Open Morris AGM 2026

Officer Nominations

Position	Candidate	Nominated by	Seconded by
Chair	Jen Cox	Borderline Morris	Lancashire Wallopers
Membership Secretary	Chris Bevington	Tatters Morris	Chris Hall
Secretary	Hetty Bevington	Tatters Morris	Theale Tattoo
Treasurer	Anne-Marie Coomber	Bunnies from Hell	Harlequin Morris
Web Officer	Malcolm Hills	Wharfedale Wayzgoose	Iron Spring

Statements from each candidate can be seen below.

Open Morris Chair Candidate Statement – Jen Cox



I've been a member of Open Morris since joining my first side at the age of 12 in 1996. 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. Since then, I've danced every style of Morris, as well as Rapper and Step Clog. This year I managed to snap my achilles tendon in April so dancing has been off the menu for much of the year, however I'm delighted to be getting back to it now – rapper and step clog first, and now a bit of Cotswold – Border will take a bit longer!

Outside of OM, I organise the dance events for both Oxford Folk Festival and Wallingford BunkFest, a wonderful community festival in Oxfordshire, and I am the Treasurer for Oxfolk, Oxford's long running and brilliant ceilidh series. This year I'm also delighted to announce my new involvement with organising ceilidh events at the one and only Sidmouth Folk Festival.

Since December 2023 I have been working for Folk England, formerly known as EFDSS, as Dance Development Manager, and am having the time of my life in this role. I also work in the care industry supporting young people with special needs, as well as delivering accessible music and folk dance sessions. You might also see me online behind the zoom scenes at Live to Your Living Room.

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. I was honoured to be elected as Chair in 2019, and I have thoroughly enjoyed working in the role alongside the excellent Open Morris team. I consider it both a responsibility and an honour to be able to contribute to Open Morris and the Joint Morris Organisations.

I believe passionately in the inclusivity and community of Open Morris, and I seek to foster and strengthen these values within the organisation and the wider morris world.

Jen Cox

Open Morris Membership Secretary Candidate Statement – Chris Bevington



I have been Morris dancing for what seems like centuries and been a member of various sides, dancing Border and Cotswold. I am currently Squire/Foreman and what-not for Tatters Morris in Cornwall, where we are creating new dances and getting children and young people involved in practices and dance outs. We have crossed the Tamar a couple of times to attend JMO days of dance and it has been great meeting and watching other sides from all around the country. With that in mind, it is good to have the opportunity to give a little back to Open Morris by taking on the role of membership secretary and having a hand in keeping the organisation together. Look forward to seeing more people around the country in future!

Chris Bevington

Open Morris Secretary Candidate Statement – Hetty Bevington



I started dancing with Tatters Morris, a border side, 16 years ago when I moved down to Cornwall. The side struggled with members for a while and then lay dormant. We started dancing again just before the lockdown. In the past I have tended to play with the band, however I am now enjoying the opportunity to dance more. I have also played for a couple of the other local sides when they have been short of music. I also run dance workshops in schools, sharing the joy of Morris dancing, Maypole dancing and country dancing with the next generation.

When I'm not Morris dancing I am busy working for myself as a tour guide, taking people on tours around the old industrial heartlands of Cornwall, telling stories of local characters, customs and folklore. I play in a Ceilidh band and have three small children, who I home educate, to keep me busy, all who thankfully love a spot of Morris dancing.

I was first elected as secretary of Open Morris during the pandemic. I have since worked with the committee to help sides through the covid lockdowns. If I am re-elected I will work alongside the other committee members to make Open Morris a welcoming organisation, working to support new and old dancers, working towards a more diverse community.

Hetty Bevington

Open Morris Treasurer Candidate Statement – Anne-Marie Coomber



My Morris journey started in 1985 when I moved to Durham and joined the local North West Women's team, Mrs Clements Secret Recipe. Since then, I have danced North West, Cotswold and Border with various teams as I moved round the country. I currently dance with the Bunnies from Hell, Chinewrde Morris Dancers and the Brackley Morris Dancers. I also play the melodeon for Brackley Morris Dancers, this is a work in progress as I only started playing 5 years ago, my goal is to one day be confident enough to play solo in public.

I have been working in various accounting roles over the last 10 years and am a qualified bookkeeper. My day job is in an accountancy firm where I work on end of year accounts for small businesses and self-employed. I have previously been the accounts administrator for a local business with sole responsibility for the day-to-day finances of the company, making sure bills are paid on time and chasing money in.

I also have personal experience of the issues of under 18's wishing to join a morris team having been in morris teams since I was 11 and becoming the responsible adult for my children as they joined teams, some of which I was not a member. I am also a Charity Trustee for NYFTE (National Youth Folk Troupe of England).

Morris is my passion and my goal is the smooth running of the Open Morris finances for the members of Open Morris by ensuring policies and procedures are followed, monitoring the use of funds and maintaining transparency of the accounts.

Anne-Marie Coomber

Open Morris Web Officer Candidate Statement – Malcolm Hills

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 (although I did take part in a scratch side in the Falkland Islands). I then joined Carlisle Morris dancing border, rapper and longsword and finally joined my current side Wharfedale Wayzgoose firstly as a dancer and now a musician. I am also a member of Bradshaw Mummers (Morris Fed)

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.

I am happy to continue in the role.

Malcolm Hills

