

Open Morris AGM 2019 – Officials’ Reports

Editor of Dancing On! – Jen Cox

I’m sorry to report that there has been no magazine published in the time since the last AGM. Unfortunately I have had several relatives fall seriously ill during this time, which has left me short of time for the magazine, and prioritising other duties. I’m pleased to report however that the next magazine is in production and will be with you all very shortly!

As you can see elsewhere in the AGM materials, I’ll be moving away from the magazine, but will still be able to keep a guiding hand and an active role. I’m excited to be handing over the reins to a young talent, to whom I wish all the fun the magazine has brought me, and all the luck in the world.

Area Representatives

West Midlands – Craig Simmonds

Over the past year I have received a couple of enquiries from new sides looking to get started in the area and have answered any queries as best as I can!

Generally it has been a fairly quiet year here in the west midlands - things have been ticking over nicely.

Wales & North-West - Nicki Pickering

Welsh sides are not in a very good place at the moment, certainly in the north of the principality. Of the 2 sides in the north, Eryri did very little last year due to low numbers, increasing age & injuries. They eventually admitted defeat when the time came to renew membership this year. As a co-founder of the side in 1982, this was very sad for me to see, compounded by Cadi Ha, also a side I co-founded in 2010, struggling for members at the moment. Without these 2 sides, the local area would be without a Cotswold (or indeed any) morris side for the first time since the mid 1960s.

Things are much more rosy in the Northwest with 14 sides including some new or newish ones and a good mixture of most styles of morris. I’m hoping that many of those will be keen to attend the JMO Day of Dance in Liverpool next year.

So, if any of you have friends moving to Northwest Wales, please send them along to Cadi Ha and keep morris alive in the area!

East Anglia – Robin James

No complaints or queries received to follow up.

The team (FM) have interacted with many East Anglian teams including the Ring and Morris Federation at pub nights, Days of Dance and Weekends of Dance.

We also get involved with teams in Bedfordshire, Hertfordshire, Norfolk, Suffolk and Essex on an annual basis.

As a steward at a number of folk festivals across the country I take the opportunity to distribute the Open Morris flyer.

Central – Jen Cox

It's been a good year in our area, and I'm pleased to report that of the 5 OM sides I belong to in my area, 4 have new members this season, which is a brilliant boost to an already very active area. Our new folks are all progressing well and getting set to dance out for the first time, I'd like to wish them all luck and welcome them warmly into their new teams!

Many OM teams danced at Wallingford BunkFest, the festival for which I organise the dance events, and I was very pleased to welcome OM teams from other areas to the festival, some for the first time.

Central South – Clare Mach

Unfortunately, it has been a rather inactive year as I try and juggle my new role with other commitments. I have met the two other sides on the mainland who continue their fairly low-key performances. Plans to visit the sides on the Isle of Wight were scuppered when my own side, Devil's Jumps Clog's, lead musician unexpectedly died in early July. We immediately cancelled all forthcoming dance outs, including our trip to the Isle of Wight whilst we sorted out our music – an ongoing process.

I wish all sides in my area a successful 2020.