Minutes of Mortimer's Morris AGM 2010
Held on 25th September at 7.30pm Sheila Russell Community Centre

Present:
Alice, Celia, Chris, Fran, Gill, Hazel, John, Kathryn B, Keith, Linda, Liz Pat, Peter M, Peter O, Sarah, Sheila, Tanya and Vicky

Apologies for Absence:
Anthony, Katherine H, Judith, Lindsay, Paul, Nigel, Trevor and Yvonne

The meeting began with a minute's silence in memory of Mike.

Minutes of the Last Meeting:
Minutes were accepted as a true representation of the last meeting.
Matters arising: None identified that would not be covered elsewhere on the agenda.

Officer's Reports:
Squire's Report: attached
Band Organiser's Report: attached
Secretary's Report: attached
Treasurer's Report: attached
Practice Leader's Report: attached
Publicity Officer's Report: attached

Election of Officers:
Squire, Treasurer and Publicity Officer: Pat proposed that all 3 be re-elected as they were happy to continue. Tanya seconded all three.
Band Organiser: Keith was nominated by Peter O'Brien and seconded by Hazel.
Secretary: No-one wanted to take on the role. Linda proposed a 'job-share' option. Chris said she was prepared to do the online tick sheets provided someone else took on the responsibility for the sticks and kit and someone else did the newsletters and emails for the secretary jobshare. Gill agreed to take on the kit. Pat pointed out that the sticks had been repaired and new short ones had been made, so there shouldn't be any stick work this year. Kathryn said she would do minutes and respond to emails. Chris and Kathryn were proposed by Pat and seconded by Linda as joint secretaries.
Archives Officer: Linda asked if anyone wanted to do both digital and paper archives. No-one volunteered. Yvonne has offered to continue doing the paper archives so Linda asked if anyone wanted to do the digital archives – John volunteered. Tanya noted that Brenda had the hard drive for digital storage and would get it to us and also said that Yvonne had not been given material for the paper archives and reminded everyone to pass on items like programmes, paper cuttings and photographs.
Practice Leader: Celia and Mary both showed an interest in teaching a dance from time to time but did not feel they could take on the full role. No-one else wanted to take on this role. Sheila was happy to continue but Linda read from the constitution which states:

g) Each officer will hold office for one year, but may be re—elected for a further year.
h) The maximum time an officer will hold a post is two consecutive years but officers can be re-elected at a future date if they have held a post in the past.

Linda proposed a change to the constitution to read:

h) The maximum time an officer will hold a post is two consecutive years but this may be extended with the agreement of the side at the AGM. Officers can be re-elected at a future date if they have held a post in the past.

The motion was carried by a unanimous vote. Linda then proposed Sheila continued as dance teacher and Kathryn seconded this.

Proposal to Change Practice Schedule:

Two weeks prior to the meeting Linda sent out a proposal to change the format of practices (attached) and asked members to consider it and send comments before the meeting. The main points to arise in emails and discussions were:

- we do need new members and changing practice may help to attract some
- changes should not be made purely for new members, existing members must feel the change would be beneficial
- Sunday nights are a problem for anyone relying on public transport
- new members may find an intensive day once a month too much – little and often may be better
- the new members who would benefit from these changes are not complete beginners but experienced dancers who could pick things up easily
- attracting distant members with other commitments may increase membership but not actually result in more dancers who can attend events
- one full day per month is a big commitment
- we usually have some full day practices each year so this would only be 7 or 8 extra ones
- people are more alert and motivated in the day so there is a greater quality of learning and dancing at day practices
- attendance at evening practices may be compromised as there is no incentive for local members to attend regularly
- last year the emphasis was on regular attendance to improve standards – now once a month will do implying standards are less important than membership
- having one Sunday off may result in not dancing for 3 weeks which could impact standards
- a day off may enable people to organise their life around it and improve attendance
- monthly attendance may result in more members who only dance in one position creating problems for dancing out
- a monthly programme would prevent confusion and be easier to advertise, eg 1st week every month is all day and 3rd week is a week off but there would need to be a rule for 5 week months
- a 4 week rota would mean that anyone with existing commitments on eg 1st week of the month, would not be disadvantaged by always missing the all day sessions
- 10-5 once a month is too much
- 1-5 is longer than an evening but not long enough for people to travel long distances
- a mixture of full day and half day sessions could be a compromise
- the day could be structured to have taught dances for new members or learning new positions for existing members before lunch and known dances in the afternoon to keep the full repertoire fresh in people's minds and to focus on standards, then members could choose which aspects to attend if they can't do all day

The discussion could have gone on and on, so it was curtailed and a vote was taken.

Those in favour of changing the format of practices for one year's trial (regardless of the length of the day or whether we have a day off): 19 (including 3 absent voters)

Those against/abstaining(not differentiated due to the landslide vote in favour): 5 (including 2 absent voters/abstainers)

Motion carried – practices will change.

A second vote was then taken regarding the day off.

Those who would prefer a day off per month/every 4 weeks: 11

Those who would rather meet every week: 7

Abstainers: 2

The programme will include one Sunday off and will run on a 4 week basis. Linda agreed to produce the full list of dates up front, starting from the October taster session, as soon as possible.

Recruitment 'Taster' Session
Sheila asked for suggestions for the taster day – whether to teach a completely new dance or work on one we know. Kathryn suggested looking through the dance sheets to see which one most people didn't know/only did in limited positions. Keith asked whether we were going to wear kit. Linda asked that we wear T-shirts as they would be less intimidating than full kit but that there should be a full kit hanging up. It was also felt that it would be good to have the banner and scrapbooks on show. Fran asked for clarification on under 16's and Linda confirmed that we do not have insurance for under 16's whether at practice or dancing out so we should not encourage youngsters to attend.

Finances
Fran felt that falling numbers and rising costs were impacting on funds so asked for suggestions to increase funds in preparation for our weekend next year. Linda suggested dance outs for fund raising and Sheila suggested attending a Christmas Market. Sheila found a different hall and Linda had enquired about the hire costs. It would be half the price of Sheila Russell hall so a change of venue was recommended. Tanya proposed that resting members be asked to pay a retainer to support team funds.

Subs Review
Linda did not want to raise subs if possible and suggested that the cheaper hall may be sufficient to resolve any funds issues, so suggested subs be reviewed again next year.

Dancing Standards
Linda felt that on the whole standards had improved. She said the briefings had generally been well received and she wanted to continue them. There are still aspects that she would like to see improving: lines, high knees, sharp turns, eye contact, consistent polka style and stick positions. She said that she had not been selective about the dancers she put in at special events like arena spots but she may do that in the coming year. She asked that everyone tries new positions during the winter period and that they look at the sheets to see where we have gaps, but she asked that anyone wanting to try dancing at 1 or 2, ask her first as these positions need to have confident dancers who display a consistent high standard in our preferred style.
Celia said that the things that needed improving were the same every year and that when comments like “watch your sticks” are made, everyone thinks 'it doesn't apply to me'. She asked if Sheila and Linda could email persistent 'offenders' so that they know they need to work on something whilst no-one else need know that comments have been made.
Pat felt that the mirrors session had been invaluable and asked that this be utilised again from time to time.
Gill felt that changing position was good but that allowance should be made regarding standards when new positions are being learned. Alice responded saying that certain things like high knees and lines should be second nature and should not deteriorate just because someone is learning rather than confident. Sheila said allowances could be made when learning new positions.

Local Dance Outs
Pat felt that love them or loath them, local dance outs were important as they enabled us to test risky things like the first dance out of a new dance without too much scrutiny. Without these chances we end up relying on the same few dances all the time because we know they work. Chris said that local events close to the dance season also helped remove nerves and get us back into dancing in clogs ready for prestigious events like festivals. Linda agreed that they were important and felt that maybe we hadn't had so many invites this year but Tanya said we had lots of local invites. Sarah felt that the limited number of dances this year was possibly due to the limited number of members attending events determining which dances were possible and that learning new positions might alleviate this. Sheila suggested a dance in Newark next year would be a good local dance out and could be used for fundraising as well as checking out the dance spots. It was agreed that local events may also attract new members.

Sticks Rota
Sarah suggested a rota for stick monitors while we were dancing out. Tanya said that a stick had been lost because everyone just throws them at the bag and one had fallen through unnoticed; having a monitor could avoid it happening again. Hazel expressed concern about people not being able to get to practices before and after an event causing problems but Tanya said the rota would be independent of who took the sticks to and from the event. Vicky said it was too much for one person and asked that the small stick bag be split into 2 bags as it was too heavy. Fran asked that this rota included looking after the banner. No-one really wanted to look after the sticks but felt that it shouldn't always be the same person who did so they agreed that a rota would be the answer. Linda asked that the band were not included in the rota as they had instruments to carry. Sarah and Tanya said they would sort out the rota.

Archives and Data Storage and Publicity Photos
Tanya said these were items she had identified as outstanding from the 2010 minutes. Archives had been covered in previous items. Photographs had been found for the publicity materials but we still haven't got a suitable replacement for the Dave Shuttleworth one and we should keep trying to get one.

Website/Facebook and Payment to Martin
Tanya passed round the stats for visits to the website (attached) and commented on the importance of Facebook as people were moving away from websites. She said that John had suggested the website had a revamp as the photos were old and it had looked the same for years. Keith had said that the events disappeared so it looked as though we didn't do much and it would be better if these stayed visible, possibly for 2 years. Tanya felt that these matters needed addressing but that now Martin wasn't a member he should be paid the 'going rate' which could become costly. Tanya also expressed concern about the members area which she had maintained as secretary but other secretaries may not want to do. Tanya suggested it may be better to do more on Facebook with photos and to keep the website for members login and basic info which rarely changes. John felt that the website may be a waste of money if we were short of funds but Pat felt it was needed for those who did a Google search or who didn't have Facebook and that the worst thing then is an out of date site. Chris said she may do members area things if it wasn't complicated. It was decided that the committee should discuss this further – deciding the purpose of the website and the Facebook page and then how to proceed regarding updates.

Mortimer's Weekend 2012
Linda gave a quick summary of what had been done so far:
The committee consists of Celia Chris Fran Keith Linda and Pat. They have had 3 meetings.
They considered 5 venues, visited 3 and selected South Muskham, for which they have paid £100 deposit. The cost of the venue is £300 for the weekend plus £5.50 per caravan and £3.50 per tent per night. It has showers and toilets, a large hall with a stage and a smaller hall and kitchen. There is no hard standing or electric hook ups but there is plenty of flat grass for camping.
Seven teams have been invited, 3 have accepted: Rippon City, Clogarythm and Fools Gambit, 3 have acknowledged the invite: Hammersmith, Boggart's Breakfast and Lizzie Dripping and Eynsham have yet to reply.
The next meeting will be in October and will be looking at food, bar and entertainment.
Linda felt as the event drew nearer and there was a lot to do, another member may be needed to help out on the committee.
Chris then told everyone about the visit several people had made to Newark to check out dance spots. There were potentially up to 20 spots, although not all suitable for North West teams. She had spoken to staff at several venues (including some good CAMRA pubs) and had got positive responses, with people willing to accommodate our needs for dance space or refreshments. She also enquired about the river trips but felt that it was unlikely we would have time to include one. The

Tourist Information had suggested that it may be the Beer Festival at the same time as our weekend which could be beneficial in drawing an audience.

Associate/Resting Members

Linda has contacted the resting members to see if they would be returning. Lindsay's injury was improving and she has asked to extend her leave until the new year, but Lynn wrote to say that sadly she was unable to commit for various reasons and therefore would like to join the associate members and return her kit. Elizabeth had not replied but had accepted the invite for the taster day so hopefully she would be returning. Katherine has not replied. There was some discussion about how long someone should be 'resting' before they are asked to return their kit and it was felt that 2 years was ample. Linda said she would ask any members who had missed 2 years to return to dancing or hand in their kit until they felt able to return, stressing that they would always be welcome back and they would be kept on the associate list until they returned. Tanya noted that a few email contacts on the associate list had started to bounce back and that it needed updating but that she would pass the list to Kathryn to ensure associate members were kept informed of local events and dance outs.

Key Holder Rota

Linda said the rota for key holders had been successful and wanted it to continue. She asked if those who were taking part would be prepared to continue and whether anyone else would help out. The existing group agreed to carry on. Fran pointed out that locking up in the dark was not pleasant and asked that 2 people stay for this.

Any Other Business

Tanya asked if anyone was interested in the Prague invite – several said yes.
Kathryn said Brenda had asked if we could suggest anywhere to scatter Mike's ashes. Keith said he thought St. Chartier home of the International Festival of Instrument-Makers, Music and Dance in Central France would be rather fitting and he would speak to Brenda.
Chris thanked the bakers for bringing cakes.
Gill thanked the committee for their work throughout the year and then thanked everyone for an enjoyable year in which she felt that despite falling numbers and low attendance/turn out she thought there had been a more positive atmosphere and a more team spirited approach.
Keith mentioned that the band had held 8 mid week practices which they hoped to continue but that they would also like to continue to use the first part of practice sessions to practice while the dancers used the CDs.
Keith thanked Gill for putting the web address on the back of the banner.
Linda said Shepley had asked if we would be interested in attending as their North West team of choice. It would be the weekend before the Morts weekend but a few people expressed an interest so Linda said she would pursue this.
Linda then wished Hazel Bon Voyage and thanked Fran for sorting out the tea and coffee and Pat for chairing the meeting.

Pat thanked everyone for attending and closed the meeting at 10.00pm.

MORTIMERS AGM 2011
SQUIRE'S REPORT

Thank you everyone for your efforts and support during my first year as Squire. It hasn't been an easy job and I have made a few mistakes along the way but I have learned quickly and come to quite enjoy it and would be happy to continue for another year in office.

Firstly, I would like to thank all the officers for their hard work and commitment. I would like to thank the outgoing officers – Peter as Band Leader for being a pleasure to work with. I think between us we have achieved improved communications between band and dancers and I know that Peter has re-introduced regular additional band practices. I would like to express my gratitude to Tanya for her huge commitment to the job of Secretary. She has improved and streamlined our bookings processes and worked long and hard in disseminating information around invitations and events. I would also like to thank Frances for being an excellent and efficient Treasurer and Sarah for her efforts as Publicity Officer and the marvellous publicity literature she has created.

Last, but not least, I would like to thank Sheila for once again running our practices. I know that she puts in a huge amount of preparation and hard work in trying make the practices interesting and varied, to get us to performance standard and iron out our weaknesses and inconsistencies. I feel that she and I have worked well together this year but there is still a lot to be done and it is for this reason that I would like to ask the team to consider Sheila continuing as Practice Leader this year for my second year as Squire.

Well this year has been marred by great sadness by the loss of Mike Steel. Many of us went to his funeral in July and the celebration of his life. Mortimers meant a lot to him and him to us and we will never forget him and the music he played for us. I have fond memories of him performing with us at Chippenham in May. God bless him.

It has been a successful season bookings-wise, I think. I don't know how it compares to last year's bookings, but I believe that we did 5 big festivals, which is excellent given our worries this time last year about not being invited to many prestigious events. Highlights for me, were Hastings – we took a very small team to this surprising festival with a lovely atmosphere at which we made to feel very welcome. I only did a day at Chippenham and didn't do Middlewich so I can't comment on those two very much apart from the fact that our ceilidh spot at Middlewich was reportedly stunning! Warwick to me was the climax of the season; we performed very well for much of it and received some very favourable comments. I was very proud of us at Warwick. Another highlight, on the social front was Cleckheaton – what a fabulous Saturday night we had in the pub, singing, playing, dancing and loads of laughter – Morts having fun at their best!

I said last year in my piece about standards that I felt that the team had been in decline somewhat and wanted us to remember our aims of performing to a high standard, with exuberance, energy, precision and professionalism. I feel that we have made quite a bit of headway in improving our standards and have generally been better when dancing out this year. But there is still room for improvement and I have further plans with Sheila to continue with this season. I'll talk more about this later.

I have two other concerns:

- Falling numbers – we lost both musicians and dancers last year and are anticipating further depletions. This is having an effect on numbers at practices and bookings.
- A certain sense of apathy (not from everyone) – this is also affecting numbers at practices and there also seems to be a lack of interest in becoming involved; by this I don't just mean dancing and playing, but being prepared to take on extra responsibilities; it often seems to fall on the same group of people who end up volunteering. This is our team! We have some exciting plans to try and recruit and retain new members but I don't see much point if some of us appear to be losing interest in Mortimers.

Squire's Award

I would like to introduce a new thing to the AGM – the Squire's Award. This is someone whom the Squire is worthy of special mention for specific thanks for their efforts or achievements or overcoming adversity, whatever, over the season. This year I would like to present the award to

someone who has given me shedloads of support to me especially in the early part of the season. I could not have grown into this job without the help and advice this person has given me. They are also an unsung Mortimers hero, always volunteering for things and undertaking extra jobs – this year this person has upgraded all the sticks, enhanced the waistcoats… the award goes to Chris!

Mortimers practice season 2010-2011 – Attendance stats

Linda	30	Keith	30
Fran	29	Peter M	23
Sheila	28	Peter O	19
Tanya	28	John	17
Yvonne	26	Trevor	15
Alice C	25	Paul	12
Chris	25	Mike	11
Mary	25	Nigel	9
Gill	24	Anthony	8
Pat	24	Martin	4
Celia	22		
Alice D	21		
Sarah	21		
Vicky	20		
Kathryn	13		
Ruth	13		
Liz	10		
Hazel	8		
Judith	5		
Lucy	4		

Numbers shown are out of a possible 31 practices

Band Leader Report for season 2010 to 2011

Plus

i) More frequent band meetings
j) Enjoyable and good quality sessions at festivals – band always getting complemented and supported
k) Communications between band and dancers at dance outs (thanks Linda and band)

Minus

i) It feels like not many festivals
j) No new musicians
k) Repertoire not enlarged
l) Peter's eye op
m) Mike Steele

Interesting

Challenges for the side and the band

- trying to understand why enthusiasm *seems* to be waning (personally and generally) and re-act accordingly to counter this
- consider freshening up tunes for some existing dances
- bring in musicians and develop the Mortimers sound and therefore appeal
- amongst band and dancers there are many talents; build on them, continue developing an exciting dance and musical "package" to promote to organisers.

Finally

Personally would prefer more prestigious festival dance outs (more likely to get me ticking yes) where practice and hard-work (band and dancers) shown to best advantage.

Thanks everyone for their support and encouragement, please give that and more to next years band leader.

And why did we never learn the Strictly Come Dancing theme……

Secretary's Report 2011

It has been a depressing year with a few more invites than last year, but far less acceptances and most with low numbers!

The year began with 2 booking which we had taken last year, since then we have accepted another 14 invitations, a substantial decrease on last year's 21:

7 local(ish) events: The Old Vic Beeston, Plough Sunday, Light Night, Buxton and Bleasby WI plus 2 midweek events as guests of Dolphin and Anstey. There would have been Newark Show but we took so long to accept it was oversubscribed.

7 festivals: Whittlesey, Hastings, Chippenham, Middlewich, Warwick, Cleckheaton and Derby,

No team weekends!

17 offers of paid events but 14 were declined and we accepted Light Night, Bleasby WI and Derby.

In addition to 14 bookings many of us attended Carole's 60th birthday, Kathryn's 40th birthday, Peter and Michelle's 60th birthday and a party at Vicky's, none of which were official Mortimer's invitations but were open to our members and proved popular social events. The Sheila Russel Community Centre also invited us to join their Royal Wedding celebrations which Gill attended.

There were 4 all day practices which were all well supported and one utilised a dance studio mirror which proved very useful. There have been 3 committee meetings.

We declined 55 potential bookings, however 22 of these were clashes so we couldn't have done them all meaning we had a 30% acceptance rate. A huge drop on last year's 50%.

We accepted all but Warwick with very low numbers and there were some changes to responses after events were accepted but fortunately all went ahead. The weather was not as kind this year with some very cold events and a couple of very wet parades but most events were enjoyable despite numbers or weather.

We have 4 invites pending for next year Grenoside (2 dancers & 1 band – looks unlikely), Braunston (4 dancers & 3 band - possible), Upton (waiting to see what else comes in) and a new one Prague (any interest?), plus our own weekend to look forward to.

Although I have found life as secretary much easier with online tick sheets I have found it frustrating that deadlines pass with lots of Maybe responses. There have been less people not responding at all but we have now got so few members that we need 100% response to know whether we can accept events. I have to thank Linda for her input and support – if I had stuck to my word and counted the Yes responses on the deadline and accepted or declined based on that number we would not have accepted any events other than Warwick! Linda has asked that I extend deadlines and has pushed for people to attend which has enabled us to accept the other 13 events.

On a positive note - the number of questions has declined immensely, so thanks to everyone for finding answers elsewhere whenever possible!

I hope someone will step forward to take over this post and that the coming year will be a more positive one in terms of bookings.

Event	Start Date	Status	Notes
Lady Bay Revellers Beeston	**18/12/2010**	**accepted**	
Sullivan's Sword Plough Sunday	**09/01/2011**	**accepted**	
Whittlesey Straw Bear Festival	**14/01/2011**	**accepted**	
Light Night	**18/02/2011**	**accepted**	**paid**
Hastings Jack in the Green	**29/04/2011**	**accepted**	
Chippenham Folk Festival	**27/05/2011**	**accepted**	
Middlewich Folk and Boat Festival	**17/06/2011**	**accepted**	
Dolphin Midsummer Dance Fest	**23/06/2011**	**accepted**	
Cleckheaton Folk Festival	**01/07/2011**	**accepted**	
Anstey Morris Pub Tour	**06/07/2011**	**accepted**	**2 dates**
Buxton Day of Dance	**23/07/2011**	**accepted**	
Warwick Folk Festival	**29/07/2011**	**accepted**	
Bleasby WI Workshop	**03/09/2011**	**accepted**	**paid**
Derby Traditional Festival	**08/10/2011**	**accepted**	**paid**
Bedworth Folk Festival	27/11/2010	declined	
Britains Got Talent	10/12/2010	no interest	received date!
Plum Jerkum Wassail	14/01/2011	declined	clash
Black Pig 25th Birthday Celebration	19/03/2011	declined	
One Day Rapper Dance Out and Workshops	10/04/2011	declined	
3rd Folk Thing Music Festival	16/04/2011	declined	
Bestwood Winding Engine	23/04/2011	declined	donation
St George's Day Birmingham	23/04/2011	declined	paid clash
St George's Day Derby	23/04/2011	declined	clash
St George's Day Nottingham	23/04/2011	declined	paid clash
St George's Day Ollerton	24/04/2011	declined	paid
Upton Folk Festival	28/04/2011	declined	clash
Upton Royal Wedding Celebration	29/04/2011	declined	clash
Sheila Russell Community Centre	30/04/2011	1 attendee	clash
Breaston Gala	02/05/2011	declined	paid
Holmfirth Folk Festival	06/05/2011	declined	
Boat Club	07/05/2011	declined	paid clash
JMO Sheffield	14/05/2011	declined	
Newark & Notts Show	15/05/2011	accepted	paid/oversubscribed
Doncaster Folk Festival	20/05/2011	declined	clash
Plum Jerkum 25th Anniversary Tour	21/05/2011	declined	
Whitby Spring Festival	27/05/2011	declined	clash
Penkridge Garden Party	01/06/2011	declined	paid
Gate to Southwell	11/06/2011	declined	
The National Morris Weekend	17/06/2011	declined	clash
Vale of Evesham Morris Weekend	17/06/2011	declined	clash
Sutton in Ashfield Twinning Anniversary	18/06/2011	declined	paid/clash
Braunston Boat Show	25/06/2011	declined	
Dance In Town	25/06/2011	declined	clash
Green Oak Morris Men Day of Dance	01/07/2011	declined	clash
Rose & Castle/Queen's Oak Weekend of Dance	01/07/2011	declined	clash
Got to Dance	05/07/2011	no interest	received date!
Sompting Village Monster Ale	08/07/2011	declined	
Newton Carnival	09/07/2011	declined	paid
Sullivan's Sword Pub Tour	19/07/2011	declined	
Event	**Start Date**	**Status**	**Notes**
Stonebridge City Farm	24/07/2011	declined	
Sullivan's Sword Bleasby	02/08/2011	declined	
Pagan Pride	07/08/2011	declined	
Newark Test Dance Out	14/08/2011	declined	
Beltane 10th Anniversary Ale	19/08/2011	declined	
Alford Morris Weekend	26/08/2011	declined	
Newark Summer Party	27/08/2011	declined	paid clash
Sandbach Day of Dance	03/09/2011	declined	clash
Briggate Morris 25th Anniversary Weekend	04/09/2011	declined	
Beeston Heritage Day	10/09/2011	declined	
Denstone Village Show	17/09/2011	declined	paid clash
Duke's Dandy 30th Birthday	17/09/2011	declined	clash
Otley Folk Festival	17/09/2011	declined	
Morris Fed AGM	24/09/2011	declined	
Red Fox Ceilidh Leicester	08/10/2011	declined	clash
Black Pig 25th Birthday Celebration	15/10/2011	declined	
Mumpers	04/12/2011	declined	paid
Ruddington Christmas Fayre	10/12/2011	declined	
Chippenham Folk Festival	01/06/2012	declined	clash
Gedling Gala	07/07/12	declined	paid

Events Attendance Stats 2010-2011

Events Attendance

15 possible events – see below

Chris	14	Keith	15
Fran	13	John	13
Tanya	13	Peter M	10
Linda	12	Nigel	9
Sarah	12	Paul	9
Mary	11	Peter O	8
Pat	11	Anthony	6
Gill	10	Trevor	6
Sheila	9		
Yvonne	9		
Alice C	8		
Celia	7		
Liz F	7		
Vicky	7		
Hazel	6		
Alice D	3		
Kathryn B	2		

Ruth 2 out of possible 3!

Note: numbers taken from tick sheets so last minute changes may not be reflected

Boggarts	**17/09/2010**
Mumpers	**05/12/2010**
Lady Bay	**18/12/2010**
Plough Sunday	**09/01/2011**
Whittlesey	**14/01/2011**
Light Night	**18/02/2011**
Hastings	**29/04/2011**
Chippenham	**27/05/2011**
Middlewich	**17/06/2011**
Dolphin	**23/06/2011**
Cleckheaton	**01/07/2011**
Anstey	**06/07/2011**
Buxton	**23/07/2011**
Warwick	**29/07/2011**
Bleasby WI	**03/09/2011**

Treasurer's Report

Mortimer's Morris
Income and Expenditure Account
Year Ending 25th September 2011

Income	2011	2010	Expenses	2011	2010
Income from members	£1,040.00	£1,368.00	Room Hire	£701.50	£730.00
Kit Sales	£28.90	£126.92	Website	£179.38	£43.12
W/e's away	£1,125.00	£2,185.00	W/e's away	£1,225.00	£2,417.50
Fees + Collect'n	£150.00	£446.87	Events	£110.00	£342.00
St G Day 2010	£41.20	£0.00	St G Day 2010	£41.20	
Bank Interest	£0.71	£0.60	Kit Purchase	£177.30	£178.56
Prev Yr (Evesham + Boggarts)	£375.00	£0.00	Refreshments	£11.25	
			Gifts	£88.94	£80.36
			MFed + Insurance	£99.00	£105.00
			Stationery	£45.00	£81.19
			Donations to charity	£200.00	
			Digital Archives	£59.99	
			Misc Exp	£16.00	£13.99
			Debt written off	£51.00	
Income for year	**£2,760.81**	**£4,127.39**	**Expenditure for year**	**£3,005.56**	**£3,991.72**
Expenditure for year	**£3,005.56**	**£3,991.72**			
Surplus for year	**-£ 244.75**	**£ 135.67**			

Balance Sheet		
Opening Current a/c	**£1,144.44**	
Opening Deposit a/c	**£1,130.04**	
Opening Cash	**£14.60**	
Uncleared cheques b/f	**-£545.00**	
Opening Balance b/f	**£1,744.08**	**£1,608.41**
Surplus (deficit) for year	**-£244.75**	**£ 135.67**
Balance c/f	**£1,499.33**	**£1,744.08**
Closing Current a/c	**£353.45**	
Closing Deposit a/c	**£1,130.75**	
Closing Cash	**£15.13**	
Closing Balance c/f	**£1,499.33**	**£1,744.08**
Error	**£0.00**	

Notes

Please note, everyone, that the headings 2010 and 2011 are not calender years but Mortimers 'trading' year ..

You will all notice that we started the years with loads of money in the current account of £1144.44 and at the moment have £353.45

There are a few reasons for this are:

there was an uncleared cheque of £545 (Boggarts Breakfast)

£110 subsidy to members who went to Hammersmith

a drop in membership (drop in subscriptions)

pay out for St. George's day travel expenses

donations to charity.

The deficit is the difference between income and expenditure of the year from 2010 to 2011

However, we will get paid for the Light Night festival (due to sickness and redundancy our payment had been overlooked) (In fact I had hoped to find that money would have come in by now). Thank goodness for the WI ladies who wanted to learn morris dancing and a very cold and icy night at Mumpers.

Whilst we still have over £1000 in the deposit account to fall back on I think we must think forward to next year re. "our weekend". We have paid £100 deposit upon the hall but obviously will have many bills to pay before recovering our costs. A day of dance at May Day? somewhere scenic perhaps?

PRACTICE LEADERS' REPORT 25/09/2011

So we've reached the end of another year and a successful one all in all. At the beginning of the year many of us were concerned about the lack of invitations from the bigger more high profile festivals and the reasons for this but I believe we've proved that we are good enough to be performing at any event.

My perception is that we have been more consistent in our standards this year when performing and this can only make us feel more confident. This appears to be due at least in part to having more experienced dancers dancing in positions that are known beforehand. As people may remember I wasn't a fan of the listed positions initially but I have to admit that they have been shown to work well in general. I would encourage people at this time of the year to check where the gaps are and consider learning new positions and also be aware when we do dance out that they are for guidance only and not set in stone.

The summer season began with Hastings at times this looked like it was going to be an unpromising start with very basic accommodation and with us fielding a very reduced side. There was even talk of us opting out at the very last minute. However the dancing was generally of a good standard, we made a few new friends "down south" and those of us who made it enjoyed ourselves the procession being one of the more unusual that we've taken part in. I do think we put on a good display when processing but we do suffer when positioned near sides who are noisier or who have lots of percussion instruments and if anyone has any ideas about how we could improve on this we could perhaps work on this before next season.

Our next festival was Chippenham leading a very soggy procession but I was very pleased with the way we danced at the afternoon showcase spot. Middlewich was another wet procession where we couldn't even attempt to dance it but instead compromised parading under umbrellas. (NB if there are doubts due to weather etc. we need to give ourselves plenty of time to make decisions about alternative arrangements.) The ceilidh spot at Middlewich was for me probably the highlight of the season where everything came together and we put on a superb display. Unlike at Warwick the floor was reasonable (not like an ice rink) the audience were close to us and both dancers and musicians stayed in time. Comments other dancers made were very positive including saying that we looked like we were enjoying it, made eye contact and that "Mortimer's nailed it". When we came off I felt exhilarated and proud, we'd put on a real show!

With regard to practises what went well and what wasn't so good? I haven't managed to get as much done as I had hoped and maybe more long term planning on my part would have been more effective. I'm still a little disappointed that Mortimers doesn't seem to be better liked but perhaps more intensive work on it would help us to feel more confident when dancing it out. The practice in front of the mirror seems to have been generally welcomed and I feel was worthwhile, it was a bit of an experiment but I think it could be both improved upon and improving. If we did make use of this from time to time we'd be less self- conscious and more constructively analytical about ourselves and the way we move. More people have put themselves forward to call dances which is not only helpful at events but in practises as well. I have to admit that I regularly leave practices feeling that I could have done a better job and I thought it was important to mention this if there are others who would like to have a go. Despite these moments of self- doubt I do still enjoy the role

Finally I'm looking forward to another year as part of Mortimers, thanks to you all for your support and hears to another successful season and a great weekend.

Publicity Officer's Report.

Firstly, thank you to all who have made suggestions and advised me throughout the year. Being new to Morris dancing, and the world of folk, I have needed lots of pointers and support.

At the beginning of the year Rhys and I devised a more updated look for our leaflets and a new logo - "...a life with clogs on. "
I targeted the festivals we had agreed Mortimer's would like to dance at and sent e.flyers followed by paper copy in the post.
I gatecrashed the festival organisers event at Eastwood Conference Centre and scattered loads of leaflets around!
Any festivals we have not attended through the year, and would like to in the future, I have sent best wishes for a successful festival from Mortimer's Morris dancers and band.

An area as publicity officer I need to concentrate on, is promoting us at festivals we are attending, instead of trying to remember the figures for the next dance! I will, hopefully, next year manage to do both!

I have found recruitment a really difficult area to publicise, but with Linda and Sheila's ideas for a taster session and a change of practice times, things will hopefully improve.
Finally it is very clear to me that the contacts and friends of Morts' members are very valuable and can bring publicity and invitations too. So keep networking (partying!)

Proposal for Change

Mortimer's Outreach

Background

This summer season Mortimers have had 27 active members: 9 musicians and 18 dancers. Since then we have lost one dancer and sadly, one musician. An additional musician and dancer will be away for a considerable part of the forthcoming season. We have struggled to accept several bookings this year and have taken others with quite low numbers. In addition, we have carried and continue to carry injuries to some dancers. Finally, our finances have suffered, due partly to our depleted numbers.

We have to face it that are an ageing, dwindling side and we believe that we need to act now to attract new, young members – both dancers and musicians. Our usual recruiting methods via word-of-mouth, radio broadcasts and publicity info have not yielded very many new members over the past few years and we feel that the time has come to consider doing something a bit more radical to cast our nets further afield to invest in the future of Mortimer's Morris.

Proposals

As we all know, our practice evening is Sunday. We are not proposing that we change the day – we have discussed this before and it has never been a viable option. We are however, proposing that we extend our practice schedule to include one Sunday daytime a month, in addition to the Sunday evenings, but cut our evening practices down to just two evenings, i.e. two Sunday evenings on, one Sunday evening off and one Sunday daytime practice per month in the practice season.

This means that we would have possibly six or seven day practices in the close season instead of our normal two, but fewer evenings. From the stats kept each week, approximately only half of our members have attended four consecutive Sunday evening practices at a given time, which indicates that a lot of us need to have a Sunday evening off every few weeks anyway.

We are proposing that we run a well-publicised introductory/taster day in October and then schedule the whole practice season after this so that everyone knows in advance the practice dates. We would anticipate that the day practices are attended as fully as possible by dancers and band and propose that they are led by our current Practice Leader for the forthcoming year, who will structure and publicise in advance her plans for the day. The evening practices will be just as important, reinforcing sessions, and would be attended by more local dancers and musicians as now.

Benefits

A number of teams have already successfully adopted outreach as a method to attract new members and we believe that this is the way forward for Mortimer's. We have had an excellent season, with some prestigious festival performances, but we cannot be complacent about this, we have to continue to build and grow.

The main benefit is one of recruitment of people who live out of Nottingham and whom given the current arrangements would find it difficult or impossible to attend practices on a Sunday evening, but could do so for daytime practices.

There is evidence that we have already attracted interest from a number of people who live further afield who are interested in joining us, many of whom are young and/or experienced dancers.

Another benefit would be for those current members who live a distance away and who find it difficult to attend regular Sunday evenings.

Summary

As was stated at the AGM last year, Mortimer's had slipped a bit in their ranking in the top North West teams. This year with everyone's hard work, we have done a lot to regain our reputation and standing and we are very proud of what we have achieved; but we haven't finished yet, we still have a lot of work to do and with a relatively small side of mostly 50-plus year-olds we have to look to the future if we want to continue to be able to accept festivals and other prestigious bookings ; we need young dancers and musicians to work with us, and help to take us forward. They are out there so we need to be prepared to change and make ourselves more accessible to them.

We would like to trial this proposed model for the forthcoming year and propose that it is put to the vote at this year's AGM.

Web Stats

Month	Unique Visitors 2010/2011	Unique Visitors 2009/2010	Number of Visits 2010/2011	Pages 2010/2011	Hits 2010/2011	Bandwidth (Mb) 2010/2011
Sep-10	189	old web host	290	1,591	20,596	99.14
Oct-10	138		222	1,137	11,416	90.06
Nov-10	137	95	228	1,098	14,237	143.06
Dec-10	140	96	225	902	10,383	37.75
Jan-11	150	112	229	921	8,720	49.08
Feb-11	158	105	262	1,200	14,976	77.1
Mar-11	154	123	210	827	9,353	35.4
Apr-11	161	128	236	666	8,734	35.62
May-11	185	153	299	1,067	9,273	149.68
Jun-11	181	140	270	834	8,248	44.05
Jul-11	255	125	351	1,328	13,501	70.08
Aug-11	147	117	245	810	8,132	34.48
Sep-11	93	189	132	456	4,901	19.86
TOTAL	**2088**	**1383**	**3199**	**12837**	**142470**	**885.36**