the Morris. Remember that if you want to publicise something like a workshop or lecture, it only goes out twice a year. If you can put your text on disc (3.5inch, high density double sided, WordPerfect preferred but I can convert most other formats) that is really welcomed. If it is a very long article then I will spread it across more than one issue.

Another plea - this from me and the Morris newsletter editors - please don't send your script to all of us simultaneously; if we happen to meet up or mention it in passing we may realise that material stands the risk of being duplicated, if not some of you feel a bit cheated that you keep reading the same article in different magazines.

What does the Publicity Officer do?

Ann Mason

The job of Publicity Officer is very much what you make it. If you like talking to the press and writing press releases then you can, if you would rather do a more background liaison job with the other Morris organisations then that's OK too. The main job is editing the *Morris Federation Newsletter*.

The Newsletter is quarterly and takes between 12 and 24 hours of work each quarter (February, May, August, November). The amount of time taken is directly related to the number of contributions and whether these are on disk or hard copy and have to be typed in. The Federation has provided the Publicity Officer with a computer to produce the Newsletter. Currently we produce camera ready copy for the printers and we are investigating more of the setting up being done at the printers. The printer collates the Newsletter and enclosures, stamps and addresses the envelopes (labels provided by Secretary), stuffs the envelopes and takes these to the Post Office. The printers are in London and well used to us, you would not need to change them.

The Publicity Officer is also involved with other Morris Federation and Joint Morris Organisation initiatives. The Publicity Officer sits on the Morris Publications Group, a group involving the three Morris organisations and EFDSS to publish educational material about Morris. Currently we are trying to publish a video and accompanying pack to teach Morris in primary schools, the group meets about two to three times a year.

I personally am on the Morris Archive Group and the Federation Archive Group because I am a Librarian. This is not part of any official role and you will find that the activities you become involved with are very much related to your particular talents and experience.

The Publicity Officer should also be the person coming up with good ideas for publicity or whom members are sending their ideas to. We are currently thinking of ways of getting better, good media exposure.

All Committee members have to attend four Committee meetings a year, three one day and one weekend (Autumn), we are also expected to attend the AGM where we make a report of the previous years' activities. In addition we take it in turns to attend the Joint Morris Organisations meeting, the Morris Ring ARM and Open Morris AGM. A presence at MF workshops by other members of the Committee is also appreciated by the Events Officer.

All in all not too onerous a job. You have to clear your diary for a weekend or two four times a year for the Newsletter otherwise the job is fitted into available spare time as and when it is needed.

For more information and a chat about the job please ring me on 0181-558-2547.

Internet

Kevin Taylor

MORRIS AND THE INTERNET

What is the Internet?

A large number of computers around the world have over time been connected together in order to share data and communicate. The complex worldwide network of computers so formed has been dubbed "The Internet".

How can we use the Internet?

If you are associated with a University, you may have an account set up on one of the campus computers. These will probably be networked together, and at least one should be connected to something called JANET (Joint Academic Network). This is a part of the Internet. Also, several private companies have been set up to provide Internet access for a monthly fee (usually between £10 and £25) via "dial-up" nodes - in other words if your home computer has a modem, you can dial up one of these "service providers", who will connect you to the Internet and (usually) provide the necessary software for searching out and retrieving data.

What can we get from being on the Internet?

All computer data is stored in "files". Some of these files are "Hypertext" documents, which are text files containing links to picture files or other hypertext documents which can be on another computer in another part of the world. The complete interlinked mass (mess?) of all these documents is called the "World-Wide Web" or WWW. These documents, or "Web Pages" written in a format called "Hypertext Markup Language" or HTML, are accessed by a program called a "web browser".

All these documents have a unique identifier to enable them to be found from anywhere in the world. This is called a "Uniform Resource Locator" or URL. It will usually look something like

"<http://beta.kellog.com/www/~cornflake/home.html>" for a WWW reference.

Another use for the Internet is the exchange of EMail (Electronic Mail). This is a method by which a message can be sent to anyone with a connection to the Internet. To send EMail to a particular individual or organisation, you will need to know their EMail address, which could look something like "Bill.Bloggs@acme.co.uk" or rather more cryptic, like my original one, which is "100256.1661@compuserve.com"

In both cases the bit before the '@' symbol refers to the individual, while the bit after it refers to the computer that handles their E-Mail.

What's all this got to do with Morris then?

Well, some Morris dancers are computer users, owners, even computer scientists. As a result, some Morris sides have a "web presence" - that is, their details are on the Internet as a "Web Page". Some of them have links to web pages belonging to other sides. There is now a Morris Federation web page - crafted by yours truly, which has links to some of these. If you are a "net surfer", try pointing your browser at <http://ourworld.compuserve.com/homepages/KevinRTaylor> and see where it takes you. If your side has a web page of its own, let me know its URL, and I'll include a link to it. E-Mail me as KevinRTaylor@compuserve.com giving the name of your side and the URL of the page.

Working Groups

Jane Shaw

The Federation has two groups composed of volunteers, whose work is connected with that of the Technical Officer, who keeps all the Federation's notation and archive collections.

THE ARCHIVE GROUP

This was set up to record and index the material in the Federation's archives. The problem is that we have quite a collection (over 1,000 items) of books, periodicals, newspaper cuttings, tapes, videos and so on, which are not easy to access if someone wishes (for example) to do some research into a particular aspect of the Morris.

There are currently seven people in the group, including two professional archivists, and a professional librarian, whose technical expertise is naturally of great value to the rest of us and who have to be taught the process of cataloguing and indexing.

Indexing is a slow job, and so far, we only have two or three sections of the archive done. But we are working on it all the time - or rather in all our extremely limited free time!

At the moment, what we have is in old-fashioned card index form, but we are looking at a computer programme to help us, which should be more efficient all round.

Through the Morris Archive Group, we are learning about what other collectors in the country have, and the group is working on a collective computer database, which would allow people to find out what is available from all the collections involved in the project.

We also look at the procedures involved in archiving generally, and soon to be published is a guide to team archiving, so that team record-keepers can be helped to look after their own records without allowing them to deteriorate.

Another soon-to-appear booklet will explain the process of bequests: perhaps this might seem a morbid subject, but one which we do have to think about. Well-meaning relatives tidying up after a bereavement have been known to come close to destroying valuable material.

THE NOTATION GROUP

The original aim was that the Morris Federation would produce definitive works on dances, particularly Cotswold traditions, and indeed we have produced the Glossary, which sets out the terms in which we describe our dances, Wheatley and Adderbury, along with the Abram Circle Dance and North West Dances by Trefor Owen.

It has, however, become obvious that it is not easy to produce such definitive works, so latterly the aim has changed to producing as much historical and current evidence as possible about any tradition. The group at the moment has nine members, and books in production include Hinton in the Hedges, Brackley, and Kirtlington.

As well as these books, which all appear in our Workshop Series, we have also produced smaller booklets about such subjects as publicity, warm-ups, women and North West Morris and Border Morris, which come into our Information Series.

A third series, soon to start appearing, will contain more personal views; these will be available on request.

Apart from the nine members of the group itself, we make use of further volunteers to produce diagrams and computer-drawn music, and to help review and proof-read books for us.

Both these groups (and MAG, the Morris Archive Group) meet twice a year, and probably the hardest task we have is finding suitable dates for the next meeting, as all those involved are involved in so many things!

Morris

Dave Smith or Daniel Smith?

What is Morris,
It is a load of men,
Dressed up like a load of florists.

Why do they just prance about,
Puffing and panting and shouting about.

And why do they wave their hankies about,
Are they trying to spread disease,
Them beer belly louts.

They also like to attack each other,
Using sticks, which means run for cover.

But when they do a hop, skip or jump,
You can always bet there is some kind of bump.

But to top their act they like to jingle,
Using them irritating bells that continuously dingle.

There is no definition of Morris Men,
But, if you have any sense,
Stay clear of them.

WHO TO CONTACT

ADDRESS - CHANGE OF ADDRESSES - NOT IN MF	Beth Neill	NEW ADDRESS - YOURS	Beth Neill
AGM - HOSTING	Beth Neill	NEWSLETTER	Ann Mason
AGM - ORGANISATION	Steve Cunio	NOTATION GROUP	Jane Shaw
AGM	Steve Cunio	NOTATION	Jane Shaw
ARCHIVE GROUP	Beth Neill	PHOTOGRAPHS	Jane Shaw
BOOK LOANS	Jane Shaw	PUBLICITY	Ann Mason
EVENTS	Jane Shaw	PUBLICITY IDEAS	Ann Mason
INTERNET	Steve Cunio	SHOP	Rachel Pinkey
INSURANCE	Kevin Taylor	SCRAP BOOKS	Jane Shaw
MORRIS ARCHIVE GROUP	Rachel Pinkney	SUBSCRIPTIONS	Rachel Pinkney
MORRIS CONFERENCE	Sue Swift	VIDEOS - SALE OR HIRE	Sally Wearing
MORRIS PUBLICATION GROUP	Sue Swift	WORKSHOPS	Steve Cunio
	Ann Mason		

Sue Swift TEL: 0116-2712587, Sally Wearing TEL:01203-712548, Kevin Taylor TEL: 01283-770331

GUIDE FOR CONTRIBUTORS

Contributions to the Newsletter are always welcome. To help these are some guidelines to make your contribution easier to produce and the Editors life easier

Contributions on disk or in hard copy are welcome. Handwritten **MUST** be legible. **ALL CONTRIBUTIONS MUST REACH THE EDITOR BY THE COPY DATE**

DISK	3.5 or 5.25 - any density
OPERATING SYSTEM	DOS format
FORMAT	Wordperfect 5.1 or ASCII is best. Other formats are acceptable if the editor can convert them
STYLE	Times Roman 12
	No indents to paragraphs
	No tabs or indents if possible
	Headings in capitals and bold
	Sub headings in lower case, underlined
	2 spaces after a full-stop
	Morris and Morris styles with a capital letter
BOOK/MAGAZINE TITLE	Italics, Times Roman 12

If in doubt please just send the text. It is much easier for me to pub the house style onto your text than have to undo your style before doing this.

HARD COPY	Double spaced (its easier to read)
ADVERTS	Camera ready copy is ideal (ie. how you want it to appear) or we can set it up for you
INSERTS	A4 size, camera ready copy

THE MORRIS FEDERATION 1996



3 TECHNICAL OFFICER
Jane Shaw
21 Cavendish Court
Hermes Place
Ilchester
Yeovil,
Somerset BA22 8JU
TEL: (Yeovil) 01935 841241

4 EVENTS OFFICER
Steve Cunio
21 Cavendish Court
Hermes Place
Ilchester
Yeovil,
Somerset BA22 8JU
TEL: (Yeovil) 01935 841241

5 PUBLICITY OFFICER
Ann Mason
51 Lily Road
Walthamstow
London E17 8HY
TEL: (London) 0181 558 2547

6 TREASURER
Rachel Pinkney
15 High Street
Standon,
Ware
Herts SG11 1LA
TEL: (Ware) 01920-821694

4 2 6
1 5 3

1 PRESIDENT
Janet Dowling
47, Chestnut Avenue
Ewell,
Surrey KT19 0SY
TEL: (London) 0181 393 5370

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

INTERNET: <http://ourworld.compuserve.com/homepages/KevinRTaylor>