



## *Chair's Report to the 2021 AGM*

When last I made a report, it was difficult to imagine where we might be in a year's time, and the past year has borne out that unpredictability in many ways! Whilst many teams are happily dancing out and practicing again, some are yet to do so and have been sadly affected by the loss of members either to Covid-19 or other factors resulting from nearly two years away from dancing. Our recent survey of how members are faring has revealed a cautiously optimistic outlook, so I'm hopeful that the majority of Open Morris member teams will be able to weather the difficulties and dance on into the future. Once again I'd like to invite you all to get in touch if there's any way we can support you in your activities, and to keep in touch about how things are for you in the current climate. As I write infection rates are once again rising and I feel it would be naïve to think that the issues are behind us. That said, it has been truly wonderful to return to real-life dancing and I hope that you've all been able to partake of some of that same joy!

At last year's AGM, we were in company with the Morris Federation and the Morris Ring, voting to stop the use of full face black make up amongst our membership, and as many of you will know I'm pleased to report that the other organisations successfully enacted this policy as well, and the JMO as a whole can move forward – the issues aren't over but we can now move on and address the issues of recruitment and diversity within our own organisation.

This year, it's been Open Morris's turn to chair the JMO, so I've been chairing JMO meetings throughout the year and attending in company with our other officers. It has been nice to see so much of everyone, but I hope that we may have less issues to deal with in the next few years.

I would as always like to thank the fabulous OM Committee and all of our brilliant Officials. It hasn't been the easiest year for many of us but we've proved we're a robust organisation and I'm very grateful to the whole team for their hard work and friendship over the past year.

**Jen Cox**  
Chair  
Open Morris

*October 2021*