

The Morris



Federation

NEWSLETTER

Spring 1997

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.

ADVERTISING

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

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

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President's Prologue

Janet Dowling

For Cotswold dancers (or dancers of the South Midlands Tradition, as I have been told it is called now!) the winter is supposed to be a quiet time of the year. Where each team is supposed to be indoors, practising their dances ready for the first of May, the start of the dancing season. Personally it seems quite a busy time of year, with workshops virtually every other weekend. My long-suffering-non-dancing-never-been-a-Morris-dancer partner has now realised that he has to write himself into my diary in order to book some time with me. And when I meet people at the workshops, I realise what a variety of people there are dancing. But who do we tell about what we are doing or why?

Now is the time to start making the links with various bits of media - the local papers, local "What's On" magazines, the Essex Countryside magazine equivalent to where you live, local radio stations, local TV stations. Give them an angle on what you do, where you might be found, why May Day is your day, or why you've chosen another day for the start of the season. Some teams are very good at doing this, others seem to hide their lights (bells, sticks, swords and garlands) under a bushel. If you are not a Cotswold (or South Midlands!) Dancer, then explain why it is that May Day will not see you out at all - Boxing Day and Plough Monday will have its own devotees. Tell them about it.

Have you thought of linking up with the local sports centres on health promotion issues (we won't discuss the drink side!). Or the local arts council for grants (join them now and after a year or two you become eligible for grants!), or linking with some one else to do some sort of promotion as a physical or arts linked creative activity. (See later for information on Arts Council and Lottery Money). There are lots of opportunities that are available to sides who want to be proactive about promoting their own image, and many teams are already doing that. But there is always room for more.

And at the end of the day enjoy yourselves. And be proud in what you do.

All in all it is the responsibility of each individual team to promote its local image in the way that is meaningful to them. Whether its the equivalent of the five-a-side football team, or the premiere league division team, each team's style is what is important. And if a team want to keep themselves to themselves, then that is their choice. The main thing is to develop the tradition and pass it on. And tradition is only what you remember, so let others know what it is that they need to remember!

May your bells jangle, your sticks strike, and your swords clash in harmony!

Janet Dowling

Editorial

Judi Nancarrow

In theory, this newsletter business sounds very rational and logical, HA! There is such a lot to plough through, that in the main I haven't bothered, and so with the help of a friend, (immense gratitude) this edition has magically appeared. However I do not feel in control of matters yet.....

Many thanks to those of you who have sent articles for inclusion in this newsletter, namely Crook Morris and Oyster Morris well done chaps! Every little helps, and I hope other readers will be duly entertained.

There are still plans to produce a document to help those setting up a Morris side (plenty of room for entertaining ditties on this subject I would have thought!) your thoughts, views, ...warnings... would be interesting to receive. My memories on this subject seem strangely vague, perhaps they have been blotted out for a reason? Blackhorse, any comment on this one??!

It is the time of year for filling ones diary with forthcoming events, (or being bludgeoned, press ganged, threatened with de-belling) the secretaries nightmare, how many times can this many people change their minds? My participation in Morris has been sadly lacking since moving house and repairing chimneys (now that is an unrelated subject I could comment on and on and on.....) but I am looking forward to getting back into kit, once I've found it.

I hope you all have an enjoyable season, don't forget to let us know what you are doing and where, and if you want anyone else to join you.

Please note my new telephone number, 01282 862331 no answer machine, you'll just have to keep trying until I pick up!

Good luck and Good dancing!!

Judi Nancarrow



General

Beth Neill

Secretarial scribblings:

By now most members have returned their registration forms and data have been entered onto the (I hope!) enclosed directory. I said this last year, but it still happens - 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 (and often then to Rachel, who can only pass the message on to me) - that your phone number or address was wrong. I'm not a trained copy typist! Also - if you don't get newsletters etc - please let us know when the first one fails to arrive rather than at the end of the year. Again, 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 of MF contact!

Things you fill in on your 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. So I will use old data. Again, if they're wrong let me know.

Internet / e-mail contacts:- Not perhaps as many as I'd have thought - but we do have a page on the Internet and Kevin Taylor is co-ordinating this aspect. He has a list of the various contacts - the Morris Ring are probably even further down this road than we are and John Maher is co-ordinating their list. When you find time to log onto the Internet you should find the MF page. While on this topic - next year, we will be asking you if you would mind your phone number (and/or address) being put on the Internet. The Ring already put phone numbers of all their member teams on the Morris pages; we in the committee weren't sure how our members felt about it. At the moment, only those teams who give an e-mail contact will feature there.

Side History Updates:- There's always one! In fact, there are usually quite a few of these where the name of the team is missing - all there is is a signature at the bottom. By the time they have been through the Treasurers system and been posted or passed to me before being sorted out from the actual registration forms -- sometimes they get separated from the team registration form and it is anybody's guess - but it has to be mine - what the team is by then (you all know how clear your signature is!)

Data Protection Act:- Very few people actually ask for their details *not* to be included in any disclosure to a third party (i.e. usually folk festival organisers) - and where they do, on the whole it is individuals. So I have omitted these from the directory listing rather than having to put yet another symbol on the listing to remind me to delete them when sending outside MF.

Newsletter mailings:

Our corporate apologies if you were waiting for your "Christmas" Newsletter and only received it in 1997.

If it makes you feel any better - I got my copy on January 9th - which was a bit odd when I got mail referring to items in the newsletter. The system - as it has been up to now - is that the Publicity Officer assembles the newsletter and takes it to the printers, who run off lots of copies. I create the labels - and supply these to the printers. However, since they have a few staff members who find anything out of the ordinary a bit difficult to cope with, (duplicate copies with no inserts, or foreign addresses) the odd ones are sent on to me to deal with.but the extra copies apparently went round and round outer London in the back of a delivery van and had been doing so since before Christmas. No, I don't understand it either

MEMBERS MANUAL

All members should have a copy of this - if not you can get another copy from me. They often go missing when team secretary changes hands! In case you wonder about the colour coding of the pages - the main body of text was intended to be the constant factor, with appendices which could be updated as necessary. As it is, since I took over as secretary, we have changed several sections in the main text while altering few of the appendices! Hence the reissue of all the text about a year ago. As for the coloured pages - well, one or two of these have slipped through the net and ended up as either white pages -or not quite the intended colour. The intention, for ease of identity, was for events details to be yellow, technical to be blue and constitutional matters to be green. But the content is the same and all are dated, so you should be able to check you have the most recent copies of everything.

GOODS AND BOOK LISTS

Chinese Whispers rule OK. In the system for getting the newsletter together with all the inserts, there can be mistakes! We realised, once we saw the latest batch of goods lists that had gone out, that there were some inconsistencies in them, so they have been rewritten (we sat round at the committee meeting to try to make sure we all agreed on the text!) and you should find copies as inserts in this issue.

OVERSEAS TRIPS

This has come under my section since I have been in regular contact with John Maher, who is the Ring Overseas Bagman and has been working very hard to forge links with twinning committees etc. France is his speciality! Three things worth noting - (a) take up the foreign travel option on the MF insurance in plenty of time; (b) organise your own holiday insurance as you would for any holiday i.e the MF insurance is restrictive and will only cover specific "while engaged in the practice of Morris dancing" type claims; (c) contact John Maher if you are interested in going - even if you have made the link yourself - he has a lot of background knowledge (he's on the Internet too). John is on 0117 942 3159 or e-mail at john.maher@bristol.ac.uk.

There is a group called La Delphinale in Grenoble who are organising a trade fair for 21 to 31 March and want lots of Morris dancers i.e. get a move on - they may already have enough but it's worth asking John anyway. Other possibilities later in the year are near Dijon, near Avignon, near Cognac, near Lourdes etc... Please remember though if you do think of this approach, it will *usually* be an exchange i.e. you will have to offer reciprocal hospitality to a dance group

Beth Neill, Secretary.

Technical Services

Rhian Collinson

I knew that the job had really begun when I received three very large cardboard filing cabinet boxes from Jane at Roy's Cotswold Curricula workshop in mid-January. Two weeks later, I have a reasonable idea of the titles on the outside of over 100 envelope folders, but as to their contents, that will take a while. Having had to respond to a request for notation, I have discovered that the quality of the notation sheets is very variable, in terms of content, clarity, and presentation. But, please don't let that put you off asking for notation.

No doubt you have noticed that when you start any job, you quickly discover that the job description, which seemed so clear, has many lines to read between. I'm busy reading. There are a number of projects which I am taking over, as well as some to get started.

Val Parker is in the process of re-mastering the booklets in the Information series. The Committee has decided to regard them as proper publications and assign ISBN numbers to them. This may cause a small delay in the production process so please be patient if you are awaiting a booklet which is being re-done. If you have any ideas for new booklets I will be pleased to hear from you.

Some of you will have received letters from my predecessor asking for your permission to make descriptions of some or all of your team's dances available to Federation members. Two different letters were sent. One was to teams who have lodged their notation with the Federation for archive purposes. The second refers to descriptions recorded by Roy Dommett. Anyone who has been to one of Roy's workshops will have gone home with the copious notes and notations which he has produced. I understand that he is keen for the Federation to make these more generally accessible. We feel that we can only do this if we have your permission, hence the letters. If you have any queries or comments on the issue of publication please feel free to contact me. Thank you to all those who have replied.

One of the main responsibilities of my job is to run the Notation Group. Not having been involved in the group in the past I have found it hard to get to grips with the precise nature of its work. I know that there are a number of long running projects and I am keen to help and encourage some of them to completion in the near future. At the time of writing I am still at the stage of learning what has been going on. I expect to be able to report more in the next Newsletter.

And Finally , AN APPEAL FOR ARTISTS

If anyone out there feels able to do illustrations for dance notation, nothing fancy, or knows anyone who might be able to help, please contact Rhian Collinson. WE NEED YOU

Technical Officer (Archive)

Lynn Rogers

The main activity this quarter has been the transfer of the archive. Hopefully, by the time you read this I will have unpacked all the boxes and begun to get to grips with exactly what it contains!

The Morris Archive Group met in November. We were hoping to have a demonstration of the indexing system but unfortunately Chris Metherell, who has developed the system, was ill and unable to attend. We did, however, review three information leaflets which have been produced by Trevor Stone on behalf of MAG. These cover topics such as the objectives of MAG, donations and bequests to the Vaughan Williams Memorial Library and a guide to keeping team archives.

For anyone interested in archiving the Morris Ring are holding an open meeting entitled "Archives (and their preservation): Why and How" on Sunday 13th April. This was postponed from last year. There are more details on a flyer enclosed with the newsletter.

Financial Services

Rachel Pinkney

Thanks to all who sent their G.P.A. forms back in good time. I do hate to disappoint anyone. When performing overseas, your public liability and G.P.A (if you have taken out overseas cover) is the same as at home, but it is advisable to take out holiday insurance which will then give you additional cover for baggage, money, passport loss, sickness etc.

The total of money donated to charity, on information given, is £20,712.85p. Very commendable, but I do know that it is more than this, as some teams listed the charity, but not the sum donated.

Most shop items are in stock, a new consignment of sweatshirts and T shirts means that I have most sizes, but not necessarily all colours as the manufacturer couldn't fill the order. Sorry the prices have had to be increased. The Federation have absorbed increases during the past few years but now the time had come when it is not able to stand anymore.

For those of you who have not used the mailing service, I can assure you that if goods are in stock, they are despatched the same day the order and remittance is received.

Diary - Spring 1997

April

- 5 "Wheatley" - MORRIS FEDERATION WORKSHOP - Cirencester, Gloucestershire.
- 19 Open Morris Field Town Workshop - Warrington.
Persephone - North West workshop at Festival of Dance, Shipley, Bradford
- 26 Pennyroyal Garland Dancers - Tamworth Folk Moot

May

- 1 May Day Dancing at dawn Kits Coty Morris - Kits Coty Stones, off A229, Bluebell Hill, North of Maidstone, near the Lower Bell pub. Treacle Eater Clog - Ham Hill, near Yeovil ...later in the day Pennyroyal Garland Dancers - Packington May Day, in village in the evening.
- 3 - 5 Hastings Traditional Jack in the Green - organised by Mad Jack's Morris
Rochester Sweeps Festival - teams include: Persephone
- 4 Three Shires - 'May Day' day of dance - in Barnsley area, with Harthill Morris
- 17 Persephone - weekend of dance, Bradford
- 30 - June 1 Treacle Eater Clog - weekend of dance, Yeovil - guests include: Persephone, Red Stags, Queen's Oak, Ripley Morris Men, Plymouth Maids, Plymouth Morris Men

June

- 20 - 22 Three Shires - Conwy Morris Festival
- 21 Persephone - guests at Woad Works weekend of dance, Northamptonshire

July

- 5 - 6 Persephone - guests at Rose and Castle weekend of dance, Northamptonshire
- 12 - 13 Persephone - guests at Pigsty weekend of dance, Bristol
- 25 - 27 Three Shires - Durham Folk Party
- 25 - August 1 Persephone - Sailing barge trip in Holland

September

- 6 - 7 Persephone - Sowerby Bridge Rushcart, West Yorkshire
- 26 - 28 MORRIS FEDERATION WEEKEND OF DANCE - Hastings - Hosted by Mad Jack's Morris - includes the AGM

Events

Steve Cunio

Annual Weekend of Dance

By now, you may well have received an invitation to the Morris Federation's Annual Weekend of Dance and AGM. This is being hosted for us by Mad Jack's Morris and Daisy Roots Morris, and will take place in Hastings over the weekend of 26th to 28th September. Representatives of the Federation committee recently had a meeting with the squires of the two host teams, where they explained their ideas for the event. There will be some differences in the format for this year, largely because of the special circumstances in Hastings, but also because it is nice to try new things occasionally. This year we aim to make it a complete weekend event. There is a ceilidh on Friday evening, as well as pub sessions. There will be walking tours on Saturday, followed by a ceilidh with Banjax. Sunday morning brings the AGM meeting itself, and this will be followed by more dancing in Hastings Old Town. Full details will be enclosed with the invitation, which will also contain tourist information from Hastings council (so if you threw it away thinking it was junk mail...).

WORKSHOPS There have been three workshops since the last newsletter. Two more, the "New lamps for old" and the "North West Leaders' and Musicians'" events, unfortunately had to be cancelled due to insufficient numbers. Reports for remaining events follow.

NORTH WEST DANCE SWAP It's a simple idea really. Fill a hall up with Morris dancers, get three people to shout at them for an hour and a half each, while a huge band on the stage play tunes they don't know very well, and arrange some food for them to eat at lunch time. And like many simple ideas, when it's done well, it can be very effective. And this workshop was one of those occasions when it did all work together. Standon Green provided a splendid lunch and a superb hall, for which many thanks. I must also thank Colin Bargery (from Raddon Hill Morris), Gill Huckle (from Fiddlesticks) and Jane Shaw (at her last official function as Technical Officer teaching one of Treacle Eater Clog's dances).

SPOTS SPECTACLES AND STUPID DANCES - Humour in Morris Workshop

Humour in Morris Workshop - Janet Dowling

I was not sure what I was expecting for this workshop. Was I going to be learning a variety of "silly dances" to be taking back to my team? Yet another version of old man's Morris, or the one where everyone fights in the middle and collapses on the ground. Come on! This was Jameson Wooders leading this workshop - nothing so mundane or easy!

This was definitely a thinking cap workshop. Jameson took us through the basic elements - first educate your audience so that they know what it is that you are doing (and of course that you are doing it well), then tease them with the light touches, a hat, a stray handkerchief, a tune -

hat are you planning to do with this different thing , and then into the bit which made the dance humorous. This is where the thinking caps came in. First we tried the old hackneyed jokes in dancing, pulled it apart, decided what made it funny , then put it back to make it funny in a different way. By the end of the day we were devising our own humorous dances , and then dances that stood out and made the difference. I still remember with a shiver the five who came in, bent over, sticks striking the ground in a strong repetitive beat that gripped the heart, danced their confrontation to the striking beat, then left again. It was not humorous, but would have left a lasting impression as a contrast to the dancing that had gone before.
A thought provoking day - you missed it!

COTSWOLD CURRICULA

Church Crookham, Hampshire - 18th January 1997

Intended to be the initial stage of a project designed to gather together the combined experiences of the Cotswold Morris gained over the last 30 years, during both practice and performance, this workshop drew on the vast knowledge of Roy Dommett to cover an extensive range of topics.

More than 40 experienced dancers from many sides gathered at Church Crookham Village Hall to participate in a mixture of listening, discussion and practical dancing sessions. Discussion topics included group dynamics, how team members work together and how team choices affect a side's direction, and the music-dance relationship.

Thanks are due to Andy Anderson for providing the music for the workshop. He gave his views on the problems encountered by musicians when trying to interpret the requirements of dancers or, indeed, workshop leaders, stressing the importance of both dancers and musicians working together.

Following some practical work on dance mechanics and techniques, there was a brief discussion on "Morris injuries" and the best ways to avoid them. During the afternoon, there was the opportunity to sample some "new" dances as demonstrated by Fleet Morris.

One very full day was not really enough time to explore all the aspects that comprise Cotswold Morris but provided us with much to think about and some good ideas to take back to our own sides.

Thanks must go to Marguerite Dommett who, throughout the day, provided copious cups of tea and coffee and at lunchtime an excellent spread, including soup, filled jacket potatoes, salad, cheese and fruit!

Most thanks must go to Roy Dommett himself for organising and running what he claimed was his last Morris Federation workshop. His experiences and views will provide an invaluable resource for this project.

Margaret Darby, Oyster Morris, Canterbury.

Ode To Doris

This is the tale of Doris Lancer,
Who wished to be a Morris Dancer.
So oft' upon some village green,
She'd viewed this terpsichorial scene.
In multi coloured ragged coats,
The dancers pranced to tuneful notes,
From Concertina and a drum,
With banjo and melodeon.

So when one day she chanced to see,
A side enthusiastically,
Performing at a rural Inn,
She felt the urges to join in.
I must discover where - she thought,
These nifty dancing steps are taught.
Enquiry brought a warm invite,
To join their winters practice night.

So every Monday without fail,
Doris fought the hail and gale.
With Hockles, gyms and Back to Back,
She persevered to get the knack.
The figures one by one were learned,
And as the spring approached she yearned,
To join the side in dancing out,
Performing's what its all about.

However prior to starting it,
Her first demand- to make her kit.
A shirt of white, a scarf of red,
And Chelsea Flower Show on her head.
All were fashioned, every one,
And finally when the task was done,
With shin bells jingling, Doris dressed,
And beaming proudly, joined the rest.

So thus resplendent, Doris Lancer,
'Though an embryonic dancer,
With no hint of trepidation,
Thrust herself upon the nation.
Mistress of each turn and twist,
Her side agreed she'd got the gist.
In Cross Back stepping she was queen,
Her hanky dances were - Supreme.

She'd clash and bash, she'd leap and squeal,
With awesome energetic zeal.
Her partners would recoil in shock,
When she percussed in Postman's Knock.
Ally Park and Ring of Bells,
Resounded to her 'Whoops' and 'Yells.'
When napping she'd attempt to break,
That phallicly erectile stake.

Now Doris it is true to tell,
Was something of a well made gell.
Her equal would be hard to find,
But Dolly Parton comes to mind.
Many's the man, upon some stool,
Would ogle, fantasise and drool,
At first transfixed, his eyes would browse,
The shapely contours of her blouse.

Her last engagement of the year,
To dance at nearby Windermere.
Performing in a Lichfield Hey,
She felt her brassier strap give way.
And as she circled vigorously,
Several pounds of double 'D',
Propelled her like a spinning top,
Beyond control, she couldn't stop.

Her rapid exit from the Hey,
Reduced the side to disarray.
Whirling Doris could be seen,
Hurling 'round the village green.
In disbelief at what they saw,
A group of tourists cheered for more.
As if to answer their refrain,
She hurtled 'round the green again.

And still in pirouette mode,
She gyroscoped into the road.
Where Doris, sadly out of luck,
Met forty tons of Volvo truck.
The driver hadn't got a chance,
And later in the ambulance,
Still clutching tight, her brassier clasp,
Poor Doris drew her final gasp.

Please, don't be sad, for Doris Lancer,
Had become a Morris Dancer.
Those assembled at her grave,
Recounted all the joy she gave.
And as they laid their mate to rest,
Their Squire unveiled her fitting crest,
Emblazoned on her epitaph,
'Big Baldricks' on a crooked staff.

**Written by Rique Llinares. November 1996.
Performed for Crook Morris at their
Christmas Dinner.**

The Morris Federation Spring 1997 Newsletter

Notice Board

Arts 4 Everyone - Janet Dowling

There is a new Arts Council Lottery Cash Grant that is open to organisations who

1. Encourage and develop participation in arts activity
2. Get more young people actively involved in arts and cultural activities
3. Support new work and help develop its audience
4. Build people creative potential through training or professional development
5. Encourage new audiences to experience high quality arts activity

There are two sets of funds to apply for -

Express - up to £5,000 where at least one of the above applies but applications have to be in by 30th April

Mainstream - up to £500k where at least three of the above must apply with deadlines of 31 March, 30 June, 30 September, 31 December.

Applications will have to have some other means of funding, and could well be in partnership with some other organisation (e.g. your local schools, youth clubs, sports centres etc)

We are looking to see what bids the Morris Federation could put in, but teams would be better off exploring local opportunities.

Ring 0990 100344 for the applications forms (NB they will ask you for the name of your organisation when taking details).

Three Shires, based near Sheffield, have a large (27 in. diameter) bass drum for sale. It has real skins, and is currently painted blue and red. If you are interested, please telephone (01909) 564329.

Illustrators needed to produce illustrations for dance notation. Any willing volunteers contact Rhian Collinson.

The Homburgs, an all acoustic band, seek to entertain ! Members of the band are actively involved as musicians for a local North West Morris dancing team, and as such will find a home at any Morris / Folk / Family event. Their musical itinerary , mandola, mandolin, piano accordion & percussion, will bombard your ears with lively infectious music, and fill your hearts with joy. For more information, please contact Wayne Wells (01282) 868301 or Paul Nicholson (01282) 861081. Morris On !

FOLKLORE AND MUSIC PRAGUE '97

2nd International Folklore and Music Festival

Friends of folklore and folk music are warmly invited to the

GOLDEN CITY OF PRAGUE (CZ)

During the period

17 - 19 October 1997

we expect



FOLKLORE ENSEMBLES, FOLK MUSIC GROUPS AND BANDS

from various European countries.

In return for a year of hard work, don't grudge your members, supporters and friends the chance of a long weekend in the unforgettable city of a hundred towers in the heart of Europe.

You will have numerous opportunities to dance, sing, and play with other folk groups and bands, on the attractive squares of the pedestrianized centre of Prague.

FESTIVAL PROGRAMME

Friday, 11th Oct:

- 15.00 Brief appearances of participants in the town centre
- 19.30 Opening show: Dance Groups

Saturday, 12th Oct:

- 11.00 Brief appearances of participants in the town centre
- 14.30 Junior Folklore Groups
- 19.30 Folk Groups and Bands

Sunday, 13th Oct:

- 10.30 Brief appearances of participants in the town centre
- 15.00 Closing Show: selected Folklore Ensembles and Music Groups, and Our Foreign Guests
- 19.00 Folk Party: Participants and Visitors, with the "STRAHOVANKA" band in costume

Your appearances will be arranged so that you have enough free time to get to know the culture of our country and the essential sights of Prague.

All groups taking part will receive a Festival Certificate from the promoters, and all foreign groups also receive a present.

Promoters: CTA PRAGUE artists agency in collaboration with the FOLKLORE ASSOCIATION of the Czech Republic.

We take this opportunity of offering you a 4-day package for your accommodation:

a) **Basic hotel (apartment):** One WC + shower room for every 2 - 3 bedrooms (twin or 3 beds)

DM 169,-

(Extra day DM 42,-)

b) **2 star hotel:** Room with WC + shower

DM 249,-

(Extra day DM 62,-)

c) **3 star hotel:** Double and Single Rooms

DM 328,-

(Extra day DM 91,-)

Every 21st person free!

Included in the price

3 nights with breakfast

City tour with guide (Prague Castle and Old Town) incl. admission charges

English-speaking courier available during your stay

Festival contribution and organisation of your appearances

Possible appearance outside Prague (optional)

Please send your application, by fax or post, giving the significant details of your organisation/society, number of participants, and the name, address, and tel./fax of the responsible person, to:

**Club - Tours Agentur
Na Hájku 367, 180 00 Prague 8, CZ
Tel./Fax: 0042 - 2 - 684 32 70**

The latest term

April 30, 1997

You will then receive further information and a detailed programme of your stay in Prague.

Yours sincerely

Pavel Švarc,
director



The Morris Federation Spring 1997 Newsletter

Morris in the National Curriculum

A small group of people from the Morris Ring, Morris Federation and Open Morris have been working together for some three years to get sufficient funding for a video on Morris Dancing to be used in schools as part of the National Curriculum on Traditional dance. Attempts to raise £20,000 to fund it were unsuccessful (very few teams contributed!) However, negotiations with a television company have been conducted and, subject to contracts, it is intended to prepare three twenty minute programs - two on social dance, and one on Morris dance. These would be prepared for broadcast in Spring '98, and would be on a six year rolling programme.

The programme would show a team demonstrating Bean Setting from Headington, which would be intercut with scenes from different teams dancing and possibly younger dancers. This programme would be Cotswold based, and there might be scope for other programmes on other types of Morris at a later date.

There would be a full teachers pack with notes on the dancing, which would contain references to the different Morris organisations. In addition a small working group will be putting together a stand alone leaflet on the history of the Morris, which would be available as a follow up for teachers requesting more information. This would be available through the three Morris organisations and EFDSS

In the meantime it is hoped to start filming in June/July. It would be useful if teams in and around the London area (or surrounding counties) could identify younger people (ages 6 to 18) who may be interested in taking part in the programmes - either on Morris dance or social dance. It has to be in or around the London area (or surrounding counties) as filming is likely to take place over a weekend in London. Names and contacts to Janet Dowling by end March, who will pass them on.

Focus on Youth

There was a meeting of the Public Image working group recently, and we felt that it would be useful to know of teams where there is a focus on younger people- for example

- teams of under 14 years old,
- teams where there are mainly members under 25, or
- teams where there is a mixture of adult and younger people, and where the younger people can field a separate team.

Apart from the Schools Video, we are looking at ways of promoting young people in the Morris, but we need to know where the young people currently are - good role models! So do let Janet Dowling know, and also send a photo in kit, if you have one.

Something more important to do on MayDay!

Dancing of course! But there is a strong possibility that The Election will occur on MayDay. If it does how about drumming up a bit of publicity by turning up in Kit - show the media that the Morris is not "dying" but flexing its electoral muscle. Include the polling station on your MayDay Tour, and let the local press, radio and TV know what you are doing. If you plan to give this a go, please let Janet Dowling (Again!) Know, as the public image working group plan to put out a press release if there are sufficient people willing to do it.

Post Of Events Officer

The best job on the Morris Federation Committee

Well, I think it is. I have decided that, after what will be eight years in the post, I wish to stand down at the next AGM, which means that we will be looking for a new Events Officer.

What does the Events Officer do?

Her or his primary task is to organise the events that the Federation runs. These are workshops and the Annual weekend of dance and AGM. In addition to this, there is the contribution to the newsletter to provide, which includes the diary, and you have to attend four committee meetings a year. (You have to attend the AGM as well, but seeing as how you are supposed to be organising that, I thought that was obvious).

Requirements...

Energy, enthusiasm, commitment - and just a little organisation (I know that I am a lot more organised than I used to be!)

OK, so you are interested, what next?

Give me a ring and we can have a chat. If you are seriously interested, there will be a lot of questions that you will want to ask. Talking to me does not imply any obligation at all.

Steve Cunio.

WHO TO CONTACT

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AGM - ORGANISATION	Steve Cunio
AGM	Beth Neill
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CIOFF (Dancing at overseas folk festivals)	Lynn Rogers
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	Beth Neill
NEW ADDRESS - YOURS	Judi Nancarrow
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PUBLIC RELATIONS	Rachel Pinkney
SHOP	Janet Dowling
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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. Hand-written 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 Textfile / ASCII, WordPerfect 5.1
Microsoft Word
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 put 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 1997

Morris Federation: <http://ourworld.compuserve.com/homepages/KevinRTaylor>

All known Morris related pages: <http://web.syr.edu/~rsholmes/morris/rich/otherwww.html>

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