



NEWSLETTER

Summer 1997

The Morris Federation Summer 1997 Newsletter

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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Enclosed : Summary Sheet ,County List update, Combined County Listing, Diary Sheet



Above are the logos of teams mentioned in the Summer newsletter, from left to right, they are : Hook Eagle Morris Men, Sarum Morris, Headcorn Morris, Flagcrackers of Craven. When sending in contributions to the newsletter, if possible, also include a picture of your team logo either on paper or on disk (gif, jif, tif, bmp, wmf etc format). It may then be possible to include your logo alongside your contribution.

President's Prologue

Janet Dowling

MayDay started this year for me at 6.30am , when the alarm went off, and I was up to take part in the New Esperance May Day Milk Maids Garland tour of Islington, North London. I thought wistfully of all those teams that had been up since dawn to welcome in the day. I then proceeded to have to wait for the postman to deliver my new set of Morris trousers. (Its a long story, and brinkwomanship has nothing in it!) They arrived at 9.30am and I was frantically hemming them before I set off for our 12 noon start. I was determined to get rid of those ghastly leggings I was wearing last year- and wanted to look good. MayDay is about putting on your best show, and for the teams who celebrate it, it can be great fun.

And I have recently come to realise that MayDay and the Morris is not just confined to these islands. In fact, dancing in the MayDay starts with the New Zealand teams, and finishes with the teams in California. We are just in the middle! Its an English tradition, but we have an international community of Morris dancers. English teams are now using this as a basis for going abroad - and it can be a good way of linking in with the local scenery by contacting the local Morris team. It also has implications for the development of the dances- just think what it did for the English Language!! (Two nations divided by the same language!)

And its a community that is growing all the time- the latest revised estimates of just the English dancers is at 15,000 dancers. I'm working on the estimates for Europe and the other continents!

And there is scope for a variety of teams, styles and attitudes. From the traditional to the outrageous, from the premier league to the five a side knockabout team, from the physical challenge to the social opportunity. Where would your team lie on these scales - or like some teams is it all of these? The Morris is developing , keeping hold of the old, bringing in the new.

Dance on, dance well, dance happy.

Janet Dowling

Editorial

Judi Nancarrow

Judging by the comments and stories filtering back from all over the country, May Day and May Bank holiday weekend were a great success and enjoyed by a great many people! My thanks to Hook Eagle Morris for their contribution to the newsletter, and the pictorial evidence of their May Day activities.

I enjoyed the Upton weekend, along with the many other sides who danced there come rain or shine! And my thanks to the Lady and Gentlemen who invited Paul and myself to dance, (and in so doing caused the heavens to open) outside the Heritage Centre in Upton on Sunday. Cotswold in clogs.... it reminded me that my days with New Esperance were a long time ago!!!!

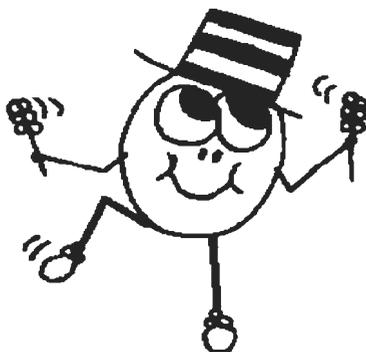
There have been several contributions for inclusion in the diary pages, I hope none have been missed, thanks for these. There are several other articles in this issue which I have received from members, and which I hope will be of interest and even of some use!! Don't forget, your news, views and information are always welcome.

The Federation is looking to compile a list of suppliers / manufacturers dealing with all things Morris (Ribbons, Bells, Clogs, Clothing, Hats etc). If you would like to be included in this list (and perhaps future issues of this newsletter), please send me details of your trade.

My apologies for the missing names and addresses on the back of the last issue, in particular to Lynn! This situation rectified now, I hope!

Lastly, my thanks for helping to put this issue together go to Paul, who is better at the tricky technological bits than I am!!!

Wishing you all a fine dancing summer in every sense, let us know what you've been up to.



P.S. A few people may have been wondering who the above happy fellow is. He is ever active in the pursuit of good music, good dancing, and good drink ! Please meet Mr Dancer, Maurice Dancer !!

General

Beth Neill

You will have all (except for those who rejoined really late) have received your copy of the Spring newsletter with Directory - complete with several typo errors that I know I deleted when I prepared the county table. However - when I went back to the directory - somehow all the amendments didn't make it. You all know what computer files are like. So - I do apologise to anybody who was seriously mis-spelt. A couple of you have let me know errors - thank you. It is much easier to edit my master copy now and to be able to pass on correct details all the year.

Also - for those who wonder why they weren't on the directory - you have until approximately January 31st to be logged on - this is well into the time by which you should have sent in your renewal forms, since Rachel sends them out in November. I need to get the directory finished to send to the printers. I do the address labels up to a few days after this deadline in order to try to get as many copies of the newsletter out first time, without the extra time involved while the extra copies travel round the country to me to send on as and when people rejoin. So - you may have got a copy of the newsletter sent directly from the printers but find yourself not on the directory. Hope that is clear.

You should have all received a copy of the invitation to the AGM. Most people will have received a separate letter posted by Hastings council with a glossy brochure. Late - or new - joiners have received a copy of the invitation letter with your renewal stuff but you will have to phone up the council for your brochure if you want one - number is on the letter.

We in the committee have been beavering away with possible changes to the constitution which we have realised may be necessary as a result of now having two people sharing the role of technical officer, but also as a result of the increasing number of people who are wanting to join as individuals for various reasons - to keep in touch, to have their own vote (!) or to be able to dance out as a non-team dancer (but this last does not present a viable option at present since individuals are not covered by insurance). So the next newsletter - or a separate mailing - will contain various proposals along these lines. Please when they arrive, discuss them among your teams - we will need your ideas and votes for the AGM.

However, the AGM business should not just be generated by the committee - discussion points to be added to the agenda should be sent to me in time for me to circulate to all members. The draft agenda goes out at the end of July ; it is really nice if we ALL know in advance if there are issues to consider. On the subject of sharing information with your teams - please could the person who is the MF correspondent let their team know that they possess a copy of the directory - and even regular updates thereof. One of my pet moans is the number of people who ring up for details that they should already have access to, i.e. the contact for a team they wish to invite to their weekend of dance. They must have asked their MF correspondent for my number to get through to me in the first place, so.....?!!

Technical Services (Notation)

Rhian Collinson

Firstly I would like to thank all of you who returned the tear-off reply slips from the letters sent to you by Jane. I don't have a complete set, but assume that those who haven't replied are happy to have their notation available for others to use.

The last newsletter contained a short report on Roy Dommett's Cotswold Curricula workshop. The notes taken from the video of the discussions are now available to all members for the bargain price of £1. They fill both sides of 6 sheets of A4 paper and cover the following main areas:

Managing and organising a modern Morris team. The mechanics of movement. Sticks. Music. Shows Teaching Morris. Dealing with injuries. Please contact me if you would like a copy.

One of my main responsibilities is the Morris Notation Group. It has proved to be very difficult to arrange a meeting as the members are all incredibly busy people. It was only when I realised that nearly all of them would be at the Wantage weekend workshop in March that I was able to get the members together, though they were a little reluctant to hurry over lunch.

The group had a useful discussion on how best to proceed with the existing projects and as a result of the ideas the Morris Federation Committee has agreed terms of reference for the group. The aim of the group is to write/compile/collate and publish books or booklets which will provide reference material for teachers of Morris dancing in general and individual Morris traditions or styles in particular. It will have at least one formal meeting a year in which it will review the progress of current projects, initiate new projects and set targets for the next year.

There are a number of on-going projects, the majority concerned with producing books on single Cotswold traditions: Hinton, Brackley, Badby, Kirtlington. There has also been work done on a booklet giving a brief history of Morris (all styles). Roy Dommett has any number of projects on the go and my main job there has been to find someone who will act as helper and Research Assistant.

The next meeting of the group will be on Sunday 9th November, possibly in Windsor. If anyone out there has a project that they want to bring under the umbrella of the Notation Group, please contact me.

Finally, I have had one response to my appeal for artists (thanks). If anyone out there has knowledge of a PC package which might be useful for drawing diagrams to supplement dance notation please let me know about it.

Rhian Collinson - Technical Officer (Notation)

Technical Services (Archive)

Lynn Rogers

ARM - Saturday 22nd March, Uttoxeter

Whilst unpacking the archive I was glancing through some of the first editions of Morris Matters. One issue dominated the articles and letters - should women be dancing Morris? It made me realise just how far we've come in the last 21 years. This was brought home even more by my attendance at the Morris Ring's Annual Ring Meeting (ARM) as the Morris Federation observer. Although it was initially a little daunting to be the only female in a room of 100 plus men, I was made welcome and experienced no "bad vibes" whatsoever. In fact the overwhelming feeling of the meeting was that the three Morris organisations should work together where appropriate.

The Ring takes archiving very seriously. In addition to an archivist they also have separate people responsible for photograph, mumming and animal archives. I was impressed by their pro-active attitude. As well as asking clubs and individuals to send any relevant material and photographs they are currently planning to make sound recordings of Morris musicians.

Other areas of concern were very similar to those being discussed within the Federation. In particular the problem of attracting younger dancers and musicians and making sure that we improve our image in the media.

One event being planned for the year 2000 is a celebration of the 400th anniversary of Kempe's Nine Days Wonder. It was agreed that this should be a Morris event as opposed to a Ring event. Watch this space for more details.

I found the whole day very interesting as it gave me an insight into how the Ring operates. The atmosphere is different to that within the Federation and different again to Open Morris but when it comes down to basics we're all heading in the same direction.

1. MAGNet - Indexing System : I have received a copy of the indexing system at last. My initial attempts to use it have given me some cause for concern over the indexing keywords. They don't tie in very well with the subject headings that we currently use within MF. I am hoping to hold a meeting of the MF Archive group at the end of June to review and evaluate the system.

2. MAG : The MAG meeting on March 15th was devoted mainly to the indexing system. Chris Clarke who has written the system gave a demonstration and answered our questions. We also discussed how the resulting database should be distributed and made accessible to interested parties.

3. Archiving Workshop : I attended the Morris Ring Workshop on archiving on 13th April. It was an interesting day with excellent food. The emphasis was on the correct storage of materials to avoid deterioration. Proper storage is important not only for those materials held centrally by the Federation but also for individual team records. If you are responsible for your team's archives and would like to ensure that they are preserved for future generations please get in touch with me.

As part of the workshop many people had put on displays of archival material. Amongst them was a member of a working group who are planning to establish a National Centre for English Traditional Performance. The Centre will consist of a museum of English Ritual Dance, Drama and Calendar Customs; an archive and resource and study centre; indoor and outdoor performance areas. It sounds like an interesting idea. I will pass on any further information to you as I receive it.

Lynn Rogers 12/4/97

Financial Services

Rachel Pinkney

GROUP PERSONAL ACCIDENT INSURANCE : Teams wishing to take out this insurance and who missed the February deadline now have the opportunity to take it out for the period August 1997 to February 1998. Cost is 52p per person for UK cover and if required an additional 31p per person for overseas cover. Teams are reminded that all members, dancers and musicians must be included, your total membership. Forms can be obtained from me and must be completed and returned with remittance by 20th July. Any arriving after that date will be returned.

CHEQUES : Please ensure your side has adequate funds before sending cheques to me as the bank charges a fee of £5.00 for all cheques that have to be returned. Where we have to pay this we will need reimbursement.

SHOP : Please note an error on the order form for bells, 1" are 19p each, £18.50 per 100. I apologise for late delivery of some orders but it was entirely due to manufacturing difficulties. Whilst On this subject - a reminder there is a nominal charge of £1.00 for post and packing, you will appreciate this will have to be looked into if there is another postal increase, it is becoming more and more difficult to absorb these increases.

Looking on the bright side I wish you all a super Summer season.



Focus on Youth



It is important that we know where there are young people in the Morris to act as role models for others. Sometimes it can be difficult to track them down or to know what people are doing with them. We would like to feature a team in each Newsletter who are either all younger people or who are part of an adult team, or where a team is working with younger people to involve them in the Morris in schools etc

First in this series are Poacher Morris in Lincoln

Sue Baster writes-

“Here is a little about our team, Poacher Morris, which if it wasn’t for the enthusiasm of the younger members, would not function.

The youngest is 7 years old. The eldest is 22. The rest of us oldies are in their 30s and 40s (editors note- Oldies at 30 and 40??)

Katherine 16, is a brilliant fiddler and can pick up tunes without any effort and seem s to be able to play any instrument.

We are basically three families who have come together through our enjoyment of dancing. The team has been going for just over a year and a half. We perform a mixture of Border, Cotswold and some of our own invention. There has been a good response from other teams locally and a few are now considering allowing their own children to join in with teams.

After all, the younger generation are the future of Morris and should be encouraged. Members of the team also go into schools to do dance workshops, and these have been very successful.”

Please send information about your teams involvement to Janet Dowling- thanks.



Fed on the Net and MayDay

There are about 80 teams who have been able to give an e-mail address for their side. These teams will already know of the use that we have tried to make of it in relation to the May Day press release. This is to let the rest of you know what we were doing, and why its useful to have an e mail address.

At the meeting of the Joint Morris Organisations Public Image Working Group, we agreed to put out a joint press release on the Morris, MayDay and the Election. I had asked teams in the last newsletter to let me know what they were doing on MayDay, but few of you responded. We sent out an e mail to all known Morris teams on the net, were able to get back 17 replies, and were able to add to them the teams dancing out on MayDay that were known to the Ring and Open Morris. The press release was drafted, agreed between the three Morris organisations, and faxed with all the details to the media.

Copy was then sent to all Morris teams on e-mail suggesting that they use it if they were dancing out. Timescales were a little tight, due to my work commitments (you know, the stuff we do when we are not dancing Morris), so the teams probably got it a bit late, and the other big news of the day probably got in the way. I haven't had much feedback on what finally did get printed and where but some stuff is already trickling through.

The point of the story is that at least we did it, and showed that we had a fast and efficient way of communicating with teams on up to the minute issues. The newsletter is the main source of communication at present, and by the time you get it the information is at least 6 weeks out of date. If we had to send letters out to every team, it would cost £100 in postage each time, let alone the labour of putting the stuff in the envelopes. Sometimes, and only sometimes, it is useful to be able to get a quick response.

I fully appreciate that there are going to be teams where there is no one with access to e-mail, and there is a danger of people feeling left out. However, there maybe times when information needs to be sent out quickly, and feedback sought from as wide a range of people as possible. Its not going to happen very often, but its very useful for the Federation Committee to have this sort of access.

So - if you have access to an e-mail address, please let Beth Neill know, and we can add you to the list!! And check out the Fed's web site while you are cruising (some public libraries now have access)

{:-) and this is an Internet smiley face (look at it sideways!!)

Janet
PoMF
NEM

Events

Steve Cunio

1997 : The Morris Federation Annual Weekend of Dance and AGM : You should have all received an invitation to this by now. If anyone thinks they have missed out, please get in touch with Beth Neill, the MF Secretary at once, as she has spare copies. Those of you who have been to 'Jack in the Green' will need no encouragement to return to Hastings. Those of us who have not will be able to seem what we have been missing all these years.

1998 : The Morris Federation Annual Weekend of Dance and AGM : I know this sounds early, but I am able to announce the host team for the 1998 Weekend of Dance. Step forward the Flag Crackers of Craven, who will be entertaining us in Skipton over the weekend of 25-27th September 1998. More details will be forthcoming nearer the time, but Flag Crackers have a splendid reputation as hosts.

Workshops : There should have been three workshops since the last newsletter went to press. However, two of them had to be cancelled, as not enough people wanted to attend to make the events worthwhile. I would like to recognise all those people who worked hard to make those events possible. It is particularly annoying to spend time and effort trying to put an event together, only to have it not happen due to events entirely beyond your control. So, a big thank you to Hart and Sole, for the North West Weekend that didn't happen and to Long Itchington Morris and Lynn and Mark Rogers for the Wheatley Workshop.

Next season : The planning of three of this autumn's workshops has already begun. Obviously, some of the details still have to be worked out, but the following looks fairly certain at the moment. Full details will be in the next Federation newsletter, but if you need more information before then, please feel free to get in touch.

North West 25 October 1997 Midlands : Chinewrde were one of the most impressive sights at last year's Sidmouth Festival with a processional dance with what seemed like an infinite number of dancers, extremely good arena performances and some of the best workshops of the week. This workshop is your chance to experience the "Chinewrde style"

Mumming 1-2nd November 1997 Yeovil : It has been a very long time since the Federation organised a Mumming workshop. For this event, we are very fortunate to have the Mendip Mummers who will be leading the event, which will certainly include some participation and performance.

Events

Steve Cunio

Doc Rowe 15th November 1997 Bristol : Over the years, the Federation has organised several non-dancing workshops. These have usually been a series of lectures about the history or the revival of a particular style of Morris. This one is just a little different. Doc is, for want of a better description, a collector and recorder of traditional customs. He travels round the country each year, regularly visiting events such as Padstow May day, the Haxey Hood game, and the South Queensferry Burry Man day. He has a huge collection of photographs and other recordings of these events, and, for this workshop will be giving an illustrated lecture, describing these and other traditions. If you are at all interested in such customs, you should certainly be there.

Stepping Special Interest Group (StepSIG) : The one workshop that did go ahead recently was the first Step Dance Special Interest Group event. This was hosted by Tanglefoot Clog, in Wantage and the main part of the day was taken up with Geoff Hughes teaching a North East hornpipe. This by all accounts was a great success, with many of the feedback sheets praising Geoff for his teaching (I was at the workshop, but if you have ever seen me try to step dance you will realise why I am thoroughly unqualified to pass judgement on such an event). I must thank Geoff, Keith (our patient musician) and Tanglefoot for the success of the day.

Just after an excellent lunch, we had a discussion on the future of the group. The enthusiasm was amazing. If we could take up every suggestion made, there would be a stepping workshop every weekend. However, the main desires of the group seemed to be more events for step dancers in the South of England. This, of course would be unfair on those people who live further away, but, since then I have had two more expressions of interest in hosting such workshops, one in the Midlands and one in the North. Trying to fit so many events in for a small percentage of the Federation's membership is going to be difficult, but we do have some ideas for this. There will be a least one StepSIG workshop next winter, but I am working on ways to increase this. Watch this space.

A plea : If you have any ideas for workshops, would like to teach or lead a workshop, or would like someone to come and teach you, please get in touch. I am, as I said in the last newsletter, stepping down from the post of Events Officer at the end of the year. My successor will, no doubt have ideas of his or her own to bring to the job, but they will also need help and ideas from the membership at large.

An apology : You will notice that there is no diary in this newsletter. This is because the diary form was accidentally omitted from the last newsletter. Normal service will be resumed from now on.

Diary

JUNE

1st	Hook Eagle - Hook Village Fete 1pm Headcorn Morris - Dickens Festival Rochester
5th	Headcorn Morris - The Wheel Westwell
7th	Jack Straws day of Dance
12th	Headcorn - The king & Queen East Malling
13th-15th	Wimbourne Festival
19th	Headcorn - The Swan Harlequin Faversham
20th	Hook Eagle - The White Heat Hook
26th	Headcorn - The Dog and Bear Lenham
27th	Hook Eagle - Odiham Festival
28th	Sittingbourne Spectacular

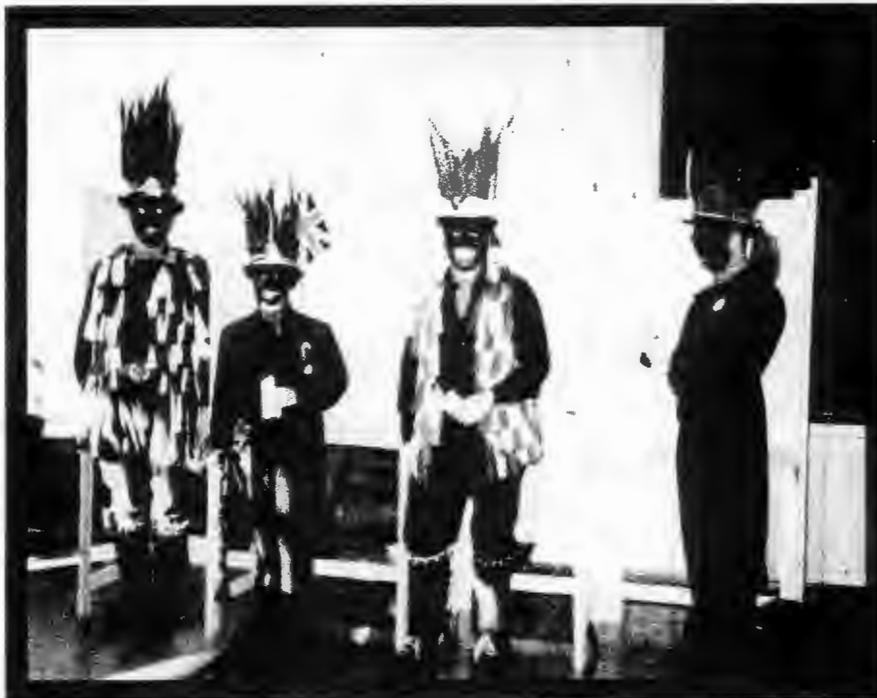
JULY

3 rd	Egerton Music Festival
4th-6th	Lobster Potties Festival Sherringhamrn-
11th	Hook Morris and Mayflower Morris - The Cricketers Hartley Witney
11th-13 th	Sarum Morris Summer Tour - Pump House Clog Morris, Woad Works Border Morris, Green Dragon Morris, and from Toronto Greenfiddle Morris Saturday at Market Square Salisbury, Beggars Fair Romsey Mottisfont Abbey Gardens: Sunday Stonehenge and Bridge Inn Woodford.
11th	Headcorn Morris Ale
17th	Headcorn Rose & Crown Perrywood
18th	Hook Eagle- The Old House at home Newnham
22nd	Hook Eagle, Teappas Tump, Fleet Morris The Old Bell Grazely Green
24th	Headcorn- The Kings Head Grafty Green
31 st	Headcorn The Ten Bells Leeds

AUGUST

Sidmouth	
7th	Headcorn - The Peacock Goudhurst
14th	Headcorn - The Chequers Challock
21 st	Headcorn - The Red Lion Biddenden
28th	Headcorn - The Royal Oak Bearsted Green
30th	Hop Festival Faversham

 *Hook Eagle Morris Men* 



Hot on their heels of their starring role in BBC2's "Out and About" programme about the Basingstoke Canal (to be broadcast on May 29) The Hook Eagle Morris Men danced at dawn on 1st May to ensure a great start to the summer and what a result. After breakfast in the White Hart Hotel it was off to be the first to vote at the Hook polling station for the General Election followed by some more dancing to get everyone in a festive mood for this important day. (John Ellis - Hook Eagle Morris - 01256 768740)

The Morris Federation Summer 1997 Newsletter

BADGES - KEY RINGS - EARRINGS - CUFF LINKS - MEDALS

WOODEN BADGES

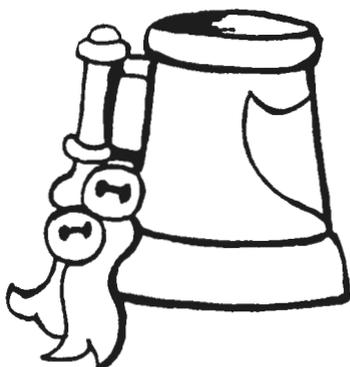
HAND PAINTED - MADE TO YOUR DESIGNS.

Do you want to brighten up the image of your side, or raise extra funds selling souvenirs to the public? Are you organising a tour or a festival and want something special to give or sell to the other sides? Interested - well we are the folk to contact. We are Jerry and Hilary Bix, both of us are active dancers and help to run Bideford folk club and produce a North Devon Folk diary.

We also take people's logos, images and designs and make them into quality wooden badges. These are then tastefully hand-coloured in small numbers. Over the years we have made badges for every size of organisation, from village playgroups to the National Trust.

There is no minimum order and prices start from 60 pence. As well as badges these can be key-rings, ear-rings, cuff-links, hair slides, medals, medallions or fridge magnets.

For more information write to us with your picture, sketch, artwork etc. and include a first class stamp and a phone number and we will send you a sample and some pictures and let you know straight away what we can do for you and how much it will cost.



JERRY AND HILARY BIX.
36 LOWER GUNSTONE. BIDEFORD. DEVON. EX39 2DE
Tel. & Fax. (01237) 470792

MADE BY DANCERS FOR DANCERS.

Life Before Morris ?

Keith Cocker

So, how was it for you?

I had no interest what so ever when my partner said she wanted to be a Morris Dancer.....

Funny how time changes everything!

I did go along to watch, and give some support, but after a while I started to complain; "you're not out again?" "you don't have turn out for every booking"

Little did I know at the time.....

Very soon there were two pairs of clogs clattering down the front steps at weekends. I was now part of the Morris Team and drummer in a large band....for now.

Being self employed and working from home, I played my tapes of the Morris tunes all day to familiarise myself with them. The weekends were getting cooler, so I suggested that I make us sweatshirts, printed with our motif, a great hit, also worn at evening functions, weekends away, we all knew who we were, but who was I? I was beginning to wonder.

The band had begun to dwindle, members were going off to University, or moving away. Suddenly I was told I would have to learn to play a melodeon or something along those lines, and quick!!

As always, I did as I was told, and in those early days there were* times, when in one dance alone the ladies danced at three different speeds. (* were as in past tense!)

I was now more involved with a Morris Team than I ever thought I would be, in more ways than one.

A request from the ladies for cardigans rather than sweat shirts did not go unheard, and I duly busied myself with the said request, also smaller sizes for our children's team.

Life before Morris? What did I do with my time? Well, I'm still playing in the band, and making Morris sweatshirts and cardigans, made by Morris people for Morris people - even little ones.

Interested? please call O.B.O Clothing, Keith or Joan 01282 455652.

Fleur de Lys Morris

1976-1997

21 Years of Dancing

Fleur de Lys were one of the many sides to "spring" up in the 1970's. It all began when several female members of Stag Folk Club, Godalming hit on the idea that a local women's Morris team would prove popular. It was initially funded from the folk club coffers and with help from one or two experienced male dancers to teach the dances, a new team was born.

Our first performance was at Stag Folk Club's Christmas party on 20th December 1976, without kit and still without a name. It was several months before the name Fleur de Lys and the colours Purple and Yellow were decided on, basing it on the Flag Iris flower that grows locally along the River Wey.

Gradually, we evolved a mixed programme; traditional dances and tunes from the Cotswolds, one or two Border Dances, a few of our own invention and of course Stave dances which are based on processional steps used by Victorian friendly societies on their annual feast days.

We have one "original" member remaining and several who joined the side in our second year. (They were absurdly young at the time of course!) We have a wonderful Unicorn named Eustacia (any resemblance to Barbera Cartland is purely coincidental) and in this, our 21st year we welcome Simon/e as our Betsy.

We will be celebrating our coming of age with a day of dance on Saturday 13th September in and around Godalming with other local teams and friends we have met over the years. The day will be rounded off with a ceilidh for which tickets are available. We would be pleased to hear from anyone with Fleur de Lys connections obviously we didn't have contact addresses for everyone.



Anyone wanting to join in the fun, please ring Roma on 01483 574624 or Liz on 01483 275922.

Noticeboard

EVENTS OFFICER REQUIRED

As advertised in the last newsletter, I am standing down at the end of the year, which means we will need to elect a new EO in Hastings. Again, as advertised last time, I think it is the best job on the committee, but I would. This time, I thought I would expand on what the job actually entails.

The Federation usually aims to run about five or six workshops throughout the winter, as well as the annual weekend of dance, which includes the AGM. It is the EO's main job to co-ordinate the organisation of these. The host team usually do much of the work, such as booking the accommodation and arranging food. The EO will also, in the case of workshops, arrange for leaders or instructors if these do not belong to the host team.

There is no getting away from the fact that this does require an amount of time. The EO does not have to attend all the workshops in person, although I have been to the majority. There are however four committee meetings a year, and you do have to attend the AGM weekend. I usually describe the job as taking a similar amount of time to being the officer of a busy Morris team, in that it averages about one evening a week, with days and weekends as well. The one oddity, at least for a Morris dancer, is that most of the weekend activity is in the 'practice' season. The summer is often my quietest time.

If you are at all interested, please give me a call. I am quite friendly and all calls will be treated in confidence, and will imply no obligation on your part -I want my successor to do the job well and enjoy it.

Steve Cunio

Morris Federation Weekend of dance and AGM - Important notice

You should have received the information about the Weekend of dance and AGM in Hastings this year. Don't forget to send back your booking form.

Please note that if you require outdoor camping, you will have to make arrangements with the campsite yourself. There is no grass in Hastings Old Town for outdoor camping. Details of the camp site at Shearbarn, Barley lane, Hastings were enclosed with the AGM information, and you will need to contact them direct.

Any one who has ever attended Jack in the Green at Hastings will know that it is a great place to dance, and this years weekend of dance promises to be very good.

Be there!

Noticeboard



Flagcrackers of Craven Millenium Celebration update:

Flagcrackers have successfully completed the first hurdle towards their planned Millenium celebration at the Yorkshire Show Ground in 2000. Their proposals have been formerly accepted for consideration, so congratulations to Dick Taylor and the rest of the team, we will, of course you up to date with further developments.

Your invitation to the NZ National Morris tour 1998

As daylight saving ends and autumn chill grips a Mainland Morris Dancers knees, it must be time to imagine the warm friendly delights of next summers national Morris Tour.

Diary dates are 3rd-9th January 1998 for a fabulous tour including:

Christchurch City Hammer Springs, Beaches, Mountain views, River or Railway trips, Vineyards, Botanical gardens, Hot pools walks, BBQ's Twelfth Night Dance, and final evening Ale Feast.

Two Mainland sides are your hosts, the long established Tussock Jumpers, (Cotswold Tradition) and a new Christchurch North West Clog Morris side, started by dancers recently arrived from England and former members of Majic Mushrooms.

We have pre booked beds at \$10 - \$13 a night for adults, reducing to \$8 for camping, and less for children.

If you are interested please reply as soon as you can to: Jeneane Hobby, 82 Ashley Street, Rangiora 8254 North Canterbury NZ. Telephone 03 313 4932 or E-mail c/o: anneandrhy@compuserv.com

SNARE DRUM WANTED : Lightweight - *must be plywood*, new / used. Please contact Judith Hayman (Redehall Ranters) 01342 321086

A note from Jane Shaw to advise of a change of name, that she will now be known as Jane Marsh.

WHO TO CONTACT

ADDRESS - CHANGE OF ADDRESSES - NOT IN MF	Beth Neill
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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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MORRIS CONFERENCE	Lynn Rogers
MORRIS PUBLICATION GROUP	Judi Nancarrow
NEW ADDRESS - YOURS	Beth Neill
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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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