



Area Representative Reports to the 2024 AGM

Central Area

As I've mentioned elsewhere, I've also been less active this year due to injury, but have been helping to organise lots of lovely things as usual! Both Wallingford BunkFest and Oxford Folk Festival continue to attract many teams, Open Morris members being very welcome at both events. The area continues to be busy and thriving from a morris perspective!

This autumn Theale Tattoo also ran a day-long step clog workshop event, which was well attended (including international participants via zoom!) and featured some top quality tutors from all over the country.

Jen Cox

Central Area Rep

October 2024

Central South Area

As usual I have failed to get over to the Isle of Wight to meet the sides there in person. My excuse - there was no Isle of Wight day of dance in September. Mr. Baker's Dozen have enjoyed a busy summer programme on and off the Island and celebrated their 25th Anniversary in September. The rest of the news from the Isle of Wight is less positive. Bloodstone Border Morris have definitely stopped dancing and their website is defunct. Unfortunately, several dancers left Whitgar Morris this year leaving the side seriously short of dancers. However, they are in the process of reorganising themselves, including a new name, and hope to be up and running next year dancing Cotswold Morris and singing. Guith Morris are still going but need more musicians to support their current lineup who aren't getting any younger.

Meanwhile back on the mainland, Devil's Jumps have a second musician and were able to dance at the Beggar's Fair, Romsey. Our first time out in public for some years. Hopefully next year we will be able to dance at more local festivals as well as nursing homes, day centres and WI meets. Meon Valley Morris on the other hand are as busy as ever performing their original and energetic form of morris.

Clare Mach

South Central Area Rep

October 2024

East Anglia Area

Basically it has been a quiet year with no issues being brought to my attention. I met up with a number of member teams at events that Fenstanton Morris attended plus at Chippenham Folk Festival, Whitby Folk Week, Ely Folk Festival and the JMO at Newark.

I'm happy to continue to monitor OM members in the East Anglia region.

Robin James

East Anglia Area Rep

30th October 2024

South West Area

In the South West, the Dark Gathering appears to be going from strength to strength, and Beltane's Belstone event is set to be a great day. After some administrative difficulties last year, the Bradford on Avon Green Man event is going ahead in May.

Sam Davey-Jones

South West Area Rep

October 2024

Wales and Northwest Area

Unfortunately, due to injury, I didn't get out to dance all summer. However I know that there were some very successful days and weekends of dance in the NorthWest and all sides appear to be just about coping with diminished numbers.

There does seem to be a slow in-creeping of new members, so we'll hope for stronger sides going forward.

Looking forward to the JMO DOD on our patch next year.

Nicki Pickering

Wales and Northwest Area Rep

October 2024

West Midlands Area

Very pleased to report that dancing has continued throughout the West Midlands all year with active involvement from local Open Morris sides. Life has become very busy for me over the past couple of years, so I haven't been as on the ground contacting local sides as much as I would have liked to, but do try to have a chat when out and about. If anyone else would like to volunteer to be West Midlands area rep, please do so!

Craig Simmonds

West Midlands Area Rep

October 2024