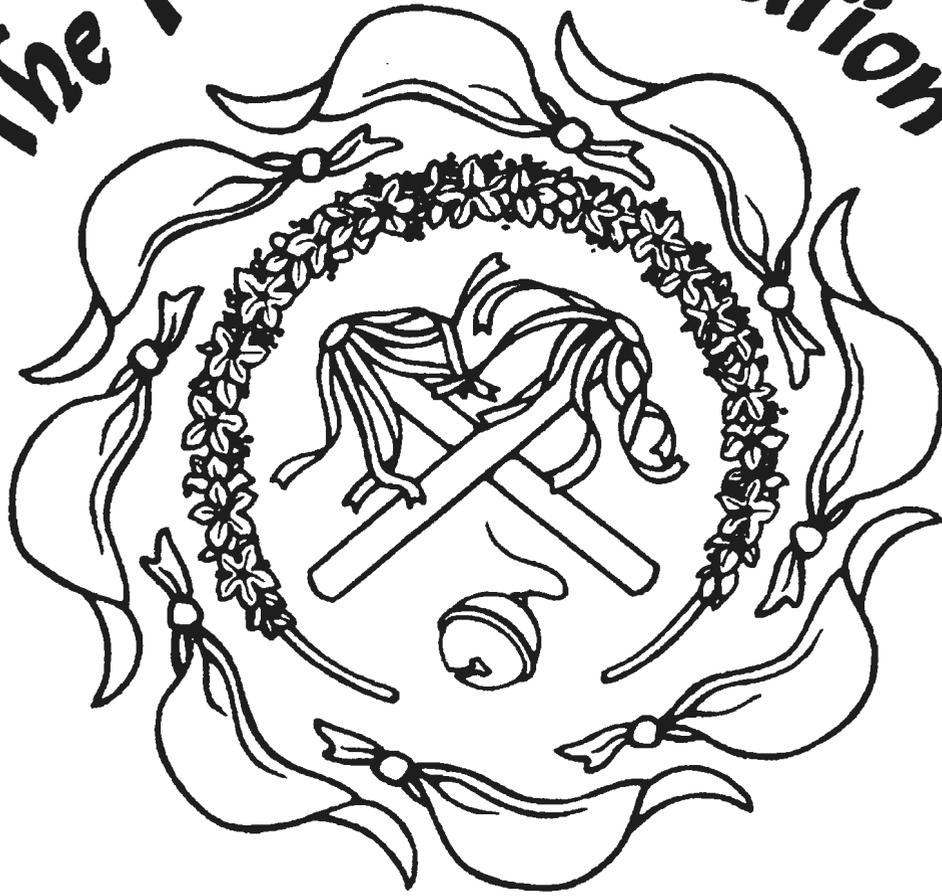


The Morris Federation



Newsletter
Spring 2001

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 addressed to the Newsletter Editor.

Contents

Presidents Prologue	4
Editorial	5
Archive	5
Letters	6
Diary	8
AGM 2001	8
Events	9
Wantage in the Millennium	10
Astley's Rise	11
Noticeboard	12
Redbourne Stoke	13
Fools and Beasts	14
Risk Assessment	15
Goods List	16

Enclosures

Diary Sheet
Summary Sheet
Directory Update
Eight Days Wonder Order Form
AGM Booking Form
Fools and Beasts Booking Form

PRESIDENT'S PROLOGUE

I trust that your practice sessions are going well, though I am aware that many sides perform throughout the winter months - but that should not deter us from debating and discussing our performance standards during practice. One of our aims for the coming dancing out season should be to improve the image of Morris, especially with the media, and within our schools at both junior and senior level. Improving our performance should go a long way to achieving a better image. I was disappointed about month ago when my own side, Ditchling Morris was forced to cancel a major junior workshop that we were holding in conjunction with NYFTE, because of lack of interest, only 7 participants from 12 schools in the area registered. What were the reasons? - Morris is not 'cool'! So I believe that putting on a good quality performance every time we dance out is vital to improve our image and to make Morris as 'cool' as Irish and Scottish dancing.

Over the last three months there has been much debate with regard to collecting, and how the 1992/93 Charities Act impacts on the Morris. In 1995 we provided a briefing note on public charitable collections and this should be in your Members Manual. A reprint is included with this issue of the Newsletter for easy reference. In addition we also included in earlier Newsletters (Autumn 1993 and 1994) some advice on collecting during performances

The outcome of my recent discussions with the Charities Commission is that they confirmed that Part III has not yet been made law and advised that;

1 - Raising money for anybody, including for our own expenses, in a public place requires a permit from the local authority

2 - Raising money for anybody in a private place, including for our own expenses, does not require a licence but permission from the Landlord/Owner/Manager should be sought

3 - Raising money for a registered or an unregistered charity in a public or private place requires authorisation in writing from the Charity and if you are taking a percentage of the takings for expenses, then this fact must be referred to in the authorisation.

I think that this puts it fairly well in a nutshell.

This year's AGM is to take place over the last weekend of September in Cranleigh, Surrey and further details are included in this Newsletter. One of our aims is to alternate between North and South and I can confirm that for 2002, Betty Luptons and Ripon Morris have agreed to host the AGM. Please make a note that the 2002 AGM will not be over the last weekend of September but will be one week earlier on the **21st and 22nd of September**. This is because of a major sheep fair in the area during the last week of the month. Both promise to be excellent events so please make an effort to take part in them, 'the more the merrier'.

In my discussions with the EFDSS, we are pursuing the possibility of working together with the other Morris organisations in setting up a Morris Futures Project. You might ask what this is all about. The concept is that EFDSS has agreed to employ a PR person who will promote the Morris with the aim of raising its image and getting us a better deal in our Morris activities. So watch this space for more information.

Finally a pointer for the season, to quote, 'the music makes the dance visible while the dancers make the music heard'. How often does one see the music and dancers appearing to be two separate entities – the musicians must play the dance while the dancers must dance the tune.

By the time that you get this May Day will be just around the corner – happy dancing.

John Bacon

Editorial

This issue of the Newsletter is rather late and shorter than usual publications, for which I must apologise. However, family pressures have resulted in my having too little time to devote to this edition. All articles which have been submitted, but which do not appear here will be published in future editions, and there are several. So, thanks to all those who have sent in articles and my apologies for not being able to include them in this Spring Newsletter.

After six years of producing the newsletter, I have decided to stand down at the next AGM. So for all you budding journalists and editors there is a chance for you to take the newsletter into 2002 with a flourish. A brief job description is available in this newsletter, please feel free to contact me if you require further information, or John Bacon (addresses and telephone numbers are on the back page).

And finally, as the beginning of the season approaches, don't forget to send information about your forthcoming events to Nicola, the Events Officer, and pictures and words for the Newsletter.

Jude Barrett

Archive

Press Cuttings

The response to my plea for the preservation of Newspaper Cuttings has not been ignored, but the postie has not suffered from an unduly heavy post-bag. Still, it has been winter. Keep them coming. I'll write more, when a few more come in.

Early Morris in Thurso

Thanks to Mike Arkley of my team, Redbornstoke Morris for this item. His old school, Miller Academy, has just published its history. The 1913 Concert and Prizegiving included as item 3: MORRIS DANCE ...“Laudnum Bunches”, which was performed by the Higher Grade Girls (i.e. girls sitting for the Scottish Higher Certificate of Education). One could imagine that the teacher who had taught the girls learned Morris from or in the company of Cecil Sharp or Mary Neal, maybe even Sam Bennett. Who knows? If anyone can shed more light on this, please let me know.

Despite the proximity of Thurso to John o'Groats, the concert was under strong English influence, with a song “Ye Mariners of England”; William Lillie gave a rendition of Henry V's address to his soldiers. Given the events of a year later, the Junior Students' song “Oh! Lovely Peace” seems sadly prophetic.

Database

The Morris Ring Archivist, Chris Metherel, has sent me the Ring Archive database on disc. He also sent the complete Thesaurus of Morris

Letters

terminology. I shall be spending a few winter evening hours trying to convert the rudimentary database of the Federation accession list into a compatible form with the Ring's. Of course, it may not work and something new will emerge. It should all get onto the website before too much longer.

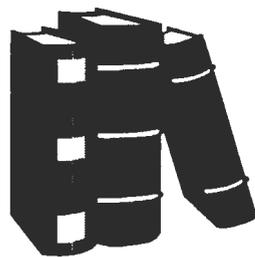
New Items

Customs & Traditions in Britain - The Pitkin Guide, ISBN 0-85372-992-1, £2.99.

This colourful, well-illustrated 32 guide covers calendar events from "Burning the Clavie" at Burghead, Morayshire on the old New Year's Eve (modern 11 January) through Tuppenny Starvers at Bristol on Easter Tuesday to the Antrobus Soulers on 30th October and Mumming plays on Boxing Day. Even Royalty gets a mention with the Trooping of the Colour and Swan Upping. Morris and Sword dancing are well represented with some excellent photographs and pretty tolerable descriptions. An excellent stocking filler; it's worth £2.99 for the photographs alone.

By the time you read this, I should have a copy of "Eight Days Wonder" the tale of the commemoration of the 400th anniversary of Will Kemp's Nine Days Wonder (solo jig from London to Norwich). Order forms for the book are available with this edition of the Newsletter, and a full review will be published next time.

Adrian Williams



Dear Adrian Williams

I was most interested to read your items on Page 17 of the Morris Federation Newsletter, Winter 2000. We at Black Sheep will take to heart your request to send you the press cuttings on Morris related reports from our local papers. However, I am sure every Morris side has had examples of inaccurate reporting, and your point is well made that we should endeavour to put them right as they may form the basis of "serious historical research" in the future.

One of the main sources of serious study of the Morris in future will no doubt be the Newsletter itself. Therefore I would be grateful if you would correct the caption to a picture on the opposite facing page (16) to your articles. The top left hand picture is of Black Sheep at the Kendal Gathering, although the caption reads 'Black Pig'.

In the photograph we are doing a dance called 'Ragged Crow'. We learnt this dance at a workshop weekend from Clerical Error, a Border side from Mold in North Wales. (The finer points of the dance were being taught at about 4am on the Sunday morning!) We do in fact do a dance called Black Pig (Captain Pugwash music) and maybe this is where the confusion has arisen.

We would like to take the opportunity to repeat our thanks to the hosts, Westmorland Step and Garland, for a great event. We hope that John Bacon, and all the Morris Federation Officers will come up and experience other 'northern festivals' in the coming year. For those sides that would like such an experience, possibly as an alternative to Rochester, Hastings or Upton festivals, we would welcome them at the 'Teesdale Thrash' on the first bank holiday weekend in May (4th-7th). We hope that we have provided plenty of dancing opportunities, in a relaxed and friendly atmosphere, in the historic market town of Barnard Castle, Co.Durham over the last dozen years.

Keep it coming, as we appreciate all the work, time and effort the put in on behalf of the Morris Federation sides, even those in the 'sticks' like us.

Andrew Bishop
Secretary, Black Sheep Morris.

Apologies for that mistake, Ed.



Dancer's diary



February

18 Sarum Morris.
North-West Clog,
Bampton Jigs and
Rapper Sword Workshop.
Coombe Bissett Village Hall,
Wiltshire.
Eggs@hotmail.com

16-18 Ryknild Rabble.
Dancing at
Cloggers Weekend.
Layland, Lancs.

March

1-3 Ryknild Rabble.
DERT. Masham,
N.Yorks.

3 Chelmsford Morris.
Ceilidh with Old
Court Ceilidh Band
and Friends. Boswell
School, Chelmsford, 7.45 –
11.30, £4. Tel: 01245-
492066.

24 Feet First. 'Hot
Foot', evening of
song, music and dance. The
Fishpond (public house),
Matlock, Derbys.
www.feetfirstdance.co.uk

27 Bedfordshire
Lace. WI 'Taster'
Evening. Bedfordshire Area
WI workshop evening.
Contact: Bedfordshire Lace

31 Fabulous
Fezheads. Fig
and Date Fayre.
Barley Mow, West Horsley,
Surrey. www.fezheads.com

31 Fylde Coast
Cloggers.
Lancashire Night
in aid of Parkinson's
Disease Society.

May

**May
Day** Bedfordshire
Lace. Dancing

the sun up, followed by
public dancing.
Katherine's Cross,
Amphill.

**May
Day** Wickham
Morris dancing
at Wickham
May Day
Festival. 5.15am Wickham
Square.

**May
Day** Cogs and
Wheels Ladies
Morris. 5.30am

Nine Maidens Stone
Circle, nr. Belstone,
Devon.

6 Three Shires
dancing at
Rowsley Village Park,
Caudwell's Mill and
Renishaw Hall.
Derbyshire.

4-7 Rochester
Sweeps Folk
Festival, Kent.

4-7 Ryknild Rabble,
and Mortimer's
Morris dancing at Upton-
on-Severn Folk Festival.
Upton.

5 Amounderness
Ladies Day of
Dance. Chorley town
centre, Lancashire. Tel:
01772 863073.

12 Wickham
Morris dancing
at Winchester Folk
Festival.

11-13 Fylde Coast
Cloggers.
Dancing at Saddleworth
Weekend of Dance.

20 Ryknild Rabble.
Etwall Well
Dressing. Etwall, Staffs.

25-27 Raise the
Dust
Appalachian. Chippenham
Folk Festival.

June

2 Amounderness
Ladies dancing
at Slaidburn steamfair &
vintage cars.

8-10 Mortimer's
Morris
dancing at Wimborne Folk
Festival.

15-17 Maybe
Morris. 10th Weekend of
Dance. Newpound
Common, Wisborough
Green, Sussex.

16 Ryknild
Rabble.
Dancing at Lichfield Folk
Festival. Lichfield, Staffs.

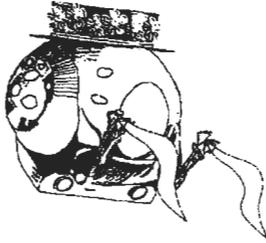
16 Amounderness
Ladies dancing
at Grange over Sands
Edwardian Festival.

16 Jackstraws
Morris Day of
Dance. Walking tour of
Farnham, Surrey.

29-1 Three
Shires dancing at
Scarborough Festival.

29-1 Mortimer's
Morris
dancing at Argameles
weekend of dance,
Lancashire.

30-1 Black Bull
Cloggies
weekend, Moreton, Essex.
Includes step-dance
competition.
rosie@thebriars13.freeseer
ve.co.uk



2001
Morris Federation AGM
28-30th September



All MF members are invited to this event which is based at Sayers Croft Field Centre at Ewhurst near Cranleigh in Surrey and is being organized by a small consortium of individual MF members and other volunteers I have managed to rope in.

Arrive on Friday night and enjoy the song and music sessions, or early on Saturday to join the tours. Not quite the Odyssey envisaged by Clarke & Kubrick, but a Jovial voyage of Discovery in rural Sussex and Surrey. Enjoy close encounters with country pubs, historic market towns and other local attractions. A massed stand by a disused railway finishes off the day, and then it's back to Ewhurst for food, drink and strenuous exercise dancing to the incomparable Hog's Back Band, with caller Fee Lock. For those who stay until Sunday there will be Morris workshops as an alternative to the AGM – we may even manage to squeeze one in between breakfast and the AGM for true enthusiasts!

Whether you come for the whole weekend or just for the day, we will try to make this a highly enjoyable event.

The accommodation verges on the luxurious, with a choice of indoor dormitories with bunk beds (bring your own bedding) or spacious outdoor camping within easy reach of well-appointed facilities.

Costs prevent us offering an early booking discount, but free souvenir badges featuring our friendly 2001 Morris-dancing space-pod (Normal price £2.00) are offered to those booking before Summer Solstice (21st June).

Also, indoor accommodation is limited so book early or you might not get a place!
Close of booking is on Aug 31st (or before if we run out of space).

Find your booking form among the enclosures with this issue of the newsletter and start counting heads (and feet).

Any enquiries about the event may be addressed to me, Kevin Taylor:
By phone on 01252 513791 (leave a message if I'm not in)
By email to AGM2001@morrisfed.org.uk
Or by post at 37 Chiltern Avenue, Farnborough, HANTS GU14 9SG.



The Morris Federation

EVENTS

Hi!

I'm Nicola, your new Events Officer. I'm a newcomer to Morris – having danced North-West for only 6 years, and Rapper for 1! – so I know I've a lot to learn. However, I'm keen!

As your Events officer, I'm here to publicise, in the newsletter, any kind of Morris event that you want to organise, or want the Morris Federation to organise on your behalf.

All you need to do is to let me know what kind of events you'd like the Morris Federation to organise. At the moment, and historically, it's mainly workshops – but I'm open to suggestions.

There will be a page dedicated to events and a dancer's diary in every Morris Federation newsletter, and regular postings on the Morris Federation web site (<http://home.clara.net/krt/homepage.htm>), where you can currently find details of workshops and events.

So – get in touch – and make me make your Federation work for you!

Nicola Bouault
46 Church Street
Denby Village
Ripley
DE5 8PH
01332-882857 - niq@supanet.com



Morris Federation Workshops

So far only one has been organised for the practice season. There will be more later in the year.

- Saturday 17th March – Team Managers Workshop – last few places for this unique workshop run by Sue Swift and Sally Wearing. Please get in touch ASAP for more details.

Morris Federation AGM 2001

- This year's annual Federation get together and AGM will take place on the weekend of Friday 28th – Sunday 30th September 2001 and will be held in Ewhurst, Surrey. Please watch this space in future newsletters for further details.

Morris Federation AGM 2002

- Next year's AGM (2002) will be hosted by Betty Lupton's and Ripon City Morris in Yorkshire. The date will be slightly earlier on the weekend of 20th – 22nd September 2002.

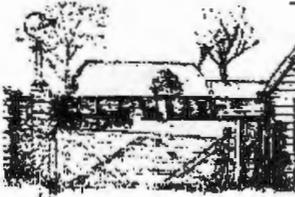
If you have any dates or events you would like to see included on the Dancer's Diary page, please complete the enclosed Diary Fixtures Form. Thank You.

Wantage in the New Millennium

8-10 March 2002

A Gourmet Weekend of Morris

Oh, and Eating, Drinking and Partying



The Past

Several weekend workshops have been held, about

every 18 months, at the wonderful old Lain's Barn near Wantage lead by that great tireless authority on Morris - Roy Dommett.

Weekends start on Friday night with dancing at the

Ridgeway Youth Hostel, on the downs above Wantage. There is a full day and evening at Lain's Barn on Saturday, with more until teatime on the Sunday. The caterers have provided sumptuous food



and Tony Forster has obtained apparently endless supplies of good beer and cider.

Sparkling

conversation, wit and debate continue into the small hours.

The content has included pretty well every Cotswold tradition ever performed; broad stretches of Border; Stave dances; Coconut dances; Wilson, Kepple and Betty's Sand Dance; London Morris (inspired by Dick van Dyke in *Mary Poppins!*); Molly; Manx jigs and, well, loads more.



The last one was in March 2000 and that saw the retirement of Roy as principal instructor and Tony as the organiser of everything else. Can it continue without Roy? Can we be fed and watered without Tony? Is it all over? **No it is not!!**

The next one will be 8-10 March 2002

Who will run it?

The Federation will do this one. The next one may well be done by Open Morris. We hope to maintain the momentum. For some reason, your Archive Officer, in a fit of unreason perhaps, decided to make the effort to keep the Wantage Weekend going. So he's in the driving seat for now!

Who should attend?

You! Well, if you are pretty interested in Morris & are experienced in Cotswold. If you only know North West or Sword dancing, you may find yourself watching others enjoy themselves too much!

What will be in it?

So far, the content is fluid, but gelling, before long, it may even be as firm as porridge.

Offers have been had from Tim Radford (once of Adderbury Morris, now in the USA) who has volunteered to return especially; Simon Pipe (Outside Capering

Crew & Jig Champion); Brian Mander (Redbornstoke Morris & Outside Capering Crew); Daryl Hurt (Hammersmith Morris); Tony Forster (Pig Dyke Molly). More luminaries of the Morris world will volunteer, even though some may not realise it yet. How, for example, could a Wantage weekend proceed without the music of Sue Swift?

The sort of thing that you could expect to find will be: comparisons of "Black Book" Cotswold traditions in contrasting ways; contemporary traditions and their evolution; creating dances from incomplete materials; cocktail making; jigs; dances for unusual numbers; archival film; maybe a guest spot by Roy himself; Molly; something Bordering on Morris and who knows how many aching limbs and ribs. Don't expect to come away thinking that Morris can ever be the same again.

What do I need to do?

Tell me that you will come! Give me money! We need at least 40 people to attend and stay at the Ridgeway Hostel to guarantee that we can have the place to ourselves. Also, the more that come, the cheaper it will be. **So how much will it be?** About £65 for the whole weekend of dancing, eating and sleeping. Sad to say, the drink is extra, but more or less at cost.

When I do I do it?

Now! Express interest by e-mail or Royal Mail.
Adrian-Williams@Beeb.Net or 20 Verne Drive, Ampthill, Beds, MK45 2PS.
Deposits of £10 must be paid to me by 25 August 2001 & the rest of payment to me by 19 December 2001. Cheques to "The Morris Federation"

Adrian Williams

Ever Wanted to Run a Junior Morris Side?.....

Ashley's Rise Junior Morris is an established, performing, mixed Morris side based in Bristol for young people aged 8-16 years. The side was formed from an after school dance club and became independent in 1993. Ashley's Rise is a member of Open Morris, EFDSS and Bristol Community Transport. The side regularly performs at festivals and events in the South West and last year performed and ran workshops at Chippenham Folk Festival. In 1997 Ashley's Rise received a lottery grant of just under £1,600.

Kim Woodward started the side and has run it since its conception. After a very successful seven years, which has seen a stable side grow as individuals and performers and which is still thriving and recruiting, Kim feels it is time to hand the team on to someone else. Ashley's Rise is currently performing as a Border side, but over the years has had a go at Cotswold, North West and Longsword.

What do you need to run a junior Morris side?

- ◆ The ability and enthusiasm to teach some kind of Morris dancing to young people.
- ◆ An hour a week during term time for practices (currently Tuesdays 6.15-7.15)
- ◆ Variable time for paperwork/telephone calls/dance outs etc.

If you would be interested in taking on Ashley's Rise Junior Morris from September 2001, please contact Kim as soon as possible for a chat or a drink, or come along to practice or a dance out in the near future.

Looking forward to hearing from you soon!

Kim Woodward 0117 940 1566



Noticeboard



Newsletter Editor

We are looking for a new Morris Federation Newsletter Editor, to take office from January 2002.



The Newsletter is published quarterly. The job requires you to put together the articles and information received for each issue, commission articles from friends and acquaintances, and encourage complete strangers to show off their writing skills. Arrange the printing and despatch of the finished article and co-ordinate the receipt of any inserts and extra information from other committee members, advertisers or contributors. The Morris Federation can provide technical support in the form of a computer, printer and scanner, and as the format of the Newsletter is once again under discussion, imagination and flair are useful requisites.

It is a time consuming job, but can be very rewarding. You do not need huge amounts of space, but spare time at the appropriate time is quite essential. We currently use a printer in Colne in Lancashire, but it will be up to you to decide where and how you have the printing and despatch done.

For more information, contact Jude Barrett, or for nominations contact John Bacon (addresses and contact numbers on back page)

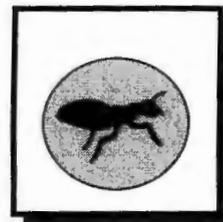
MORRIS WEDDING OFFER

Dan Johnson (Photographer), would like to photograph a 'Morris Wedding' anytime during 2001 or 2002. The photographs would form part of his port folio, and for this reason, he will offer a very good rate for the photos you choose to keep.

So if you are having your wedding in full kit with lots of dancing, somewhere in the South East, call Dan on 01892 667887



Redbornstoke Morris



GRANTS – ANOTHER EXPERIENCE

Some further information and tips on grants: the Awards for All is not just a Millennium scheme. There is also an Arts scheme, which provides similar sized grants for Art projects, including dance. Like the larger Lottery scheme it is managed by the regional Arts Councils.

My own experience of seeking grants for Redornstoke's 25th Anniversary programme would endorse the comments from Paul Hudson of Incognito (Winter 2000 issue): read the application form and use their language. Funders will only make awards for projects that meet their criteria and so address their priorities in putting your application together: a common requirement for Arts awards is that the project should extend participation, particularly for "hard to reach groups" which for performance art – and this includes dance as an art form (note language) – includes young people and especially young men. Stress how you will target such groups.

Also do not forget other sources of grant. Local Councils do provide some Arts grants and if you are based in a shire area you get two goes as both District and County Councils will run their own schemes. Furthermore an individual Council may only part fund your project so you may need funding from various sources and getting grant from one, which means that they have in a sense endorsed your project, can help getting grant from others.

Criteria will vary, even between the Districts and the County (eg Mid-Bedfordshire District Council and Bedfordshire County Council) so do not assume that because a neighbouring group succeeded or failed to get grant for something that the same will happen to you. Some councils will not fund normal running costs or equipment purchase (including costume and instruments), others may particularly if it is a new group starting up. Beds CC criteria ruled out funding for our weekend of dance, but the criteria for Mid Beds DC allowed it.

You will also need to be clear about what you are contributing to the project, financially or otherwise, and show that you have the skills and experience within the team to be able to deliver it. Even the way the application is set out will have an impact, a well set out project implies that you know what you are doing (and the opposite also applies so avoid coffee or beer stains on the form). Also do not be afraid to discuss your idea with the Council Arts/Community officers at an early stage: their knowledge of the project and support for it can be important factors.

What all this comes down to is that you will have to tailor your application and the elements of the project you stress to meet the priorities of each of the funders you are applying to. You also need to give equal energy to each. For me it felt very much like three applications for three different projects by the time I had finished.

One word of warning. The grant will be paid against expenditure so you will need to account for it all. Also they will not always pay for expenditure incurred before the grant award was made so make sure you plan ahead and get the applications in early. Lottery grants can usually be made at any time but take about three months to process, Council grants, particularly larger awards are done in the November/January for the following financial year.

Finally your funder will expect a report setting out the success of your project so you will need to have some idea not only of what you are trying to achieve but also of how you will measure it, or explain its failure.

Given the growing interest in this issue perhaps there is scope for a workshop to share experiences of those who have applied for grant (successful or not) and those who are thinking of it – we might even be able to get a grant for it!

Charlie Leslie

CALLING FOOLS, BEASTS AND OTHER ODDS & ENDS

Are you an Animal? Or a Fool, or maybe an equivalent character such as a Tommy or a Molly? Or one of the other odds and ends with which Morris abounds, like an announcer or a collector? Have you ever felt isolated within your team, or wished you could get together with others like you, to share ideas or just socialise? Do you wish you met more like you when dancing out with other sides, or do you think more sides ought to be encouraged to have characters (and good ones at that)?

Or are you a team that would like to have a character or so, or a person that would like to be one, but you don't really know how to go about it and you're afraid of making a mess of it?

WEEKENDS

There used to be the Beastly Foolish Weekends, of course, about 10 years ago, which answered the need: we'd get together in a hall and over the weekend sessions would be held either together or separately on topics of interest to Fools and Animals, led by different people with different areas of expertise (nobody ever forgets their first raw pig's bladder ...). And then accompanied by some noble and self-sacrificing local side we'd all descend on the nearest town and - well, have fun and show off.

Only then Roger Green who organised the weekends left the country and somehow the gap was never filled. There was some talk of perhaps the existing all-male Fools' Union opening at least its workshops to women, but after several years it came to nothing and, of course, they're entitled to make that decision.

NEED

However, that has left a gap. Preliminary enquiries have revealed that there is a great demand among Morris peripherals for a specialist and gender-inclusive organisation just for them - even among

members of the existing group. It would exist to encourage good 'charactering' by fostering links between characters from different sides in all Morris organisations or none, by means of workshops and other means as yet to be decided on. (There might be a directory, for example, a newsletter, an Internet Discussion List - whatever people can come up with.) It should be quite clear that there is definitely not intended be any disharmony with the Union.

EVENT

So that's what's happening. An as-yet-unnamed organisation is being formed and is to be inaugurated the weekend of All Fools' Day with a workshop and get-together in St Albans on Saturday March 31st. (Plans were being made as the newsletter went to press for some kind of performance event on April 1st, and if this comes off, overnight accommodation will be arranged) We hope the workshop will be the first of many and though it is intended as a way of getting interested people together in order to formally launch the group, we also hope that anybody who doesn't necessarily wish to join would still feel free to attend. The programme is not yet settled as the newsletter goes to press, but is expected to include sessions on practical beast-construction, announcing & presentation, dancing among the set ('no 7'), character-creating and other topics, and there will be time to socialise informally. The cost should be about £5, including refreshment but not meals (we can eat at the pub next door).

DETAILS

Would you like to know more? The details should be finalised by the time this comes out, so you can contact:

Sandy Glover at 27 Liverpool Rd, St Albans, AL1 3UN or fool-beasts@totally.freeserve.co.uk
Jenny Howard on 01234 342226 or je-howard@talk21.com

RISK ASSESSMENTS and other bedtime stories

Already decided? Complete the booking form included in this newsletter, or drop a line to Sandy as above and tell him your name & address (+ phone & e-mail if any), and he will get back to you with maps, instructions etc. Please say whether you are interested in the April 1st event or just the Saturday workshop, and whether you would like accommodation. It would also help to know what kind of character you are; and if you have an idea for a session you yourself could lead, by all means say so - there may be room on the programme or it could form part of a future event. In fact, if you have an idea for a session you'd like to see put on, say so - we might be able to arrange it.

Can't come this time but would still like to be involved? Contact Jenny Howard as above either before the event (to have your views and ideas put forward) or after it (to hear what was decided) and get signed up!

WEBSITE

In the meantime, Sandy has been busy putting together a website, The Morris Cafe (for Characters, Animals, Fools Etc) at <http://themorriscafe.pagehere.com>. There's some good stuff on it already and further contributions are welcomed, so have a read and then have your say! Further details of the Event will be posted there as they come available.

For those of you who have been involved in organising large-scale events, you'll know that a risk assessment is now pretty much a requirement, at least in terms of your local council and/or police liaison. If you haven't ever come across this before, this deeply boring but unfortunately necessary subject is beginning to rear its ugly head and look at the morris dancing world.

Briefly, a risk assessment document is something which details every point over a given event or time scale, pointing out hazards and risks, assessment levels, existing controls and suggested controls (explanation time: a risk is a bottle of bleach, a hazard is an open bottle of bleach on the side of a table). For example, at the beginning of an event you'll have dozens of cars arriving at a village hall which represents the possibility of accidents. To counter this, make sure the car park is big enough to accommodate all the likely cars *or* have extra parking space. Other examples may include having a large number of people attending a massed dance in the centre of town on a busy Saturday. You may be required to show that you've thought about (a) allowing shoppers to pass by the thronging masses watching the dancing without stepping on the pavement, and (b) you are aware of the dangers of sticks breaking off and flying into the crowd.

In the great scheme of things you're unlikely to be asked to provide such a detailed one as we do down here in Hastings in May. However, if you organising a large event in say, a metropolitan borough and have a particularly stickler-for-the-rules of a council and you need help in getting your head around it, never fear, help is near! (Sound effect: trumpet fanfare) I've a copy of one which is quite easy to digest at not at all scary, prepared by Pete Breach of Hastings Borough Bonfire Society. Just drop me an e-mail or give me a call and I can let you have it.

And please don't think I'm being over-bearing and fussing unnecessarily: we live in an increasingly litigious society – you only have to turn on your television for half an hour to see an advert saying, “Been in an accident? Wasn't your fault? We can help you with a no-win, no-fee claim ...” (What do they mean, no Fee?)

Fee Lock

Goods List

Sweatshirts	Round neck, long sleeve with MF name & logo	
	Sizes: S-M-L-XL	
	Colours: Raspberry, Royal Blue, Yellow, White, Black, Navy, Jade	£13.50
T' Shirts	Round neck, short sleeve with MT name & logo	
	Sizes: S-M-L-XL	
	Colours: Red, Royal Blue, Yellow, White, Green, Black	£7.50
Badges	Enamel 1" dia. With MF logo on burgundy background	£1.70
	Leather 2" dia with MF logo in gold on black background	£1.00
	Leather with MF logo in colour on natural background	£1.00
Stickers	4" dia. With MF name & logo self adhesive	£0.50
Key Rings	Natural Leather with MF logo	£1.00
	-	Price per 100
Bells	Size: 5/8" - 19p each	£16.50
	Size 7/8" - 20p each	£17.50
	Size 1" - 21p each	£18.50
	Size 1 1/8" - 22p each	£19.50
	Size 1 3/8" - 32p each	£29.50
	Please add £1.00 p.p to each bell order, regardless of the size of the order	

Order Form

Quantity	Item	Price

Make all cheques payable to: The Morris Federation
Return to: Rachel Pinkney 15 High Street Standon Ware Herts SG11 1LA

Your name.....

Address

.....

.....

WHO TO CONTACT

Who To Contact

ADDRESS - CHANGE OF ADDRESSES - NOT IN MF	Fee Lock
AGM - HOSTING	Nicola Boualt
AGM - ORGANISATION	Nicola Boualt
AGM	Fee Lock
ARCHIVE GROUP	Adrian Williams
BOOK LOANS	Adrian Williams
CIOFF (Dancing at overseas folk festivals)	Derek Schofield
EVENTS	Nicola Boualt
INTERNET	Keyin Taylor
INSURANCE	RachelPinkney
MORRIS ARCHIVE GROUP	AdrianWilliams
MORRIS CONFERENCE	Adrian Williams
MORRIS PUBLICATION GROUP	Jude Barret
NEW ADDRESS - YOURS	Fee Lock
NEWSLETTER	Jude Barrett
NOTATION GROUP	Rhian Collinson
NOTATION	Rhian Collinson
PHOTOGRAPHS	John Bacon
PUBLICITY	John Bacon
PUBLICITY IDEAS	John Bacon
PUBLIC RELATIONS	John Bacon
SHOP	RachelPinkney
SCRAP BOOKS	John Bacon
SUBSCRIPTIONS	Rachel Pinkney
VIDEOS - SALE OR HIRE	Sally Wearing
WORKSHOPS	Nicola Boualt
Sue Swift	TEL: 01 16-2712587
Sally Wearing	TEL: 01203-712548
Derek Schofield	TEL: 01270-663041
Keyin Taylor	TEL: 01403-256979 EMail mf@krt.clara.net

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 SYSTEM FORMAT STYLE - any density OPERATING

SYSTEM DOS format Textfile

FORMAT ASCII,WordPerfect

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

BOOKIMAGAZINE 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 2001

1. PRESIDENT

John Bacon
57, East End Lane
Ditchling
Hassocks
East Sussex BN6 8UR
01273 843938
jandabacon@aol.com

2 . SECRETARY

Fee Lock
28, Fairstone Close
Hastings
Sussex TN35 5EZ
01424 436052
Feelock@hotmail.com

3. NOTATION OFFICER

Rhian Collinson
32 Maple Close
Canterbury
Kent CT2 9BZ
01227 452107
R.collinson@cant-col.ac.uk

4. EVENTS OFFICER

Nicola Boualt
46 Church Street
Denby Village Ripley
Derbyshire DE5 8PH
01332 882857
Niq@supanet.com

5. NEWSLETTER EDITOR

Judi Barrett
10, Howard Mansions,
Forest Road,
Walthamstow,
London E17 4NA
TEL: 020 8509 0562
judi@morrisfed.connectfree.co.uk

6. TREASURER

Rachel Pinkney
15 High Street
Standon
Ware
Herts, SG11 1LA
TEL: 01920 8216947.

7. ARCHIVE OFFICER

Adrian Williams
20, Verne Drive,
Amphill,
Beds MK4 2HS
01525 406332
Adrian-Williams@Beeb.net

