

# Open Morris AGM 2019

## Officer Nominations

<b>Position</b>	<b>Candidate</b>	<b>Nominated by</b>	<b>Seconded by</b>
Chair	Jen Cox	Wicket Brood	Earl of Stamford
Membership Secretary	John Scholey	Brooms Bricks and Bowlers	Lepton Morris
Secretary	Lucy Simmonds	Theale Tattoo	Cadi Ha
Treasurer	Liz Scholey	Brooms Bricks and Bowlers	Borderline Morris
Web Officer	Malcolm Hills	Wharfedale Wayzgoose	Theale Tattoo

Statements from each candidate can be seen below.

# Candidate statement for Chair of Open Morris

## Jen Cox

I've been a member of Open Morris since joining my first side at the age of 12. As a child I loved the colour and fun my first team brought to the festivals my family would attend, and I couldn't wait to get involved. I still dance with Shinfield Shambles when I can, and have gone on to take up everything I possibly can in the Morris world – I now dance Border with Borderline and Enigma, North West with Whitethorn, pretty much everything with Lepton, Rapper with Mabel Gubbins, Step Clog with Theale Tattoo, Cotswold with Sharp and Blunt, and my newest side, of which I'm proud to be a part, is Bunnies from Hell, a side very closely tied to the OM family.

I first became involved with the running of OM as the Magazine Editor in 2007, and fulfilled that role for a few years before stepping back. I took on the Editor role again in 2016, and in 2018 became Secretary as well as Central Area Rep. Whilst I do consider multitasking to be my forte, I'm looking forward to handing the reins of the magazine on into eager and very capable hands if I am elected as Chair!

Outside of OM, I organise the dance events for Wallingford BunkFest, a wonderful community festival in Oxfordshire, and I am the Treasurer for Oxford, Oxford's long running and brilliant ceilidh series. I work in the care industry, and I am in the process of setting up Ceilidhbility, a ceilidh series for people with special needs, which has long been a dream of mine, as the accessibility, expression and creativity of folk is a perfect and very rewarding match for a lot of the young people I support.

I believe passionately in the inclusivity and community of Open Morris, and as Chair I would seek to foster and strengthen these values within Open Morris, as well as maintaining the links of friendship and co-operation we enjoy with the Joint Morris Organisations and other traditional dance bodies. I would seek to build links and opportunities for Open Morris teams to dance and come together in fellowship, and would like to seek out ways in which OM could be a vehicle to further our lovely Morris traditions down future generations.

Jen Cox



## **Open Morris Officer Candidate Personal Statement – John Scholey**

### **Position - Membership Secretary**

I have been a Morris dancer for 33 years, initially with the erstwhile Ring side Wyre Forest Morris Men in Kidderminster and subsequently Eryri, All Fools, Dublin City and Icknield Way, mostly as a visitor. When my permanent base headed south in 1995, I joined the recently formed Rampant Rooster Morris (a Fed Cotswold and Border side). I still dance with them; I am missing RR's 'Burning of the Sticks' (with 'traditional' words that I created) to attend this year's OM AGM. Since 2012, I have played for Brooms Bricks and Bowlers, a Tunbridge Wells occasional Border side which was Fed but joined OM in 2018. Other sides include Madcap Morris at Broadstairs Folkweek (2010-18) and The Far Side in 2019.



I have two years' experience in carrying out the role of Membership secretary during which time I eliminated most paper from the process, with the notable exception of cheques, but I'm working on that one!

### **Other stuff:**

I regularly call and play (often both together) for barn dances, hoedowns and ceilidhs at all sorts of events. I am also Royal Tunbridge Wells Official Town Crier, having been appointed in 2006. In 2018, I retired from (paid) civil engineering but then became the (volunteer) Civil Engineering Manager for the Spa Valley Railway, my local heritage railway.

**John Scholey MAHGTC FICE**

**Tunbridge Wells**

1 October 2019

## Open Morris Secretary Candidate Statement – Lucy Simmonds



Lucy has been dancing and playing for Morris since her early teens. Starting with Bedcote and adding Bunnies From Hell and Cadi Ha, Lucy also co-founded Harlequin who are one of Open Morris's most energetic Cotswold sides. Well versed in taking Minutes at Open Morris meetings and supporting her husband Craig in his role as W. Midlands Area Rep, Lucy already has a good grasp of what's involved in the role of Secretary. As a secondary school teacher, she should prove adept at keeping the other Officials in order!

## Open Morris Treasurer Candidate Statement – Liz Scholey



I have been a Morris dancer for 17 years with Rampant Rooster Morris (a Cotswold and Border Federation side) and danced Cotswold and Border with Madcap Morris (for 8 years and The Far Side this year. As a founder member of a Border side in Tunbridge Wells, Brooms Bricks and Bowlers, I was Foreman for 4 years.

Dance is my profession and my passion, I own a dance business teaching my own classes, working at local leisure centres, and in schools. As well as teaching, I call for barn dances, hoedowns and ceilidhs, at all manner of venues.

Prior to working in dance full time I was a Human Resources director at a University and have worked at a senior level in education and health.

For one year I was the Open Morris Membership Secretary, but for the last two years I have been Treasurer. I have improved the presentation of the accounts so that it is clearer how the money is being spent and have managed to significantly reduce the number of cheques issued. The officers are now able to transfer money from the bank account but the safeguard of requiring two officers to authorize payments remains in place.

I am standing again.

**Liz Scholey**

**Tunbridge Wells**

Liz@danceon.org

## Web Officer Nomination

I have been dancing since 1969 firstly cotswold with a Ring Side, St Albans Morris Men, followed by a thirty year break pursuing a career in HM Forces. I then joined Carlisle Morris (Morris Federation) dancing border and longsword and finally joined my current side Wharfedale Wayzgoose firstly as a dancer and now as lead musician. I am also a member of Bradshaw Mummers (Morris Federation)

I am retired but still running a very small web hosting and design hobby business. My self taught expertise is primarily involved in providing web access for large databases and ensuring that all my sites are easily usable and accessible on multiple devices.

I designed and implemented the current Open Morris Website (<https://open-morris.org>). Should the membership appoint me to continue in the post of Web Officer, I intend to continue to develop the website to provide further facilities to promote individual Open Morris Member Sides and Morris Dancing in general.



Malcolm Hills