

Open Morris AGM 2023

Officer Nominations

Position	Candidate	Nominated by	Seconded by
Chair	Jen Cox	Shinfield Shambles	Chris Hall
Membership Secretary	John Scholey	Iron Spring Morris	Theale Tattoo
Secretary	Hetty Bevington	Tatters Morris	The Wad
Treasurer	Liz Scholey	Iron Spring Morris	Borderline Morris
Web Officer	N/A		

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. I currently dance with Borderline, Bunnies from Hell, Theale Tattoo, Lepton, Enigma, Mabel Gubbins, Sharp & Blunt, Rockhopper, Old Speckled Hen, and I might have sneakily joined a new team this Autumn but I'm not admitting it yet! I'm also part of the team organising Camp Clog, bringing all sorts of step dance joy to mid-Wales as a weekend event. Sadly the team I have been with for my whole Morris career, Shinfield Shambles, have hung up their tattered waistcoats this year after 29 years of dancing – I'll miss them very much.

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've also enjoyed organising the Morris for Folk Weekend:

Oxford. I work in the care industry supporting young people with special needs, as well as delivering accessible music and folk dance sessions. I'm a whistle player, percussionist and singer.

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 Open Morris, as well as looking to the future and seeking to build a sustainable Morris world post pandemic.

Jen Cox

Open Morris Officer Candidate Personal Statement – John Scholey

Position - Membership Secretary

I have been a Morris dancer for 37 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 play for them on occasions, as an honorary member.

From 2012 to 2019, I played for Brooms Bricks and Bowlers, a Tunbridge Wells Border side which disbanded during lockdown. I am a founder member of local border side Iron Spring Morris (named after the iron rich Chalybeate Spring around which Royal Tunbridge Wells sprang up).



I have 6 years' experience in carrying out the role of Membership secretary during which time I took it paperless, with the notable exception of cheques, but this seems unavoidable in a few cases (see the 2023 Membership Secretary's Annual Report).

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 for a period of 5 years.

John Scholey MAHGTC FICE

Tunbridge Wells

18 October 2023

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 – Liz Scholey



I have been a Morris dancer for over 20 years with Rampant Rooster Morris (a Cotswold and Border Federation side) and danced Cotswold and Border with Madcap Morris, OM (for 8 years) and The Far Side for one year. As a founder member of a Border side in Tunbridge Wells, Brooms Bricks and Bowlers, OM, I was Foreman for 4 years. I also helped to form a new Border side, in our town, Iron Spring Morris, OM.

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 am a caller for barn dances, hoedowns and ceilidhs, at all manner of events.

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 six 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 eliminated the use of cheques. 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

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